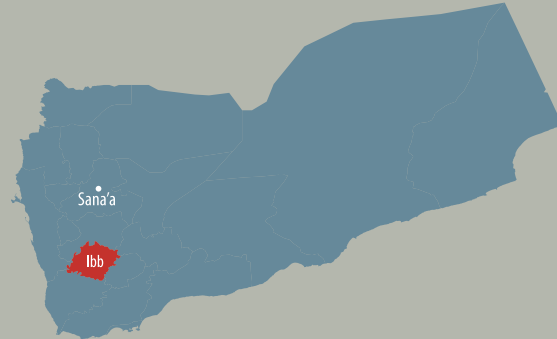



**Voices**  
 of

## Alsayani Area, Ibb Governorate



Alsayani is a small community of **380 households** where youth compose the biggest part of population. People mainly work with government as junior employees in the education sector, army, and security. They also work in the private and construction sector, and in livestock breeding. Alsayani area is at the center of the Alsayani district, south of Ibb governorate. The community is experiencing a critical influx of IDPs who, like all Yemenis, seek a permanent respite from the ongoing challenges and conflicts.

### Coping mechanisms

- Residents have found alternatives to motor transportation using shared modalities and/or animals, for example
- The residents are using small generators working on cooking gas or cooking oil as a replacement for fuel. In one neighborhood, each group of residents share one small power generator
- Collecting rain water and spring water from mountains to replace piped water
- Using firewood instead of cooking gas
- In the absence of security system, people activated traditional mechanisms to resolve conflicts over water, land and social issues
- Household expenditure is dedicated to basic food needs and many are refraining from buying qat. Football competitions have been established for people from different ages as an alternative to qat chewing
- Community-based social support has strengthened as people cooperate more among each other in cooking, helping others to access water, wood, fuel, and food
- As the current conflict places a heavy stress on people's mental health, residents are spending more time in the green valleys to find balance. People are learning and turning to natural therapy as access to the formal health system has been greatly compromised

### Main Risks

- Job loss
- Large number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from Sana'a, Taiz and Aden
- Water Scarcity
- Sharp increase of food and non-food items

## At a glance:

- **Likelihood of localized conflicts:** The area is most likely to **face conflicts** as a result of the war's impact on **people lives** and their mental health. Community members fight when they **fetch water** from the local mosques or when **queuing for fuel** and some incidents have been reported.
- **Local Authorities:** Local authorities have **interrupted** their **activities** due to low financial support received from the central government.
- **Community Support and Income Sources:** Community social support is extended **through** active **charitable initiatives** which have developed and direct **support** from better-off individuals to their **extended family**. Workers' remittances are also one of the income sources for the local population.
- **Diseases:** Common **diseases** for **children** in the area include **diarrhea**, infectious diseases, water-borne diseases and **malnutrition**.
- **Household expenditures:** Average **monthly** expenditures per family is **USD 186 (YR 40.000)** - enough to cover **basic needs** such as brown and white flour, rice, sugar, oil, ghee, beans, water, medicines and cooking gas.
- **Patriarchal family system:** **Men** are mainly **responsible** for securing the **family's income** while women are managing their households. **Opportunities** for **women** to seek paid work are **limited** as the community assigns them to stay at home and take care of household matters. Female work is acceptable only in the health and education sectors, which are deemed safer and less **exposed to harassment**.
- People prefer to turn to **informal justice** mechanisms **rather** than seek assistance from **formal judicial** and security institutions due to perceived **corruption** of the system.
- There is **no** presence of **NGOs** in the area. People rely on community support to cope with shocks.
- The residents of **Alsayani** are **socially divided** as per their political orientations. The political parties are active in the area and the community is divided between **two main parties**. However, the social division has not reached violent levels of polarization. Residents believe that the **airstrike** campaign has **fostered** long-lasting localized **conflicts**.

# Opportunities



## **Plentiful natural resources**

The area is rich with lush mountains home to valuable species of trees such as acacia, and other resources that are used for animal feeding, in particular for goats and sheep. The land is fertile and cultivated with a variety of crops like sorghum.



**Availability of roads and telecommunication services** The main roads and sub-roads are paved by the government. The telecommunications services are still operating.



## **Operating sewage system**

Sewage system is functioning and can cater to the needs of the area – however it is poorly maintained.



**Presence of basic health services** Though operated at minimal scale, the area has a local health center providing very basic health services including all children vaccines.



## **Presence of local schools**

The area has four functioning schools with a good level of education.

# Challenges

**Water scarcity:** For a month, Alsayani residents have not been able to access water due to fuel shortages which have prevented the main water station from operating.

## **IDPs:**

As a result of the conflict, many families fled from their hometowns in Sana'a, Taiz and Aden to Alsayani district. IDPs fled to Alsayani district as it is relatively safe and extended families can host them. With already limited services, the area is facing pressure on water, food and housing.

## **Localized conflicts:**

If current crisis **continues for much longer**, residents fear that they will not be able to cope. They believe that social cohesion has already been negatively affected.

**Economic slowdown:** Many residents were working in factories in Taiz and Aden, most of which have now shut down leaving hundreds without jobs. Construction work is stopped due to difficulties in transportation and the increased prices of the construction materials.

**Qat:** Agricultural lands are mainly planted with qat replacing other important food crops such as potatoes, sorghums, tomatoes, beans, and carrots.

## **Poor health system:**

Residents have no comprehensive access to the health system. People must travel in case of any medical urgency – which is difficult and expensive.

## **Increase in goods/commodities prices:**

Food prices have doubled as compared to their pre-crisis equivalent. Propene gas has increased three-fold. Lack of fuel has put an immense burden on people's abilities to travel and purchase basic items, especially food.

## **Weakness of institutional support:**

Community participants are disappointed with the poor performance of the local authorities. Local authorities do not receive adequate support from the central government, are subject to non-payment of taxes by local businesses and the absence of civil servants. Therefore, they are unable to provide the social services that respond to the rising needs of the communities.

## **Suspension of the Social Welfare Fund support:**

The Social Welfare Fund (SWF) has not been operating since March. The SWF's mandate is to provide cash assistance to the poorest families every three months.

*"Voices of" is a series of community-level consultations led by UNDP in Yemen using inclusive focus group discussions that seek to: identify their fragilities, prioritise opportunities and challenges, and highlight the vulnerability of community livelihoods assets to sustain the crisis.*



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