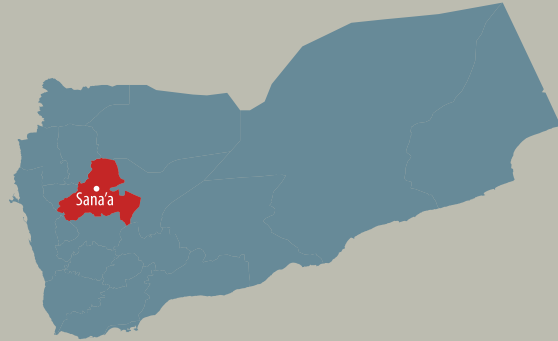




# Voices of

## Ma'een, Sho'ub and Alsab'een districts, Sana'a Governorate



Residents in Ma'een, Sho'ub and Alsab'een districts in Sana'a offer snapshots of the urban livelihoods context within the heightened security environment developing in the capital city. Residents are much concerned about their future, worried about securing basic needs to sustain their daily lives. Residents are spectators to deteriorating living conditions and trying to secure alternative ways. They have no fuel, cooking gas, or healthy environment. They hope for peace.

### Main risks

- Water scarcity
- Sharp increase of food and non-food items
- Shortage of fuel
- Lack of access to potable water
- Water and sanitation facilities stopped working
- Job loss
- Growing unemployment

### Coping mechanisms

- 10% of residents harvest rain-water for daily usage
- Savings, jewelry and community social assistance represent the main safety net options for vulnerable residents. Examples of community-based social support included exchanging goods and services (bartering), notably in old neighbourhoods such as those of Sho'ub and the Old City
- Using wood and coal for cooking to mitigate against shortage of cooking gas

### At a glance:

- **50%** increase in food prices on regular commodities.
- **80%** of support received is through family networks.
- **10%** of participants' houses were damaged by the airstrike campaign.
- **95%** of the day, people spent it without electricity.
- **500%** increase in the fuel cost per gallon for transportation in the black market (At sometimes reaches 1000)
- **Fuel** is barely found in the market, therefore people turn to the black market



- **60%** of residents have no access to potable water.
- **400%** increase in the price of water.
- **350%** increase for purchasing cooking gas, if available on the market
- **80%** of residents confirmed that water and sanitation facilities are not operational owing to fuel shortage.
- **70%** of residents are not members of any organizations or social groups, and **20%** receive assistance from other groups depending on their affiliations.
- **60%** of the residents' jobs have been lost, faced working hours and/or income reduction.
- **Unemployment** rate increased from **50 to 80%** amongst interviewees.
- **30%** of residents are part of family-run micro-enterprises, **70%** of which have witnessed declines in profits. **95%** find the current country economic performance is weak, and has reached unprecedented negative levels.
- **The main income sources** for residents of Ma'een, Sho'ub and Alsab'een prior to the conflict were as following:
  - **60%** public and private-sector jobs,
  - **23%** self-employment,
  - **3%** remittances,
  - **14%** community-based social support.
- **89%** of residents did not receive any public or private humanitarian aid.
- *"We are spending most of our time looking for basic things, such as gas, water, flour, and bread"* said one focus group participant.

# Opportunities



## Access is still safeguarded for basic services:

Residents can still access shops, tele-communications, few medical and storage facilities.



## Role of CBOs and NGOs in delivering assistance:

30% of the participant stated that training, advisory, and cash support were great factors for them to have their incomes increased. This support has seized with the crisis but could be resumed for positive coping strategies.



## Self-employment creates resilience:

Community members can overcome some of their challenges through their entrepreneurial spirit, stimulating self-employment opportunities notably in the vocational sector. Existing business training has strengthened the ability of some members to sustain the impact of the crisis, and identify innovative solutions.



## Women's participation:

The current crisis has resulted in an increased participation of women in the daily procurement of basic needs. They work in selling bread, sewing, photographing, and hair-dressing. Women have gained a higher status and contribute to decision-making at the household level.

# Challenges

## Infrastructure damage:

The airstrikes have damaged almost 10 percent of the civilian houses and bring unexpected costs to families in order to repair them.

## Reduction in purchasing power:

The ability of families to buy food and essential non-food items has decreased. Most respondents have lost their primary income source and cannot cope with the inflation. Main monthly expenditures for an average family include: brown and white flour, rice, sugar, cooking oil, water, medicines and gas.

## Rising market prices:

In addition to low access to services, families experience the rising cost of goods and commodities, such as fuel, cooking gas, transportations, and water which have witnessed an exponential increase in monetary value and little availability.

## Vulnerability factors:

Poverty, human and food security, collapse of service delivery and rising violence are negative factors contributing to increased community vulnerability. Ma'een, Sho'ub and Alsab'een have not witnessed any localized conflicts; however, residents are expecting conflicts to arise due to political divisions that can affect social cohesion. Residents wonder how long the conflict can last for and question their ability to cope.

## Disruption of service delivery:

Residents have little or no access to education, health systems and other public services. Children do not attend schools, and college students have not been able to attend their classes. 40 % of the residents had difficulty accessing medical facilities due to shortage of fuel for transport and the closing down of some facilities.

## Impact on citizen participation:

Participation in local government processes is much affected and was better before the conflict as citizens used to be engaged through their representatives at the local council or Sheikh within their respective area.

## Health and environmental concerns:

There is no waste management in the community. The use of alleged chemical weapons worries residents. Too many open sewers threaten sanitation conditions. People's reliance on energy becomes unsustainable as they start using wood and coal, as well as excessively depend on fuel-based generators.

## Partisan biased support:

Localised conflicts are attributed to political divisions. Religious and political groups only support their followers.

## Crisis puts a strain on wellbeing:

Residents are spending the overwhelming majority of their days without electricity not being able to use refrigerators, washing machines, or TVs. Children cannot play in parks, and they are exhausted from constant fear and stress. Families struggle as they chase fuel, gas, and bread.

## Lack of trust in the judiciary:

Residents report that judiciary institutions are not fully independent.

*"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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