

EDITORIAL

It is not surprising to hear recently that humanitarian organizations working in Yemen have begun to operate the cash-for-work mechanism. This has come after the community and donors recognized the SFD efficiency in implementing the mechanism and realized the impact on improving the living conditions of its target communities along the last 12 years.

The SFD was the first to apply the cash-for-work mechanism to alleviate the impact of economic and climatic shocks that hit parts of Yemen starting in 2007. Since the conflict escalated since 2015, this mechanism has become the most sustainable and difficult type of humanitarian action, which is committed to the principle of providing and sustaining basic services while responding to the diverse and emergency cash needs of the households.

Over the past 12 years, SFD has learned a great deal and has developed many development practices that have adapted to the country's worsening conditions. As the emergency situation has triggered the suspension of the development work countrywide due to the escalation of the conflict, the SFD's cash-for-work experience had matured successfully as testified by the communities and donors. The areas of work under the mechanism have varied so that the SFD has been able to pilot it and then scale it up, following the successful application of this mechanism in new sectors such as education and nutrition.

However, SFD will not stop learning from communities and from other countries' experiences in order to increase its efficiency and serve the needs of vulnerable households. It will also spare no effort to transfer its experiences to other players so that the benefits of this mechanism reach the widest possible range of communities affected by conflict effects as one of the ways by which the communities' resilience and adaptation to the protracted conflict are enhanced.

YEMEN HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

- 22.2 M need aid
- 17.8 M food insecure
- 8.4 M need livelihood support
- 16.4 M need health support
- 16 M need WASH services

SFD RESPONSE SINCE 1998

- 4.6 M have road access
- 1.3 M supported with temp. jobs
- 71 M workdays supported
- 10.8 M have access to health
- 4 M supported with improved water

CONTINUING ESCALATION OF CONFLICT HAS INCREASED VULNERABILITIES

The end of March 2018 marked the beginning of the fourth year of the increasing conflict in Yemen leaving over three of four Yemenis (22.2 million people) in need of a kind of humanitarian assistance or protection. The continued armed conflict remains one of the main drivers of deteriorating situation in all development and humanitarian sectors as the Yemeni people continue to bear the brunt of the conflict.

The prolonged conflict has seriously undermined economy, exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities, weakened community livelihood and resilience and disrupted access to public services. This has led people to increasingly exhaust their coping mechanisms and most IDPs struggle to cope. According to the 2018 HNO, Needs across the country have grown more acute since June 2017, with 11.3 million in acute need of humanitarian assistance in order to

survive – this is an increase of 15 per cent in five months. As a result, the humanitarian crisis remains extreme and the needs huge.

HNO pointed out that under this situation enterprises resorted to layoffs estimated at 55% of the workforce. The agriculture and fishery sectors, which employed 54% of the rural workforce and was the main source of income for 73% of the population has been severely impacted. Consequently, the livelihoods of 1.7 million rural households engaged in crop and livestock production have been seriously compromised. An estimated 8.4 million affected people require livelihood assistance. The continued and prolonged violence has also led some donors to emphasize on longer-term solutions other than emergency aid such as conditional cash-based interventions in order to serve the emergency needs and provide access to basic services especially for those most in need.



SECTOR ACTIVITIES

EDUCATION

During the first quarter 2018, four projects have been approved at an estimated cost of \$173 thousand, with the projects expected to generate more than 2,850 workdays. Thus, the total cumulative number of the sector's projects (1997 – March 2018) reached 5,021 projects at an estimated cost of nearly \$674.9 million, expected to directly benefit some 2.8 million people (46% females) and create 22.9 million workdays. Of these, 4,968 projects were completed at a contractual cost of approximately \$624.4 million.

Rural Girls Education

Two workshops were held to review the life skills handcraft guidebook "How to Become a Craft Counselor", with the attendance of 37 counselor from Aden, Lahj, Abyan and Sana'a Governorates. In addition, 1000 copies of the mentioned guidebook have been received and distributed to SFD branch offices according to demand and need, and the modified versions of the manual for training life skills counselors (Trainer and Trainee Manuals) have been received.



VOLIP continues to provide vocational training for the youth

Vocational Literacy Program (VOLIP)

Component of Accessibility for Basic Non-formal Education

The SFD carried out a workshop for the VOLIP partners in Sana'a Governorate, in which the Directors of Education, Literacy and Technical Education Offices in the targeted districts participated.

On the other hand, 67 literacy & adult education teachers (of both genders), community education facilitators from districts of Al-Hudaidah, Lahj and Hadhramaut Governorates were trained. The training focused on adult education (pre-service training), the audio-literacy manual for teaching reading and writing and mathematics principles as well as the rural women life skills guide (Nutrition and Reproductive Health Manual).

Moreover, 5 thousand school bags, 6,111 schoolbooks and 1,674 textbooks for following up with students enrolled in community education and literacy classes in the targeted areas were distributed.

Components of Training of Unemployed Youth and Working Women

Vocational training centers in Al-Hudaidah and Hadhramaut were contracted to train 210 target male and female youth and working women. The training included professional specialties such as tailoring and dressmaking of women's and men's clothes, beauty and bride cosmetics, incense and perfumes production, computer maintenance, refrigeration and air conditioning, confectionery and cake processing. Finally, 1,057 project blueprints prepared by the target beneficiaries, who had been professionally trained, have been transferred to the Finance Guarantee Program for study and screening, and then forwarding to MFIs for obtaining Islamic loans.

Education Indicators

Indicator	Achieved (Jan – Mar 2018)
Total number of youth recruited and received wages on education services (Female: 50%)	30.0
Youth providing community health rehabilitation targeting persons with disabilities (30%)	
Dropout adolescents aged 14–18 who completed long–short training courses (education – vocational training)	281
Female (35%)	-

HEALTH

During the quarter, 42 projects have been approved at an estimated cost amounts to \$5.3 million, with the projects expected to directly benefit more than 3.1 million people (50% female) and create some 131,265 workdays. Thus, the total cumulative number of the sector's projects (1997 – 31 March 2018) reached 1,243 at an estimated cost of nearly \$149.7 million approximately, with the expected direct beneficiaries amounting to 10.8 million people (60% female) and create 3.5 million

workdays. Of these projects, 1,169 were completed at a contractual cost of \$81.9 million.

Healthcare Enhancement

This program aims at improving and strengthening basic health services, providing qualified medical personnel, and facilitating community access to these services.

During the quarter, training courses were conducted for 72 medical assistants from several districts in Al-Baidha and Dhamar Governorates, with training focusing on Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI). Training on health management and integrated quality concepts was also provided to 60 administrative staff from health offices in 12 districts of Amran Governorate.

Conditional Cash Transfers in Nutrition

The program aims to improve the nutritional status of mothers and children under five years of age, as well as to mitigate the risks encountered by girls aged 18-35 years by providing temporary income opportunities to serve as community educators in nutrition, reproductive health, girls' education and encouraging target households to refer malnourished women and children to therapeutic health facilities. The project also aims to alleviate poverty among pregnant women and mothers of children under five within households benefiting from the Social Welfare Fund assistance.

Within this context, field surveys were conducted for 15,039 families registered in the Social Welfare Fund in Wesab Al-Ali and Dhoran Ans in Dhamar Governorate, where 8,707 households were eligible to enter the program and benefit from financial and cognitive services. Also, 2,293 community educators were hired for the implementation of educational sessions in health, education and nutrition (following the qualification of these educators by carrying out educational courses in the three mentioned fields). The number of targeted beneficiaries amounted to 52,078 distributed in 12 districts (in Al-Hudaidah Governorate), 8 sub-districts in Al-Qabbaita District (Al-Dhale'), Haifan (Taiz) and Al-Saiyani (Ibb).

Community-based Response Enhancement

Strengthening community response is an approach that integrates

psychosocial aspects in responding to people's basic needs and targets the most vulnerable (women, youth and children). Within the framework of this program, 9 projects were developed targeting 15 districts of 5 governorates (Taiz, Al-Hudaidah, Hajjah, Abyan and Shabwah). Moreover, community studies were conducted for the districts of Al-Duraihemi, Al-Zaydiya and Al-Sukhna (Al-Hudaidah) and Mabeen, Al-Mahabesha and Nagra (Hajjah).

Health Indicators

Indicator	Achieved (Jan – Mar 2018)
Youth recruited and received wages of working on nutrition services (female: 100%)	957
Pregnant women and mothers who benefited from cash transfer & the nutrition services (awareness sessions, screening and/or transport)	-
Mothers with a child with disability (10%)	-
Number of children who benefited from the nutrition services (Female children 50%)	11,092



Training Al-Hudaida nurses on premature infant emergency and care

SPECIAL NEEDS GROUPS

The total cumulative number of the sector's projects (1997 – 31 March 2018) reached 702 at an estimated cost of \$37.1 million, expected to directly benefit some 0.2 million people (39% females). Of these projects, 699 were completed at a contractual cost of approximately \$31.6 million.

During the quarter, a project was implemented with the Center for the Disabled in Al-Sab'een Hospital, which provides physiotherapy and physical rehabilitation services for children with disabilities.

The project aims to establish a section for children with disabilities, comprising rooms to provide physiotherapy services for these children, with the rooms and the Center provided with physiotherapy equipment and facilities as well as a source for electricity.

It is worth mentioning that these interventions will increase the capacity of the Center to provide services to nearly 300 children with disabilities.

WATER AND SANITATION

The activities in the water and sanitation sectors during the first quarter of 2018 included the following:

Water Sector

Forty-four projects were approved, out of them 39 projects are financed by the WB emergency crises response grant (ECRP) through UNDP office and 5 projects are financed by the Embassy of Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN). The first grant (ECRP) aims to create temporary job opportunities to families affected by the crises through implementing water assets, while the second grant (EKN) targeted communities hit by cholera/AWD waves.

During the quarter, 11 projects are completed, boosting up the total number of completed projects since the establishment of SFD (1997 to end of March 2018) to 2,119 projects with a total cost exceeding \$188 million (SFD contribution only) to benefit more than 3.6 million persons (50% female) and creating temporary jobs reaching 8.92 million working days.

Below are the achievements in each sector during this quarter:

Rooftop rainwater harvesting

Nine projects are completed containing 944 cisterns of total storage capacity 14,214 m³ which facilitate access to improved water source for 6,367 persons. Temporary jobs generated reached 57,510 working days in implementing these projects.

Water Indicators

Indicator	Achieved (Jan – Mar 2018)
Number of people benefiting from access to improved water	7,618
Storage capacity for improved water	16,814
Storage capacity for unimproved water	0

Sanitation Sector

Twelve projects were approved during the quarter, out of them 7 projects are financed from the grant of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands which targets some communities hit by cholera/AWD, 5 projects are financed by the WB grant for emergency crises response project (ECRP) through UNDP office which aims to create temporary jobs for families affected by the crisis to build/improve latrines and erect hand washing tools.

One project was completed in this quarter, boosting up the cumulative completed projects (since the establishment of SFD in 1997 to the end of first quarter of 2018) to 402 projects to serve 3.44 million persons with total cost \$ 33.6 million while creating temporary jobs amounted to 1.3 million working days.

Coordination with partners

The water and environment unit keeps its participation in the WASH cluster meetings to have updates of the partner's activities and their locations to avoid overlapping and to keep updates on the needs assessment surveys conducted by humanitarian response partners. The unit regularly prepares and submits the monthly report about SFD's WASH activities to the WASH coordinator.

Cholera/AWD related activities

Awareness messages about cholera/AWD, their causes, symptoms, preventive measures and dealing with cases were delivered to 1,054 families in 26 rural communities. Thirteen volunteers were trained on conducting hygiene awareness (7 males and 6 females) in their communities and together they implemented 40 initiatives contributing in preventive measures of cholera/AWD.

Groundwater-based projects

One project is completed containing distributing network of total length 5.6 km to serve 600 persons in Hejl Salmon and Ba Safa villages-Alhota/Maif'a'h/Shabwah. Temporary jobs generated reached 750 working days in implementing this project.

Public covered rainwater harvesting cisterns

One project was completed containing 3 cisterns of total storage capacity 2,600 m³ to facilitate access to improved water for 850 persons in Alwati village-Dhahai/Aljamimah/Hajjah. Temporary jobs generated reached 3,827 working days in implementing this project.



Villagers from Kushar (Hajah) building household rainwater harvesting cisterns

Social and environmental management framework

Due to lack of funds which hinders hiring a professional consultant to conduct an environmental and social audit (ESA), as was the usual practice before the crises, the unit took the initiative and conducted an internal ESA for 26 projects randomly selected in all sectors and different project cycles. The ESA included office review of projects' documents and MIS data and field visits and meetings with beneficiaries to check the compliance with the ESMF. The outcomes of the internal ESA are still under review and will be shared with all the branch offices and units as soon as they are finalized.

Updates on Searching for Funds

The active participation of SFD in the WASH cluster meetings gained the trust of the WASH coordinator who nominated SFD for OCHA grant for the first time since SFD's establishment in 1997. The grant amount is one million USA Dollar, given through UNDP office and the grant agreement was signed in March under the condition that all activities shall be completed before the end of December, 2018 a challenge if defeated will open the path for future OCHA grants. The grant will cover the cost of 19 water and sanitation projects in communities affected by cholera and AWD.

On the other hand, the efforts of the unit since 2015 were crowned by signing the finance agreement with the German Development Bank (kfw) for a grant amount EUR 21.5 million to cover the cost of implementing 116 water and sanitation projects in rural and urban areas distributed in all the governorates, to be completed within the grant period 2018-2021.

Sanitation Indicators

Indicator	Achieved (Jan – Mar 2018)
Number of people benefiting from access to appropriate sanitation	1,205
Number of communities declared ODF	4
Number of people benefiting from cholera preventive measures support	26,995

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

During the quarter, the Agriculture and Rural Development Unit has implemented a number of projects within the labor-intensive program, which effectively contributed to the food security of conflict-affected and displaced families and provided temporary job opportunities for the unemployed.

In this context, 4 projects have been approved in the field of protection and rehabilitation of agricultural land and silage irrigation at an estimated cost exceeding \$862,370, which is expected to result in about 59,590 daily jobs and benefit 1,111 families.

Thus, the total cumulative number of the sector's projects (1997 – 31 March 2018) reached 437 projects at an estimated cost of over \$47 million, which is expected to directly benefit some 372 thousand people (47% females). Of these, 403 projects were completed at a contractual cost of approximately \$33.8 million.

During the quarter, the project for improving and developing productive conditions for livestock was completed in more than one village in the governorate of Abs (Hajjah Governorate) at a total cost of \$ 100,000. This included the completion of 70 livestock farms in the cash-for-work mechanism, and actual temporary working days 6,513, of which 166 families benefited.

The database of savings and lending groups has been updated with the aim of excluding groups that have received financial grants from the Savings and Lending Program. The number of groups that are still functioning and active in this area has reached 113 groups, comprising 3,334 members (of both sexes) to receive grants totaling about 33.3 million riyals. The program also began distributing financial grants in Al-Mahweet District (Al-Mahawet Governorate), with disbursement continued to the rest of the groups in all the targeted districts of Sana'a, Al-Mahweet, Hajjah, Al-Hudaidah and Lahj Governorates.

The field survey was also completed to identify the needs of small farmers within the project of Small Farmers' Qualification and Agricultural Production Improvement in 18 districts of Shabwah, Abyan, Lahj, Taiz, Al-Hudaidah and Hajjah Governorates. Moreover, training was provided to 71 farmers from different agricultural disciplines on the mechanism and objectives of the project funded by WB through Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). However, conducting the survey was postponed in the targeted districts of Sa'adah Governorate due to the precarious security situation.



Small farmers determining their needs in Almaafir –Taiz



Agriculture training workshop in Al-Hodeidah

TRAINING & ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT

Interventions in the two sectors of Training & Organizational Support aim to provide services through training and building the human and institutional capacities of SFD partners whose activities are linked to SFD's goals represented by local development and poverty reduction. In the Capacity Building sector 5 projects were approved during the Quarter with the estimate cost of 992 thousand USD. It is expected that more than 31 thousand work/days will be generated from them. In the Organizational Sector, 5 projects reached 683 (during 1977- 31March 2018) with about 38,9 million USD as estimate cost >Beneficiaries are expected to reach 1,4 million persons (46% females) with more than one million work/days' opportunities generated . Of these projects 630 were completed with contracted cost reaching about 25,3 million USD.

In the Training Sector the aggregate total number of projects reached 1,023 with the estimate cost of 27,3 million USD. Direct beneficiaries are expected to reach 159,600 persons (38% females) and generating

about 403 thousand work/days' opportunities . Of these projects 1,019 projects were completed with about 20,5million USD as contracted cost.

Empowerment for Local Development Program

Diversified Program activities continued to support Villages' Cooperative Councils formed in 56 districts during the years 2017, 2018 by means of forming and training 2,400 VCCs . The effectiveness of the VCCs lies in their continuing the implementation of either self-help or supported qualitative initiatives , as follows:

First: Self-help Initiatives Carried out by VCCs through wholly adopting the awareness about and the implementation of such initiatives (water tanks' construction , rehabilitation of school classes, collecting donations from citizens for teachers enabling them to continue teaching

after suspension by the government of salaries' payment , rural roads for pedestrians and vehicles , sanitation... etc.) with the number of villages' initiatives reaching 410 costing about 29,5 million Riyals .

Second: Initiatives Supported by SFD: about 250 supported initiatives were implemented in the districts of Al-Saud (Amran) , Mudheikhera (Ibb) , Mabyan and Kohlan Al-Sharaf (Hajja) , Habel Gabr (Lahj) , Lawder & Khanfer (Abyan) , Mukairas (Al-Beidha'a) , Al-Mawasat , Haifan , Al-Misrakh (Ta'iz) with cost reaching more than 175,8 million Riyals and 55% community contribution . These initiatives included rehabilitation and building school classes , water maintenance, paving and maintaining roads, and handicrafts (about 350 females were trained in sewing , embroidering, and incense and perfume making).

RUAWFD Program

During the Quarter training manuals were developed concerning the Basic Principles and Concepts of Development by integrating the issues of human and relief works, child rights , building peace and coexistence in the both the trainer's and trainee manuals . The Brochure related to the Program was also prepared and designed , as well as the Operations , and the Community Participation manuals . SFD , through the Program , also communicated with about 1,349 graduates during the last three months , with the following information gathered:

- 6 Program graduates obtained long-term work opportunities (long-term contracts) with a number of local and international agencies , while 45 others secured short-terms opportunities (one week- one month) with a number of organizations including National Foundation for Humanitarian Response Child Care Organization , UNICEF , SMEPS. Amal Bank, Intersos International.

- 367 Program graduates from 14 governorates participated in the implementation of 152 self-help initiatives costing about 11,3 million Riyals . Interventions included relief programs and services for displaced families , providing them with assistance in areas affected by war and conflict , and facilitating their sheltering . This is in addition to the implementation of development initiatives consisting of campaigns of awareness , cleaning , planting trees , fixing drinking water networks , cleaning water wells , campaigns of fighting diseases and epidemics like Cholera and diphtheria by providing information about their causes and how to fight them and have protection against such disease .

Initiatives also included repairing school furniture , literacy classes , teaching some subjects in a number of schools suffering from teachers' shortage , rehabilitation of water ponds , paving and maintaining rural roads , contribution in rehabilitation of school classes , awareness campaigns concerning preservation of historic and archeological sites , etc.

Training & Organizational Support Indicators

Indicator	Achieved (Jan – Mar 2018)
Community-based initiatives supported and implemented	65
Village Councils formed/activated	430
Total number of youth trained and secured temporary job opportunity	1,410

(Female: 40%)



RUAWFD Program training Marib youths on community participation and Tamkeen

Integrated Interventions Program (IIP)

Within the frameworks of Qualifying & Supporting Rural Women in Livelihood Skills' Project (Al-Muteina Sub-district, Al-Tuheita / Hodeida) a training course in manicure (naqsh) , and incense and perfume making was conducted for 33 female-trainees from three settlements. Also during the implementation of another project (The Preparative Phase in Targeting Urban Poverty Pockets- Sana'a City Secretariat) a number of meetings took place between the project officer and supervisor to review the study concerning areas of poverty pockets , One other Program activity included an information- sharing visit to the groups of saving and lending in Al-Mahweet district .

Community Participation

Activities in this sub-sector in the main office and branches included (according to need) the implementation of 27 training courses in various components such as field visits for officers and community consultants , mechanisms of cash- for- work for engineers, accountants and community consultants . The courses targeted 581 participants (including 198 females) .

Community studies were also implemented , as well as the formation of community voluntary committees in the fields of water , private water tanks , irrigation , sanitation , environment improvement , rural roads and land reclamation . The number of community studies implemented according to (PRA) methodology reached 80 , while the number of voluntary beneficiary committees formed and trained reached 67.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

During the first quarter 2018, the total cumulative number of the sector projects (1997 – 31 March 2018) is 280, at an estimated cost \$52.7 million. About 0.42 million person (47% female) are expected to directly benefit from these projects, with more than 2.2 million workdays generated. From these projects, 252 were completed at a contractual cost of \$44.2 million.

Restoration Project of Sana'a Great Mosque

Due to the limited financial resources provided by SFD after delayed payments from the financier, only necessary work continued aiming to end the last part of the western wing. The work continued with a limited staff included specialists involved in the work of the teams working in

the project. The difference between the floors in front of and behind the wall of the western Mihrab was removed. The floors were also paved for the works of electrical wiring, as well as the closure and re-tiling the archaeological sites after completion of the study. Construction treatments continued for the restoration of 4 contracts. The work included documentation, drawing, painting and the necessary support work for damaged and adjacent contracts and ceilings, as well as making wooden links to critical areas of construction through solutions to ensure their safety.

During the quarter, maintenance work was carried out for some parts of the mosque's roofs. In terms of capacity building, two project workers were trained to prepare the droplet (moisture-proof Qadad). On the other hand, all the works of the project of Inventory and assessment of war damage in the historic city of Sana'a have been completed.

Reconstructing the damaged walls of Al-Qasimi and Broum Meqshama

The three damaged historic buildings were rescued in the project area implemented by the labor intensive mechanism (in the old Sana'a Directorate) which had been destroyed before, threatened to collapse, and damaged pedestrians and adjacent buildings, as well as a building to be rebuilt by its owner with the help of the benevolent.

The contribution of the project is limited to providing technical consultation and supervision of the construction and providing the Yajour for the main northern and southern facades and some necessary supplementary supplies. The achievement in the project reached 90%.

Restoration Project of Al-Ash'aer Mosque (Zabid / Hodeidah):

The restoration of the western central part of the southern wing of the mosque and the service of the restored ceilings were completed. As the budget for this phase did not absorb the unforeseen work that had been created during the work, works were closed safely until funding is available for a subsequent phase of the project.

Inventory and assessment of damage in Shibam, Zabid and Aden

The project proposal funded by the UNESCO for \$ 80,000 has been initiated to assess the damage in the historic cities of Shibam (Hadhramaut) and Zabid (Al-Hudaidah) as well as the assessment of the water, electricity and sanitation infrastructure of the two cities and Sana'a Old City. Rescue work was also carried out at the National Museum in Sana'a, and the review of the agreement between the Fund



Rainwater stagnation in the heart of Almutaradh town

Improving the environmental situation in Al-Sailfain neighborhood – Bait Al-Faqih

This project comes in response to the Emergency Program's objectives to support the most affected sectors of society in the targeted areas, by providing jobs for the residents of the town of Beit Al Faqih (Al-Hudaidah). During the war, a large number of citizens fled from the surrounding areas, especially from the coastal villages that were

and the UNESCO Regional Office for the Gulf States and Yemen was completed to be funded by the European Union.

As a part of improve the environmental situation of the historic city of Zabid, all activities of the project were completed by the end of January 2018, and the project has been converted into completed.

Paving and improving parts of the street adjacent to the wall of Sa'adah (Phase III)

Basic and additional works of the project were completed, such as paving, installation of mortar belts and wall tiles, as well as the reconstruction of the walls that were damaged because of the war, in addition of the damaged palace walls next to Bab al-Mansour.

Improvement of water channels and paving water-harvesting surrounding surfaces (Thula, Amran)

The basic and additional works continued in the project, with completion rate reaching 99.7% by the end of March. Works also continued in paving and improving the streets, squares and corridors of Shihara, and the completion rate at the end of March 2018 reached 22.6%. The rest sites of the project were also handed over.

Pavement and improvement of the public square in Al-Muatared (Al Hudaidah)

The district of Al-Muatared (Al-Zohra, Al-Hudaidah) suffers from a deteriorating environmental situation due to the lack of the infrastructure of the area. There is no sewage network and rainwater drainage in its streets, which leads to accumulation of the water especially in the center of the town in the area of the mosque and the palace next to the town market. In addition to the presence of health facilities (toilet) which are not qualified, and there is no sewage area in accordance with the proper health standards causing outbreaks of diseases and epidemics, such as acute waterfalls, typhoid, malaria, etc. among community members in the town. The project aimed to address the congestion and discharge of rainwater in the center of the town, especially in front of the mosque and the fort near the market of the town. As well as improving the center of the town by paving the square in front of the mosque, and construction works of the Yajour walls a meter high around the paving area. A sanitary cycle was also set up in the center of the town to serve its mosque and its market, in addition to the work of a sewage drainage tunnel and the work in some streets to process the rainwater drainage around the mosque and the fort. The project also aimed to provide job opportunities for the unemployed and displaced people of the region, and to raise health awareness about diseases (such as acute water scarcity, etc.).



Addressing the environmental problem in Almutaradh town

affected by the events creating new burdens on basic services for both residents and displaced people. The project also responds to the critical environmental situation of the area and the increase in acute water pollution in the city due to the presence of rubbish residues in various residential areas of the city. The areas where the garbage is being thrown are dirt yards that turn when it rains into semi-swamps filled with mosquitoes and bacteria that cause many diseases.

The work of removing waste and garbage, and improving the environmental situation of the town of Bait Al-Faqih was carried out. There were also works on health awareness campaign of acute water aches and the damage caused by garbage in spreading diseases, paving

and improving the public arena in Al-Salfeen neighborhood in the center of the city, as well as the employment of unemployed youth from the city of Bait Al-Faqih and the displaced.



A view on the solid waste problem in Al-Salfain area



Removal of solid waste in Al-Salfain

Rescue and restoration of Al-Dea’a historical pond – Raimah

The center of Al-Jubain, Raimah suffers from severe water scarcity, where its population depends on the rainwater that is collected in the pools. There are two large pools in the city, one of which is the pond of Al Dia’a. The pond can accommodate 1,300 cubic meters of water, which suffers from water pollution due to the feeding of one of its channels from the city. In addition, the pond’s environment is still dusty and full of waste and garbage, which in turn promotes the spread of diseases (such as acute water scarcity, etc).

The Social Fund of Development intervened in this pool through addressing environmental and health impact (by separating the polluted water from the city market, cleaning the pond from silt, “soil and dirt deposited in sedimentation basins and water purification”, beside cleaning and re-paving the areas adjacent to the pond. New sedimentation ponds have been established to purify the water in the ponds, as well as to provide clean water sources by exploiting the roofs of the pond (the mosque, the school and the paved areas). The project also aims to provide job opportunities for the unemployed and displaced people of the region, and to raise health awareness about diseases (such as acute water scarcity, etc.).



Removing solid waste off the tank



Building new filter cisterns for the tank

Paving and protecting the perimeter of Al-Qahera Castle (Hajjah)

Work began in the second phase of the project from the beginning of January 2018. The construction of the protective walls and the paving of the upper sections of the site have been completed, as well as the completion of the paving of the road leading to the houses west of the castle. Three thousand jobs were provided, of which 350 for the displaced and 100 for females. The number of workers employed

during the first quarter was 210 workers, including 30 women and 78 skilled workers (builders and supervisors).

Finally, within the Project of Preparing Regulations and Guidelines for the Bylaw of Preservation of Historic Cities, Areas and Monuments, copies of the project draft were sent to both GOPHCY and the Ministry of Culture.

LABOR INTENSIVE WORKS PROGRAM

The Labor Intensive Works Program (LIWP) targets poor communities in rural and urban areas focusing on IDPs, displaced and unemployed communities affected of the on-going war. These communities aim to have a double benefit once from the income generated of participated in the program’s project to protect poor households against the current exacerbating conditions. Another benefit is to provide community assets that will generate future benefits and improve access of poor rural communities to centers that providing basic services by improving the status and development of the road. Thus, the program is a key

component of the social safety net (SSN) and contributes to mitigate the negative effects of the crisis and improve the livelihoods and food security for poor and those affected in the targeted areas.

According to the current situation in the country, our targeting mechanism has expanded to include IDPs and conflict-affected areas directly.

LIWP comprises the Cash-for-Work (CfW) Program and Road Sectors Sector.

Cash-for-Work Program

During the quarter, 110 projects have been approved at an estimated cost of nearly \$15.8 million, with direct beneficiaries expected to be more 122,880 persons (50% female) and job opportunities 1.1 million temporary workdays. Thus, the total cumulative number of the Program's projects (1997–31 March 2018) reached 1,175 at an

estimated cost of \$217.3 million and the direct beneficiaries expected to amount to 1.7 million person approximately (49% female), generating about 17.7 million temporary workdays. Of these projects, 842 have been completed costing around \$151.2 million.

The cumulative number of benefiting households exceeds 279 thousand.

Cash-for-Work (CfW) Program Indicators

Indicator	Achieved (Jan – Mar 2018)
Total number of direct beneficiaries of wage employment (number of workers)	59,567
Female (30%)	16,785
IDPs/Returnees (20%)	4,716
Youth: age "16–35" (30%)	29,590
Number of working days created	1,524,339
Households benefitting from cash-for-work activities	34,461
Number of households' members	241,227
Wages distributed at the level of households (to equivalent to USD added to this indicator)	-
Area of agriculture land & terraces rehabilitated and protected	-
Irrigation channels constructed/rehabilitated	-
Cubic meters of water schemes constructed /rehabilitated	58,089
Length of roads improved (km)	-
Square meters of stone paved areas	-
Number of latrines constructed or rehabilitated	-
Number of IDPs houses and shelters protected, improved or rehabilitated	-
Number of home food gardens	-



Cash-based building of Alsharaf-Allaflaf rural road,
Kusmah district – Raymah

Road Sector

During this quarter, 25 projects have been approved at an estimated cost of \$4.1 million, with the expected job opportunities to be generated exceeding 179,270 workdays. Thus, the total cumulative number of the sector's projects reached 901 projects at an estimated cost of \$192.3 million and the total beneficiaries expected to amount to 4.6 million person approximately (50% female), and the employment created about 8.9 million workdays. Of these projects, 801 have been completed costing around \$172 million.

Street Pavement

During the fourth phase, 716 thousand temporary workdays have been cumulatively generated from completed and ongoing projects of street pavement.

Main events and activities of Labor Intensive Works Program

During first quarter of 2018, several cash-for-work (CfW) awareness workshops were held in Ibb, 4 workshops in Hadhramaut and 3 workshops in Taiz, Amran, & Sa'adah governorates to clarify the concepts, standards and mechanism of CfW attended the workshops 1,793 male 861 female participants from different governorates. In addition, 4 workshops were held on the road sector in Hadhramout governorate and 3 workshops in Dhamar governorate and another in Hodeidah governorate attended 375 male 175 female participants from different governorates.

Moreover, Taiz, Ibb, Al-Hudaidah, Hajjah, Dhamar, Aden and Amran branches have conducted trainings for community, technical and accounting consultants on the mechanism of community, technical and accounting studies for CfW and roads projects' execution mechanism, the trainings was attended by 459 male and 107 female consultants.

Coordination with local authorities

Meetings were held with local authorities in a number of targeted districts in Hadhramaut, Ibb, Dhamar, Sa'adah, Amran, Taiz, Al-Hudaidah, Hajjah, Aden, Lahj, and Abyan governorates, attended 95 members with the aim of involving them in the targeting process and to facilitate implementation of projects in targeted areas.

Trainings

Training is important and has a positive impact on the individuals to continue learning and developing their professional careers, which improve family economic and living conditions and get jobs later in the market.

The LIWP is implementing two types of training: on-the-job training and life skills.

On-the-job training: This kind of training focuses on qualifying unskilled and semi-skilled labors to be skilled labor, trainings were in different skills such as building, stone cutting and paving, plastering, etc., in addition to operate and make maintenance of produced assets. During this quarter, 899 male and 87 female workers were trained during implementation of CfW and roads projects from Taiz, Ibb, Al-Hudaidah, Hadhramaut, Hajjah, Dhamar and Amran Governorates.

Life skills: This kind of training builds the capacity of the person, make him/her able to live with confident and understand himself as well as others. During this quarter, 3,726 male and 3,334 female beneficiaries trained from the cash-for-work projects in Ibb Hadramout, Dhamar and Amran Governorates.

Health education and cholera

Al-Mukalla, Taiz, Dhamar, Amran, Ibb, Al-Hudaidah and Hajjah branches carried out awareness workshops on prevention of cholera epidemic, widespread diseases, qat damage, and improving health and environmental conditions and misconducts that providing healthy environment with a high level of health education. During this quarter, 48,176 male and 69,743 female beneficiaries were aware during the implementation of the projects.

Occupational safety awareness

Amran, Dhamar, Taiz, Ibb and Al-Hudeidah branches held awareness sessions for 6,249 male and 3,538 female beneficiaries in targeted projects, raising awareness of the risks that could threaten their health and explaining prevention ways to avoid such risks, including the commitment to wear occupational safety tools at the workplace during the implementation of the projects.

Awareness workshops for interested parties (labor operators)

Awareness workshops were held for labor administrators to clarify the concepts, standards and mechanism of CfW activities. During this quarter, a workshop was held in Ibb for 42 labor administrators, several workshops were held in Dhamar for 54 labor administrators, several workshops were held in Amran for 94 labor administrators, also, several workshops were held in Al-Hudaidah for 25 operators. Thus, the total number of engaged labor administrators during the quarter was 215 operators.

Overall Results	Achieved (Jan – Mar 2018)
Total number of people benefiting from cash transfers (# of wage beneficiaries of Safety Net & Community and Local Development programs)	61,964
Female (30%)	16,785
IDPs/Returnees (20%)	4,716
Youth: age "16–35" (35%)	29,590
Total number of people provided with access to key services (from all interventions)	745,988
Female (50%)	372,994
Number of workdays created (from all interventions)	1,524,339

SMALL AND MICRO ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (SMED)

Funding

Despite the continuing deterioration of the economic situation in the country and the demand and need of small and Micro enterprises to finance and non-financial services, which aims helping the poor and improving their income. During the first quarter of 2018, the SFD signed a financing agreement with the National Microfinance Institution with amount of 400 million Riyals (equivalent to \$867,248) to enable it to continue to finance the activities of its customers in Sana'a, Ibb, Al-Hudaidah, Taiz, Al-Qa'eda, Dhamar, Yareem, Hajjah, Lahj, Taraba, Dumet, Shibam Kawkaban, Bajel and Aden.

By the end of the quarter, the number of active customers reached 13,109, of whom 35% are women beneficiaries. It is worth mentioning that the national institution ranks first in terms of prevalence and number of beneficiaries of microfinance services in Yemen compared to other MFIs.

Grants

Small and Microenterprise Development Agency: During the quarter, SMEPS acquired the largest share of SFD support to its partners, which amounts to about 2.5 billion Riyals (equivalent to about \$6.7 million), which is 80% of the total support for microfinance programs and institutions. The funding aims at supporting the various activities SMEPS carries out within the framework of the emergency response program projects as well as to support the continuation of its work in health, agriculture and fisheries sectors. The Agency provides non-financial services for the development of small and microenterprises in Yemen.

Yemen Loan Guarantee Program: In the beginning of March 2018, the Social Fund launched the Yemen Loan Guarantee Program, which aims to help and improve the economic situation of small and microentrepreneurs who are unable to provide the necessary guarantees to finance their activities and support the expansion of small microfinance to achieve leadership in financing guarantee in accordance with international best practice, as well as establishing a confidence-based credit culture in this sector.

The SFD provided support to the YLG program to ensure funding. Total support exceeded 11.1 million riyals (\$28,980) to cover the program's operational expenses, provide the necessary supplies for the program's information systems, and train and rehabilitate its cadres.

Yemen Microfinance Network: The network plays a major role in implementing several activities in the field of developing the microfinance industry in Yemen, implements compensation for war-affected clients (Phase II), and conducts quality training for MFI staff and institutions. Raise the capabilities of its employees and board of directors to contribute to supporting the microfinance industry.

The SFD has continued to support the network, with a financial grant of more than YR115.2 million (equivalent to approximately \$300 thousand), which represents the first installment to cover its 2018 expenses project activities, including its operational expenses.

War-affected Compensation Project: The SFD continues to play a major role in supporting war-affected clients (Phase II). Two projects

have been funded to support these clients, implemented by the Aden Foundation and Al Amal Microfinance Bank for a total amount of approximately 108.9 million Riyals (about \$283,490).

Rural Finance: The SFD seeks to access financial services to rural areas to stimulate and support income-generating activities (especially in the areas of agriculture, livestock and beekeeping), which improve the standard of living of working families in these activities. The SFD financed Nama'a Foundation, Al-Ettihad Program, and Azal Program with total amount about 118.1 million Riyals (\$ 307,475) to cover the Foundation expenses, Operating and Training expenses of its new branches activities, which were launched in Amran, Dhamar, Al-Zaidiyah (Al-Hudaidah) and Saber (Lahj). The number of loans granted to the Foundation and the two mentioned programs amounted to 310, 133 and 119 loans, respectively, until the end of March 2018.

Development of Information Systems Infrastructure in MFIs:

The SFD has played a major role in contributing to the development of the information systems infrastructure of MFIs, which is one of its most important pillars to help speed up customer service, follow up the loan portfolio and make the necessary decisions. A consultant has been hired to modernize and develop the HR system and to link it to automated systems.

Al-Amal Microfinance Bank: The SFD financed the bank during the quarter with a sum of \$25,000 (equivalent to about 9.6 million Riyals) to complete the development of the microfinance and housing products according to best practices to help the bank cope with the current situation and meet the needs of the targeted group. The total funding provided by the SFD to the Bank amounted to \$105 thousand (approximately 40.3 million Riyals).

Finally, the SMED Unit visited the National Microfinance Program in Amman, Jordan, in coordination with LFS, to discuss the mechanism of applying the Agricultural Loan Study. A workshop was held and attended by agricultural lending staff from the National Microfinance Institution.

Small and Micro-enterprise Development (SMED)

Indicator	Achieved (Jan – Mar 2018)
Number of businesses supported, disaggregated by type:	246,885
Farmers	1,580
Fishers	455
Number of Women PHC workers supported	-
Number of workdays created	244,850

Loan portfolio indicators for microfinance programs and institutions as of the end of March 2018

Program	No. of Disbursed loans	Active number of clients			Outstanding loan portfolio Billion YR	Amount of Disbursed loans Million YR	PAR (%)	Cumulative numbers		OSS	FSS	No. of Personnel	No. of Loan Officers	No. of Branches	Area of Operation
		Borrowers		Savers				Number of loans	Loan amounts Million YR						
		Total	Women (%)	Total											
National MF Foundation	501	13,109	35	26,356	1,286	218	39.82	151,077	9,376	76	49	135	63	18	Capital City, Taiz, Ibb, Alkaeda, Thamar, Yarim, Hajjah, Lahj, Al-Hudaidah, Altorba, Demt, Shebam, Bajil, Aden
Alkuraimi Islamic Microfinance Bank	372	3,689	7	617,566	1,796	342	9.70	24,281	12,522	57	52	69	75	62	Capital City, Taiz, Ibb, Aden, Hudaidah, Thamar, Al- Almokala, Seyun
Hadhramaut Microfinance Program	314	6,716	30	5,157	756	69	31.33	31,960	4,263	278	228	61	37	7	Hadhramaut (Seyun, Tarim, Al-Suom, Almahra, Shabwa, Shabwa, Alhami, Sah, Almokala, Alshehr, Shebam, Alkton
MF Development Program (Nama')	310	6,315	37	238	530	88	43.23	86,491	7,147	81	65	110	83	9	Capital City, Taiz, Hudaidah, Ibb
Altadhamon Bank	239	3,043	30	0	788	193	10.16	39,499	9,354	76	76	58	27	14	Capital City, Taiz, Al-Hudaidah, Aden, Ibb, Hadhramaut
Aletehad Microfinance Program	133	3,845	78	0	361	27	25.08	49,632	2,858	54	37	81	35	6	Abyan (Zanjabar, Hanfar, Ahwar), Almokala, Alshehr, Aden
Azal Microfinance Program	119	3,590	49	4,937	345	46	43.81	50,571	4,489	70	59	72	30	5	Capital City, Almahweet
Aden MF Foundation	35	10,205	67	7,468	698	15	76.51	54,277	4,264	90	52	61	32	7	Dar sad, Al-Buraikah, Altawahe, Khor Maksar, Kerater, Aden, Lahj, Aidali, Al-Mansora
Al-Amal Microfinance Bank	27	33,702	38	128,264	2,244	6	96.57	129,615	11,146	46	46	180	25	15	Capital City, Ibb, Taiz, Dhamar, Almokala, Al-Hudaidah, Aden, Hajjah, Abs
Al-Awa'el MF Company Report of April 2015	0	1,546	79	0	93	0	10.75	60,224	1,777	90	68	41	21	5	Taiz (Al-Camb, Hawdh Al-Ashraf, Al-Rahedah, Sainah, Al-Qada'edah)
Other Activities & IGPs								109,187	21,391						Several areas
Total	2,050	85,760		789,986	8,897	1,004		786,814	88,587			868	428	148	

Number of projects & estimated costs - First quarter 2018 (by sector)

Sector	No. of Projects	Estimated Cost (\$)	Est. SFD Contribution (\$)	Direct beneficiaries		Temporary Job Opportunities
				Total	Females %	
Environment	12	1,145,622	1,145,622	14,873	50	73,540
Education	4	173,000	173,000	2,943	32	2,854
Organizational Support	5	992,380	992,380	25,210	51	31,075
Agriculture	4	862,372	862,372	5,240	36	59,584
Health	42	5,299,879	5,299,879	3,127,284	50	131,265
Roads	25	4,089,408	4,089,408	51,889	50	179,274
Micro Enterprises Development	3	1,269,795	1,269,795	1,000	40	6,460
Small Enterprise Development	2	370,000	370,000	0	-	3,918
Cultural Heritage	3	370,800	370,800	3,083	47	12,828
Water	44	4,751,450	4,751,450	45,404	51	296,505
Cash for Work	110	15,783,152	15,783,152	122,875	50	1,087,091
Total	254	35,107,858	35,107,858	3,399,801	50%	1,884,394

The total includes 20 projects with no funding

Number of projects approved and estimated costs - First quarter 2018 (by governorate)

Governorate	No. of Projects	Estimated Cost (\$)	Est. SFD Contribution (\$)	Percentage (%)
Ibb	5	647,670	647,670	100
Abyan	14	1,996,882	1,996,882	100
Socatra	9	831,140	831,140	
Capital City	9	2,623,204	2,623,204	100
Al-Baidha	5	302,496	302,496	100
Al-Jawf	6	945,500	945,500	100
Al-Hudaidah	27	4,074,080	4,074,080	100
Al-Dhale	5	648,500	648,500	100
Al-Mahweet	10	792,729	792,729	100
Al-Maharah	10	979,849	979,849	100
Taiz	17	2,885,236	2,885,236	100
Hajjah	37	4,142,494	4,142,494	100
Hadhramaut	7	939,584	939,584	100
Dhamar	12	1,267,942	1,267,942	100
Raimah	4	563,950	563,950	100
Shabwah	10	1,181,176	1,181,176	100
Sa'adah	15	1,950,852	1,950,852	100
Sana'a	16	1,640,933	1,640,933	100
Aden	8	1,750,765	1,750,765	100
Amran	8	681,976	681,976	100
Lahj	9	1,443,105	1,443,105	100
Mareb	6	1,178,000	1,178,000	100
Several Governorates	5	1,639,795	1,639,795	100
Total	254	35,107,858	35,107,858	100

The total includes 20 projects with no funding

Number of completed projects & contractual costs as of the end of first quarter 2018 (by sector)

Main sector	No. of Projects	Contractual cost (USD)
Environment	396	30,843,146
Integrated Intervention	290	18,788,148
Training	1,019	20,469,689
Education	4,968	624,373,364
Organizational Support	630	25,278,252
Agriculture	403	33,802,338
Health	1,169	81,861,595
Roads	801	171,961,020
Special Needs Groups	699	31,617,562
Micro Enterprises Development	198	44,368,343
Small Enterprise Development	33	8,170,816
Cultural Heritage	252	44,204,792
Water	2,124	189,914,518
Cash for Work	842	151,174,376
Business Development Services	78	12,983,734
Total	13,902	1,489,811,692

Cumulative number of projects and costs as of the end of first quarter 2018 (by governorate)

Governorate	No. of Projects	Estimated Cost (\$)	Est. SFD Contribution (\$)	Contractual cost (USD)
Ibb	1,420	190,560,650	163,964,950	161,281,293
Abyan	338	59,437,075	48,761,115	45,081,771
Socatra	67	7,319,269	7,084,564	7,011,910
Capital City	728	104,163,162	99,005,779	94,330,881
Al-Baidha	321	36,103,230	33,076,369	33,127,443
Al-Jawf	159	17,414,475	16,726,576	15,889,194
Al-Hudaidah	1,264	197,694,520	193,315,508	174,424,170
Al-Dhale	297	48,556,432	43,231,312	39,119,281
Al-Mahweet	431	52,989,708	48,180,277	47,034,387
Al-Maharah	120	9,702,355	9,216,599	8,757,929
Taiz	1,786	254,954,537	196,010,119	193,938,671
Hajjah	1,219	162,236,108	145,876,390	137,105,650
Hadhramaut	678	74,225,138	71,928,357	66,275,563
Dhamar	964	120,159,410	102,812,886	103,915,671
Raimah	385	59,520,476	38,535,925	40,840,575
Shabwah	323	33,278,506	32,117,688	30,846,881
Sa'adah	371	54,954,929	53,910,625	50,539,950
Sana'a	545	61,136,717	57,331,538	56,272,165
Aden	355	49,623,949	47,077,693	41,787,420
Amran	972	128,876,231	115,168,175	108,668,127
Lahj	730	108,850,608	88,175,100	84,337,211
Mareb	133	12,286,627	11,804,757	11,190,675
Several Governorates	1,290	149,513,053	147,735,750	129,354,003
Total	14,896	1,993,557,167	1,771,048,052	1,681,130,822

The total includes 44 projects with no funding

Cumulative number of projects, commitments, beneficiaries and temporary employment as of the end of first quarter 2018 (by sector)

Sector	No. of Projects	Estimated Cost (\$)	Est. SFD Contribution (\$)	Contractual cost (USD)	Expected direct beneficiaries		Expected indirect beneficiaries		Total estimated employment (workdays)
					Male	Female	Male	Female	
Environment	439	47,563,145	42,094,356	39,644,335	1,705,088	1,698,802	199,299	197,027	1,647,557
Integrated Intervention	292	21,375,483	18,170,008	18,863,385	125,491	131,428	104,076	106,063	565,339
Training	1,023	27,303,075	27,264,474	20,880,659	98,883	60,703	445,942	477,690	402,909
Education	5,021	674,856,726	652,147,619	633,115,042	1,497,681	1,279,382	1,886,867	1,630,255	22,899,944
Organizational Support	683	38,851,759	36,532,145	32,359,773	745,388	629,410	501,156	458,713	1,005,161
Agriculture	437	47,225,022	43,793,984	38,511,417	196,651	175,397	393,556	351,003	1,259,249
Health	1,243	149,698,754	147,350,126	121,987,688	4,348,833	6,448,328	944,443	4,420,674	3,534,829
Roads	901	192,261,496	186,406,669	185,315,809	2,326,207	2,306,447	843,899	834,600	8,915,727
Special Needs Groups	702	37,122,675	36,368,779	32,781,052	111,888	72,369	68,522	52,451	842,121
Micro Enterprises Development	210	62,273,119	62,110,017	53,337,174	91,436	342,383	571,033	1,437,722	198,484
Small Enterprise Development	48	14,495,377	14,494,377	13,008,860	19,684	24,351	67,629	58,366	36,670
Cultural Heritage	280	52,654,655	51,917,499	48,977,020	221,336	195,332	144,521	105,076	2,234,448
Water	2,358	376,654,312	202,018,516	213,538,577	1,995,434	2,009,262	169,212	150,157	9,264,339
Cash for Work	1,175	217,314,229	216,472,146	196,461,601	848,179	829,688	1,146,715	1,208,782	17,677,794
Business Development Services	84	33,907,338	33,907,338	32,348,431	76,555	30,911	116,067	212,519	623,976
Total	14,896	1,993,557,167	1,771,048,052	1,681,130,822					71,108,547

The total includes 44 projects with no funding

Tamkeen moving war-torn communities from despaired to empowered

Contemplating the details of the rapid deterioration of the social and economic life of Yemenis, I realized how awful the impact of the ongoing war was especially on my birthplace of Amran Governorate, the most deprived community. I had been desperate that development interventions would find a way into Amran or Yemen in general in light of the continuing conflict and destruction on one hand, and on the other hand the absence of development actors except for SFD whose role has been realized by the poorest now more than ever.

All my family members were affected as my retired father has not received his pension salary for more than a year. We have not expected such a situation. The pain had almost killed me when I stayed wallowed up in my house unable to do the least endeavor that could change or alleviate the suffrage of hundreds of vulnerable communities. I had had nothing but to pray for them.

All of the sudden, I received a phone call from a supervisor in an SFD offering me a job opportunity in participating in the Empowerment for Local Development (Tamkeen) project in Amran. I felt it was the largest opportunity of change for both my family and 60 deprived villages in Habor Dholaima in such critical conditions. The details of the Tamkeen project replaced despair in my mind and heart with optimism and enthusiasm.



Women of Aldarb volunteering to repair their road to a water well

I started to work, and my goal has been to change the villagers' controversies and attitudes from war to development environment, at which I started to drive my capacities and enthusiasm. After training, I with other 39 colleagues worked hard in mobilizing the most vulnerable communities to rely to their capacities and locally available resources to improve their catastrophic reality.

The Tamkeen teams already had expected more critical challenges but our challenge was so solid that none of the 40 male and female mobilizers has given up to challenges involving weapon-related threats, cultural rejection and walking alone for up to 10 kms in light of fuel shortage. However, we harvested the fruit and tasted it at the end of the day.

We assessed the needs and worked to achieve priorities of 60 communities relying to their initiatives. Women in those communities have interacted unprecedentedly. Unexpected waves of women ran to the field of initiatives to eventually get rid of long standing and increasing burdens. For example, a group of women re-opened a narrow pedestrian road that had prevented their access to a water spring for four years. Then, they tirelessly cleaned that forlorn spring until it re-produced water.

We focused on helping the villagers to hold free elections for the Village Cooperation Council (VCC) for each village, half of members are females, to lead initiatives, develop priority need plans, serve as a link between communities and any development agency including local authorities, and to ensure initiatives to continue in each village. The VCCs' members were trained, among other things, on ways to ignite hope in motivating initiatives to build their public assets and services and support the vulnerable.

I noticed the communities were so motivated that I shed tears of joy once I saw the desperate of yesterday carried out 151 various initiatives during the first phase of the training only. By the end of our project, we have fulfilled 32 dreams for the youths who worked in the project. Those dreams have resulted in 254 initiatives of which 63 were community-based. The SFD contributed with half of its total cost of YR 28 million (nearly \$60,000) which can cover the implementation of an SFD cash-for-work intervention. The initiatives implemented in such a short time and during the hardest times would not have been achieved in the district by other players within a decade.

One prominent example of the community interaction, was the construction and paving of Al Faqi'a road (about 5 k long) which linked 5 villages to the center of the district and the capital of the governorate as well as the neighboring Hajjah governorate saving a half of the travel time and cost. It has been years since the villagers failed to convince the peer villagers to concede parts of their land for the road. As soon as the the VCC has been formed and trained in that area, the VCC members got the concession and all villagers rushed to donate money, started to work and provided guarding services for the project assets and meals to workers with the SFD half cost finance.

Those have been our best periods of our lives as we got the fruit of our development training in RAWFD first and recently in Tamkeen.

At the personal level, the living conditions of my family have improved from my \$2300 contract with SFD. I have supported the family with the most needed food items, repaid our debt, supported my brother to buy spare parts for his taxi, and secured a bus seat for my sister for transportation to the university.

All the above yields have freed my spirit and have strongly supported my career, as a rural female community mobilizer who is increasingly on constant demand by the aid organizations, which seek their interventions to be sustainable, effective and participatory.

Tamkeen consultant:
Ahlam Jeadar

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