



SAFERWORLD

PREVENTING VIOLENT CONFLICT. BUILDING SAFER LIVES

Strengthening Peacebuilding Initiatives in Yemen

Final report:

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I. Project overview:

Years of war in Yemen have created societal ruptures within communities and broken down the state capacity to provide essential public services. This has increased intercommunal conflicts at the local level, often due to competition over access to resources or services. Severely under-resourced community groups and civil society organisations (CSOs), often led by women and young people, are crucial to addressing community concerns and challenging marginalisation, injustice and political exclusion.

Saferworld worked on a 12-month project to strengthen community-led peacebuilding initiatives in Yemen. The project built on Saferworld's programmes in Yemen to fill critical gaps in support to community groups and CSOs, who are at the forefront of peacebuilding efforts in Yemen.

Saferworld collaborated with three strategic partners to implement the activities: **PASS Foundation – Peace for Sustainable Societies in Aden, and Youth Without Borders Organization for Development (YWBOD) and the National Organisation for Community Development (NODS) in Taiz.** These three partners are sustainable partners with Saferworld and have long experience in conducting activities promoting peacebuilding and conflict resolution in two vital governorates in Yemen – Aden and Taiz.

This grant is a match fund to another project implemented by the same partners and funded by the Civil Society Fund of the Irish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project supports CSOs and local communities in Yemen, focusing on marginalised groups such as women and youth, to collaborate with local authorities in addressing the root causes of conflict and insecurity. It enables them to contribute to peace processes at local, national and international levels.

This grant complements the Irish Aid project's outcomes by enhancing community capacities and providing financial support for initiatives aimed at peacebuilding and community security. It also supports other outcomes by building the capacity of CSOs and women-led hubs.

The project has two specific outcomes:

1. Community groups and CSOs strengthen their capacity to design and implement peacebuilding programmes in Yemen.
2. Community groups strengthen peacebuilding efforts within communities to address the root causes of conflict.

II. The project's key achievements:

- **Training and capacity building:** Over several months, community groups and CSOs were trained in conflict resolution, project proposal writing, strategic planning, gender analysis and financial management. This strengthened their role as peace actors, enabling them to independently design and implement peacebuilding programmes.
- **Community-led initiatives:** A total of 16 community initiatives were implemented in Aden and Taiz, focusing on issues like installing solar-powered street lighting in areas prone to conflict, rehabilitating water and sewage systems, and promoting environmental peace mechanisms. These initiatives directly contributed to reducing tensions and improving security in marginalised communities.
- **Collaboration with local authorities:** The project facilitated strong relationships between community groups, CSOs and local authorities. This collaborative approach ensured that peacebuilding interventions were well informed by local needs and had broader community buy-in.

III. Alignment with the goals of the Allan and Nesta Trust:

The project strongly aligned with the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust's objectives of promoting peace, education and development:

- **Peace:** By empowering local actors and facilitating community-led interventions, the project directly addressed the root causes of conflict in Yemen. It helped create more resilient communities capable of managing disputes and preventing violence.
- **Education:** Capacity-building workshops provided vital training on peacebuilding, conflict sensitivity and organisational management. These educational components have equipped local groups with the skills needed for future peace work.
- **Development:** Several of the initiatives had a direct impact on community development, such as improving infrastructure (solar lighting and water systems) and addressing environmental challenges. These efforts promoted social cohesion and better living conditions, laying the foundation for long-term community resilience.

In summary, the project successfully fulfilled its objectives by strengthening community and civil society capacities, leading to tangible improvements in community stability and peace. It directly contributed to the Allen and Nesta Trust's goals of fostering sustainable peace through education and development interventions.

IV. Project outcomes:

Outcome 1:

Community groups and CSOs strengthen their capacity to design and implement peacebuilding programmes in Yemen.

Summary:

In the challenging context of Yemen, community groups and CSOs are playing a vital role in peacebuilding efforts. By strengthening their capacity to design and implement effective peacebuilding programmes, these groups can address the root causes of conflict and foster a more stable and harmonious society. This ensures that peacebuilding efforts can continue independently, even after external support diminishes, as sustainability is key to maintaining long-term peace and stability. This outcome was achieved through the courses and trainings provided by our partners as below:

PASS:

- Training sessions for 17 members of Local Peace Councils (LPCs) on project proposal writing for three days from 9–11 January 2024. The sessions helped participants develop essential skills such as persuasive writing, clear communication and structured thinking, which are crucial for crafting compelling proposals that illustrate the issues and the right interventions to resolve them. This training helped the LPC members to better design the interventions and reflect them clearly in their projects proposals.
- Training sessions on strategic planning and proposal writing for CSOs for five days from 24–28 February 2024. The training sessions aimed to strengthen the capacity of the participants to design good quality projects and clear proposals that will secure funds.
- The national meeting for both CSO hubs in Aden and Taiz was held over three days; it took place in Aden city from 12–14 August 2024. In this event the CSOs participating in Aden and Taiz hubs met to display their projects, achievements, lessons learnt and strategic planning for the future.
- Two training sessions on policy paper development and international advocacy mechanisms, as well as a digital security training for members of the women-led hub, held over seven separate days.
- Training sessions on strategic planning for 15 members of the women-led hub in Aden for two days.
- A gender analysis meeting was held among LPC representatives and CSO hubs led by Noon Coalition for two days from 25–26 May 2024.

YWBOD:

- Training session for the community group members on safeguarding for three days from 13–17 February 2024. The training session aimed to work within safe spaces based on the principle of do no harm.
- Conducted training sessions for community group members on community mediation for two days from 21–22 February 2024. The training provided an overview of conflict resolution through community mediation. The importance of this course lies in its aim to develop the knowledge and skills of community members in resolving conflicts through community mediation. This contributes to enabling them to work together with the authorities in identifying and addressing the main drivers of conflict in their communities.

NODS:

- A data analysis training course was conducted for four days from 22–25 July 2024, covering field study data analysis. A simplified course on financial report writing was also provided by the financial officer of NODS, and another on technical report writing was given by one of the members.
- Organised a training session from 20–21 May 2024 on financial policies and updated models for 16 participants, with four individuals from each community centre (the president, vice president, financial officer and procurement officer). The training aimed to teach them how to implement grants based on updated financial policies and models, ensuring accurate financial settlements based on lessons learnt from previous grants.
- Two training sessions on mediation and community dialogue skills were conducted, with one training session for every two community centres together, lasting three days each.

TRAININGS



Outcome 2:

Outcome 2: Community groups strengthen peacebuilding efforts within communities to address the root causes of conflict.

1. Community groups:

Saferworld's three partners (PASS, YWBOD and NODS) have previously established 16 community groups through the Irish Aid project, as follows:

- **PASS:** four community groups, titled Local Peace Councils, in four districts (Crater, Khormaksar, Almansora, Dar Saad).
- **YWBOD:** Eight community groups, titled community initiatives, located in four districts; two initiatives in each district (Sala, Sabr Almwadim, Alqahira, Almudhafar).
- **NODS:** Four community groups, titled community centres, in four districts (Sala, Sabr Almwadim, Alqahira, Almudhafar).

2. Consultative meetings and intervention design:

The community groups conducted several consultative meetings with community leaders, local authorities and residents in the targeted areas. The aim of these meetings was to discuss the main conflicts affecting the community and to prioritise the issues that need interventions. This process helps in understanding the context and to design better interventions. It is concluded as below:

PASS:

The LPCs worked in four districts of Aden Governorate (Sira, Khormaksar, Al-Mansoura and Dar Saad) in partnership with local authorities and community committees in targeted districts, to develop a needs matrix that was established and identified through another project and which was used when defining the initiatives' interventions.

The LPCs, in agreement with local authorities and community committees in the targeted districts, focused on a unified priority: illuminating streets and rear alleys in the targeted districts using alternative, environmentally friendly solar energy.

This priority reflects the general context of Aden Governorate, which faces significant needs for lighting streets, especially in rear alleys where there are many vulnerable and marginalised people and internally displaced people. This issue contributes to escalating conflicts and practices that disrupt public tranquillity and undermine community security.

YWBOD:

The community groups held a workshop with stakeholders to prioritise issues, highlighting the importance of selecting priority issues for intervention in a participatory manner with local authorities and beneficiary communities.

The activity also aimed to strengthen the relationship between youth initiatives, local authorities and beneficiary communities by involving them directly in the selection and prioritisation of issues from the community's and local authorities' perspectives.

The workshop concluded with the participants from each district zone presenting their thoughts on which issues to prioritise, these were then voted on by the 18 participants in the workshop. They analysed the issues and selected two for intervention in each district.

The issues selected included street lighting, installing CCTV in some of the most dangerous neighbourhoods, sewage network rehabilitation, environmental and climate solutions, improving the educational and health environment, and rehabilitation of water points.

NODS:

After conducting several meetings and discussions with local authorities, security authorities and the general manager of the district through the community centres and after assessing the area to be targeted, it was agreed that since Taiz has been suffering from electricity outbreaks since 2015 that it would be best to conduct initiatives that aim to reduce security incidents by improving lighting in neighbourhoods, especially in dark areas where youth gatherings occur, leading to harassment and drug use.

The provision of street lighting is crucial for preventing crime, as well-lit areas deter criminal activities and enhance the safety of residents. Installing solar system lighting in the streets offers a sustainable and cost-effective solution. Solar lights harness renewable energy, reducing electricity costs and environmental impact. Additionally, solar lighting systems are reliable and can operate independently of the grid, ensuring continuous illumination even during power outages.

3. Implementation of the initiatives:

PASS has four LPCs in four districts in Aden that implemented four initiatives in each district as below:

1. Sira District:

The LPC in Sira installed 30 environmentally friendly solar lights in targeted areas in Al-Bomis and Jabal Al-Fors in two stages, based on field surveys conducted by local authority appointed engineers to achieve the desired benefits – which is to transform these dark areas into safer environments for women, children and the elderly.

2. Khormaksar District:

Installed 31 environmentally friendly solar lights and distributed them fairly across the residential area of Dar Al-Muallimin neighbourhood in the district. This is a residential area that includes two associations for children with autism and a dormitory for vocational institute students, in addition to residents of the neighbourhood – who are among the poorest and live in informal housing that lacks many essential services, most notably clean drinking water and sanitation. Roads are also in disrepair.

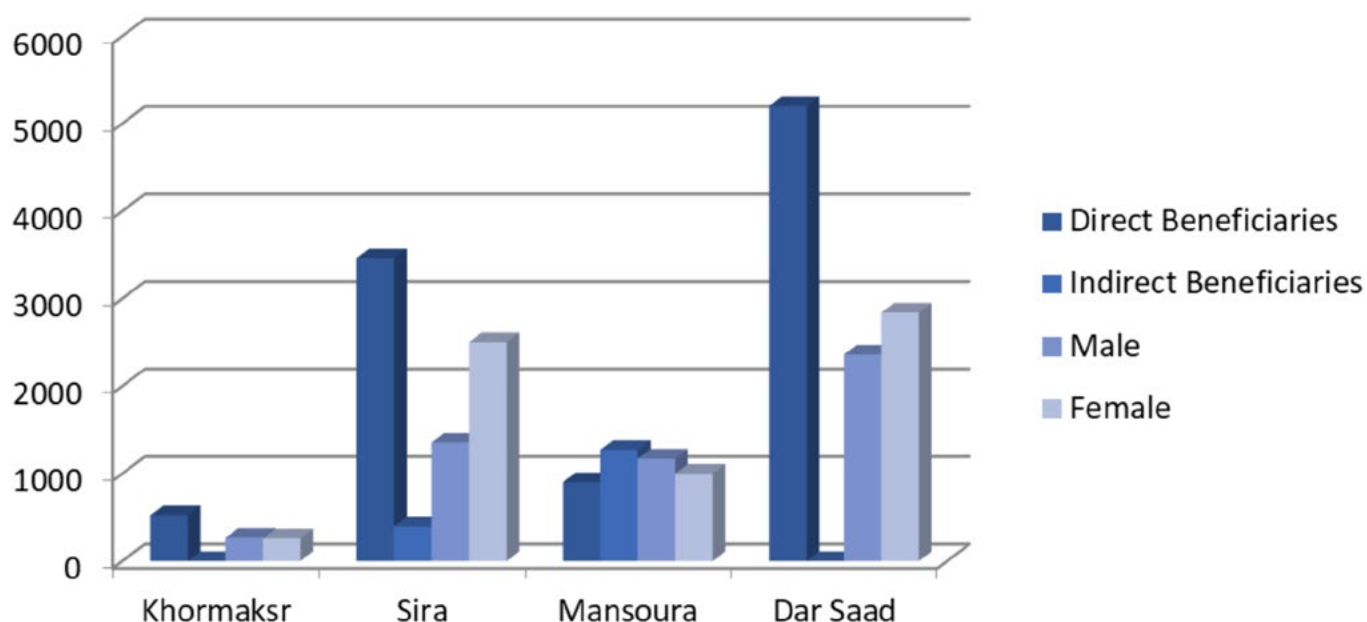
3. Almansora District:

The LPC installed 30 environmentally friendly solar lights, addressing the needs of large areas and the marginalised rear streets in Kabota and parts of Cairo neighbourhood, particularly in the neighbourhoods of Al-Tahrir and Al-Ashraf. These are among the poorer areas and are inhabited by approximately 750 families, according to local authorities and responsible community committees. Of these families, about 5 per cent are displaced, and around 15 per cent belong to marginalised and vulnerable groups.

4. Dar Saad District:

The LPC in full partnership and coordination with the local authorities and community committees, along with the cooperation of the residents, installed 40 solar lights in Block 25 of Al-Basateen, which will help alleviate security disturbances and community conflicts, providing reassurance to local residents, especially women, children and people with special needs.

Pass Beneficiaries Data Chart



YWBOD has implemented eight community initiatives in four districts in Taiz, with two initiatives in each district as below:

1. Al-Qahira District:

- Al-Daem Initiative conducted rehabilitation of the sewage network in the marginalised community area, including replacing damaged pipes and covering open manholes to resolve the issue completely.
- Youth Leadership Initiative installed lighting on Al-Hindi Street in conjunction with the installation of surveillance cameras.

2. Sala District:

- Hemtna Athar for Development Initiative aimed at improving environmental peace mechanisms in Tha'bat neighbourhood.
- Green Mark for Development Initiative installed the Plastic Garden at Al-Thawra Hospital Authority.

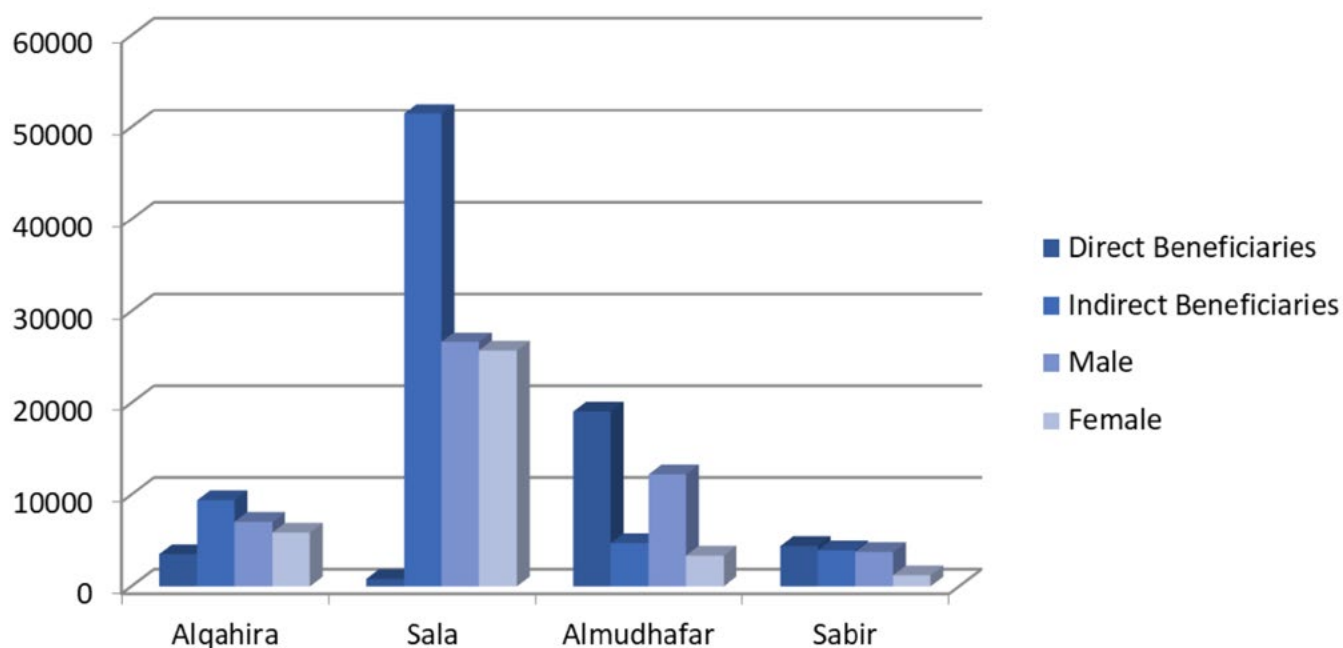
3. Sabir Almwadim District:

- Take My Hand Youth Initiative conducted the restoration of Ain Al-Ma'tan water in Dar Al-Nasr Village.
- Impact Youth Makers initiative was to strengthen the role of security forces in reducing negative phenomena along the main road in the Al-Mawadim area.

4. Almudhafar District:

- Women's Council Initiative enhanced security and reduced the spread of theft and roadblocks in the old city.
- Peace Ambassadors Initiative for Development (PAID) improved the educational and health environment of the Al-Kheer Centre for people with dual disabilities.

YWBOD Beneficiaries Data Chart



NODS has implemented four initiatives through the community centres in four districts in Taiz as below:

1. Al-Qahira District:

- Al-Dhabuah community centre installed 29 solar-powered lights in three neighbourhoods (Abu Salama, Al-Siddiq, Omar Al-Mukhtar).

2. Sabir Almwadim District:

- The community centre installed 29 solar lights in Mahzaf village, Saber Al-Mawadem, benefitting over 2,000 residents.

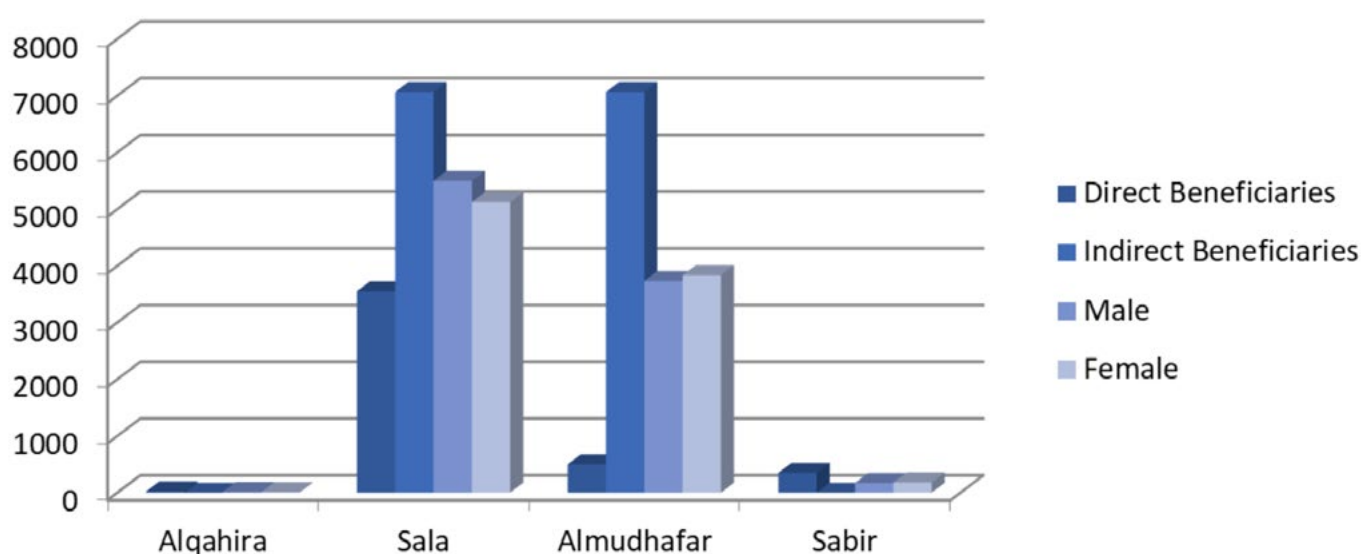
3. Sala District:

- Sala Centre Basmat installed 35 solar lights in four areas of the Sala District (seven solar lights in Habil Shuai, ten solar lights in Hasanat, 12 solar lights in Al-Mudayhin and six solar lights in Al-Fawz neighbourhood) to enhance security and reduce theft and harassment.

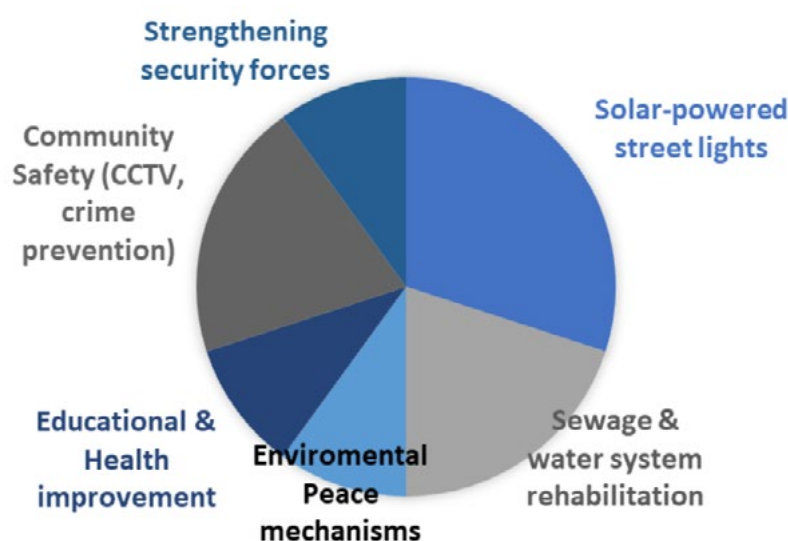
4. Almudhafar District:

- The community centre in Al-Nashiri neighbourhood installed 24 solar-powered lighting points in dark areas, with contributions from the residents.

NODS Beneficiaries Data Chart



In conclusion we can identify the types of initiatives supported as below:



V. Safeguarding activity

Saferworld's Safeguarding team (Meg, Doaa and Ibrahim) conducted a safeguarding workshop for Saferworld staff, with 20 participants.

One workshop was held for the women-led hub (Noon) and the CSO hub (Peace and Development Coalition) in Aden governorate for 23 participants.

Two workshops were held for the women-led hub (Wahg) and the CSO hub (Aswat Madaniah) in Taiz governorate for a total of 31 participants. The total number of participants was 73.

The workshops focused on the basics of safeguarding and the adopted approach, prevention, report and response for safeguarding issues. They aimed to raise awareness among all targeted groups on understanding security, safeguarding, grievance, safe programme and protection, the adopted victim-based approach, type of safeguarding issues including sexual exploitation, abuse, harassment, bullying and discrimination, child and adult safeguarding principles, the importance of power and prevention, understanding the channels used for reporting safeguarding issues, and the investigation process and responses.

VI. Sustainability of the project

The 'Strengthening peacebuilding initiatives in Yemen' project was designed with sustainability at its core, ensuring that the benefits continue long after the project ends. Several key aspects contributed to its sustainability:

- **Capacity building and knowledge transfer:** The comprehensive training sessions provided to community groups and CSOs equipped them with the skills and knowledge needed to continue their peacebuilding efforts independently. These trainings included essential areas such as conflict resolution, strategic planning, safeguarding and financial management, which are critical for sustaining long-term peacebuilding activities.
- **Local ownership and leadership:** The project emphasised local ownership by allowing community groups to design and implement their own peacebuilding initiatives. This approach ensured that interventions were relevant to the specific needs of the communities and were fully supported by local actors. The community-led nature of the initiatives ensures that they have the capacity to evolve and respond to new challenges as they arise.

- **Strong partnerships:** The collaboration between Saferworld, our partners (PASS, YWBOD and NODS) and the community groups fostered a strong network of peace actors. These relationships will endure beyond the project, enabling continued coordination between local authorities, community leaders and CSOs. This foundation for cooperation helps ensure a unified response to future conflicts and challenges.
- **Sustainable initiatives:** Many of the initiatives supported by the project, such as the installation of solar-powered street lighting and the rehabilitation of water and sewage systems, provide long-term, sustainable solutions to critical community needs. These interventions not only addressed immediate security and infrastructure gaps but also created lasting improvements in community safety and well-being, with minimal ongoing maintenance costs.
- **Institutional strengthening:** The project enhanced the internal capacities of CSOs by providing training in organisational management, financial policies and strategic planning. This institutional strengthening ensures that these organisations can continue to manage future projects, secure additional funding, and maintain their critical role in Yemen's peacebuilding landscape.

In conclusion, the implementation of this grant has significantly enhanced the capacity of community groups to establish a robust foundation for peacebuilding at the community level. By embedding essential skills, fostering local leadership and creating durable infrastructure, the project has laid the groundwork for ongoing peace and development efforts in Yemen. Consequently, this initiative has contributed to the long-term resilience of the communities it served.