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SHAPING YEMEN'S FUTURE



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LOCAL PRIORITIES, LASTING PROGRESS

Across Yemen, local authorities are at the forefront of recovery. Despite facing numerous complex challenges, from eroded infrastructure to urgent social and economic emergencies, they continue to deliver much needed services for people within their districts.

Through the Strengthening Institutional and Economic Resilience in Yemen Project (SIERY) –supported by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – local authorities have improved their capacity to plan, manage resources, and respond to crises. Importantly, this project goes far beyond capacity building. At its heart is a partnership between citizens, businesses and state institutions that is rooted in dialogue, transparency, shared priorities, and mutual accountability.

By inviting residents and businesses to identify their most pressing needs, and then working alongside them to meet those needs, local authorities have rebuilt more than infrastructure over the past five years. They have restored trust.

From revitalised health care centres and streetlight installations to clean water systems and waste management solutions, the impact is already highly visible and widely felt. Over 7 million people in nine governorates have better access to public services. Each project was designed, owned, and implemented at the local level, demonstrating what is possible when institutions are properly equipped, and communities are actively engaged.

The stories in this puplication offer a glimpse into that progress. They show how small investments, when directed by the people who know their districts best, can restore opportunities, dignity, hope, and stability.

As we look to the future, our goal is to carry this momentum forward and reach more districts and governorates. We know that Yemen's recovery needs assistance both from the top down and from the ground up: community by community, in partnership with the local leaders who are determined to make a positive impact and difference.

[—] Zena Ali Ahmad, UNDP Yemen Resident Representative

[—] Gabriel Munuera Viñals, European Union Ambassador to the Republic of Yemen

STRENGTHENED INSTITUTIONS THAT SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES

The Ministry of Local Administration commends the significant progress local authorities have made through the SIERY Project. By focusing on practical solutions and lasting impact for communities, the European Union and UNDP have supported institutions at the district level to take more active leadership in meeting the needs of their people by developing plans, setting priorities, managing their implementation, and improving services with greater accountability.

This progress was made possible by following local practices, preferences and priorities. The district development and resilience plans, which were created through inclusive consultation processes, reflect the real needs and aspirations of our communities. Through the Local Resilience and Recovery Fund, local authorities have translated these plans into action and delivered results in public health, infrastructure, and livelihoods —strengthening both institutional and economic resilience in a locally grounded way.

What sets this approach apart is that it is led by local authorities themselves. Every stage—from planning and prioritisation to implementation and monitoring—has been driven by those closest to the communities they serve. The SIERY Project has been instrumental in refining skills and fostering an environment which benefits the local community. Strong communities are built through shared purpose, along with a firm belief in the importance of organised institutions. Let us strive to make our achievements to date a model for lasting development.

The project made an important contribution to enabling the local authorities to start responding to issues and crises they had never faced before: collaborating with the local private sector to stimulate economic development, create jobs, manage and integrate the large influx of internally displaced people, and respond to man-made and natural disasters.

These outcomes highlight the importance of local ownership. When institutions lead and citizens and the private sector are involved, the results are meaningful and lasting. SIERY's model is a promising step toward stability, development, improved livelihoods, and long-term progress in Yemen.

The Ministry reaffirms its continued commitment to this locally led approach. With strong institutions, we ensure that local governance not only delivers at the district level but also lays the foundation for a sustainable future.

— Hussien Al-Aghbary, Minister of Local Administration of the Republic of Yemen

HOW SIERY WORKS

The Strengthening Institutional and Economic Resilience in Yemen (SIERY) Project has worked with local authorities in 45 districts across nine governorates (Hadramaut, Lahj, Taiz, Sana'a, Hodeida, Aden, Marib, Ibb and Hajja) to enhance their capacities in planning, public expenditure management, disaster risk management and other core functions to their work.

Following these capacity building efforts, local authorities empowered communities and businesses to actively participate in the planning process. This participatory approach enabled communities to voice their needs and concerns, which were then reflected in the identification of public priorities. By engaging directly with the communities and businesses, local authorities ensured that the priorities outlined in the district development resilience plans were truly representative of local needs and aspirations.

These plans, developed and owned by the local authorities, were then funded through SIERY's Local Resilience and Recovery Funds (L2RF). With the L2RF funding, local authorities implemented a total of 177 projects, of which a selection is highlighted here.

A total of 177 public services have been revitalised, restored, or constructed by local authorities across 45 districts in nine governorates.



6,599

jobs created or sustained through smallholders and SMEs supported with technical trainings and grants.



Over

7 M PEOPLE

now have improved access to renewable and clean energy, healthcare, roads, sanitation, vocational education, and water.



580

small and medium-sized enterprises and 33 producer groups have been supported.



Four export markets are currently under construction:

- 1. A fish export market in Al Mukalla, Hadramaut.
- 2. A honey market in Al-Qatn, Hadramaut.
- 3. A dates and onions market in Tarim District, Hadramaut.
- 4. A coffee market in Manakhah, Sana'a.



THE WORKSHOP POWERING MARIB'S WASTE MANAGEMENT





THE WORKSHOP THAT KEEPS THE CITY RUNNING

"This workshop has lifted a huge burden off our waste management services," explains Abdulkhaliq, an engineer at the facility. "Equipment failures caused long delays previously. Now, we get repairs done quickly, which keeps the city clean and operations running smoothly."

The workshop is equipped with modern tools, including a lathe for manufacturing spare parts, and a welding station for structural repairs. These capabilities reduce reliance on costly external suppliers.

FAST REPAIRS, FULL OPERATIONS

For Abdullah, a workshop technician, the impact is nothing short of significant.

"Before," he recalls, "we did not even have basic tools. Now, we not only fix almost all machinery, but can even manufacture specific parts ourselves."

A CLEANER, HEALTHIER FUTURE

The workshop's success goes far beyond waste collection; it's had a direct impact on public health and community well-being.

"Previously, uncollected waste was a breeding ground for disease," says workshop manager Fouad. "With reliable equipment, we have reduced the risk of contamination and made the city safer and healthier."

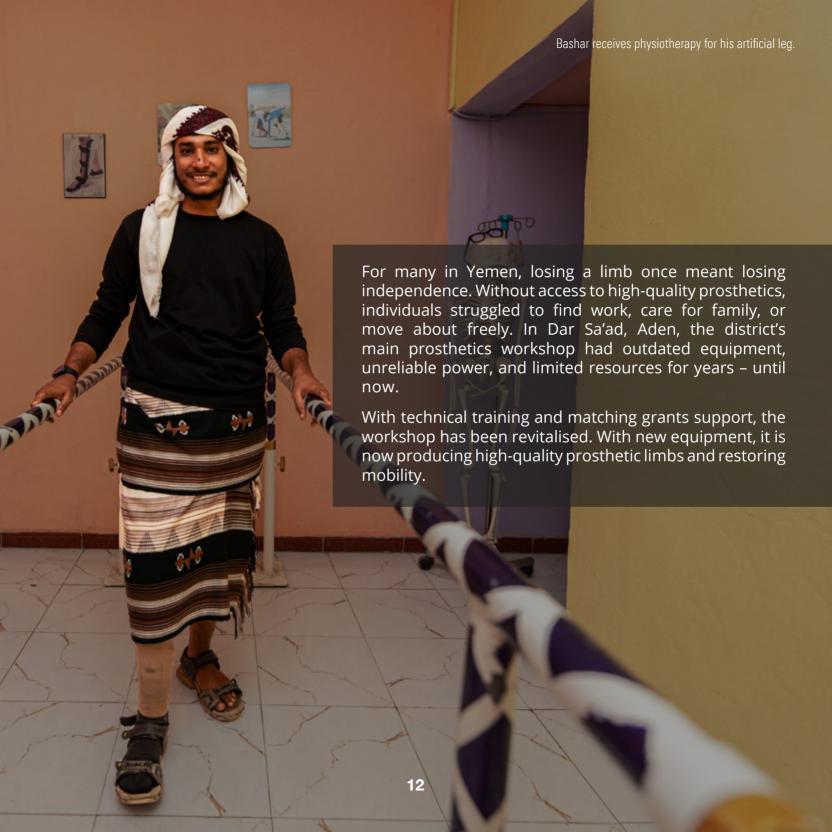
But he sees an even bigger picture: "This is not just about maintenance; it is about building a system that lasts."

THE ROAD TO FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The workshop is expanding beyond municipal waste services. It now provides repairs for heavy machinery from public works, private contractors, and transport companies, and has positioned itself as a self-sustaining business hub.

By generating revenue and reducing long-term dependence on external aid, Marib's central workshop is proving that local solutions can drive lasting change – one repair at a time.









BUILDING CAPACITY, CHANGING LIVES

At the centre of these life-changing stories is Ramzi, director of the prosthetics workshop. Each day, he has witnessed how the right resources can make all the difference. "With a stable power source, modern machinery, and better materials, we are truly serving our community. People come in on crutches or in wheelchairs, unable to move independently," Ramzi reflects. "Then, they walk out standing tall, ready to take on life again."

With SIERY's support, Aden's prosthetics workshop is not only restoring mobility and independence but also providing the care, expertise, and innovation needed to help people reclaim their lives with confidence and dignity.





A NEIGHBOURHOOD TRANSFORMED

Shop owner Shamsan recalls the daily challenges he faced in the past. Transporting goods was a logistical nightmare, dust and pollution filled the air, and families were overwhelmed by safety concerns. "I used to worry about my son falling into a hole or getting hurt because of the damaged roads," he shares. "But now, the streets are safe, clean, and beautiful." Beyond aesthetics, the paved roads have eliminated environmental hazards and improved neighbourhood sanitation. The absence of dust and stagnant water has reduced the spread of disease, while improved drainage ensures rainwater no longer floods homes and sidewalks.

PAVING THE WAY FOR GROWTH

For local businesses, the impact has been just as striking. "This project has boosted commercial activity," says Ali, a shopkeeper. "More people are coming to shop because movement is easier, and the area is cleaner."

Cleaner streets have also led to a cultural shift: residents now take greater care in maintaining their surroundings.



BETTER HEALTHCARE OUTCOMES AND SERVICES





The additional space has not just eased the pressure on patients, it has reshaped how care is delivered. "The section can now receive six cases at once, and we finish quickly," Salama says.

Appointments are organised by numbered cards, and people no longer crowd into a single room.

Midwife Aisha, who has worked at the facility for years, says the expansion has changed their daily operations: "In the past, we only had one overcrowded room. Now we can manage up to 25 cases a day, and the work is more organised." She points out that with more space, the risk of infection is lower, and emergencies – such as suspected cases of tuberculosis – can be handled quickly and safely.

BETTER SERVICES, CLOSER TO HOME

The new space has also made room for new services, including reproductive health tests. "They give all the vaccines and ultrasounds for free," Salama says "They also make sure we are comfortable."



This is one of 26 health centres enhancing care for over **15,000** people collectively.

As the community grows, so does the need for care. Dr. Ahmed, Director of Aden's Public Health and Population Office, says the upgrades are helping the centre keep pace. "This expansion has raised the quality of services," he notes. "We have seen an increase in vaccinations and better response to disease outbreaks."

LOOKING AHEAD

Medical staff are still stretched thin across two shifts, and there is a growing need for mental health services, particularly for psychological support. Yet, the future is hopeful. With better infrastructure and increased organisation, the centre is no longer just reacting to crises; it is preparing for what is next.

"This facility is becoming a real anchor for the neighbourhood," Dr. Ahmed concludes. "With continued support, it can grow into a full-service centre that meets the community's evolving needs."

SOLAR POWER SPARKS NEW LIFE IN ADEN



"Our lives changed the moment the lights were turned on," says Abdulgabar, Deputy Head of the Community Committee in Al-Wihda Alsakania. "Before, taxis and buses refused to enter our neighbourhoods at night and it was dangerous to walk due to falling rocks, animals, and total darkness."

"This is one of the most successful projects in our area. It's given people back their nights," Hassan, a community member, observes.

SHOPS STAY OPEN, STREETS COME ALIVE

Lighting has also brought local businesses back to life. Since stores are open later, families can gather, women can run errands with confidence, and children can attend evening classes without fear.

"In the past, streets were deserted after sunset," says Al-Jaradi, a member Al-Buraiqa's local authorities. "Now, there is movement. You can feel the difference. Road safety has improved too; drivers can see pedestrians, and pedestrians can see what is ahead."

The lights were installed close to the holy month of Ramadan, and the timing couldn't have been better. "The lights are essential during this month," Al-Jaradi adds. "They bring people together."

New lights allow children to safely spend time outdoors in their neighbourhood after dark.







FROM CRISIS TO CLEAN STREETS

For many households, the impact has been life changing. They had to spend large sums on renting suction trucks – money that many simply did not have. Hamza, a local community leader, explains, "The high cost of sanitation services placed a huge burden on residents, especially during these difficult economic times. With proper infrastructure in place, people no longer need to worry about sewage flooding their streets and homes."

Health improvements have been equally impressive. Mosquito infestations, which were once rampant due to stagnant water, have drastically decreased and, with them, the risk of waterborne diseases. The psychological relief has been just as impactful; families now enjoy cleaner streets and safer environments for their children.



SUSTAINING PROGRESS GAINED

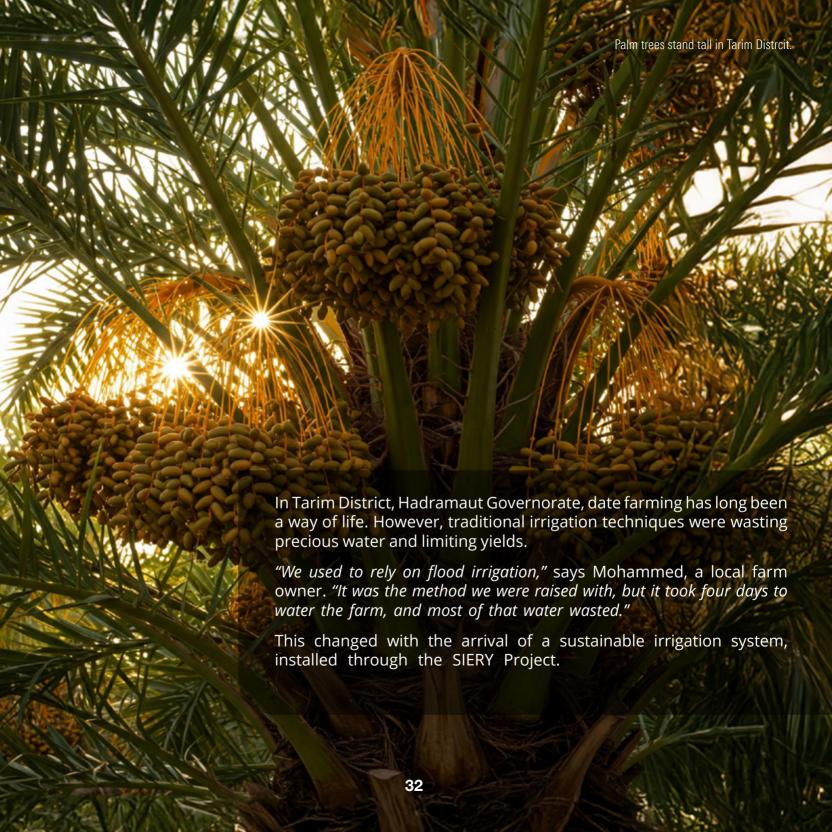
With the first phase completed, momentum is building for what comes next. Abdullah, Director of Ash-Shiher's Sanitation Department, sees this as part of a broader effort to ensure long-term sustainability. "This project has addressed a critical need, and the next step is to maintain and strengthen our sanitation infrastructure so that every household benefits in the long run."

A major indicator of the project's success is that local authorities have not only developed a comprehensive plan but have also dedicated funding to sustain the new infrastructure. By reinforcing sewage management systems, they can ensure that Ash-Shiher's progress is not just a temporary improvement but a long-term change.

"This project has given us a fresh start," Salem reflects. "Now, our community is truly moving forward."









100 date farmers from Tarim received fertilisers, agricultural supplies, irrigation systems, and water pipes.

Results:

Production increased BY 15% per season.

BY 33.3% per season.

A NEW WAY TO GROW

The new "bubbler irrigation" method delivers water directly to the roots of each palm tree. What took days now takes hours, and every drop counts. "The system gives the tree exactly what it needs, no more, no less," Mohammed explains.

That efficiency has allowed farmers to spend less time on irrigation and more time investing in other parts of their operations. "It is saving time, effort, and water," Mohammed adds.

MORE DATES, BETTER QUALITY

The support provided did not stop with water. The intervention did not stop with water. Farmers were also trained to fertilise more efficiently by targeting the trees instead of spreading nutrients across entire plots. "This helped boost production," Mohammed says. "Now we see more dates, and better ones, too."

Higher yields and better-quality dates have translated into more income for farming families. With the added support of palm maintenance training, local producers are now equipped with the knowledge they need to care for their crops and grow sustainably.



HEALTHCARE WHERE IT IS MOST NEEDED

Previously, the community members and internally displaced persons of Dar Sa'ad District, Aden Governorate, had to travel over five kilometres just to access basic healthcare. Mothers with sick children or those managing chronic conditions faced a journey that was more than a challenge; it was a risk.

That changed with the opening of As-Salam Health Centre, which is now fully equipped and staffed. Amid ongoing displacement and hardship, the new health centre has become a vital lifeline.

"We struggled for any kind of care," says Fatima, a mother of four. "Now, when my children have a fever or a cough, we come here right away and get the treatment they need."

RAISING THE STANDARD OF CARE

The health centre also offers a range of services – including general consultations, maternal and child healthcare, lab tests, ultrasounds, and X-rays – all under one roof.

"The difference is huge," says Dr. Liqa'a, a pediatrician at the centre. "We now have qualified staff, modern equipment, and enough space to care for everyone who comes through the door."

That care includes chronic disease treatment, urgent medical attention, and free medications, which have eased the financial burden on many families.

BETTER HEALTH FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

The greatest impact has been seen on maternal and child health.

"Pregnant women and mothers with sick children can get care here at any time," says Sabria, a midwife. On a typical day, the centre handles dozens of cases, from prenatal checkups and vaccinations to pediatric illnesses like diarrhea or respiratory infections.

Early diagnosis and treatment have reduced complications and increased confidence in the public health system.

COMMITTED STAFF, GROWING DEMAND

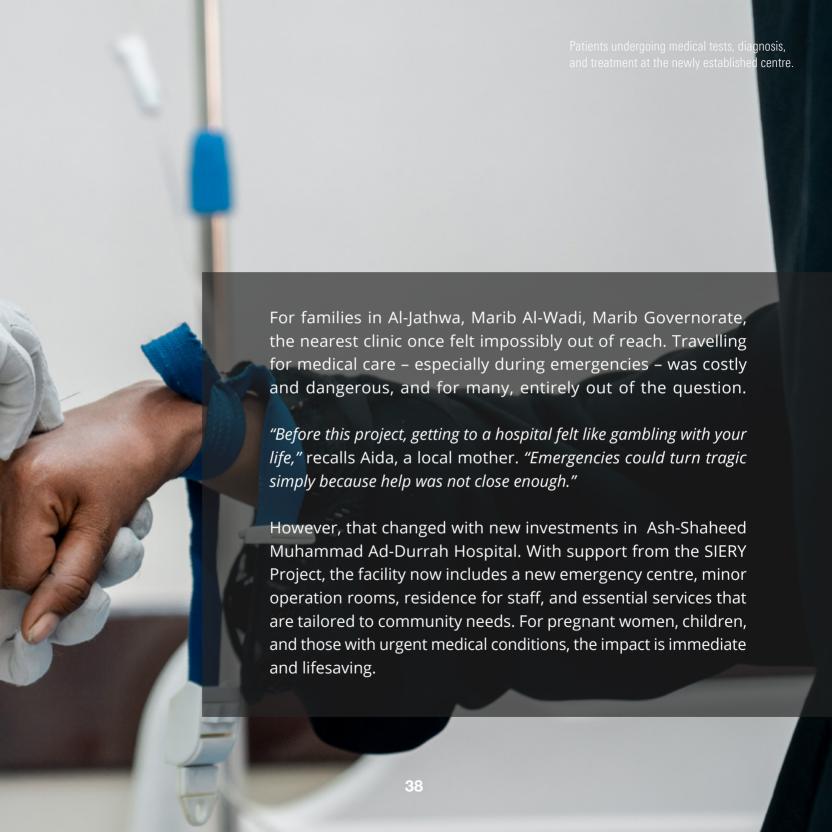
As-Salam's medical team works around the clock, sometimes across two shifts, to keep up with rising demand. Some staff members, like Sabria, volunteer their time, out of a sense of duty and to act on their passion.

"We love this work," she says. "But if incentives were available, we could serve even more people."

STRENGTHENING THE SYSTEM, ONE PATIENT AT A TIME

What began as a facility to meet basic needs has become a vital part of the area's recovery and well-being. With continued support, As-Salam Health Centre will serve as a model of responsive, community-rooted healthcare. "This is not just a health centre," says Dr. Liqa'a. "It is a source of hope for families who have gone without care for too long."







"WE FINALLY HAVE WHAT WE NEEDED MOST"

The upgrades address key public health priorities; reducing child and maternal mortality, increasing access to safe births, and easing the financial burden on families. Today, the hospital houses a fully functional women's ward, a men's ward, a sterilisation unit, and a well-equipped lab.

"Proper sterilisation is critical for infection control," explains Marzouk, a nursing technician. "Now we can provide safer deliveries and urgent care right here, without sending people hours away."

SAFETY, DIGNITY, AND COMFORT

For Salahuddin, a father of five, having a hospital nearby gives the community peace of mind. "We had to travel long distances in emergencies. Now, care is just minutes away."

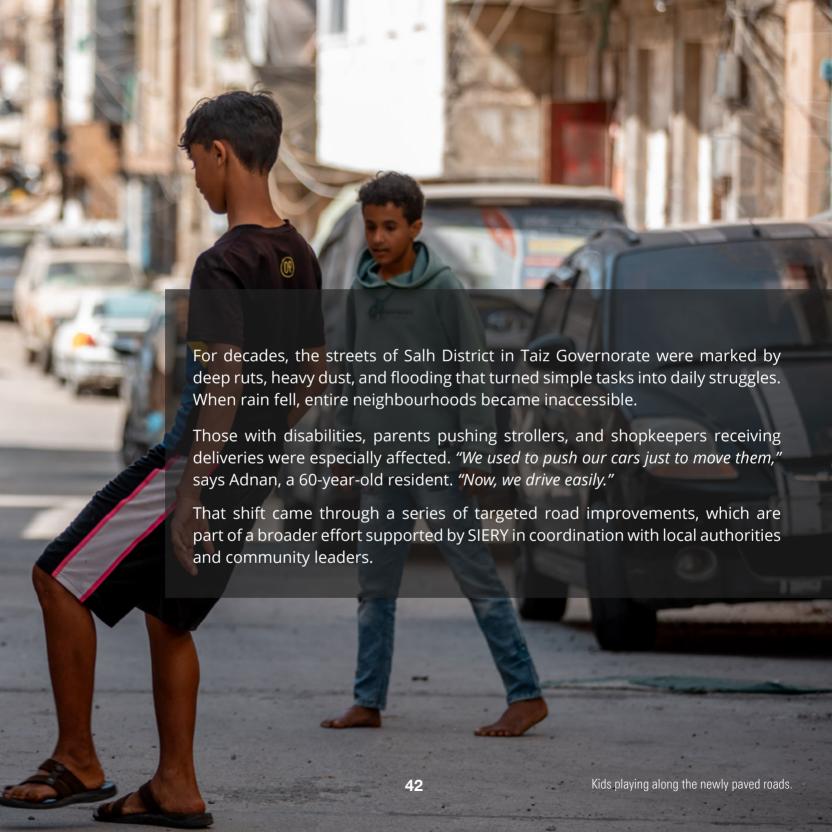
The facility also eases pressure on families who are living with uncertainty. With space to accommodate more patients and dedicated wards for men and women, the centre is better equipped to serve a growing, often displaced, population. For them, accessible healthcare is not just urgent, but life-saving.

A STRONGER SYSTEM, A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Although there is still work to do – especially when it comes to equipment upkeep and staffing – the progress is undeniable. "This centre is already saving lives," Marzouk says with relief. "Residents no longer have to weigh the cost of an ambulance against the value of their health."

For the people of Al-Jathwa, this is more than a hospital, it is the promise of care, stability, and a healthier future for all.





A DISTRICT MOVES FORWARD

The impact of the paving project has been felt across every corner of the district. Where people once avoided certain streets altogether, residents now move freely. Amir, a shopkeeper in Salh, recalls how transporting construction materials used to cost double: once for the goods and again just to move them a few hundred metres. "Now, motorcycles deliver directly to the store," he says.

For some, the change has meant even more. One local man who lives with a disability had not been able to leave his home unassisted. Today, the sidewalks and streets allow him to get around on his own, which has marked a powerful shift in his mobility.

"Patients can be transported quickly, and new buildings are going up," says Ameen, a 55-year-old local education consultant. "Everything is easier now."

BUILT TO LAST

Local authorities' members like Talal played a key role in prioritising the paving projects. "We formed community committees that collected residents' input and focused on the most urgent needs," he says, "including safe roads, flood mitigation, and improved access to schools, clinics, and shops."

The project has also boosted the local economy. With fewer delivery delays and cleaner, more accessible streets, commercial activity has picked up. And for a district long impacted by displacement and conflict, that economic spark is more than welcome.

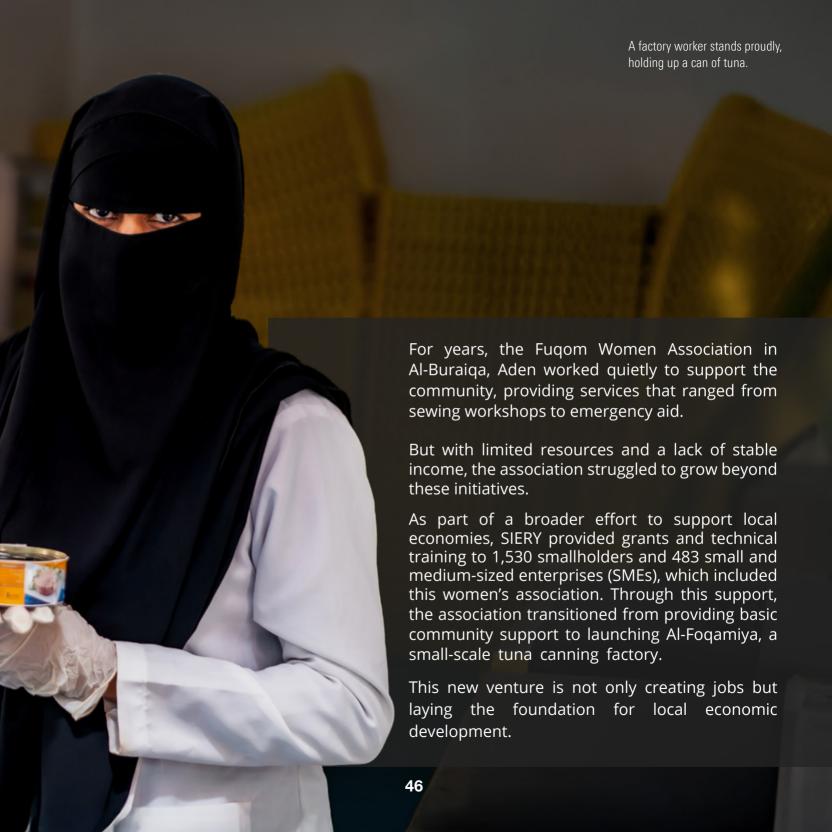
PROGRESS, POWERED BY THE PEOPLE

As Salh's streets grow safer and more accessible, local authorities are building on that momentum. "We are committed to keeping these roads in good condition and expanding access across the district," Talal explains.

For the people of Salh, the improvements represent more than just new pavement, they mark a turning point. "This changed everything," says Adnan. "We feel connected again."



WOMEN IN ADEN AT THE HELM OF LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT





FROM CONCEPT TO MARKET

Prior to receiving the grants and technical support from SIERY, the factory was an informal operation, and there was no equipment, generator, or formal training in food processing. Additionally, frequent power cuts made even small-scale operations difficult.

"We did not know how to process tuna," recalls Muna, a factory worker. "We would use glass containers that were not visually appealing, and we lacked the tools to operate efficiently. We now have a generator and follow hygienic practices, which have completely changed how we work."

The training also gave the women essential manufacturing, marketing, and management skills. Jameela, another worker, reflects: "We started with just four women and basic tools. But after SIERY came in and believed in our idea, we were able to establish a proper micro-factory. The training helped us to confidently operate the equipment, and the consulting sessions improved how we manage production."

FROM CATCH TO COMMERCE

The impact of this initiative goes beyond just food production; it is generating real economic opportunities for women and fisherfolk. The project is part of the 6,599 long-term jobs created and sustained through smallholders and SMEs, with over 35,000 people having access to jobs and livelihood opportunities in Yemen's challenging crisis setting.

"The workers are more enthusiastic about their jobs now," says Aziza, Al-Fogamiya micro-factory manager. "They lacked experience, but now they supervise new trainees. They earn good incomes and feel motivated."



Results:

- 150% increase of SMEs annual revenue.
- 157% increase in SMEs annual income.
- 71% waste reduction.

With growing demand, the association has begun marketing its products in hotels, restaurants, and bazaars to expand its customer base and prove that locally processed tuna can compete in the market.

But this is just the beginning.

"We hope to expand the factory and hire more workers," Aziza adds.

With a solid foundation, new skills, and the right support, these women are no longer just helping their community, they are building an industry of their own.

OVERVIEW OF SIERY'S SUPPORT TO THE FISHERY SECTOR IN ADEN AND HADRAMAUT

- 89 fish SMEs and 11 fish business corporations in Aden and Hadramaut were supported with tailored training, consultancy, and business advisory services. In addition, 74 SMEs and 2 corporations received financial assistance through matching grants.
- 41 women entrepreneurs trained in producing fish products.
- Construction of a fish export market in Hadramaut.





KEEPING COMMUNITIES HEALTHY

The benefits of the upgrade go far beyond the clinic's walls.

"By limiting diseases like rabies, we are protecting both animals and the people who care for them," explains Lutfi, a representative from the Head of the Agriculture and Irrigation Office in Tarim. "With the right vaccines and prevention strategies now in place, livestock are living longer, staying healthier, and producing more milk and meat. That translates into more profits for our breeders."

"Healthy animals mean everything," says Mohammed, a local farmer. "More milk, more meat, and fewer vet bills means more income for my family."

The centre plays a key role during events like Eid Al-Adha, where veterinary staff inspect animals before slaughter to ensure that public health standards are met. It also issues quality certificates for honey intended for export. With better hygiene and safety protocols, confidence in local meat, dairy and honey has grown, and farmers have a better chance in competitive markets.

BUILDING CAPACITY AND ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY

The team is also preparing for the future. Newly trained veterinarians from Tarim are joining the staff to build long-term expertise, while training sessions for livestock owners are promoting better practices across the district.

"It is not just about care; it is about prevention," Mohammed explains. "Now we know how to protect our animals before they get sick."

With healthier livestock, fewer disease outbreaks, and a deeper knowledge base, the veterinary centre is helping to strengthen livelihoods and the broader economy. "When our animals thrive," Lutfi says, "our whole community does too."



A NEW CHAPTER FOR WOMEN IN LAHJ

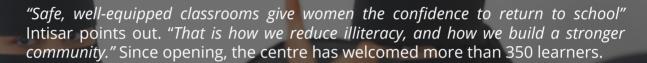
In Al-Houta, Lahj Governorate, education has not always been easy to access, especially for women. Years of conflict and economic hardship forced many to leave school early, and with no safe, accessible space for adult learning, returning was not an option.

"Most girls here drop out because of poverty and other pressures," says Intisar, Director of the Literacy and Adult Education Office in Lahj. "And without education, their chances at better livelihoods are limited."

Until recently, the district's only literacy centre for women was a crumbling, two-storey building with no electricity, water, or safe classrooms. The upper floor had collapsed, and the entire structure was declared unsafe. Classes were sometimes held in mosques or private homes, but most women found it difficult to attend given the distance and safety concerns. "We knew something had to change," Intisar explained.

A NEW SPACE FOR LEARNING, AND POSSIBILITIES

Instead of repairing the old centre, which was determined to be too costly, local authorities decided to start fresh. With input from teachers and community members, a new facility was designed and built from the ground up. Fully furnished and equipped with learning materials and ICT tools, the centre was created to meet the needs of both students and staff.



"Before, our families were hesitant to let us go," says Faten, one of the students. "But the new centre is close, safe, and welcoming. Now, we can finally learn to read and write."

LITERACY THAT REACHES BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Faten is in the first grade and already feels the difference. "I have learned the alphabet and can read basic labels. It is empowering," she says. "I want to help my children with their homework. That is why I came here."

With over 40 students attending daily, the centre is doing more than teaching foundational skills. It's giving women the tools to support their families, participate in community life, and pursue future opportunities.

"The impact goes beyond the classroom," says the Director of the Women's Literacy Centre. "This space has created new possibilities for teachers, learners, and the entire community."

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Front cover photo: A Man and his daughter walking along a newly rehabilitated street in Marib Governorate.

