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ERRY Joint Programme Impact Report Content From 2016 to 2025



Programme Overview (2016–2025)

From 2016 to 2025, the **Enhanced Rural Resilience in Yemen (ERRY) Joint Programme** stood as a transformational model for recovery and resilience in crisis-affected rural communities. Funded by the **European Union** and the **Government of Sweden**, and implemented through a strategic partnership among **UNDP, FAO, WFP, and ILO**, the programme delivered integrated, community-driven interventions that bridged the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

Operating across **37 districts in eight governorates** throughout the three phases, ERRY JP has reached more than

2.1 million Yemenis

with support that improved food security, generated employment, strengthened local governance, and enabled communities to better withstand shocks and adapt to climate risks.

At its core, ERRY empowered local ownership. Through collaboration with **international and local implementing partners since 2016**, the programme not only restored livelihoods but also built the systems and capacities needed for sustainable recovery—placing special emphasis on the inclusion of **women, youth, internally displaced persons, and marginalized rural households**.

over 30

Cumulative Impact at a Glance (2016–2025)

Total Beneficiaries

Over 2.1 million

individuals reached

Food Security

+47,000 vulnerable

households supported with cash assistance for community assets creation through cash-for-work and food assistance for assets

Livelihoods & Economic Empowerment

+10,900

microbusinesses supported with startup grants, tools, and coaching

45% led by women

Renewable Energy Access (UNDP)

465 solar systems

installed in schools, health units, and other public facilities to improve service delivery

Community Assets Rehabilitation

1,585

community assets (e.g., irrigation canals, roads, markets, schools, health units, water points) constructed/ restored

Vocational & entrepreneurship Skills Development

+7,000 youth & women

provided with vocational and business skills training in highly market-demanded sectors

Peacebuilding & Social Cohesion

More than 260

community dialogue and conflict resolution activities/ projects implemented.

Agriculture & Livestock (FAO)

+270,000 farmers

and livestock producers supported with inputs, seeds, feed, equipment, and training.

Local Governance

811 Village

Cooperative Councils (VCCs) and Sub-District Committees (SDCs) activated and over 8,000 community committee members trained; 900+ village & district-level resilience plans produced



What Made ERRY Effective?

- **Joint efforts:** Four UN agencies and 73 partners delivered a coordinated response linking relief, recovery, and peacebuilding.
- **Community-Led:** Local councils led planning and implementation based on real needs.
- **Inclusive:** Over 60% of beneficiaries in skills and business support were women and youth.
- **Green Solutions:** Solar energy, water conservation, and climate-smart farming built long-term resilience.
- **Strong Synergy:** Close collaboration between UN agencies, NGOs, local institutions, and authorities ensured aligned, lasting results.

Programme Overview (2016–2025)

Launched in 2016, the Enhanced Rural Resilience in Yemen (ERRY) Joint Programme is a multi-agency initiative aimed at restoring stability, reducing poverty, and strengthening livelihoods and food security in Yemen's conflict-affected rural areas.

Spanning three consecutive phases (ERRY I: 2016–2019, ERRY II: 2019–2022, ERRY III: 2022–2025), the programme evolved into one of Yemen's most comprehensive and locally driven resilience efforts. ERRY placed strong emphasis on community ownership, gender equality, and climate adaptation as cross-cutting priorities.



Implementing UN Agencies



Lead
agency



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Key Donors



European Union
Primary donor across
all three phases



Government of Sweden
Strategic co-funder under
ERRY II and III

Delivery Partners

over 37

local and international implementing partners, including
local and international NGOs all target districts.

Programme Phases Timeline

2016–2019

Enhanced Rural
Resilience in
Yemen

2022–2025

Supporting Resilient
Livelihoods, Food Security
and Climate Adaptation in
Yemen Joint Programme

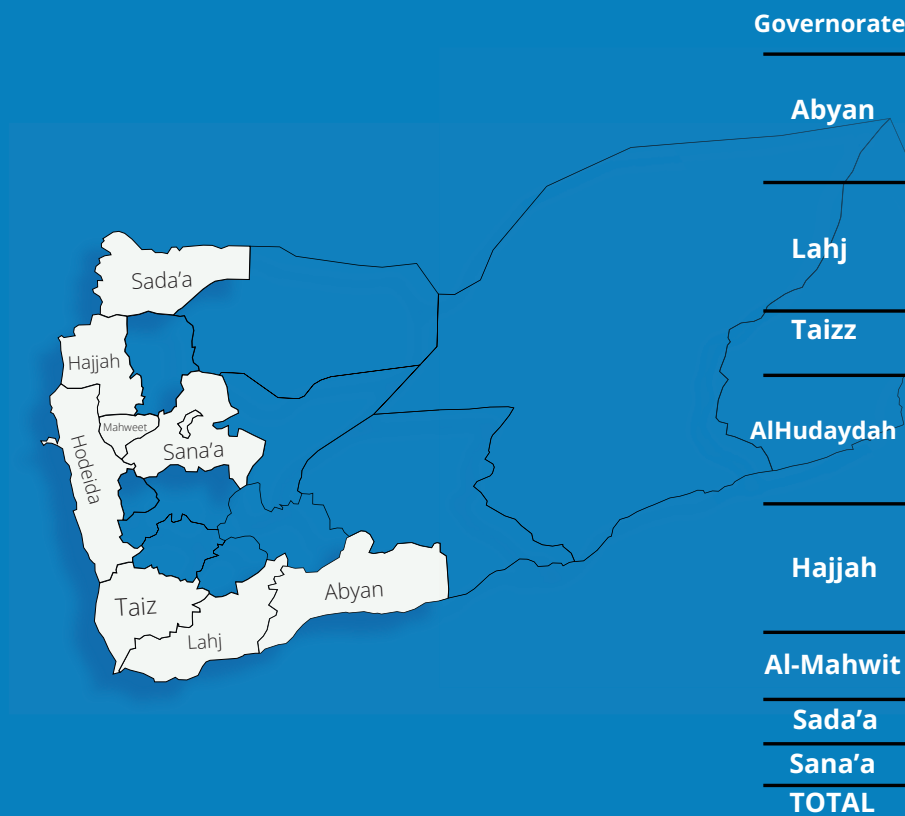
2019–2022

Supporting Resilient
Livelihoods and Food Security
in Yemen Joint Programme

Geographic Coverage

The programme reached **37** rural districts across

8 governorates:



Governorate	ERRY I	ERRY II	ERRY III
Abyan	Khanfir	Khanfir	Khanfir
	Lawdar	Lawdar	Lawdar
	Zingibar	Zingibar	Sibah
	Mawdiah	Sarar	Ahwar
Lahj	Tuban	Tuban	Tuban
	Al-Hawtah	Al Musaymir	Madaribah
	Habeel Jabr	Tur Al Bahah	Al Maqatirah
	Halmeen		Radfan
Taizz		Ash Shamayatayn	Al ma'afer
		Al Ta'iziyah	
AlHudaydah	Bajil	Bajil	Bajil
	Al Marawaah	Al Marawi'ah	Al-Qanawis
	Bait Al-Faqeh	Az Zuhrah	
	Zabeed		
Hajjah	Abs	Abs	Abs
	Bani Qais	Bani Qa'is	Bani al awam
	Quaidinah	Abs	Ash Shaghadirah
	Aslam		
Al-Mahwit			At Tawilah
			Milhan
Sada'a			Haydan
Sana'a		Al Haymah Ad Dakhiliyah	
TOTAL	16	16	17

Target Population

The ERRY Programme was designed to serve those most vulnerable to shocks and long-term deprivation:



Conflict-affected rural households



Displacement affected groups (returnees, IDPs and host communities)



Women-headed households



Unemployed youth



the Muhamasheen, and people with disabilities



Farmers



Local authorities and service providers

Overall Objective:

To strengthen the resilience of crisis-affected communities in rural Yemen by enhancing their self-reliance and adaptive capacities through integrated, locally owned, and conflict-sensitive interventions.

Programme Scale – Cumulative Summary

Metric	Total (2016–2025)
Districts Covered	37
Governorates	8
Households Reached	~300,000
Total Individual Beneficiaries	2.1+ million
Local Implementing Partners	30+
Programme Phases	3
Duration	9 years

Food Security

Strategic Objective

To enhance household-level of food security, reduce dependency on humanitarian aid, and promote self-reliant on agricultural production through sustainable, community-based interventions.

Cumulative Impact Highlights – Food Security & Agriculture Value Chain (2016–2025)



**Food
Assistance
for Assets**

32,115

vulnerable households supported with monthly cash assistance for their participation in community asset construction/rehabilitation to support their immediate food security needs



**Cash for
Work**

14,980

food insecure households supported with short-term employment through cash-for-work activities



Farmers Trained

42,545

farmers trained on good agriculture practices, livestock fattening and health, and dairy products processing and marketing



Dairy Producers Supported

9,848

dairy producers supported — **90% were women**, and 10 dairy processing centers were constructed and supported



Livestock Producers Supported

47,550

livestock producers provided with animal feeds, inputs, and equipment



Seeds Support

34,899

smallholders provided with cereal and tomato seeds



Seed Banks

4

seed banks were established to facilitate the storage and marketing of locally produced improved seeds

Outcomes & Evidence of Impact – Food Security & Agriculture



Improved Household Food Consumption Scores (FCS):

Targeted households reported measurable gains, with scores of acceptable Food Consumption improving from

26% to 53%

reflecting better food diversity and intake.



Boosted Livestock Productivity:

Support to over **47,000** livestock producers with feed and veterinary care enhanced animal health and productivity. Around **89%** of the beneficiaries reported an increase in animal weights and milk quantity, which has boosted the productivity and returns of households.



Empowered Women:

80% of female beneficiaries in the agriculture value chain reported increased income through milk processing and dairy production due to improved skills, knowledge, and equipment.



Strengthened Market Linkages:

Support to over **34,000** tomato and crop-growing households (via inputs, kits and value chain integration) has improved crop and tomato production and increased market activity.

Reduced Reliance on Food Aid



ERRY communities demonstrated decreased reliance on humanitarian aid by **48%** with the integrated support provided.

On the Road to Resilience: The Journey of Adel and Wazirah

Livelihoods, Infrastructure, and Economic Recovery – Lahj Governorate

“The income we earned while building the road didn't just connect our village—it gave us the chance to open our grocery store. It changed our life and helped us build a future for our children.”
– Adel

In Al-Musayjid Village, Lahj, Adel and his wife Wazirah turned hardship into opportunity with support from the ERRY III Joint Programme.

As part of a WFP-led Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) initiative, they joined 150 others in rehabilitating a crucial road—restoring access to health, education, and water services for over 3,500 people across four villages.

The six-month project not only transformed local infrastructure but also provided steady income. With their savings, Adel and Wazirah launched Al-Amal Grocery, creating long-term stability for their family and ensuring their children could stay in school.



Food Assistance for Assets: A Father Builds His Daughter's Future

Education Access & Livelihoods Support – Abyan Governorate

“I worked on this school so my daughter and others can learn safely in our village. Now, I can support my family and help my son prepare for marriage.”
– Ahmed



In Dahl Ahmed village, Zinjubar District, Ahmed Bin Ahmed struggled to support his family of 7 amid years of conflict and unemployment. Like many in his community, he depended on his son's modest income from motorcycle work—barely enough to meet basic needs.

Through the ERRY II Joint Programme's Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) initiative, co-funded by the EU and Sida, Ahmed joined 102 other residents to construct three additional classrooms for the overcrowded village school. For six months, participants received daily cash payments, helping 721 people meet their food and household needs. The project not only improved Ahmed's income but also gave his daughter, Asma, safe and local access to education—eliminating the long, dangerous walk to a distant school.

Haitham: Sweet Success from Bees

Youth Livelihood
Empowerment
through Beekeeping
– Lahj Governorate

Haitham, 18, had always been fascinated by bees but lacked the resources to pursue beekeeping.

One day, he discovered a wild bee colony and decided to act on his passion. Through the ERRY II Joint Programme, he joined a cash-for-work activity and later received training and a grant to start his own beekeeping business.

Today, he is one of 39 young Yemenis in Lahj who launched honey production enterprises, contributing to both household income and local food supply.



– Lahj Governorate

“ All I needed was a chance. Now, I
earn from something I love—and I’m
helping my family stand on its feet. ”

– Haitham

Enhancing Education Through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)

Building Schools, Strengthening Communities – Lahj, Abyan, Hodeidah & Saadah Governorates

Through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) under the ERRY III Joint Programme, food assistance is being used not only to address immediate hunger but also to build long-term assets that serve entire communities.

In food-insecure areas, community members were employed in the construction of five new schools across Lahj, Abyan, Hodeidah, and Saadah governorates. The initiative links income generation with the creation of vital education infrastructure, providing families with food while equipping children with safe, well-resourced schools.

In Der Al Madani and Al Khalfia in Bajel, Hodeidah Governorate, and Kod Odayrah in Lahj, newly constructed schools have already begun to transform rural education access.

This integrated approach not only creates safe learning spaces but also strengthens resilience, supports livelihoods, and ensures sustainable impact in some of Yemen's most vulnerable communities.



– Lahj Governorate

“ The school has grown since I last attended. We now have desks, whiteboards, and proper classrooms, which makes learning so much better. ”

– Haroon, a student in Lahj.

Belqeess: Leading the Dairy Value Chain

Women's Agribusiness & Economic Empowerment – Lahj Governorate

“ I'm now known as a dairy producer across my village. I never imagined I'd reach this point—running a business, training others, and building something that supports not just my family, but many others too. ”
- Belqeess

Belqeess, a 51-year-old mother of four from Sabr village, had no prior experience in dairy production. Through the ERRY II Joint Programme, she received training in hygienic processing, business management, and marketing—enabling her to lead a local women's dairy group.

Today, the group produces 70 dairy items daily, earning a monthly profit of US\$450. Their income supports their families and is reinvested to expand production. Belqeess has become a role model in her community, proving that women can lead in business and food production.



Mohammed: A Road to Recovery

Restoring Livelihoods through Cash-for-Work and Entrepreneurship
– Lahj Governorate



“ I used to rely on aid to survive. Now I'm building a business and a future for my children with my own hands. ”

– Mohammed







After losing his job due to conflict, Mohammed, a father of seven from Musimir, joined the ERRY II Joint Programme's cash-for-work initiative to rehabilitate a critical 100-meter road. The project provided immediate income for his family and reconnected the village to essential services like healthcare and food markets.

component, received business training, and developed a plan to open his own shop—paving the way for long-term stability.

Livelihoods & Economic Empowerment Strategic Objective

To restore and diversify income-generating opportunities for vulnerable rural populations through entrepreneurship, microbusiness support, employability skills, and inclusive financial access.

Cumulative Impact Highlights (2016–2025)

	Microbusiness creation	10,945	microbusinesses established or scaled-up
	% of Women-Owned microbusinesses	45%	women-led businesses
	Entrepreneurship skills development for Youth/Women	14,600+	individuals provided with life and business development skills
	Access to Start-up Grants	10,945	of the trained beneficiaries received financial grants to establish income-generating projects
		72%	of grant recipients had operational businesses within three months of receiving support, 68% reported new income streams.
	Vocational Skills Support	7,000+	youth completed certified technical and soft skills training in market-relevant occupations
	ToT Certified Trainers	200+	national entrepreneurship trainers certified to ensure sustainability

Outcomes & Evidence of Impact – Livelihoods & Economic Empowerment



Women's Economic Empowerment:

Thousands of women transitioned from informal labor to running sustainable income-generating projects, gaining financial autonomy and leadership roles.



Sustained Income Generation:

68% of beneficiary households reported sustainable income sources, a significant increase from 23% at baseline.

72% of supported microbusiness are operating within three months.



High Employment Uptake:

70% of supported vocational beneficiaries confirmed an improvement of their employment status due to apprenticeship skill development.



Community-Level Economic Growth:

ERRY investments created ripple effects—more local jobs, higher demand in markets, and increased service availability in rural areas.



Pathways to Financial Inclusion:

Beneficiaries gained access to savings groups, microfinance institutions, and coaching in financial literacy.



Market-Driven Skill Alignment:

Training was tailored to local labor demand, increasing the relevance and hiring potential of graduates.



Geographic Reach:

Interventions spanned over

200 rural communities across

37 districts, reaching some of Yemen's most vulnerable populations.

Najah: From Training to Independence

Women's Entrepreneurship
– Hajjah Governorate

“I'm now a working woman who can support my family. The training gave me confidence and the skills to start my own business.”
– Najah

Najah, a rural woman with entrepreneurial ambition, transformed her life with support from the ERRY I Joint Programme. After completing business training, she launched a small business that now generates steady income for her household. Her journey from financial dependence to self-sufficiency highlights the power of investing in women-led enterprises.



– Hajjah Governorate

Nadia: Stitching Strength for 25 Family Members

Women's Entrepreneurship & Displacement Recovery – Hajjah Governorate

“This support helped me turn survival into stability. Now I earn an income, support my family with dignity, and plan to help other women do the same.”
– Adel

At just 28, Nadia Hizam became the sole provider for her family of 25 after they were displaced from their home in Hajjah. With support from the ERRY Joint Programme, she received business training and a USD 900 grant to start a women's clothing micro-business.

In only two months, she sold over USD 426 worth of products and is now working to expand her business, create jobs, and support other women in her community.



Abeer's Journey: From Phone Snaps to Professional Photography

Youth Empowerment & Economic Resilience
– Taiz & Aden Governorates

“Thanks to this support, I turned my passion into a profession. Today, I earn a living doing what I love—and help tell the stories of others like me.”
– Abeer



Abeer, 23, from Al-Ma'afer District in Taiz, had a passion for photography but lacked the resources to pursue it professionally. Through the ERRY III Joint Programme, she received business training and a grant to buy her first professional camera—turning her dream into a thriving business.

She now photographs weddings and events, earns a steady income, and was even selected to document the ERRY III exhibition in Aden. Her success showcases how investing in youth skills can lead to financial independence and creative expression.

Youth Skills Development & Economic Empowerment

– Lahj Governorate

“ This programme changed my life. I was unemployed—now I have the skills to start my own business and support my family income installing solar systems.

– Ali Esmail ”

In Radfan District, 74 young women and men graduated from the EERRY III Joint Programme's apprenticeship scheme, gaining hands-on training in high-demand fields like beauty services, mobile and motorcycle maintenance, and solar system installation. With support from the EU and Sweden, the programme equips youth with technical, financial, and life skills to launch small businesses and generate income.

Graduates like Ali Esmail and Montahaa Fadhel are already putting their new skills into action—Ali plans to open a mobile repair shop, while Montahaa is starting a beauty center from home and dreams of growing her business further.



Apprenticeship Programme: Skills for Life

Youth Empowerment through Vocational Training – Taiz Governorate

“ This programme changed my life. I used to be unemployed—now I earn a steady income installing solar systems.

- Hussam on of EERRY II Joint Programme apprenticeship programme graduate ”



In Al-Shamaytayn District, 160 young men and women gained market-relevant skills through the EERRY II Joint Programme, implemented by the ILO. Apprentices were trained in solar energy, tailoring, mobile repair, and other in-demand trades. Eighty top graduates received toolkits to launch their own small businesses, turning skills into income and stability.

The programme gave youth a path toward self-reliance and strengthened the foundation for local economic recovery.

Climate Resilience & Renewable Energy

Strategic Objective

To reduce the vulnerability of rural communities to climate shocks and environmental degradation by promoting renewable energy, improving water and land resource management, and scaling up climate-smart agricultural practices.

Cumulative Impact Highlights – Climate Resilience & Renewable Energy (2016–2025)



Solar Energy
Systems Installed

465

solar systems installed in public facilities, markets, and community infrastructures; 72 solar-powered vaccine refrigerators installed in health centres



Service facilities
re-presentatives trained

647

public facilities representatives were trained in solar system operation and maintenance

Solar-Powered
Desalination



2

Solar-Powered
Irrigation Systems

Hybrid Mini-
Grids Installed



2

community-scale hybrid mini-grids installed and operationalized



12

off-grid solar
desalination plants
were installed for clean
water access

solar water systems were installed to support water access for farming communities

Farmers Trained in
Climate-Smart Agriculture

+7,000

farmers trained in water management, harvesting, irrigation activities, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and climate smart agriculture practices.



Drought-Resistant
Agricultural Inputs

1000

farmers households supported with high-quality landrace seeds adapted to climate shocks



Climate-Adapted Agricultural
Assets Restored

100

drip irrigation systems installed, 12 water infrastructures (canal entrances and harvesting rain and springs water tanks) have been rehabilitated.



People Trained in
Renewable Energy

500

trained in RE business/life skills, 308 apprentices, 128 advanced solar technicians certified

Outcomes & Evidence of Impact – Climate Resilience & Renewable Energy



Sustainable Public Services:

Solar-powered public facilities served over
293,000 people, enhancing access to health and education services.



Green Jobs Created

More than
460 rural entrepreneurs entered the renewable energy sector, supported by technical training and start-up kits



Improved Water Access:

Solar-powered irrigation and desalination systems enhanced year-round access to water in water-scarce communities.



Locally Driven Energy Maintenance:

Over 300 certified technicians are now capable of maintaining solar systems and water pumps locally, ensuring sustainability.

Ibrahim: Farming Beyond the Floods

Climate Resilience & Water Access
– Hodeidah Governorate

“What we worked for had vanished—but now our crops thrive, and our children have hope.”
– Ibrahim

After floods destroyed his farmland, Ibrahim Omar's community rehabilitated three kilometers of irrigation canals with support from ERRY III. The new water infrastructure restored agricultural production and food security.

Once again, crops are growing, and futures look.



– Hodeidah Governorate

Samia: An Empowered and Resilient Rural Yemeni Woman

Women's Entrepreneurship
& Renewable Energy
– Lahj Governorate

Samia, a 47-year-old from Beer Jaber village in Lahj, transformed her lifelong connection to farming into a thriving dairy and henna business.

With support from the ERRY III Joint Programme-through solar energy provided by UNDP and dairy equipment and training from FAO- she launched “[Al Taiseer](#),” her own dairy brand, and began processing yogurt, ghee, and laban for local markets.

Solar energy enabled her to expand operations and preserve products, while her success in henna production further diversified her income. Today, Samia is a role model for rural women, showing how resilience, skills, and renewable energy can power sustainable businesses.



– Lahj Governorate

“Solar energy and training helped me turn my farm into a source of income and independence. Now I support my family with dignity—and encourage other women to do the same.”

– Samia

Hussam: Reviving Watermelon Farming in Lahj

Sustainable Agriculture
& Climate Adaptation
– Lahj Governorate

Once unable to grow watermelon due to rising diesel prices, poor irrigation, and climate shocks, Hussam—a 54-year-old farmer from Lahj—has turned barren land into green fields. With support from the ERRY III Joint Programme, he received a full drip irrigation system, a solar-powered pump, fertilizers, and plant protection nets, revitalizing his farm.

Today, he harvests high-quality watermelon faster, with fewer losses and lower costs. The intervention not only increased his yield and income, but also gave him the confidence to expand to new plots and rent more farmland.



– Lahj Governorate

“ Before, watering took three days and cost us dearly in fuel. Now I do it in one—without spending a single riyal on diesel. This support brought my land, and my hope, back to life.

– Hussam

”

Solar Power Brings Clean Water to Al-Akahel

Renewable Energy & Basic Services
– Lahj Governorate

For decades, the people of Al-Akahel in Lahj struggled with unsafe water, a crumbling pipeline, and the high cost of diesel. Through the ERRY III Joint Programme, funded by the EU and Government of Sweden, and implemented by UNDP and partners, a new solar-powered water system now provides clean, affordable water to over 5,800 people. The project replaced aging infrastructure and shifted water pumping to solar energy —cutting fuel costs, improving reliability, and enhancing community health.

This initiative exemplifies how clean energy can build resilience, restore dignity, and ensure lasting access to basic services for rural communities.

“Before, we couldn’t even drink the water,” says Eisaa, a local maintenance worker. “Now, it’s fresh and available whenever we need it. This project didn’t just bring water—it changed our lives”



Supporting Education with Solar Energy

Improving Learning Conditions through Renewable Energy in Yemen

“Before solar energy, we couldn’t operate computers due to fuel shortages. Now we can study and practice with ease — the system brought learning to life. — Masar, an accounting student.”



Under the ERRY III Joint Programme, funded by the European Union and the Government of Sweden, UNDP equipped 53 schools and institutes across Yemen with solar energy systems, transforming access to education in rural and underserved areas.

In Al Ma’afer District, Taizz, a 15kW off-grid solar system was installed at the Commercial Institute, enabling the regular use of computers, projectors, and other essential learning tools.

Local Governance, Social Cohesion & Peacebuilding

Strategic Objective

To foster inclusive, accountable, and peaceful local governance by enabling communities to plan and prioritize their recovery, resolve conflicts collaboratively, and rebuild trust between citizens and local institutions.

Cumulative Impact Highlights – Local Governance, Community Resilience & Social Cohesion (2016–2025)



Village Cooperative Councils (VCCs) Formed/Trained

811

VCCs activated and trained across three phases



Sub-District Committees (SDCs) Formed

107

SDCs formed during ERRY II & III.



Community Resilience Plans (CRPs) Developed

918

CRPs developed (811 at the village level and 107 at the subdistrict level) through participatory local processes



Community Committee members trained

8,236

community committee members and local authorities (48% women) enhanced their capacities on planning



Resilience & Infrastructure Projects Delivered

709
1,091

community infrastructure projects supported, improving access to basic services.

self-help initiative implemented by communities.



Small Recovery Grants Distributed

321

grants benefiting over 56,000 people



District Recovery Plans Developed

8

district-level plans developed and 8 district-recovery projects implemented with ERRY funding



Community Resilience Score

3.3

The average resilience score improved from 3.3 to 4.1 out of 10.

Cumulative Impact Highlights – Social Cohesion & Conflict Resolution (2016–2025)

Insider Mediators Trained

1,046 community mediators and SDC members (33% women) trained in conflict resolution and mediation.

Community Dialogue Sessions Held

265+ Community Dialogue sessions facilitated to resolve community conflicts

Conflict Resolution Interventions

74 conflict-resolution projects interventions supported and implemented

Outcomes & Evidence of Impact – Local Governance & Social Cohesion



Participatory Planning Institutionalized:

Over 918

Community Resilience Plans (CRPs) are now embedded in local decision-making, enabling communities to lead their own recovery with clear priorities and budgets.



Inclusive Conflict Resolution

1,046

trained insider mediators, including women and youth, peacefully resolved local disputes over water, land, markets, and access to services across the targeted communities.



Stronger Local Structures:

More than 800

Village Cooperative Councils (VCCs) and 1,200+ Sub-District Committee members—including nearly half women—are now actively managing community services and local development initiatives.



Improved Trust & Civic Engagement

Participatory dialogue platforms and peace dividends helped rebuild trust between citizens and local authorities,

with 70% of communities reporting improved social cohesion.



Youth & Women in Leadership: **40%+**

of all governance and mediation participants were youth and women, marking a major shift toward inclusive local leadership and decision-making.



Recovery Linked to Peace

Small-scale infrastructure and livelihoods projects were used as peace dividends, showing that tangible development outcomes can drive social harmony in fragile settings.

Health Center Transforms Yemeni Village After 20-Year Wait

Access to Healthcare &
Community Resilience
– Hajjah Governorate

For over two decades, the residents of Dhahr Abu Tair Village in Hajjah lived without a functioning health facility.

Women and children were most affected, with rising maternal and newborn deaths, and medical workers forced to provide care in private homes with limited resources.

Through the ERRY III Joint Programme, funded by the EU and the Government of Sweden, and implemented by UNDP and the Social Fund for Development (SFD), the community united to build a proper health unit for 4,500 residents.

The facility now provides essential services, including maternal care, vaccinations, and first aid— supported by solar power for uninterrupted operation.



– Hajjah Governorate

“ We used to struggle with basic services. Now, we see more patients—especially women and children—and they finally feel safe knowing healthcare is close to home.

– Muneer, Physician Assistant, Dhahr Abu Tair Health Unit

”

A New School Brings Hope to Deir Al-Mahjoub Village

Education Access &
Community Resilience
– Hodeidah Governorate

For years, the only school in Deir Al-Mahjoub Village, Bajel District, stood in ruins—its ceilings collapsed, walls cracked, and classrooms unfit for learning. Parents feared sending their children, especially with the nearest alternative **11 kilometers** away.

Through the ERRY III Joint Programme, funded by the EU and Government of Sweden, and implemented by UNDP and the Social Fund for Development, a new school was constructed with community participation. Today, 108 students (including 41 girls) enjoy a safe, well-equipped learning space powered by solar energy.



– Hodeidah Governorate

“ The school will ensure continued education in our village and nearby areas; it’s accessible to all.

- Ahmed, a father of five.

The new classrooms, solar power, and proper furniture have truly changed everything.

- Basem, the construction contractor.

”

Local Governance & Community Infrastructure

Local Governance & Community Infrastructure – Abyan Governorate

“ This road improved our quality of life—and we built it ourselves, together. ”

– Abdulaziz

As a member of a Village Cooperative Council formed under ERRY I, Abdulaziz led a community initiative to construct a vital road. The new infrastructure improved access to services and enhanced daily life in the area. This story shows how local governance and community-led planning can transform rural development.



From Conflict to Cohesion: A Young Economist Becomes a Peacebuilder in Yemen

Youth Engagement & Social Cohesion
– Taiz Governorate

In Taiz, Abdul Rahman Al-Mahfadi, a young economics graduate and teaching assistant, discovered his calling not in a lecture hall, but in the heart of his community.

Through the ERRY III Joint Programme, he joined a training by the Social Fund for Development focused on dialogue, mediation, and conflict resolution. Inspired by the experience, Abdul Rahman helped establish a local mediation committee made up of Sub-District Committee (SDC) members and respected community figures.

Together, they began resolving disputes through inclusive dialogue—ensuring women's participation and restoring trust in local problem-solving processes.



“ This training gave me more than skills—it gave me a mission. Dialogue turned me from an economist into a peacebuilder in my own community. ”

– Abdul Rahman

Thematic Section 6: Women's Economic Empowerment

A cross-cutting priority integrated into every component of ERRY I, II, and III

Strategic Objective

To promote gender equity, improve women's access to economic opportunities, and strengthen their role in community development, peacebuilding, and resilience-building efforts.

Cumulative Impact Highlights (2016–2025)



4,200+

Women-Owned Microbusinesses

businesses led by
women (45% of total)



2,800+

Women Engaged in Agriculture & Livestock

women received livestock
packages, FFS training, or
agro-processing inputs



**30%-
40%**

Women in Peacebuilding & Governance

Women represented 30–40%
of participants in dialogue
and planning platforms



6,000+

Women Benefiting from Livelihoods Training

women trained in business,
vocational, and life skills



70+

Solar Systems Supporting Women-Led Enterprises

women-run businesses
powered by solar energy



100+

Women as Trainers & Mediators

women trained as community
facilitators, mediators, or ToTs



Reported Household Income Increase **up to 3x**

income growth among women-
led businesses over 12–18 months

Outcomes & Evidence of Impact



Increased women's economic independence

reducing reliance on male income
or aid

Social norms shifted

in some communities, as women-
led businesses gained visibility
and respect

Improved household resilience

where women managed or
co-managed income streams

Community support

for women's participation in
public life grew in ERRY-targeted
areas

Women's Leadership & Renewable Energy

– Hajjah Governorate

“

This is more than electricity—it's changing lives and proving that women can lead transformation in their communities.

– Iman

”

Iman Hadi, a solar entrepreneur from Abs, led a group of 10 women to install and manage a solar power plant that now

provides affordable electricity to 43 households. With support from the ERRY Joint Programme and funding from the EU and Sweden, she turned her business into a profitable and community-transforming venture—earning over YER 1.2 million and expanding access to clean energy.

Iman's work has inspired others in her village to start small businesses—from tailoring to welding—thanks to the reliable solar supply. Recognized globally, she was named one of the BBC's 100 Most Influential Women in 2020 for her groundbreaking role in changing perceptions about women's leadership in Yemen.



Bushra: From Displacement to Dairy Entrepreneur

Rebuilding Lives after Displacement
– Lahj Governorate

“

I'm no longer a helpless housewife—I'm the breadwinner. I've proven that even after displacement, we can rebuild and thrive.

– Bushra

”



Displaced by conflict and responsible for six children, Bushra faced extreme hardship with no source of income. Through the ERRY II Joint Programme's agricultural support, she received training and starter inputs for dairy processing.

Starting with just one goat, she gradually built a small herd of 14 and now earns between YER 30,000–70,000 each month. Her newfound independence has transformed her life and shifted how she is seen in her community.

Bassima: Empowering Women in Health Entrepreneurship

“ This project empowered me economically and personally. Now, I can plan for my future with confidence. ”

– Bassima

Bassima, a certified midwife from rural Hajjah, had the skills to serve her community but lacked the means to start her clinic. Through the ERRY II Joint Programme's livelihoods support, she received business training and a US\$600 grant to equip her maternity clinic and launch her services.

The impact was immediate - Bassima began earning a stable income and became a key provider of maternal care in her village, where access to health services is limited. Her success also strengthened her independence and role within her household.



Meet Rawda: A Community Leader from Rural Yemen

Local Governance & Social Cohesion
– Taiz Governorate

Rawda, from Al-Ma'afer District in Taiz, emerged as a powerful voice for her community through the ERRY III Joint Programme.

Elected as a community committee coordinator, she led development efforts across 40 villages—improving infrastructure, restoring social harmony, and supporting displaced families. Her leadership was pivotal in rehabilitating a vital market road that had become unusable during the rainy season. With determination, she mobilized residents, coordinated with local authorities, and overcame equipment failures to complete the project.

“ What motivates me is people's suffering. When we work together, we can overcome anything—and build a better future for all. ”

– Rawda

The result: better access, reduced tensions, and a revitalized market. Beyond roads, Rawda played a key role in distributing gas during shortages and opening her home to those in need. Her commitment to service has earned her deep trust in the community.



Vocational Skills & Gender Equality

Vocational Skills & Gender Equality – Taiz Governorate

In Al-Sunnah village, Ismahan chose an unconventional path and became a home appliance technician—repairing stoves, mixers, and refrigerators. With support from the ERRY III Joint Programme, she completed an apprenticeship, received a full toolkit, and opened her own workshop, Al-Sulaimani for Home Appliance Maintenance.

Despite early doubt from her community, Ismahan built a strong reputation, especially among women who preferred her services. She now earns a stable income, supports her children independently, and plans to expand her business while training other women to follow in her footsteps.



– Taiz Governorate

Ismahan

“This workshop changed my life. I no longer worry about how to provide for my children. Now I earn with dignity and show other women that we can succeed too.”

– Ismahan

SDG Alignment

The ERRY Programme contributed directly to several key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including:

SDG	Contribution
SDG 2: Zero Hunger	Improved household food security through agri-livelihoods, FFS, and CfW
SDG 1: No Poverty	Enabled long-term income through microbusinesses and employment
SDG 7: Affordable & Clean Energy	Deployed solar power to homes, farms, clinics, and businesses
SDG 16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	Empowered local dialogue and mediation, built trust in governance
SDG 5: Gender Equality	Prioritized women's access to resources, voice in decision-making
SDG 13: Climate Action	Mainstreamed climate adaptation across livelihoods and assets

Sustainability Strategies

Capacity-building embedded at every level: Over 200

ToTs and hundreds of VCCs trained to continue development work

Exit strategies built into CRPs and DRPs,

enabling continued planning and fundraising

Community-owned assets:

Solar, irrigation, health centers, schools, dairy centers etc. and rehabbed infrastructure handed over with O&M training

Women's and youth cooperatives

strengthened to function beyond project life

Local governance strengthened

to maintain coordination and resource mobilization

Key Lessons Learned from ERRY III Implementation

01.
- Integrated Approaches Amplify Impact**

Combining livelihoods, energy, governance, food security, and social cohesion created stronger, more sustainable results than working in silos.

- 02. Community Ownership Ensures Sustainability**
Empowering local councils and involving communities in planning led to longer-lasting outcomes and increased legitimacy.
- 03. Women's Empowerment Strengthens Resilience**
Women's participation boosted household well-being and positioned them as leaders, improving food security, education, and healthcare.
- 04. Peacebuilding Works Best with Tangible Results**
Linking dialogue to service delivery (e.g., schools, markets) created "peace dividends" and fostered collaboration.
- 05. Youth Potential Is Untapped**
Though active in livelihoods, youth need more roles in peacebuilding, innovation, and leadership.
- 06. Adaptability Is Critical in Crisis Settings**
Flexible programming helped navigate conflict and climate challenges, ensuring continued delivery.
- 07. Local Governance Unlocks Coordination**
Investing in district planning encouraged greater donor alignment and more effective aid delivery.

Area	Recommendation
Programme Design	Replicate the integrated, multi-sectoral ERRY model in future resilience programmes across Yemen and fragile contexts.
Gender	Ensure all future programming includes gender targets, training, and leadership pathways for women and girls.
Climate Resilience	Scale up solar and climate-smart agriculture, particularly in drought-prone and food-insecure areas.
Governance	Institutionalize CRPs and DRPs as national models for community-driven planning and decentralized governance.
Youth	Invest in youth-specific economic and leadership pathways, with a focus on green jobs and digital tools.
Peacebuilding	Link mediation and dialogue to service delivery and infrastructure restoration for higher impact.
Sustainability	Expand training-of-trainers models and transfer of O&M responsibility to ensure long-term continuity.
Replication & Scaling	Document ERRY's model as a best-practice case study for potential expansion in other regions.

Conclusion & Way Forward

Over the course of nearly a decade (2016–2025), the **Enhanced Rural Resilience in Yemen (ERRY) Joint Programme** has become a flagship model for integrated, community-based resilience programming in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

Despite one of the world's most complex humanitarian crises, ERRY reached **hundreds of thousands of Yemenis** with a holistic package of interventions that improved food security, enabled sustainable livelihoods, promoted inclusive governance, empowered women, and strengthened climate resilience.

By working hand-in-hand with **over 30 implementing partners**, the four participating UN agencies—**UNDP, FAO, WFP, and ILO**, with funding from the **European Union and Sweden**—delivered not just services, but **pathways to self-reliance**.

Crucially, ERRY proved that resilience is not built through one-time aid—but through a sustained process of investing in **people, institutions, and trust**.

Implementing Partners



مؤسسة بناء للتنمية
Building Foundation For Development



غداة للتنمية
GHADAQ 4 DEVELOPMENT



مؤسسة التنمية المستدامة
Sustainable Development



Life Makers Meeting Place Organization
منظمة ملق في صنع الحياة



FOR ALL Foundation



Tamdeen
Youth Foundation
مؤسسة تمدين شباب



الصندوق الاجتماعي للتنمية
Social Fund for Development



مؤسسة صدى لبناء والتنمية
Sada Foundation for Building & Development



مؤسسة خطوات للتنمية المدنية
Steps Foundation For Civil Development

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