

# Transitional assistance in Yemen: Strengthening Resilience and Promoting Vulnerable Households

## The challenge

The civil war in Yemen is now in its sixth year and has brought about the world’s gravest ongoing humanitarian crisis. Even before the onset of hostilities, Yemen was rated as one of the least developed countries in the world. 80% of the total population (approx. 24,100,000 people) are vulnerable and depend on humanitarian aid. The poverty rate amounts to 78%, with women more severely affected than men. Children are even more severely afflicted by the impacts of the civil war due to diseases (e.g. cholera), malnutrition and loss of access to education. A quarter of the children cannot attend school. The physical and social infrastructure is obsolescent in many regions and some of it has been destroyed in the war zones. Many farming households have sold or used up their productive basis in order to survive, meaning they now lack the foundation for income generation and food security.

Only half of the health care centres that existed before the outbreak of war are still able to provide basic medical care. Two-thirds of the people have no access to clean water and sanitation. Of these, the most severely affected are the most vulnerable groups children, young people, women, single heads of households, persons with disabilities and former war combatants, former child soldiers and Al-Muhamasheen ethnic minority, who depend on public services and emergency aid.

Over 70% of the population can be expected to have experienced violence and losses. Combined with the destruction of the physical and social infrastructure, the far-reaching disruption of the economy and the government budget cuts, the prolonged violent conflict in Yemen has heavily curtailed the operational capability of sub-national, public administrative authorities and the potential of traditional local self-help systems. Major sources of production that enable people to secure a livelihood no longer

exist. The multifaceted crisis fuels tensions among the various religious, ethnic and social groups.

## Our objective

Our programme aims to make contributions to enhancing the resilience of local institutions and vulnerable population groups in three selected governorates.

## Our approach

Our programme follows the “Whole of Yemen” Approach of German development cooperation and therefore is a neutral partner for the people in all of Yemen. It implements in the governorates of Ibb, Dhamar and Hadhramaut.

Programme name	Strengthening resilience and participation at local level in Yemen
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Ibb, Dhamar and Hadhramaut governorates in Yemen
Lead executing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Implementing partners	Public Administrative Authorities, Local Offices of Line Ministries, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Community based organizations (CBOs), Akkon University of Human Sciences, Seton Hall University
Duration	10/2019 – 05/2024

Our programme aims to achieve its goal through the realisation of four outputs:



L. to r.: Training of Trainers in local governance; Face masks sewn by women in Yarim.



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*L. to r.: Rehabilitation through Cash for Work (CfW); Beekeeping.*

### 1. Upgrading local capacities for the provision of basic services

- Developing the competencies of local actors in participatory planning, drafting local action plans and monitoring them.
- Cooperating with local administrative authorities on the selection and supervision of small-scale measures which are implemented by these entities.

### 2. Improving the productive sources of livelihood of vulnerable rural households

- Jointly developing the selection of beneficiaries of small infrastructural measures (CfW) like road improvement works.
- Training on selecting vulnerable farming households for allocating agricultural inputs such as seeds.
- Developing human capacities through imparting know-how to farmer groups.

### 3. Increasing the income security of households that rely on artisanal fishing

- Fostering the capacities of artisanal fishers for sustainable fishing methods and hygienic fish processing to increase the marketable share of fish for human consumption.
- Promoting the capacities of the cooperatives to strengthen them in their role as service providers and as representatives of artisanal fishers.
- Working together with the responsible authorities and the cooperatives to select landing and market infrastructures to be rehabilitated.

### 4. Carrying out local needs-based measures in order to foster social cohesion

- Developing the capacities of NGOs and CBOs in methods of conflict resolution and violence prevention.
- Developing the competencies of local actors in planning, executing and maintaining small-scale measures for promoting social cohesion.
- Developing the capacity of service providers through peer-to-peer exchange and networking.

## Countering the spread of Covid-19 and supporting vulnerable, rural households

Our protective face mask project helped 58 women from vulnerable, rural households to gain a temporary income for four months but also to gain new skills. The associated organisation "Al Reef", who trained and hosted these women in Yarim, Ibb, received new equipment which they can use also in the future. Furthermore, 250,000 protective face masks were produced and distributed to the population to fight the spread of Covid-19 in Yemen.



#### Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Strengthening resilience and participation at local level  
in Yemen

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<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/91325.html>

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GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

#### On behalf of

Federal Ministry for Economic  
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

#### As at

January 2021

#### Design

Miriam Gramelsberger, Eschborn