The year 2019 is a new fruitful year that brought to YLDF new partners, friends, challenges and knowledge. We continue to gain accumulative experience in the fields of development and emergency. We have made significant achievements towards our strategic objective, our targets, and our organizational development; and we feel proud of the progress and resilience that YLDF is maintaining despite the difficult times of war.

One of the key achievements that YLDF made is the application of technology towards the automation of our projects as well as our monitoring and evaluation systems. YLDF is currently utilizing a software platform (KUNTROL) to help improve efficiency and effectiveness of its program and resource management. YLDF is working towards the digitalization of its key front-end business processes and functions including, but not limited to, strategy management, program and project management, budgeting and procurement, resources allocation and capacity management. The system is aimed to provide key information analysis and reporting (Dashboards) functionalities that enhance evidence-based programming at YLDF.

A key measurement of progress over the year 2019 was the expansion of the number of beneficiaries and partnerships in the different governorates of Yemen. YLDF managed to reach direct 44279 beneficiaries and 12 Local NGO partners. Our goal is to further increase the number of beneficiaries, and partnerships.

We also managed an impactful women empowerment pilot program through building Ward educational and cultural Café for women, currently planned to officially launch by end of December 2020. The café represents the continuity for our accumulative experience in engaging with Yemeni women. Additionally, it is planned to act as a sustainable income generation for YLDF to help keep delivering services and reach our vision with reduced dependency on fund availability.

Our appreciation extends to all YLDF leaders including staff, youth beneficiaries as well as our partners for all their valuable contributions without which YLDF would lack the ability to make the aimed progress and achievements.

Safa Rawiah
YLDF General Manager
LIST OF ABBREVIATION

YLDF  Youth Leadership Development Foundation
PSS  Psychosocial Support
SOLVE  Sustainable Opportunities for Livelihoods, Vocation and Employment in Yemen
CBOS  Community Based Organization
CSOS  Civil Society Organizations
ELSFA  Emergency Life-Saving Food Assistance
FSAC  Food Security and Agriculture Cluster
UIAP  Upgrade Informal Apprentice Program
GIZ  Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, GmbH (German: German Society for International Cooperation, Ltd.)
NGOS  Non-Governmental Organizations
OCHA  Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (United Nations)
OSH  Occupational Safety and Health
EU  European Union
CV  Curriculum Vitae
UN  United Nations
UNICEF  United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
IDPS  Internally Displaced Person
YLP  Youth Leadership Program
YLDF  Youth Leadership Development Foundation
CAV  Camera As Voice
TOT  Training Of Trainer
CARE  Care International
SOS  SOS Center for Youth Capabilities Development

CONTENT

1. YLDF BACKGROUND  9
2. YLDF'S HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY 2017-2020  10
3. YLDF'S DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2017-2020  11
4. PARTNERS  12
5. 2019 RESULTS AT GLANCE  13
6. EDUCATION  23
   TADHAFUR  24
   YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM  28
7. LIVELIHOOD  29
   UPGRADING INFORMAL APPRENTICE PROGRAM (UIAP)  30
   SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIVELIHOODS, VOCATIONAL & EMPLOYMENT (SOLVE)  32
   SUMMER TRAINING PROGRAM  34
   VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM  36
8. SOCIAL  39
   STEP OF PEACE (EXTENDED)  40
9. EMPOWERMENT  43
   WOMEN IN POLITICS  44
10. HUMANITARIAN  47
   EMERGENCY LIFE-SAVING FOOD ASSISTANCE  48
11. PROJECT STORY- WOMEN IN POLITICS  51
12. INSPIRING YOUNG LEADERS  52
   RETURN OF HOPE - MOHAMMAD AL-SHARJABI  53
   BECOMING AN ENTREPRENEUR - AHMED'S STORY  54
   NEW HORIZONS - WAYEL  55
   NEVER GIVE UP - YONUS  57
13. YLDF TEAM  58
YLDF BACKGROUND

OUR VISION
A Yemen in which skilled, well qualified and active young women and men play leadership roles in all domains of society and enable Yemenis to contribute to a better world.

OUR MISSION
To increase male and female youth participation in development of their communities through high standards of quality education and participatory and action oriented training and youth NGOs and initiatives capacity building overall Yemeni governorates in response to development and labor market needs.
YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

YLF’S HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY
2017-2020

GOAL
Alleviating food insecurity and increasing livelihood opportunities through enhancing food security, contribute to reduce rural poverty, and develop the most vulnerable people capacity to manage and respond to risks. Protecting most vulnerable rights in all situation including situation of conflict.

OBJECTIVE 1
Provide Protection with more focus on Child Protection and Gender Based Violence.

OBJECTIVE 2
Provide Emergency Life-Saving Food Assistance.

Emergency Life-Saving Food Assistance Program to the Most Vulnerable Conflict Affected People in Amant Al-Assima governorate.

YLF’S DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
2017-2020

Goal: An increased number of Yemeni youth who are able to improve the quality of their own lives and careers as well as develop their own communities.

EDUCATION
Enhancing access to gain primary, secondary and higher education qualifications, skills and experiences, facilitating livelihood opportunities, empowerment, and inclusion.

LIVELIHOOD
Enhancing access to gain a livelihood and be able to earn enough income to lead dignified lives and contribute economically to their families and communities.

YOUTH COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
Enhancing Youth leadership roles and responsibilities in the national and local communities.

CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT
Empower CSOs organization and youth initiatives to play a leadership role in their communities.

Sustainable Opportunities for Livelihood Vocational and Employment

STEP OF PEACE PROJECT

WOMEN IN POLITICS PROJECTS

TADHAFUR Program
Youth Leadership Program

Summer Training Program
Upgrading Informal Apprenticeship Program

2019
PARTNERS

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

LOCAL PARTNER

- ALEZDHAAR FOUNDATION
- ALLAITH FOUNDATION
- TOMORROW’S LEADERS
- DAR ALWA’EY
- TADWEER FOUNDATION
- LANA FOUNDATION
- KARAMAH FOUNDATION
- ARTH ALSALAM FOUNDATION
- SANID FOUNDATION
- EHTIMAM FOUNDATION
- IYCY
- MOZN FOUNDATION

2019 RESULTS AT GLANCE
44,279
TOTAL NUMBER OF DIRECT INDIVIDUAL BENEFICIARIES

14,119
TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIRECT INDIVIDUALS BENEFICIARIES

TOTAL NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS BENEFICIARIES

CATEGORIZED BY GOVERNORATE

30 DISTRICTS
7 GOVERNORATES

SANA’A
4,565
1,759 2,806
MALE FEMALE

IBB
5,266
1,719 3,547
MALE FEMALE

HAJJA
4,981
2,806 2,175
MALE FEMALE

ADEN
292
156 136
MALE FEMALE

LAHI
315
149 166
MALE FEMALE

AMANAT ALASIMA
23,675
10,989 12,686
MALE FEMALE

AlHOODAIDAH
5,185
1,575 3,610
MALE FEMALE

11 Networks
9 Political Parties
20 Civil Society Organizations
27 Youth Initiatives
CATEGORIZED BY ACTIVITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trainings</td>
<td>3,256</td>
<td>1,275</td>
<td>1,981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteerism Opportunities</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-Job Training</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awareness Campaigns/Sessions</td>
<td>21,223</td>
<td>8,306</td>
<td>12,917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy Campaigns/Sessions</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants Providing</td>
<td>1,139</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Management</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prizes</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Security Beneficiaries</td>
<td>1,139</td>
<td>8,868</td>
<td>9,048</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL 44,279

THEMES

- Peace Building
- Human Rights
- Entrepreneurship
- Gender Equality
- Gender Based Violence
- Education
- Informal Apprenticeship
- Food Security
- Civil Society Empowerment
- Child Protection
- Volunteerism

SERVICES

- Trainings
- Advocacy Meetings with Political Parties
- Song Production
- On-Job Training
- OSH Kits
- Basic Start-Up Tool Kits
- Prizes/Grants
- Awareness Campaigns/Sessions
- YLDF Internships
- Workshops
- Case Management
- Theater Plays
- YouTube Broadcasting
- Film Production
- Regional Conferences
- Peer Education Sessions
- Food Baskets Distribution
TADHAFUR PROGRAM

AIM
To improve protection and build resilience and skills of adolescent girls and boys at risk of child marriage, drop out of school, and child labor through provision of knowledge, life skills, socio-economic empowerment and access to multi-sectorial response/referral services, including health, education, legal aid, PSS, and socio-economic/livelihood initiatives.

LOCATION
Sana’a- Amanat Al-Assimah, Ibb, Al-Hudaida, Al-Mahweet1, Hajjah, and Taiz in total of 13 districts

PROJECT
August 2018 - August 2020

“I learnt how to negotiate, solve my problems and be more positive and active with people around me” said 13 year old Hassan. “I was playing with my friends and they started to argue and wanted to fight” Hassan said. “I calmed them down and drew the fishbone diagram with them to analyze the problem and find solutions.”

“I learnt how to negotiate, solve my problems and be more positive and active with people around me” said 13 year old Hassan. “I was playing with my friends and they started to argue and wanted to fight” Hassan said. “I calmed them down and drew the fishbone diagram with them to analyze the problem and find solutions.”

23,451
TOTAL NUMBER OF DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

BENEFICIARIES TYPES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPES</th>
<th>MALE</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY PEER EDUCATORS</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADOLESCENTS</td>
<td>8,780</td>
<td>14,271</td>
<td>23,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHOOL TEACHERS</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELIGIOUS AND COMMUNITY LEADER</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAINERS</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBOS MEMBERS</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INITIATIVES MEMBERS</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INSTITUTION BENEFICIARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPES</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YOUTH INITIATIVES</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOS/INGOS/CBOS</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Taiz and Al Mahweet Activities will be reported in the annual report of year 2020
I still remember my first presentation and how nervous I was! Because I had never spoken in front of a crowd before, but look at me now. I am now able to speak in front of an audience fluently”

Hussin Taha Al-Sukary
Current YLP graduate 2019

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

AIM
Enhanced skills and knowledge of high school graduates through lifelong learning opportunities and a variety of training experiences.

PARTNERS
YLP’s Alumni

LOCATION
Sana’a

PROJECT
Nov 2019 - October 2020

TOTAL NUMBER OF DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

37

21 MALE
16 FEMALE

26
LIVELIHOOD
UPGRADING INFORMAL APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (UIAP)

I was a very shy girl supporting 2 children after my husband passed away with no abilities to express myself or rise my voice even when I am in need. This program has not only provided me with sustainable job and income, but also impacted my personality to help me raise my voice and speak out to be a stronger person to face all the hard life matters during this war.

One of the participants

AIM
To upgrade the informal apprenticeship in the Yemeni communities and advocate the worker’s rights through increasing capacity of local actors and strengthened partnership of private sector to enhance economic recovery in the communities.

PARTNERS

LOCATION
Aden, Hodiedah, Hajah, Lahj and, Sanaa with total of 12 Districts

PROJECT
June 2017 – May 2019

TOTAL NUMBER OF DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MALE</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APPRENTICES</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASTER CRAFTS-PERSON</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIVELIHOODS, VOCATIONAL & EMPLOYMENT (SOLVE)

AIM
To strengthen the economy of Yemen and enable actors, particularly youth, to recover more quickly and sustainably from the crisis.

PARTNERS

LOCATION
Aden & Sanaa

PROJECT
February 2018 – February 2019

252
TOTAL NUMBER OF DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

14,000
TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES

BENEFICIARIES TYPES

- MALE
- FEMALE
- TYPES
- 25
- 26
- YOUTH
- 148
- 53
- COMMUNITY MEMBERS
I got benefits in a lot of things, how to choose my university major also I strengthened my confidence.

One of the participants

SUMMER TRAINING PROGRAM

AIM
Enhanced employability skills and knowledge of secondary school students through lifelong learning opportunities and a variety of training experiences.

PARTNERS

viz

LOCATION
Sana’a

PROJECT
April 2019 - July 2020

TOTAL NUMBER OF DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

146

77 males
69 females

BENEFICIARIES TYPES

- Male: 53
- Female: 46
- Youth: 24
- Community Members: 23

Sana’a
April 2019 - July 2020
I learned several skills including how to communicate with customer, how to prepare project reports and project expenses sheets, how to produce google forms and, develop a survey. Also, we were given opportunities to go to field with project team which was enriching experience.

Fatima Abdulrahman  
A participant in period February – June 2019

**AIM**  
To improve youth employability through providing 4-month on job training at Youth Leadership Development Foundation and providing mentoring by YLDF senior staff.

**PARTNERS**  
YLDF team & Volunteers’ Alumni

**LOCATION**  
Sana’a

**PROJECT**  
Every 4 Months

**TOTAL NUMBER OF DIRECT BENEFICIARIES**

- **MALE**: 29
- **FEMALE**: 30

**VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM**
STEP OF PEACE (EXTENDED)

AIM
To enhance Yemeni women participation in peace processes through linking Track 2 and 3 initiatives to Track 1, interventions at multiple levels of impact - individual, community/ institutional and the creation of an enabling environment.

PARTNERS

LOCATION
Sana’a in 3 districts

PROJECT
Extended Project (Jan 2019 – Feb 2019)

TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MALE</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BENEFICIARIES TYPES

- **MALE**
  - 15
  - 0
  - 7
  - 4
  - 9

- **FEMALE**
  - 34
  - 4
  - 21
  - 8
  - 14

- **TYPES**
  - GOVERNMENT MEMBERS
  - NETWORK MEMBER
  - NGOs MEMBERS
  - TRAINERS
  - YLDF TEAM

INSTITUTION BENEFICIARIES

- 4 NGOs
- 4 NETWORKS

---

1 Track 1: Official discussions and negotiations involving and a direct with of high-level political leaders representing different apparatus.
2 Track 2: Unofficial interactions which may involve influential conflict resolution specialists, private citizens, NGOs or businesses established at building relations and encouraging new thinking that can feed into the official process.
3 Track 3: It is mainly focused on conflict resolution grassroots level initiatives that offers leaders of guiding meetings, conferences and activities for contenteries.
EMPOWERMENT
WOMEN IN POLITICS

In spite of the short trainings, it has been influential, effective and useful

Ms. Fatima Al-Khatri
General Assistant for General People’s Congress

AIM
To enhance Yemeni Women lead in political engagement through supporting networking among the active players in the field, engaging Women as Political Leaders and, improving women in politics friendly environment.

PARTNERS

LOCATION
Sana’a

PROJECT
Extended Project (September 2018 – December 2019)

311
TOTAL NUMBER OF DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

156 155
MALE FEMALE

119
TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES

0 119
MALE FEMALE

BENEFICIARIES TYPES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPES</th>
<th>MALE</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YOUTH</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLITICAL MEMBERS</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NETWORK MEMBERS</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOS/INGOS MEMBERS</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INITIATIVES</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INSTITUTION BENEFICIARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPES</th>
<th>NUMBERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YOUTH INITIATIVES</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLITICAL PARTIES</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOS/INGOS</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NETWORKS</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HUMANITARIAN
EMERGENCY LIFE-SAVING FOOD ASSISTANCE

**AIM**

To improve the access to emergency life-saving food assistance to reduce severe hunger among highly vulnerable families through providing food baskets adhering to FSAC minimum standards to severely food insecure families and newly displaced and host families in high priority areas.

**PARTNERS**

[OCHA] [Development and Peace] [MONDO]

**LOCATION**

Sana’a in 2 districts

**PROJECT**

January 2019 – September 2019

**DIRECT BENEFICIARIES**

- 1,760 IDPs
- 2,312 Households (HHs)
- 16,156 Individuals
The “Women in Politics” program, launched in 2016, represents a significant opportunity to reinforce the leadership role of Yemeni women in political participation and was implemented by the Youth Leadership Development Foundation (YLDF) in collaboration with the UN Women’s Gender Equality Support Fund.

During the extension phase, extended from September 2018 to December 2019, the program continued to promote networking and wider exchange of experiences among political parties, strengthening the systems and frameworks of political parties to support women’s leadership role in politics as well as supporting the role of women in politics by raising awareness and reducing negative stereotypes of women in politics.

There are numerous accomplishments achieved in the extension phase, which consisted of focusing on the activation of the Yemeni women network in politics through evaluation aimed at redesigning the network in addition to the increase of knowledge in arbitration and mediation and building alliances among 11 (8 women and 3 men) members of the network. Moreover, a regional workshop was held to build the capacity of the Yemeni women networks and provide them with the chance to share know-how and experiences with regional networks, ensuring wider participation and exchange of experiences with more focus on political participation of women.

Fifteen (7 women and 8 men) of political party leaders and 22 (9 women and 13 men) members of six targeted political parties (General People’s Congress, Yemeni Socialist Party, Labor Party, Justice and Construction Party, Arab Spring Party, Watan Party) have benefited from gender-sensitive peace-building exercises and gender integration in strategic planning and programs.

Furthermore, in order to support women’s leadership role in public society and to reduce negative stereotypes of women in politics, 5 creative works of art by youth (short film, drawing, song, poetry) were produced and the awareness of 60 (18 women and 42 men) of workers in the artistic, literary and community fields was raised by an artistic youth event.

To promote women’s acceptance as leaders in their communities, four youth initiatives were implemented through numerous activities that have focused on supporting women’s empowerment in a number of institutions and civil society organizations and educating young men and women about and protecting the community of electronic violations, marketing and protecting women’s micro-enterprise products, building the capacity of women working in projects management in youth organizations and benefiting from these activities, 35 women and 12 men.

During the regional workshop we learned about several activities of many networks, there is nothing impossible, we will overcome the problems, for our cause is women and women’s rights.

Hassiba Shanif
Assistant Secretary-General of the Justice and Construction Party
All youth assume that jobs are available upon graduation and that acceptance is granted as soon as the job application is made. I was one of those youth, who thought the same.

I am Mohammad Al-Sharjabi, a young IT graduate and I was very excited to get a job. I believed that I am qualified since my GPA was 85%, I speak English and I had various courses on a computer. My excitement led me to enter the labor market with haste; neglecting any prior planning. As a result, I was shocked. “In the labor market, people look for career and life skills, not certificates.”

I kept looking a lot, but with no success. Whenever I apply for a job at any company, I get to the interview, but no one contacts me afterwards. The interview, for me, was a barrier that I feared to overcome. But, I was lucky once when I got employed by a company as C# programmer. I was working two shifts a day with a very low salary. I accepted this job for the purpose of acquiring experience, but I did not gain anything. The job was rather wearisome than being beneficial. So, I left it and started looking (for a job) again. I was always repeating “there should be no despair in life, my chance will come.” However, it grew even harder than I imagined. I did not know what was the real obstacle, although I tried to write my CV in different styles and handed it over by hand, but with no success.

I was tired of going out and looking for a job, so I stuck to using the internet, as I thought it was better for me. I read an article about “SOLVE” program. It is a program conducted by the Young Leaders Development Foundation and sponsored by Mercy Corp. I applied for a job in the program after seeing a ray of hope within it. I did apply and I was lucky to be accepted.

I went on board unsettled with my thoughts; I was objectless and hoped to gain a lot from the program. “I considered myself lucky to join the program”. I was not disappointed, in fact, I learned more than I accepted. The first thing I learned was how to face the challenges. My biggest challenge was attending an interview and composing a sound CV. The practical application of lessons I learned in the real world has developed me. Such lessons that I desperately needed to develop.

In addition, acquiring the life and career skills had a great impact on changing my professional personality. I became a young man that thinks before doing anything, unlike the young me who was doing things in haste, recklessness and furious. I learned how to manage time, adapt to the new work and withstand the pressures.

After all the experiences I have gained, I targeted companies and institutions with confidence in myself and abilities. I formulated my CV in a new style different than the style I have been applying before joining the program. Moreover, my style in the interview was convincing, that was through the answers I provided to questions and queries.

Furthermore, Azal Microfinance is one of the organizations to which I applied. I was accepted after winding up a two-hour interview and I receive a good salary. This made my family proud, I am now independent financially and in their eyes, I am a responsible person.

What I want to say is do not give up, hope will certainly return to you. My advice to every young man with an academic certificate, who found himself lost looking for a job, is to enroll in life skills development and preparation for labor market programs. Be patient, hope returned to me, so it will return to you.
Ahmed’s Story

A few months ago, Ahmed was one of thousands of young Yemenis seeking a source of income for themselves and their families in Sana’a Governorate under harsh living conditions imposed by the country’s years of war.

The 19-year-old, Ahmed, and his family composed of his parents and three siblings (two boys and a girl), have experienced difficult days following his father’s salary cuts with more than a million government employees since the war began in March 2015.

“I thought I’d work and help my father and family instead of sitting at home,” he said, “to mitigate the consequences of the tragedy, which is exacerbated every day by the brutality of the war.

Ahmed knocked several doors but did not get a chance because of his lack of experience and qualifications, so he settled in a motorcycle maintenance workshop owned by his uncle. This work that saved him between seven and ten thousand riyals per month was not enough in a country where prices have increased exponentially.

Ahmed adds ‘I was not practicing actual work in the workshop due to my lack of experience and skills.

My uncle, the workshop technician, assigned me the task of paying attention to bicycles and maintenance equipment only.”

The announcement of the apprenticeship program implemented by the Youth Leadership Development Foundation in partnership with the ILO reached many workshop owners, including the one in which Ahmed works, and his uncle advised him to register for the program. Ahmed enrolled in the program in the field of motorcycle maintenance. He was one of the 320 young men and women who were accepted into the program from Sanaa, Lahj and Aden provinces for training in several high-demand occupations in the labor market.

“It’s the best opportunity I’ve ever had, I didn’t have the confidence in myself and the ability to do anything, and today I trust myself, my abilities and the skills I gained during the program,” Ahmed said about his experience in the program, which lasted from July 2018 to March 2019.

Ahmed uses his abilities and skills in installing and dismantling spare parts and repairing them. He emphasizes that self-confidence, determination and patience are the most important personal features that help to succeed. He further goes on saying “I could not distinguish between spare parts. I was afraid and embarrassed when a customer asked me to install or dismantle. Today, I am proud of my courage and confidence that I can identify and fix the defect and have the ability to install and unscrew all the pieces easily without the need for anyone, and I also have great confidence in my ability to open my own workshop and manage my project successfully.”

After the end of the program, Ahmed borrowed money from a merchant and was able to open a motorcycle maintenance workshop in Madhbah neighborhood, one of the neighborhoods of Main Districts in Sana’a. He called his workshop ‘Ahmed’s Workshop’. Ahmed now feels happy and comfortable because he works in his own workshop, not only provided him with a job opportunity and a steady source of income, it also provided a job opportunity for a young man from his family. He made a net profit of 75,000 riyals in the last three months.

“The program helped me change my life and my family’s life: “I pay the rent of the house we live in and contribute to the family’s daily expenses, as well as my personal money.”

Ahmed advises other young men and women not to give in to despair and frustration while looking for a job, but to use their time to take advantage of training opportunities that help them set their goals, develop their skills and open doors for them to have a decent life.

NEW HORIZONS

Wayel

Wayel, a 20-year-old Tahami young man, left his home city with his family, of seven members, to escape the raging war in Hodeida, Yemen’s most important city with a strategic port. The city has seen the biggest exodus due to the escalating fighting, and the United Nations has announced that more than a million people have been displaced since the war broke out in March 2015.

Wayel and his family fled the hell of war to the miserable life of displacement and obtaining affordable housing in Sana’a in the face of the wave of displacement became almost impossible, as the number of housing units offered for rent decreased and the rent available increased doubly. The family’s situation became even worse by the loss of its only source of income after the interruption of salaries.

Wayel did not stand idly by in the face of his current situation, he needs money not only to help his family but also to continue his education. He started working on his motorcycle and used it as a means of transportation for a faction of money.

Residents used to navigate these bikes because they are cheap compared to the high prices of oil derivatives.

“I was trying to reconcile my studies with work all day and the income I get barely covered my tuition,” Wayel says.

A relative of Wayel owns a bicycle maintenance workshop and Wayel came to him frequently to repair his bike. He told him that there is a training opportunity in the maintenance of motorcycles in the apprenticeship program implemented by the Youth Leadership Development Foundation in partnership with the ILO. Wayel took this opportunity, hasted to register and he was accepted to join the program. “The program not only earned me motorcycle maintenance skills, but also taught me how to plan to open my own business and how to manage and save money in any job I do,” Wayel says of his experience in the program.

When the program ended in March 2019, the idea of owning a motorcycle maintenance workshop shined in his eyes. He is now able to repair any motorcycle and has confidence that he can run the workshop in a way that guarantees him income as well as savings.

Wayel’s belief in his ability to make his project a success equipped him with the courage to borrow money from some relatives and friends in order to buy a motorcycle maintenance workshop that was for sale in full at an excellent location on Taiz Street in the Directorate of Seventy, south
of the capital Sana’a, which is one of the largest directorates of the Capital Secretariat. Wayel pointed out that “if I hadn’t been accepted into the apprenticeship program, I would never have thought of opening my own business. The program and the trainers gave me the motivation, and I learned from them all the necessary skills that would qualify me to open and run a motorcycle maintenance workshop. I named the workshop as ‘Wayel Workshop’, and I provided two job opportunities for two people, one of whom is Hamed, one of my colleagues in the apprenticeship program.”

Wayel, nowadays, is better than ever. He is able to cover his school expenses and help his family with their provision as well as his little sister’s school expenses. He did not give in to the circumstances and difficulties that faced him as a displaced person, but took the opportunity of training that he got, and began to move steadily towards achieving his goal until he reached with Allah’s help to his dream of opening an income-generating project that guarantees him, his family and the families of his employees a decent life.

Yonus, a young Yemeni male youth living in Sana’a, found himself forced to look for any job opportunity after graduating from high school because his father and brothers were among the hundred thousands of government employees who lost their source of income when the government stopped issuing salaries to its employees due to the political and armed conflict among the warring parties in Yemen. Like many government employees, Yonus’s father and brothers couldn’t find another jobs because of the high risk of losing their government jobs permanently of they didn’t attend while the likelihood that they would be able to find a job is very low since most local businesses have either shutdown, left the country, or significantly minimized their labor force. “I found myself in a very difficult situation since I had no qualifications or skills, yet I had to find a job in a very competitive market with a very low labor capacity,” Yonus explained.

Despite of this difficult situation, Yonus didn’t give up and started to search for any job opportunity to financially support himself and his family; however, his lack of qualifications and skills prevented him from securing a job. One day, a friend recommended to Yonus to apply for a training scholarship in an apprentice youth development program offered by the Youth Leadership Development Foundation “YLDF” in partnership with the International Labour Organization “ILO” which aims to develop the vocational skills of young Yemeni youths through hands-on practical training methodology in subject fields that are highly demanded by the local market.

Yonus was excited when he heard of the opportunity and immediately applied and eventually was selected by the apprentice program’s selection committee to join the apprentice program which lasted 6 month, from August 2008 to March, 2019. “My life was completely transformed by the apprentice program because of the knowledge and skills I gained through the hand-on and practical training I received from a highly qualified and experienced trainers in the field of mobile phones repair and maintenance,” Yonus said. “Before the apprentice program, I had no qualifications or skills but today, thanks to the apprentice program, I have both hard skills “repairing mobile phones” and soft skills “interpersonal, management, and leadership skills”; which jointly has provided me with the necessary technical and management skills to succeed in opening and managing my own mobile phones repair shop in partnership with one of my friends, called “Tera Soft”. “Yonus added.

The apprentice program resulted in improving not only the quality of Yonus life but also the lives of his father, brothers, nephews, and nieces. “Today, I am a skilled person and a business entrepreneur with a stable source of income, averaging about 500,000 Yemeni Rials (~$1,000 USD) net profit. Accordingly, I am able to provide a decent living for my family and myself with dignity including covering the costs of food and paying our house rent, despite of the ongoing war in Yemen. What’s more, I assist my brothers by covering the education costs of their children “my nephews and nieces” since their government salaries have been cut. I am also saving money to be able to cover the costs of my wedding as well.” Yonus further elaborated.

The young males and females should never give up and continue to seek for opportunities to improve their livelihood while, in parallel, the humanitarian and development community should strive toward executing similar community development program to empower individuals through decent work and opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income.
MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

GABOOL ALMUTAWAKEL
M&E MANAGER
gabool@yldf.org

AMAL YAHYA AL-KIBSI
MEAL OFFICER
amal@yldf.org

ANTELAQ AHMED ALWASHALI
ADMIN ASSISTANT
aalwashali@yldf.org

WALEED MOHAMMED AL-SABRI
M&E ASSISTANT
walsabri@yldf.org

GABOOL ALMUTAWAKEL
M&E MANAGER
gabool@yldf.org

AMAL YAHYA AL-KIBSI
MEAL OFFICER
amal@yldf.org

ANTELAQ AHMED ALWASHALI
ADMIN ASSISTANT
aalwashali@yldf.org

WALEED MOHAMMED AL-SABRI
M&E ASSISTANT
walsabri@yldf.org