



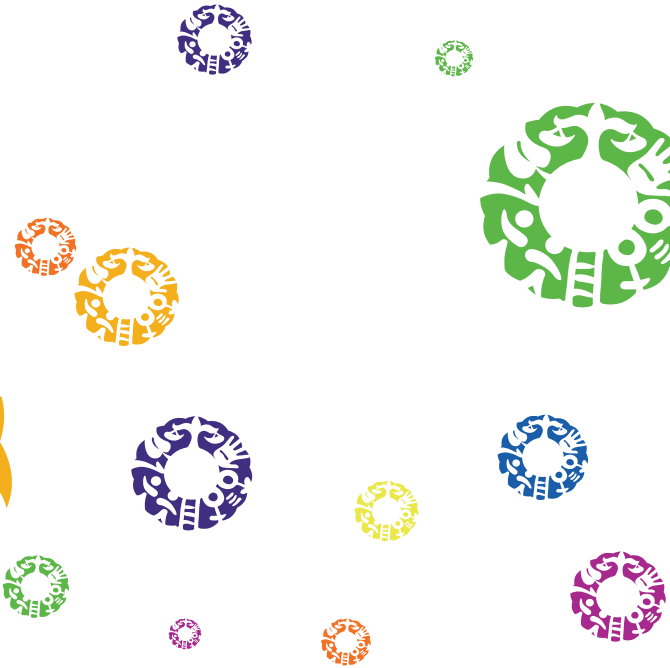
القيادة والتنمية

YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

# PROGRESS & RESILIENCE

ANNUAL REPORT

# 2019



YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

**PROGRESS & RESILIENCE**  
ANNUAL REPORT  
**2019**

**Youth Leadership Development Foundation**

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    / YLDFyemen

Design by: Wekan, Yemen  
[we-kan.com](http://we-kan.com)



*We feel proud of the progress and resilience YLDF is keeping on even during difficult times of war*

**Safa Rawiah**  
YLDF General Manager

## GENERAL MANAGER LETTER

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

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

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## YLDF BACKGROUND

### OUR VISION

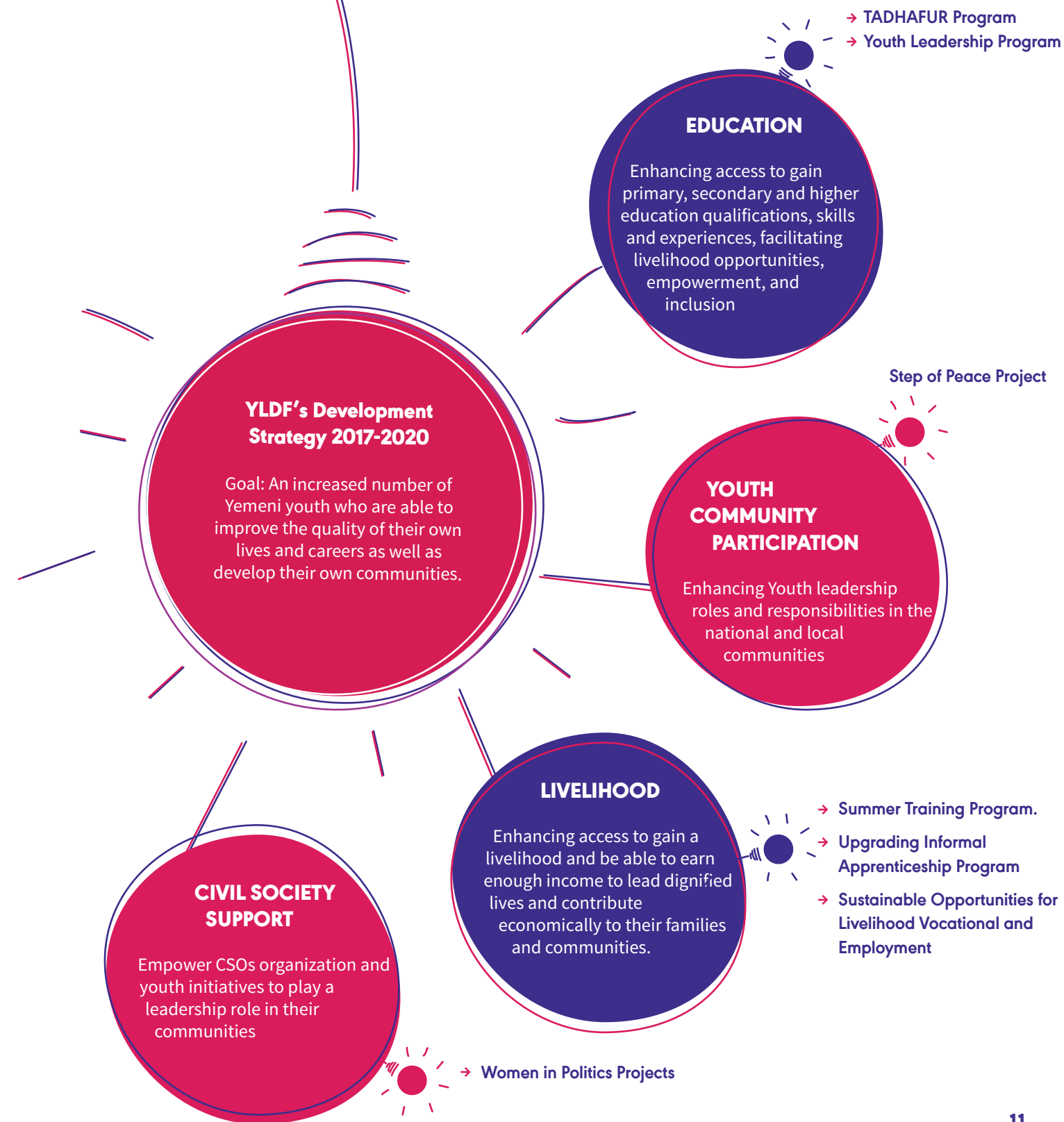
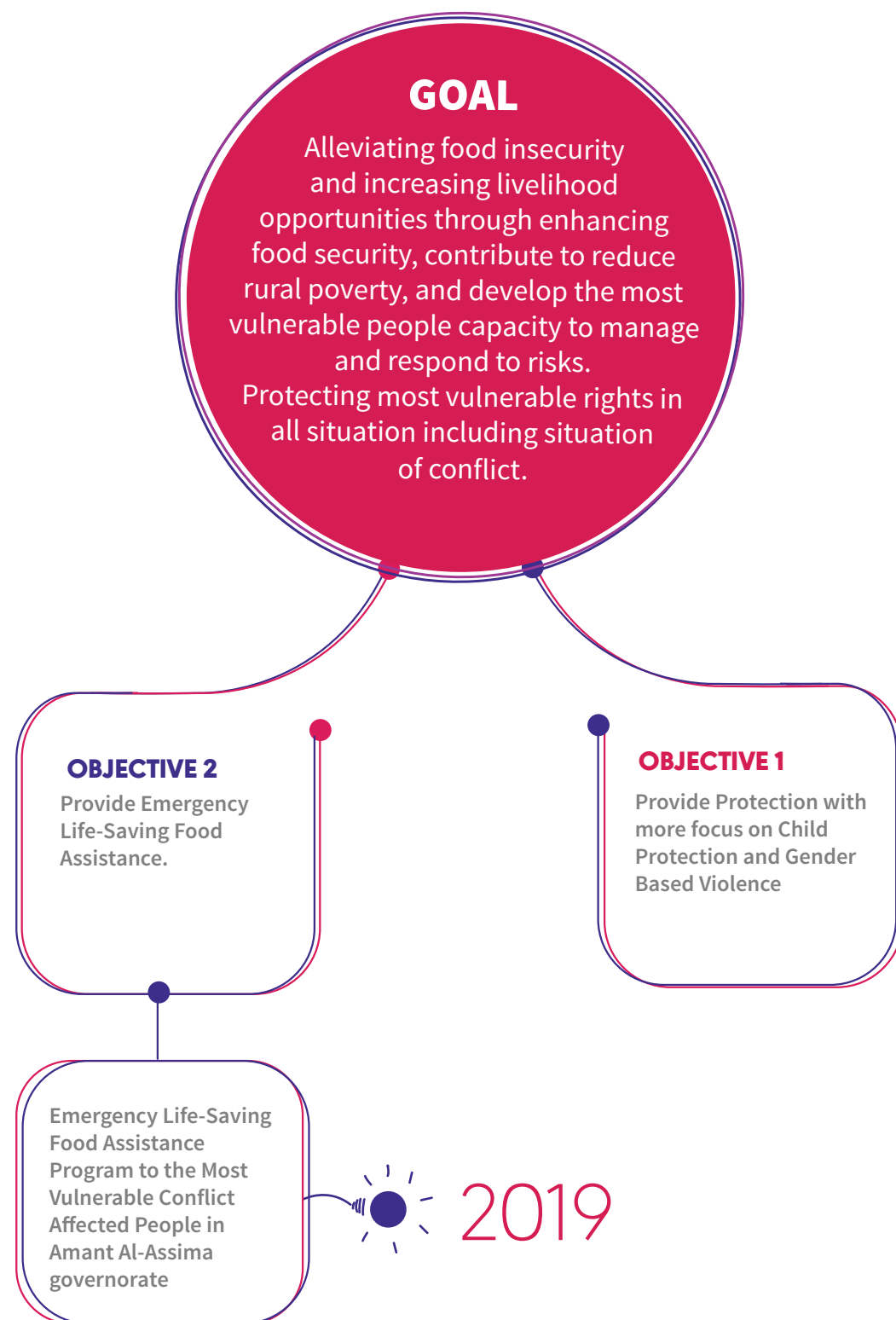
A Yemen in which skilled, well qualified and active young women and men play leadership roles in all domains of society and enable Yemenis to contribute to a better world.

### 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.

# YLDF'S HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY 2017-2020

# YLDF'S DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2017-2020



## PARTNERS

### INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS



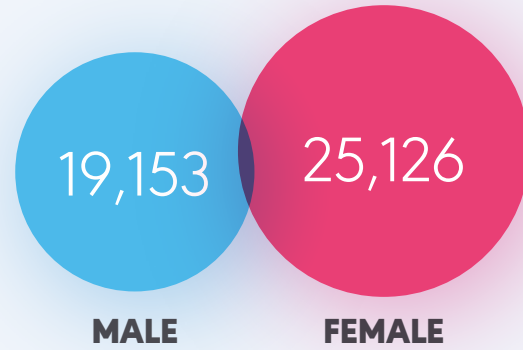
### LOCAL PARTNER

- ALEZDHAR FOUNDATION
- ALLAITH FOUNDATION
- TOMORROW'S LEADERS
- DAR ALWAEY
- 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 BY GOVERNORATE



**SANA'A**  
4,565  
1,759 MALE 2,806 FEMALE

**ADEN**  
292  
156 MALE 136 FEMALE

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

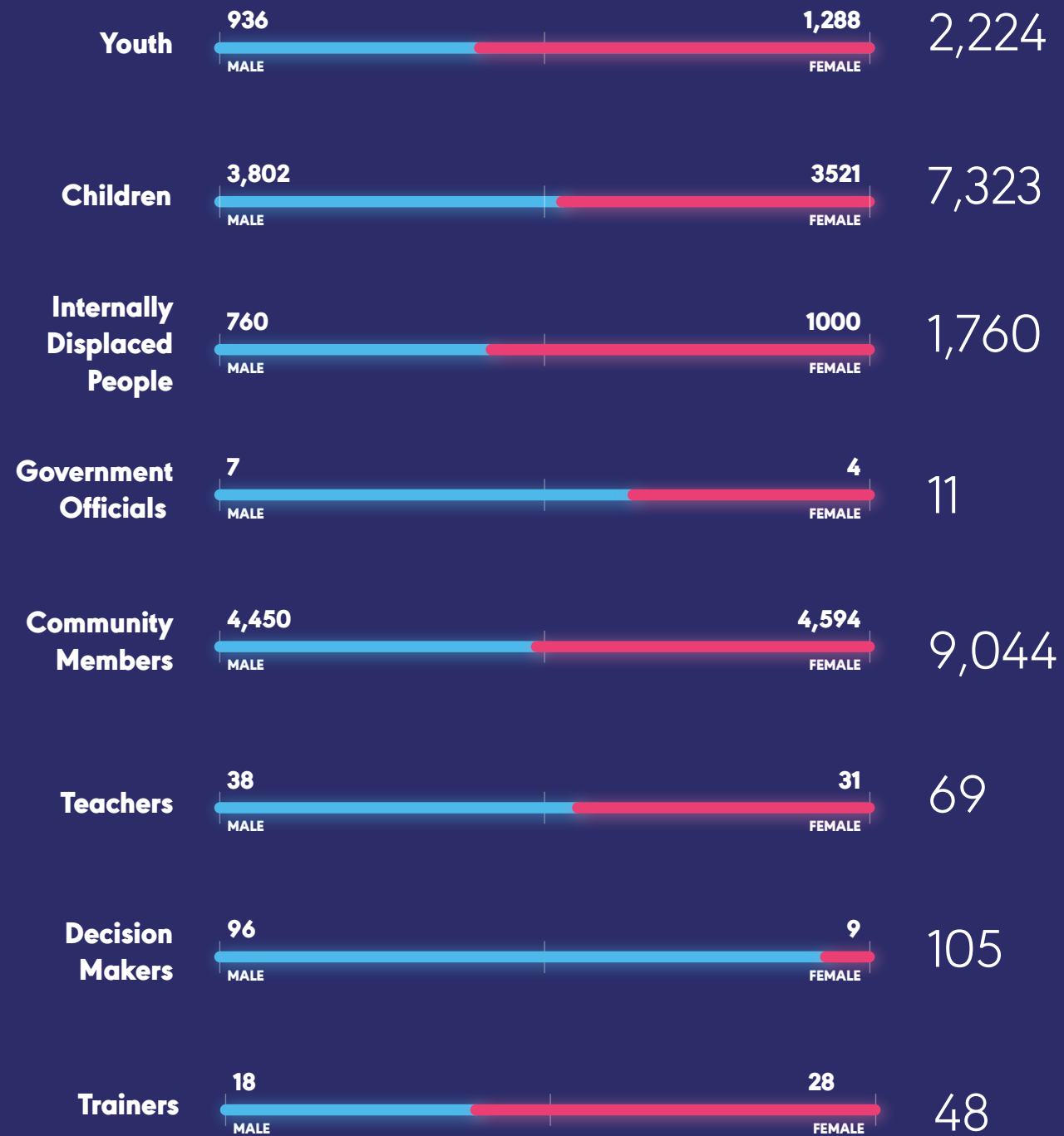
**HAJJA**  
4,981  
2,806 MALE 2,175 FEMALE

**ALHODAIDAH**  
5,185  
1,575 MALE 3,610 FEMALE

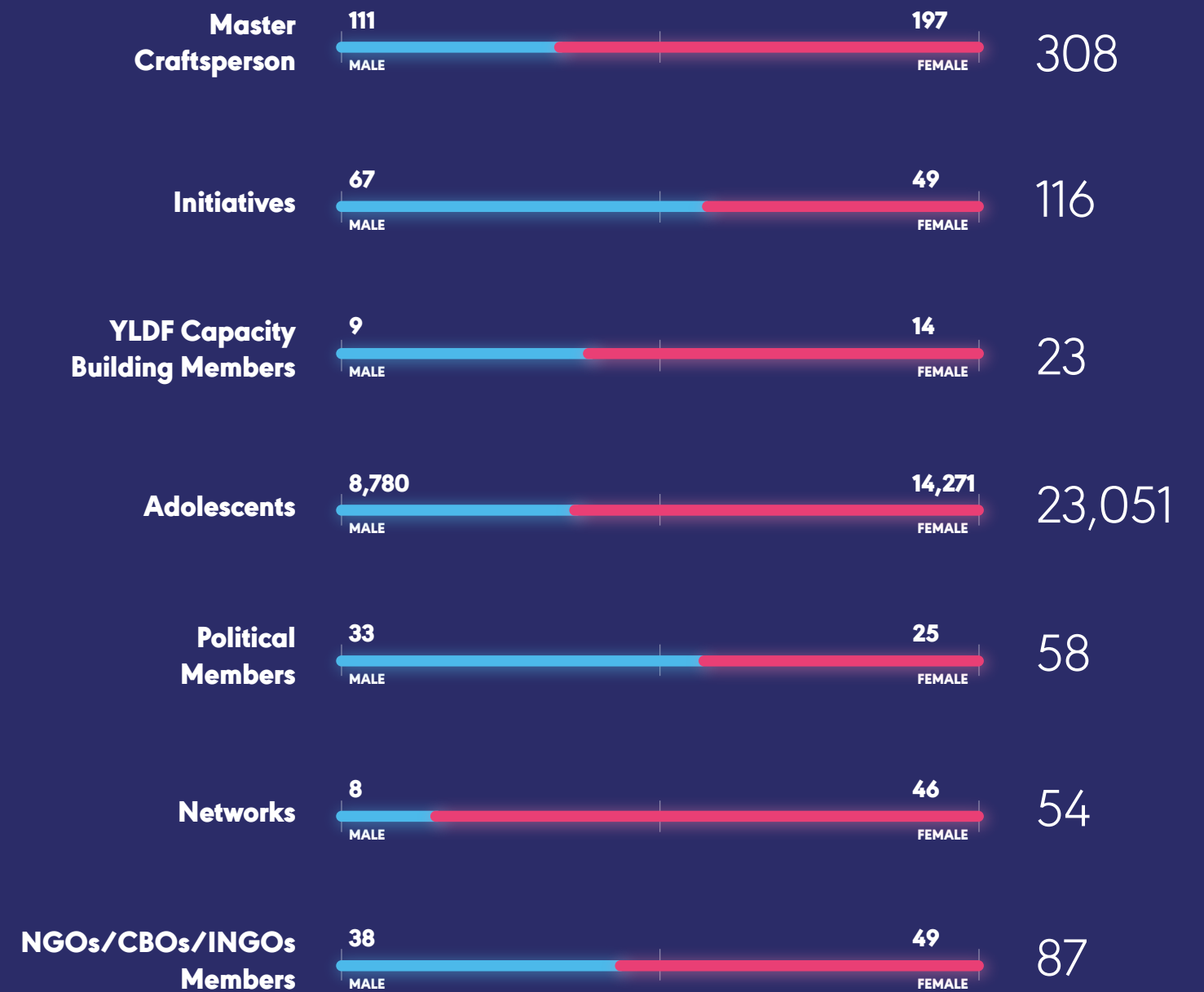
**LAHJ**  
315  
149 MALE 166 FEMALE

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

## CATEGORIZED BY BENEFICIARY TYPE

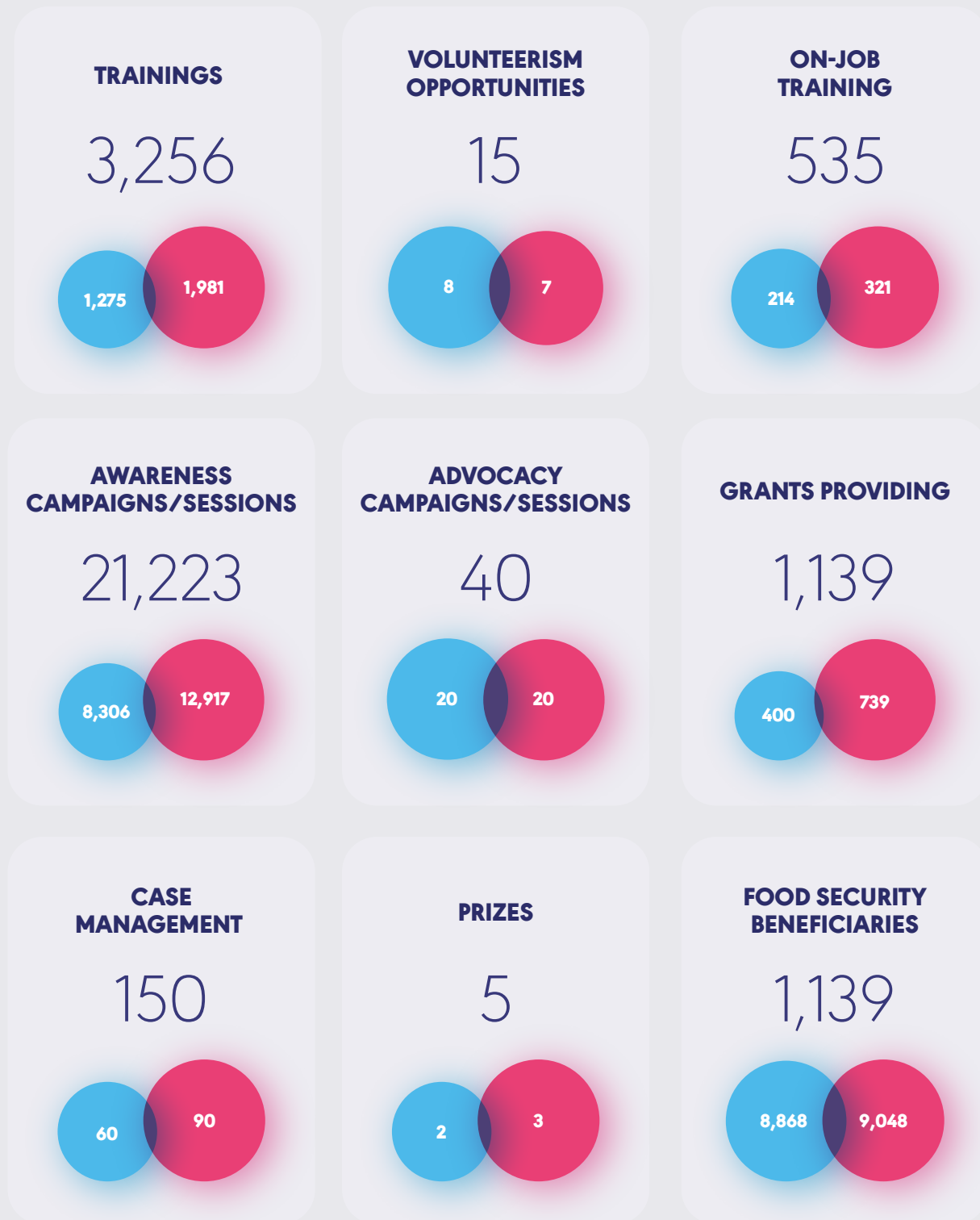


## CATEGORIZED BY BENEFICIARY TYPE



# CATEGORIZED BY ACTIVITY

TOTAL 44,279



● MALE ● FEMALE

# THEMES

ING PEACE BUILDING PEACE BUILDING PEACE BUILDING PEACE BUILDING PEACE BUILDING PEACE BUILDING PEACE BUILDING PEACE BUILDING  
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 VOLUNTEERISM VOLUNTEERISM VOLUNTEERISM VOLUNTEERISM VOLUNTEERISM VOLUNTEERISM VOLUNTEERISM 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





## TRAINING COURSES

- LIFE SKILLS
- ENTREPRENEURSHIP SKILLS
- ENGLISH LANGUAGE
- UNIVERSITY GUIDANCE
- LEADERSHIP
- VOCATIONAL TRAINING
- COMPETENCY-BASED TRAINING
- WORKERS' RIGHTS
- BUSINESS TRAINING
- CAREER GUIDANCE
- CUSTOMER SERVICE
- HUMAN RIGHTS
- EMPLOYMENT SKILLS
- STRATEGIC PLANNING
- EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION
- IMAGE AND BRANDING
- COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
- PEACE BUILDING
- PEER EDUCATION
- INTERNATIONAL COMPUTER DRIVING LICENSE
- GENDER
- ON JOB TRAINING
- FINANCIAL LITERACY
- TRAINING OF TRAINERS
- MICROFINANCE TRAINING
- VOLUNTEERISM FUNDAMENTALS
- OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
- PROVIDING SERVICES FROM GENDER PERSPECTIVE
- EFFECTIVE SPEAKING
- HANDS-ON TRAINING ON CAPTURING THE ESSENCE OF INFORMATION CONCISELY AND WRITING MEDIA STORIES
- WOMEN PARTICIPATION
- INNOVATION
- PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT
- ADVOCACY, NETWORKING AND, LOBBYING
- MEDIATION, ARBITRATION, AND COALITION BUILDING
- CONFLICT SENSITIVITY





### أينش ناولين تعلموا ؟

- البريد الإلكتروني
- مكتبة اللغة الإنجليزية
- دورات في القيادة والمهارات الشخصية
- دورات في الإرشاد الجامعي والبحث العلمي
- الإقامة الدولية بقيادة المسلوب ICDL

# EDUCATION





# TADHAFUR PROGRAM

*“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.”*

## 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.

## PARTNERS



## LOCATION

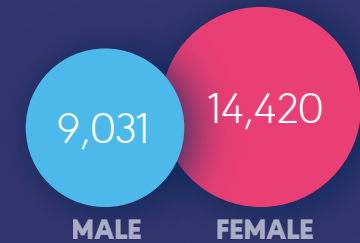
Sana'a- Amanat Al-Assimah, Ibb, Al-Hodaïda, Al-Mahweet<sup>1</sup>, Hajjah, and, Taiz<sup>1</sup> in total of 13 districts

## PROJECT

August 2018 - August 2020

<sup>1</sup> Taiz and Al-Mahweet Activities will be reported in the annual report of year 2020

**23,451**  
TOTAL NUMBER OF  
DIRECT BENEFICIARIES



## BENEFICIARIES TYPES

MALE	FEMALE	TYPES
24	40	COMMUNITY PEER EDUCATORS
8,780	14,271	ADOLESCENTS
38	31	SCHOOL TEACHERS
96	9	RELIGIOUS AND COMMUNITY LEADER
14	20	TRAINERS
20	13	CBOS MEMBERS
59	36	INITIATIVES MEMBERS

## INSTITUTION BENEFICIARIES

20	YOUTH INITIATIVES
12	NGOS/INGOS/CBOS





# YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

*“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

## AIM

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

## PARTNERS

YLP's Alumni

## LOCATION

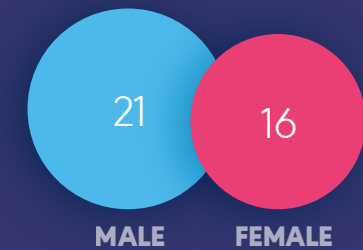
Sana'a

## PROJECT

Nov 2019 - October 2020

# 37

**TOTAL NUMBER OF DIRECT BENEFICIARIES**







# 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

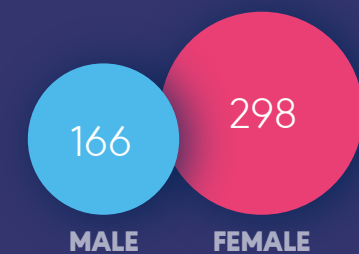
Aden, Hodiedah, Hajah, Lahj and, Sanaa with total of 12 Districts

## PROJECT

June 2017 - May 2019

# 464

**TOTAL NUMBER OF DIRECT BENEFICIARIES**



## BENEFICIARIES TYPES

MALE	FEMALE	TYPES
141	235	APPRENTICES
25	63	MASTER CRAFTS-PERSON





# 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

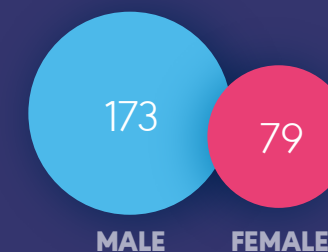
Aden & Sanaa

## 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



# SUMMER TRAINING PROGRAM

*I got benefits in a lot of things, how to choose my university major also I strengthened my confidence.*

One of the participants

## AIM

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

## PARTNERS

**giz**

## LOCATION

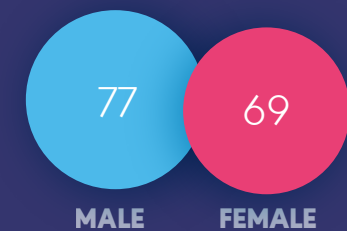
Sana'a

## PROJECT

April 2019 - July 2020

# 146

**TOTAL NUMBER OF DIRECT BENEFICIARIES**



## BENEFICIARIES TYPES

MALE	FEMALE	TYPES
53	46	YOUTH
24	23	COMMUNITY MEMBERS





# VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM

*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

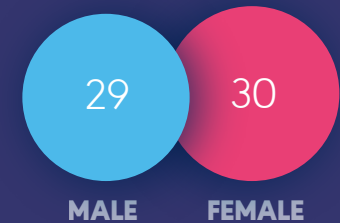
Sana'a

## PROJECT

Every 4 Months

# 59

**TOTAL NUMBER OF DIRECT BENEFICIARIES**







# SOCIAL





# STEP OF PEACE (EXTENDED)

## AIM

To enhance Yemeni women participation in peace processes through linking Track 2 and 3 initiatives to Track 1<sup>1</sup>, 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)

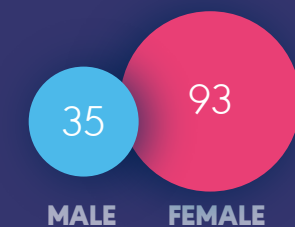
<sup>1</sup> Track 1: Official discussions and negotiations involving and interaction with of high-level political leaders representing different apparatus.

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.

Track 3: It is mainly focused on conflict resolution grassroots level initiatives that often involves organizing meetings, conferences and activities for communities.

# 128

## TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES



## BENEFICIARIES TYPES

MALE	FEMALE	TYPES
15	34	YOUTH
0	4	GOVERNMENT MEMBERS
0	21	NETWORK MEMBER
7	12	NGOS MEMBERS
4	8	TRAINERS
9	14	YLDF TEAM

## INSTITUTION BENEFICIARIES

4	NGOS
4	NETWORKS





# 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

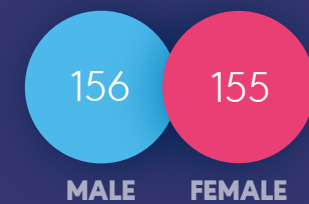
Sana'a

## PROJECT

Extended Project (September 2018 – December 2019)

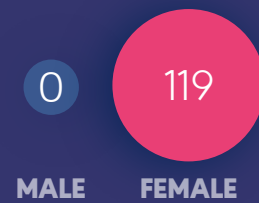
# 311

**TOTAL NUMBER OF DIRECT BENEFICIARIES**



# 119

**TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES**



## BENEFICIARIES TYPES

MALE	FEMALE	TYPES
96	68	YOUTH
33	25	POLITICAL MEMBERS
8	25	NETWORK MEMBERS
11	24	NGOS/INGOS MEMBERS
8	13	INITIATIVES

## INSTITUTION BENEFICIARIES

7	YOUTH INITIATIVES	4	NGOS/INGOS
9	POLITICAL PARTIES	7	NETWORKS



# 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



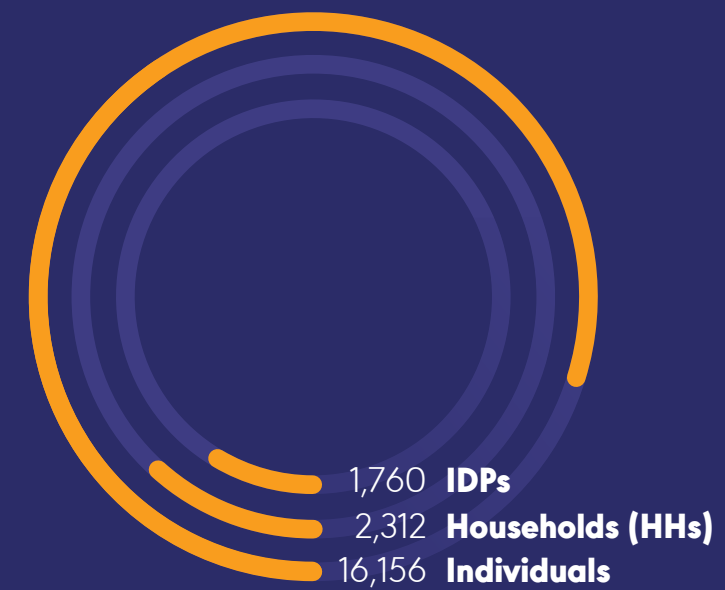
## LOCATION

Sana'a in 2 districts

## PROJECT

January 2019 – September 2019

# DIRECT BENEFICIARIES





# PROJECT STORY

## WOMEN IN POLITICS

By: Kafia Al-Afif – Program Manager at YLDF



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.

*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

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.

# INSPIRING YOUNG LEADERS



## RETURN OF HOPE

*Mohammad Al-Sharjabi*

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 objectiveless 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.



## BECOMING AN ENTREPRENEUR

### 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

Wael, a 20-year-old Tehami 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 fraction of money.

Residents used to navigate these bikes because of their speed and ability to pass crowded cars on long roads and within districts and neighborhoods. People seek these bikes because they are cheap compared to of 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, hastened 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



## NEVER GIVE UP

### Yonus

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.

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 in opening an income-generating project that guarantees him, his family and the families of his employees a decent life.

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