Interim Progress Report
Period: 1 September – 30 April 2025

Photo caption: Ghail Bawazir District Manager talking with a smallholder supported with irrigation canals through the SIERY Project.

Contents

ACRONYMS

ABC	Agri-Business Center
BAs	Business Advisors
BARC	Business Advisory Resource Centre
BCAs	Business Cooperative Associations
BoQs	Bills of Quantities
CS	Community Structure
CoC	Chambers of Commerce
CP4LER	Collaborative Platforms for Local Economic Recovery
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DCDP	District Capacity Development Plan
DCT	District Core Team
DEO	District Education Office
DFA	De Facto Authority
DRP	District Resilience Platform
D2RP	District Resilience & Recovery Plan
DFT	District Facilitation Team
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
FSS	First Stop Shops
IDP	Internally Displaced People
IFC	International Finance Cooperation
IRG	International Recognized Government of Yemen
LA	Local Authority
LED	Local Economic Development
LER	Local Economic Recovery
L2RF	Local Resilience and Recovery Fund
MoPIC	Minister of Planning and International Cooperation
MoLA	Ministry of Local Administration
MFIs	Microfinance Institutions
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
OHS	Occupational Health Safety
OSS	One-Stop Shops
PEM	Public Expenditure Management
RP	Responsible Party
SCMCHA	Supreme Council for the Management and Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SES	Social & Environmental Screening
SMEs	Small & Medium Enterprises
TPMA	Third-Party Monitoring Agent
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UPMT	Urban Planning and Management Team

Project Information

Country	Yemen
Donor	European Union
Project title:	Strengthening Institutional and Economic Resilience in Yemen (SIERY)
EU Contribution Agreement:	MIDEAST/2020/416-174
UNDP Project ID	00122248 / 00131456
Impact	To ensure economic and social wellbeing for Yemeni, in particular for the poorest and most vulnerable
Outcomes	OUTCOME 1 -Increased institutional and socio-economic resilience in targeted districts in Yemen OUTCOME 2 -Improved business environment for economic recovery and employment opportunities
Outputs	Output 1.1: Strengthened Local authorities' capacities to respond to community needs for services in an inclusive and accountable manner. Output 1.2: Improved capacities of public services providers for scaling up the reach out to the most vulnerable. Output 1.3: Strengthened central-local and horizontal relations between local governance stakeholders. Output 2.1: Strengthened linkages/cooperation opportunities between smallholders, SMEs, private sector and MFIs involved in the value chains. Output 2.2.: Increased and de-risked access to financial services for economic agents in promising value chains.
Target governorates	Aden, Hodeidah, Hadramout, Hajjah, Ibb, Lahj, Marib, Sana'a, Taiz
Project Start Date	19 August 2020
Project End Date	18 August 2025
Total Budget	EUR 69,800,000.00 estimated at US$ 81,966,140.00[1]
Total delivery (expenditures & commitments)	US$ 72,848,902.57
UNDP Contacts Person	Zena Ali Ahmad Resident Representative UNDP Yemen zena.ali-ahmad@undp.org Maarten van Driel Chief Technical Advisor – SIERY Project maarten.vandriel@undp.org
Responsible Parties (RPs)	1) Abs Development Organization for Women and Child (ADO), 2) Benevolence Coalition for Humanitarian Relief (BCHR), 3) Generation without Qat (GWQ), 4) Life Makers Meeting Place Organization (LMMPO), 5) Nahda Makers Organization (NMO), 6) National Foundation for Development and Humanitarian Response (NFDHR), 7) Public Works Project (PWP), 8) The Small and Micro Enterprise Promotion Service (SMEPS), 9) SOUL for Development, 10) Tamdeen Youth Foundation (TYF), 11) Yemen Aid, 12) Building Foundation for Development (BFD), 13) Resonate! Yemen, 14) Responsiveness for Relief and Development Foundation (RRD), 14) Qhadaq for Development.

[1] As per EU's Info Euro rate of August 2020.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Supported by the European Union, UNDP Yemen is implementing the *Strengthening Institutional and Economic Resilience in Yemen* (SIERY) Project. Over the last eight months, UNDP Yemen has successfully executed activities aligned with the Description of Action and the Project's objectives, achieving significant outputs. This report presents an overview of interim project achievements, challenges faced, and lessons learned for the period **1 September 2024 to 30 April 2025** and a summary financial status as of 30 April 2025.

Under the **Institutional Resilience component,** the Project has continued to strengthen local authorities' institutional and individual capacities to respond to citizens' public service needs in an inclusive and accountable manner. During the reporting period, 72 local priorities under L2RF were completed, and 1 last one (out of a project total of 177) started in February 2025. These local public service priorities range from road rehabilitation and extension or rehabilitation of water infrastructure to education, health or district government facilities. During the reporting period, over seven (7) million Yemenis (50.5% women) benefited from the rehabilitation of public service priorities. Moreover, Internally Displaced People (IDPs) have participated in the planning and priority-setting process and are significant beneficiaries of the L2RF.

In December 2024, the preparations of the Urbanisation packages were completed and subsequently rolled out by early 2025 in Taiz and Marib. Per governorate, 20 people were trained and formed the Urban Management Plan Team (UMPT). The Marib UMPT consists of 4 women and 16 men, and in Taiz the UMPT is formed by 6 women and 14 men. Another significant development was the planning of the second International Exchange Visit. The planning for this visit was completed by the end of April 2025, and a total of 30 Local Authority and National (MOLA) members will visit Cairo, Egypt, in June 2025.

Under the **Economic Resilience component,** Local Economic Development (LED) in Marib has shown significant progress during this reporting period. The Project expanded business and technical skills to 249 beneficiaries, bringing a total of 3,258 beneficiaries (smallholders, SMEs, enterprises) for income generation and employment prospects to date. Training, financial support, and technical support provided by the project have led to notable improvements in business activities. Additionally, the project established a revolving fund in partnership with a local bank. This fund, with a target value of 1 million USD, aims to benefit smallholders and SME's by providing loans following the microfinancing principles. Lastly, the establishment of the Agri Business Centre (ABC) as well as the First Stop Shop (FSS) has been completed. The combination of the individual trainings, the ABC, the FSS and the revolving fund provides a comprehensive jumping board for economic growth in the agricultural sector. Additionally, 80 women were trained on the processing of Sesame and the marketing of Sesame products, including sanitary products, bakery items and skin care products. This activity proved to be a clear demonstration that women can and are eager to be included in Economic Recovery activities.

During the reporting period, 4 Markets have seen significant progress in construction: Fish Export, Onion & Dates and Honey in Hadramout, and Coffee Export in Sana'a. The construction of these markets is done by local contractors in collaboration with the Local Authorities, and have, so far, created over 700 construction jobs.

The report concludes with a financial analysis of the reporting period 01 September 2024 - 30 April 2025. Key financial metrics indicate that during the reporting period, the project recorded total expenditures and legal commitments of **US$ 27,251,586**,**48,** resulting in cumulative financial delivery of US$ **72,848,902.57** against a multi-year budget of US$ 81,966,140. This reflects a robust delivery rate of **89 percent**, highlighting the project's ongoing commitment to enhancing Yemen's institutional and economic resilience amidst prevailing challenges.

II. BACKGROUND

The project, "Strengthening Institutional and Economic Resilience in Yemen" (SIERY) is a comprehensive multi-year initiative designed to improve economic and social wellbeing for Yemenis, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable population. The overall objective is to address critical development challenges in Yemen, aligning with the European Union's Global Strategy to build resilience through good governance, strengthen the Humanitarian-Development Nexus, and promote private sector development.

SIERY is structured around two key components:

1. Institutional Resilience: This component aims to address the service delivery needs of local populations and underscores the importance of responsive, legitimate local governance in fostering peace and stability from the bottom up (specific objective 1). SIERY provides district authorities with technical support and discretionary funding to collaboratively develop and implement recovery plans with communities, the private sector, and influential local actors. These plans focus on essential service delivery and aim to enhance participatory, inclusive, and accountable governance. The initiative fosters the establishment of a nationwide compact to sustain Yemen's local governance system, thereby supporting peace and state-building efforts. In alignment with Agenda 2030, SIERY emphasizes the imperative of leaving no one behind, particularly women, children, and youth, by promoting innovative and effective strategies to address vulnerabilities across all dimensions of local governance.

2. Economic Resilience: The second component focuses on improving the business environment to facilitate economic recovery and create employment opportunities (specific objective 2). This component empowers private sector actors—primarily small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and smallholders—by enhancing skills development, providing capital support, and promoting job sustainability and creation within selected value chains. SIERY is dedicated to constructing community-prioritized market infrastructure and supporting SMEs in scaling up their businesses. Additionally, it engages banks, networks, and business associations to help mitigate risks associated with the unstable market environment, thereby enabling producers and local authorities to thrive.

The SIERY project operates across 45 districts in nine (9) governorates. While institutional resilience efforts encompass all 45 districts, economic resilience initiatives are specifically targeted at 16 districts across five governorates. Through this dual approach, SIERY aims to foster a resilient, self-sustaining future for Yemen and its people.

Relevant Context

The relevant reporting period **September 2024 – April 2025** was marked by volatility, with regional tensions and complex internal dynamics in Yemen. The war in Gaza, ongoing instability in the Red Sea, and sporadic military actions in DFA-controlled areas have further deteriorated the implementing environment. Despite these pressures, the project has sustained momentum, building on the significant progress achieved in previous phases while adapting to new constraints.

As in prior years, the project's implementation remains highly sensitive to shifts in relations between the international community and Yemeni authorities (including the DFA, IRG, and Governorate/district-level actors). However, the reporting period saw a partial stabilization in engagement frameworks, even as risks persisted. While the distressing effects of the 2024 UN staff detentions and NGO closures in DFA areas lingered, some operational space gradually reopened, allowing for cautious re-engagement.

The banking and liquidity crisis remained a major obstacle, disrupting financial flows and complicating procurement. Yet, the project's decentralized approach continued to shield it from the worst effects of central interference in Aden, while subnational engagement deepened further. Governorate-level authorities increasingly championed SIERY's methodologies, reinforcing local ownership and sustainability.

Key Drivers of Continued Progress:

1. **Local Ownership and Adaptation**
   The project's fourth and fifth years solidified its acceptance among local authorities and businesses, both in IRG- and DFA-controlled areas. District-level counterparts in both regions now actively advocate for SIERY's planning tools, leveraging them to address community needs amid dwindling central resources. In several governorates, authorities have institutionalized elements of the project's approach—such as participatory planning and public-private collaboration—into their regular workflows.
2. **Resilience to Shocks**
   SIERY's flexible mechanisms (e.g. District Facilitation Teams, tailored implementation frameworks) proved critical in navigating renewed disruptions. Field Coordinators played a pivotal role in mediating between central directives and local realities, ensuring continuity even as access constraints fluctuated. The project's tolerance for regional diversity allowed it to be flexible in response to sudden changes, such as the temporary suspension of activities in parts of Hajah following escalated hostilities in early 2025.
3. **Strategic Partnership and Spin-Off Initiative: Area-Based Development (ABD):**
   The ABD approach, codified in UNDP's 2024 guide, gained further traction. In Hadramout, the Governorate's Strategic Plan (aligned with SIERY's D2RP methodology) was finalized and is now ready to be presented to stakeholders in Q3 of 2025, unlocking additional funding. Lahj Governorate advanced its own strategic plan, while Taiz's 2024–2026 Economic and Social Development Plan entered its second year of implementation, with UNDP facilitating coordination among stakeholders.
4. **Economic Development: Growth**
   In Yemen's complex environment, the local economic development initiatives have proven highly effective due to strong collaboration between local authorities and the private sector. This synergy is driving sustainable growth by delivering essential business development services to SMEs and smallholders, especially in agriculture and its downstream value-adding activities. A key element is value chain development, which, by engaging all participants, cultivates a more efficient market-based system. With this robust system in place, improved access to finance became the critical final component, empowering SMEs and smallholders to expand their operations. To that effect, partnerships between banks, Local Authorities, and SIERY resulted in innovative microfinance systems that, due to the involvement of private banks, including their own investments, have a very high chance of becoming sustainable. The key driver of success lies in the project addressing all aspects that foster a business-enabling environment, which secures success.

Unintended Positive Outcomes

The reporting period saw further organic growth of SIERY's influence beyond project objectives:

- Taiz's ABD model inspired similar efforts in Marib, where authorities adopted participatory planning for post-conflict recovery. The same approach is currently being developed in Hadramouth.
- Cross-governorate learning exchanges, for instance, Hadramout's data systems that were shared with Marib, became a regular practice, reducing duplication and fostering standardization.

Looking Ahead

As SIERY approaches its final year, the focus has shifted to institutionalization and exit strategies. The project's legacy — evident in the proliferation of area-based planning, market-driven recovery, and subnational governance innovations — provides a roadmap for future interventions. However, the fragility of Yemen's political economy necessitates continued adaptive management to preserve gains amid uncertainty.

III. PROGRESS TOWARD PROJECT IMPACT, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

This section presents the Project's result chain as outlined in the logical framework – impact, outcomes, and outputs with relevant activities.

3.1 Progress toward project impact

Impact: To ensure economic and social wellbeing for Yemenis, in particular for the poorest and most vulnerable		
Indicators (incl. baseline)	**Year 5 target**	**Summary of achievements**
Indicator 1: Proportion of population below the international poverty line (SDG 1.1.1.) **Baseline:** 18.3%[2]	18.3%	The latest data available is from 2014 and updated data is not expected to be available during the project's lifespan
Indicator 2: Average annual household income **Baseline:** $1,035[3]	$1,035	No further updated or disaggregated data available. Latest GNI per capita data available for Yemen is 2020 – $1,045

[2] International poverty line for Yemen: 18.3% (data 2014). This is the latest data available from the World Bank
[3] World Bank data shows that in a Low Income (LM) country like Yemen, the average annual GNI per capita is $ 1,035.

3.2 Progress toward project outcomes[4]

Outcome (specific objective) 1: Increased institutional and socio-economic resilience in targeted districts in Yemen

Indicators	Year 5 targets	Summary of achievements	Status
Indicator 1.1: Proportion of population living in households with access to essential public services (**SDG 1.4.1**) **Baseline:** 61% (2019)	63%	No survey has been done to ascertain the status. SIERY can only report on the number of direct and indirect[5] beneficiaries in the areas of intervention which is totaling **7,406,728** Yemenis. ❖ Energy: 1,060,326 (506,904 females, 553,422 males) ❖ Education: (112,829 females, 67,449 males) ❖ Health: 1,005,212 (543,629 females, 461,583 males) ❖ Roads: 1,741,053 (844,600 females, 906,453 males) ❖ Sanitation: 2,281,924 (1,040,905 females, 1,241,019 males) ❖ Water: 1,137,935 (529,401 females, 608,534 males)	On track
Indicator 1.2: Primary school attendance rate **Baseline:** 63% (2019)	66%	**99.39%** (school year 2022/2023). The data is derived from schools supported by SIERY in the IRG areas based on District Education Office (DEO) data. In cases where data were fully available, the DEO used data on school capacities.	Achieved

[4] As per amended logframe, targets are cumulative and therefore the summary of achievements in the tables is also cumulative. Figures for the reporting period are in the narrative following the tables.

[5] The baseline data for this indicator are problematic. The 61% mentioned in the baseline is from 2019, but was in turn based upon pre-war data, the most recent one in 2014. Lack of reliable, up-to-date, baseline data, let alone disaggregated or more localized data, is a consistent problem for development Projects in Yemen. The reasons for this are: the fragmentation of central authority, with most technical capacity remaining in Sana'a in the DFA controlled area; unwillingness by the DFA to share these types of data; the significant internal population displacement; the emphasis on humanitarian data by the international community, etcetera. What we can say, however, is that **over 7 million** Yemenis gained improved access to basic education, energy, health, water and other public services which were either not available or with limited access, in 9 targeted governorates.

Outcome (specific objective) 2: Improved business environment for economy recovery and employment opportunities

Indicators	Year 5 targets	Summary of achievements	Status
Indicator 2.1: Number of people benefiting from jobs and improved livelihoods in crisis or post-crisis settings. **Baseline**: 4,930 (2019)	48,000	**35,945** people benefited from jobs and improved livelihoods.	On-track
Indicator 2.2: Proportion of women among beneficiaries of recovery programmes (Governorates) **Baseline:** 30%[6] (2019)	33%	**37%** of the beneficiaries participating in and/or benefiting from the economic recovery programs were women.	Surpassed
Indicator 2.3: Number of producers/retailers/buyers etc. benefited from the market infrastructure rehabilitation. **Baseline:** 0 (2019)	20,000	**Zero (0)** producers/retailers/buyers, etc., benefitting from the market infrastructure as market construction started in September 2024 and is ongoing.	Delayed
Indicator 2.4: Number of existing business associations with improved financial capacity at district level including funding for business advisory services through SIERY. **Baseline:** 0 (2019)	6	**Seven (7)** business associations in Aden and Hadramawt governorates have been reactivated in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce (CoCs).	Surpassed

[6] Reference point for the baseline is UNDP Yemen Integrated Results and Resource Framework updated on 1 January 2021. This indicator is reported on an annual basis, not cumulative. The result /achievement presented here is accumulative (37%).

3.3 Progress toward project outputs[7]

Output 1.1: Strengthened local authorities' capacities to respond to community needs for services in an inclusive and accountable manner.

Indicators	Year 5 targets	Summary of achievements	Status
Indicator 1.1.1: Number of gender-responsive District Capacity Development Plans [developed/implemented] with support of District Facilitation Teams with support of the EU-funded intervention. **Baseline:** 0 (2019)	40 districts	**45** gender-responsive District Capacity Development Plans developed.	Achieved
Indicator 1.1.2: Number of Community Structures in target areas that are connected to district authorities through arrangements for managing service delivery and conflict resolution. **Baseline:** 0 (2019)	35	**45** Community Structures whose members are able to support district authorities in managing basic service delivery and conflict resolution.	Achieved
Indicator 1.1.3: Percentage of (i) women and (ii) youth [18-35] among participants of training activities of the project with increased knowledge/skills **Baseline:** 0 (2019)	Women: 30% Youth: 10%	(i) Women: **26%**[8] (ii) Youth: **23%**[9] Total: **3,854** participants Women: 1,014; men: 2,840 Youth: 882 Training topics included: ❖ Public Expenditure Management (PEM) ❖ Participatory planning and service delivery monitoring ❖ Gender and youth-sensitive approaches ❖ Local governance system ❖ Conflict-sensitive local governance ❖ District Risk Management ❖ Data management ❖ Basic Administrative and Financial Training During the reporting period:	(i) Partially achieved (ii) Achieved

[7] As per amended logframe, targets are cumulative and therefore the summary of achievements in the tables is also cumulative. Figures for the reporting period are in the narrative following the tables.
[8] **Women** participating in training increased their knowledge as a result of training by 39 percentage points (from 46% at the pre-test to 85% at the post-test.
[9] **Youth** increased their knowledge and skills by 34 percentage points (from a 51% at the pre-test to 85% at the post-test).

		▪ Urban planning and development for Urban Planning and Management Teams (UPMTs) ▪ Training for COCA headquarters and its branches [10 governorates] on Preparing Audit Reports and Legal Adaptation. ▪ Training for Public Works offices on Project Technical Design and Costing	
Indicator 1.1.4: Percentage of District Authorities with functional Women's Affairs Units **Baseline**:7% (2019)	60%	**47%**[10]	Partially achieved

Activity 1.1.1 Governorate authorities have the capacities, tools, and incentives to provide better technical guidance and capacity development to district authorities.

During this reporting period, the project successfully **institutionalized** the SIERY Project Model within the IRG areas by transitioning its participatory structures—District Recovery Platforms (DRPs), District Core Teams (DCTs), and District Facilitation Teams (DFTs)—into sustainable governance frameworks. Through comprehensive SWOT analyses, stakeholder workshops, and capacity-building programs, the project developed a legally grounded strategy to integrate these structures into Yemen's decentralization policies, aligning with the *Local Authority Law (No. 4/2000)*. Key milestones included training over 300 stakeholders (30% women) across six governorates, drafting Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) to clarify roles, and creating standardized tools for replication. The project also established monitoring frameworks and advocated for diversified funding mechanisms, reducing reliance on external aid. Despite challenges such as political instability and gender representation gaps, the project strengthened local ownership, with DRPs now embedded in MoPIC's operational agendas, ensuring long-term resilience and inclusive recovery.

The initiative achieved embedding community-driven governance into Yemen's fragile context. DRPs, DCTs, and DFTs evolved from project-dependent entities into semi-formalized institutions, evidenced by their adoption into local authority workflows and legal frameworks. For example, a 3-day capacity-building workshop in Aden (September 16–18, 2024) trained 31 participants (4 women, 27 men) from MoPIC offices, equipping them to replicate the model. The SWOT analyses covered 18 districts, revealing strengths like inclusive planning in Aden and gaps like funding dependencies. Post-training, 77.5% of participants demonstrated competency in institutionalizing SIERY structures, and digital tools (e.g., mobile data apps) were deployed to streamline monitoring. Partnerships with microfinance institutions (MFIs) and the private sector broadened financial inputs towards the plans ~~funding~~, while governorate-level decrees aligned DRPs with Yemen's *Local Authority Law*. These outcomes not only fortified subnational governance but also scaled the model's reach, with MoPIC adopting SIERY methodologies into its core agendas for long-term resilience.

[10] 21 units in the IRG area are considered fully functional, in the DFA controlled area due to sensitivities, only the "hard" support with infrastructure was allowed and it cannot be assessed how much this increased the functionality as no assessments were permitted.

A 3-day capacity-building workshop for participants from MoPIC in Aden, September 2025. @UNDP

Activity 1.1.2 Linkages between district authorities and communities are strengthened through the activation of representative community structures*.*

This activity has been completed and reported in the previous report.

Activity 1.1.3 District authorities are more capable of assessing needs, planning, implementing, and reporting on their achievements in a participatory and inclusive manner.

This activity has been completed and reported in the previous report.

Activity 1.1.4 District authorities manage their human and financial resources more efficiently and accountably.

~~outcomes.~~
During the reporting period, the most significant accomplishment was the development and implementation of District Accountability Improvement Plans (DAIPs). The SIERY team engaged 21 districts through coaching and mentoring sessions, completing 51 out of 63 planned sessions. These efforts involved 104 participants, including 9 women, and resulted in the formulation of 11 DAIPs. The sessions strengthened local authorities' understanding of accountability mechanisms and laid the groundwork for sustainable governance improvements.

The team also finalized a comprehensive resource and revenue assessment study, overcoming initial delays in Aden and Lahj governorates. Data collection was completed with 28 additional interviews and 5 focus group discussions, achieving full participation from key offices such as Finance, Tax, and Planning. The findings were compiled into a report, and an advocacy session in Aden gathered feedback from stakeholders to refine revenue reform recommendations.

A three-day training workshop on government auditing for Control Management and Internal Audit units saw 31 participants (7 women) from five governorates. Pre- and post-test results revealed a 47.68% improvement in participants' knowledge, demonstrating the effectiveness of the training. Similarly, Public Works Offices (PWOs) received targeted support, with 30 staff members (4 women) enhancing their skills in project design and costing, leading to a 38.83% increase in technical proficiency.

A secondary but no less important aspect was that the teams from the 5 governorates, for the first time in many years, met in person. Experience and knowledge sharing added greatly to the workshop.

A group picture in front of Coral Hotel on the last day of training sessions. @UNDP

The project team's collaboration with the Central Organization for Control and Auditing (COCA) marked a significant milestone. Recognizing the importance of uniform capacity-building across all governorates under the IRG, the team and COCA expanded the training's scope beyond the initially targeted areas. The four-day workshop for 33 COCA staff (4 women) included participants from Shabwa, Al-Mahrah, Abyan, and Al-Dalea—ensuring comprehensive coverage of IRG-affiliated governorates. Only Socotra was unable to attend due to flight constraints. Focus on audit reporting and legal adaptation resulted in boosting participants' knowledge by over 40% measured by comparing pre- and posttests for each participant. Despite initial logistical hurdles, the training underscored COCA's critical role in strengthening oversight and accountability. This IRG-wide approach was driven by the critical need for standardized auditing and accountability practices nationwide, as partial training would have created disparities in institutional capabilities. The initiative contributed to 'a first step towards strengthening COCA's oversight functions from a technical and operational perspective and, crucially, SIERY provided space for important relationships around important topics by reconnecting national and local entities, fostering collaboration to restore accountability mechanisms ~~Yemen~~.

Output 1.2: Improved capacities of public service providers for scaling up the outreach to the most vulnerable

Indicators	Year 5 targets	Summary of achievements	Status
Indicator 1.2.1 Percentage of women in representative structures as part of SIERY intervention (Community Structures, District Recovery Platforms). **Baseline:** 0% (2019)	20%	**28%** of members in Community Structures across nine governorates are women.	Surpassed
Indicator 1.2.2 Number of gender-responsive recovery plans (a) for service delivery (district), (b) for the local	a)130 b) 12	a) **134** gender-responsive recovery plans for district service delivery implemented across nine governorates.	a) Surpassed b) Partially achieved

economy (governorate) [developed/implemented] with support of the EU-funded intervention. **Baseline:** a) 0: b) 0 (2019)		b) **Six (6)** gender-responsive recovery plans for the governorate's local economy are completed.	
Indicator 1.2.3 Number of local authorities' representatives trained in locally relevant topics with support of the EU-funded intervention (disaggregated by sex). **Baseline:** 0 (2019)	Total: **400** local authorities Women:120 (30%) Men: 280 (70%)	Total: **654** Women: **198** (30%) Men: **456 (**70%)	Surpassed
Indicator 1.2.4 Number of district- and governorate-level projects funded via the LR2F. **Baseline:** 0 (2019)	**170** district-and governorate-level projects	**177** district-and-governorate-level projects funded via the L2RF. Breakdown: **51** district- and governorate-level projects (2021 L2RF) completed. **59** district- and governorate-level projects (2022 L2RF) completed. **67** district- and governorate-level projects (2023 L2RF) completed.	Achieved
Indicator 1.2.5 Number of students benefiting from schools' rehabilitations disaggregated by sex. **Baseline:** 0 (2019)	Total: 250,000 Girls:125,000 Boys:125,000	Total: **168,380**[11] (67%) Girls: **108,398** (64%) Boys: **59,962** (36%)	Partially achieved
Indicator 1.2.6 Number of districts with increase of investment budget (actual) through funding of priority projects through L2RF **Baseline:** 0 (2019)	43 districts	**45** districts 21 districts in the IRG area and 24 districts in the DFA-controlled area have increased their investment budget (actual) by funding priority projects through L2RF.	Achieved

Activity 1.2.1. Pathways for resilience and recovery of basic and social services are identified by inclusive local platforms and reflected in annual plans.

This activity has been completed and reported in the previous report.

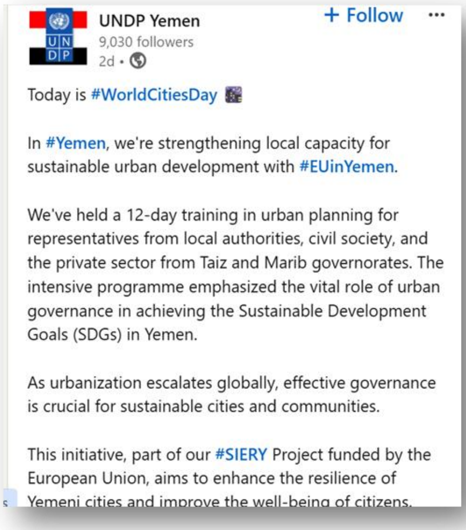
[11] The SIERY project set the priorities under the L2RF in collaboration with the Local Authorities through the standard participatory process. When setting the targets for the indicator, the team had envisaged a similar prioritisation of education Projects as previously under the Education Component. This proved not to be the case with many districts prioritising non-education Projects.

Activity 1.2.2. Key sustainable development dimensions (local economy, resilient urbanization) are considered by local authorities and initial actions taken in line with the SDGs.

The project's key achievement during the reporting period was the successful establishment of Urban Planning and Management Teams (UPMTs) in Marib and Taiz, composed of representatives from relevant district and governorate offices, the private sector, and CSOs. These teams underwent comprehensive training and continuous mentorship on urban governance aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The capacity-building program included hands-on coaching in strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring and evaluation. At the time of the activity's conclusion, UPMTs demonstrated enhanced technical competencies and confidence in leading urban resilience planning processes, ensuring local ownership and institutional sustainability.

Following intensive discussions with local authorities in Marib and Taiz to guarantee relevance and applicability, the project finalized training curricula and materials. A 12-day urban planning training session was then conducted, engaging local authorities, civil society organizations, and private sector representatives from both governorates. The program emphasized the critical role of urban governance in achieving the SDGs in Yemen, with 40 participants (10 women, 30 men—20 from Taiz and Marib, respectively) in attendance. The training was structured into six progressive modules, each incorporating interactive elements, real-world examples, and group discussions to reinforce learning. The modules covered: (1) Introduction to SDGs and Urbanization in Yemen; (2) Role of Urban Governance in SDG Achievement; (3) Specific Roles and Responsibilities of Actors; (4) Tools and Strategies for SDG Implementation; (5) Legal and Policy Framework in Yemen; and (6) Action Planning and Capacity Building.

Practical exercises were a core component of the training, including data collection and analysis for urban planning. Participants practiced designing surveys and utilizing GIS tools, underscoring the importance of data-driven decision-making. A major outcome was the development of tailored action plans by each participant, addressing SDGs relevant to their local contexts and serving as practical roadmaps for sustainable urban development.



A detailed situational analysis was conducted for Marib and Taiz, examining governance structures, resource allocation, service provision, demographics (including internally displaced persons, or IDPs), and key economic sectors. The study built on existing assessments and incorporated local insights to identify urban vulnerabilities, growth patterns, and opportunities, ensuring that subsequent strategies were contextually grounded.

A targeted SWOT analysis was also performed for each city, focusing on critical SDG dimensions such as poverty reduction (Goal 1), health (Goal 3), education (Goal 4), gender equality (Goal 5), water and sanitation (Goal 6), decent work (Goal 8), infrastructure (Goal 9), sustainable cities (Goal 11), climate action (Goal 13), and strong institutions (Goal 16). This analysis identified institutional gaps, risks, and resilience-building opportunities, shaping strategic priorities for both locations.

With technical support, the UPMTs developed Resilient Urbanization Strategies for Marib and Taiz, centered on public service delivery and urban economic development. These strategies were co-created through inclusive stakeholder engagement, involving local communities, businesses and authorities. A portfolio of priority projects was identified and assessed for feasibility, impact, and alignment with community needs, preparing them for potential funding under the now locally adopted Local Resilience and Recovery Fund (LRRF).

To enhance long-term planning efficiency, the project is now introducing advanced technologies such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and decision-support systems (DSS). UPMTs received training in spatial data analysis and participatory mapping tools, enabling evidence-based decision-making. These technologies were integrated into M&E frameworks to track progress and adapt strategies dynamically. GIS and DSS not only improve planning accuracy but also established a foundation for scalable, data-driven urban governance in Yemen. The next reporting period will detail the equipment and tools to be provided to authorities, further supporting their efforts to institutionalize resilient urbanization in their planning processes.

A group discussion during training and consultation sessions in the city of Marib, April 2025. @UNDP

Activity 1.2.3: Multi-purpose local recovery funding supports the implementation of local priorities.

In this reporting period, the Project completed the last 72 local priorities under L2RF2023 funding with just one project outstanding in Marib. From L2RF 2022, the last 6 were completed, and from L2RF 2023, the remaining 66 were completed.

Considering a total of 177 L2RF projects over the project lifetime, this leaves only 1 L2RF 2023 project outstanding: The Agricultural Office rehabilitation in Marib. This project was selected in 2023 but could not be started at first, following issues with IDPs that were housed there, and the time and effort it took to relocate them. By late 2024, the relocation of the IDPs was completed and the project was back on track. Rehabilitation started in February 2025 with an estimated completion by the end of June 2025.

Testimonies of Impact and Recognition

Water services

"We saved money that was spent on buying water from a vendor through water trucking", a male participant from Al-Mansoura District in Aden.

"We used to buy water for 16 to 17 thousand riyals a month instead of spending the money on food", a male participant from Khur Maksar District in Aden.

"The water project is considered a priority because before the project we felt tired and miserable", a female participant from the Al-Buraiqah district in Aden

Sanitation services

"This his is the most important need. For years we suffered from the overflowing and stagnant sewage", a male participant from Bir Basha area in Al-Mudhaffar District in Taiz.

"The bad smell spreading in the house was unbearable to sit at home" — A Female participant of the Shihr District in Hadhramaut.

"The project is considered a priority, as previously the sewerages were frequently clogged during rainfall, and the sewage water entered the homes, and the street was like a sea of sewage overflows and unpleasant odors", a female participant from Al-Qahirah District in Taiz

Launching of Veterinary and Agricultural Extension Center in Tuban District, Lahj Governorate. @UNDP

The Governor of Hajjah inspects the progress of a road paving project in Najrah district. @UNDP

Activity 1.2.4. Integrated support to restoring education services in affected communities helps restore livelihoods, stability and social cohesion.

This activity was completed in 2023 with the equipment of selected schools with essential furniture.

Output 1.3: Strengthened central-local and horizontal relations between local governance stakeholders.

Indicators	Year 5 targets	Summary of achievements	Status
Indicator 1.3.1: Number of dialogue events between local and central authorities with the support of the EU-funded intervention. Baseline: 0 (2019)	One (1) dialogue event	One dialogue event was conducted in September 2024.	Achieved
Indicator 1.3.2: # of women's affairs units in targeted central administrations producing gender mainstreaming strategy notes, guidelines facilitation/support or tools with support of the EU-funded intervention. Baseline: 0 (2019)	Four (4) women's affairs units	One (1) national gender mainstreaming strategy has been developed and under implementation	Partially achieved [12]
Indicator 1.3.3: % of Yemeni women among local governance representatives at international peer exchange events organised with support of the EU-funded intervention. Baseline: 0 (2019)	20%	**9%** There was no international peer exchange event conducted during the reporting period. The Project is planned for an International exchange event in Q2 2025.	Partially achieved

Activity 1.3.1. Regulatory and institutional measures needed to restore functional central-local relations are taken.

The activity was completed and indicated in the previous report.

[12] The SIERY Gender Specialist under guidance from the National Coordinator for Institutional Resilience completed the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy by mid April 2025. The roll-out targeting the four women's affair units is ongoing.

Activity 1.3.2: Capacities of key central authorities to support the resilience of local governance system strengthened.

This activity was completed and reported previously.

Activity 1.3.3: Platforms of local governance actors, including local authorities, are fostered, strengthened and connected to international peer support networks.

The platforms established for local governance actors that aim to strengthen inter-district coordination and cooperation for service delivery and local economic development have been established and elaborated, as reported in the past report under **Activity 1.2.2.**

In the previous report, the Project also stated the possibility of an exchange visit for Local Authorities to Egypt. The Project decided to organize a two-day event in Amman, inviting the respective local authorities, and making every effort to ensure that women are part of the selected delegations. The concept has been prepared, and the timeframe has been confirmed by UNDP and the EU Delegation.

Output 2.1: Strengthened linkages/cooperation opportunities between smallholders, SMEs, private sector and MFIs involved in the value chains.

Indicators	Year 5 targets	Summary of achievements	Status
Indicator 2.1.1: Number of persons with developed capacities on business and technical skills or applied skills for income generation or employment prospects (disaggregated by sex, age) with support of the EU-funded intervention. **Baseline**: 0 (2019)	Total: 3,000 Women: 900 Men: 2,100 Youth: 300 Adult: 2,700	**3,258** have developed capacities in business and technical skills. Women: 1,444 Men: 1,814 Youth: 918 Adult: 2,340	Surpassed
Indicator 2.1.2: Number of local SMEs and producer groups in priority sectors supported by the EU-funded intervention disaggregated by gender of owner. **Baseline:** 0 (2019)	Total: 900 Women: 270 Men: 630	**580** SMEs and **33** producer groups received support through the EU-funded intervention (total: **613**) Total SMEs: 580 Women-led SMEs: 79 Men-led SMEs: 501 Total producer groups: 33[13] Women-led producer groups: 33 Men-led producer groups: 0	Partially achieved

[13] Producer groups: dairy producers from Hodeidah (18), milk collecting center (2), 81 women-in value chain who formed groups (13).

Indicator 2.1.3: Number of long-term jobs and employment supported/sustained by the EU (EU RF 2.12) **Baseline:** 0 (2019)	Total: 6,500 jobs Women: 1,950 Men: 4,050 Youth: 650 Adult: 5,850	**6,599** long-term jobs were supported/sustained through smallholders and SMEs. Women: 2,089; Men: 4,510 Youth: 4,446; Adult: 2,153	Surpassed
Indicator 2.1.4: Number of (i) smallholders and (ii) SMEs that have access to business services. **Baseline:** 0	Total: 1,200 Smallholders: 800 SMEs: 400	A total of **844** SMEs and smallholders from Aden and Hadramawt have access to business services. SMEs: ▪ Aden: **89** (7 women led, 82 men led) ▪ Hadramawt: **755** (197 women led, 558 men led) Smallholders: ▪ Hadramawt: **95** (67 women led, 29 men led)	Partially achieved

Activity 2.1.1: Enhanced business and technical skill development on value chain approach for medium and long-term income generation and employment prospects.

The SIERY project has completed the value chain study for the sesame sector in Marib. Linked to the selected sectors, during the reporting period, need-based business skills capacity building was conducted for 172 smallholder farmers from Marib. It is noteworthy that this activity is still ongoing, but not included in this report, considering the reporting end-date of April 2025.

The 172 Sesame farmers were trained on various topics: definitions and knowledge about good agricultural practices, farmland management, and financial management of agricultural costs. The goal was to enhance sesame farmers' productivity, improve crop quality, and promote the sustainability of their farming operations.

The RP manager and the trainer kick-off the training for farmers in Marib. @UNDP

This training was one of the activities of the value chain development and support for building technical, financial, and commercial capacities and skills, and accessing finance for SMEs in Marib Governorate.

Following the training, the smallholder farmers received agricultural inputs, including sesame seeds and fertilizers. The Agricultural Research Station in Marib Governorate oversaw the inspection of all agricultural inputs and granted their approval before transportation to the RP's warehouse.

The farmer collects agricultural inputs, sesame seeds, and fertilizers from the distribution point. @UNDP

In addition to training for farmers, the Project provided coaching to 80 women on processing/producing added value products of Sesame, including branding, packaging and promotion. The selection of training and coaching topics were conducted upon consultation with several Vocational Training Centers. The topics included: (a) product development using Sesame; (b) entrepreneurship and marketing.

The participants practicing a technique on how to make Sesame Halawa during the training session in April 2025. @UNDP

Activity 2.1.2. Improved networks of producers (smallholders, SMEs), private sectors and microfinance institutions to strengthen the existing value chain association at district level.

The Project organized a workshop inviting existing agricultural associations in Marib City and Marib district. The workshop aimed at clarifying the role of these associations in supporting farmers and enhancing agricultural products and fostering a common interest among groups of farmers and agricultural workers. These associations play a crucial role in improving farmers' conditions, boosting their competitiveness in the market, and increasing their income. Additionally, agricultural cooperatives offer technical support and provide essential resources and equipment to enhance the efficiency of agricultural production. They are also contributing to marketing of agricultural products, improving market opportunities for their members.

Activity 2.1.3. Enhanced business advisory support and assistance to smallholders and SMEs to improve business continuity, risk management, marketing, and expansion of business.

A comprehensive capacity building to establish a proficient pool of experts and consultants for Agri-Business Centre (ABC) and First Stop Shop (FSS) started.

A total of **43** Agronomists for ABC participated in a 10-day training of trainers (ToT). While **45** Local Consultants for FSS attended a two-day ToT. The training program encompassed agricultural business expansion, land management practices, and financial and cost accounting for smallholders, catering to the specific requirements and obstacles encountered by SMEs and smallholders within the target industry. These tailored curricula, inclusive of any supplementary modules essential for the project, are under the ownership of FSS and ABC, encompassing a wide array of supportive and developmental aspects for SMEs and smallholders.

Output 2.2: Increased and de-risked access to financial services for economic agents in promising value chains

Indicators	Year 5 targets	Summary of achievements	Status
Indicator 2.2.1: Number of (a) gender-sensitive market facilities and (b) related shops/stalls established with support of the EU-funded intervention. Baseline: (a) 0; (b) 0 (2019).	(a) Market facilities: 6 (b) related shops/stalls: 100	Construction of 4 markets underway Completed tendering of respective market equipment and furniture	In progress
Indicator 2.2.2: Number of beneficiaries (a) individuals and (b) SMEs/business associations receiving loans with the support of the EU-funded interventions. **Baseline:** (a) 0; (b) 0 (2019).	Total: 500 (a) Individuals: 350 (b) SMEs: 150	**Zero (0)** loans have been paid The revolving fund is being established with Al Amal Bank.	In progress

Activity 2.2.1. Construction of market facilities and infrastructures have improved access and services for smallholders, SMEs, and private sectors to improve productivity.

The construction of the honey market in Tarim and the Date & Onion market in Al Qatn has commenced in September 2024, while the other projects (Fish Export Centre in Mukalla, the coffee market in Manakha) have started in October 2024. Below is the matrix summarizing the progress of the market infrastructures

Name	Location	Progress (%)
Honey market	Al Qatn District, Hadramawt	22.43%
Dates & Onion market	Tarim District, Hadramawt	43.78%
Fish export center	Al Mukalla, Hadramawt	21.00%
Coffee Market	Al Manakha district, Sana'a	40.50%

The training for key market stakeholders (such as market management, shop owners, buyers, and suppliers) to institutionalize the market operations and ensure quality, efficiency and sustainability of the markets/export centres beyond the project period was re-scheduled from November 2024 to July 2025, approaching the completion of the markets for maximizing the impact of training.

In addition, the Project has launched tenders for the provision and installation of equipment for the five markets (submission for quotations from the companies between 20 February and 23 February 2025).

It is also worth mentioning that the Project conducted a small baseline assessment to map out potential beneficiaries that will benefit directly and indirectly from the construction of market infrastructures, as indicated in the table below:

Type of market	#Companies and traders	# direct Job Opportunities in each market	#Producers (Farmers, Fishermen or Beekeepers)	#Distributors (Transporters)	#No. of benefitting Governorates
Honey market	30	18	2,000	20	5 governorates
Dates market	17	20	600	64	1 governorate
Onion market	21	20	600	224	5 governorate
Coffee market	32	21	1,100	133	1 governorate
Fish export center Mukalla	101	74	26,000	8,200	4 governorates
	201	**153**	**30,300**	**8,641**	

Initially, the market establishment plan included a fifth market: the Fish Export Market in Aden. This market was canceled following a complex land dispute. A full explanation is included below under chapter 3.4.

Activity 2.2.2. Improved access to microfinance services (capital and grant) for the recovery of smallholders, small and medium enterprises with good potential for job creation and income generation.

The Project has been engaging with Al-Amal Bank in Marib for local revolving funds. At the time of reporting, the Project is delivering capacity-building for 100 SMEs, providing technical support to develop a comprehensive business plan. The Project has deposited 50% of the fund Al-Amal Bank, and subsequently Al-Amal Bank provided the other 50%. The entire loan allocated for the SMEs will be in a separate account as a revolving fund.

In order to reach the targeted beneficiaries and market the fund, Al-Amal Bank is planning to deliver a microfinance session targeted for 200 Sesame farmers with the support of the newly established Agri-business center (ABC) under the auspices of the Local Authorities in Marib.

3.4 Changes introduced during the reporting period

During the reporting period, the Project implemented several changes in response to the practical realities encountered on the ground. Most of these adjustments have been detailed in the Progress Report under their respective activity headings. Below is a summary of the key changes made.

1. **Cancellation of the Aden Fish Export Centre**: Since the commencement of construction, the project has faced persistent and unforeseen challenges related to land ownership disputes at the designated site. Despite the possession of all necessary land ownership documentation and approvals from both central (Prime Minister, Free Zone Authority) and local (Governorate and District) authorities, the disputes have significantly hindered progress. Efforts by local authorities to resolve the disputes have proven ineffective, culminating in the need to reassess the feasibility of the project. In addition, the decision to cancel the construction project is based on the following insurmountable obstacles:
   (a) **Repeated Obstruction of the Project Site**: The construction site has been repeatedly obstructed by local security forces acting on ownership claims made by the Authority on Television and Broadcasting.
   (b) **Inability of Local Authorities to Resolve Disputes**: Local authorities have failed to resolve the land disputes or provide the necessary protection to the site. This is evidenced by an official correspondence between the Aden Governor and the Deputy Minister of Television and Podcasting on 14 March 2024, which bypassed the Local Authorities (LAs) and the UNDP/SIERY project.
   (c) **Protracted Legal Resolution**: Despite the SIERY project possessing legally approved establishment laws, land ownership documents, and stamped project designs, the resolution of these disputes through legal channels would take considerable time. Such delays posed a significant risk of exceeding the SIERY project's scheduled conclusion in August 2024.

   The EU was continuously kept informed during this process. The obstacles mentioned above prompted the SIERY team and the EU by mid-December 2024 to agree to suspend the market construction during SIERY's implementation period and reallocated the budget. This was again discussed and agreed upon during the Project Board Meeting in February 2025.

2. **De-prioritization of resilient urbanization in the DFA area**: After significant efforts and time (4 months) of intensive coordination and communication with local authorities in the DFA area, the permit to implement resilient urbanization activities in the DFA area has yet to be received. In progress meetings with the EU the decision was made to deprioritize this activity in the DFA area.

3. **Re-prioritization of resilient urbanization in the IRG area**: Following the de-prioritization of resilient urbanization in the DFA area, the Project decided to increase the activities in the IRG area: Marib and Taiz. This change has been communicated to and agreed upon with the EU Delegation during the monthly progress

4. **Modification of approaches and targeted departments to implement key activity under accountability standard** (*Activity 1.1.4.5. Support (Technically/Logistically) to Technical Units at the governorate level to enhance project technical design and costing*). During the assessment phase, the Project discovered that the Technical Unit responsible for a project's designing and budgeting at the governorate level no longer existed. Only Marib and Taiz governorates have the Technical Units. Therefore, the Project shifted the main target to other relevant Departments such as the Public Works and Roads Departments (e.g. Aden, Lahj, Hadramawt) and the governorate-level planning office. Some parts of the planning and budgeting roles fall under the Planning and International Cooperation Office (MoPIC) and its branches. These two departments are well-established and operate in each governorate, thus the sustainability of SIERY project is ensured.

5. **Adjustments in Budget**: Following the change in the project's financial situation after the decision to cancel the construction of the Aden Fish Export Market, certain resources were re-allocated towards specific activities that related to overall project objectives and outcomes. It is imperative to notice that, especially exchange rate losses over the past years, have forced the project to cancel activities or reduce certain activities in scope or reach. The availability of the budget for the Market in Aden provided the project with an opportunity to reengage with certain objectives:

    a. The rehabilitation of the Marib Agricultural Office (which was canceled in October due to lack of resources) was put back on the agenda, contracted and started. This Office supports the farmers' initiatives as well as value chain efforts in support of LED in Marib.
    b. A reassessment of the other four markets related to infrastructure and equipment was conducted to ensure the best and most optimal establishment possible. Certain cuts were made in September – October 2024 due to budget constraints, which could now be readdressed.
    c. The International Exchange Visit was included again, whereby Local Authorities will visit their counterparts in Egypt during a one-week visit end of June 2025.

3.5 Factors affecting the attainment of results and mitigation measures

Many activities have been implemented relatively smoothly during this reporting period. The Project is at the stage of wrapping up a substantial number of its activities, and much of the progress discussed above is at the final stages. Some of the main factors that affected implementation and the attainment of results in the reporting period are:

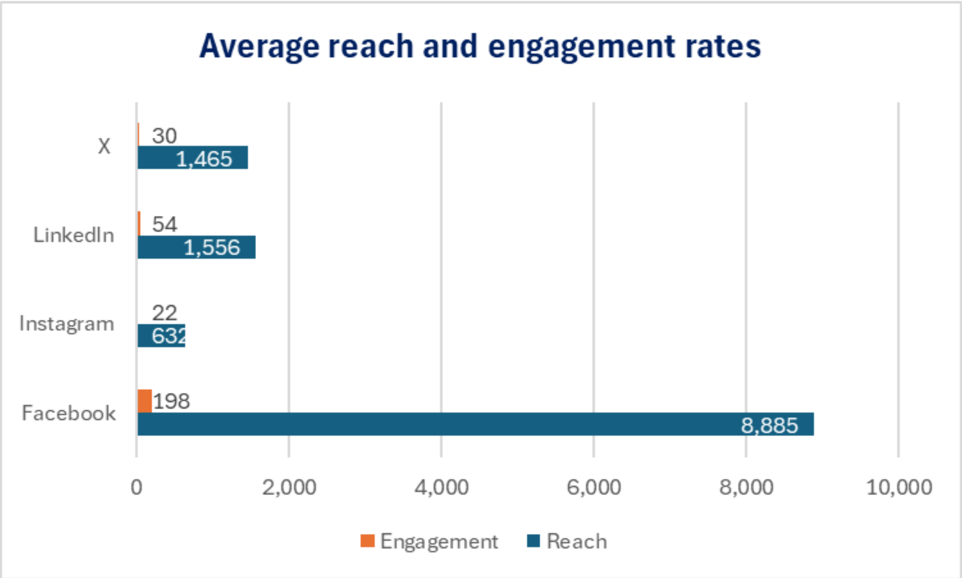
1) **Security issues and staff movement:** frequent airstrikes in most areas in the DFA (Sana'a, Hajjah, Hodeidah) have created a highly volatile environment and restricted the movement of the staff. The ongoing construction of the coffee market in Manakhah district of Sana'a was under constant risk, and visiting the site could only be done after robust safety measures were put in place.
2) **The banking and liquidity crisis:** This has been hindering the implementation of the Project; several partners in the DFA area are facing delays in receiving funds in their respective bank accounts.

3) **Sanctioning of banks:** The sanctioning of various banks in Yemen has severely limited operational flexibility. This was most evident in the establishment of the Revolving Fund in Marib, for which in the end only two banks were acceptable, whereby the decision was made to only go with one bank, and only with half the funding (250.000 USD from the project instead of 500.000) to ensure a reliable and trustworthy start of the Fund.
4) **Limited implementation capacity of the contractors**: the Project has been engaging with local construction companies (preferring local over international) to construct markets in Hadramaut and Sana'a. The Project has committed itself to providing operational and technical support to strengthen the "delivery capacities" of the local contractors. Yet, this in itself poses challenges to reach agreed milestones and meet deadlines. Robust mitigation measures have been put in place, and construction remains on track.

3.6 Communication and Visibility

During this reporting period, the SIERY Project has developed and is actively implementing its second strategic communications and visibility plan. This plan aims to raise awareness of its initiatives while highlighting its unique comparative advantages, impact, and approach, emphasizing ownership by Yemenis.

Guided by this plan, the SIERY Project has broadened its outreach and engagement with its target audiences through a range of communications, including articles and stories published on its website, as well as posts across platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, X, and LinkedIn (please refer to the chart below). In addition, the SIERY Project has also contributed to UNDP Yemen Country Office communications efforts, through posts and articles tied to International Days. Furthermore, the SIERY Project has also collaborated on communications products with the ERRY III Joint-Programme as endorsed by the EU.



In total, **402** posts have been pushed out across the platforms where UNDP Yemen maintains a presence (X, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram). **19** videos have been shared on YouTube and across social media channels. **15** stories and articles have been featured on UNDP Yemen's website – some of which were amplified by the Resident Coordinator's Office (UN in Yemen), UNDP Headquarters, UNDP Regional Bureau, and UNDP's Office in Brussels. All communications materials are produced in both Arabic and English to maximize reach and ensure the core messages effectively reach the Yemeni public.

Additionally, the SIERY Project continues to engage and work closely with Responsible Parties under the project to produce communications products that align with the project's priorities and strategic direction while proactively identifying new communications opportunities. Regular and timely updates on these activities are consistently shared with the EU's focal points via email.

International days marked during the reporting period of note:

World Cleanup Day	International Day of Rural Women
International Day of Peace	World Children's Day
World Teachers' Day	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
International Day of the Girl Child	International Day of Education
National Coffee Day	International Women's Day
World Water Day	World Health Day

The Country Office Communication and Advocacy Team continued to provide support in monitoring national and local media mentions, which inform the Project Team about the general sentiment towards the SIERY Project in Yemen. The Project Team made use of this information to track and monitor the SIERY-related messages circulated in Yemen. In the reporting period, more than **50** news articles by national and local media outlets have been published highlighting SIERY activities.

Human interest story

Tarim's local authorities propel economic growth and enhance public health


Abdullah carrying his livestock at the newly rehabilitated centre

In Tarim District, most of the population depends on agriculture and livestock breeding for their livelihood. However, years of conflict and limited resources had left the local veterinary centre underfunded and ill-equipped to meet the growing demand for animal health services.

Dr. Saleh Al-Haddad, Head of the Animal Health and Veterinary Quarantine Department, highlighted the challenges, saying, "We lacked dedicated spaces and proper equipment, making it difficult to treat animals effectively, putting both our staff and livestock at risk."

Recognising the urgent need to protecting both animal and public health, local authorities prioritised the establishment of a fully equipped veterinary centre, with support from SIERY Project. The centre has been rehabilitated to include a quarantine room, vaccine storage, operating rooms, pharmacy, laboratory, and administrative offices.

Dr. Al-Haddad stated, "This is no longer just a centre; it's a full veterinary clinic. We can now offer comprehensive care and perform surgeries in specialised rooms."

The centre now treats over 30 animals per day, offers consultations for livestock breeders, and provides treatment for diseases like tuberculosis, mange, and bee diseases. By encouraging farmers to bring their animals in for proper care, the centre also plays a key role in protecting public health.

Abdullah, a local farmer, shared, "in the past, many animals died due to the poor quality of veterinary services, and farmers were reluctant to visit the centre. Now, the situation has completely changed. The service is excellent, and the modern facilities encourage us to visit whenever necessary."

IV. LESSONS LEARNED

The selection process of Urban Planning Management Teams (UPMTs): the Project took into consideration the different groups when establishing the UPMTs. A set of criteria was developed for selecting suitable and competent individuals representing local authorities, civil society organizations, and the private sector. The criteria included educational qualifications, relevant experience, demonstrated commitment, diversity, and communication skills. The Project learned that having a clear and transparent selection process led to better team compositions, thereby creating dynamic and capable teams to execute resilient urbanization.

"No luxury in timeframe": Even if the project duration seemed long (five years), only a few months are left to implement the remaining activities. It is important to focus on arranging and sequencing activities logically, but certain activities needed to run simultaneously. As Ramadan was approaching, the Project opted to finalize the remaining L2RF by the end of February 2025. A final check of completed L2RF needed to take place before handover to the local authorities. The Project learned that: (i) regular communication with and vigilant checks with the partners to wrap up the activities were required; (ii) clear decision-making processes needed to be followed, including fast responses on many aspects of project implementation; (iii) realistic timelines needed to be set to minimize underdelivering.

"Expect the unexpected": cancellation of Fish Export Centre in Aden
The dynamic and fluid context in which the SIERY Project operates requires regular coordination and communication with the government stakeholders at various layers. Even though the local priorities, supported by national entities had approved and granted land permits to construct the Fish Export Centre, the project learned that in a volatile environment like Yemen (which includes land disputes as an inherent result of the country's history) additional approval on land use needs to be obtained and secured by legally binding verdicts from authorized entities such as the Attorney General.

List of Annexes

Annex I: Financial Report and Indicative Budget Forecast (separate document)
Annex II: Implementation Plan
Annex III: Timeline of Activities

Annex II: Implementation Plan

Output 1.1: Strengthened Local authorities' capacities to respond to community needs for services in an inclusive and accountable manner					
PLANNED ACTIVITIY RESULTS	**ACTIVITY**	**May**	**June**	**July**	**August**
Activity Result 1.1.1: Governorate authorities have the capacities, tools and incentives to provide better technical guidance and capacity development to district authorities.	**Activity Action 1.1.1.1**: Update and customize training and coaching materials on public expenditure management used in previous UNDP/MoLA Projects	completed			
	Activity Action 1.1.1.2: Establish and train District Facilitation Teams				
	Activity Action 1.1.1.3: Train DFTs on gender-sensitive and youth-sensitive approaches				
	Activity Action 1.1.1.4: Develop specialized curricula resources on promoting women and youth roles in decision-making				
Activity Result 1.1.2: Linkages between district authorities and communities are strengthened through the activation of representative community structures	**Activity Action 1.1.2.1**: Train community structures on participatory planning and service delivery monitoring	completed			
	Activity Action 1.1.2.2: Train local CSOs on Yemeni local governance system				
	Activity Action 1.1.2.3: Train local actors on conflict-sensitive local governance				
Activity Result 1.1.3 District authorities are more capable of performing regular public expenditure management functions in a	**Activity Action 1.1.3.1**: Conduct district-level capacity assessments by DFTs and produce District Capacity Development Plans (CDPs)	completed			
	Activity Action 1.1.3.2: Establish and train District Core Teams				
	Activity Action 1.1.3.3: Implement DCDPs (training, mentoring) by DFTs and DCTs				

participatory and transparent manner	**Activity Action 1.1.3.4**: Strengthening data management systems (incl. ICT) in district authorities				
	Activity Action 1.1.3.5: Support (technical, financial) CSOs to pilot social accountability initiatives in selected districts on service delivery and revenue management				
	Activity Action 1.1.3.6: Provide institutional and capacity-building support to Women's Affairs Units and women staff in district Diwans				
Activity Result 1.1.4 District authorities manage their human and financial resources more efficiently and accountably	**Activity Action 1.1.4.1**: Conduct diagnostics on public financial management and human resource management in district authorities.	completed			
	Activity Action 1.1.4.2: Implement District Accountability Improvement Plans (DAIPs) (coaching)	X	X	X	
	Activity Action 1.1.4.3: Assess local revenue potential	X	X	X	
	Activity Action 1.4.4: Provide training and mentoring for higher collection rate, transparency and acceptance of revenue collection, by DFTs & DCTs	X	X	X	
	Activity Action 1.1.4.5: Support (Technically / logistically) Project Units @ governorate level to enhance project technical design and costing.	X	X	X	
	Activity Action 1.1.4.6: Support governorate-based COCA branches to conduct regular audits of district accounts	X	X	X	
	Activity Action 1.1.4.7 Train local authorities on the identification of suitable funding mechanisms in the framework of local development				
Output 1.2: Improved capacities of public services providers for scaling up the outreach to the most vulnerable					
Activity Result 1.2.1: Pathways for resilience and recovery of basic and social services are identified by inclusive	**Activity Action 1.2.1.1**: Establish and train District Recovery Platforms (DRPs)	completed			
	Activity Action 1.2.1.2: Conduct district service delivery audits for key sector areas with the participation of DRPs				
	Activity Action 1.2.1.3: Support planning for multi-year District Resilience & Recovery Plans (D2RPs)				

local platforms and reflected in annual plans	**Activity Action 1.2.1.4**: Provide technical support to regular district annual planning and budgeting aligned with D2RPs.				
	Activity Action 1.2.1.5. Provide leadership and communications training for women & youth, incl. members of DRPs				
	Activity Action 1.2.1.6 Coach local MoPIC units to semi-formalize and sustain the project implementation infrastructure of District Core Teams, District Facilitation Teams and District Resilience Platforms				
	Activity Action 1.2.1.7 Coach local authorities and local communities to develop annual workplans derived from the multi-year District Resilience & Recovery Plans				
Activity Result 1.2.2.: Key sustainable development dimensions (local economic recovery, resilient urbanization) are considered by local authorities and initial actions taken in line with the SDGs	**Activity Action 1.2.2.1**: Raise awareness on SDG localization in 4 governorates	completed			
	Activity Action 1.2.2.2 LER: Establish & mentor Collaboration Platform for Local Economic Recovery (CP4LER) between Governorate Office and Private Sector				
	Activity Action 1.2.2.3: LER: Conduct diagnostics on local economy, business environment and productive sectors, including needs of MSMEs and producer groups	completed			
	Activity Action 1.2.2.4 LER: Support CP4LER to identify and formulate LER strategy and select and propose priority projects for funding by L2RF				
	Activity Action 1.2.2.5: RU: Establish & mentor Urban Planning & Management Teams (UPMTs)	X	X		
	Activity Action 1.2.2.6: RU Conduct urbanization diagnostic in 3 cities	X	X		
	Activity Action 1.2.2.7 RU: Support UPMTs to prepare Resilient Urbanization Strategy and select and propose priority projects for funding by L2RF	X	X		
	Activity Action 1.2.2.8: RU: Technical support to middle-term urban planning	X	X		

Activity Result 1.2.3: Multi-purpose local recovery supports the implementation of local priorities.	**Activity Action 1.2.3.1:** Establish L2RF and finalize SOPs & allocation criteria	Completed			
	Activity Action 1.2.3.2: Release funds under L2RF funding window	X	X		
	Activity Action 1.2.3.3 Strengthen the capacities of local authorities to coordinate donor interventions and support the authorities in pitching project ideas to potential funding entities				
Activity Result 1.2.4: Integrated support to restoring education services in affected communities helps restore livelihoods, stability and social cohesion	**Activity Action 1.2.4.1**: Develop capacities on educational planning for local authorities	Completed			
	Activity Action 1.2.4.2: Provide integrated support to restoring education services in affected communities				
	Activity Action 1.2.4.3.1: Distribution of school supplies, training of school personnel on safety and risk management, and back-to-school campaigns for enrolment				
	Activity Action 1.2.4.3.2: Rehabilitate classrooms, WASH facilities, school furniture				
	Activity Action 1.2.4.4: Support school children well-being through teacher training, child protection activities, psycho-social and rehabilitative support to children with special needs				
	Activity Action 1.2.4.5: Support the education system: capacity building for local and national education stakeholders including local authorities, school management, parents' associations and the ministry of education (MoEDU).				
Output 1.3: Strengthened central-local and horizontal relations between local governance stakeholder					
Activity Result 1.3.1: Regulatory and administrative measures needed to restore functional central-local relations are taken	**Activity Action 1.3.1.1**: Prepare in-depth diagnostic on inter-governmental relations	Given the current context this sub-activity cannot be done. Some analysis done inhouse.			
	Activity Action: **1.3.1.2** Support central - local dialogue	X			
	Activity Action 1.3.1.3: Increase connectivity between local authorities and central government through e-solutions	completed			
Activity Result 1.3.2: Capacities of key central	**Activity Action 1.3.2.1**: Provide capacity development of MoLA, MoPIC & MoF + COCA	X	X		

authorities to support the resilience of local governance system strengthened.	**Activity Action 1.3.2.2**: Support to women's affairs units in key ministries	completed			
	Activity Action 1.3.2.4[14]: Coordination and engagement with central authorities	completed			
Activity Result 1.3.3: **Platforms of local governance actors, including local authorities, are fostered, strengthened and connected to international peer support networks**	**Activity Action 1.3.3.1**: Support and train sub-regional platforms	completed			
	Activity Action 1.3.3.3[15]: Support South-South exchanges (2 study visits)		X		
Output 2.1: Strengthened linkages/cooperation opportunities between smallholders, SMEs, private sector and MFIs involved in the value chain					
Activity Result 2.1.1: Enhanced business and life skill development on value chain approach for medium and long terms income generation and employment prospects	**Activity Action 2.1.1.1**: Review and update value chain analysis of promising sectors	completed			
	Activity Action 2.1.1.2: Identification of promising sectors for interventions				
	Activity Action 2.1.1.3: Need based business skills capacity building for targeted individuals and SME through certified trainers, with specific promotion of women and youth, including networking	X	X		
	Activity Action 2.1.1.4 Coach women on processing/producing added value products, specifically branding, packaging, promotion, sales, outreach, marketing, networking, business links, etc.		X	X	
Activity Result 2.1.2: Improved networks of producers (smallholders, SMEs), private sectors and	**Activity Action 2.1.2.1**: Select existing business associations				
	Activity Action 2.1.2.3: Provide financial and technical support (incl. networking) to smallholders, SMEs, incl. to business associations	X	X	X	

[14] Activity 1.3.2.3 was deleted in the amendment as these events are politically not feasible and budget has been used to include the coordination activity (1.3.2.4).
In UNDP's ERP system numbering cannot be changed as it is reported against already. Therefore, the activity number is kept as 1.3.2.4 to ensure consistency with the reporting system.
[15] Activity 1.3.3.2 was deleted as due to travel restrictions during the COVID pandemic international conference were not happening and now the Project is too far advanced to make participation meaningful

microfinance institutions to strengthen the existing value chain association at district level.	**Activity Action 2.1.2.4**: Organize networking events for smallholders, SMEs and business associations for income generation activities.		X		
	Activity Action 2.1.2.5: Organize exposure visits for cross exchange and learning for SMEs, MFIs and private sectors		X		
Activity 2.1.3 Enhanced business advisory support and assistance to smallholders and SMEs to improve business continuity, risk management, marketing and expansion of business	**Activity Action 2.1.3.1** Selection of technical consultants/ business advisors in each targeted district.				
	Activity Action 2.1.3.2: Develop group of SMEs and smallholders and allocation of business advisors as per the value chain sector for mentoring, coaching and technical assistance.	X	X		
	Activity Action 2.1.3.3: Explore the possibility to establish Business Advisory Resource Center (BARC)	X			
	Activity Action 2.1.3.4 Coach local Chambers of Commerce to further strengthen the physical and online business services/advisory centers		X	X	
Output 2.2: Increased and de-risked access to financial services for economic agents in promising value chains					
Activity Result 2.2.1 Reconstruction of market facilities and infrastructures have improved access and services for smallholders, SMEs and private sectors to improve productivity	**Activity Action 2.2.1.2**:[16] Provide capacity building for key market stakeholders (such as market management, shop owners, buyers, suppliers) on Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) to ensure mitigation of any potential hazard incidence.	Included in 2.2.1.3			
	Activity Action 2.2.1.3: Construction of identified markets through local contractors	X	X	X	X
	Activity Action 2.2.1.4 Develop sector specific market operational guidelines and train/coach respective stakeholders	completed			
Activity Result 2.2.2 Improved access to microfinance services (loans) for the recovery of	**Activity Action 2.2.2.1**: Identify microfinance institutions (MFIs) in the targeted location				
	Activity Action 2.2.2.2: Establish loan facility approach for participating MFIs	X	X		

[16] Budget will be used for actual construction of markets under 2.2.1.3
The engagement with local authorities regarding the market infrastructure component is done during the regular visits and meetings between the Project team (national coordinator and Field coordinators) and governorate/district representatives.
In UNDP's ERP system numbering cannot be changed as it is reported against already. Therefore, the subsequent activity numbers are kept to ensure consistency with the reporting system.

smallholders, small and medium enterprises with good potential for job creation and income generation	**Activity Action 2.2.2.3**: Select business proposals and provide loans through existing system to targeted individuals and SMEs	X	X	X	
Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluations, etc.		X	X	X	X

Annex III Timeline of Activities

ACTIVITIES	2024				2025			
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Output 1.1: Strengthened Local authorities' capacities to respond to community needs for services in an inclusive and accountable manner								
Activity Result 1.1.1: Governorate authorities have the capacities, tools and incentives to provide better technical guidance and capacity development to district authorities.								
Activity Result 1.1.2: Linkages between district authorities and communities are strengthened through the activation of representative Community Structures								
Activity Result 1.1.3: District authorities are more capable of performing regular public expenditure management functions in a participatory and transparent manner								
Activity Result 1.1.4: District authorities manage their human and financial resources more efficiently and accountably								
Output 1.2: Improved capacities of public services providers for scaling up the outreach to the most vulnerable								
Activity Result 1.2.1: Pathways for resilience and recovery of basic and social services are identified by inclusive local platforms and reflected in annual plans								
Activity Result 1.2.2.: Key sustainable development dimensions (local economic recovery, resilient urbanization) are considered by local authorities and initial actions taken in line with the SDGs								
Activity Result 1.2.3: Multi-purpose local recovery supports the implementation of local priorities.								
Output 1.3: Strengthened central-local and horizontal relations between local governance stakeholder								
Activity Result 1.3.1: Regulatory and administrative measures needed to restore functional central-local relations are taken								

Activity Result 1.3.2: Capacities of key central authorities to support the resilience of local governance system strengthened.								
Activity Result 1.3.3: Platforms of local governance actors, including local authorities, are fostered, strengthened and connected to international peer support networks								
Output 2.1: Strengthened linkages/cooperation opportunities between smallholders, SMEs, private sector and MFIs involved in the value chain								
Activity Result 2.1.1: Enhanced business and life skill development on value chain approach for medium and long terms income generation and employment prospects								
Activity Result 2.1.2: Improved networks of producers (smallholders and SMEs), private sectors and microfinance institutions to strengthen the existing value chain association at district level								
Activity Result 2.1.3: Enhanced business advisory support and assistance to smallholders and SMEs to improve business continuity, risk management, marketing and expansion of business								
Output 2.2: Increased and de-risked access to financial services for economic agents in promising value chains								
Activity Result 2.2.1 Construction of market facilities and infrastructures have improved access and services for smallholders, SMEs and private sectors to improve productivity								
Activity Result 2.2.2: Improved access to microfinance services (capital and grant) for the recovery of micro, small and medium enterprises with good potential for job creation and income generation								
Project Management								
Project Management, Administrative Costs, Monitoring and Evaluations								