

United Nations Development Programme



Promoting Inclusive Access to Justice in Yemen

(Project ID: Atlas 00138574, Quantum 00139644)

Second Report (1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022)

Submitted to the Kingdom of the Netherlands



An event to honour the voluntary services of community mediators in Aden
(Crown Hotel, 17 April 2023)

May 2023

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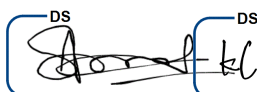
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Project Information		
Country	Yemen	
Donor(s)	The Kingdom of the Netherlands	
Project Details	Project title:	Promoting Inclusive Access to Justice in Yemen (PIAJY)
	Project ID	Atlas 00138574, Quantum 00139644
	Outputs	Output 1: Community safety enhanced through inclusive processes. Output 2: Access to Justice: Increased awareness of rights and use of fair and effective formal and informal justice systems. Output 3: Gender justice capacity strengthened through gender-inclusive institutions. Output 4: Protection of detainees strengthened and reintegration into community supported.
	Country Programme Document Outcome	Output 2.2. Women empowered to contribute to local decision-making. Output 2.3. Capacities of justice and rule of law institutions strengthened to expand human rights, access to justice, safety, and security with a focus on women, girls and other marginalised groups.
	Project Start Date	1 September 2021
	Project End Date	31 August 2024
Total Budget for 3 years		US \$ 8,910,891
Accumulative Revenue		US \$ 3,289,013 (from 1 September 2021 until 31 Dec 2022)
Accumulative Expenditure		US \$ 2,067,959.50 (from 1 September 2021 until 31 Dec 2022)
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Responsible Parties	Responsiveness for Relief and Development Foundation (RRD) Afaq Shababia Foundation (ASF) Yemen Women Union (YWU) National Prisoner Foundation (NPF) Mysarah for Development (Mysarah) Public Works Project (PWP)	

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With the generous support from the Kingdom of the Netherlands, UNDP Yemen has executed the Promoting Inclusive Access to Justice in Yemen (PIAJY) (Project ID 00138574) since 1 September 2021 (until 31 August 2024 with a total funding of **USD 8,910,891**). This Second Report takes stock of the overall progress at the mid-point (Quarter 1 of 2023) of the 36-month project (with a received funding of **USD 5,552,894**). For the last 18 months, UNDP Yemen has successfully implemented all project activities as planned and approved in the Project Document, satisfactorily contributing to project Outputs.

The report presents a summary of project achievements, challenges faced, lessons learned, and financial status for the period of 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022. In line with advance donor approval, more recent results in 1st Quarter of 2023 are also reported (with a specific marker attached to each result to ensure accountability). Key achievements include:

Results in 2022

- A total of **205,037** Yemenis benefitted from community safety, legal empowerment, gender justice, and detainee protection initiatives provided by the project.
- **Over 62,400** community members received **80,000** copies of risk education products on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in Hodeida and Marib governorates.
- **468** community representatives (F:162, M:306) improved their access to security services through joint community-police consultations on IED safety issues in Hodeida and Marib governorates. Further **2,808** community members benefitted indirectly.
- **48** IED first responders at YEMAC in Hodeida (M:24) and Marib (M:24) benefitted from IED good practice trainings.
- **Six** rule of law institutions in Sanaa (3) and Aden (3) advanced service capacity through rehabilitation and procurement support as “models,” especially for community-based restorative justice and women’s access to justice.
- **648** detainees improved their vocational skills at the Central Prison in Sanaa (288, F:139, M:149) and the Central Prison in Aden (360, F:154, M:206) through **16** training courses developed in consultation with the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training. **20** labs were provided with training equipment (Sanaa:7, Aden:13).
- **196** prison populations (accompanied children:46, juvenile inmates:20, female inmates:45, male inmates:85) benefitted from the installation of 2 hydroponics units (676 buckets) at the Sanaa Central Prison.
- Improved access to drinking water to over **266** women and children at the Sanaa Central Prison (accompanied children:46, female inmates:45, female personnel:175) following the installation of a rainwater harvesting unit.
- **150** detainees (Juvenile:20, F:45, M:85) enhanced their capacity for business development and hydroponic skills at the Sanaa Central Prison, including gardening activities.
- Improved living conditions at the Sanaa Central Prison (roof repair, electricity, water and sewage network, solar system, etc.) and the Aden Central Prison (elevated water tower, water and sewage network, solar lights, etc.), benefitting **1,180** inmates (Sanaa:600 – F:250, M:350, Aden:580 – F:14, M:566).

Results in 1st Quarter of 2023

- **133,178** people indirectly benefitted from community-based and gender-inclusive access to justice initiatives, such as community mediation, capacity-building of women justice professionals

and subnational justice institutions, in Crater and Al Mualla Districts in Aden (62% of 214,804 total population), estimated according to justice-seeking patterns in Yemen.

- **Six** community mediation committees (**60** members, F:28, M:32) were established in Six districts (Mualla, Crater, Khormakser, Mansura, Sheikh Othman, Dar Saad) of Aden, with **1** Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) developed with formal authorities.
- **2** community-based and gender-inclusive access to justice initiatives improved public-police relations visibly through enhanced partnerships between community mediators-women lawyers and local police officers in Crater and Al Mualla Districts in Aden.
- **115** women justice professionals in Aden enhanced their capacity on human rights through joint training courses together with **114** male police and male community leaders, including Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) (**43%** increase in pre-/post-tests).
- **600** uniforms for women police were provided to the Family Protection Directorate at the Ministry of Interior, Aden.
- **3** women police officers were promoted to managerial posts in 2023 by Aden Chief of Police, as an overall result of continuous advocacy and support.
- **4,800** GBV survivors accessed protection and empowerment services at a GBV shelter operated by the Yemen Women Union (YWU) in Aden with increased shelter capacity from **15 to 30** beds.
- **42** people (F:16, M:26) received woman and child protection services provided by YWU in Aden, including protection cash and GBV shelter.
- **1,296** pre-trial detainees (F:65, M:1,231) at 15 police detention cells in Aden received legal counselling by 6 women lawyers with support from community mediators. Case profiles were created and referred to community mediation processes.
- **138** pre-trial detainees (Juvenile:6, F:17, M:115) for civil and minor offences were released through community mediation in Aden, resulting in a **11 percent decline in the number of unsentenced detainees**.

Main Challenges

- At the beginning of 2023, the UN Country Team (UNCT) led by the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) initiated the implementation of the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN Support to non-UN Security Forces (HRDDP) in Yemen. The HRDDP requires all UN entities to ensure that any support to non-UN security forces is provided in a manner that is consistent with the UN's purposes and principles as set out in the UN Charter.
- UNDP Yemen participates in the HRDDP structures and processes established and chaired by the RCO, including the mapping of project activities involving non-UN security forces, for example, the police and prisons. The project will ensure full compliance with the HRDDP requirements with a view to delivering project Outputs in line with the UN systemwide policy endorsed by UN Member States.

Lessons Learned

- From activities implemented in 2022, such as support for community mediators to address pre-trial detention, the project has learned that community-based restorative justice can contribute to "People-Centered Justice (PCJ)" even during ongoing conflicts. At the same time, such community-based initiatives require the prioritization of gender and youth to mitigate the risk of patriarchal dominance and gerontocratic dynamics, especially under a conservative and hyper-masculinised normative setting such as Yemen.
- To address the systemic need for Nexus between humanitarian protection and development rule of law interventions, the project observes that the PCJ concept opens wider vistas, as the

multisectoral problem-solving approach invites a new range of non-rule of law partners to the rule of law programming. It resonates with the concept of “Justice Reinvestment,” where a focus on non-justice or pre-justice issues prevents low-risk cases and lightens pressures on formal justice authorities, as exemplified by the “Shai Mulaban” initiative in Yemen.

By 31 Dec 2022, the project delivered **US\$ 1,912,022.23 (77% delivery rate)**. UNDP Yemen will build upon its successes and lessons learned so far to mobilise additional resources from other donors, such as the Republic of Korea (KOICA)’s Fragility Program for 2023, the United Kingdom on Security Sector Reform (SSR), and the Office of the Special Envoy (OESGY)’s pilot initiatives for peace-making, along with a UNDP global pilot on mental health support and peace-building.

BACKGROUND

One of the most concerning social and institutional consequences of the armed conflict in Yemen is the politicization and the decapacitation of rule of law (RoL) institutions. Together with the diminished community protection capacity, the depleted institutional justice capacity has driven vulnerable populations into a greater risk of human rights abuse and violation. Female and juvenile detainees are one of the most vulnerable groups, suffering from intersecting marginalities. In particular, women in detention risk in-prison Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and post-prison stigmatisation and social ostracisation for life, including rejection by their own families due to the shame of incarceration. Juveniles also face grave protection violations when they are held together with adults.

Amid this justice crisis, political disputes over the appointment of the Attorney General (AG) in February 2021 have triggered a judicial strike in southern Yemen, particularly Aden. The strike lasted more than a year until the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) appointed a new AG on 25 May 2022, having caused a large backlog of civil and criminal cases in the formal justice system. Meanwhile, the police continued to arrest and detain suspects for minor and major crimes, creating a heavy burden of pre-trial detainees at police cells, which are designed for short-term custody. Police detainees were further declined transfer to the central prison facilities, which also faced significant delays in releasing post-term prisoners. Such factors have caused extreme overcrowding at the places of detention, with some locations holding three times more than their official capacity. Conditions at police cells are particularly inhumane, with detainees spending indefinite time in custody (varying from months to several years) without due process.

In parallel with the rapid decrease in formal justice supply, the conflict has caused a significant increase in community justice needs. Economic crisis, loss of steady income, and worsening living conditions have led to widespread family, civil and criminal cases, such as divorce, alimony, domestic violence, and neighbourhood disputes over access to resources (land, water, etc.) and services (electricity, housing, etc.). The shrinking of the RoL institutions' capacities has widened the gap in the formal avenues for accountability and justice, resulting in a culture of impunity even for everyday crimes. The fragmentation at the top of the state pyramid is rapidly reaching the bottom of it, to the level of small communities. To cope with the unsatisfied justice demands, communities are reverting to informal social structures underneath the State, such as dispute resolution mechanisms mediated by customary and indigenous leaders. Even prior to the conflict, distinction between the state/formal and the tribal/informal was blurry in Yemen, and administration of justice has been inherently hybrid in practice. Tribal figures not only operate in parallel to the State but also hold key positions within State institutions, providing the role of an intermediary between the State and the citizens.

Indeed, the Yemeni State has been tackling this issue of formal-informal binary for decades, having established some notable mechanisms for the state-society interface. For example, the Department for Tribal Affairs in the Ministry of Interior (MoI) serves to draw local sheikhs into the formal framework and to encourage a level of compliance. Likewise, public notaries, who used to operate informally within their communities, were accredited by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and now work under the supervision of a local court to document agreements, register contracts and arbitrate disputes. The Arbitration Law regulates the procedural relationship between formal and informal laws. Therefore, justice in practice should not be seen as a clear-cut binary between the formal and the informal but as a spectrum or a continuum. The power to make actual application is fluid and context-dependent, be it the State, religious, tribal, village or family authorities, with a tendency of urban-formal and rural-informal prevalence. In this varied and varying politico-legal landscape, formal institutional processes, such as elections to establish a government and its subsequent appointment of justice actors, provide the basis for legal legitimacy in principle. In practice, however, the personalisation of state institutions during President Saleh's rule and

the subsequent politicisation through the violent conflict have given more prominence to local legitimacy, which derives from the identification and solidarity between formal actors and local communities.

The fluidity and hybridity in justice governance in Yemen have produced starkly different manifestations across locations. In Sana'a, the DFA, while formally regarded as a non-State group, manages to sway a full control over security and justice issues. Simultaneously, they are defying the Constitutional and statutory laws of Yemen and oppressing women's rights, including the imposition of travel ban and *Mahram* requirement. Civic space for political freedom and human rights is almost non-existent, as the DFA proactively stages countermeasures against "cultural invasion" by foreign powers. In Aden, contrarily, the IRG holds the formal legitimacy and willingness to cooperate with the donor community. The *de jure* Government, however, remains fragmented and often paralysed. It has yet to re-establish its security and justice capacity, not only for integrity, accountability, and service-orientation, but also for basic public security and law and order. Such a gap in State capacity offers a greater space for civic participation and restorative justice. At the same time, the re-emergence of community-driven justice in Aden to fill the State gap risks the reification of patriarchal social norms at the expense of gender and youth justice.

In response, the Promoting Inclusive Access to Justice in Yemen (PIAJY) has developed the following project strategy:

- The project follows a "people-centred", "rights-based" approach and the "local turn" in governance programming, aimed at bridging the relationship between the community (as rights holders) and authorities (as the duty bearers). Intermediaries between the state and people are given greater attention, as the State-society relation is viewed as a "spectrum" rather than a binary, consisting of multiple layers of formal and informal institutions such as civil society, customary leaders, and communities. "Form follows function" in the provision of justice as a "service" to resolve disputes in everyday life. In the absence of unified state authority, the design of bottom-up intervention is a decision and practical approach of necessity. At the same time, efforts are made to maintain the vertical linkage between subnational interventions and state-level peace-making by OSESGY. Partnership with Humanitarian Country Team also aims to reinforce the horizontal linkage between thematic humanitarian protection (Justice for Children, Justice for Women) and comprehensive developmental transformation (Justice for All to "leave no one behind").

The Project extensively consulted with local stakeholders in Aden and Sana'a during its inception phase to specify target participants and select implementing partners.

In principle, the project has distributed resources and activities equally between Aden and Sana'a. Some activities, such as those on gender justice, however, were implemented only in Aden, given the political challenges in Sana'a.

PROGRESS TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT RESULTS

Output 1. Inclusive Community Safety Improved.

Indicators (incl. baseline)	Targets	Summary of Achievements	Status
1.1: Number of formal / informal institutions strengthened in the field of human security at sub-national level. Baseline: 0	3	6 community mediation committees (60 members, F:28, M:32) were established at the District level in Aden. 1 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for community mediators were developed collaboratively with formal authorities in Aden.	Achieved
1.2: Number of additional people benefiting from UNDP-supported Community safety initiatives disaggregated by sex and percentage of youth and marginalized population, disaggregated. Baseline: 40,000	60,000	62,404 community members received 80,000 copies of risk education products on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in Hodeidah and Marib governorates.	Achieved
1.3: Number of community representatives consulted on safety issues including IEDs, disaggregated by sex and percentage of youth and marginalised population. Baseline: 125	525 (300 males, 100 Females)	468 community representatives (F:162, M:306) were consulted on IED safety issues in Hodeidah and Marib governorates. - Further 2808 community members benefitted indirectly.	Achieved

Description of Results

Indicator 1.1: formal / informal institutions strengthened in the field of human security at sub-national level.

- 6** community mediation committees (**60** members, **F:28**, M:32, 47% women) were established in 6 Districts in Aden. Community mediators completed trainings on restorative justice and safeguard measures, achieving **47%** increase in their knowledge. Participation of formal justice professionals enhanced collaborative capacity between communities and authorities (**1st Quarter of 2023**).
 - [Link: Project video featuring women lawyers \(Arabic with English subtitles\).](#)
 - [Link: List of 60 community mediators \(F: 28, M: 32\).](#)
 - [Link: Training Manual for Mediation Committees \(English\).](#)
 - [Link: Training Manual for Mediation Committees \(Arabic\).](#)

Districts	Mualla	Crater	Khormakser	Mansura	Sheikh Othman	Dar Saad
Mediation Committees (Google map)	Mualla Police Station	Crater District Office	Khormakser District Office	Vocational Training Campus	Sheikh Uthman District Office	Dar Saad District Office

- **1 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for community mediation** were developed in collaboration with communities, civil society, chamber of commerce, and authorities (Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, governor's office, security director, public prosecutors, the judiciary). The draft SOPs address community mediation processes and supervision structures for quality assurance and accountability. The Supervisory Committee of Mediation Committees is in the process of formally approving and endorsing the draft SOPs (**1st Quarter of 2023**).
- [Link: Mediation Committee SOPs \(English\)](#)
- [Link: Mediation Committee SOPs \(Arabic\)](#)

Contents of Community Mediation SOPs				
Service Processes	Step 1. Receive	Step 2. Analyze	Step 3. Mediate	Step 4. Resolve
	Self-referral	Data collection	Bilateral engagement	Sign agreement
	Legal aid referral	Risk assessment	Group engagement	Enforce agreement
	Formal referral	Mediation strategy	Draft agreement	Record, report, close
Supervision Structures	Supervisory Committee (including formal authorities) provides oversight through Quality Assurance and Accountability Tools : Mediator eligibility criteria, Training requirements, Code of conduct, Term limits, Dismissal conditions, Case selection criteria, Risk/suitability criteria, Referral mechanisms, etc.			



Supervisory Committee meeting
at MOPIC Aden office (12 January 2023)



Donor meeting with Community Mediators
at Mualla Police Station, Aden (13 March 2023)



Opening of Community Mediation Centre at Mualla Police Station in Aden (8 January 2023)

أعضاء لجنة الوساطة المجتمعية مديرية المعلا  أبو بكر علي، صالح داؤود، صالح عبدالله، إلهام رجب، نيرة عبدالعزيز، رانيا خالد، فيصل حسن، ممتاز محمد، هاني أبو بكر، محمد عبدالله، معاذ خالد	أعضاء لجنة الوساطة المجتمعية مديرية صيرة  شفاء سعيد، سمير أحمد، عبدالرحمن محمد، محمد سالم، دينا السبراني، فكريه خالد، هادي أحمد، حسان عبدالرحيم، غادة علي، محمد عبدالغني
Mediation Committee in Mualla District (F:5, M:6)	Mediation Committee in Crater District (F:5, M:5)
أعضاء لجنة الوساطة المجتمعية مديرية الشيخ عثمان  حامد أحمد، فيحاء عبدالملك، أحمد محمد، جميلة عبداللطيف، أسامة يوسف، رشاء رفيق، سناء جميل، بسام محمد، ندي عبدالله	أعضاء لجنة الوساطة المجتمعية مديرية خور مكسر  نور محمد، أكرم سالم، عبدالسلام صلاح، حسن عبدالله، منصور أحمد، ياسر يحيى، جميلة سالم، علي عوض، أحلام ياسين، إيمان سيف
Mediation Committee in Sheikh Othman (F:5, M:4)	Mediation Committee in Khormakser (F:4, M:6)
أعضاء لجنة الوساطة المجتمعية مديرية دار سعد  سيف علي، نرجس علي، محفوظ إبراهيم، أنمار محمد، فتحي حسن، نوال سعيد، صلاح سامي، فكري عبدالقوي، جلال علي، هناء علي	أعضاء لجنة الوساطة المجتمعية مديرية المنصورة  فائق عفيف، علي الصلاح، غادة فضل، محسن صالح، محمد حسين، زنا محمد، تسهيد عاصم، أصيل جابر، نجيب عبدالله، نبيل أبو بكر
Mediation Committee in Dar Saad (F:5, M:5)	Mediation Committee in Mansura (F:4, M:6)

Indicator 1.2: people benefiting from UNDP-supported Community safety initiatives

- Over 62,400 community members received 80,000 copies of non-politicized risk education products (e.g. posters, visual aids, and safety games for children) on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in IRG-controlled Hodeidah Governorate (44,179, F:47%, M:53%) (Hays and Al-Khawkhah Districts) and Mabrib Governorate (18,225, F:44%, M:56%) (Marib City and Al-Wadi Districts).

- Risk education products were developed in collaboration with the Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS) and distributed by the RRD and the Risk Education Teams (RETs) (24 members, F:9, M: 15) of the YEMAC (Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre).
- [Link: Video of IED Risk Education for Children by a Female Instructor in Hodeidah](#)



IED risk education for children in Hays District, Hodeidah Governorate (1 Dec 2022)



Distribution of IED Risk Education Materials in Hays District, Hodeidah (1 Nov 2022)



Community Consultation Workshop in Hodeidah (20 Oct 2022)

- 48 IED first responders at YEMAC in Hodeidah (M:24) and Marib (M:24) benefitted from IED good practice trainings (5 days, 4 courses) led by a technical specialist at UNDP Mine Action Project.
- [Link: IED Good Practice Training in Aden by a Mine Action specialist.](#)

Indicator 1.3: community representatives consulted on safety issues including IEDs

- 468 community members improved their access to security services thanks to joint community-police consultation workshops in Hodeidah (244, F:82, M:162) and Marib (224, F:80, M:144), further joined by youth, persons with disabilities, NGOs and local authorities.

- Topics included communication channels between communities and local authorities, community safety issues, community peer learning networks, and referral pathways for protection and psychological services. Further **2808** community members benefitted indirectly.
- **30** community leaders (15 in Hodeidah, F:5, M:10, 15 in Marib, F:7, M:8), formed as “community peer learning network”, improved their access to local authorities to raise community safety issues. Community voices were presented at **2** high-level consultation conferences joined by governors, local councils, security directors, line ministries and agencies (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Human Rights, YEMAC, etc.) in Hodeidah and Marib governorates.

Upcoming Activities

- Support for Community Committees in Aden and Sanaa by way of community-mapping, charter development, joint training, and micro-projects to solve community problems, building upon the achievements of community mediators.

Output 2. Access to justice: increased awareness of rights and use of fair and effective formal and informal justice systems.

Indicators (incl. baseline)	Targets	Summary of Achievements	Status
2.1: # of community members benefiting from community-based access to justice initiatives implemented in the targeted areas. Baseline: 0	75,000	• 133,178 people indirectly benefitted from community-based and gender-inclusive access to justice initiatives, such as community mediation, capacity-building of women justice professionals and subnational justice institutions, in Crater and Al Mualla Districts in Aden (62% of 214,804 total population), estimated according to justice-seeking patterns in Yemen.	Achieved
2.2: # of formal / informal justice institutions strengthened in terms of fairness, effectiveness, accountability or independence (sub-national level) Baseline: 0	3	• 6 formal rule of law institutions in Sanaa (3) and Aden (3) advanced their service capacity especially for community-based restorative justice and women's access to justice. • 2 community-based and gender-inclusive access to justice initiatives improved public-police relations visibly in Aden.	Achieved
2.3: # of disputes / cases that have been assisted, disaggregated by sex and percentage of youth and marginalised population Baseline: 0	200 Target 30% of cases women / youth / marginalised	• Preparatory works are conducted, such as needs identification, Terms of Reference development, authority consultation, and Call for Proposals process.	Dispute resolution To be Implemented In 2023

Description of Results

Indicator 2.1: community members benefiting from community-based access to justice initiatives implemented in the targeted areas.

- **133,178** people indirectly benefitted from community-based and gender-inclusive access to justice initiatives, such as community mediation, capacity-building of women justice professionals and subnational justice institutions, in Crater and Al Mualla Districts in Aden (62% of 214,804 total population),¹ estimated according to justice-seeking patterns in Yemen.² **(1st Quarter of 2023).**

Indicator 2.2: formal / informal justice institutions strengthened in terms of fairness, effectiveness, accountability or independence (sub-national level).

- **Six** formal rule of law institutions in Sanaa and Aden advanced its service capacity as “models,” especially for community-based restorative justice and women’s access to justice, thanks to infrastructure rehabilitation and office equipment provision.
 - The project leveraged on hardware support (infrastructure, equipment) as an incentive to implement software support (inclusion, integration). For example, Crater Police Station in Aden received hardware support, which facilitated subsequent software support to improve police-public relations (as detailed below).
 - For locations where the project has yet to implement software support, hardware support was carefully designed to lay a solid foundation for software support. For example, the project ensured that infrastructure support for Moalimi Police Station in Sanaa focuses on women helpdesk and community space, in addition to basic needs raised by the Ministry of Interior in Sanaa, such as roof water isolation layer.

	Sanaa	Aden
1	Moalimi Police Station (in progress) ○ women helpdesk, community space, roof water isolation layer	Crater Police Station (in progress) ○ women helpdesk, community space, offices, clinic
2	West Prosecutor (in progress) ○ offices, archive, electricity	Mansura Police Station (in progress) ○ women helpdesk, community space
3	West Court (in progress) ○ courtroom, offices, archive, electricity	Sira Court (in progress) ○ courtroom, offices, archive, electricity

- **2** community-based and gender-inclusive access to justice initiatives improved public-police relations visibly through enhanced partnerships between community mediators-women lawyers and local police officers in Crater and Al Mualla Districts in Aden **(1st Quarter of 2023).**
 - “Shai Mulaban” initiative (“milk tea” as famously known in Aden) showcases positive changes in Crater district: Shai represents the police (“Shorta”) and Mulaban the community (“Mujtamaa”), signifying that collaboration produces a better outcome. Previously, the Crater police used to patrol with machine guns. Now, they hold regular tea sessions at district squares, inviting community members for casual dialogues.
 - According to the police, collaboration with community mediators significantly reduced their workload caused by minor cases (about 80%), enabling them to focus limited resources

¹ UN Habitat (2020) Aden City Profile (funded by EU); <https://yemenportal.unhabitat.org/>

² Hiil (2014) Justice Needs of Yemenis: From Problems to Fairness (funded by the Netherlands) shows that informal paths to justice play a large part in the lives of Yemenis (62%), such as informal third party (18%) + lawyer (16%) + community leader/sheik (14%) + government authorities (14%); formal courts cover only 5% of disputes.

on major cases. The police introduced a referral pathway to community mediators to encourage restorative justice approach to minor cases before formal justice starts.

- For the community, partnership with the police improved their access to justice, as they can use restorative justice alternatives, esp. women leaders with support of women lawyers. For example, women community mediators managed to solve a detention case involving civil debt by mobilizing private charity through their Facebook account.



“Shai Mulaban” (milk tea) initiative in Crater district to promote police-community dialogues (16 March 2023).

Indicator 2.3: disputes / cases that have been assisted.

Upcoming Activities

- Assistance to dispute resolution will be implemented in 2023 in partnership with community committees and relevant authorities in Sanaa and Aden. Throughout 2022, the project has conducted preparatory works, including:
 - Identification of the development needs of the formal community committees (about 2,300 individuals) appointed by the Governor in Aden, such as gaps in inclusive representation of community members, especially the exclusion of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).
 - Development of Terms of Reference (ToR) for project activities, including consultative community mapping, participatory charter development, joint institutional training, and problem/dispute-solving through micro projects.
 - Consultation with two authorities (MOPIC/Governor’s Office in Aden and SCMCHA/MOI in Sanaa) to secure their endorsement and incorporate their suggestions into project details (target locations, etc.).
 - Call for Proposal process to recruit NGO partners as a Responsible Party to implement project activities, pending the final signing of Responsible Party Agreement (RPA).
- In complementarity to community committees, community-based legal aid (paralegals) will be implemented in 2023 to bridge informal and formal justice providers in partnership with the Ministry of Justice in Sanaa and Aden and in coordination with the Legal Aid Working Group of the Protection Cluster.

Output 3. Gender-based justice institutions capacities strengthened.

Indicators (incl. baseline)	Targets	Summary of Achievements	Status
3.1: # of women police, prosecutors, judges, and prison rights officers trained on human rights-based subjects, including the survivor-centered GBV response and 1325 Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda. Baseline: 40 women police trained by UNDP	140	115 women justice professionals in Aden enhanced their capacity on human rights-based subjects (43% increase in pre-/post-tests). 114 male police and male community leaders in Aden improved understanding on the protection and empowerment of women and children, including GBV (43% increase in pre-/post-tests). 600 uniforms for women police were provided to the Family Protection Directorate at the Ministry of Interior, Aden. 3 women police officers were promoted to managerial posts in 2023 by Aden Chief of Police.	Achieved
3.2: # of women receiving assistance in SGBV related cases with the support of the project. Baseline: 300	500	4,800 GBV survivors annually improved their access to protection and empowerment services at a GBV shelter operated by YWU in Aden with increased shelter capacity from 15 to 30 beds. 42 people (Juvenile:10, F:16, M:26) received woman and child protection services provided by YWU, including protection cash and GBV shelter.	Achieved

Description of Results

Indicator 3.1: women police, prosecutors, judges, and prison rights officers trained on human rights-based subjects, including the survivor-centered GBV response and 1325 Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda.

- 115** women justice professionals (police, prosecutors, judges, prison officers, local authorities, protection service providers) enhanced their capacity on human rights-based subjects, such as survivor-centered approach, GBV service coordination, and 1325 Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda. Pre- and post-tests showed **43%** increase³ (**1st Quarter of 2023**).
- Jointly with women justice professionals, **114** male police and male community leaders improved their understanding on the protection and empowerment of women and children, including GBV, in 6 Districts of Aden. Pre- and post-tests showed **43%** increase (**1st Quarter of 2023**).
 - To promote coordination, a joint committee was formed to design the curriculum and provide institutional instructors (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, Ministry of Human Rights, and subordinate agencies).

³ PIAJ project connects various non-police partners and service providers (MOSAL/Yemen Women Union, MOJ/prosecutors, judiciary, MOHR/human rights defenders) to de-silo the police, enhance collaborative capacity, and promote people-centered service integration. This multi-stakeholder approach complements the police-specific capacity building of women police by the Penal Reform International (PRI) in Aden.



A women judge in Mansura District Prosecution, Aden, leads a presentation on the roles of the police and the prosecution (19-23 February 2023)



Dr. Faiza (1325 National Action Plan coordinator at MOSAL) guides trainees on Women, Peace and Security in Crater District, Aden (4-8 March 2023)



11 women police working at Crater police station, joined by women community mediators (16 March 2023)

- **600 uniforms for women police** were provided to the Family Protection Directorate at the Ministry of Interior in Aden (Brigadier General Ms. Alya). Uniforms will be distributed across governorates under the IRG area⁴ (**1st Quarter of 2023**).



⁴ According to BG Alya, the total registered number of women police in the IRG area is 3,150. However, only 400 women police are active due to various constraints, such as lack of women-friendly infrastructure and uniform.



Provision of 600 uniforms for women police in Aden (28 March 2023)

- **3** women police officers were promoted to managerial posts in 2023 by Aden Chief of Police, as an overall result of continuous advocacy and support for gender equality and women's empowerment at the rule of law institutions (**1st Quarter of 2023**).

Indicator 3.2: women receiving assistance in SGBV related cases with the support of the project.

- **4,800** GBV survivors annually improved their access to protection and empowerment services at a YWU-operated GBV shelter in Aden rehabilitated by PWP (additional floor with increased shelter capacity from **15 to 30** beds).⁵ **1** new building (2 story with 2 halls) was also constructed (**1st Quarter of 2023**).
 - Civil works were closely coordinated with YWU and UNFPA at all stages, including survivor-centred design, build, and joint inauguration.
- **42** people (Juvenile:10, F:16, M:26) received woman and child protection services provided by YWU, including protection cash and GBV shelter. **5** displaced people also benefited, including **1** Egyptian national detained for a year over visa (**1st Quarter of 2023**).

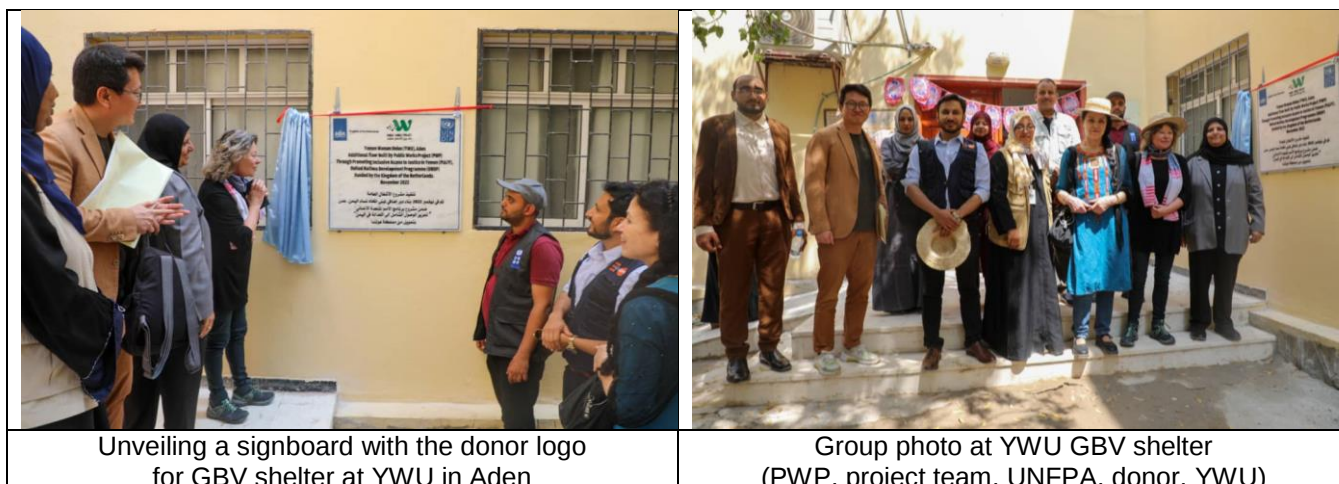


Yemen Women Union (YWU) in Aden welcomes the donor delegation (16 Mar 2023)



Ribbon-cutting for a newly constructed training hall at YWU in Aden

⁵ Estimation based on the case records of YWU, which receives about 20 women survivors on a working day (20 survivors x 20 days x 12 months).



Unveiling a signboard with the donor logo for GBV shelter at YWU in Aden

Group photo at YWU GBV shelter (PWP, project team, UNFPA, donor, YWU)

Upcoming Activities

- Upgrading YWU's GBV Shelter into a GBV One-Stop Center to house multisectoral protection providers, including women justice professionals, making use of the enhanced hardware capacity in partnership with YWU and UNFPA.
- Gender Self-Assessment in collaboration with UNDP's Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) team.

Output 4. Protection of detainees strengthened and reintegration into community support.

Indicators (incl. baseline)	Targets	Summary of Achievements	Status
4.1: # of prison personnel trained in human rights-based prison management, detainee protection and preparation for community reintegration. Baseline: 202 (62 women, 140 men)	282	• 648 detainees (F:293, M:355) improved their vocational skills at the Central Prison in Sanaa (288, F:139, M:149) and the Central Prison in Aden (360, F:154, M:206). • 196 prison populations (accompanied children:46, juvenile inmates:20, female inmates:45, male inmates:85) benefitted from 2 hydroponics units at the Sanaa Central Prison. • 266 prison populations (accompanied children:46, female inmates:45, female personnel:175) improved access to drinking water and rehabilitative environment through 1 rainwater harvesting unit and a productive garden at the Sanaa Central Prison.	Achieved; prison personnel training to be implemented in 2023
4.2: # of detainees benefiting from improved prison conditions (physical WASH, electrical / solar installations / fans, bedding) by sex Baseline: 0		• 1,180 detainees (F:264, M:916) benefitted from improved living conditions at the Sanaa Central Prison (600, F:250, M:350) and the Aden Central Prison (580, F:14, M:566).	Achieved

4.3: Unsented detainees as a proportion of overall prison population.		• 1,296 pre-trial detainees (F:65, M:1,231) at 15 police detention cells in Aden received legal counselling by 6 women lawyers with support from 60 community mediators. Case profiles were created and referred to community mediation processes. • 138 pre-trial detainees (Juvenile:6, F:17, M:115) for civil and minor offences have been released through community mediations in Aden. • 11 percent decreased in unsented detainees, as 138 pre-trial detainees (Juvenile:6, F:17, M:115) for civil and minor offences were released among 1,296 pre-trial detainees (F:65, M:1,231) in Aden.	Achieved
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Description of Results

Indicator 4.1: prison personnel trained in human rights-based prison management, detainee protection and preparation for community reintegration.

- **648** detainees (F:293, M:355) improved their vocational skills to assist post-release livelihood and community re-entry at the Central Prison in Sanaa (288, F:139, M:149) and the Central Prison in Aden (360, F:154, M:206).
 - **163** detainees (F:67, M:96) completed Training of Trainers (ToT) courses (Sanaa 75, F:33, M:42 / Aden 88, F:34, M:54) to enhance sustainability. Curriculum for **16** courses were developed in consultation with the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training. **20** labs were provided with training equipment at the Central Prison in Sanaa (7) and the Central Prison in Aden (13).
 - [Link: Vocational Training Courses and Trainees at Central Prisons in Sanaa and Aden](#)
- **9** detainees (male) at the Central Prison in Aden benefitted from cash-for-work activity, utilizing their vocational skills to paint 4 wards (in addition to the civil works implemented by the PWP). Safeguard measures were put in place, such as individual counselling with detainees to select their payment modalities, including transfer to their families, to avoid possible extortion within the prison.

Indicator 4.2: detainees benefiting from improved prison conditions (physical WASH, electrical / solar installations / fans, bedding).

- **1,180** detainees (F:264, M:916) benefitted from improved living conditions at the Sanaa Central Prison (600, F:250, M:350) and the Aden Central Prison (580, F:14, M:566) thanks to UNDP's rehabilitation support via PWP.

	Sanaa Central Prison	Aden Central Prison
1	roof repair and water isolation layer (4,200 m ²)	elevated water tower (50,000 litres, 18 m)

2	4 compounds (male and female), including electricity, painting, and bathrooms with water and sewage network	16 compounds (male and female), including fans, lights, and 120 bathrooms with water and sewage network.
3	Solar systems (male and female sections) (28 kilowatt)	23 solar lights, including electricity boards
4	Gazebo for women section	Water well (75m depth), including pipe network (250m) to water tank

- **196 prison populations** (accompanied children:46, juvenile inmates:20, female inmates:45, male inmates:85) benefitted from **2** hydroponics units (396 m² each with **676** Dutch buckets) at the Sanaa Central Prison.
- **266 prison populations** (accompanied children:46, female inmates:45, female personnel:175) improved access to drinking water and rehabilitative environment through **1** rainwater harvesting unit and a productive garden (480 m²) at the Sanaa Central Prison.
- **150** detainees (Juvenile:20, F:45, M:85) enhanced their capacity for business development and hydroponic skills at the Sanaa Central Prison, including gardening activities.



Productive garden within women section at Sanaa Central Prison



Hydroponic units at Sanaa Central Prison
(676 Dutch buckets)



Rainwater harvesting unit
at Sanaa Central Prison

	
Elevated water tank (50,000 litres, 18 m) at Aden Central Prison	Signboards with the donor logo at the main gate of Aden Central Prison

Indicator 4.2: Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population.

- **1,296** pre-trial detainees (F:65, M:1,231) at 15 police detention cells in Aden received legal counselling by 6 women lawyers with support from 60 community mediators. Case profiles were created and referred to community mediation processes (**1st Quarter of 2023**).
 - [Link: Database of identified pre-trial detention cases \(Arabic\).](#)
 - [Link: Analysis of Pre-Trial Cases in Aden \(English\)](#)
- **138** pre-trial detainees (Juvenile:6, F:17, M:115) for civil and minor offences have been released through community mediations in Aden. A Yemeni man imprisoned for **11** years without sentencing was released from the Aden Central Prison (**1st Quarter of 2023**).
 - [Link: Success story video in Mualla District \(Arabic with English subtitles\).](#)
 - [Link: Success story video in Khor Makser District \(Arabic with English subtitles\).](#)
- **11 percent** in unsentenced detainees **decreased**, as 138 pre-trial detainees (Juvenile:6, F:17, M:115) for civil and minor offences among 1,296 pre-trial detainees (F:65, M:1,231) were released through community mediations in Aden (**1st Quarter of 2023**).

Upcoming Activities

- Training of prison personnel on human rights-based prison management, detainee protection and preparation for community reintegration in partnership with Community Committees, paralegals, and relevant ministries.

CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES

Challenges	Responses
Context: - Ongoing conflict in Yemen is driving the fragmentation of state authorities, not only between the South and the North, but also within the South, as competing political groups continue to emerge. As the rule of law institutions are nationally owned, the project may risk objection by political parties. - Given conservative social norms, Yemeni women face discrimination at formal justice processes, including women detainees, who suffer stigmatization and rejection even from their families. - At the beginning of 2023, the UN Country Team (UNCT) led by the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) initiated the implementation of the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN Support to non-UN Security Forces (HRDDP) in Yemen. The HRDDP requires all UN entities to ensure that any support to non-UN security forces is provided in a manner that is consistent with the UN's purposes and principles as set out in the UN Charter and with their obligations to respect, promote and encourage respect or international humanitarian, international human rights, and international refugee law.	- The project targets Sanaa and Aden to equally distribute resources between the political fault lines in Yemen. To de-politicize within the South, the project also takes a bottom-up, community-based, and gender-inclusive approach to access to justice and the rule of law, rather than taking a top-down and state-centric view, which privileges the national-level formal authorities over sub-national entities closer to communities. - The project partners with CSOs by and for Yemeni women, who provides protection and empowerment services for women and children, mainstreaming Gender across all Outputs and activities. - UNDP Yemen participates in the HRDDP Steering Committee and Technical Working Group established and chaired by the RCO, including its ongoing mapping exercise of project activities involving non-UN security forces, such as the police and prisons. The project will ensure a full compliance with the HRDDP requirements, including upcoming risks assessments, mitigation measures and the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the UNCT, with a view to delivering project Outputs in line with the UN systemwide policy endorsed by Member States.
Delivery: Ongoing conflict is currently concentrated on the frontline between the South and the North, leaving the rest of country more stable and permissive to development programming. However, there is a security risk that the conflict may spill over to other locations, negatively affecting the implementation of the Project.	In response to changing geopolitical conditions, the project followed UNDP's "Adaptive Management" strategy. "Area-Based Approach" is key to strategic adaptation, and UNDP closely monitors political and security situations and maintains flexibility to re-target its interventions accordingly.
Operational: - The insufficient physical infrastructure and human capital, being further aggravated by the ongoing conflict, may hamper support operations to facilitate project activity implementation and financial delivery. - Public Works Project (PWP) as a parastatal organization holds a Long-Term Agreement (LTA) with UNDP and other UN Agencies. PWP covers both design and build phases of civil works, which causes capacity constraints and implementation delays across projects and locations.	- Since the outbreak of conflict in 2015, UNDP has continuously operated across the country with the physical expansion of its Sub-Offices to Aden, Hodeidah and Mukalla. The Project made use of existing UNDP infrastructures in Aden. - The project has used alternative implementation modalities through UNDP engineers for the design phase and competitive procurement for the build phase to achieve timely and quality implementation of civil works.
Fiduciary: The weak capacity of Implementing Partners and the dire economic situation in Yemen may raise the likelihood of financial misuse of donor funding.	The Project followed and applied to its Responsible Party: (a) UNDP Policy on Fraud and other Corrupt Practices and (b) UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations Investigation Guidelines.

Safeguards: • The Project may cause unintended and unpredicted adverse effects on the social and environmental spheres in Yemen.	• The Project complied with UNDP's UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (http://www.undp.org/ses) and related Accountability Mechanism. (http://www.undp.org/secu-srm).
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CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

An effort towards gender equality and women’s empowerment in Yemen usually raises a concern or a doubt over its feasibility, given the conservative social norms. It is particularly so when a project targets the rule of law sector, where patriarchs dominate and hypermasculinity prevails. The rule of law sector poses additional challenges of political risk, as any external support may unsettle the power balance between parties to conflict. In response to such gender-discriminative and conflict-sensitive perception and practice, the project followed UNDP’s country-wide strategy of adaptive management. Given the varying sensitivity over gender between the South and the North, the project purposefully targeted more liberal South (Aden).

In further response to political tensions within the South, the Project approaches access to justice and gender equality issues from a bottom-up, community-based, and restorative justice perspective. It is a strategic choice, as restorative justice has been known for its conceptual affinity to indigenous and customary justice,⁶ which is more accessible and less politicized than formal justice embedded in the State system. While the project taps into the participatory nature of restorative justice to enhance the inclusion and empowerment of women, the question of “who are the community?” and the risk of patriarchal social norms taking over community-based interventions are equally and duly taken into consideration. This tension between gender justice and community justice will be elaborated in the lessons learned section.

Under the conservative social norms, Yemeni women face discrimination in accessing justice and assuring due process at informal and formal justice systems. Women detainees are at a particular risk of marginalization and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) within detention facilities, and subject to stigmatization and rejection from their own families even after release. In response to this lack of gender justice in Yemen, the Project has exerted itself to empower women in the implementation of all activities by partnering with women-led organizations to provide multi-sectoral protection and empowerment services for women in contact or conflict with the law as victims (survivors), offenders, and detainees.

The Project has achieved the following results for gender equality and women’s empowerment.

- **47%** of community mediators (60 members, F: 28, M: 32) in Aden are women.
- **2** Mediation Committees out of 6 (34%) are led by women chairpersons.
- **6** women lawyers work as case supervisors to ensure gender-responsiveness in community mediations.
- Referral mechanisms are established between community mediators and YWU to provide multi-sectoral women and child protection services.
- **34%** of community representatives consulted on IED safety issues (254, F: 82, M: 164) are women.

⁶ United Nations (2002) The Basic Principles on the Use of Restorative Justice in Programmes in Criminal Matters (ECOSOC resolution 2002/12). Preamble.

- Women's access to justice is given top priority in building service delivery capacity for **6** formal rule of law institutions in Sanaa (3) and Aden (3).
- **115** women justice professionals in Aden enhanced their capacity on human rights-based subjects, together with **114** male police and male community leaders, including Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Women, Peace and Security (WPS).
- **600** uniforms for women police were provided to the Family Protection Directorate at the Ministry of Interior, Aden.
- **3** women police officers were promoted to managerial posts in 2023 by Aden Chief of Police, as an overall result of continuous advocacy and support for gender equality and women's empowerment at the rule of law institutions.
- **4,800** GBV survivors annually improved their access to protection and empowerment services at a GBV shelter operated by the Yemen Women Union (YWU) in Aden with increased shelter capacity from **15 to 30** beds.
- **42** people (juvenile: 10, F: 16, M: 26) received woman and child protection services provided by YWU, including protection cash and GBV shelter.
- **42%** among 648 detainees (F: 293, M: 355) who improved their vocational skills at the Central Prison in Sanaa (288, F: 139, M: 149) and the Central Prison in Aden (360, F: 154, M: 206) were women.
- **57%** among 196 prison populations (accompanied children: 46, juvenile inmates: 20, female inmates: 45, male inmates: 85) who benefitted from 2 hydroponics units at the Sanaa Central Prison were women, juvenile, and accompanied children.
- **266** women and children at the Sanaa Central Prison (accompanied children: 46, female inmates: 45, female personnel: 175) improved access to drinking water and rehabilitative environment through 1 rainwater harvesting unit and a productive garden.
- **22%** among 1,180 detainees (F: 264, M: 916) who benefitted from improved living conditions at the Sanaa Central Prison (600, F: 250, M: 350) and the Aden Central Prison (580, F: 14, M: 566) were women.
- **35%** among juvenile and female pre-trial detainees (23 among 65) were released through community mediations, as compared to 9% among male pre-trial detainees (115 among 1,231) in Aden.

Despite the tangible progress towards gender justice, challenges remain prevalent in Yemen. For example, women police at the police station level, where the police interface with the public, are discouraged from proactive service delivery by lack of enabling environment, such as discriminative social norms, weak gender policy framework, negligence by mid-level managers, and inadequate/unsafe workplace infrastructure for both women police and women/girls in contact or conflict with the law. Women police request for further gender justice support, including: 1) managerial gender justice training to sensitize mid-level male supervisors; 2) expansion of women friendly space at various police workplace, such as police station, checkpoints, detention centres, and the airport; 3) specialised technical trainings on police works, especially newly emerging issues, such as digital GBV.

Partnerships

To advance gender justice, the project will partner with and further foster the inter-ministerial women leadership in Aden across the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (Ms. Intisar, Head of Aden Branch), the Ministry of Interior (Ms. Alya, Head of Family Protection Directorate), the Ministry of Justice (Ms. Manal, Head of Women and Child Affairs), and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (Ms. Faiza, Head of Women and Child Protection, National Coordinator for 1325 National Action Plan). The project will collaborate with UNDP Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Team to conduct a Gender Self-

Assessment in Aden. Such gender justice partnership is expected to contribute to the “Just and Inclusive Peace Strategy” of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for Yemen.

Within the UN system, the project is partnering with and contributing to the Protection Cluster led by UNHCR. The Project regularly provided the Cluster with project progress updates. The Project joined the Legal Aid Working Group newly established in 2022 under the Cluster for information-sharing and cross-fertilization. Whereas the refugee agency is primarily targeting displaced populations through externally-driven legal protection services, the UNDP Project carved out its complementary position to focus more on host communities through locally-driven legal empowerment structures, such as Mediation Committees.

Another inter-agency partnership is with UNFPA and the Women Protection Sub-Cluster in support of the Yemen Women Union (YWU) and its GBV shelter in Aden. UNDP-led civil works to expand the GBV shelter capacity have been closely coordinated with UNFPA across all stages (design, build, inauguration). The project will support the YWU to upgrade the GBV shelter as a One Stop Center for GBV survivors in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to provide access to gender justice services at the shelter in addition to existing protection services provided by the YWU with support of UNFPA (psychosocial, livelihood, etc). The project will support women lawyers (up to 10) deployed at the shelter to provide legal aid to GBV survivors. In Sanaa, the project is exploring partnership opportunities with UNFPA to support women prisoners at the Sanaa Central Prison.

The interagency partnerships with UNHCR and UNFPA will consolidate achievements at the UN Country Team level. At the same time, they also reveal difference and complementarity between humanitarian and development approaches (protection vs. rule of law) and remaining cracks in-between. More will be presented in the lessons learned section.

Environmental Considerations

The project explored options for communications and visibility materials with minimal damage to the environment, including minimizing single-use items wherever feasible. Furthermore, the Project explored options as part of its Project management process, to improve efficiency in the use of resources to minimise wastage (e.g. using electronic signatures and electronic documents, promote using less paper-cup in the office).

LESSONS LEARNED

The project has captured four lessons learned as below in terms of innovation, inclusion, integration, and sustainability/catalytic effect.

1. Innovation: Community-based restorative justice with due safeguards can contribute to People-Centered Justice (PCJ) even during ongoing conflicts.

As the conflict has revealed the harm of state justice and the virtue of community justice in Yemen, the marked shift in the global justice policy from state-centric to people-centered justice (PCJ)⁷ in recent years also features a similar trajectory. According to PCJ, formal justice has long been a tool for elites to rule the grassroots (“rule by law”), while “rule of law” requires elites themselves to accept the law’s limitations. PCJ starts with the legal needs of people, especially marginalised groups, who bear the disproportionate and domino effects of exclusion and discrimination by the formal system. Working towards “legal empowerment,” PCJ moves the locus of justice programming from authorities to communities, giving emphasis to preventive and multi-sectoral problem-solving approaches. The project matches these two downward swings, bringing together local knowledge and global perspective. It is observed that community-based restorative justice can be a conflict-sensitive entry point for people-centered justice programming. One important caveat is the need for safeguard measures, as community justice is equally susceptible to local elite captures and patriarchal power dynamics which discriminate against women, youth, IDPs, and other marginalized groups. The vertical innovation of PCJ that shifts from the state to people requires a horizontal inclusion across cross-sections of society.

2. Inclusion: Community-based restorative justice in conflict settings should prioritize gender and youth, and possibly consider displacement to contribute to peace.

The horizontal spectrum of population groups to consider for inclusivity is diverse itself. The UN Basic Principles on restorative justice (2002) already alert on the risk of disparities leading to power imbalances among the parties.⁸ The most common parameter of such disparities is gender inequality, which underlies Gender-Based Violence (GBV), such as domestic violence. Accordingly, the project pays utmost attention to women’s empowerment and other safeguards measures to ensure quality assurance and gender accountability in community-based restorative justice approach, as detailed earlier (e.g. women lawyers as case supervisors, SOPs to guide mediation processes through supervision structures). The project is also working towards broader diversity consideration. A more serious challenge observed in Yemen is displacement inclusivity, particularly Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Aden.⁹ Due to a series of conflict since 1994, many Yemenis in southern governorates hold grudges against someone from northern governorates. Such public sentiments drive public authorities to take discriminative measures against IDPs. A municipal initiative in Aden to re-activate Community Committees (CCs) as the main interface between communities and authorities is no exception to such anti-IDP dynamics. At the same time, Aden shows demographic variations between island and mainland sides: island Aden (Crater, Mualla, Tawahi) has more cohesive host communities, while mainland Aden (Mansura, Sheik Othman, Dar Saad) has more diverse and displacement-affected communities

⁷ Task Force on Justice (2019) Justice for All – Final Report (New York University); OECD (2019) Legal Needs Surveys and Access to Justice.

⁸ United Nations (2002) The Basic Principles on the Use of Restorative Justice in Programmes in Criminal Matters (ECOSOC resolution 2002/12). Article 9.

⁹ UNDP at the global level is working towards development solutions to internal displacement in line with Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement (2021).

due to its geographical location porous to IDP influx from Lahj governorate. In a sense, the island is akin to the development context, while the mainland is more humanitarian. The project will expand its intervention into the more humanitarian mainland, building upon its achievements in the more developmental island. Such comparative experiences may inform the further operationalisation of humanitarian-development Nexus across protection, access to justice, and the rule of law.

3. Integration: There exists a systemic need for Nexus between humanitarian protection and development rule of law interventions, requiring UNHCR/UNFPA-UNDP collaboration.

In response to discrimination and protection risks against displaced populations, humanitarian agencies and partners have been tirelessly providing legal protection assistance, including civil identity documents and legal aid services. Even before the current conflict, Aden has been well known for its large refugee settlement in Basateen area of Dar Saad District, largely from Somalia and Ethiopia. The area is now attracting more Yemeni IDPs fleeing from conflicts in Taiz, Hodeidah, and Marib, among others. Despite their rigor and scale, however, humanitarian interventions remain characterized by inherently weak linkages to formal rule of law authorities, given the normative conditionality required by humanitarian principles. Strengthening governance systems to improve access to justice nonetheless requires early development interventions during, rather than after, humanitarian crises to avoid creating externally-driven parallel systems and aid dependency on international actors. The ultimate exit strategy to end prolonged crises also depends on the capacity and accountability of national actors, rather than international ones. The interpenetration and complementarity between protection and rule of law interventions constitute a key element in the Triple Nexus. The concept has gained more clarity by shifting its temporal frame from a consecutive, sequenced approach to a concurrent, layered one.¹⁰ However, it has yet to see a concrete operationalization with tangible results. To improve inclusion of IDPs in community-based structures in Aden, the project is conducting community mappings to profile demographic distribution by geographic locations. The next step is to form an IDP-inclusive steering group to draft a Charter to democratize the internal governance of CCs and to improve their external performance. Case management support will be provided not only to address individual disputes, but also to identify geospatial patterns of community issues necessary for IDP-sensitive urban planning. To generate Nexus synergies, UNDP and UNHCR/UNFPA are coordinating closely under the Protection Cluster and the Women Protection Sub-Cluster in strengthening displacement-responsive governance infrastructure for inclusive access to justice.

4. Sustainability: The concept of “Justice Reinvestment” may offer rule of law projects new community-based partners with greater conflict-sensitivity and sustainability.

As the project focuses on the subnational level, the sustainability question has been more challenging. The project learned that the PCJ approach to multi-sectoral and preventive problem-solving invites a range of new partners, who are more community-based and service-oriented than formal justice authorities, and therefore conflict-sensitive. Such re-purposing is grounded in a robust body of evidence on the rule of law benefits of non-rule of law community services, such as childcare, education, health, and housing.¹¹ This is the concept of “Justice Reinvestment,” where a stronger investment in community services prevents low-risk cases and lightens

¹⁰ Global Protection Cluster (2022) Nexus Approaches in Humanitarian Settings – A Guidance Note for the Protection Cluster.

¹¹ Urban Institute (2022) Strengthening Community-Based Service Capacity through the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice).

pressures on formal justice authorities, enabling them to focus on high-risk offences.¹² The “Shai Mulaban” initiative has proven the concept’s validity in Yemen, as non-justice or pre-justice issues are precisely the community problems that community mediators are well-suited to deal with. The community-based restorative justice approach is well received by local governance stakeholders, including the Governor of Aden, who announced his own development plan in support of Community Committees. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a member of the Supervisory Committee for community mediators, is also considering its financial contribution for sustainability. Moving beyond pre-police prevention, the restorative justice (RJ) or justice reinvestment (JR) approach can be piloted to provide ex-prisoners with post-prison after-care services. Community mediators can assist ex-prisoners with their re-entry process, including peer support groups (led by ex-prisoners as community mediators) to assist newly released ones.

¹² Urban Institute (2013) Justice Reinvestment: A Toolkit for Local Leaders (funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice).

CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD

Development is about partnership, and partnering amid conflict surely poses challenges. The North-South divide at the national level in Yemen is the most visible one. Gratefully, however, the PIAJY project has managed to achieve tangible results, more substantially in Aden but also meaningfully in Sanaa, as presented in this report. Such progress has built upon the shift in perspective from the national to the subnational level, which opened a vast room for partnership opportunities (famously known as “national chaos, local order”). To recall a pre-funding consultation with the donor with regard to conflict sensitivity and risk management, the PIAJY project deliberately and strategically positions itself as “marginal,” targeting vulnerable, almost invisible people (e.g. pre-trial detainees in Aden or women prisoners in Sanaa) neglected by the formal state justice system.

Reaching beyond conflict risk, this report has shown some inspiring results that the marginal approach has yielded so far. A positive surprise to the project team has been the generosity of Yemeni people towards the most vulnerable among them, which displays no sign of depletion even after almost a decade of countrywide suffering. Despite the long-lasting conflict, almost all Yemeni people desire to live a life filled with dignifying solidarity for the weak. Many Yemenis never stop sharing even amid torturing shortage for themselves. For example, the admirable volunteerism demonstrated by community mediators in Aden is eye-opening evidence of social cohesion that Yemenis maintain to uphold.

At the turn of project mid-point, which coincided with the Holy Month of Ramadan in 2023, communities and authorities in Aden joined to celebrate their own achievements with support from the UNDP Yemen and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The voluntary services of community mediators were honoured with many recognitions and appreciations. In presence was Dr. Maryam, representing the Office of President (Rashad Al-Alimi), who showcased the impact of the partnership the project has managed to foster.



Yemenis give more hope than they receive. The project team has humbly observed such resilience with a sense of honour being part of it. Building upon the achievements so far, the project will tirelessly deliver the generous funding from the Kingdom of the Netherlands for the remaining project duration. UNDP Yemen will further share the hope Yemen presents with other donors to mobilize additional resources, including the Republic of Korea (KOICA)’s Fragility Programme for 2023 (USD 4 million, 3 years) (to be decided in June). **Annex 1** includes further project expansion scenarios based on donor consultations.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Following an extensive inception phase until Q2 2022, the PIAJ project demonstrated a visible increase in delivery speed and rate in Q3 and Q4 2022 (see below table). In addition to 2022 **delivery rate (77%)** presented in the current reporting cycle, the project cleared additional US\$ 365,000 in Q1 2023 (advance payment to Public Works Project). The advance is charged accross Outputs, and will improve the overall delivery rate up to **91.6%**. Further details are included in the financial report (excel file).

Donor	2022 Budget	Q1 Delivery	Q2 Delivery	Q3 Delivery	Q4 Delivery	2022 Delivery	Delivery %	Remain
The Government Of Netherlands	\$2,483,728.30	\$110,188.98	\$345,843.84	\$420,037.22	\$1,035,952.19	\$1,912,022.23	77%	\$571,706

Annex 1: Programme Expansion Scenarios

In the design stage of PIAJ, considerations were made to include both Hodeidah and also Mukalla; and during the Inception process it became apparent that work with Police Academy (assessment and covering of curriculum gaps) could also be rolled-out in Mukalla (where there is a national police academy) and that progressive, innovative and experimental strategies for policing, community-based approaches and gender initiatives might be trialled and piloted in Hudaydah. In this regard, PIAJ (GRoL UNDP) agreed at the request of the Netherlands to work closely with Penal Reform International (PRI) across both Sana'a and Aden in police academies/training centres, prison training and prison farming models and model police stations (including the provision of uniforms for women police officers). These agreed areas require cooperation between PRI and PIAJ, with PRI yet to share its information on its developing work in Mukalla with the PIAJ project and UNDP.

In addition, UNDP Yemen is also in the process of scenario-mapping and programme planning for the political context, including our potential programming streams. This planning is very much based upon an adaptive approach to whatever may happen in the future upon the conclusion of the current talks. This process to be practicably initiated would be led by needs-assessments and formalisation of key relationships to respond to the growing context, including:

- Liaising with RCO, OCHA, and/or government partners;
- Participating in discussions related to needs assessment, including PDNA;
- Leading UNDP role in the preparation and implementation of PDNA;
- If relevant, assisting with the preparation of pledging conference and other resource mobilisation exercises;
- Managing communication with Government(s);
- Updating risk information and assistance needs with the government on regular basis and proceeding with the implementation of early recovery projects based on the government(s) request;
- Contacting key service providers to facilitate early recovery including restoration of basic social services of critical government systems based on the assessment results and Government(s)'s request – provision of services to the people based upon the assessment results in coordination and approval of/with government);
- Prepositioning of service providers, implementing partners, vendors prior to the any potential crisis and mobilise them as per the need of the UNDP requirement.

This planning should also be understood alongside the knowledge that all of GRoL projects, including PIAJ, are designed in such a manner that they can be scaled-up if and where required. The PIAJ community-based approaches have been designed so as to lay the basis for “social contract” reestablishment, for constructing strong, trust-based and professional relationships for community reintegration of armed actors (eg. With Police and Community Committees), and also for feeder- and development of complementary projects. In this regard, the Portfolio has built upon RoL Phase 1 relationships of joint activities with UNWomen, UNICEF and UNFPA (in addition to WHO), to look at complementary projects that build upon and develop PIAJ (such as the Comprehensive Prison approach discussed with the Netherlands during May 2023); discussions and provision of a draft concept note to the United Kingdom on SSR (also discussed between the UK and the Netherlands), aligning future police and security (including maritime security) official professional training with the UNSCR 1325 NAP; and Civil Defence training in Taiz with OSESGY as a part of the peace process, piloting the transition of armed actors across Taiz into Civil Defence roles preparing for larger scale-up disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) processes when ready. Moreover, the Portfolio has had a project

pilot approved from UNDP headquarters for mental health and peace-building linked to both civilian prisoners in the prisons PIAJ serves and newly released combatants into their communities.

PIAJ itself, as a theory of change, has been designed on the premise that without a bottom-up foundation for peace and the strong rule of law (alongside models of good governance, and positive interactions between duty bearers and rights-holders), that there will be no peace in Yemen even with a peace agreement. And that positive, bottom-up approaches to model best practices and establish trusted partnerships with sub-national governing authorities lay the foundation for future project planning, scale-up and building on important peace-related processes in DDR training and transitional justice. Beyond this, the GRoL Portfolio, in which PIAJ sits, also can play a key role in linking and synergising important activities across UNDP Yemen's CO, be it sustainable food security (including both fisheries and agriculture), local level governance inclusion measures, water management and community rights, responding to natural disasters, and ensuring due process within transitioning justice.

Annex 2: Yemen Media Coverage

Dates	Contents	Sources (links)
29 June 2022	Community advisory workshops inaugurated in Al Khawkhah, Hodeidah Governor of Al-Hodeidah Governorate, Dr. Al-Hassan Ali Taher, Director General of the Police in Al-Hodeidah Governorate, Brigadier General Najib Waraq, and Director General of Social Affairs and Labor in Al-Hodeidah, Adel Mkarshab, inaugurated the initial community advisory workshop in the city of Al-Khawkhah. Waraq said that the responsibility for establishing security and stability in any society is not that it lies with the security services only, and the citizens have had a great credit for discovering the locations of the explosive devices. Al-Makarshab stressed the importance of the workshop, which aims to enhance community participation in achieving community safety from devices and explosives of various types. The project coordinator at the Foundation, Mazen Al-Qadi, stated that the workshop comes within the framework of implementing the project to enhance community safety and aims to combat improvised explosive devices (IEDs), which is supported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The southern regions of Al-Hodeidah Governorate are among the areas most affected by improvised explosive devices and all remnants of war.	sada-alsahel.net adengad.net
21 August 2022	RRD concludes a training workshop for Al-Khawkhah, Al-Hodeidah The Response Foundation for Relief and Development (RRD), in the city of Al-Khawkhah, Al-Hodeidah Governorate, concluded a training workshop for building the capacities of community representatives on dialogue management, communication skills, and solving problems related to community safety. The course, which lasted for two days, targeted 15 male and female participants from the leaders of community committees and civil society organizations. Within the project activities to discuss issues related to community safety, including improvised explosive devices, the participants also worked on developing a plan for the work of the informal community network that was established within the project, to serve as a link between the target communities and the relevant authorities to solve problems related to community safety and respond to meet the needs core communities.	adenvoice.com adengad.net yemen-publisher.com cratersky.net taiztime.com ye-now.com yemennownews.co m
09 – 15 September 2022	Director of Aden Security meets Representatives of the UNDP Rule of Law Project Today, the Director General of the Capital Police of Aden, Major General Mutahar Al-Shuaibi met with the UNDP team, Abdulghani Alwajih, UNDP Security Specialist at the United Nations Programme, and Eman Mohammed, Coordinator of the UNDP Rule of Law Project. During the meeting, they discussed the upcoming interventions of the ongoing projects that will be implemented by the United Nations Development Programme, including the restoration of the Crater and Mansoura police stations, some security departments in the Criminal Investigation Department, and other interventions aimed to improve the working environment and raise the efficiency of the services provided by the Aden Police General Administration to citizens. Major General Mutahar Al-Shuaibi praised the role of the United Nations Development Programme team in supporting the security services in the capital Aden, stressing the importance of continuing the organization's interventions in several different aspects. The Aden Police Department will work to overcome all difficulties in work, programmes, and interventions of the organization. UNDP team pointed out the implementation of a field survey of the targeted sections before the launch of the project UNDP to identify the quality and nature of the repair and restoration of what they will do within a short period.	Manbaraden Pressbee 4may Sma-News Yemennewsapp
29 September – 06 October 2022	Consultation Session on the Work of Community Mediation Committees in Aden Today, a consultative session on the mechanisms of work of community mediation committees organized by Afaq Youth Foundation, funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), began in the temporary capital of Aden as part of the Promoting Comprehensive Justice in Yemen project. The two-day session, with the participation of representatives of local authorities, public prosecutions, the Aden Security Department, police stations, service sectors, and representatives of civil society organizations, includes a review of the activities of the project, the definition of the organizational structure of the community mediation committees, the	Cratar Adengad Alkhaleej365 Alsharaeanews Sahafatak gov

	components and mechanisms for selecting members of mediation committees, the knowledge of the criteria, and referral of cases to the committees and their processing. On the first day of the session, participants enriched a package of proposals and insights on the mechanisms for the formation of community mediation committees, their mechanism of work, and the issues that can be referred to community mediation committees to relieve pressure on the justice system through the application of mediation and arbitration methods to resolve the cases of detainees.	
14 – 20 October 2022	Workshop Begins in Aden on Women's Protection Today, in Aden a training workshop began on women's protection, implemented by the Yemen Women Union in Aden and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as part of the project to promote universal access to justice in Yemen with funding from the Dutch government. For three days, the workshop will discuss some topics related to human rights, GBV, the definition of international law, its sections, types, and characteristics, the assessment of the environmental framework of violence and its levels, risk factors, and the identification of international and national standards for responding to gender-based violence. In addition to the role of the police departments in providing service to survivors and the actions that can be done and applied, listening skills and identifying gaps, problems, mechanisms, and the development of a GBV response action plan, with the participation of 27 trainees representing the judiciary, prosecution, police, criminal investigation, and prisons.	Sabaneu Adenalaan Adengad Alkhaleej365 Elghadelyemeny Masralyoum From-Yemen Yemen-Nic
04 – 10 November 2022	The United Nations Development Programme and the Afaq Foundation Launch the Training Programme for Community Mediation Committees in Aden. Today, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with Afaq Youth Foundation, launched the training programme for community committees in conflict resolution and community mediation, funded by the Dutch government in Aden governorate. The training programme, which comes within the framework of the project of promoting Inclusive Access to Justice in Yemen, with the participation of 60 members of community mediation committees in Aden, includes several scientific knowledge on the concepts, principles, human rights, and elements of conflict, the skills of the community mediator and the coordination mechanisms of the committees and types of conflict. At the inauguration, the Director of the Mualla district, Abdul Rahim Al-Jawi, stressed the importance of this programme, which aims to develop the capacities of community mediation committees and enhance trust between communities and local security officials to solve various community issues. He pointed out the importance of the cooperation of all concerned parties in promoting the culture of human rights and confronting many phenomena to reach societal stability in the governorate. The Chairman of the Community Committees in Aden, General Ali Al-Nimri, explained that the community committees achieved many positive community achievements through their contribution to alleviating community conflicts between citizens. In addition, organizing the access of some core services to citizens and combating the spread of crime and drugs and the committees have also helped to improve the security situation in partnership with all concerned parties and to strengthen the organized institutional work to achieve good results for society.	Adengad Nabd
10 – 17 November 2022	Training of the Second Group of Members of Community Mediation Committees Funded by the Dutch Government, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with the Afaq Youth Foundation, launched the "Training Programme in Conflict Resolution and Community Mediation" for the members of community mediation committees in the districts of Khormaksar and Mansoura in Aden Governorate. During the inauguration, the UNDP representative, Mr. Abdulghani Alwajih, stressed that establishing community mediation committees came from the urgent need in the current situation to reduce pressure on detention centers. He confirmed the humanitarian and community role played by community mediation committees and their impact on detainees and society in general, referring to several similar programmes that specialize in detainee issues, which are implemented by the United Nations Development Program with several local partners.	Pressn Mancheete Hunaaden Nabd Sahafah24
10 – 17 November 2022	Concluded the Training for Community Mediation Committees Funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with the Afaq Youth Foundation, concluded the training programme (conflict resolution and community mediation) for the first training group in the districts of Crater and Al-Mualla	Hayrout Sahafahh Wah21 Adengad

	in Aden Governorate, within enhancing exclusive access to justice programme. For his part, the UNDP representative, Mr. Abdulghani Alwajih, noted that the development programme implements other activities with several local partners to advocate and solve the issues of detainees, the importance and quality of the community work mediation committees, and the results that will be achieved from this experience. He thanked the trained mediators for their interaction and commitment during the training. The training programme for community mediation committees will continue until the end of November by training mediators in Sheikh Othman, Mansoura, Khormaksar, and Dar Saad districts, where the project aims to train 60 community mediators in 6 targeted districts.	Mancheete Nabdn Anayemeni
18 – 24 November 2022	Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies Holds Second Forum on the Role of Community Committees in Community Restorative Justice in Aden Today, the Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies held the second dialogue forum for the Community Restorative Justice Advocacy Programme in Aden within the project of enhancing access to exclusive justice in Yemen. In partnership with Afaq Youth Foundation, with the support of the Dutch government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The theme of the forum was the role of community committees, coordination mechanisms, and joint action in the cases of detainees in detention centers and the protection of their legal and human rights. Brigadier Ali Al-Nimri, head of community committees in Aden Governorate, Brigadier Mohsen Al-Omari, Assistant Director of Security of Aden Governorate for Neighborhoods Affairs, director of community committees in the targeted districts, in addition to a representative of the legal team in the United Nations Development Programme, the Yemeni Women's Union in Aden, representatives of civil society organizations, journalists, academics and social figures, participated in the work of the forum.	Sawt-Eshab Adengad Sahafaa Marsad Pressbee Yemennownews
18 – 24 November 2022	Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies Launches Dialogue Forums on Community Restorative Justice Advocacy in Aden The advocacy programme for restorative justice in the community launched the first dialogue forum on the conditions of detention centers and dealing with them under the national and international laws in the presence of the Director of the Criminal Investigation Department in Aden Governorate, General Naji Qassem, and Mr. Ali Al-Nimri, Chairman of Community Committees, Mohsen Al-Omari, Assistant Director of Aden Security Affairs in (AlMualla - Sira - Khormaksar - Sheikh Othman - Mansoura - Dar Saad) as well as assistant security managers in police stations for family protection affairs (women's police) and representatives of civil society organizations and journalists. This forum was implemented by the Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies within the project "Enhancing exclusive justice in Yemen" in partnership with the Afaq Foundation and the support of the Dutch government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The project aims to create a partnership between local authorities, security agencies, civil society organizations, community components, and the legal team of the United Nations Development Programme. To address the overcrowding of detainees in detention centers and to create societal treatments for non-criminal cases. Mr. Abdulghani Alwajih, a UNDP representative, expressed his happiness to be among the participants in the first forum of the Community Restorative Justice Advocacy Programme, which created a link for multiple efforts. He explained that the United Nations Development Programme aims to enhance access to comprehensive justice in Yemen.	Al-Omana Adengad Zadramout Pressbee Marsad Samaaden Yafa-News Adenvoice
18 – 24 November 2022	The Referral Committee Holds Its First Meeting in Aden Today, in Aden, the first meeting of the Referral Committee was held within the project of enhancing exclusive access to justice in Yemen, funded by the Dutch government and in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and the Yemen Women's Union. At the inauguration, Samara Al-Arasi, Project Manager, welcomed the referral committee and from UNDP Abdulghani Alwajih. Cases related to gender-based violence and reaching police stations were raised and referred to the Yemeni Women Union Aden to consider these cases by the team of lawyers. For her part, Ms. Valentina Mahdi, Director of Case Management in Aden Governorate, spoke about the required core standards in following gender-based violence cases. She touched on the outputs of the training course for the referral committee, which came out with a questionnaire for the referral committee and worked with it in police stations. Mr. Abdulghani Alwajih pointed out that several international organizations	Alwosta Samaaden

	are working to improve and expand police stations in Aden Governorate, as well as providing legal support to the insolvent and detainees in police stations.	
24 – 26 November 2022	Conclusion of the Training Programme for Community Mediation Committees in Aden Today, in Aden, the training programme for (Community Mediation Committees) in conflict resolution and community mediation was concluded and implemented by Afaq Youth Foundation in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and funded by the Dutch government. The training programme lasted for three weeks and targeted 60 participants and members of community mediation committees from "Mansoura, Khormaksar, Sira, Sheikh Othman, Dar Saad, and Al-Mualla." It included several scientific knowledge and practical skills on how to intervene and resolve conflicts, the skills required for the community mediator, coordination mechanisms for community mediation committees, the concept of conflict and its types, identifying the concepts, principles, characteristics, importance of human rights, and the community mediation concept. The training programme witnessed the presence of some officials in local authorities and security agencies from the targeted districts to facilitate the work of community mediation committees in coordination with local authorities as well as detention centers in resolving some non-serious detainee cases and community issues.	Adengad Wtn-News Pressbee Hunaaden Hayrout 24press Yemenvibe Yemen-Publisher Yamannews Al-Omana Nabdn Sabanew Sahafaa
27 – 29 November 2022	Badeeb and Al-Shuaibi Assure the Yemen Center Human Rights Team of Their Support for the Restorative Justice Project Today, the team from the Yemen Human Rights Studies Center met with Judge Waddah Batheeb, Head of the South Aden Appeals Court, and Judge Yahya Nasser Al-Shuaibi, Head of the North Aden Appeals Court. The meeting comes within the Community Restorative Justice Advocacy Programme in Aden under the project promoting inclusive access to justice in Yemen, which is implemented by the Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies in partnership with Afaq Shababia Foundation and the support of the Dutch government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).	Tihama24 Yemennownews Adengad Alayyam
15 – 17 December 2022	Yemen Center Team for Community Restorative Justice Advocacy Programme organizes the Fifth Dialogue Forum Mr. Adnan Al-Kaf, Deputy of Aden Governorate, welcomed the participants in the opening session of the fifth dialogue forum highlighting the role of civil society organizations in supporting community reconciliation and respecting the rights of prisoners within the restorative justice advocacy programme community that is implemented by the Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies in partnership with the Afaq Shababia Foundation within the project of Promoting Inclusive Access to Justice in Yemen supported by the Dutch government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Mr. Adnan stressed on the importance of supporting the local authority in Aden Governorate for the advocacy programme and the work of mediation committees for community restorative justice. He also stressed on the role assigned to civil society organizations in facing the problems, challenges, and corruption faced by local communities throughout the country.	Adengad Al-Omana Sada-Alsahel Aden-Tm Pressbee Samaaden Sma-News
16 – 22 December 2022	A Dialogue Forum in Aden Discusses the Cases of Detainees in Police Stations The sixth forum for community restorative justice advocacy was held today in Aden in partnership with the Afaq Shababia Foundation within Promoting Inclusive Access to Justice in Yemen project with the support from the Dutch government and the United Nations Development Programme. In coordination with the President of the Appeal Court of Aden, Judge Muhammad Mahmoud Al-Junaidi for six judges of the courts of Aden participated in the work of this forum. In addition, representatives of the prosecution, the head of the criminal investigation in Aden, the assistant director of Aden security, and the community committees head in the administration of Aden governorate. The forum was inaugurated by Mr. Muhammad Qasim Noman, President of the Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies, in the presence of Ms. Samah Jameel, coordinator of the advocacy programme to create a partnership in supporting the community restorative justice programme in Aden. Implemented by the Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies in partnership with the Afaq Shababia Foundation, the Yemeni Women's Union, the Prisoner Foundation, and the UNDP team.	Aden-Tm Pressbee Aden-Hura
16 – 22 December 2022	Yemen Center Team for Community Restorative Justice Advocacy Programme organizes the Fifth Dialogue Forum	Adengad Al-Omana Sada-Alsahel

	Mr. Adnan Al-Kaf, Deputy of Aden Governorate, welcomed the participants in the opening session of the fifth dialogue forum highlighting the role of civil society organizations in supporting community reconciliation and respecting the rights of prisoners within the restorative justice advocacy programme community that is implemented by the Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies in partnership with the Afaq Shababia Foundation within the project of Promoting Inclusive Access to Justice in Yemen supported by the Dutch government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Mr. Adnan stressed the importance of supporting the local authority in Aden Governorate for the advocacy programme and the work of mediation committees for community restorative justice. He also stressed the role assigned to civil society organizations in facing the problems, challenges, and corruption faced by local communities throughout the country.	Aden-Tm Pressbee Samaaden Sma-News
25 – 27 December 2022	Al-Bishi Meets with the Human Rights Team to Discuss Health Care for Prisoners and Detainees in Aden Police Stations The Director General of the Office of Public Health and Population in Aden, Prof. Dr. Ahmed Muthanna Al-Bishi met today, Monday morning, in his office in the capital, Aden, with the team of the Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies, headed by Prof. Muhammad Qassem Noman, head of the center and the legal advisor for the Community Restorative Justice Advocacy Program in Aden. Prof. Afra Hariri and the program coordinator Mrs. Samah Jamil, to discuss the provision of health care services for male and female prisoners in the police stations in the districts of the capital, Aden. At the beginning of the meeting, the Director General of Health in Aden, Dr. Ahmed Al-Bishi, welcomed the team's visit to his office, and listened to a detailed explanation of the Community Restorative Justice Advocacy Program, which is implemented by the Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies and in partnership with the Youth Horizons Foundation, with the support of the Dutch government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This is within the project of Promoting Inclusive Access to Justice in Yemen. The meeting discussed the importance of the contribution of the Health Office in the capital, Aden, to the Community Restorative Justice Advocacy Program in Aden, in providing health care and protection for male and female prisoners in police stations in the governorate's directorates, in order to provide them with health care, in the field of treatment, medicine, and the necessary periodic examinations. The Director General of Health in Aden, Dr. Ahmed Al-Bishi, indicated the importance of implementing this program to advocate for community restorative justice in the governorate, and discussed ways of joint cooperation in providing health, therapeutic and medicinal assistance to prisoners, male and female, and detainees in prisons and police stations in Aden. Pointing out that the meeting was held with international and local organizations, to provide medical support to prisons and detention centers in the governorate. The Director General of Health Affairs, Aden Al-Bishi, appreciated the efforts made by the Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies, and its humanitarian role, towards promoting comprehensive access to societal restorative justice.	adengad alsil Aden hura Aden city

1st Quarter of 2023

06 - 12 January 2023	Al-Jawi Inaugurates the Opening of the Office of Community Mediation Committees at the Al-Mualla Police Building Al-Jawi met with representatives of the Afaq Shababia Foundation team and representatives of the United Nations Development Programme with mediation committees team . Al-Jawi stressed in the meeting the critical role of mediation committees, which will work to enhance trust between communities and security officials to solve various social issues. Al Mualla Police Chief, Colonel Ahmed Al Dhaheri pointed out that the opening of the office of the community mediation committees enables them and the security services to solve issues and problems. After the opening of the Office of Community Mediation Committees located in the Mualla Police Building in Aden, he briefed the members on several civil and non-serious cases, which need the intervention of the mediation committee, arranging sessions with the disputing parties and starting the mediation processes to resolve the existing disputes between them. The members of the Afaq Shababia Foundation, the United Nations Development Programme, and community mediation committees received intensive training over a period of six days, on how to intervene and resolve conflicts, the skills required for the community mediator, coordination mechanisms for	Adengad Yemennownews Nabdn Pressn Aden-City Sma-News Alwosta Sahafatak
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	community mediation committees, the concept of conflict and its types, in addition to identifying the concepts, principles, characteristics, and importance of human rights, and the concept of community mediation. It is worth noting that the work of the community mediation committees comes within Promoting Inclusive Access to Justice in Yemen (PIAJY) implemented by the Afaq Shababia Foundation in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme funded by the Dutch government. The project aims to train 60 community mediators in 6 districts (Mansoura, Khor Maksar, Al Mualla, Crater, Sheikh Othman, and Dar Saad) to solve the cases of detainees using methods of mediation, reconciliation and arbitration.	
19 – 25 January 2023	The Minister of Justice Discusses with the United Nations Development Programme Aspects of Cooperation and Development of the Capabilities of the Judiciary Today in Aden, the Minister of Justice, Bader Al-Ardah, discussed with the international expert in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) aspects of cooperation and the coordination mechanism for the project for developing the capacity of the judiciary and the implementation of the national plan for women, security and peace agenda under Security Council resolution 1325. The Minister of Justice stressed that the ministry is working to develop the administrative and institutional aspects to enhance the judiciary role in the country. He explained that the ministry adopted in this year's plan the implementation of capacity building programmes for members of the judiciary and administrators working. The Minister also explained that there are several awareness and legal programmes implemented that target society and youth, child protection, women and juveniles in partnership and coordination with government agencies and international organizations, including UNICEF. On the other hand, the international expert demonstrated the nature of the tasks assigned to her, including coordination with the concerned authorities to implement the National Plan for Women, Security, and Peace. She stressed the importance of partnership and coordination with government agencies to support and assist those affected by war, especially women and girls.	Alkhaleej365 Aden-hura Yafa-news Yemeninews W6nnews Pressbee Almosnad Aden-city Aad TV Sabanew W6nnews 24press Al-manara Yemennownews Sahafahh
26 January – 2 February 2023	Deputy of the Ministry of Interior Meets the Representative of the United Nations Development Programme Today, in Aden, the Deputy Minister of Interior for police sector, General Mohammed Musaad Al-Amir, met with the newly appointed Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Yemen, Zena Ali. During the meeting, they discussed enhancing aspects of cooperation and joint coordination between the Ministry of Interior and the United Nations Development Programme on several issues of common interest, as well as developing institutional capacity and the capabilities of cadres in the Ministry of Interior. The Deputy praised the activities of the United Nations Development Programme in Yemen, stressing that the Ministry provides all the necessary facilities to perform their humanitarian and development tasks in all fields. On the other hand, the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) demonstrated some of the activities and work of the programme in Yemen and praised the efforts and cooperation of the Ministry of Interior towards the success of the United Nations Development Programme.	Al-Omana Sahafaa Sabanew Yemeninews Nabd Moi.Gov-Ye Sabanew
26 January – 2 February 2023	The Minister of Justice Discusses with the United Nations Development Programme the Enhancing of the Joint Cooperation Today, in Aden, the Minister of Justice, Bader Al-Ardah, discussed with the delegation of the United Nations Development Programme, ways to enhance joint cooperation between the ministry and the programme. During his meeting with UNDP Resident Representative Zena Ali Ahmed, the Programme Director Aden, Kennedy Chibvongodze and Walid Baharoon, the Minister of Justice confirmed that the ministry has achieved during the past year many achievements in several areas, including the implementation of several trainings for workers in the justice office and the implementation of the judicial aid project that targeted juveniles and women. He pointed out that in the coming days, the National Center for Forensic Medicine and Forensic Evidence will be opened. The UNDP Resident Representative pointed to the importance of holding a meeting between the technical team of the Ministry and representatives of UNDP, early next week to present the programme's plan for 2023 and UNDP interventions.	Adning 26sepnews TVaad Nabd Yemennownews Sabanew Manbaraden
26 January – 2 February	Strengthening the Protection and Reintegration of Women Detainees	Al-Omana Aden-Tm

2023	This morning, a meeting of the Referral Committee held within the Promoting Inclusive Access to Justice in Yemen (PIAJ) project funded by the Government of the Netherlands and "Framework for Enhancing Protection and Reintegration of Women in Detention and Cases of Gender-Based Violence," In partnership with the Yemeni Women Union, Aden Governorate, in the presence of several specialists from the deputies of police departments, the Public Prosecution, and Criminal Investigation in Aden Governorate, the meeting comes within the framework of strengthening protection and reintegration of detained women and social violence. The committee members discussed several issues related to the case referral committee and number of cases that were received. The attendees also stressed ways of cooperation between the judicial and security authorities and coordination among them, which would speed up and facilitate the process of resolving and closing cases. After a long discussion between them, the committee concluded its work with several proposals and recommendations to be submitted to the concerned authorities to facilitate and arrange the committee work.	Nabd Samaaden Manbaraden Cratar Pressbee Sahafatak
17 – 23 February 2023	Training Course on Women's Protection The training workshop on women's protection concluded in Aden, implemented by the Yemeni Women's Union and the PIAJ UNDP Project, within the protection and reintegration of detained women and cases of gender-based violence. The three-day course, with the participation of 21 trainees from the prosecution, the judiciary, the police, and people with special needs, through theoretical lectures, introduced participants to the concept of human rights, principles, and characteristics, international laws of human rights, women's rights in international conventions and resolutions, the context of peace and security, gender roles, equality and justice, gender needs and gender-based violence. The Head of the Yemeni Women's Union in Aden, Fatima Muraisy, stressed the importance of the effective partnership between the Union and the authorities to address women's issues and provide ways to take into account their social, psychological and health conditions.	Sabanew Almahriah Sahafatak Sahafaa Almadaniya Adengad Aad TV Alkhaleej365 Yemennownews Sabanew Almadenahnews Sahafaty Almahriah
17 – 23 February 2023	Launching the Joint Training Programme for Police Station Employees and Community Leaders Funded by the Government of the Netherlands, UNDP, in partnership with Afaq Youth, launched a joint training programme for police station staff and community leaders in police work in Aden. During the inauguration, Mr. Abdulghani Alwajih from UNDP stressed the importance of this joint programme for local police and community leaders in police work, local laws, and international standards to enhance community safety laws in Aden governorate, which in turn contributes to raising the knowledge of police members as well as community leaders, and he mentioned several interventions of the United Nations Development Program in the rehabilitation of several police centers in Aden Governorate. The training programme for local police and community leaders in police work, local laws, and international standards to enhance community safety laws comes as a second phase of the PIAJ project, after training and qualifying community mediation committees in Aden governorate, as well as working with police and detention centers to solve several community issues and several police centers will be rehabilitated.	Sa24 Pressbee Newspaper Adengad Pressn Sahafahh Sahafatak Aden-Post Sahafahh Sawt-Eshab Al-Omana
25 February – 2 March 2023	Minister of Justice Al-Ardah Discusses Ways to Enhance Cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme The Minister of Justice, Bader Al-Ardeh, discussed today in Aden with the UNDP's PIAJ specialist, Won-Hyuk Im, ways to enhance relations, cooperation, and legal guidance aid for vulnerable groups (women and children). The meeting was attended by the governorate of the Planning and Infrastructure Sector at the Justice Ministry, Ali Madid, and the Head of the Technical Office, Nabil Al-Manhmi, the Minister of Justice stressed they seek to develop relations with international organizations in various fields, including supporting judicial programmes, strengthening partnerships, and working to implement legal awareness programmes, pointing out that the past period witnessed the implementations of many programmes such as judicial aid programmes, enhancing the role of women, juvenile justice, capacity building for juveniles, as well as contracting with lawyers. On the other hand, Won-Hyuk Im referred to the UNDP's efforts to implement PIAJ project in Yemen to improve protection for survivors of gender-based violence and empower women in decision-making at multiple levels of the security and justice sectors.	Adengad pressbee Yafua Al-Hekmah Alwatanskynews From-Yemen
03 – 09 March	Consultation Workshops on Community Safety Finalized in Hais and Al Khawkha	Yemennownews Ye-voice

2023	The Relief and Development Response Foundation Concludes Consultation Workshops for Community Safety in Hodeidah. The opening of the consultative workshops was attended by the Director of Governorate Security, Najib Waraq, the Director General of Al-Khawkhah district, Salem Alyan, the Director General of Hays district, Mutahar Al-Qadi, and the Deputy Director General of the Office of Social Affairs and Labor. The workshops were implemented with the participation of more than 100 from community leaders, women, representatives of civil society organizations, providers of protection and psychological support services the awareness team of the Executive Center for Mine Action, and members of the informal community network that was established within the project. During the closing workshops, which lasted from 01-02 March, 2023. The participants discussed the mechanism of continuity and sustainability of the work of the informal community network with the local authorities, security/police, and relevant authorities to address community safety issues and provide awareness services and psychosocial support to victims and those affected by improvised explosive devices and security issues in general. It is worth mentioning that the final consultation workshops are implemented within the PIAJ project implemented by the Relief and Development Response Foundation with funding from the United Nations Development Programme, and in coordination and cooperation with the Office of Social Affairs and Labor and the Executive Center for Mine Action in Hodeidah Governorate, to improve community safety by raising awareness of the importance of combating improvised explosive devices and community safety issues in Hodeidah Governorate.	Yem-now
10 – 16 March 2023	The Director of Security of Aden Meets a Delegation of UNDP and the Penal Reform Organization The Director of Security in Aden, General Mutahar Ali Al-Shuaibi, met a delegation from the United Nations Development Programme and the Penal Reform Organization at the headquarters of the Security Department in Khormaksar District. Al-Shuaibi welcomed the representatives of the United Nations Development Programme, the Penal Reform Organization, Ms. Kana Aswa Iowa, the Training Coordinator at the Dutch Embassy in Amman, and the Regional Officer of the Penal Reform Organization in the Middle East and North Africa, Mr. Adel Dabwan. They discussed ways to facilitate the work of the female police and involve them in the training and rehabilitation field to improve the role of their security work and the support, construction, training, and capabilities to gain experience in security work and carry out their tasks. Al-Shuaibi assured that more than 1250 soldiers of security personnel will be trained and 250 female police staff will enhance their security knowledge and gain more experience. Representatives of the United Nations Development Programme and Penal Reform Organization briefly explained the importance of enhancing the role of the female police. They emphasized that the policewoman bears great burdens, and her role is pivotal whether in the field or in decision-making.	Yafa-news Al-Omana Alayyam Deraalganoob
11 – 23 March 2023	A Foreign Delegation Visits the Headquarters of the Yemeni Women's Union A delegation from the Dutch government, UNDP, and UNFPA headquarters visited the Yemeni Women's Union – Aden to open the second floor of the training and rehabilitation center of the shelter and the two training halls of the Union. The delegation, consisting of Ms. Noeke Ruiter, First Secretary for Peace, Security, and Justice, Ms. Annie Vestjens, health expert in health, Mr. Won-Hyuk Im, Mr. Kennedy Chibvongodze, and Mr. Abdulghani Alwajih, from UNDP, were briefed on the essential free services provided by the Union to the community, especially for battered women and survivors of violence, including health, psychological and legal support, safe shelter, economic empowerment and awareness of the step of violence, its types, forms, and culture. The delegation listened to the Union staff on the challenges they face during work and a detailed explanation of the activities of the project to enhance the access to justice in Yemen by providing legal aid and protection services to detained and abused women.	Albaud4 Masralyoum Aden-tm Adning Masralyoum W6nnews Yemennownews Nuomnews W6nnews
11 - 23 March 2023	Afaq Shababia Inaugurates the Office of the Community Mediation Committee Funded by the Dutch government and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with the Afaq Shababia, the office of community mediation committees was inaugurated in Khormaksar district in Aden governorate. At the opening ceremony, Mr. Awwas Al-Zuhri - Director General of Khormaksar district, explained the vital role played by the community mediation committees in solving non-serious cases. The efforts made by the members of the	Adengad Pressbee Yemennownews sawt-eshab

	Community Mediation Committee in the district to alleviate the official agencies and detention centers stressed the need for community participation with authorized agencies in resolving many disputes, thanking at the end of his speech all the funding and implementing bodies of the programme. For his part, Mr. Jalal Al-Subaihi - Director of Khormaksar Police Station, thanked the parties that contribute to promoting inclusive access to justice and the Community Mediation Committee for their role in resolving disputes and reducing the burden on police and detention centers. At the end of the opening ceremony, the Community Mediation Committees members thanked and appreciated Afaq Shababia Foundation for its efforts in contributing to community service, empowerment, and capacity building.	
23 – 30 March 2023	Workshop on the Role of Media in Supporting Community Restorative Justice Advocacy in Aden The Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies, in collaboration with the Afaq Shababia Foundation, organized a workshop in Aden on the role of journalism and media in supporting and advocating restorative justice, as well as the experience of community mediation committees working within the PIAJ project, which is funded by the Dutch government and the United Nations Development Programme. Mohammed Noman, the Center's director, emphasized the importance of the press and media in solving societal problems, confronting the difficulties and challenges that society faces as a result of the war, dealing with community issues, life suffering, and human rights, supporting the development path, strengthening security and the rule of law, and combating corruption and various forms of human rights violations. The workshop participants reviewed several working papers on the role of the press and media in supporting and advocating for restorative justice, the experience of community mediation committees in Aden, and developing recommendations for coordination between the advocacy program and media institutions by providing information, data, and statistics, as well as the importance of joint work in community issues and problems and promotion.	Almahriah Adentodey Adenkhbr Adengad Aden-City Sahafaa Elghadelyemeny khlaasa
31 March – 6 April 2023	The Yemen Center Organizes a Workshop on the Impact of the outputs of dialogue forums, seminars, and meetings to advocate Community Restorative Justice Within the framework of the Community Restorative Justice Advocacy Programme in Aden, a workshop is being held in the to assess the impact and outputs of PIAJY dialogue forums and seminars. This workshop, implemented by the Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies in partnership with the Afaq Shababia Foundation, comes within the PIAJY project and is supported by the Dutch government and the United Nations Development Programme. The workshop was opened by Mr. Muhammad Qasim Noman, president of the Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies, and attended by a group of judges from the prosecution, courts, security, and community leaders, and the Legal Affairs Officer for Relief and International Cooperation at the Office of the President of the Republic, Ms. Lisa Mohammed Ahmed. Mr. Noman welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of this workshop, which implemented through the community mediation committees implemented by the Afaq Shababia Foundation. The advocacy activities that have taken place and continue to enhance the successes of community mediation committees and community committees to ensure the sustainability of community restorative justice work in Aden by developing a short and medium-term strategy.	Aden-Alhadath Sada-Alsahe Yem-Now Samaaden Adenplus