



United Nations Development Programme

Promoting Inclusive Access to Justice in Yemen

(Project ID: Quantum 00139644)

Third Progress Report (1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023)

Submitted to the Kingdom of the Netherlands



Legal Empowerment Review Workshop in Aden (December 2023)

April 2024

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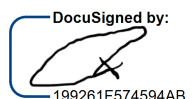
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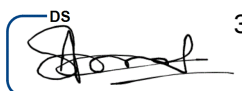
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Project Information		
Country	Yemen	
Donor(s)	The Kingdom of the Netherlands	
Project Details	Project title:	Promoting Inclusive Access to Justice in Yemen (PIAJY)
	Project ID	Quantum 00139644
	Outputs	Output 1: Community safety enhanced through inclusive 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 \$ 7,465,976 (from 1 September 2021 until 31 Dec 2023)
Accumulative Expenditure		US \$ 5,382,638 (from 1 September 2021 until 31 Dec 2023)
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Responsible Parties	Youth Leadership Development Foundation (YLDF) Afaq Shababia Foundation (ASF) Responsiveness for Relief and Development Foundation (RRD) Yemen Women Union (YWU) Sana'a Yemen Women Union (YWU) Aden 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) (Quantum ID: 00139644) since 1 September 2021 (until 31 August 2024 with a total funding of **US\$ 8,910,891**). This Third Progress Report takes stock of the overall progress for the last 30 months (with a received funding of **US\$ 7,465,976.50**).

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 2023 to 31 December 2023. More recent results in 1st Quarter of 2024 are also reported (with a specific marker attached to each result to ensure accountability).

Key achievements

- **More inclusive informal justice platform** with 24.3 percent representation of vulnerable and marginalized groups (women: 7%, IDPs: 15%, Muhamasheen 2.5%) achieved among 400 community leaders identified and endorsed by local authorities in two Neighbourhoods, Sana'a.
- **Stronger enabling environment** for access to informal and formal justice at the community level, with good governance provisions for diversity inclusion, service integration and accountability mechanisms endorsed under a Community Charter in two Neighbourhoods in Sana'a.
- **Improved policy framework** for access to informal and formal justice at the governorate, with official partnership across community justice workers, bar association, and social workers established by a Legal Empowerment SOP under the leadership of the Ministry of Justice in Aden.
- **Enhanced gender justice capacity** with 2 Women Litigant Units at East and West Courts in Sana'a procured with office equipment for case registration and processing and 1 Gender Self-Assessment produced on gender needs at the police sector in Aden.
- **Empowered women rule of law leaders** with 8 women judges appointed to the supreme court in Aden, as an overall result of continuous advocacy and support for gender equality and women's empowerment.
- **Income opportunities generated** for 40 GBV survivors and women ex-detainees with women's economic empowerment initiatives (vocational and project management trainings, equipment provision, etc.) in Aden.
- **Justice needs addressed** for 255 vulnerable people (F: 166, M: 89) through the provision of legal assistance in Aden and Sana'a.
- **Human rights-based prison management** promoted through the training of 80 prison officers (F: 5, M: 75) at the Central Prison in Sana'a.

Main Challenges

- The De Facto Authority (DFA)'s military actions in the Red Sea have raised political tensions in the region. The project has de-risked its activities in Sana'a in line with donor consultation.

- Security forces in Yemen are often involved in human rights violations during conflict. The project ensured a full compliance with the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN Support to non-UN Security Forces (HRDDP) requirements, newly introduced in Yemen in 2023.
- Authorities have treated national CSOs from a political point of view, rejecting some Responsible Parties (RPs) for their arguable political affiliations (aka “Northern CSOs” or “Southern CSOs”), despite their fulfilment of legal requirements. The project managed to partner with local CSOs.

Lessons Learned

- “People-centred approach to institution building” has a potential to contribute to systems-strengthening of hybrid justice governance.
- Community-based institutions below local authorities can be a fulcrum for inclusive justice, calling for the unpacking of the binary human rights-based approach.
- Service integration among national rule of law institutions remains challenging, while contextual factors appear to play a central role in the outcome of integration efforts.
- Development approach to humanitarian crisis can be a high-risk, high-return engagement, which calls for risk tolerance and Continuum of Support (CoS).

From 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023, the project delivered **US\$ 3,361,153.41 (86.5 percent delivery rate)**. UNDP Yemen successfully mobilized additional resources from other donors, such as the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) of the Republic of Korea (4 million US\$, from November 2024 to March 2026, Aden and Mukalla) and pipeline funds from UNDP’s Global Rule of Law Programme.

Building upon the achievements so far, UNDP Yemen is preparing for the next phase of the project in the hope of continuous donor support.

BACKGROUND

Yemen is the poorest country in the Arab region. The Human Development Index in 2022 was 0.424, positioning it 186 out of 193 countries. Yemen ranks 166 of 166 in the Global Gender Inequality Index in 2022. From 2019 to 2022, Yemen ranked at the top of the Fragile States Index (FSI).¹ 80 percent of the population need humanitarian assistance. The war in Yemen results from a decades-long history of grievances and conflict, corruption and mismanagement, elite capture, and patronage, coupled with tribal, religious, and regional divides. A peace agreement remains elusive. Authority in Yemen is fragmented, with parallel institutions operating in government and opposition-held areas.

Early 2023 witnessed a growing hope for a peace deal in Yemen, primarily between the De Facto Authority (DFA) and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (and its political clients). However, the crisis in Gaza since October 2023 and the DFA's gesture to position itself as a regional player has newly cast an ominous shadow over Yemen's political future. The Houthis' direct military confrontation with major powers in the Red Sea and its re-designation on the list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations have spurred diplomatic concerns.

The conflict has politicized and decapitated rule of law institutions, including formal legal aid regime, which were already state-centric and elite-serving before the conflict.² Poor and marginalized groups are affected by weaker institutions first and foremost. For example, judicial strikes over political appointees have caused a large backlog of civil and criminal cases in Aden since 2021. The police continued to detain suspects, majority of whom are involved in civil debts or petty crimes. Police detainees were further declined transfer to prison facilities, which equally faced significant releasing delays. The blockage has caused extreme overcrowding at police cells, with some locations holding three times more than their official capacity. Pre-trial detainees were left in custody without due process for indefinite time.

The needs are compounded for women. Social norms and corresponding legal frameworks³ discriminate against women, especially in public life. The male guardianship deters women from accessing justice system at will. This weaker social status makes women more vulnerable to disputes than men, especially over family and land issues. Incidents of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) against women are frequently underreported, as survivors face social stigma and suffer limited access to formal justice, as institutions are almost entirely staffed by men.⁴ Women detainees are most vulnerable, exposed to the risk of in-prison sexual violence and post-prison ostracization for life, including rejection by their own families.⁵

The combination of supply fall and demand rise in justice has undermined citizen trust in formal institutions, which were already state-centric and elite-serving before the conflict. To cope with unsatisfied justice needs, most people rely on community justice, such as dispute resolution mechanisms mediated by customary leaders (*aqils*, *sheikhs*, or *imams*).⁶ Community justice providers are more geographically

¹ Fund for Peace (2023) Fragile States Index Annual Report 2023; Yemen surpassed Somalia, Syria, South Sudan, Central African Republic, and DR Congo; Yemen ranked 2nd in 2023 after Somalia.

² The following sections provide more analysis in detail.

³ The Penal Code provides mitigation for femicide ("honor crimes") and prohibits abortion even for rape survivors. The Personal Status Code permits polygamy and defines the rules of inheritance, where daughters receive the half of sons' share.

⁴ Pre-war figures show about 3,000 women police among 170,000 total (mere 1.7%; the UN standard is 20%) and 278 women judges and prosecutors among 3,980 total (about 7%). However, conflict has significantly reduced the number of active women rule of law professionals. Currently, only 83 women judges and prosecutors are active (2.1%), according to Women Judges' Club in Aden.

⁵ The Central Prison in Sana'a holds the largest number of detainees in Yemen: 3,000 men, 270 women, and 40 accompanied children. Women and children make up almost 10% of prison population. This is a disproportionately large number, given the masculinized nature of the criminal justice in Yemen (e.g. the number of women in the police).

⁶ Distinction between formal and informal justice has always been blurry in Yemen, and administration of justice has been inherently hybrid in practice. Informal figures not only operate in parallel to the formal but also hold key positions within formal institutions, providing the role of an intermediary between people and the State.

accessible and economically affordable, including often for women.⁷ Such legal pluralism, however, generally poses challenges to inclusive justice, esp. gender justice. Patriarchal and gerontocratic social norms discriminate against women and juveniles.

Hybrid justice governance is taking different evolutionary paths in Sana'a and Aden, with respective risk and resilience. In Sana'a, the DFA, with its control of security and justice, has misused community leaders, such as *aqils*, as a tool to collect community information, including names of young men to recruit for political events. However, as the DFA's own authoritarian rule and war profiteering is quickly defeating the elan of a popular movement to revolt against past corruption and foreign invasion, it seems that alternative voices are gaining more momentum at least at the grassroots level.⁸ In Aden, the IRG remains fragmented and often paralysed, having yet to re-establish its full control over security and justice. Such gaps in formal systems are ironically offering a greater space for civic participation, including informal justice. At the same time, the re-emergence of community-driven justice risks the reification of patriarchal social norms at the expense of more inclusive justice.

In response, the Promoting Inclusive Access to Justice in Yemen (PIAJY) project has followed below approaches.

- Remain engaged impartially across political fault lines, with a strategic and developmental perspective on the far horizon, to avoid more costlier and irreversible losses in human and institutional capital (“lost generations”).
- Strategically combine “top-down” (institutions) and “bottom-up” (communities) interventions to offer a development solution of “people-centred approach to institution building.”
- Bridge the oversimplified dichotomy between the State and society, utilizing numerous intersections across State non-justiciable mechanisms and non-State justiciable mechanisms.
- Continue its way of working, which is participatory and inclusive, iterative, and adaptive, context-specific, and problem-led rather than cookie-cutter and solution-driven.
- Lay a foundation to expand its inclusivity beyond gender, reaching out to other vulnerable population groups, such as People with Disabilities (PwDs) and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).
- Look beyond the current cycle into a more coordinated portfolio approach to civil justice, which can build bridges with other areas of development programming (e.g. economy or environment).

⁷ Marta Colburn and Reem Abdullah (2020) USAID/Yemen Gender Analysis (Banyan Global), 26.

⁸ Maysaa Shuja Al-Deen (2022) Entrenched Power: The Houthi System of Governance (The Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies).

PROGRESS TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT RESULTS

Output 1. Inclusive Community Safety Improved.

Indicators (baselines)	Years	Until 1Q 2023 (Cum.)	Since 1Q 2023
1.1: Number of formal / informal institutions strengthened in the field of human security at sub-national level. Baseline: 0	Targets	3	4
	Achieve-ments	• 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.	• 24.3 percent representation of vulnerable and marginalized groups (women: 7%, IDPs: 15%, Muhamasheen 2.5%) achieved among 400 community leaders identified and endorsed by local authorities in two Neighbourhoods (48 sub-Neighbourhoods), Sana'a. • 1 Community Charter endorsed in two Neighbourhoods in Sana'a with good governance provisions for diversity inclusion, service integration and accountability mechanisms.
	Status	Achieved	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	Targets	60,000	30,000
	Achieve-ments	• 62,404 community members received 80,000 copies of risk education products on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in Hodeidah and Marib governorates.	• 10,633 community members improved access to informal justice, benefiting from participatory consultations and inclusive Community Charter in two Neighbourhoods in Sana'a.
	Status	Achieved	In Progress
1.3: Number of community representatives consulted on safety issues including IEDs, disaggregated by sex and percentage of youth and marginalised population. Baseline: 125	Targets	525 (300 males, 100 females)	800 (600 males, 200 females)
	Achieve-ments	• 468 community representatives (F:162, M:306) were consulted on IED safety issues in Hodeidah and Marib governorates. • Further 2808 community members benefitted indirectly.	• 600 community leaders were consulted in two Neighborhoods in Sana'a, from which 400 were selected for community committees. • 160 community members (F: 55%, M: 45%) were consulted in 8 Districts in Aden (20 per district) on the expected roles of CCs, organizational structures and work mechanisms, capacity-building needs, and community problems for CCs to address.
	Status	Achieved	Achieved

Description of Results

- **More inclusive informal justice platform** with 24.3 percent representation of vulnerable and marginalized groups (women: 7%, IDPs: 15%, Muhamasheen 2.5%) achieved among 400 community leaders identified and endorsed by local authorities in two Neighbourhoods (48 sub-Neighbourhoods), Sana'a.

- CCs have a legacy regulation originating from the 1960s, defining its mission and basic structure.
- CCs have designated workplaces at Governor's Office and District Offices (8 districts), holding monthly meetings to channel community needs (but not yet at the neighbourhood level).
- Governor's office facilitates cooperation among CCs, local authorities, and local police.
- Governor's office provides modest stipends to the heads of neighbourhood CCs (10,000 Yemeni Riyals per month).
-
- However, CCs lack organizational maturity, missing detailed structures, roles and responsibilities, selection criteria, accountability mechanisms, and work processes.
- Overall CC membership underrepresents women, youth, and marginalized groups (disabled, displaced, and discriminated/Muhamasheen). IDP exclusion is noticeable.
- Some CC members lack qualifications due to the absence of selection and training mechanisms, resulting in community distrust against CCs in certain neighbourhoods.
- Service coordination and referral mechanisms to and from various public service institutions need further elaboration and formalization to improve supervision and accountability.
- There are "informal" community committees established by other initiatives funded locally or internationally.¹² No coordination mechanism exists among themselves and with formal CCs.

Aden Governor's letter
to appoint CCs ([Link](#))

Sana'a

- The DFA has officially appointed one aqil per sub-Neighbourhood (below Neighbourhood under District). The formal aqils serve the agenda of the DFA, such as youth recruitment for political events.
- The DFA has given the formal aqils means of influence, such as the distribution of humanitarian aid and cooking gas. However, they do not represent diverse voices raised by other community leaders.
- There is a sufficiently safe room to improve community governance without challenging the formal structure of DFA aqils selected from above, as aqils depend on community cooperation from below.

Sana'a

- **(Inclusion Advocacy for Mapping Strategy) 1** inclusive mapping strategy was developed, following a persistent advocacy and negotiation with formal community leaders and local authorities.
 - **(Participatory Mapping)** to improve inclusive representation, members of marginalized groups (IDPs and Muhamasheen) were invited to participate in the mapping exercise in their own communities.

Community Mapping Strategy in Sana'a

- **Three-stage process** was used.¹³
 - 1) macro desk review: population numbers by sub-groups
 - 2) micro nomination: individual candidates recommended by representative groups (local authority, existing committees, CSOs, women associations, youth initiatives, IDPs, and Muhamasheen community, etc.).
 - 3) verification workshop: selection of qualified nominees based on pre-defined criteria.
- **Community Leader Selection Criteria**

Age	Residence	Experience	Education	Leadership	Integrity	Knowledge	Commitment	Women Youth	Muhamasheen IDPs
25-70	Target location	Past community work	Basic literacy	Influence to inspire	Community trust	Social work Dispute resolution	Availability	30% Minimum	15% Minimum

¹² For example, various community committees with varying names have been supported by Search for Common Ground, Care Yemen, Berghof Foundation, and Generation without Gat, among others.

¹³ The mapping strategy was developed by YLDF (Youth Leadership Development Foundation).

- Link: Community Mapping Tool for Moalimi and Sunaina Neighbourhoods ([English](#), [Arabic](#))
- **(Community Mapping) 600** community leaders were mapped in Sunaina and Moalimi Neighborhoods (with about 40 sub-Neighborhoods), Ma'ain District, Sana'a.
 - Desk review shows the following population figures.

Neighbourhoods	Total Population	Men	Women	Household
Sonaina	8,342	4,438	3,904	1360
Moalimi	2,291	1,248	1,043	388
Total	10,633	5,686	4,947	1,748 ¹⁴

- **(Identification of Community Leaders) 400** out of 600 community leaders were selected for community committees (**300** for two Neighborhoods, **100** for District).
 - Link: Community Mapping Report for Moalimi and Sunaina Neighbourhoods ([English](#))
 - Link: 400 Community Leaders in Moalimi and Sunaina Neighbourhoods ([English](#), [Arabic](#))
- **(Diversity Inclusion for Community Leaders) 24.3 percent** of community leaders were selected from vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as women, IDPs and Muhamasheen.
 - Women community leaders make 7 percent: despite the low proportion, their presence offers a meaningful service entry point for other women in the community.
 - Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Sana'a turn out to be most vulnerable, failing to meet pre-defined qualification: the sub-group will require a special approach in the future.

Markers	Total	Gender	Displacement	Caste	Disability	Age
Minority	97 (24.3%)	Women: 28 (7%)	IDPs: 59 (15%)	Muhamasheen: 10 (2.5%)	PWDs: 0 (0%)	Youth: 149 (37.3%)
Majority	303 (75.7%)	Men: 372 (97%)	Host: 341 (85%)	Host: 390 (97.5%)	Non-PWDs: 400 (100%)	Adult: 251 (62.7%)
Analysis	Excluding Youth	Social Norms	Results of participatory mapping		Most vulnerable among all sub-groups	24-35 years old by local standard



Community Committee consultation with Muhamasheen representatives in Moalimi Neighbourhood, Sana'a



¹⁴ Average 6 people per household.

(17 Mar 2024)	Mohamasheen Community in Moalimi Neighbourhood, Ma'ain District, Sana'a (Map)
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Improving Community Governance in Sana'a

- **400** community leaders (**23.4** percent from vulnerable groups) reside in and represent two Neighborhoods covered by about **40** DFA-appointed aqils (one aqil per one sub-Neighborhood).
 - **10:1 ratio** between community leaders and formal DFA aqils empowers the alternative and diverse voices of the former, not appointed by the DFA, vis-à-vis the latter, appointed by the DFA.
 - Community leaders do not change the formal structure of the DFA aqils. However, they still can function as monitoring agents to improve democratic oversight of the formal aqils through checks and balances.
- **(Consultation for Community Charter)** **220** community leaders were consulted for the development of the Charter for CCs in Moalimi and Sunaina Neighborhoods, Ma'ain District, Sana'a.
 - **(Formulation of Community Charter)** **1** Community Charter for CCs was developed and endorsed in Moalimi and Sunaina Neighbourhoods, Ma'ain District, Sana'a.
 - Provisions for diversity inclusion (membership-dismissal criteria) and service integration (service referral partnership) were incorporated in the Charter.
 - The Charter also includes ethics and accountability measures (code of conduct, complaint mechanism).
 - Link: Community Charter in two Neighbourhoods in Sana'a ([English](#), [Arabic](#))

Community Charter in Sana'a

Objectives			
• Public participation in decision-making at the neighbourhood and district levels • Promotion of social justice by providing legal advice and assistance. • Improvement of public service delivery.			
Structure		Process	
Organization	Membership	Duties and Partnership	Ethics and Accountability
Committee Structure • Mediation/ Arbitration Committee • Awareness Committee • Social Service Committee • Community Participation Committee Committee Leadership • Chair, Deputy, Secretary • Members, Support Group	Selection-Dissmissal Criteria • Voluntary participation without personal interest • Ability to influence • Acceptance among society • Familiarity with norms-laws • Ability to read and write • No rulings for violations, unless rehabilitated • <u>Representation of women per committee by no less than two.</u> • <u>Representation of all social groups, including Bilal's Grandchildren and Displaced</u>	Duties • Neighbourhood jurisdiction • Civil-minor mediation-arbitration • Legal counselling • Awareness raising • Service access facilitation • Special needs of women and vulnerable groups Partnership-Referral • <u>Local authority / Council</u> • <u>Judicial institutions</u> • Medical institutions • Educational institutions • <u>National Women Committee</u> • Family Protection Department	Code of Conduct • No abuse of power for personal gain • No use of violent methods • No interference in formal jurisdiction • No delay in problem solving • No political agenda Complaint Mechanism • Reporting channels • Multi-level review bodies • Penalties against members

Ongoing Activities (results to be elaborated in the final narrative report)

- **(Formulation of Community Charter in Aden)** **1** Community Charter is being developed for CCs in Aden through inclusive consultations. Indicator 1.3. contains details.

- The Charter will govern **8** District-level and **1** Governorate-level CCs.
- “Informal” community committees existing in Aden are invited to join the consultation process.

Cumulative results reported in 2nd Progress Report

- **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.

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

- **10,633** community members improved access to informal justice, benefiting from participatory consultations and inclusive Community Charter in two Neighbourhoods in Sana’a.

Cumulative results reported in 2nd Progress Report

- **Over 62,400** community members received **80,000** copies of risk education products on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in Hodeida and Marib governorates.
- **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.

Indicator 1.3: community representatives consulted on safety issues including IEDs.

Sana’a

- Results were reported under Indicator 1.1. to show the logical flow of participatory process.

Aden

- **(Community Consultation) 160** community members (M 45%, F 55%) were consulted in 8 Districts in Aden (20 per district) on the expected roles of CCs, organizational structures and work mechanisms, capacity-building needs, and community problems for CCs to address.
 - To ensure diversity and inclusion, participants consisted of the following groups.

Community Committees	Local Authorities	Rule of Law Institutions	Civil Society Organizations	Academics Teachers	Lawyers Activists	Vulnerable Groups	Youth Leaders
20%	15%	15%	15%	10%	10%	10%	5%

- **(Diversity Inclusion in Aden) 10%** of consultation participants were from “vulnerable groups” in 8 Districts in Aden. 5% of participants were from youth groups.
 - Selection relied on local authorities in respective Districts ([List](#)).



Inclusive Community Consultation in Al Mansura District, Aden
(8 Dec 2023)



Female participant from Muhamasheen community in
Sheikh Othman District, Aden (7 Dec 2023)

- **(Community Dispute Types in Aden)** 10 most common types of community disputes in Aden were identified and ranked by frequency and severity.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Water Access	Housing Rent	Unregulated Construction	Family Disputes	IDPs Host communities	Aid Distribution	Weapons Drugs	Market Disputes	Electricity Access	Sanitation Garbage Disposal

Cumulative results reported in 2nd Progress Report

- **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.

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

Indicators (baselines)	Years	Until 1Q 2023 (Cum.)	Since 1Q 2023
2.1: # of community members benefiting from community-based access to justice initiatives implemented in the targeted areas. Baseline: 0	Targets	75,000	100,000
	Achievements	• 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.	• 691,300 people indirectly benefitted from legal empowerment initiatives in 8 Districts in Aden (62% of 1,115,000 total population), estimated according to justice-seeking patterns in Yemen.
	Status	Achieved	Achieved
	Targets	3	4

2.2: # of formal / informal justice institutions strengthened in terms of fairness, effectiveness, accountability or independence (sub-national level) Baseline: 0	Achievements	• 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.	• 1 legal empowerment SOP established by community justice workers (paralegals), bar association, social workers under the leadership of the Ministry of Justice in Aden. • 5 courts in Aden selected to house community paralegal teams. • 2 Women Litigant Units at East and West Courts in Sana'a improved case registration and processing capacity through equipment procurement.
	Status	Achieved	Achieved
2.3: # of disputes / cases that have been assisted, disaggregated by sex and percentage of youth and marginalised population Baseline: 0	Targets	200 Target 30% of cases women / youth / marginalised	300 Target 30% of cases women / youth / marginalised
	Achievements	• Preparatory works are conducted, such as needs identification, Terms of Reference development, authority consultation, and Call for Proposals process.	• 98 cases (20% women) being assisted in Sana'a. • 825 cases will be assisted (Aden 350, Sana'a 475).
	Status	To be implemented in 2023	In Progress

Description of Results

- **Improved policy framework** for access to informal and formal justice at the governorate, with official partnership across community justice workers, bar association, and social workers established by a Legal Empowerment SOP under the leadership of the Ministry of Justice in Aden.

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

- **691,300** people indirectly benefitted from legal empowerment initiatives in 8 Districts in Aden (62% of 1,115,000 total population), estimated according to justice-seeking patterns in Yemen.

Cumulative results reported in 2nd Progress Report

- **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),¹⁵ estimated according to justice-seeking patterns in Yemen.¹⁶

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

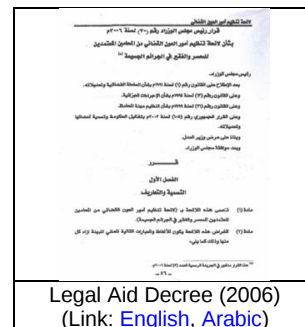
¹⁵ UN Habitat (2020) Aden City Profile (funded by EU); <https://yemenportal.unhabitat.org/>

¹⁶ 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.

- **(Entry Point)** the intersection between informal and formal legal aid was identified as a key entry point to improve service accessibility and legal accountability of “community-based access to justice initiatives.”¹⁷ Below overview presents initial findings.

Legal Aid in Yemen

- Prime Minister Decree No.70 (2006) formally establishes and defines the scope of legal aid in Yemen.¹⁸
- The Decree regards legal aid as an exclusive domain of the formal state justice, as frequently observed in other development contexts.
- The Decree only concerns serious crimes at the judicial stage, where only “accredited lawyers” can play a formal role.
- This narrow definition of legal aid neglects a large area on the criminal justice spectrum, such as pre-police, police, prison, post-prison.
- However, legal needs are greater at pre-/post-judicial stage, given the community-based justice-seeking patterns in Yemen.¹⁹ Below matrix visualizes this legal aid gap.



Community	Police	Prosecutor	Court	Prison	Community
Pre-police	Pre-charge	Post-charge	Pre-sentence	Post-sentence	Post-prison
Legal Aid Decree (2006)					
Legal Needs					

- Formal authorities involved in non-judicial legal aid and associated public services include the Ministry of Interior (the police, prison), the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (protection of women, juveniles, people with disabilities), Executive Unit for Displacement (IDPs) and local authority.
- However, the Ministry of Justice has guarded legal aid as their exclusive domain of power and influence, pre-empting inter-agency coordination required to serve the best interest of people.
- Yemeni bar associations also have maintained a vested interest in their monopoly of legal aid service and market price control.²⁰
- This legal aid gap is filled by informal and customary community leaders, largely without direct supervision or support from the formal justice, and at the risk of gender and minority justice.
- Experiences in other contexts show that informal leaders and formal lawyers can make a win-win partnership: for community leaders, informal-formal teamwork enables formal litigation and higher-level advocacy. For formal lawyers, community partnership enhances their influence and professional status.²¹

Aden

- **(Concept Advocacy)** the concept of “Legal Empowerment” was advocated to and accepted by the Ministry of Justice to broaden the perception, policy, and practice of state-centric legal aid in Aden.

¹⁷ There seem to be inherent trade-offs and tensions between informal community justice and formal State justice. Community justice is more accessible and popular, but also problematic, esp. in terms of gender and minority justice. State justice is more accountable to the law, but also less accessible to the “people.”

¹⁸ Republic of Yemen, Prime Minister Decree No. (70) for Year 2006 regarding the Regulation of the Legal Aid Affairs from Accredited Lawyers for the Insolvent and the Poor in the Serious Crimes.

¹⁹ The Hague Institute for Innovation of Law (HiIL) (2014) Justice Needs in Yemen: From Problems to Fairness.

²⁰ Formal legal aid market in Yemen is known for its prohibitively expensive fees. Hiring a private lawyer for a criminal case usually requires 2,000 US\$ minimum. For comparison, a working-level government employee earns about 200 US\$ per month.

²¹ Market competition between community leaders and formal lawyers over legal aid service seems negligible, as community leaders' clients are already too poor to access lawyers; Maru, Vivek and Varun Gauri (2018) “Paralegals in Comparative Perspective”, in Vivek Maru and Varun Gauri eds. Community Paralegals and the Pursuit of Justice (Cambridge), 1-42.

- Legal Empowerment aims to democratize justice and supports the grassroots and vulnerable groups to know, use and change the law.²²
- **(Joint Committee)** a resolution letter was issued by the Minister of Justice to establish an inter-agency platform (Joint Committee) on Legal Empowerment in Aden.
 - The Joint Committee consists of 16 members (F 9, M 7) from various judicial and non-judicial ministries (MoJ, MoI, MoSAL, MoPIC, MoLAHR), bar association, and Community Committees.
 - The Joint Committee elected its Chair (MoJ Deputy Minister Judge Mr. Baabad) and Deputy Chair (MoJ Director General for Women and Children Dr. Ms. Manal).
 - Link: Legal Empowerment Joint Committee in Aden ([English](#))



MoJ Deputy Minister Abdulkareem Baabad
at the 1st Joint Committee meeting in Aden (29 Nov 2023)



Joint Committee members
at the 1st Joint Committee meeting in Aden (29 Nov 2023)

- **(Legal Aid Review)** legal aid policy and practice were reviewed inclusively and comprehensively. **40** workshop participants (M 37%, F 63%) represented various communities and institutions across multiple levels and sectors.²³
 - **Three** review papers were delivered and discussed, as the following.

Legal Aid Review Papers in Aden

- Judge Mr. Abdulkareem Baabad (Deputy Minister of Justice): “National Policy Framework”
 - Reminded the national policy framework on legal aid: the Constitution (Article 49) (state guarantee of legal aid), Prime Minister’s Decree No.70 (2006) (legal aid), Ministry of Justice Resolution No. 15 (2019) (juvenile justice), Ministry of Justice Decision (2023) (establishment of legal aid committee).
 - Called for **budget allocation** for legal aid by the Ministry of Finance, according to the national framework.
 - Committed to creating partnerships among the Ministry of Justice, bar association, and civil society organizations, such as Community Committees.
- Judge Ms. Eshraq Almaqtari (Spokesperson of NCIHVHR²⁴): “Social Perspective on Legal Aid”
 - Clarified the concept of legal empowerment, which is **more comprehensive** than the formal legal aid limited to litigation.

²² For the concept of “Legal Empowerment,” see New York University: https://www.law.nyu.edu/centers/bernstein-institute/legal_empowerment

²³ Joint Committee, National Women’s Committee, Governor’s Office, Security Directorate, Chamber of Commerce, Aden University, Legal Activists, CSOs, Community Committees, Vulnerable Groups, UNHCR

²⁴ National Commission to Investigate Alleged Violations of Human Rights.

- Highlighted various civil society initiatives for legal empowerment to fill the gap of state service provision, such as Yemen Women Union and Community Committees.
- Recommended stronger partnership between civil society and the formal institutions, esp. institutional arrangement between voluntary lawyers and the Ministry of Justice.
- Ms. Valentina Mahdi (Deputy Head of YWU): “CSOs and Legal Empowerment Service Delivery”
 - Briefed on the various experiences of CSOs in the provision of legal empowerment, esp. to vulnerable women and children.
 - Emphasized the **preventive benefits** of CSO contributions through reconciliation and diversion of community disputes from escalation into the formal judicial process.
 - Pointed out the importance of community awareness and communication channels for vulnerable groups to know and use legal empowerment services.



Judge Ms. Eshraq presents her review paper on “Social perspective on legal empowerment” in Aden. (20 Dec 2023)



Ms. Valentina at YWU presents her review paper on “CSOs and legal empowerment” in Aden. (20 Dec 2023)

- **(Service Mapping)** a pattern of legal aid service availability was identified in Aden. Services are more present earlier on the justice continuum: in-prison services are weak and post-prison re-entry service is completely absent.

	Community Pre-police	Police Pre-charge	Prosecutor Post-charge	Court Pre-sentence	Prison Post-sentence	Community Post-prison
Service providers	- CSOs - Community Committees (LA) - YWU (MoSAL) - Lawyers (MoJ)	- Lawyers - Community Committees	Judicial Inspection Committee	Judicial Inspection Committee	Prison Authority	n/a
Services	- Legal awareness - Legal counselling - Mediation	- Legal counselling - Mediation	- Legal representation - Detention Monitoring	- Legal representation - Detention Monitoring	- Medical - Psychosocial - Legal - Vocational	n/a
Gaps Needs	- Legal awareness - Physical safety - Service contact - Service space - Women space - Service referral - Financial resource	- Legal awareness - Referral delay - Women space	- Case delays - Gender justice incapacity - E-justice for remote service	- Ineffective judicial inspection - Financial resource	- Service access - Management capacity and accountability - Guardian requirement for women detainees to release - Women space	Economic empowerment for re-entry

- **(Policy recommendations)** review workshop participants collectively made and presented the following points to relevant formal authorities, including the Ministry of Justice.

Recommendations on Legal Aid Decree (2006)

- Amend the Decree to expand legal aid to all groups at all stages for all cases, giving priority to

vulnerable groups, esp. women and children.

- Add voluntary lawyers and civil society organizations as legal aid service providers (Article 4).
- Implement the organization of Legal Aid Committee every three months (Article 18).
- Secure stable and sustainable funding sources for legal aid service budget.

- **(SOP Formulation)** 1 SOP for community justice workers (paralegals) was formulated consultatively to define partnership among community leaders, lawyers (private and government), social workers, working together under relevant supervisory authorities.
 - The SOP aims to improve the accessibility of formal justice and accountability of informal justice by creating coordination and cooperation channels between them.
 - The SOP also addresses service coordination and case referrals between levels (community-district-governorate) and functions (Local Authority-MoSAL-MoJ, etc.).
 - Both informal and formal justice actors (e.g. community committees – bar association) discovered their partnership mutually beneficial and complementary, rather than competitive.
 - Link: Community Paralegal SOP in Aden ([English](#), [Arabic](#))

Community Justice Workers (paralegals) SOP in Aden

Objectives			
• Identify and respond to community justice needs, esp. for vulnerable groups. • Build the awareness and capacity of community members to access justice services. • Strengthen informal-formal partnership to contribute to community dispute resolution.			
Structure		Process	
Organization	Membership	Responsibilities	Case Work
Composition • 30% women • 60% civil society: 30% private lawyers 20% community committees 10% activists • 40% government: 25% ministry lawyers (MoJ) 15% social workers (MoSAL) Supervisory Decision • Joint Committee for Legal Empowerment	Selection Criteria • Resident of District • University degree • Good conduct reputation • Knowledge of community issues and dynamics • Experience in community dispute resolution • Basic knowledge of law Accountability • Code of Conduct • Cancellation criteria	• Community education • Dispute counselling • Case survey • Case mediation • Lawyer consultation • Lawyer assistance • Lawyer monitoring	Selection Criteria • All cases except public rights • Cases for mediation and arbitration • Cases referred by formal justice authorities • Cases prioritized through case survey Referral Mechanism • Paralegals-Lawyers • Local Authority-Ministries

- **(Community Justice Worker Training)** 200 community paralegals and legal professionals (F 113, M 87) completed joint training course in Aden.
 - Training subjects included: 1) Partnership between communities and lawyers, 2) Formal legal institutions, 3) Thematic laws, including Land, Housing and Property, 4) International and national human rights, 5) Protection of vulnerable groups (women, children, elderly, disabled).
 - Link: Community Paralegal Training Manual in Aden ([Arabic](#))
 - Link: Community Paralegal Trainee List in Aden ([English](#))
- **(Community Justice Worker Teams)** 8 community paralegal teams were organized with 96 members (F 30%) in 8 Districts in Aden (12 per District). Composition is inclusive of government (40%) and civil society service providers (60%).

Districts	Total	Mainland Area				Peninsular Area			
		Al Bureiqah	Sheikh Uthman	Al Mansura	Dar Saad	Crater (Seera)	Mualla	At Tawahi	Khor Maksar
# of Teams	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
# of Members (30% women)	96	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Composition		Government (40%): 25% ministry lawyers (MoJ), 15% social workers (MoSAL) Civil Society (60%): 30% private lawyers, 20% community committees, 10% activists							

- **(Community Paralegal Offices)** 5 courts in Aden were selected to house community paralegal teams. Office and IT equipment is being procured.

Districts	Al Bureiqah	Sheikh Uthman	Mansura	Crater	At Tawahi
Offices	District Court	District Court	District Court	Appeal Court	District Court
Google Maps	Link	Link	Link	Link	Link

Sana'a

- **(Legal Aid SOP) 1 SOP** was produced by Yemen Women Union in Sana'a. The SOP keeps focus on legal aid service by lawyers.
 - Link: Yemen Women Union's legal aid SOP in Sana'a ([English](#), [Arabic](#))
 - Link: List of legal aid lawyers (6: F 3, M 3) in Sana'a ([English](#))
- **(Women Litigant Units) 2** Women Litigant Units at East and the West Courts in Sana'a improved case registration and processing capacity, benefitting from the procurement of office and IT equipment.



Yemen Women Union (YWU) team in Sana'a



Women partners for legal aid in Sana'a



Office and IT equipment provision for Women Litigant Units at the West and East Courts in Sana'a (Feb 2024)

- **(Legal Aid Training in Sana'a)** 200 trainees (F: 26, M: 154) completed a week-long training

course on human rights and legal aid organized by YWU in Sana'a.

- **(Civil Works)** Additional **2** formal rule of law institutions in Aden were selected for civil works to improve its service capacity for community-based restorative justice and women's access to justice.²⁵
 - Construction of a new first-instance Court in Al Mansura District²⁶: [Map](#)
 - Rehabilitation of Basateen Police Station in Dar Saad District: [Map](#)

Cumulative results reported in 2nd Progress Report

- **Six** formal rule of law institutions in Sana'a 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.

	Sana'a	Aden
1	Moalimi Police Station (completed) ○ women helpdesk, community space, roof water isolation layer	Crater Police Station (completed) ○ women helpdesk, community space, offices, clinic
2	West Prosecutor (completed) ○ offices, archive, electricity	Mansura Police Station (completed) ○ women helpdesk, community space
3	West Court (completed) ○ courtroom, offices, archive, electricity	Sira Court (completed) ○ 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.

Indicator 2.3: disputes / cases that have been assisted.

- **(Dispute Resolution in Sana'a)** **98** cases (20% women) are selected and being assisted in Sana'a.
 - Link: Dispute Resolution Case Database (98: F 20, M 78) by YWU Sana'a ([English](#))

Success Stories: Dispute Resolution

- YWU in Sana'a successfully facilitated the release of a female detainee, who completed her term but still stayed imprisoned due to her family's rejection to accept her. YWU's legal aid advocacy resulted in a referral letter issued by the prosecutor's office, according to which a women's shelter in Sana'a decided to accommodate her and assist her re-entry into society.
- YWU in Sana'a successfully assisted the release of a male detainee accused of threatening his own brother. YWU's legal aid led to a thorough investigation by the prosecutor's office, who discovered no evidence and granted his liberty.

Ongoing Activities (results to be elaborated in the final narrative report)

- **(Dispute Resolution)** the project will continue its dispute resolution activities in Aden and Sana'a, building upon achieved progresses and partnerships.
 - The total number of cases will be **825** (Aden 350, Sana'a 475).
 - Case profiles will be analyzed in detail in the subsequent narrative report.

²⁵ Apart from PIAJY funding, UNDP is working on a UN service centre within women's section in Sana'a Central Prison and a community service centre in Sunaina District, Sana'a.

²⁶ Currently all first-instance Courts in the four Districts of mainland Aden are housed in rented buildings.

	Total	Aden	Sana'a
Community Problems	100	50	50
Individual Disputes	725	300	425
Total	825	350	475

Case Selection Criteria for Community Problems

Needs	Solution	Sustainability	Proposal	Cost	Measurability
Urgency	Clarity	Consensus	Technicality	Proportionality	Indicators
Minority benefits	Feasibility	Alternative Finance	Beneficiaries	Economic return	

Output 3. Gender-based justice institutions capacities strengthened.

Indicators (baselines)	Years	Until 1Q 2023 (Cum.)	Since 1Q 2023
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	Targets	140	100
	Achieve -ments	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.	8 women judges were appointed at the Supreme Court in Aden, as an indirect result of the project's continuous support and advocacy for women rule of law leaders. 1 Gender Self-Assessment produced on gender needs at the police sector in Aden.
	Status	Achieved (Cum.)	
3.2: # of women receiving assistance in SGBV related cases with the support of the project. Baseline: 300	Targets	500	200
	Achieve -ments	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.	40 improved their income opportunities, benefitting from economic empowerment in Aden. 40 percent increase in the number of GBV shelter residents, resulting from the facility expansion. 157 cases (F: 93%) received legal assistance in Aden.
	Status	Achieved	Achieved

Description of Results

- Empowered women rule of law leaders** with 3 women police promoted to managerial posts and 8 women judges appointed to the supreme court in Aden, as an overall result of continuous advocacy and support for gender equality and women's empowerment.

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.

- **(Promotion of Women Judge) 8** women judges were appointed at the Supreme Court in Aden, as an indirect result of the project's continuous support and advocacy for women rule of law leaders.

Commentary: Dr. Ms. Manal Doman (Director General for Woman and Child Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Aden)

Yemeni women in the judiciary have actively contributed alongside their male counterparts to the development and modernization of the justice system. Women in the judiciary deal with matters efficiently, competently, and with integrity. Development projects such as the Promoting Inclusive Access to Justice in Yemen (PIAJY), in its close partnership with the Ministry of Justice, as well as the Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, and the Sustainable Development Goals, all focus on empowering women, enhancing their roles, and promoting their advancement in decision-making positions. Consequently, women in the rule of law have proven their worth through excellence and creativity in their performance and have held numerous positions within the judiciary (administratively and judicially), including the recent achievement of a female judge assuming a position in the Supreme Judicial Council, which represents the pinnacle of the judiciary. Additionally, the inclusion of eight female judges in the Supreme Court marks a significant milestone in expanding the effective participation of women in decision-making at the highest level of the judiciary.



8 women judges appointed at the Supreme Court in Aden

- The promotion decision was announced by the Chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) (Dr. Rashad Al-Alimi) (10 September 2023).
- **(Gender Self-Assessment) 1** in-depth analysis report was produced on gender needs at the police sector in Aden in collaboration with UNDP's Women Peace and Security (WPS) team.²⁷
 - The report applied the comprehensive and recognized methodology of "Gender Self-Assessment" (originally developed by DCAF²⁸).

Gender Self-Assessment (GSA) of Security Institutions in Aden²⁹

Objectives

- Review and identify gaps in the inclusion of gender into the security institutions' structure, policies and laws, performance, quality of services and relationship with local communities.
- Develop a gender action plan aiming to improve the gender responsiveness of security institutions in the different districts of Aden Governorate based on the results of GSA.

GSA Team and Partnership

- The GSA is owned and implemented by a local team representing the senior and middle management of different institutional entities of the security sector in Aden governorate, with priority given to the police.

²⁷ The project funded the WPS team with participatory assessment process, including workshops, key informants interviews, and national research consultants.

²⁸ Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance. For Gender Self-Assessment: <https://www.dcaf.ch/gender-self-assessment-guide-police-armed-forces-and-justice-sector>

²⁹ Zero draft report is under final review process as of late March 2024.

- With technical support from the UNDP Women Peace and Security expert team based in Aden, the chairpersons of the National Action Plan (NAP), and Aden Local Working Group, the Local GSA Team was established in consultation and negotiation with the senior staff of the Ministry of Interior (MoI).
- An administrative decision to formulate the GSA local security team (F 4, M 12) from different departments plus a support team of (13 women police) was issued by the Head of Aden Security.
- The GSA is implemented within the framework of Yemen NAP's operationalization. All the assessment activities were addressed under the leadership of MoSAL and in partnership with the MoI.
- A national gender expert and two police consultants were hired to provide training and guidance to the local GSA team.

Data Themes and Collection Methods

- The assessment team used mixed methods to collect data such as individual key informant interviews, focus groups, questionnaires, site visits, and document reviews to collect information.
- 16 dimensions of gender responsiveness as suggested by the DCAF guide were grouped by subject area into six themes: 1) performance effectiveness; 2) laws, policies and planning; 3) community relations; 4) accountability and oversight; 5) personnel; and 6) institutional culture.

Assessment Scope

- GSA covered 21 main police centers in Aden and involved 405 questionnaires, 20 FGDs, 21 site visits to police centers, and 21 semi-structured interviews with the directors of the police centers.
- 410 people (F 100, M 310) were interviewed (5% of the 8200 actual working personnel at Aden Security Directorate).

Recommendations

- Enhance the legal framework and training: 1) Amend the Police Authority Law to ensure their equal role in all aspects of police work, including investigations, promotions, and decision-making; 2) Implement Prime Minister's Decision No. 146 of 2007 (granting legal powers to women's police to conduct raids and investigations).
- Develop a comprehensive training and qualification plan for all officers, including 1) basic courses, 2) career advancement courses, 3) specialized courses (investigation skills, judicial oversight, human rights, child protection, cybercrime, etc.), 4) communication skills to enhance interaction and trust with the community.
- Secure resources and improving infrastructure: 1) Establishing a transparent and detailed annual budget for security institutions, 2) Implement a code of conduct for all employees, and enhancing supervision and accountability mechanisms, 3) Enhance cooperation between security and justice institutions through dedicated prosecution offices within police stations.
- Enhance support for women's police: 1) Redeploy women's police to ensure appropriate representation in all centers, 2) Consider establishing a dedicated women's police center with a comprehensive female staff while maintaining a female presence in other departments, 3) Equip women police with tools, vehicles, and dedicated spaces for women.
- Improve community engagement and awareness: 1) Conduct public awareness campaigns to encourage women to report crimes and overcome societal stigma, 2) Educate the public about the role and importance of women police, 3) Improve reporting mechanisms, including hotlines for various services.
- Coordinate with community committee: 1) clarify roles and responsibilities of community committees vis-à-vis security institutions, 2) refine case eligibility for community mediations with the requirement of documentation, 3) strengthen the partnership security institutions and community committees, acknowledging their positive role in resolving local conflicts and alleviating pressure on formal systems, 4) providing training programs for community committees to enhance their mediation skills.

Cumulative results reported in 2nd Progress Report

- **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%** increase.

- 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.
- **600** uniforms for women police were provided to the Family Protection Directorate at the Ministry of Interior in Aden. Uniforms were distributed across governorates under the IRG area.
- **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.

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

- **(Economic Empowerment of GBV Survivors) 40 GBV survivors** improved their income opportunities, benefitting from economic empowerment activities (vocational training, project management training, and equipment provision) implemented by YWU in Aden.
 - The vocational training course covered **4 subjects** (hairdressing, sewing, perfume-making, and photographing) based on market mapping and beneficiary consultation.
 - The project management training built the survivors' basic capacity to handle logistics, finance, and marketing, as necessary for their own livelihood initiatives.
 - The equipment provision served the participants' initial needs to launch their own income-generating initiatives (10 equipment kits for each subject).
- **(Training-of-Trainers) 8** best-performing participants among 40 GBV survivors were selected as trainers for future capacity-building courses and completed a Training-of-Trainer (ToT) course.



Economic empowerment activities for 40 GBV survivors by Yemen Women Union in Aden (July – August 2023)

Success Stories: GBV Survivors' Economic Empowerment

- I am an abused women who sought refuge at YWU. I sought separation from abusive husband and his family. During the economic empowerment training, I found my talent in photography. The training

enabled me to achieve self-sufficiency for me and my family. Now I work in filming celebrations, conferences, and seminars (Ms. Bushra Saleh).

- I have three children and I used to have a simple hairdressing project. During the war, the hairdressing salon was hit by a shell, and I couldn't reopen my project again. At YWU, I was trained and then provided with the necessary tools. I am now working and supporting myself and my children (Ms. Samar Suliman).
- I was suffering from my ex-husband's refusal to give me the divorce paper. YWU took on my case and assigned a lawyer to represent me. I was able to obtain my divorce paper. YWU also offered me women's empowerment training. This was a turning point and hope for me. I was among those selected for the ToT course, and now my project has grown, and my name is known and accredited (Ms. Safaa Nasser).
- I had a desire for tailoring, but my circumstances were very difficult. I couldn't pay rent for several months. I was constantly threatened with eviction by the house owner. I was introduced to YWU for tailoring training course. The saying "don't give fish but teach how to fish" truly applied. I now tailor clothes and sell them in Aden and Lahj. I can pay rent from my income from my own work (Ms. Fatima Ahmed).

- **(Inter-agency Partnership) Collaboration** between UNDP and UNFPA was strengthened through a comprehensive GBV service coordination implemented by YWU in Aden.
 - UNDP support focused on economic empowerment and legal assistance activities in complementarity with UNFPA's support for shelter management, psychosocial and reproductive health services, among others.
 - UNDP-UNFPA Senior Management exemplified "Delivering as One," by jointly celebrating the closing ceremony of YWU's economic empowerment activities in Aden.



- **(GBV Shelter in Aden) 40 percent** increase in the number of GBV shelter residents, both women and accompanied children, resulting from the successful expansion of its facilities in 2023.

- Before expansion, only severe cases had a chance to access GBV services by YWU to avoid overcrowding at the facilities.³⁰
- After expansion, YWU is able to provide services to less severe cases as well, offering GBV survivors a “re-birth” at the end of their stay.
- GBV survivors are travelling to Aden to receive YWU services, even from remote locations, such as Mukalla (550km, 8-hour drive).³¹
- Link: Interview with YWU shelter manager in Aden ([video](#))

- **(GBV Case Assistance) 157 cases** (F: 93%) received legal assistance in Aden.
 - YWU makes part of a broad service referral spectrum across women mediators, women lawyers, women police, women judges, and women prison guards.
 - Link: GBV Case Database (157: F 146, Juvenile 7, M 4) by YWU Aden ([English](#))



Ms. Fairouz Mohammed, GBV Shelter Manager, YWU in Aden

YWU Aden GBV Shelter Residents (July 2023 to March 2024)										
	Total	2023						2024		
		July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Women	95	8	9	13	9	8	10	9	15	14
Children	21	0	1	1	1	1	4	4	3	6

Success Stories: Legal Aid for GBV Survivors

- I arrived at YWU escaping from constant abuse and aggression by my maternal uncle, who denied my access to family house out of his fury over my divorce. YWU lawyers helped me claim inheritance right by filing a formal complaint to authorities. I managed to secure a legal order to prevent further mistreatment and ensure a fair division of family property. Eventually all heirs agreed to sell the house and allow me and my sister to obtain rightful shares.
- I was forced into marriage during high school. My husband abused me with brutal beatings and his family hid the violence for long. With YWU's assistance, I pursued marriage annulment, successfully winning a court decision. I received half of the dowry as compensation. YWU further offered psychosocial support and economic empowerment training. Now I found a steady source of income in photography business.

Cumulative results reported in 2nd Progress Report

- **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). **1** new building (2 story with 2 halls) was also constructed.
- **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.

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

Indicators (baselines)	Years	Until 1Q March 2023 (Cum.)	Since 1Q March 2023
	Targets	282	80

³⁰ Typically, GBV survivors stay at the Shelter for 3 to 6 months, according to YWU's Shelter Manager.

³¹ Ms. Salma Al Kathiri, Head of YWU branch in Mukalla, as consulted during the project team's visit in January 2024.

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)	Achieve-ments	• 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.	• 80 prison officers (F 5, M 75) improved human rights-based prison management and detainee protection at the Central Prison in Sana'a.
	Status	Achieved	
4.2: # of detainees benefiting from improved prison conditions (physical WASH, electrical / solar installations / fans, bedding) by sex Baseline: 0	Targets		
	Achieve-ments	• 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).	• 1 UNDP-UNICEF joint initiative launched to assess the multidimensional needs of women detainees (270) and their accompanied children (40) at Sana'a Central Prison.
4.3: Unsented detainees as a proportion of overall prison population.	Status	Achieved (Cum.)	
	Targets		
	Achieve-ments	• 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 unsentenced 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.	
	Status	Achieved (Cum.)	

Description of Results

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

- **(Prison Human Rights Training in Sana'a)** 80 trainees (F: 5, M: 75) completed a week-long training course on human rights and detainee protection organized by YWU in Sana'a.

Ongoing Activities (results to be elaborated in the final narrative report)

- **(Prison Human Rights Training in Aden)** a training manual was developed according to international and national human rights standards with an additional focus on legal empowerment of detainees.

Minimum Rules	National Laws	Human Rights-Based Approach	Legal Empowerment
Mandela Rules Bangkok Rules Tokyo Rules	Constitution Criminal Procedure Prison Org Law	Detainee Rights Protection Duties Protection of Vulnerable	Role of formal institutions Role of lawyers-paralegals Role of community committees

- **(Needs Assessment of Women Detainees in Sana'a)** a UNDP-UNICEF joint initiative was launched to assess the multidimensional needs of women detainees (270) and their accompanied children (40) at Sana'a Central Prison.³²
 - UNDP facilitates access to facilities/ detainees and leads needs assessment on Access to Justice/Protection.
 - UNICEF leads needs assessments on Health/Nutrition and Education/Learning.

Cumulative results reported in 2nd Progress Report

- **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).
- **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.
- **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.

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

Cumulative results reported in 2nd Progress Report

- **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.
- 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.
- **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.

³² This joint assessment is cost-shared with a funding window grant from the UNDP Global Rule of Law Programme.

Indicator 4.3: Unsented detainees as a proportion of overall prison population.

Cumulative results reported in 2nd Progress Report

- **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. A Yemeni man imprisoned for **11** years without sentencing was released from the Aden Central Prison.
- **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.

CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES

Challenges	Responses
Context: - Ongoing conflict in Yemen is driving the fragmentation of state institutions, 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 informal and formal justice pathways. Women detainees suffer from stigmatization, ostracization, and rejection even from their families. - Security forces in Yemen are often involved in human rights violations during conflict. The UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN Support to non-UN Security Forces (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, human rights, and refugee laws.	- 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 rule of law, rather than a top-down and state-centric one. - Partnership with CSOs by and for Yemeni women, such as Yemen Women Union, who are familiar with risks and resilience among Yemeni women themselves guides risk mitigation. More gender-inclusive Aden is the primary target, while more conservative Sana'a is a chance for high-risk, high-return engagement with a greater risk tolerance. - In 2023, the UN Country Team (UNCT) led by the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) initiated the implementation of HRDDP in Yemen. The project ensured a full compliance with the HRDDP requirements, including country-level risks assessment (project-level assessment pending the formalization of the HRDDP in Yemen), mitigation measures and the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the UNCT.
Delivery: Authorities have treated national CSOs from a political point of view, rejecting some Responsible Parties (RPs) for their arguable political affiliations (aka "Northern CSOs" or "Southern CSOs"), even when they already possess all legal registrations and permissions required in specific locations.	In response to the IRG's attempt to harden their grip over local CSOs, showcased by a letter to the UN system issued from the MoSAL in July 2023³³, UNDP Yemen managed to diversify its CSO roster to select RPs suitable for the diverse political and government environments across the country, esp. between North and South).
Operational: 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.	Alternative implementation modalities were introduced for the design phase now led by UNDP's in-house engineers. Competitive procurement to hire construction companies follows for the build phase. This "direct design" approach has significantly improved the speed and quality 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 in addition to financial spot check and annual auditing.
Safeguards: Unintended and unpredicted adverse effects would be caused on the social and environmental spheres in Yemen.	The project complied with UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (Link) and related Accountability Mechanism (Link).

³³ Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MoSAL) to UN Resident Coordinator and Heads of INGOs (13 July 2023); Link: Letter ([English, Arabic](#)).

CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

In response to lack of gender justice in Yemen, the Project has exerted itself to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the implementation of all activities by partnering with women-led organizations and women rule of law professionals 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 addresses both the immediate justice needs of vulnerable women and the structural gaps in the empowerment of women leaders in the rule of law sector. The downstream and the upstream of the gender justice system are interconnected, as the following presents:

Interconnected circle of gender justice

Many of women detainees in Sana'a Central Prison are known to be the victim of harmful informal justice led by unqualified and patriarchal community leaders. Accusation of "Zina" (adultery) is frequently used by male disputants against disagreeing women, who hardly find service access points at male-dominant community governance structures. Formal justice adds insult to injury for women suffering from informal justice, as formal legal aid market in Yemen is known for its prohibitively expensive fees. Unfortunately, most women in Yemen, except for those from elite families, lack access to justice due to the double challenges: unaccountable informal justice and inaccessible formal justice. Any attempt to improve gender justice must take a comprehensive approach across informal and formal justice systems. Changes should span multiple justice pathways and stages, all of which eventually contributes to the protection and, more importantly, the prevention of women detainees. For example, representation of women leaders at community structures improves gender-responsiveness in community-based mediation. Partnership between community leaders (community justice workers) and lawyers (bar association) enhances legal supervision and accountability mechanisms (case referrals and appeal procedures) over informal justice, while making formal justice more accessible. Women rule of law professionals at formal institutions provide more survivor-centred services. Economic empowerment of women detainees and survivors offers income-generation opportunities and facilitates their re-entry, lowering the risk of re-offending or re-victimization. Circling back to informal justice, women detainees and survivors find a better chance of community rehabilitation support from women leaders represented at community structures.

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

- **8 women judges** appointed at the Supreme Court in Aden, as an indirect result of the project's continuous support and advocacy for women rule of law leaders.
- **7 percent** women (28) represented among 400 community leaders identified and endorsed by local authorities in two Neighbourhoods (48 sub-Neighbourhoods), Sana'a.
- **Provisions for diversity inclusion** endorsed under a Community Charter in two Neighbourhoods in Sana'a.
- **2 Women Litigant Units** at East and West Courts in Sana'a improved case registration and processing capacity through equipment procurement.
- **1 Gender Self-Assessment** produced on gender needs at the police sector in Aden.
- **5 women prison officers** improved human rights-based prison management and detainee protection at the Central Prison in Sana'a.
- **40 GBV survivors** improved income opportunities, benefitting from economic empowerment in Aden.
- **40 percent** increase in the number of GBV shelter residents, resulting from the facility expansion.

- **55 percent** women consulted among **160** community members in 8 Districts in Aden on Community Committees.
- **20 percent** women's case among 98 legal aid cases assisted in Sana'a.
- **93 percent** women among 157 legal aid cases assisted in Aden.
- **1 UNDP-UNICEF joint initiative** launched to assess the multidimensional needs of women detainees (270) and their accompanied children (40) at Sana'a Central Prison.

Cumulative results reported in 2nd Progress Report

- **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.
- 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.

Partnerships

To advance gender justice, the project partners 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 collaborates with UNDP Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Team to conduct a Gender Self-Assessment in Aden.

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 and Housing, Land, Property Working Group 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 project holds its complementary position to focus more on host communities through locally-driven legal empowerment structures.

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 expanded the GBV shelter capacity in close coordination with UNFPA across all stages (design, build, inauguration). The project supported women lawyers deployed at the shelter to provide legal aid to GBV survivors.

In Sanaa, the project is partnership opportunities with UNICEF to support women prisoners (270) and their accompanied children (40) at the Sana'a Central Prison, starting with multi-dimensional needs assessments.

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.

LESSONS LEARNED

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

1. Innovation: “people-centred approach to institution building” has a potential to contribute to systems-strengthening of hybrid justice governance.

Building upon the achievement of people-centred justice (PCJ) in 2022, the project has attempted to reach the next level, aka “people-centred approach to institution building.” Its key premise remains valid: formal justice has been as 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. The project had the privilege of confirming the resilience of grassroots justice in Yemen, where community mediators managed to address the challenge of pretrial detainees. One step forward in 2023 stems from the risk involved in community justice, where local elite capture and patriarchal power dynamics can equally discriminate against women, youth, IDPs, and other marginalized groups. Formal justice can provide quality assurance supervision and upward accountability mechanisms to mitigate the ills of community justice in support of gender and inclusive justice. Vice versa, community justice can improve the accessibility of formal justice through service coordination and case referrals. Legal empowerment initiative showcases a mutually accountable and mutually beneficial collaboration model between informal and formal justice. Addressing both downstream (accessible services) and upstream (accountable supervision) of justice governance, the model actualizes the notion of systems-strengthening: building on what exists (community justice) as a “rough and ready” entry point, the project has gradually moved upwards to a more mature system of justice governance through iterative change processes. Partnership between community justice workers and formal lawyers under the Ministry of Justice leadership can contribute to a stronger hybrid justice governance, straddling plural legal systems between customary and statutory laws. The project aspires to register tangible results for the final report.

2. Inclusion: community-based institutions below local authorities can be a fulcrum for inclusive justice, calling for the unpacking of the binary human rights-based approach.

“People” is an umbrella notion that requires infinite unpacking, and the project focuses on vulnerable and marginalized groups to ensure their alternative voices and agencies are represented at community-level institutions. An example is Community Charter inclusively developed in Sana’a. The process for guidance development itself was inclusive, relying on representatives of marginalized groups (IDPs, Muhamasheen, Persons with Disabilities), who identified their own community leaders. The outcome document successfully incorporated provisions for diversity inclusion, and a significant proportion of community leaders (24.3 percent) was selected from “Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)” backgrounds. Such inclusive representation enhances bottom-up accountability and mitigates the risk of elite capture and corruption at the grassroots level. Conceptually, the focus on community-based institutions calls for unpacking of human rights-based approach framed in the binary relationship between “rights-holders” and “duty-bearers.” As if the State justice is characterized by its duality as perpetrator of rights violation and protector from rights abuse, non-State justice also cuts both ways: it can protect people from injustice or perpetrate injustice by themselves. This non-State duality is a point on the spectrum across various “rights-holders” and “duty-bearers,” intermediated more by local authorities than by central ones. Contextually, working at sub-national justice governance also offers two added values: it presents a safer local space de-risked from national-level conflicts. It also contributes partially to state-building, as local service performance is the ultimate parameter for state legitimacy. The full picture is more complicated of course, as state-building is equally a geopolitical game driven by external players, as observed from the role of international third parties in the fragmentation of the Yemeni state.

3. Integration: service integration among national rule of law institutions remains challenging, while contextual factors appear to play a central role in the outcome of integration efforts.

Service integration is one of two pillars underpinning the notion of human security (with diversity inclusion being the other). Despite conscious and persistent efforts, such coordination appears to remain a constant challenge, subject to various factors at institutional and contextual levels. A typical miscoordination at the rule of law sector exists between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior. Contextual factors seem to play an exacerbating or mitigating role, directly affecting the outcome of integration efforts. For example, legal empowerment initiative in Sana'a turned out to be fraught with competition over bureaucratic territories, while a commitment to people-centred justice requires all relevant service providers to work as one team in the best interests of service clients. Such tension seems to exist beyond the level of organizational dynamics, as the narrow notion of legal aid continued to defeat the introduction of broader legal empowerment to cover pre- or post-justice stages. Similarly, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour with relevant mandates of woman and child protection has not been given a meaningful space for service integration.³⁴ In contrast, the Ministry of Justice in Aden did not hesitate too long before accepting the extended notion of legal empowerment, including partnership arrangements across community justice workers, local authorities, bar association, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, among others, all of whom were codified in the Legal Empowerment SOP. Contributing factors to such variation between Sana'a and Aden may deserve further analysis, while initial lesson points to the importance of flexible and adaptive programming reflective of varied and varying local conditions at the sub-national level.

4. Sustainability: development approach to humanitarian crisis can be a high-risk, high-return engagement, which calls for risk tolerance and Continuum of Support (CoS).

International aid heavily skewed towards humanitarian assistance (80 percent) in Yemen has mitigated immediate life-saving needs, but has yet to address structural fragilities through development interventions, including weak and exclusive governance and rule of law institutions. Despite immediate political sensitivity, it would more important than ever for the international community to remain engaged across the country, especially in the DFA area. Event-driven disengagement will be detrimental for the people of Yemen (of which 70 percent live in the DFA area) and would only expedite irreversible losses especially in terms of human capital ("lost generations"). Such consequences will be far costlier from a strategic, developmental, institutional, and human point of view. The state-building process would equally risk a fatal fate, as Yemen would be reduced to a "country of two speeds." "Stay and deliver" will also pave the way for recovery and reconstruction in the eventual scenario of peace. A balanced strategy between short-term feasibility and medium/long-term desirability would be to introduce Continuum of Support (CoS) approach, which combines immediate, community-based initiatives with gradual, institution-oriented ones, depending on threshold conditions specific to sub-national localities. For example, varying project experience per location has demonstrated the productivity of such dynamic and adaptive approach: community-based initiative in Sana'a yielded inclusive results, while institution-oriented endeavour in Aden generated innovative achievements. Without a doubt, CoS will require continuous experimentation and course correction based on "finger-on-the-pulse," as Yemen may continue its historical trajectory as a land of shifting sands into the foreseeable future.

³⁴ Vice versa, rule of law institutions in Sana'a seem discontent with MoSAL-led process to update the national SOP for women's protection cases.

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, the 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. The 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.

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.

The project’s impactful results and successful management were positively appraised by the external Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) in 2023, with key findings and recommendations as the following:

- The project achieved significant results, some of which can be transformational.
- The project increased public trust in sub-national justice systems at the micro level.
- The project created a high sense of local ownership required for sustainability.
- The project advanced women’s empowerment and gender equality significantly.
- The project adopted an efficient management and internal MEL system.
- Continue engagement in both North and South: risk of non-engagement would be higher.
- Expand inclusion to encompass disability and displacement.

Yemenis give more hope than they receive. The project team has humbly observed such resilience with a sense of honour being part of it. Continuing its positive momentum, the project will tirelessly deliver the generous funding from the Kingdom of the Netherlands for the remaining project duration. To give a further boost, UNDP Yemen successfully managed to mobilize additional resources from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) of the Republic of Korea (4 million US\$, from November 2023 to March 2026, Aden and Mukalla). UNDP Yemen is preparing for the next phase of the project in the hope of continuous donor support.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The project successfully utilized financial resources in 2023, with the delivery rate of **86.5 percent**. Further details are included in the financial report, as separately submitted (excel file).

Donor	2023 Budget	Q1 Delivery	Q2 Delivery	Q3 Delivery	Q4 Delivery	2023 Delivery	Delivery %	Remain
Netherlands	\$3886195.18	\$271,057.49	\$309,046.41	\$1,620,312.41	\$1,160,737.10	\$3,361,153.41	86.5%	\$525,042

Annex 1: Yemen Media Coverage

Dates	Contents	Sources (links)
5 Jan 2023	Yemen Center for Restorative Justice Advocacy Team Meets with the President of the Red Crescent Association in Aden Aden, the Yemen Center Team of Human Rights continues its meetings with official and public community leaders to support Restorative Justice Advocacy in partnership with the Afaq Shababia Foundation and supported by the Dutch government and the United Nations Development Programme. Engineer Ahmed Nasser Muthana, President of the Red Crescent Association in Aden and Iman Rashad Ahmed, member of the administrative board of the association, and the President of the Yemen Center, Mr. Mohammed Qasim Noman, met with the Yemen center team and discussed with him the possibility of helping the detainees centers in police stations and the main detention center of the Criminal Investigation Department in health protection by providing health aid and medicine. For his part, Engineer Ahmed Nasser welcomed the team and stressed the association's readiness to provide medical and humanitarian aid to detainees. He expressed his pleasure in working with the Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies and providing all possible humanitarian assistance provided by the Red Crescent association in Aden for male and female detainees.	Adengad Sada-Asahel Pressbee Nabd Aden-Alhadath YCHRS
12 Jan 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 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.	Al-Omana Aden-Tm Nabd Samaaden Manbaraden Cratar Pressbee Sahafatak
28 Jan 2023	Strengthening the Protection and Reintegration of Women Detainees 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	Manbaraden Pressbee 4may Sma-News Yemennewsapp

	and recommendations to be submitted to the concerned authorities to facilitate and arrange the committee work.	
29 Jan 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 Musaed 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
31 Jan 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 accomplishments 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.	Adnlng 26sepnews TV Aad Nabd Yemennownews Sabanew Manbaraden
23 Feb 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
23 Feb 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

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 Alwatanskynews Yafua Al-Hekmah Alwatanskynews From-Yemen Alwatanskynews
9 Mar 2023	Consultation Workshops on Community Safety Finalized in Hais and Al Khawkha 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-Khawkha 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.	Yemennownews Ye-voice Yem-now
16 Mar 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 Deraalanoob
23 Mar 2023	Afaq Shababia Inaugurates the Office of the Community Mediation Committee	Adengad Pressbee

	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 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.	Yemennownews sawt-eshab
23 Mar 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. Noike Reuter, First Secretary for Peace, Security, and Justice, Ms. Annie Feistgens, health expert in health, Mr. Won-Hyuk, 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
30 Mar 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 Adentoday Adenkhbr Adengad Aden-City Sahafaa Elghadelyemeny khlaasa
6 Apr 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	Aden-Alhadath Sada-Alsahe Yem-Now Samaaden Adenplus

	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.	
13 Apr 2023	Yemen Center Hosts a Dialogue Forum on Evaluating Community Mediation Committees' Experience in Protecting Detainees' Human Rights The Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies continues to host dialogue forums in Aden to advocate for restorative justice as part of the PIAJ project, which is funded by the Dutch government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The dialogue was launched by Mr. Muhammad Qasim Noman, president of the Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies, in the presence of representatives from the Afaq Shababia Foundation and community committees, the humanitarian legal aid team, community and security leaders, academics, judges, journalists, and civil society organizations. This was followed by a review by Ms. Afra'a Hariri, Legal Advisor to the Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies' Community Restorative Justice Programme. Ms. Afra'a stated in her intervention that the assessment process to be completed through this forum is an important duty that will assist any business in achieving goals and verifying the level of services given as well as the amount of its influence on the work environment around it. The assessment procedure allows the entity to identify its state and capacity to carry out the duties that have been assigned to it. The evaluation is functional since it draws lessons and experiences from the entity's past experiences to better its future operations.	Yc-hrs Adengad Sahafaa Adenplus Naba-News
20 Apr 2023	A Ceremony Honoring for the PIAJ Project Organized The Afaq Shababia Foundation organized a ceremony honoring the participants and supporters of the PIAJ project, which is funded by the Dutch government through the United Nations Development Programme. The Deputy of Aden Governorate for Youth Affairs, Abdul Raoof Al-Saqqaf, District Managers, police department chiefs, and executive office representatives attended the ceremony. The head of the Afaq Shababia Foundation, Iyad Mahdi, explained that the five-month project aimed to strengthen the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure access to equality and justice. He pointed out that the project outputs are six community mediation committees comprising 60 individuals distributed over six districts in Aden Governorate. The head of the community committees, Ali Al-Nimri, explained that the community committees enhance community cohesion and the social fabric and mitigate the repercussions of the war and the economic conditions. He praised the tasks of the community mediation committees and their complementary role with the community committees and various relevant authorities in Aden governorate.	Naba-news Sada-Alsahel Pressbee Al-Omana Yemeninews Alrshadpress Sma-News Sadaalmawakea Yemennownews
20 Apr 2023	Yemen Center Holds a Dialogue Forum on the Role of Community Mediation in Conflict Resolution The Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies held a dialogue forum on the role of community mediation in resolving conflicts and social issues instead of detention. The panel was moderated and opened by Dr. Sami Noman, head of the Studies and Research Department at the Yemen Center, the programme coordinator, Samah Jameel, several security leaders in the governorate and districts, and several public prosecution judges, representatives of civil society organizations, journalists, academics, and community mediation committees. Dr. Sami explained that these forums held by the Yemen Center come as part of the PIAJ project in Aden, which the Yemen Center organizes in partnership with the Afaq Shababia Foundation and with the Dutch Government and the United Nations Development Program support. The participants reviewed the types of mediation, their advantages, specifications of the mediator, the role of the mediator, and the extent of his contribution to the understanding of each party to the views of the other. The participants also discussed the reasons that make mediation a mechanism for resolving societal conflicts everywhere and in Aden in particular. As well as cases in which negotiation can be a mechanism for resolving disputes, how can arbitration and negotiation be supportive of societal peace, does it conflict with human rights, why and what are the societal mechanisms for arbitration, how negotiation can be made a tool for peacebuilding, and what are the means that may make negotiation one of the foundations of supporting the sustainability of restorative justice.	Tihama24 Sada-Alsahel News-Platform khlaasam Yemennownews adengad Adenplus Aden-City

11 May 2023	Effectiveness, challenges and sustainability strategy of community mediation committees Despite the active and tangible role of the Community Restorative Justice Advocacy Program (community mediation committees) in supporting and advocating for detainees in detention centers in the capital Aden and carrying out its dialogue and field events at the Yemen Centre for Human Rights Studies, many still do not know the importance of advocacy and the effectiveness of the program. Representatives from the judiciary, police, lawyers, journalists, academics, community committees, community activists, and other official and community bodies evaluated the program and issued several recommendations for its continuation. Program executors and supporters: The Community Restorative Justice Advocacy Program is part of the project to promote universal access to justice in Yemen, which is under the responsibility of the Afak Youth Foundation with the support of the Dutch Government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It is implemented by the Yemen Centre for Human Rights Studies, the Yemen Women's Union, and a prisoner organization. What the program seeks: According to Professor Mohammed Kassem Numan, Head of the Yemen Centre for Human Rights Studies in the capital Aden, the program seeks to support efforts to address the problems of the increasing number of detainees in detention centers and violations of their rights under national and international laws, and their prolonged detention outside national and international laws. The program contributes to the provision of legal and humanitarian assistance to detainees, prisoners, and their children, in various aspects of their human rights within detention centers and prisons. The program also aims to advocate for community-based restorative justice to strengthen the role of civil society organizations, community components, and official competencies in supporting the efforts and mechanisms of reconciliation among community members, conflict resolution, tolerance, and reconciliation within communities. Enhancing participants' role: Professor Mohammed Kassem Numan asserts that the program aims to strengthen the role of civil society organizations, community components, and official competencies represented by the Department of Security and its centers in the directorates, as well as the prosecution, judiciary, justice, the Ministry of Interior, the Supreme Court, community committees, and civil society organizations in supporting the efforts and mechanisms of reconciliation among community members, conflict resolution, tolerance, and reconciliation within communities. One of the most prominent recommendations was the call for the program's continued viability: the unification of all commissions working in the field of restorative justice, developing the working mechanism of the restorative committees, and presenting them for discussion and enriching them with observations and ideas, rather than confining the restorative committees to specific issues. The search for common interests between the parties to the conflict when intervening by restorative committees, the need to find tools that meet the needs and convictions of society by assessing the work of community and restorative committees, and the need to codify restorative and community committees by issuing a regulation that regulates their work and defines their functions and competencies. The program should also qualify and train restorative committees for a continuous period to familiarize them with their roles and build the capacity of civil society organizations to accommodate the functions of restorative committees to support them in their sustainability. The program must evaluate the performance of community committees and unite all committees working in the field of restorative and community justice to support the sustainability of restorative justice. There is also a need to issue a working regulation regulating the functions and competencies of community committees and find mechanisms that make mediation committees continuous in their experience and in the development of solutions to minor problems and issues, considering them as a tool for building peace in society.	tihama24
18 May 2023	Meeting in Aden to Enhance Protection and Reintegration for Detained and Battered Women A referral committee meeting was held today in Aden to discuss the enhancement of protection and reintegration for detained and battered women. The meeting was held within the framework of the UNDP project to Promote Access to Justice in Yemen (funded by the Dutch government) and in partnership with the Yemeni Women's Union, Aden Governorate. The third meeting of the Referral Committee was attended by a number of specialists in Aden Governorate, including representatives from the	Yemeninews Ejazpress Yemennownews Ye-now

	Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, the Public Prosecution, the Supreme Court, the Yemeni Women's Union, and civil society organizations. The meeting discussed the challenges facing women in detention and cases of gender-based violence, as well as the best practices for their protection and reintegration. The committee also reviewed the progress of the project and identified the next steps. The meeting concluded with a call for all stakeholders to work together to ensure the protection and reintegration of detained and battered women.	
25 May 2023	Yemen Human Rights Center Delivers Draft Plan of Implementing Restorative Justice Strategy in Aden Aden, Yemen- Major General Mutahar Naji Al-Shuaibi, Director of Security in the capital, Aden, confirmed that the security department in Aden governorate is interested in the role that civil society organizations can play in addressing issues and problems that arise within local communities that are still suffering from the effects of war and conflict. Al-Shuaibi said: "We are making great efforts in the field of enhancing security and stability for citizens, so we welcome dealing with community restorative justice, which embodies community partnership with the security services to solve societal problems (non-criminal) in partnership with community committees and mediation committee mechanisms to mitigate the burdens faced by police stations and the security department in the governorate. He stressed the importance of using deterrent penalties by the prosecution and the judiciary, taking into account the conditions our country is going through and people's need for security and stability, with a focus on the importance of evaluating the role, tasks and work of community committees and working to spread the culture of the importance of what it represents with morals, human values, systems and laws, because of their positive societal impact. This came in a meeting organized by the Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies team concerned with advocating for societal restorative justice in Aden, consisting of Muhammad Qassem Noman, team supervisor and head of the Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies, Samah Jamil Abdo, program coordinator, and Afra Hariri, legal advisor to the program, during their meeting today, Wednesday, with Major General Mutahar Naji Al-Shuaibi in his office at the Security Department in Khormaksar, in the presence of Brigadier General Waheed Abdul Wali from the office of Major General Mutahar Al-Shuaibi. Mr. Muhammad Qassem Noman thanked Major General Mutahar for providing the opportunity for this meeting and gave a brief explanation of the efforts made by the Community Restorative Justice Advocacy Team at the Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies in partnership with the Youth Horizons Foundation and within the project to promote comprehensive access to justice in Yemen supported by the Dutch government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which will be concluded with the strategic plan included in the tasks of the Community Restorative Justice Advocacy Team, which aims to ensure the continuity of community restorative justice work, which the team, after a meeting with relevant partners, will circulate to achieve justice, security, stability and the rule of law. In the meeting, Ms. Afra Hariri gave an explanation of the humanitarian objectives of restorative societal justice, particularly in the field of solving civil problems that arise in local communities and minor criminal offenses. She explained that the role assigned to the community committees and mediation committees concerned with restorative justice that were formed within the framework of the project by the Youth Horizons Organization is to facilitate dialogue between the parties involved in a conflict; help the parties to understand each other's perspectives; explore options for resolving the conflict; help the parties to reach an agreement and; monitor the implementation of the agreement. Ms. Hariri concluded by saying that restorative justice is a promising approach to conflict resolution that has the potential to reduce crime, promote peace and reconciliation, and build stronger communities.	Adengad
31 May 2023	Yemen Center for Restorative Justice Advocacy Team Meet with President of Court of Appeal in Aden Aden, Yemen - Judge Mohammed Mahmoud Al-Junaidi, President of the Court of Appeal in Aden, met with a team from the Yemen Center for Human Rights Studies to discuss the implementation of the community restorative justice advocacy program and its role in addressing the effects of war and conflict in the country. The team explained that the program is being implemented by the Afaq Shabaia Foundation within the PIAJ project, which is supported by the Dutch government and the United Nations Development Program. They highlighted the importance of restorative justice in promoting peace and reconciliation, and in providing a more effective and humane	Sma-news Sada-alsahel Aden TV Naba-news Yc-hrs

	alternative to traditional criminal justice systems. Judge Al-Junaidi praised the efforts of the Yemen Center and the Afaq Shabaia Foundation in implementing the program, and expressed his support for its work. He also stressed the importance of ensuring that the program is accessible to all, and that it considers the needs of children, women, and families. The judge concluded by expressing his readiness to visit prisons and detention centers in Aden with the leadership of the Yemen Center to assess the conditions of prisoners and detainees.	
27 Jul 2023	Aden Security Director Honors UNDP Police Advisor Major General Mutahar Al-Shuaibi, Director General of the Aden Metropolitan Police, presented an honorary shield for the "PIAJ" project, which includes supporting community service centers in Aden Police. Mr. Abdulghani Alwajih, the UNDP Yemen Police Advisor, received the shield and confirmed that the police in the capital, Aden, has made significant progress in security control and in their quest to adopt community policing and involve the community in maintaining security gains and the local community. "We highly commend the police performance, and this has been expressed by members of the community on many occasions, including the Shahi Malban initiative, which was implemented by the Crater Police Station in Sira District, through the presence of the director and officers of the station in one of the famous cafes in Crater to meet with citizens, exchange conversations with them and listen to their opinions and suggestions," Alwajih said. The UNDP Yemen Police Advisor praised and appreciated Major General Al-Shuaibi for this honor, which proves his keenness to overcome all obstacles and difficulties facing security work, praising the efforts made by the Aden Security Command to continue security successes in the capital.	Adengad klyoum
10 Aug 2023	UNDP Yemen Briefed on Progress of PIAJ Project in Yemen Aden, Yemen - The Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Ms. Zena Ali Ahmad, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) visited the headquarters of the Yemeni Women's Union to see the progress of the project "Promoting Inclusive Access to Justice in Yemen" (PIAJ). Ms. Samara Al-Arasi, Director of the Projects Department at the Yemeni Women's Union, stressed that the project aims to improve and strengthen the capacity of women and girls for comprehensive access to justice, including the most vulnerable women. It also supports them by providing legal and financial support and distributing economic empowerment portfolios for women. She pointed to the need to continue such projects that offer integrated services to women affected by or survivors of violence. Ms. Zena Ali Ahmad, Director of the UNDP, listened to the leadership of the Union, represented by Ms. Samara Al-Arasi, Director of Project Management, and Fairouz Mohammed Ahmed, Director of the Training and Rehabilitation Center at the Yemeni Women's Union. They gave a detailed explanation of the role of the Training and Rehabilitation Center for Women Survivors, which promotes and protects detained women and battered women, cases of gender-based violence, and their reintegration into society by providing legal aid to the cases of arrested women and providing cash assistance to solve them in police stations and the Public Prosecution. In conclusion, the Director of the UNDP and the leadership of the Union honored the women participating in several training courses, including life skills, with certificates of appreciation and handed them photography equipment, sewing machines, incense tools, and hairdressing kits. The PIAJ project is a valuable initiative that is helping to improve the lives of women and girls in Yemen. The project is providing much-needed legal and financial support to women who have been affected by conflict or violence. It is also providing training and skills development opportunities to help women become more economically independent. The project is a model for how the international community can work to support women's empowerment in conflict-affected settings.	Aden-Tm Manbaraden Cratersky Omandaily Adengad Sahafahh Yemeninews 24press Msader24 7adramout
28 Sep 2023	The First Meeting of the Self-Evaluation Team Led by Local Security Personnel The Aden Governorate working group responsible for implementing the activities of the National Plan for Women, Security, and Peace at the local level was held under the generous patronage of His Excellency the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the National Plan for Implementing the Women, Security, and Peace Agenda, Dr. Muhammad Saeed Al-Zaouri. The first meeting of the security team in the governorate was held to discuss mechanisms for implementing self-evaluation of security institutions in the various districts and to determine their needs to improve security services provided to women, children, and	Tahdeeth Manbaraden Aad TV AIC HDTV Sahafaa Pressbee Yemennownews Sma-News Nida

	other marginalized groups. In the meeting, which was attended by Brigadier General Abu Bakr Ahmed Hussein Jabr, Deputy Director of Security of the Capital, Aden, and the UNDP Yemen Deputy Resident Representative, Ms. Nadia Alawamleh, who stressed in their welcoming speeches the importance of self-evaluation of security institutions and knowing the shortcomings to avoid them and enhance the positive aspects and work to provide security services to all citizens without discrimination and to give importance to the security needs of women, children, and the most marginalized groups. The meeting also discussed the primary aspects of the self-evaluation plan and the appropriate methodology for collecting and analyzing information related to the six evaluation axes: performance effectiveness, laws and policies, community relations, accountability and monitoring, employees, and institutional culture.	Asifanews Adengad
2 Nov 2023	Minister of Justice Judge Nabil Al-Azzani met today with the UNDP Resident Representative in Yemen, Zena Ahmed The meeting, which was attended by the Head of the Technical Office, Judge Khaled Al-Baghdadi, and the Deputy for the Financial and Administrative Affairs Sector, Judge Ahmed Al-Kahlani, discussed the support that the programme could provide to the judiciary system in the framework of promoting universal access to justice. The meeting reviewed the support provided by the programme, especially in building two annexes and restoring the West Secretariat Court and Prosecution, as well as the projects to be implemented by the programme during the coming period, especially in the field of legal empowerment and community restorative justice committees. In the meeting, Al-Azzani stressed the need to give the judiciary system a pivotal role in the programme's projects due to its role in serving justice and facilitating its procedures for litigants. He pointed to the importance of supporting the system in several important aspects of infrastructure, networking, and automation to provide the necessary equipment to reach digitization within the framework of good governance to help in closing pending cases and vulnerable groups in society.	Saba Sa24 Sahafahh Sahafatoday Saadahpress Yemen-Publisher
28 Nov 2023	Amman: A \$4 million agreement was signed to support women's leadership in justice service delivery in Yemen UNDP has announced the launch of a new project in collaboration with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to strengthen the capacity of women rule of law workers to provide justice services to vulnerable communities and contribute to the implementation of Yemen's women, peace, and security agenda. According to a press release, UNDP signed a new \$4 million agreement with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) today in Amman, Jordan, to empower women justice specialists and support the delivery of justice services to vulnerable communities in Yemen. According to the statement, the new project aims to support women's leadership in ensuring access to justice by strengthening the capacity of women rule of law workers to provide security and justice services to vulnerable communities in the cities of Aden and Mukalla. He stated that the project's interventions would include joint training for women legal workers with the government and civil society partners, as part of UNDP's ongoing support for governance and rule of law programs in Yemen to promote long-term recovery. According to the statement, the project will expand women-friendly spaces in rule of law institutions such as police stations, support the Centre for Women's Studies at the University of Aden, as well as initiatives to facilitate the resolution of public problems associated with justice, and develop and advocate for women's protection plans to ensure long-term results within communities. Zena Ali Ahmed, the UNDP Resident Representative in Yemen, emphasized that the new partnership with the Korean Agency would "support women's participation in the delivery of justice services and contribute to the implementation of the women's agenda as well as peace and security in the country. Do Bong Kai, the Republic of Korea's Ambassador to Yemen, expressed hope that "this project will lead to long-term sustainable peace and development in Yemen. According to Su Dong Song, Country Director of the Korea Agency in Jordan, the project's intended benefit is "to act as a catalyst for strengthening justice systems, enhancing social cohesion, and contributing to conflict prevention and peace-building efforts in the country.	yemenfuture adengad pressbee 24press m.sa24 sahafa24,
4 Dec 2023	The Joint Commission for Community Legal Empowerment holds its first meeting in the governorate of Aden The Joint Legal Empowerment Committee held its first meeting today, Wednesday, November 29, 2023, in the presence of Judge Abdulkarim Babad, Deputy of Ministry	Mancheete Sadaalmawakea Tahdeeth

	of Justice for the Court and Documentation Sector, and Judge Tariq Muhammad Al-Azzani, Deputy of Ministry of Justice for Finance and Administration, as part of the project to promote overall access to justice in Yemen, community legal empowerment in Aden Province, which is funded by the Government of the Netherlands and UNDP. During the Committee's first meeting, Judge Abdul Karim Babad, Deputy of Ministry of Justice for the Court and Documentation Sector, emphasized the importance of the project in promoting universal access to justice in Yemen. He mentioned the stakeholders involved in the project, which resulted in the formation of the Joint Commission for Legal Empowerment, with 15 members representing the Ministries of Justice and the Interior (Department of Family Protection), the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, the Ministry of Human Rights and Legal Affairs, Community Committees, Lawyers, the Police, the Attorney General's Office, the Judiciary, the Prison Service, and the Adequacy Court. In addition, Judge Baabad stressed on the value of teamwork in achieving outcomes that would support the national and local rule of law, guarantee equality, and provide everyone with access to the legal system. The first consultative meeting between the Joint Commission for Legal Empowerment was held today as a culmination of the previous period's efforts by all parties involved in the project. He emphasized that community responsibility must be exercised to help alleviate society's suffering by effectively contributing to the provision of legal empowerment services, attempting to integrate prisoners into society, respecting their legal and humanitarian rights, developing a manual of procedures for legal and community assistants, and providing community and legal support and guidance. He thanked all the sponsors and implementers of the project.	
25 Dec 2023	Review of legal aid regulations and policies" at a workshop organized by UNDP, the Ministry of Justice and Afaq Shababia The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and Afaq Shababia, organized a workshop on "Review of legal aid regulations and policies" within the framework of the project "Community Legal Empowerment" within the programme "Promoting universal access to justice in Yemen - PIAJY", funded by the Dutch Government and the presence and participation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Aden. The workshop, which was attended by Judge Sabah Al-Alwani, member of the Supreme Judiciary Council, opened a speech by Judge Abdul Karim Baabad, Deputy of the Ministry of Justice, on the importance of the workshop and the role assigned to it by the Ministry of Justice and its efforts in the community, legal empowerment and justice.	Yemennownews