Sustainable Fisheries Development in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (SFISH) Project

Project number: 00141814

Annual Report - 2025

Submitted to

The World Bank
Grant No. E056-RY

Data Sheet

Country	Yemen	
Donor (s)	The World Bank	
Project details	**Project title:**	Sustainable Fisheries Development (SFISH) in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
	Project ID	00141814
	Project Start Date	October 2022
	Project End Date	July 31 2026
Total budget	$ 41,150,000	
Total expenditure	The total expenditure for the reporting period is $ 9,099,873.62 which includes $ 1,865,688.06 for the UNDP component and project management and $ 4,583,890,61 for SMEPS and $ 2,650,294.95 for PWP. The total contribution received during the reporting period was $ 6,384,142.29.	
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Responsible Party	SMEPS (The Small and Micro Enterprise Promotion Service) PWP (Public Works Project)	
Period covered by the report	January 2025 - December 2025	

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AMS-I.D	Approved Methodology for Small-Scale Grid-Connected Renewable Electricity Generation (CDM methodology code)
AQAP	Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula
BCM	Business Continuity Management
BoQs	Bill of Quantities
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
CoC	Code of Conduct
DFA	De Facto Authorities
DIS	Data Information System
DQA	Data Quality Assurance
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
ESAP	Environmental and Social Action Plan
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESS	Environmental and. Social Standards
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMP	Fisheries Management Plan
FWG	Fisheries Working Group
GAF	General Authority of Fisheries
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GM	Grievance Mechanism
GoY	Government of Yemen
HSSE	Health Safety Security & Environment
HSSE	Health, Safety, Security, and Environment
IDA	International Development Association
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IRG	Internationally Recognized Government
ISM	Implementation Support Mission
IT	Information Technology
LMP	Labor Management Procedures
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoAIFW	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Fishery Wealth
MoPIC	Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
MSME	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
MTR	Mid-Term Review
MWh	Megawatt-hour
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
PAD	Project Appraisal Document
PDO	Project Development Objective
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PWP	Public Works Project
RCC	Reinforced Cement Concrete
RP	Responsible Party
SEA/SH	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment
SFISH	Sustainable Fishery Development in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
SIERY	Strengthening Institutional & Economic Resilience in Yemen
SMEPS	Small Micro Enterprise Promotion Service
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) or small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs)
SMP	Security Management Plan
SMS	Short Message Service
STC	Southern Transitional Council
tCO_2e	Metric tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
TOR	Terms of Reference
TPMA	Third Party Monitoring Agency
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
US EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USD	United States dollar
WB	World Bank
$	US Dollar Sign

1. Executive Summary

The World Bank (WB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed a financing agreement on 21 June 2022, to implement the Sustainable Fishery Development in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (SFISH) project. This agreement (effective as of 17 August 2022) allocates a budget of US$ 41.15 million to enhance fishery production, reduce post-harvest losses, improve climate resilience, and increase market access in Yemen. The project aims to restore livelihoods in the fisheries sector and create economic opportunities for men and women while fostering sustainable governance systems to ensure climate-resilient fisheries management.

The SFISH project is designed to achieve two primary outcomes: **(1) strengthening the fishery value chain in Yemen** and **(2) developing capacity for effective fishery management in alignment with Yemen's fisheries sector strategy**. By December 2025, significant progress was achieved across key components, including the completion of rehabilitation works at seven fish landing sites and the advancement of civil works at remaining locations. The majority of planned grants, both cash-based and in-kind support (including fishing assets such as boats and nets) were successfully distributed, contributing to the restoration and strengthening of livelihoods along the fisheries value chain. Support to women beneficiaries continued to expand, with notable progress in enterprise development, skills enhancement, and access to productive assets. Throughout this period, collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Fisheries Wealth (MoAIFW) and the General Authority of Fishery (GAF) strengthened, with increased institutional engagement across implementation, oversight,

and coordination processes.

There were two Implementation Support Missions (ISM) held during the year. The first meeting, online due to restrictions on travel from June 22 to 26 and the second from 7 – 11 December 2025, in Aden, Yemen. The second meeting had to be cut short because of the deteriorating security situation with the WB team departing on the third day. These meetings bring together WB, UNDP, Small & Micro-Enterprise Promotion Service (SMEPS) and the Public Works Project (PWP). The last ISM also included the International Financing Corporation (IFC) who held a meeting with the key private sector actors on the Fisheries Value Chain in Yemen. In previous years, Government actors have also participated in the ISM, however in 2025 on both occasions, although planned, this was not possible due to a deteriorating security situation. The forum assessed progress and developed agreed action points. The collaboration resulted in critical adjustments, aligning the project with Yemen's evolving conditions. There are regular bi-monthly coordination meetings among UNDP, MoAIFW, GAF, SMEPS, and PWP ongoing, promoting real-time problem-solving and cross-agency alignment. However, due to the pause in SMEP's activities and the worsening security situation there have been less such meetings during the second half of 2025. UNDP continues to meet with all partners bilaterally on a regular basis.

From a coordination perspective, UNDP and WB representatives both participated in the Fisheries Working Group. Towards the end of 2025, the chairmanship of the group was handed from the German Embassy to the WB, with UNDP remaining as the co-chair.

Key achievements during January–December 2025 include:

- Capacity-building support delivered to 1072 fishermen, 207 women micro-producers, 830 supply chain enablers, and 73 SMEs fisheries cooperatives across targeted locations.
- Business plans developed for the second batch of supply chain enablers and fisheries cooperatives.
- Development and finalization of business plans for 827 women micro-producers under the second batch, with procurement underway for grant disbursement.
- Completion of post assessment for the first batch of beneficiaries, with report preparation in progress.
- A baseline for Phase II and endline for Phase I[1]. SFISH developed an endline analysis and a baseline report.
- Stakeholder workshops were conducted to introduce Phase II of the project and share lessons learned from the initial implementation.
- Civil works have been launched at all nine of the targeted fish landing sites.
- A pilot fish catch data recording system has been rolled out and deployed. MoAIFW in partnership with GAF plan to collect data from 15 Landing sites. The first report includes data from nine sites.
- Two Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) have been completed.
- A mariculture study has been completed and the final report shared. Two pilot species - Lobster and Sea Cucumber - have been identified for further investigation.

Since its inception, SFISH has reached 4,111,[2] out of 5,600 beneficiaries, fishermen, supply chain enablers, women, and youth. It is important to note that not all beneficiaries received grants; many were engaged through training, awareness, and other capacity-building activities.

During 2025, the project also deployed a Third-Party Monitoring Agency (TPMA) and undertook site assessments in all targeted governorates. In addition, the project implemented several monitoring activities including west coast (Taiz) landing sites assessment, beneficiaries' verification and a deep dive on a sample of the vehicles that have been purchased as part of the private sector support activities. These assessments provided greater understanding with regards the activities

[1] The project has split the beneficiaries under the SMEPS component into two Phases for easy tracking and implementation

[2] 4,111 completed (2604 fishers, 853 women, 654 SMEs).

implemented.

2. Background

SFISH operates in four southern coastal governorates: Aden, Al Mahrah, Hadhramout, and Taiz. These areas were selected based on their reliance on fisheries for livelihoods, high poverty levels, food insecurity, and accessibility for development interventions. The project prioritizes communities with limited previous exposure to fishery development initiatives while considering environmental risks like overfishing and coastal degradation. Women, particularly those from marginalized social groups, are engaged in fisheries-related work, though their participation remains constrained.

In 2025, southern governorates of Yemen continue to face a complex mix of humanitarian, economic, political, and security challenges, despite relatively greater stability in key urban centers such as Aden. Humanitarian needs remain extremely high across the country, with 19.5 million people requiring assistance and protection services, an increase of 1.3 million from the previous year. Food insecurity remains severe, driven by prolonged conflict, economic decline, and climate-related shocks. The deteriorating economic outlook and weakened purchasing power continue to push households in southern governorates into deeper vulnerability.

The economic situation in Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen (GoY) – controlled areas, including most of the south, remains fragile. The Yemeni Rial continues to depreciate, exacerbated by restricted oil and gas exports and limited state revenue. OCHA notes that Yemen's economy continues to decline in 2025, with families struggling to afford food, healthcare, and education. These pressures are acutely felt in southern governorates where public salaries remain delayed and basic services, particularly water, electricity, and health facilities, operate far below capacity.

Basic services across the south continue to deteriorate. Health systems face chronic shortages of medicines, equipment, and staff, while schools struggle with overcrowding, damaged infrastructure, and inconsistent teacher salaries. UNFPA highlights that women and girls face heightened protection risks and limited access to essential health services, especially maternal and reproductive care, with nearly 80 percent of displaced people being women and girls. These vulnerabilities are particularly pronounced in displacement hosting governorates such as Aden, Lahj, and Abyan.

Climate-related shocks remain a major driver of humanitarian need in 2025. Yemen continues to rank among the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, with climate shocks disrupting livelihoods, damaging infrastructure, and driving displacement. OCHA reports that climate shocks continue to worsen living conditions and disrupt access to services across the country. In the south, recurrent flooding, especially in Aden, Lahj, and Shabwah damages homes, roads, and drainage systems, disproportionately affecting informal settlements and IDP communities.

Humanitarian conditions vary significantly across southern governorates. Some districts have experienced modest improvements due to sustained assistance and reduced conflict intensity, while others have deteriorated due to funding shortfalls and interruptions in food security, shelter, and protection services. OCHA notes that humanitarian conditions in many areas have remained the same or worsened due to underfunding and disrupted assistance pipelines.

Governance and institutional capacity remain major challenges. Government ministries in GoY-controlled areas continue to face severe funding shortages, limited staffing, and fragmented authority structures. The disconnect between central ministries and local authorities persists, with local power brokers and security actors exerting significant influence over decision-making. This fragmentation complicates coordination and creates operational challenges for development and humanitarian actors.

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Economic hardships, currency depreciation, and salary delays contribute to rising petty crime and opportunistic targeting of humanitarian workers. While Aden remains known for its hospitality and social cohesion, the pressures of prolonged economic decline create pockets of desperation that require careful risk mitigation.

Concerns regarding terrorism remain relevant, particularly in Abyan and Shabwah, where the presence of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) sleeper cells continues to pose a threat. Although large-scale attacks have decreased, the underlying risk environment remains volatile.

Taken together, these dynamics create a challenging environment for development-focused programming in South Yemen. While opportunities exist particularly in areas with improved stability and active local institutions sustained engagement, adaptive programming, and robust risk mitigation measures remain essential to navigating the evolving landscape in 2026.

3. Progress towards development results

3.1 Project Output 1: Improved resilience of the fishery value chain for sustained livelihoods

Summary achievement against project targets

Table 1: Project Development Objective

Fishery value chain strengthened in Yemen						
Indicator Name	Baseline		Actual (Current)		Closing Period	
	Value	Month/Year	Value	Date	Value	Month/Year
Beneficiaries of job-focused interventions (Number)	0.00	Aug/2022	4111[3]	December 2025	5600.00	July/2026
Beneficiaries of job-focused interventions - Female (Number)	0.00		853		1,680.00	-
Beneficiary households experienced at least ten percent increase in their per capita household income from the baseline situation (Percentage)	$ 256/ YER 64,132 per trip for fishermen $ 345/YER 86,456 per month for women $5,570 average profit / month for supply chain enablers and cooperatives	Aug/2022	68.5%[4]	December 202 5	60.00	July/2026

[3] 2,604 fishers, 853 women grant recipients, and 654 supply chain enablers and SMEs (592 full grants and 62 matching grants).

[4] Among beneficiary households (HHs), 51.4percent reported food availability, 95.3 percent reported access to food, 96.9 percent reported food utilization, and 84.3% reported food stability. Overall, the average Food Security and Nutrition score for SFISH beneficiaries is 82.7 percent.

Sub-national climate informed participatory fishery management plans implemented (Number)	0.00	Aug/2022	2 plans developed	December 2025	2.00	July/2026

Component 2: Improving Economic Opportunities, Food Security and Effective Management of Fishery Production in Yemen						
Indicator Name	Baseline		Actual (Current)		Closing Period	
	Value	Month/Year	Value	Date	Value	Month/Year
Fishers and micro and medium enterprises benefitted from voucher inputs/micro grants to develop fishery value chain activities (Number)	0.00	Aug/2022	4,111[5]	December 2025	4,200[6]	July/2026
Women and youth with enhanced skills with grants to establish fishery enterprises and access to market opportunities (Number)	0.00	Aug/2022	853	December 2025	1,600.00	July/2026
Women with enhanced skills provided with grants to establish fishery enterprises and access to market opportunities (Number)	0.00	Aug/2022	-	-	480.00[7]	July/2026
Fishery associations and cooperatives supported for improved production and services (Number)	0.00	Aug/2022	10	December 2025	35.00	July/2026
Fishery infrastructure rehabilitated/restored with enhanced climate resilience (Number)	0.00	Aug/2022	7 completed & 2 are under rehabilitation.	December 2025	9.00	July/2026
Annual fishery management reports produced documenting fishery governance actions (Number)	0.00	Aug/2022	0.00	December 2025	4.00[8]	July/2026
Beneficiaries from training and capacity building to develop the fishery value chain, responsible fishing practices, and fishery management (Number)	0.00	Aug/2022	158,813[9]	December 2025	100,000.00	July/2026

[5] This includes all direct beneficiaries of grants: 2,604 fishers, 853 women grant recipients, and 654 supply chain enablers and SMEs (592 full grants and 62 matching grants).

[6] The PAD target of 4,200 beneficiaries originally comprised 3,000 fishers and 1,200 women and youth. During the M&E discussions of the December 2025 Implementation Support Mission (ISM), it was agreed to report the total number of beneficiaries reached (5,600) as the actual achievement, with the expanded coverage explained in the relevant narrative sections.

[7] This activity has been integrated into the women and youth component to include an additional 480 women, bringing the total target to 1,680. The proposal was approved by the World Bank on November 6, 2024.

8 During the M&E session of the December 2025 Implementation Support Mission (ISM), it was agreed that two fisheries management reports would be produced for the existing plans (Ras Amran and Khor Umaira), with two additional reports to be prepared before project closure.

[9] The total of 158,813 people reached comprises 6,329 direct project participants (training beneficiaries) and an estimated 152,484 household members, calculated using 25,414 beneficiary households and an average household size of six.

Women participation (Percentage)	0.00		45% (71,613)		30.00	-

Description of Results

3.1.1 Fishers and micro and medium enterprises benefited from voucher inputs/micro grants to develop fishery value chain activities:

Till December 2025, the project delivered comprehensive technical training to 2,955[10] fishermen, focusing on modern fishing practices, outboard engine maintenance and hygienic fish handling and preservation techniques. These capacity-building efforts improved operational efficiency, reduced post-harvest losses and strengthened resilience within the fishery value chain. In parallel, 2,604 full grants were provided to support income generation and asset recovery, consisting of 1,009 fishing equipment kits and 1,595 outboard engines. The average value of each individual grant was approximately $ 1,435[11], enabling fishermen to resume or expand their fishing activities with improved tools and technical know-how.

The project planned to deliver productive assets to 351 fishers through voucher inputs and micro-grants to strengthen fishery value chain activities. However, implementation of this component was temporarily paused following the suspension of activities of the Responsible Party (SMEPS). As a result, the procured assets have not yet been distributed and remain in storage at the supplier's warehouse, pending resolution of the implementation arrangements and clearance to resume activities.

All targeted fishers and micro and medium enterprises under this component have already completed the required capacity-building activities, including technical training on fishing practices, asset utilization, and basic business management. Beneficiaries were fully enrolled and assessed and no additional preparatory support is pending. The only remaining step under this component is the distribution of productive assets and micro-grants, which is currently on hold due to the pause in SMEPS-implemented activities.

3.1.2 Women & Youth with enhanced skills with grants to establish fishery enterprises and access to market opportunities:

A total of 1,710[12] women and youth beneficiaries were trained, out of which 853 have received grants, under the SFISH project in fisheries-related skills, including food processing, fish by-product development and business management. Topics of food processing and fish by-product development trainings included:

1. Tuna processing - Salted and dried fish - Fish slices,
2. Seafood snacks - Crushed dried fish - Cod liver oil - Marine incense - Shell ornaments - Palm frond products - Salt harvesting,
3. Fisheries Technical Training Topics, and
4. Fisheries Technical Training Topics (Processing).

1710 Women and Youth attended the tranings on food processing, fish by-product development, while 1678 attended the business management (Finance and Administrative Management topics) trainings. Figures (1) and (2) below present the distribution of Women and Youth who received these trainings by topic and governorate. These capacity-building efforts were designed to empower women and youth as active contributors to the fisheries value chain. As part of the economic empowerment package, 853 women and youth received tailored in-kind grants including electrical appliances , household utensils, and safety tools and 829 received Raw Materials for food processing. Furthermore 255 individuals from Aden and Taiz received Solar units. Table Two below provides a summary of the distributed materials for women and youth by type of materials and by governorate. The average value of each individual grant was approximately $ 1,055[13].

[10] 2,955 is the total number of fishermen trained. 2604 is the total number of fishers who were trained and received grants, while 351 fishermen were trained but did not receive grants

[11] The max amount is $ 1,980 and the min amount is $ 760. The amount increased from $1,300 to $1,450 due to market price fluctuations.

[12] Total number of women trained, 853 of which received grants.

[13] The max amount is $ 1,168 and the min amount is $877.97.

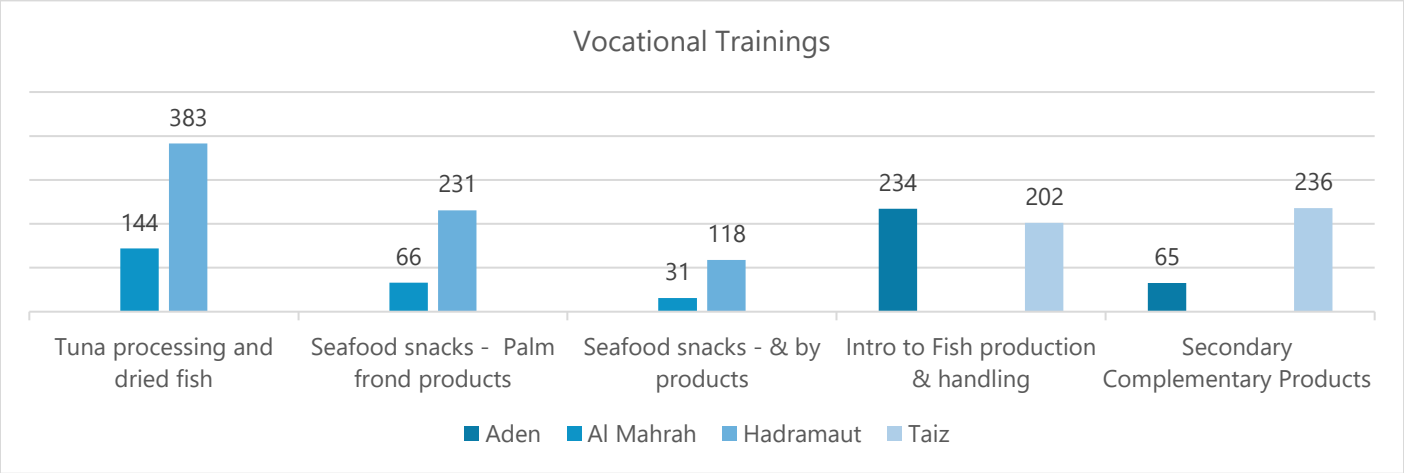

Figure 1: Vocational training by Gov.

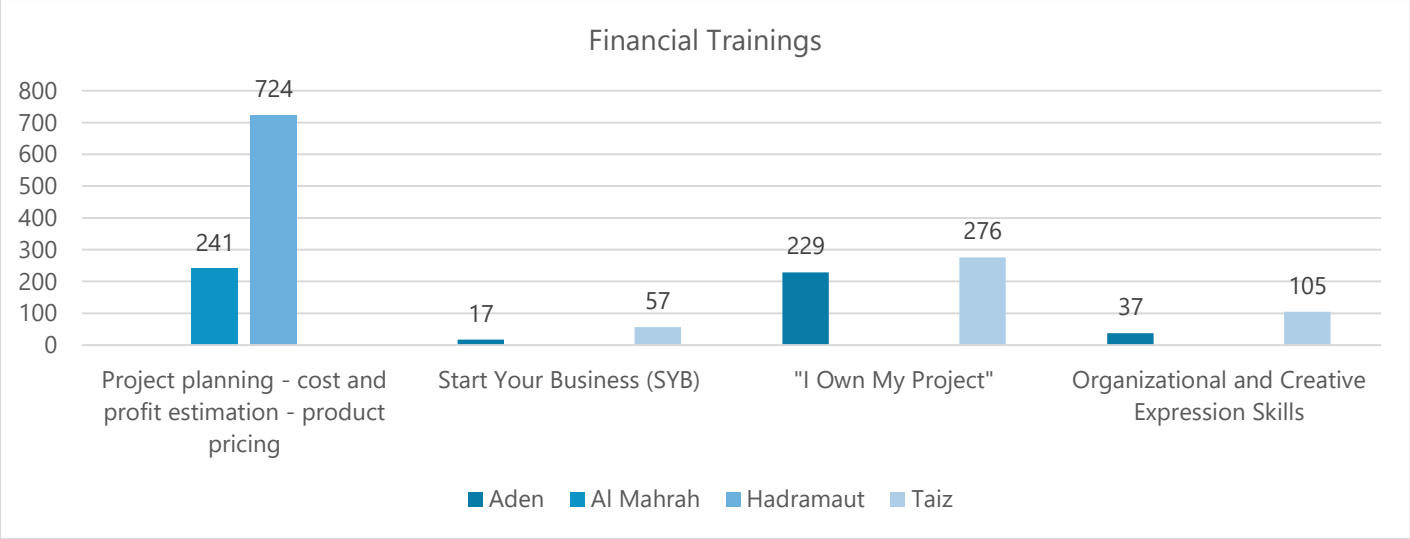

Figure 2: Financial training by Gov.

Table 2: Women and Youth Received Materials

Received Materials by Governorate	Solar System Units	Electrical Appliances	Household Utensils	Safety Tools	Raw Materials
Aden	76	76	76	76	76
Al Mahrah	0	119	119	119	119
Hadhramout	0	479	479	479	463
Taiz	179	179	179	179	179
Total	**255**	**853**	**853**	**853**	**837**

These combined efforts have translated into tangible economic and social outcomes. According to a post assessment conducted between May and June 2025, a sample of 506 women beneficiaries experienced an average income increase of 48 percent, reflecting enhanced profitability and improved access to markets. Beneficiaries also reported significant improvements in customer reach and product diversification, with 22 percent expanding their businesses beyond their local

communities. Furthermore, the supported microenterprises contributed to the creation of over 100 new jobs, including 51 permanent positions.

Also, during the reporting period, the project made significant progress in empowering women through renewable energy interventions. A total of 255 solar energy systems were installed for women beneficiaries across the governorates. Each system typically comprises of two solar panels with a capacity of 170 watts each, designed to support household appliances.

The installed systems provide a combined power capacity of approximately 86.7 kilowatts (86,700 watts)[14], substantially improving access to clean, reliable energy for women's enterprises and households.

The environmental impact of the women's solar initiative has also been noteworthy. Based on internationally recognized standards [15], installed systems are projected to cut annual carbon dioxide emissions by more than 60 tons, reinforcing the project's contribution to climate resilience and sustainable development.

These achievements highlight the project's success in expanding clean energy access for women, promoting gender equity, and advancing environmental sustainability at the community level.

Under this component, the project aimed to provide remaining productive assets to 827 women beneficiaries who had completed the required training and preparatory steps. The planned value of grants and productive assets under this component was $ 1,075,100. Two procurement tenders were initiated to cover the outstanding assets; however, due to the pause in SMEPS-implemented activities, both tenders were canceled as a risk-mitigation measure to avoid contractual and financial liabilities. Support to the remaining women beneficiaries is therefore pending resolution of the Responsible Party's implementation status.

3.1.3 Fishery Supply chain enablers supported with training and fund matching to improve their production:

SFISH reached 654 (592 supported with full grants and 62 supported with matching grants including nine cooperatives) out of 920 targeted fishery supply chain enablers and SMEs with the aim of strengthening their operational capacity, improving production quality, and enhancing their resilience within the fisheries value chain. As of this reporting period, a total of 592 supply chain enablers received a comprehensive support package consisting of specialized training and full grants valued at$ 6,000, tailored to their business needs. The Figure (3) below provides a picture of grants distrbution amongst the four targeted governorates.

[14] Each solar system comprised two 170-watt panels (340 W per system), a 1,000-watt inverter, and a 20-amp charge controller, providing a total installed panel capacity of 86.7 kW across 255 systems.

[15] www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator

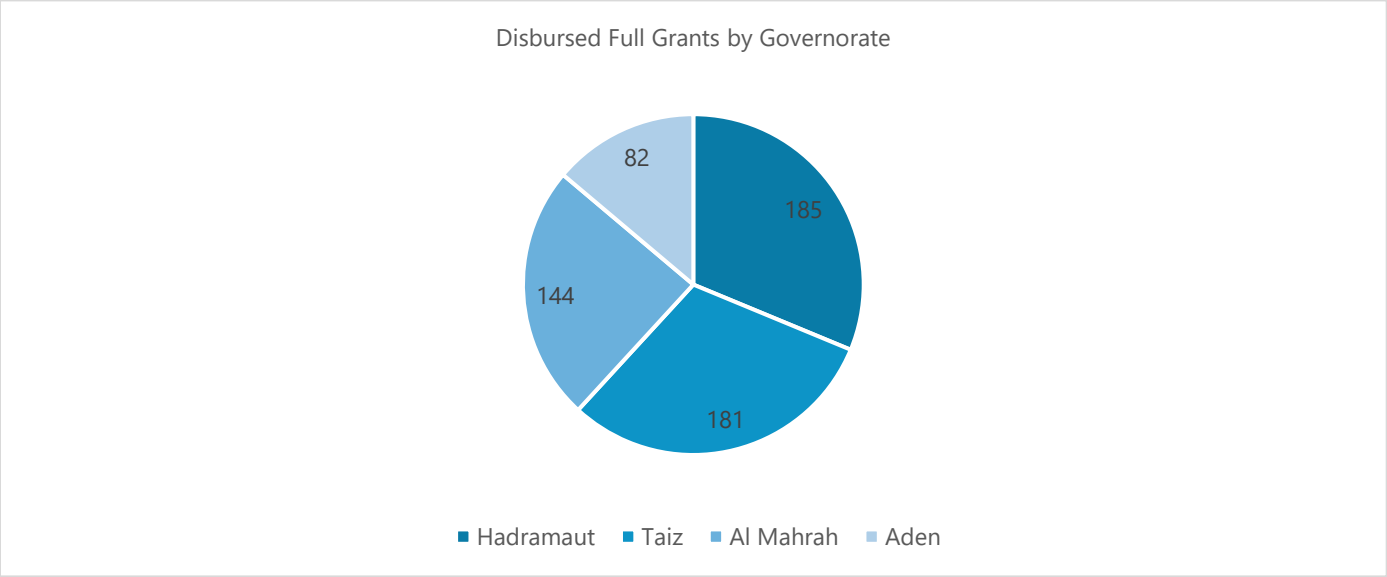

Figure 3:Full Grants Distributed by Gov.

Under the full grants component, SFISH project supported a wide range of fishery supply chain actors with essential tools and equipment tailored to their business needs. A total of 26 distinct items were procured, reflecting the diverse operational requirements of beneficiaries.

The top ten most procured items accounted for the majority of distributions, as per Table Three below:

Table 3: Top ten most procured items under full grants

#	Item Category	Frequency
1.	Safety Equipment/Tools	773 items
2.	Baskets	543 items
3.	Insulators	425 items
4.	Means of Transportation	349 items
5.	First Aid Materials	249 items
6.	Power Source / Appliances / Tools	222 items
7.	Cleaning Materials	180 items
8.	Maintenance/Restoration/Shop Setup	174 items
9.	Scales	172 items
10.	Other	170 items

Notably, 349 grants were used to support the purchase of means of transportation , including motorcycles, tuk-tuks and small and large trucks. In addition, 142 grants included maintenance and purchase of spare parts for means of transportation and 15 grants included maintenance and purchase of spare parts for insulators.

This strategic distribution has significantly enhanced the productivity, safety and income potential of supported beneficiaries, while also fostering improved hygiene, post-harvest handling and service delivery along the fisheries value chain. A key bottle neck in the value chain is transport of fresh fish from the landing sites to the markets and processors which in the majority of cases involves considerable travel time. Functional vehicles with insulators (another commonly purchased item) packed with ice allow the fish to reach their location in a timely manner and reduces losses which have historically been significant. The key to this improvement is shortened journey times and maintainng the cold chain. Given

the significant investments in this specific aspect of the value chain, UNDP has implemented a deep dive on vehicles wherein it examined the added value of the provided vehicles, their purposes and the benefits accrued by the grantees.

3.1.3.1 Key findings of the Vehicles Deep-Dive[16] Assessment

- The deep-dive assessment sampled 24 vehicles, successfully reaching 21 vehicle owners/vehicles, while three cases could not be reached during the verification process.
- The assessment identified data inconsistencies, with 67 percent of districts showing mismatches[17] between deep-dive findings and the project database, and 52 percent of records reflecting discrepancies in reported vehicle types.
- All interviewed beneficiaries confirmed that vehicles were primarily used for transporting fish, with additional uses including buying and selling fish and transporting ice, demonstrating strong alignment with intended value-chain objectives.
- The provision of vehicles resulted in substantial economic gains, with reported employment increasing by 104 percent (from 23 to 47 workers). Monthly revenue per capita also increased significantly following asset receipt: Aden (+121 percent), Hadhramout (+123 percent), and Al-Mahrah (+167 percent).
- 18 out of 21 beneficiaries retained ownership of the originally provided vehicles. Three beneficiaries reported selling smaller vehicles and replacing them with larger ones; however, documentation gaps were noted for these replacements and are being addressed.
- 15 of the 21 vehicles were physically inspected and confirmed to be operational. 17 beneficiaries were able to present ownership documentation at the time of verification. All interviewed beneficiaries reported full satisfaction with the support received.

All grantees received trainings.These trainings focus on key areas such as business continuity planning, financial management, risk mitigation and small business development, thus equipping participants with practical tools to address business gaps and seize growth opportunities.

In addition to the full grants, 55 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) were supported through a matching grants modality, with each grant valued at up to $12,000, matched by an equal or higher contribution from the beneficiary. This co-investment approach fostered ownership, sustainability and scalability of supported businesses. The chart below presents the distribution of disbursed matching grants by governorate.

[16] Annex 06

[17] Some discrepancies were noted between field verification and database records, primarily related to vehicle classification, underscoring the need for improved data updating and validation.

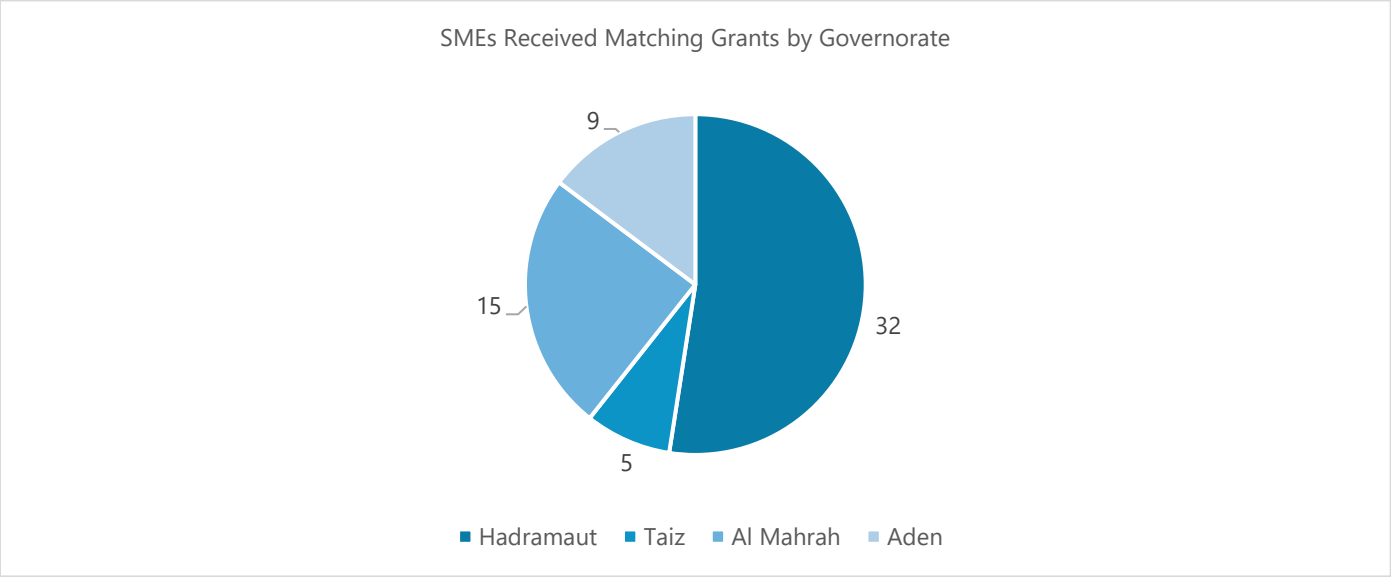

Figure 4:Matching Grants Distributed by Gov.

Under the matching grants scheme, SFISH supported SMEs operating across the fisheries value chain with equipment and tools tailored to their business needs. The procurement was demand-driven, based on business continuity and growth strategies presented by each SME.

To date, 43 SMEs were supported with safety equipment/tools, making it the most frequently procured category. This was followed by facility/shop renovations (39) and power sources/tools (32) critical investments to sustain operations in areas affected by power shortages and structural damages.

Table 4:top ten most procured items under matching grants

#	Item Category	Frequency
1.	Safety Equipment/Tools	43 Items
2.	Shop/Plant/Facility Maintenance/Renovation/Preparation	39 Items
3.	Power Source / Devices / Tools	32 Items
4.	Purchase of a Means of Transport	23 Items
5.	Maintenance Set/Equipment/Tools/Materials	20 Items
6.	Other	24 Items
7.	Computer/Printer/System	13 Items
8.	Air Conditioning/Ventilation	13 Items
9.	Insulator	10 Items
10.	Safety Equipment/Tools	40 Items

Transport support, involving the purchase of vehicles, provided in 21 instances, allowed businesses to improve logistics, expand market access, and transport goods more efficiently. Likewise, investments in IT systems, refrigeration, compressors, and ventilation reflected the diverse operational requirements across the different SMEs.

This targeted support has enhanced business resilience, operational capacity, and value chain integration contributing significantly to the economic recovery and long-term sustainability of Yemen's fisheries sector.

Significant progress was achieved during the reported period, with approximately 90 business plans approved and over 70 matching-grant agreements signed with supply chain enablers, representing a total planned investment of over $ 500,000. However, disbursement and implementation of the approved matching grants have been temporarily suspended due to the

pause in SMEPS activities. All supported beneficiaries remain on hold pending resolution of the Responsible Party's issues and confirmation to resume implementation.

Supply chain enablers supported under this component have already benefited from comprehensive business development support, including training on financial management, business continuity planning, and production improvement. Business plans were developed, reviewed, and approved as part of this preparatory process. Beneficiaries are therefore fully prepared for implementation, with the only outstanding activities relating to the disbursement of approved matching grants, currently suspended due to the pause in SMEPS activities.

As of August 2025, a total of 11,177 jobs were created as a result of the grants provided. Below a breakdown of this figure is provided giving more information on the jobs created by each type of grant.

A. Fishermen: The total number of fishermen supported is 2,604. Each fisherman grant created 2 additional jobs. The total number of jobs created by fishermen grants is 7,812[18].

B. SMEs: SME support created an estimated 1,432 additional jobs and supported a total of 2,086 people engaged in fisheries-related enterprises.[19]

C. Women & Youth: The total number of Women & Youth who received grants is 853. It is estimated that half of these women have employed at least another woman on a part time basis. The total number of jobs created by Women & Youth grants is 1,279.

The total number of grants received is 4,111 and the number of jobs created by these grants is 11,177. In addition to the jobs created by grants, SFISH created 1,594 temporary job opportunities during rehabilitation and construction of the Landing Sites. Out of these jobs, 46 percent are local laborers.

The project also advanced its renewable energy objectives by installing solar energy systems across several governorates and districts in Yemen, benefiting participants and contributing to local economic recovery, social resilience, and environmental sustainability.

A total of 84 solar systems were installed across the project's target locations for SMEs, each supporting business needs. These interventions have significantly enhanced energy security and stability for beneficiaries, reflecting the project's strong commitment to sustainable infrastructure and the promotion of renewable energy solutions in local markets.

The newly installed systems collectively provide a total power capacity of approximately 318 kilowatts (318,000 watts), ensuring a reliable supply of clean energy for a wide range of applications. This coupled with the solar support provided to women, of 86.7 KW (see section 3.1.2), resulted in an overall solar power capacity of 394.7 KW.

The environmental impact of these interventions has been substantial. Using the internationally recognized standard of ~0.7 tons of carbon dioxide reduced per kilowatt of solar energy installed per year (US EPA)[20], the project's activities are expected to achieve an annual reduction of approximately 377 tons of CO_2. These achievements underscore the project's success in expanding clean energy access, fostering economic and social inclusion, and strengthening resilience to climate change in some of Yemen's most vulnerable communities.

The majority of businesses supported with matching grants come under the following categories: value chain support (transporters), workshops on engine maintenance, and shops providing fishery supplies and inputs. There are also a smaller number engaged in Ice production and Fish processing.

[18] This estimate is based on the Final Frame Survey (March 2025), which indicates that the most common crew size in artisanal fisheries is two to four fishers per boat, depending on boat size and gear type. A conservative assumption of two additional crew members per beneficiary was applied.

[19] Estimates are based on findings from the Vehicles Deep-Dive Assessment and include supported SME beneficiaries themselves (654) plus an estimated 1,432 additional jobs, assuming two additional jobs per full grant and four per matching grant.

[20] https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator

3.1.4 Fishery associations and cooperatives supported improved production and services:

Progress in disbursing grants and scaling up support to fisheries cooperatives has been slower than anticipated due to several institutional and compliance-related challenges. While 40 cooperatives including two women-led have received technical training in Business Continuity Management (BCM) and Governance, a significant number faced difficulties meeting the eligibility criteria for grant support. Key constraints included limited financial contribution capacity, lack of proper documentation, and failure to conduct required governance procedures such as annual board re-elections.

These issues prompted the project to adopt a more tailored, phased approach. A targeted capacity-building plan was launched for 30 cooperatives, including diagnostic assessments, operational toolkits, and follow-up training. At the same time, the project engaged local authorities to support improved compliance and proposed adjustments to grant ceilings and cost-sharing ratios to expand eligibility.

As of this reporting period, 1o cooperatives (9 fishery associations and 1 lead firm) have received mactching grants of up to $ 20,000 each, with the remaining 21 scheduled for support by the end of the year. While slower than originally planned, this deliberate approach ensures that support is provided to cooperatives that are institutionally sound and capable of sustaining impact.

Selected fisheries cooperatives received tailored equipment to enhance institutional functionality, improve member services, and promote long-term sustainability. The support aimed to fill critical gaps identified during capacity assessments.

These interventions are directly linked to each cooperative's business continuity plans and aim to foster institutional resilience, economic stability, and equitable service delivery to members.

In 2025, seven fisheries cooperatives (1 female) received training in BCM, cumulatively, 45 fisheries cooperatives (2 females) and 5 large fisheries cooperatives received their training. To strengthen their capacity as needed, 2 of these cooperatives completed the training twice. This BCM training contributes to building their business and risk management skills to better sustain and develop their business operations. The training helped beneficiaries to obtain the knowledge and skills on how to better manage the risks and enhance their business performance to sustain and grow. Remarkably, the pre-assessment showed an average score of 42.8percent, which improved to 83.5 percent in the post-assessment – showing 40.6 percent increase in knowledge amongst the fisheries cooperatives.

10 lead firms, along with several fisheries associations and cooperatives, had their business plans reviewed and approved on a case-by-case review. Several agreements were subsequently signed, with a combined planned investment exceeding $ 600,000. However, due to the temporary pause of SMEPS-implemented activities, all concerned parties were formally informed that implementation has been suspended as a risk-mitigation measure, in order to avoid contractual, financial, or operational liabilities for both the project and the supported entities. Activities under this component remain on hold pending resolution of the Responsible Party’s implementation status.

Associations, cooperatives, and lead firms supported under this component have completed the necessary preparatory and capacity-building steps, including organizational strengthening, business planning, and compliance orientation. These activities ensured institutional readiness for improved production and service delivery. Consequently, no additional capacity-building support is pending, and the remaining activities are limited to the implementation of approved business plans and associated financing, which remain on hold due to the temporary pause of SMEPS-implemented activities.

3.1.5 Restoration and development of key fishery assets.

The SFISH project will rehabilitate and restore fishery infrastructure across Yemen. These projects are designed to enhance climate resilience, improve fisheries production, and support local fishing communities economically and socially. The program integrates modern, climate-adaptive infrastructure with sustainable solutions, such as renewable energy systems, waste management, and flood control mechanisms.

The following sections provide detailed updates on the status, progress, and unique features of each landing site.

Table 5:Landing Sites Status

	Governorates	Landing Site	Allocated Budget $	Contract Cost $	Variance	Remarks	Progress
1	Hadhramout	Al-Qarn	868,000	973,754.95	-105,755	Signed	100%
2	Hadhramout	Al-Rayida	766,000	433,975.44	+332,024	Signed	100%
3	Hadhramout	Al-Hami	444,000	516,738.60	-72,739	Signed	100%
4	Hadhramout	Rowkub	454,000	341,148.00	+112,852	Signed	100%
5	Taiz	Al-Ordhi	838,000	384,148.80	+453,851	Signed	100%
6	Aden	Dockyard	500,000	424,110.00	+75,890	Signed	100%
7	Aden	Foqum	500,000	364,753.00	+135,247	Signed	30%
8	Al-Mahrah	Saqar	379,500	364,753.00	+14,747	Signed	100%
9	Al-Mahrah	Domkh	585,000	364,753.00	+220,247	Signed	80%
	TOTAL		**5,334,500**	**4,168,135**	**1,166,365**	Average 90%	

Detailed Updates:

3.1.5.1 Bab-Al-Mandab / Al-Ordhi Fish Landing Site

Located near the strategic Bab-Al-Mandab strait in Taiz Governorate, Al-Ordhi Fish Landing Site has been comprehensively rehabilitated to enhance its infrastructure and support sustainable fisheries management. Table (6) below shows the implemented interventions in Bab-Al-Mandab Landing Site, both the original contract works and the additional works:

Table 6: Bab Al-Mandab Landing Site Works

Original Contract Works	Additional Works
Rehabilitation of the Auction Yard	Construction of a hangar for the ice factory
Ramp of fish landing	Supply and installation of a solar system for the landing site
Fishermen's rest house building	-
Public Toilets	-
Guard Room	-
Rehabilitation of water tanks	-
Electricity Control Room	-

These improvements will strengthen post-harvest handling, reduce losses, and provide essential services for the local fishing community. The landing site is fully operational, with fish landing and sales activities currently taking place, and is operated and overseen by the General Authority of Fisheries (GAF) through its local staff.

- **Contractor**: Al-Barashi Company for Trading & Contracting Ltd.
- **Contract Value**: $ 384,148.80

- **Additional Works**: $ 79,630.4 (including renwable energy)
- **Start Date**: November 2024
- **Status**: 100%
- **Status**: Handed Over

Bab-Al-Mandab landing site

3.1.5.2 Rowkub Fish Landing Site

Rowkub Fish Landing Site, located in Hadhramout Governorate, has been comprehensively rehabilitated to improve facilities that support fish handling, storage, and auctioning processes. The scope of work includes the construction and rehabilitation of an auction yard, landing ramp, generator room, control electricity room, public toilets, guard room, and the completion of the perimeter fence. These interventions will enhance the operational environment and improve service delivery for the local fishing community.

The implemented interventions in Rowkub Fish Landing Site are presented in Table (7) below, including both the original contract works and the additional works:

Table 7: Rowkub Landing Site Works

Original Contract Works	Additional Works
Construction of Auction Yard	Construction of a hangar for the ice factory
Ramp of fish landing	Supply and installation of a solar system for the landing site
Generator Room	-
Public toilets	-
Guard Room	-
Rehabilitation of water tanks	-
Electricity Control Room	-
Rehabilitation and completion of the landing site fence	-

The construction faced minor delays due to the need to construct a temporary auction yard to ensure continued access for fishermen during implementation and delays in material delivery. All works have now been completed and the site has been handed over. The landing site is fully operational and is managed by a local fisheries association (Rowkub Association), with technical oversight and coordination provided by the General Authority of Fisheries (GAF).

- **Contractor**: Bin Dowal Company for Trading & Contracting Ltd.
- **Contract Value**: $ 341,148.00
- **Additional Works**: $ 79,327.7 (Including renewable energy)
- **Start Date**: November 2024

- **Retention Percentage**: 100%
- **Status**: Handed Over

Rowkub landing Site

3.1.5.3 Al-Rayida Fish Landing Site

Al-Rayida Fish Landing Site, located in Hadhramout Governorate, rehabilitation includes the construction of an auction yard, fish landing ramp, control electricity room, administration building, public toilets, and a perimeter fence.

The implemented interventions in Al-Rayida Fish Landing Site are presented in Table (8) below, including both the original contract work and the additional works:

Table 8: Al-Rayida Landing Site Works

Original Contract Works	Additional Works
Construction of Auction Yard	Construction of a hangar for the ice factory
Ramp of fish landing	Supply and installation of a solar system for the landing site
Public toilets	-
Guard Room	-
Rehabilitation of water tanks	-
Electricity Control Room	-
Administration Building	-
Landing site fence	-

Implementation at this site faced several challenges. Early in the process, beneficiaries requested modifications and additional components, causing delays in mobilization. Furthermore, the contractor experienced setbacks due to poor performance, lack of qualified personnel, and failure to deliver materials in line with specifications. In response, PWP issued multiple warnings to the contractor, including a final notice threatening the confiscation of performance guarantees and contract termination. This prompted corrective action by the contractor, including the appointment of a dedicated engineer to accelerate progress.

Al-Rayida Fish Landing Site was handed over and is functioning and fish landing and selling activities are ongoing. The site is managed and operated by two local fisheries association (Al-Rayida Association and Rumaila Association), with technical oversight and coordination provided by the General Authority of Fisheries (GAF).

- **Contractor**: Bahnga Company for Trading & Contracting Ltd.
- **Contract Value**: $ 433,975.44
- **Additional Works**: $ 105,074.56 (Including renewable energy)
- **Start Date**: August 2024
- **Status**: 100% completion
- **Status**: Handed Over

Al-Rayida landing site

3.1.5.4 Al-Qarn Fish Landing Site

The Al-Qarn Fish Landing Site, located also in Hadhramout Governorate, is among the largest and most comprehensive of the rehabilitation projects under implementation. The site includes an extensive set of components aimed at strengthening the fisheries infrastructure and post-harvest services. These include an auction yard, fish landing ramp, health unit, control room, ice factory foundation, chiller foundations, administration building, septic tank, public toilets, fuel station, fuel tank, guard room, and a generator and electricity room. The implemented interventions in Al-Qarn Fish Landing Site are presented in Table (9) below, including both the original contract works and the additional works:

Table 9: Al-Qarn Landing Site Works

Original Contract Works	Additional Works
Auction Yard	Construction of a hangar for the ice factory
Ramp of fish landing	Supply and installation of a solar system for the landing site
Health Unit Building	-
Control Room	-
Foundation Ice Factory	-
Chiller Foundations	-
Administration Building	-
Septic Tank	-
Public Toilets	-
Fuel Station	-
Fuel Tank	-
Guard Room	-
Generator and Electricity Room	-

Some delays in the project timeline were encountered due to factors beyond the control of both PWP and the contractor. These included challenges in relocating fishermen from the old auction hall, delays in the importation of key materials, beneficiary-requested modifications to project components and shortages in skilled local labor.

The landing site has been handed over, operations are managed by two local fisheries association (Adis Cooperative and Al-Bandar Association), under the technical oversight and coordination of the General Authority of Fisheries (GAF).

- **Contractor**: Bin Fatsha Company for Trading & Contracting Ltd.
- **Contract Value**: $ 973,754.95
- **Additional Works**: $ 253,524.05 (Including renwable energy)
- **Start Date**: January 2025
- **Status**: 100% completion
- **Status**: Handed Over

Al-Qarn landing Site

3.1.5.5 Al-Hami Fish Landing Site

Al-Hami Fish Landing Site, includes the development of an auction yard, fish landing ramp, control room, administration building, septic tank, public toilets, guard room, water well, and a generator and electricity room. The implemented interventions in Al-Hami Fish Landing Site are presented in Table (10) below, including both the original contract works and the additional works.

Table 10: Al-Hami Landing Site Works

Original Contract Works	Additional Works
Auction Yard	Construction of a hangar for the ice factory
Ramp of fish landing	Supply and installation of a solar system for the landing site
Control Room	-
Administration Building	-
Septic Tank	-
Public Toilets	-
Guard Room	-
Generator and Electricity Room	-
Water Well	-

Although implementation was generally completed on time, the start of construction was delayed due to community objections regarding the placement of certain components within the site's master plan. Furthermore, beneficiaries requested modifications, including the addition of components such as stone paving for the auction yard, while some original elements, like the boat maintenance workshop, were cancelled.

The Al-Hami Fish Landing Site has been handed over and is functioning The site is being operated by two local fisheries association (Al-Hami Association and Alshate' Association), with technical oversight and coordination from the General Authority of Fisheries (GAF).

- **Contractor**: Algmadi Company for Trading & Contracting Ltd.
- **Contract Value**: $ 516,738.60
- **Additional Works**: $ 43,555.40
- **Start Date**: August 2024
- **Status**: 100% completion
- **Status**: Handed Over

Al-Hami Landing Site

3.1.5.6 Dockyard Fish Landing Site

The intervention at the Dockyard in Aden Governorate focuses on enhancing cold chain infrastructure to support fish preservation and reduce post-harvest losses. The scope of work includes the supply, installation, testing, commissioning, and operationalization of a 10-ton flake ice factory and chiller, powered by a solar PV–diesel hybrid system with an integrated generator. The project also includes the construction of a protective structure to house the facility.

As of the reporting period, civil works are nearly complete, and all major equipment including solar and electrical materials, the ice factory, and chiller have been delivered to the site. Initial inspections conducted by the project engineers confirmed that all delivered materials meet the contractual specifications. A dedicated quality assurance engineer has been assigned to verify compliance in detail.

The implemented interventions in Dockyard Fish Landing Site are presented in Table (11) below.

Table 11: Dockyard Landing Site Works

Original Contract Works	Additional Works
Supply, installing, Testing, Commissioning, Operating and handing over 10 tons flake ice factory and chiller with Solar PV-Diesel Hybrid System and generator	None
Creating tree planting basins for the project site	-
Implementation of interlocking paving for the land site entrances	-
Construction of a protective structure to house the facility	-

Inspections were conducted by the project engineers confirmed that all delivered materials meet the contractual specifications. Verification of comprehesnive compliance at the site was monitored by a dedicated quality assurance engineer.The ice plant underwent a trial run and the operation was successful. GAF operates the ice factory, and ice is now produced and offered to clients at the landing site.

Due to challenges such as relocating the area for solar panels, modifying the panel distribution layout, and designing a reinforced concrete base, the project experienced delays. Additionally, there was a significant delay in shipping the factory unit from the country of origin, which further impacted the original timeline. These modifications also led to an increase in additional works beyond the initial contract scope.

- **Contractor**: Mohamed Al-Marfadi Contracting Co. Ltd.
- **Contract Value**: $ 424,110.00
- **Additional Works**: $ 117,065.25
- **Start Date**: January 202*4*
- **Status**: 100% completion
- **Status**: Pre-Handing Over

Dockyard Landing site

3.1.5.7 Saqar Fish Landing Site

Saqar Fish Landing Site, is located in a remote coastal area of Al-Mahrah Governorate. The project includes the construction of an auction yard, fish landing ramp, administration building, generator and electricity room, public toilets, septic tank and a sedimentation tank soak-away pit.

The implemented interventions in Saqar Fish Landing Site are presented in Table (12) below, including both the original contract works and the additional works.

Table 12: Saqr Landing Site Works

Original Contract Works	Additional Works
Auction Yard	Supply and installation of a solar system for the landing site
Ramp of fish landing	-
Control Room	-
Administration Building	-
Septic Tank	-
Public Toilets	-
Generator and Electricity Room	-
Sedimentation tank soak away pit	-
Fishing boat shelter site	-

Despite logistical challenges including the remote location, limited access to materials, and shortage of local labor the project is progressing smoothly and remains on schedule. Material testing was conducted in distant urban centers such as Mukalla to ensure quality compliance. The area is largely inhabited by fishermen, which added complexity to the mobilization of both skilled labor and construction supplies. The site will be managed by the General Authority of Fisheries (GAF).

- **Contractor**: Mohamed Hussein Al-Barashi Contracting Office

- **Contract Value**: $ 313,166.40
- **Additional Works**: $ 15,000
- **Start Date**: 04 May 2025
- **Status**: 100% completion
- **Project Status**: Handed Over

Saqar landing Landing Site

3.1.5.8 Domkh Fish Landing Site

At Domkh Fish Landing Site, located in Al-Mahrah Governorate, the scope of work includes the construction of an auction yard, fish landing ramp, administration building, generator and electricity room, control room, public toilets, fuel station, septic tank and two sedimentation tank soak-away pits. The implemented interventions in Domkh Fish Landing Site are presented in Table (13) below.

Table 13: Domkh Landing Site Works

Original Contract Works	Additional Works
Auction Yard	None
Ramp of fish landing	-
Control Room	-
Administration Building	-
Septic Tank	-
Public Toilets	-
Generator and Electricity Room	-
Fuel Station	-
Sedimentation tank soaks away pit	-
Maintenance of old administrative offices	-

Prior to starting the main works, a temporary auction hall was constructed to ensure continuity of services for local fishermen. Key progress includes the reinforced concrete works for the foundations and columns of the auction yard building and structural excavation for the administration building.

The project faced delays due to factors beyond the control of both the contractor and supervisory authority. These include time required to construct and operationalize the temporary auction yard and logistical difficulties in supplying ready-mix concrete to the remote project location. Despite these challenges, 80 percent of the works have been completed.

To address the delays, an updated work schedule was been developed. Additional skilled and unskilled laborers were mobilized to expedite progress, with the aim of accelerating implementation across all components.

- **Contractor**: Bamsaq Contracting Establishment
- **Contract Value**: $ 484,711.20
- **Start Date**: May 2025
- **Retention Percentage**: 80%
- **Project Status**: Initial structural works completed; updated schedule under implementation
- **Next Steps**: Completion of remaining works, inspection, and handing over

Domkh landing Landing Site

3.1.5.9 Foqum Fish Landing Site

Foqum Fish Landing Site in Aden Governorate, which was originally constructed by a WB project in the early 1990's but has not been used for several years, is being rehabiliated. However, the implementation was delayed due to a land ownership dispute raised by a local family, see section 5.9 This issue has now been resolved and the contractor has commenced work and proceeded with project implementation. The project team is in close consultation with the WB on this issue. In addition UNDP and PWP have been actively engaged with MoAIFW, GAF, and local authorities to resolve the issue. The implemented interventions in Foqum Fish Landing Site are presented in Table (14) below.

Table 14: Foqum Landing Site Works

Original Contract Works	Additional Works
Auction Yard	None
Ramp of fish landing	-
Control Room	-
Administration Building	-
Septic Tank	-
Public Toilets	-
Generator and Electricity Room	-
Sedimentation tank soak away pit	-

The works have commenced on retaining wall, dismantling of old store, control room maintenance, and drilling an artesian well.

- **Contractor**: Al-Hubishi General Contracting Office
- **Contract Value**: $ 364,752.50
- **Contract Signing Date**: 11 May 2025
- **Retention Percentage:** 30%
- **Project Status**: on progress

- **Next Steps**: Completion of remaining works, inspection, and handing over

3.1.5.10 Labor and local employment:

Civil works across the 9 rehabilitated fish landing sites generated substantial short-term employment opportunities for local communities. In total, the works engaged a significant number of skilled and unskilled laborers, reflecting the labor-intensive nature of infrastructure rehabilitation and the project's emphasis on maximizing local economic benefits. Employment was largely drawn from surrounding communities, ensuring that project investments translated into immediate income opportunities at the local level.

Higher labor inputs were recorded at larger and more complex sites such as Al-Hami, Al-Qarn, and Domkh resulting in a higher number of workdays generated, while smaller sites still contributed meaningfully to local employment despite their more limited scope. Overall, the works collectively generated thousands of workdays, supported both skilled and unskilled workers, and reinforced the project's contribution to livelihoods recovery and local economic stimulation alongside infrastructure improvements.

Table 15: Number of workers per landing site

No.	Landing Site	Direct Labor	Skilled	Unskilled	Workdays	Local Workers
1	Al-Qarn	266	106	160	8,952	108
2	Al-Rayida	180	72	108	3,924	101
3	Al-Hami	367	147	220	6,055	257
4	Rowkub	263	105	158	4,000	101
5	Bab-Al-Mandab	125	50	75	2,800	10
6	Dockyard	100	42	58	475	100
7	Foqum	48	18	30	638	1
8	Saqr	133	53	80	2,268	27
9	Domkh	144	58	86	5,831	40
Total		**1,626**	**651**	**975**	**34,943**	**745**

3.1.6 Beneficiaries from training and capacity building to develop the fishery value chain, responsible fishing practices, and fishery management

The SFISH project aims to build the capacity of 100,000 beneficiaries, equipping them with the skills, knowledge, and tools to effectively participate in the fishery value chain, promote responsible fishing practices, and contribute to improved fisheries management. By the end of June 2025, a total of 6,329 individuals including 1,964[21] women were trained across various technical, operational, and governance areas.

Key training interventions included:

- 4,657 micro-producers were trained on sustainable fishing practices, hygienic fish handling, processing, and small-scale business management, including 1,710 women.
- 1,116 supply chain enablers and cooperatives members were trained in business continuity planning, financial management, and logistics.
- 286 community committee members trained in governance, stakeholder engagement, and risk management.

[21] 45% of women trained across all components including field consultants and community committees.

- 270 field consultants and advisors trained to provide technical support and ensure effective delivery of project activities at the community level.

While these 6,329 individuals have benefitted from formal training, it is important to note that not all trainees received direct grant support.

In addition to direct training, the project reached a broad audience through outreach and awareness campaigns, beneftiting more than 976,000 people via awareness campaigns, mass communication chennels and community based events. These efforts focused on key themes including nutrition, climate resilience, and sustainable fishing practices. Within the overall outreach, 158,813[22] individuals were reached through in-person awareness sessions conducted at schools, households, and community centers. These face to face activities emphasized the nutritional benefits of fish, climate adaptation strategies, and marine ecosystem preservation. For example, in celebration of World Fisheries Day, the project partnered with local schools to promote responsible fishing and engaged students in environmental cleanup activities.

The project also embedded social and environmental safeguards within its training and awareness programs. A total of 8,293 individuals received targeted awareness on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH), Environmental and Social (E&S) safeguards, and Gender Mainstreaming. Additionally, 4,111 beneficiaries, including 853 women, were provided with Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) tools and guidance to promote safe practices in fisheries operations. Training modules addressed key topics such as SEA/SH reporting mechanisms, gender inclusion in the fisheries sector, and workplace safety measures for fish processing and handling.

3.2 Project Output 2: Developed governance systems and knowledge for effective management and climate resilience of fisheries

Summary achievement against project targets

Description of Results

3.2.1 Sub-national fishery governance committees established.

The project initially aimed to establish gender-balanced sub-national fisheries governance committees across targeted regions, with the objective of forming 18-member bodies, including a minimum of five women. By March 2024, four committees had been successfully established through coordination with MoAIFW and GAF, supported by transparent elections and training sessions covering fisheries management and climate change adaptation.

However, MoAIFW later indicated that the formal legal endorsement of these committees would require sustained financial commitments, which fall beyond the ministry's available resources. As a result, the responsibility for further action was referred to GAF.

Following internal assessment, the project team concluded that operationalizing these regional committees would be extremely difficult without providing stipends to members. Moreover, establishing such governance structures at the regional level risks overlapping mandates and potential conflict with existing GAF institutions. Therefore, the project is reconsidering its approach, favoring the establishment of community-level committees instead. These local bodies are better positioned to lead practical, community-based fisheries initiatives and align more closely with existing local dynamics. This shift was briefly discussed during the ISM in December 2024 and is further detailed in Section 3.2.5 on the Fisheries Management Plans.

[22] The total of 158,813 people reached comprises 6,329 direct project participants (training beneficiaries) and an estimated 152,484 household members, calculated using 25,414 beneficiary households and an average household size of six

3.2.2 Sub-national fishery entities that are using the simplified matrix

The establishment of a Data Information System (DIS) for the MoAIFW is a key activity under the project. Initially, UNDP explored the possibility of utilizing the existing Calipseo system, developed by FAO, to promote synergy, avoid duplication, and enhance coordination among organizations operating in the fisheries sector. However, following technical discussions, FAO and UNDP did not reach a mutual agreement on the terms of system usage, and the proposed collaboration could not proceed.

As an alternative approach, UNDP engaged two national consultants to support the rollout of a practical, field-based data collection mechanism. These consultants trained GAF data collectors and supervisiors stationed at fish landing sites. In coordination and support with MoAIFW and the data management center, the trained personnel are now overseeing data collection, monitoring, supervision, and verification to ensure the reliability and quality of fish catch data.

Data collection was piloted in 15 landing sites across all coastal governorates. The budget allocated for this component will support both institutional infrastructure within MoAIFW and GAF, and the operational costs associated with data collection, ultimately feeding into piloting a national-level system on catch data. This is an important element in terms of having the necessary data to inform evidence-based fisheries management and policy making.

After the piloted data collection, namely in November and December 2025, data collection was formally commenced at 9 landing sites out of 15 (all except Al-Mahrah + 1 in Mocha). The fish landings, during these two months in the 9 monitored sites, showed a substantial increase from November to December 2025, with total recorded quantities rising from 229,583 kg in November to 561,162 kg in December, bringing the two-month total to 790,745 kg. Figure (5) shows the trends of total fish landing quantities by site.

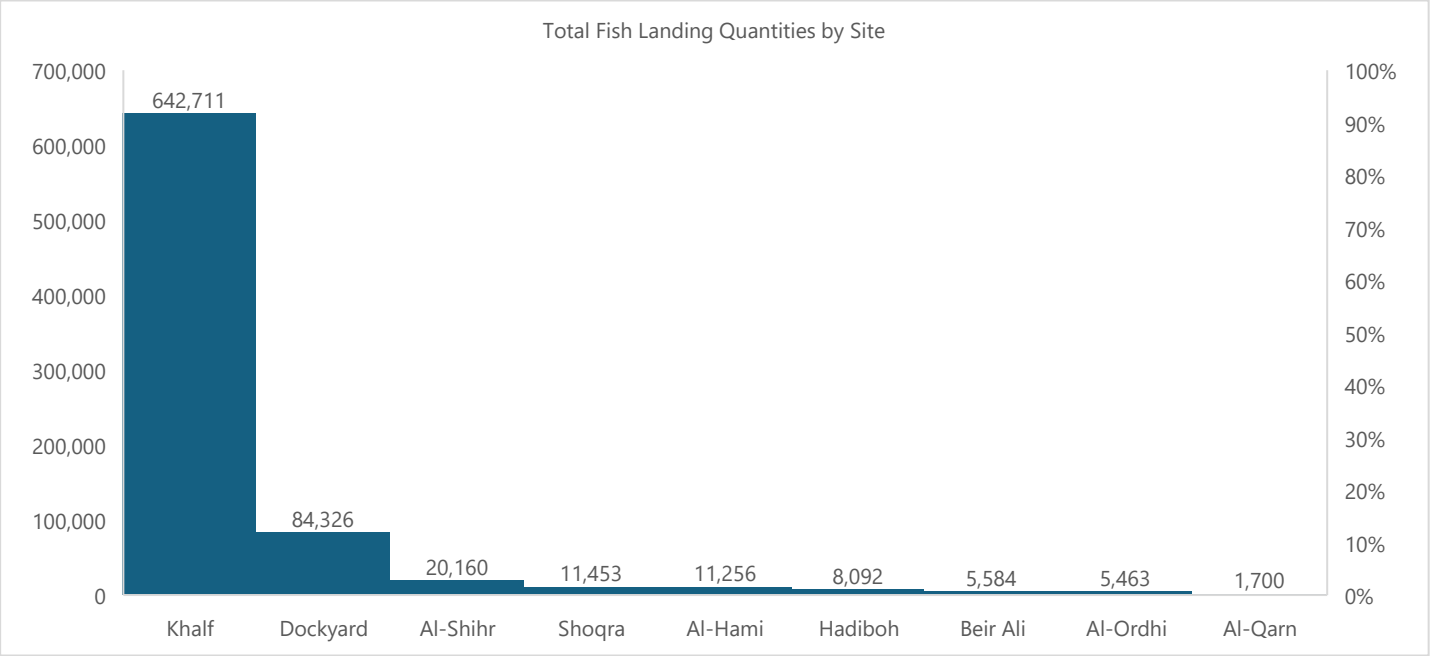

Figure 5: Fish Landings by Site during November and December 2025

3.2.3.1 Fisheries Landings Summary (November–December)

Catch monitoring data compiled from 9 landing-site records indicate a total landed volume of 790,745 kg across the reporting period. Landings increased substantially from November (229,583 kg) to December (561,162 kg), reflecting a clear seasonal and/or operational shift in fishing activity and landing patterns between the two months.

Table 16: Fish Catch per Landing Site

#	Governorate	Landing site	Nov	Dec	Total
1	Taiz	Al-Ordhi	1,749	3,714	5,463
2	Aden	Dockyard	67,002	17,324	84,326
3	Abyan	Shoqra	3,563	7,890	11,453
4	Shabwah	Beir Ali	0	5,584	5,584
5	Hadhramout	Khalf	143,055	499,656	642,711
6	Hadhramout	Al-Shihr	3,710	16,450	20,160
7	Hadhramout	Al-Qarn	0	1,700	1,700
8	Hadhramout	Al-Hami	9,439	1,817	11,256
9	Socotra	Hadiboh	1,065	7,027	8,092
TOTAL			**229,583**	**561,162**	**790,745**

- Hadhramout Governorate consistently contributed the highest volumes, driven primarily by the Khalf landing site, which alone accounted for 642,711 kg during the reporting period - representing over 81 percent of all landings recorded across the nine sites. Khalf showed a significant month-to-month increase, rising from 143,055 kg in November to 499,656 kg in December. Other sites in Hadhramout, including Al-Shihr (20,160 kg), Al-Hami (11,256 kg), and Al-Qarn (1,700 kg), made comparatively modest contributions, though Al-Shihr and Al-Hami showed notable increases in December.
- In Aden, the Dockyard site reported the second-highest total landings at 84,326 kg, despite a decrease in December (from 67,002 kg in November to 17,324 kg in December).
- Abyan's Shoqra site recorded 11,453 kg, showing more than a twofold increase in December. Similarly, Shabwah's Beir Ali recorded landings only in December, contributing 5,584 kg.
- In Taiz, Al-Ordhi documented 5,463 kg, also showing a clear increase between November and December.
- In Socotra, Hadiboh site, it was documented 8,092 kg, with landings increasing sharply from 1,065 kg in November to 7,027 kg in December.

The unusually high volumes recorded at Khalf should be understood in operational terms: Khalf functions as a key landing and aggregation point for vessels that fish in broader regional waters, rather than limiting activities to near-shore domestic fishing grounds. In practice, fishers landing at Khalf are more likely to:

- undertake longer fishing trips and operate further offshore,
- return with larger consolidated catches (often linked to larger vessels and longer trip duration). In reality, many of the vessels landing at Khalf are Sambuqs which have been fishing in international waters, and
- use Khalf as a preferred site due to landing services and market linkages that support higher-volume offloading and trading.

3.2.3.2 Catch composition

Across all sites, reported catches were dominated by:

- Demersal/bottom-associated fish (≈384.5 MT), and
- Pelagic/surface fish (≈261.3 MT), with smaller contributions from other aquatic species groups (≈99.2 MT) and limited volumes from cartilaginous fish and invertebrates.

This composition is consistent with the region's commercially important fisheries and prevailing market demand.

Table 17: Estimated fish catch Nov, Dec 2025

#	Category	Nov	Dec	Total
1	Cartilaginous fishes	18,360	8,101	26,461

2	Pelagic fish	128,390	132,906	261,296
3	Demersal fish	68,104	316,414	384,518
4	Crustacea	8,525	183	8,708
5	Cephalopod	6,204	4,403	10,607
6	Other (Octopus)	0	99,155	99,155
TOTAL		**229,583**	**561,162**	**790,745**

3.2.4 A study on fishery sector diversification and development of a business model developed and disseminated

As part of its efforts to support fisheries sector diversification, during 2025, SFISH project finalized a Diversification Study to assess viable, sustainable livelihood alternatives for fishing communities in southern coastal Yemen. The study was conducted by an international consultant contracted by UNDP, with a national expert being recruited to support follow-up actions and community-level engagement. The study focused upon identifying sustainable options and analysed the local potential with a focus upon suitable locations and species.

The appraisal involved desk research, production data analysis, satellite imagery review and field visits to 26 sites across the southern coast from the Oman border to Lahj. In light of conflict-related disruptions to supply chains and the national economy, the study concluded that capital-intensive aquaculture systems (e.g. marine cages and recirculating aquaculture systems) are currently not feasible. Instead, the study recommends focusing on low-risk, culture-based enhancement models that build on local knowledge and require minimal infrastructure.

Two high-potential species were identified for mariculture enhancement:

- Scalloped Spiny Lobster (Panulirus homarus): A high-value export species whose stocks have been severely depleted. The study proposes deploying artificial shelters (locally known as matrahs) to improve recruitment and survival. This should be accompanied by a field trial, planned in Hadhramout and Al Mahrah, to monitor larval settlement and environmental conditions.
- Sandfish Sea Cucumber (Holothuria scabra): A valuable species cultured across Asia. The proposed model involves community-based ocean ranching in suitable habitats such as seagrass beds, supported by small-scale hatchery development.

Two pilot sites, Al Qarn (Hadhramout) and Khor Umaira (Lahj), were selected based on environmental suitability and alignment with SFISH's ongoing work in these locations. These pilots aim to test inclusive, environmentally sound mariculture approaches that can be replicated to diversify income sources, reduce pressure on wild stocks, and promote long-term resilience in coastal communities.

3.2.5 Sub-national fishery management plans developed

SFISH project has made notable progress in developing community-based Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) as part of its strategy to promote sustainable fisheries governance in Yemen. Shifting from a regional to a localized, community-driven model, the project is currently piloting this approach in selected coastal communities across the Gulf of Aden and Hadhramout.

For the Gulf of Aden region (Aden, Lahj, Abyan), two FMPs have been finalized for Ras Amran and Khor Umeira, based on extensive consultations with stakeholders and field-based assessments. These plans were developed by the local consulting firm AFCAR, which was competitively selected and has provided in-depth analysis of fishing practices, stock conditions, and community governance structures. The plans propose participatory mechanisms for resource monitoring, gear regulation, seasonal fishing bans and localized enforcement to ensure sustainability and community ownership.

To support the implementation of the Khor Umeira FMP, a dedicated local consultant was hired and initiated activities in the community. However, the consultant resigend towards the end of last year and, subsequently, a team of two consultants

has been recruited. These consultants will collaborate with the community to explore alternative livelihood methodologies aligned with sustainable fisheries practices, helping fishers diversify income sources while remaining within the fisheries sector. This has been discussed with GAF representatives at both the Aden and local level and there is full support for the initiative. Based upon the results of the Diversification Study, the potential of Sea Cucumber as a possible option is being explored further in Khour Umeira. However, the Diversification study does identify significant challenges with regards to production of Sea Cucumber from community-based systems. Previous experiences from other locations globally indicate that community-based sea cucumber production is challenging and, where it has been successful, it has been linked with a large scale commercial investment. Another challenge that has become apparent, in terms of the specific location of Khour Ameira, is that the presence of various security forces in the area does limit access to certain areas. This will have to be taken into account with regards to any subsequent activities.

The next phase of implementation will focus on Hadhramout and Al Maharah. Originally, the plan was to focus on the Al-Qarn site but, following discussions with the WB team, it was agreed to attempt a more ambitious approach targeting the whole Hadhramout and Al Mahrah regions. Initially, discussions were held with the main Lobster buyers and GAF representatives. While all agree in principle with such an approach, any intervention will require a three to five year plan and further discussion with the fishermen themselves. This is something that UNDP will be following up on in 2026.

For the time being, there will be no further follow up on Ras Amran plan. This decision has been taken in light of the anticipated challenges that would arise if SFISH were to engage with this community.

4 Monitoring and Evaluation

4.1 Project Development Objectives and Outputs

The Project Development Objective (PDO) updates are provided in the table below:

Table 18: Project Development Objectives

Fishery value chain strengthened in Yemen						
Indicator Name	Baseline		Actual (Current)		Closing Period	
	Value	Month/Year	Value	Date	Value	Month/Year
Beneficiaries of job-focused interventions (Number)	0.00	Aug/2022	4111	December 2025	5600.00	July/2026
Beneficiaries of job-focused interventions - Female (Number)	0.00		853		1,680.00	-
Beneficiary households experienced at least ten percent increase in their per capita household income from the baseline situation (Percentage)	$ 256/ YER 64,132 per trip for fishermen $ 345/YER 86,456 per month for women $5,570 average profit / month for supply chain enablers and cooperatives	Aug/2022	68.5%	December 2025	60.00	July/2026
Sub-national climate informed participatory fishery management plans implemented (Number)	0.00	Aug/2022	2 plans developed while 1 was partially implemented.	December 2025	2.00	July/2026

Table 19: Output M&E Table

Component 2: Improving Economic Opportunities, Food Security and Effective Management of Fishery Production in Yemen						
Indicator Name	Baseline		Actual (Current)		Closing Period	
	Value	Month/Year	Value	Date	Value	Month/Year
Fishers and micro and medium enterprices benefitted from voucher inputs/micro grants to develop fishery value chain activities (Number)	0.00	Aug/2022	4,111	December 2025	5,600.00	July/2026
Women and youth with enhanced skills with grants to establish fishery enterprises and	0.00	Aug/2022	853	December 2025	1,600.00	July/2026

access to market opportunities (Number)						
Women with enhanced skills provided with grants to establish fishery enterprises and access to market opportunities (Number)	0.00	Aug/2022	-		480.00	July/2026
Fishery associations and cooperatives supported for improved production and services (Number)	0.00	Aug/2022	9	December 2025	45.00	July/2026
Fishery infrastructure rehabilitated/restored with enhanced climate resilience (Number)	0.00	Aug/2022	7 Completed and 2 landing sites under rehablitation	December 2025	9.00	July/2026
Annual fishery management reports produced documenting fishery governance actions (Number)	0.00	Aug/2022	0.00	December 2025	4.00	July/2026
Beneficiaries from training and capacity building to develop the fishery value chain, responsible fishing practices, and fishery management (Number)	0.00	Aug/2022	158,813	December 2025	100,000.00	July/2026
Women participation (Percentage)	0.00		45% (71,613)		30.00	

4.2 Main Monitoring and Evaluation Achievements

In 2025, significant progress has been made under the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) function of the SFISH project, ensuring rigorous tracking, quality control, learning, and accountability across all components. Baseline and endline assessments were completed by the Responsible Party (SMEPS), analyzed and reported by UNDP M&E Team, capturing critical indicators on beneficiary reach, economic outcomes, and improvement of livelihoods.

Standardized databases and dashboarding were developed, designed and maintained to track all grant-supported beneficiaries. These databases served as the foundation for routine data analysis and reporting. Seven monthly review meetings were held with SMEPS to validate and cross-check entries, ensuring accuracy and consistency in reported numbers.

To strengthen data quality, the M&E team at the project level conducted a comprehensive Data Quality Assessment (DQA). This process involved spot checks, data verification, and structured feedback sessions with implementing partners. Findings from the DQA were systematically reviewed in monthly coordination meetings with both project management and responsible party.

Several tracking tools were developed and operationalized, including an Indicators Performance Tracker to monitor progress against project PDO targets, a real-time Project Dashboard that visualizes the distribution and status of SFISH-supported grants.

After the completion of the first batch of beneficiaries, SMEPs conducted baseline data collection for the second batch of beneficiaries. To ensure accurate reflection of these results, the M&E team has designed a tailored methodology, which

includes the use of both primary and secondary data sources. Secondary data includes internal records and reporting from partners throughout the project lifecycle, while primary data will be collected through field surveys. A mixed-methods approach has been adopted, combining quantitative surveys with qualitative inquiry to validate and explain key trends.

In addition, Third-Party Monitoring (TPM) activities were undertaken to independently verify implementation progress, beneficiary reach, and data quality across SFISH components. The second round of TPM was conducted between June and July 2025, covering livelihood interventions implemented by SMEPS, landing site rehabilitation works implemented by PWP and UNDP-implemented activities. Monitoring activities covered six landing sites, 22 livelihood intervention sites, 12 cooperatives, 50 SMEs, and 112 supply chain actors across Aden, Hadhramout, Al-Mahrah, and Taiz. A total of 543 livelihood beneficiaries and 70 workers at landing sites were interviewed through structured surveys, key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and direct observation. TPM also reviewed the functionality of project M&E systems, including beneficiary databases, tracking tools, and reporting practices, and helped validate reported outputs related to grants, infrastructure works, and capacity-building activities. Findings were shared with WB and implementing partners to support follow-up actions, data corrections, and continuous improvement of monitoring and reporting practices.

In parallel with third-party monitoring, UNDP project staff conducted regular field missions to oversee implementation quality and verify progress across multiple interventions. These missions covered all four target governorates (Aden, Hadhramout, Al-Mahrah, and Taiz) and included site visits to landing sites, beneficiary businesses, and training activities. The field missions enabled direct engagement with beneficiaries, implementing partners, and local authorities, and supported timely identification of implementation issues, verification of reported progress, and follow-up actions to ensure compliance with technical, social, and environmental standards.

The M&E team carried out two assessments with the objective of data and service quality monitoring and assurance:

4.2.1 Vehicles Deep-Dive:

A total of 375 vehicles of varying sizes were distributed under the project, and a follow-up assessment was conducted to verify appropriate use and compliance with project requirements. As part of this exercise, 24 vehicles were physically inspected across targeted locations. Key findings are in section (3.1.3.1).

4.2.2 Beneficiaries Remote Verification:

During the remote verification, the team assessed beneficiaries[23] of both full and matching grants to understand contribution compliance, items received versus records, and perceived outcomes.

Key findings:

- Some inconsistencies were found between beneficiary self-reported locations and database records. In the full grants database, 24 beneficiaries were registered under different governorates and 13 under different districts. Fewer discrepancies were observed for matching grants, with six district-level mismatches identified.
- Although 229 beneficiaries reported contributing to their grants, the recorded contribution amounts did not match database entries for 228 of the 390 full-grant beneficiaries and 29 of the 34 matching-grant beneficiaries, indicating weaknesses in contribution recording and documentation.
- Beneficiaries reported receiving 2,044 items in total. However, comparison with database records revealed notable discrepancies, particularly under full grants, where 2,720 items listed in the database could not be confirmed. Full alignment between reported and recorded items was observed for 88 beneficiaries.
- Beneficiary feedback was largely positive, with 294 beneficiaries fully satisfied and 88 moderately satisfied. In addition, 385 beneficiaries reported a positive impact on their businesses and income.
- Verification efforts were affected by mobile network outages, incorrect contact details, and unreachable phone numbers, which limited reach but did not undermine the overall validity of the findings.

[23] Out of 656 "*two were in the database and dropped from the implementation*" sampled beneficiaries, 424 beneficiaries reached

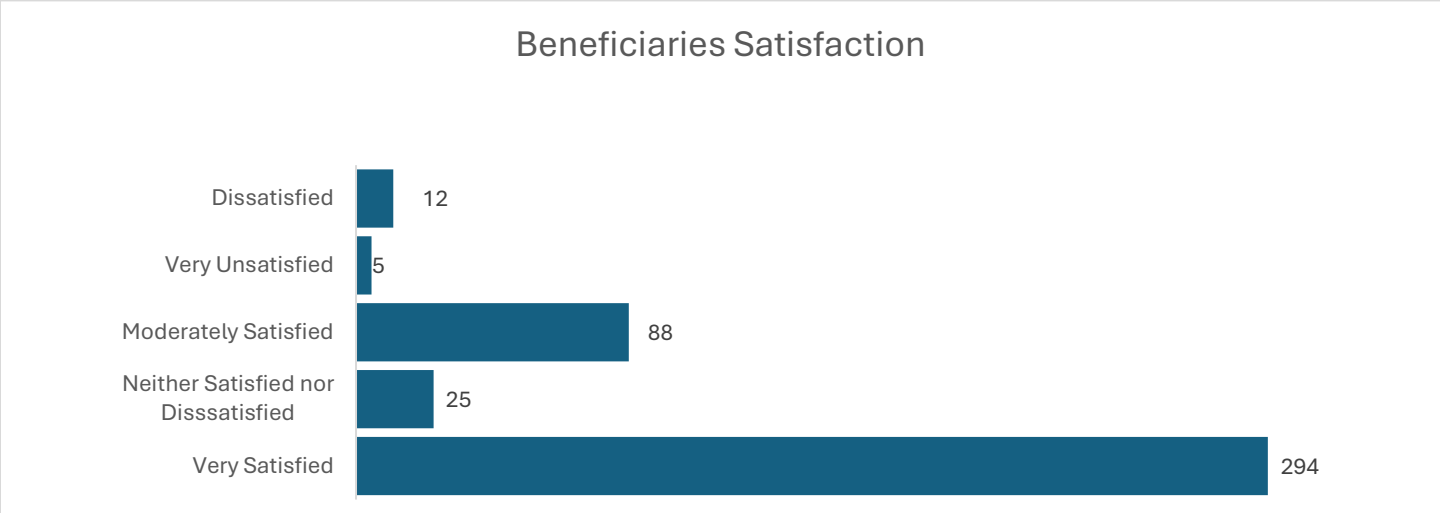

Figure 6: Beneficiaries' Satisfaction Rate

5 Environmental and Social Risk Management

This section summarizes Environmental and Social Risk Management and Monitoring performance during January–December 2025 in accordance with the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). The project applied approved ESF instruments, implemented site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) measures, maintained routine monitoring and corrective actions, applied labor and OHS controls in line with ESS2[24], strengthened SEA/SH risk management and incident handling, and maintained functional grievance and stakeholder engagement systems consistent with ESS10[25].

5.1 Environmental and Social Instruments in Use

The following ESF instruments remained in effect throughout 2025:

- Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)
- Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) / ESAP
- Labor Management Procedures (LMP)
- Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)
- Gender Action Plan (GAP)
- Security Management Plan (SMP)

5.2 Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs)

ESMPs continued to guide mitigation and monitoring at subproject level, including environmental controls, social risk management, OHS requirements, and contractor obligations.

Table 20: Cleared ESMPs/ESAP (as of 31 December 2025)

ESMP/ESAP No.	Landing Site	Date Cleared	Status
ESMP-01	Al-Qarn	February 2024	Cleared
ESMP-02	Bab-Al-Mandab	October 2024	Cleared
ESMP-03	Rowkub	September 2024	Cleared
ESMP-04	Ar-Rayida	July 2024	Cleared
ESMP-05	Rakhut	—	Replaced

[24] Environmental and Social Standard 2: Labor and Working Conditions

[25] Environmental and Social Standard 10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

ESMP-06	Saqar	December 2024	Cleared
ESMP-07	Al-Hami	July 2024	Cleared
ESAP-08	Dockyard	July 2024	Cleared
ESMP-09	Al-Domikh	December 2024	Cleared
ESMP-10	Foqum	March 2025	Cleared

5.3 Improvements in ESMP Efficiency

ESMP review and clearance efficiency improved compared to earlier cycles, supported by standardized templates, strengthened evidence requirements, and improved coordination during review.

Table 21: ESMP clearance efficiency (trend)

Metric	2023 (1 ESMP)	2024/2025 (8 ESMPs)	% Improvement
Avg. Clearance Time	**217 days**	**82 days**	**62% faster**
WB Comments Received	**538**	**63**	**88% fewer**
ESS Risk Coverage	**Partial**	**Full (ESS3, ESS5, ESS6)**	**Expanded**

5.4 Site-Level Monitoring and Compliance

Routine field monitoring, site verification, and documented follow-up actions were maintained throughout 2025. Monitoring focused on implementation of ESMP-defined controls, including emergency preparedness and first aid readiness, worker welfare arrangements, OHS supervision and toolbox talks, PPE[26] availability and use, GM visibility and accessibility, and environmental housekeeping and waste management measures. Corrective actions were tracked through supervision and periodic verification.

5.4.1 Labor Management Procedure

Labor management measures remained in place to comply with ESS2, maintain safe working conditions, and ensure contractors and workers comply with project OHS requirements.

5.4.2 Key practices applied during 2025

The key labour practices applied in the project throughout 2025 included: worker verification using government-issued IDs to prevent child labor; permit-to-work controls; Code of Conduct signing and reinforcement for staff, consultants, contractors and workers; worker welfare provisions (safe drinking water and sanitation); separate WASH facilities for women workers where present; daily toolbox talks; and wage practices aligned with prevailing local labor market rates.

Table 22: Workforce additions during 2025 (Jan–Dec 2025)

Partner	Workforce Hired
PWP	3 Resident HSSE[27], 1,598 contracted workers, 22 consultants, 6 contractors
SMEPS	2 additional roles (ESS Head and GM Assistant)
Total new hires reported during 2025	1,631

5.4.3 PPE Distribution and Worker Protection

PPE distribution continued as a core OHS[28] prevention measure.

[26] Personal Protective Equipment

[27] Health, Safety, Security, and Environment

[28] Occupational Health and Safety

- **PWP (workers):** an additional **1,052** worker PPE packages were distributed during 2025, bringing the cumulative total to **3,412** .
- **SMEPS (beneficiaries):** an additional **255** fishermen PPE packages were distributed during 2025. Cumulative distribution to beneficiaries is summarized below.

Table 23: PPE distribution to beneficiaries (as of 31 December 2025)

Group	Cumulative Total
Fishermen	2,519
Women & Youth	831
Small Enterprises (SMEs)	494
Total	**3,844**

5.4.4 Incident Management and Insurance Coverage

Incidents were tracked using standard categories, with emphasis on prevention, rapid response, and documentation.

Table 24: Incidents recorded during 2025

Incident Type	PWP	SMEPS
Minor first aid cases	30	0
Lost time injuries	0	0
Fatalities	0	0

Insurance arrangements remained in place for relevant categories and continued to apply as established in the insurance schedules.

Table 25: SMEPS Insurance benefit structure

Category	Work Fatality ($)	Natural Death ($)	Disability	Injury ($)
Staff	44,860	22,430	Based on policy schedule	2,243
Consultants	4,716	–	Based on policy schedule	2,243

Table 26: PWP insurance structure

Category	Fatality ($)	Normal Death ($)	Partial Disability	Total Disability ($)	Injury ($)	Property Damaged ($)
Staff	15,000	15,000	% based on schedule	15,000	3,000	–
Permanent Consultant	15,000	15,000	% based on schedule	15,000	3,000	–
Temporary Consultant	15,000	–	% based on schedule	15,000	3,000	–
Technician Engineer	15,000	–	% based on schedule	15,000	3,000	–
Public Contracting Workers	15,000	–	% based on schedule	15,000	1,000	–
Community Contracting and C4W Workers	15,000	–	% based on schedule	15,000	1,000	–
Third-party Insurance	15,000	–	% based on schedule	15,000	3,000	19,000

5.5 Grievance Mechanism (GM)

The grievance mechanism remained functional and accessible through multiple channels (complaint boxes, phone, SMS, WhatsApp). Cases were logged, categorized, and followed up within defined timelines, with escalation pathways for unresolved cases. Confidentiality and safe intake practices remained in place for sensitive complaints.

During the reporting period, the project received a high volume of grievances, primarily submitted by consultants, vendors, and a smaller number of beneficiaries, following the temporary suspension of activities and delays in payments. This specifically relates to SMEPS.

The majority of grievances related to delayed payments for completed services and delivered goods, with complainants indicating that payments due since August had not been settled. A recurring concern raised across multiple submissions was the circulation of information regarding a potential partial payment (approximately 60 percent), which was perceived by complainants as inconsistent with contracts under which services were fully delivered.

Several consultants reported financial and personal hardship resulting from the suspension, including costs incurred for accommodation, transport, and relocation to field locations. In some cases, consultants expressed concern that delays had affected their professional credibility with communities and beneficiaries. Vendors similarly reported cash-flow constraints due to unpaid invoices for goods delivered.

A smaller number of grievances were submitted by project beneficiaries, who reported economic losses and missed business opportunities linked to the suspension of project activities. Some beneficiaries indicated that they had already invested personal resources in anticipation of grant-supported activities, leading to financial strain when implementation was paused.

A limited number of complainants submitted multiple follow-ups, reflecting the level of concern and urgency surrounding payment delays and uncertainty over resolution timelines.

In parallel, UNDP has taken an active facilitation and oversight role to support resolution of the issues underlying the grievances. This has included sustained engagement with the Responsible Party, structured follow-up with the World Bank and continued communication with relevant decision-makers to advance clarity on outstanding contractual and payment matters. UNDP will maintain this engagement to support resolution of pending issues and enable a return to normal implementation, while ensuring that grievance management processes remain transparent and fully documented.
Overall, the grievances did not relate to misuse of funds, fraud, or safeguarding violations, but rather to contractual, financial, and communication issues arising during a period of implementation disruption. All complaints were formally registered through the grievance mechanism and are being addressed through ongoing coordination with implementing partners, with an emphasis on clarifying payment processes, managing expectations, and restoring confidence among project stakeholders.

Table 27: Grievances received during 2025 (by category)

Complaint Category	SMEPS	PWP
Financial (Payment)	46	30
Targeting / Eligibility	79	0
Technical / Implementation	28	0
Contractual	5	0
General information / feedback / inquiries	0	10

Total (2025)	**158**	**40**

Cumulative GM totals as of 31 December 2025:

- SMEPS: **358** grievances since project start
- PWP: **52** grievances since project start

5.6 SEA/SH Incident Management (2025)

One SEA/SH case was reported and managed using survivor-centered principles, confidentiality safeguards, the agreed escalation pathway, and formal reporting steps.

During the reporting period, the project received a confidential grievance from a female beneficiary alleging sexual harassment by a staff member of a Responsible Party. In line with the project's zero-tolerance policy and established SEA/SH protocols, the complaint was handled through a confidential and survivor-centered process, ensuring privacy and protection from retaliation.

The case was promptly reported to the World Bank in accordance with agreed incident reporting requirements. Following review and appropriate follow-up actions by the responsible parties and in coordination with the World Bank, the case was formally closed. No further details are disclosed to protect confidentiality and survivor safety.

Table 28: SEA/SH case timeline and reporting steps

#	Date	Key Step	Status
1	7–8 July 2025	Survivor reported verbally to the ESS focal point; case escalated for action and reported to UNDP.	Completed
2	8 July 2025	SEA/SH incident notification submitted using anonymized reporting (Form B) in line with required timelines.	Completed
3	9 July 2025	Investigation team appointed and survivor-centered internal investigation initiated.	Completed
4	15–20 July 2025	Interviews conducted (survivor, relevant parties, witnesses, staff).	Completed
5	27 July 2025	Investigation report finalized and submitted for management decision.	Completed
6	30 September 2025	Updated Form B, Form C, and investigation report submitted after addressing comments.	Completed

Table 29: SEA/SH corrective and systemic actions

#	Corrective / Systemic Action	Date(s)	Status
1	Survivor informed of psychosocial, medical, and legal referral options; services offered and remain available.	July 2025	Completed
2	Beneficiaries reallocated to female staff to prevent further contact between survivor and alleged perpetrator.	9 July 2025	Completed
3	Consultant contract terminated and name blacklisted from future assignments.	30 July & 15 Aug 2025	Completed
4	SEA/SH awareness to beneficiaries via SMS and in-person sessions.	31 July & 25 Aug 2025	Completed
5	SEA/SH-sensitive grievance intake and CoC reinforcement implemented through refresher actions for relevant roles.	Aug–Sep 2025	Completed
6	Referral pathway verification/refresh and SEA/SH Action Plan roll-out and implementation.	2025	Active

5.7 Stakeholder Engagement and Community Outreach (SEP)

Stakeholder engagement continued through consultations and ongoing coordination with communities, local authorities, and relevant stakeholders. Engagement focused on ensuring access continuity, addressing concerns early, improving design responsiveness, and maintaining transparency through feedback loops.

Table 30: Stakeholder engagement metrics (as of 31 December 2025)

Metric	PWP	SMEPS
Sessions conducted	30	33
Participants	426	2,610
Women participants	98	13
Women representation	25%	0.5%
Community committees established	9	–
Women in committees	35%	–

5.7.1 SEP Insights and Actions Taken

Table 31: SEP insights and actions taken (2025)

SEP insight raised by stakeholders	Actions taken in response
Landing site functionality and safe operational space constraints affecting landing and auction activities.	Landing facilities were constructed/upgraded; layouts adjusted to improve operational space and safer circulation in high-use areas.
Access and movement safety risks (including slopes/entry points), congestion points, and slips/trips/falls concerns.	Access conditions improved where feasible, including safer movement routes and usability enhancements; supervision emphasized slips/trips/falls prevention.
Waste mismanagement and pollution risks (fish waste, plastics, wastewater) as persistent issues at landing and auction areas.	Waste management practices strengthened, including improved housekeeping measures and site-level controls to reduce pollution risks; compliance reinforced through engagement and supervision.
Need for continuity of fish marketing and auction access during rehabilitation works to avoid income disruption.	Temporary arrangements applied to maintain marketing/auctioning during works, minimizing livelihood disruption and preventing community tension.
Utilities constraints affecting fish quality and marketing (electricity and ice).	Utilities needs prioritized in planning and coordination; engagement used to identify feasible options and mobilize complementary support.
Inclusion and usability concerns, including safer access for elderly users and persons with limited mobility.	Inclusion-oriented usability measures integrated where feasible to support safer entry and movement, consistent with SEP commitments.

5.8 Security Risk Management

Security considerations remained integrated into field planning and operational decision-making, including movement coordination and precautionary measures to protect personnel and communities. Security risks continued to be managed through practical mitigation steps and adaptive planning.

5.9 Land Use & Access Management

Land access and use arrangements continued to apply the principle of avoiding displacement and minimizing livelihood disruption. Where temporary restrictions were required, the approach relied on short-duration arrangements, clear community communication, availability of temporary alternatives (including auction/marketing arrangements) and active grievance channels. Monitoring confirmed the approach avoided displacement and did not result in economic displacement requiring ESS5[29] compensation measures.

5.9.1 Fuqum Fish Landing Site – Land Use & Access Brief

Rehabilitation works at the Fuqum Fish Landing Site were temporarily suspended following a land ownership claim submitted by a local family. In response, UNDP activated the project's Grievance Mechanism and undertook a structured resolution process, including consultations with the claimant family, community representatives, the General Authority of Fisheries (GAF), local authorities, and the General Authority of Lands – Aden Office.

A formal legal review by the General Authority of Lands concluded that the document presented by the family (dated 1954) represents a private sale of a small lime kiln. To ensure neutrality, an independent community researcher was engaged to conduct additional consultations, which confirmed broad community consensus that the site is public land.

Although the claimant family has continued to raise concerns, the project maintained engagement through documented consultations and transparent communication. The consolidated evidence, legal findings, and consultation records were submitted to the World Bank for review. Following its assessment, the World Bank confirmed that the case does not trigger Environmental and Social Standard 5 (ESS5) and provided clearance to proceed with the rehabilitation works. Ongoing follow-up with the World Bank has further reinforced the importance of clearly documenting and explaining the steps taken to manage the issue in line with agreed safeguards procedures.

5.10 Awareness Campaigns and Events

Awareness campaigns leveraged international days to engage workers, fishers, and community members on safety, hygiene, and environmental responsibility. These campaigns enhanced project visibility and behavioral change.

Key campaign dates:

- World Recycling Day – 18 March 2025
- World Water Day – 22 March 2025
- World Day for Safety & Health at Work – 28 April 2025

The activities below were implemented during these campaigns:

- Awareness sessions for fishers and workers in **Aden, Hadhramout, Taiz, and Al-Mahrah**.
- Social media campaigns, posters, and radio coverage (where feasible).
- Joint safety events supported by UNDP and implementation partners.

6 Communications and Visibility:

In 2025, the SFISH project significantly expanded and strengthened its communications and visibility efforts, positioning them as a strategic pillar to showcase project results, partnerships, and impact across Yemen's fisheries sector. Building established communication frameworks, the project advanced from foundational visibility to high-impact storytelling, multimedia production, and coordinated donor engagement.

[29] Environmental and Social Standard 5: Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use, and Involuntary Resettlement

Communications activities were implemented through close collaboration between UNDP Yemen, SMEPS, and PWP, highlighting the SFISH's partnership, ensuring strong alignment with project objective, and local partner engagement. This coordination enabled timely documentation of interventions, consistent messaging, and strengthened national and international visibility of SFISH achievements. In addition, a dedicated project media bank developed in collaboration with SMEPS is regularly updated to support monitoring of media activities and to facilitate effective sharing of high-quality communication assets across platforms.

A major focus in 2025 was placed on the production of high-quality video success stories, capturing transformative changes across the fisheries value chain. Flagship videos documented operational improvements and economic impact at key facilities, including ice plants and fish processing sites, highlighting innovation, sustainability, and private-sector engagement as a central pillar of Yemen's Blue Economy.
In parallel, SFISH delivered a portfolio of written human-interest success stories, amplifying voices of women, youth, and coastal communities. These stories illustrated livelihoods recovery, entrepreneurship, renewable energy use, and community resilience, and were published across UNDP global and regional platforms, strengthening advocacy and donor outreach.

The project also placed strong emphasis on donor mission documentation and visibility. Communications teams closely supported World Bank implementation, missions and field visits, ensuring comprehensive coverage through press releases, real-time social media updates, and post-mission storytelling. This contributed to transparent reporting, strengthened donor confidence, and enhanced public awareness of results achieved through the partnership.

The SFISH project, in collaboration with PWP, documented the rehabilitation of fish landing sites, including Al-Qarn, Al-Hami, and Al-Raiyda, capturing "before" and "during" stages to demonstrate progress and community impact. These materials will support the production of a final video highlighting improved functionality and sustainability once rehabilitation is completed . SFISH also issued a press release on the rehabilitation of three fishery landing sites in Yemen, reinforcing public visibility of project progress and donor-supported investments in fisheries infrastructure and livelihoods.

Throughout 2025, SFISH maintained a high-frequency and bilingual social media presence, delivering sustained visibility across UNDP Yemen, regional, and global channels. Content included progress updates, human stories, International Days campaigns, mission highlights, and reposting through UNDP corporate and regional accounts, significantly expanding reach and engagement.

All communications outputs were guided by the project's Communication and Visibility Strategy, Communication Action Plan, and standardized visibility templates, ensuring compliance with UNDP branding, donor visibility requirements, and ethical communication standards.

Overall, 2025 marked a shift from activity-based visibility to impact-driven communication, demonstrating how strategic coordination, local partnerships, and multimedia storytelling can effectively highlight development results, strengthen donor relations, and elevate the profile of Yemen's fisheries sector.

Further details, links, and evidence of communication products are provided in Annex 04.
A series of human stories have been developed highlighting transformative journeys as illustrated in the table below:

Table 32: Human Stories Highlight

Story name	Photo	Link
"A new chapter for us and the sea" ***How a Yemeni fishing village is restoring ocean livelihoods***		"A new chapter for us and the sea" by UNDP Yemen - Exposure
Sara's journey to business success in the coastal community of Al-Arra, Yemen		Sara's journey to business success in the coastal community of Al-Arra, Yemen | United Nations Development Programme
Youth are the future in Yemen – Joint Story		Youth are the future in Yemen | United Nations Development Programme
Preserving fresh Yemeni fish with green energy - Joint Story		Preserving fresh Yemeni fish with green energy | United Nations Development Programme
Sustaining Yemen's fisheries: A collaborative effort		Sustaining Yemen's fisheries: A collaborative effort | United Nations Development Programme
Women in Yemen Lead Recovery Efforts to Strengthen Community Resilience International Women's Day 2025		Women at the helm of recovery efforts toward community resiliency in Yemen by UNDP Yemen - Exposure

7 Procurement

During the reporting period, procurement activities focused on supporting core implementation priorities, including technical assistance, monitoring and verification, fisheries management planning, data collection, infrastructure feasibility studies, and operational support for field missions. Key contracts were awarded for international and national consultants, third-party monitoring and verification, fisheries management facilitation, mariculture advisory services and civil engineering supervision.

In parallel, procurement supported field implementation through logistics, transport, ICT equipment, training materials, and communication products. All procurement actions were aligned with the approved procurement plan and contributed directly to timely project delivery across fisheries governance, infrastructure rehabilitation, M&E, and community engagement components.

Summary of Key Procured Goods and Services

Table 33: Summary of Key procurement

No.	Category	Description	USD
1	Firm – Goods	Visibility Materials – SFISH Project	5,475.00
2		SFISH Visibility & Promotion Materials (Nov 2024)	4,228.00
3	Firm – Service	Third-Party Monitoring Consultancy Services – SFISH (LTA)	104,193.00
4		Consultancy Service for Development of Sub-Regional Fisheries Management Plans (Aden)	49,350.00
5		Fisheries Programme Representative – Hadhramout & Al-Mahrah	47,319.75
6		National Consultant (Mariculture Advisor)	33,502.24
7		Fisheries Diversification & Business Model Development (Individual, Group & Community)	24,875.00
8		National Fishery Data Collection Consultancy	17,555.54
9		Two National Consultants – Project Mid-Term Evaluation	16,919.94
10		Primary LTA Holder – Third-Party Monitoring (LOT 3 – SFISH)	15,810.00
11		Monitoring & Evaluation Officer (6 Months incl. CTG Fees)	12,579.45
12		Feasibility Study for Fishery Port Infrastructure – Qusair & Foqum	12,120.00
13		Consultancy to Support Establishment of Sub-National Fishery Governance Committees (GAF – Aden)	10,285.25
14		Catch Data Collection Specialist – Saif Ali Mogbel Nasser	9,200.35
15		Catch Data Collection Specialist – Taha Baker	9,200.35
16		Community-Led Implementation Consultant (FMP – Khor Umaira)	9,097.18
17		Water Quality Testing Equipment – Khor Umaira & Al-Qarn	4,160.21
18		Spot Checks	4,000.00
19		Creative Video Success Story – Al-Hami Landing Site	3,980.00
20		Video Production – SFISH Project	2,880.00
21		Industrial Refrigeration Engineer	2,197.05
22		National Fishery Data Collection Consultancy (8 Months)	947.6
23		Consultancy Service for Beneficiaries Remote Verification	847.58
24		National Civil Engineer Consultant	518.07
25		Vehicle Rental – Field Visits (Hadhramout Coastal Districts)	440
26	Individual – International	International Consultant (Mariculture Advisor) – SFISH	27,500.00
27		International Consultant for Project Mid-Term Evaluation – SFISH	19,200.00
28	Individual – Local	Remote Verification for M&E	1588.72

8 Partnerships

The SFISH project continues to build and maintain strong partnerships as a cornerstone of effective delivery and long-term impact. Collaboration with national institutions, particularly the MoAIFW and the GAFs at the local level, has been vital for embedding sustainability and legitimacy into project activities. These institutions play a key role in ensuring that interventions are aligned with sectoral priorities and grounded in national ownership.

To enhance coordination and improve project delivery, efforts have been made to strengthen working relationships among all core partners MoAIFW, GAF, SMEPS, PWP, and UNDP. More structured communication and regular joint discussions have improved clarity, responsiveness, and overall collaboration. While challenges persist, particularly due to the project's wide operational scope, ongoing adjustments have helped address gaps and align efforts more effectively.

The project is also deepening its engagement with international actors active in Yemen's fisheries sector. At the strategic level, UNDP co-leads the Fisheries Working Group alongside the World Bank who recently took over the chairing of this meeting from the German Embassy. This forum offers a platform for technical exchange, donor coordination, and joint advocacy. This has enabled the project to remain connected to broader regional initiatives and ensure alignment with other development partners.

A key strategic initiative under SFISH involves supporting MoAIFW's reintegration into regional fisheries governance systems, notably the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). The project is advocating for MoAIFW's inclusion in international forums, while simultaneously helping to build their internal capacity through tailored technical support, exposure to the best global practices, and structured dialogue with external stakeholders. SFISH also ensures that MoAIFW is actively engaged in the Fisheries Working Group, allowing it to fulfil its leadership role of the sector.

In parallel, SFISH has placed strong emphasis on institutional capacity development for MoAIFW and GAF. Targeted capacity-building support was provided to strengthen vessel surveillance and monitoring capacities, enabling trained staff to systematically track, analyze, and report on illegal fishing activities in Yemeni waters. As a result, MoAIFW and GAF are now producing regular surveillance and reporting outputs. To institutionalize these gains, refresher training is planned, with expanded participation from additional GAF offices to ensure nationwide coverage and continuity.

In addition, SFISH supported an advanced, multi-stakeholder workshop focused on the endorsement and operationalization of the artisanal fisheries law. The two-day workshop brought together representatives from MoAIFW, GAF (from multiple regions), fishermen and cooperatives, United Nations agencies, and international organizations. The engagement provided a platform for technical dialogue, consensus-building, and alignment on regulatory priorities, reinforcing inclusive and participatory fisheries governance.

At the regional level, the project facilitated a study tour to Somalia, including Mogadishu, Puntland, and Somaliland, involving MoAIFW staff, implementing partners, private sector representatives, and UNDP. The study tour enabled peer-to-peer exchange, practical learning, and experience-sharing on fisheries governance, institutional coordination, and public–private engagement in fragile contexts. Insights from the visit are informing ongoing dialogue and future collaboration on strengthening fisheries management systems in Yemen Locally, SFISH has fostered strong coordination with FAO, GIZ, CARE, and Mercy Corps. These efforts focus on both complementary programming and shared operational challenges. One example of where this has resulted in a specific activity is the joint support to Ice Factory infrastructure with GiZ at four Landing sites in Hadhramout. Furthermore, collaboration with universities and academic institutions is being explored and the intention is that this will result in concrete action in early 2026.

Finally, SFISH is leveraging a network of national, international, and local partners to ensure coherent delivery and sustained impact. Strengthening these relationships, particularly through improved coordination, institutional support, and strategic alignment, remains a central focus for the coming year.

9 Risks and Mitigation Measures:

UNDP's Enterprise Risk Management Policy applies to risks across all levels of the organization, including project level. Risks at the project level are tracked through the Project Risk Register. A detailed Risk Log is provided as Annex 02.

Risk is defined as the effects of uncertainty on organizational objectives. An effect can be positive and/or negative.[30]

9.1 Spot Check and Financial Assurance

A spot check was conducted for SMEPS under the SFISH Project, covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024, in line with the HACT framework. The review covered approximately 27percent of total reported expenditures and confirmed that sampled transactions were generally supported by appropriate documentation, aligned with approved work plans, and reflected in certified FACE forms. Identified observations mainly related to documentation consistency, procurement sequencing, and payment timing, with no systemic misuse of funds identified. Management responses were provided, and corrective measures are being implemented to further strengthen internal controls. The detailed report in Annex 08.

10 Challenges

- Temporary pauses in activities implemented by the Responsible Party (SMEPS) affected the continuity of field operations, service delivery to beneficiaries, and contractual timelines. This has had a significant negative impact upon project implementation.
- Renewed conflict and instability in areas under the Internationally Recognized Government (IRG), particularly in Hadhramout and Al-Mahrah, disrupted mobility, field access, and coordination with local institutions, contributing to operational uncertainty and delays.
- Conflict-related disruptions to imports, customs clearance, and transport increased procurement costs, delayed delivery of equipment and materials, and at times affected the project's credibility with contractors and suppliers.
- While engagement with local authorities remains essential, in some instances authorities sought to exert excessive control over SME-related processes. This required careful stakeholder management to ensure transparency and inclusion, while safeguarding project principles, beneficiary-driven selection, and technical integrity.
- The operating environment required intensive safeguards oversight, particularly related to land access, labor conditions, and grievance handling. Managing complex and sensitive cases demanded additional staff time, documentation, and coordination with the World Bank, at times slowing implementation.
- Ensuring the long-term operation and maintenance of rehabilitated landing sites and assets requires continuous capacity support to local institutions and associations, which remains challenging in a context of limited public resources.
- There were challenges in coordinating with local authorities in the "West Coast" Taiz region.

11 Lessons Learned

- Proactive engagement with communities, local authorities and sector institutions from the outset helps manage expectations, reduce misunderstandings, and prevent grievances particularly for land use, access, and SME support activities.
- Rehabilitation of fisheries infrastructure must be accompanied by capacity support for local institutions and associations responsible for operation and maintenance to ensure sustainability after project handover.
- Standard monitoring systems are insufficient in low-connectivity environments. Combining routine monitoring with remote verification, deep-dive assessments, and community validation improves data reliability and accountability.
- Supporting women's participation in fisheries and value chains requires continuous attention to safety, cultural norms, and SEA/SH risk mitigation, supported by confidential reporting channels and partner accountability.

[30] Annex 02

- In fragile settings, even short delays in payments to consultants, vendors, and beneficiaries can generate widespread grievances. Proactive communication and clear explanation of constraints are as important as the payment process itself.
- Even when land is publicly owned, historical claims may emerge. Early documentation, site demarcation, and legal screening reduce the risk of work suspension and safeguard against disputes.
- Government approvals alone are not always sufficient. Community acceptance and perceived legitimacy play a critical role in sustaining operations and preventing conflict.

12 Financial Summary:

The total expenditure for the reporting period is $ 9,099,873.62 which includes $ 1,865,688.06 for the UNDP component and project management and $4,583,890.61 for SMEPS and 2,650,294.95 for PWP. The total contribution received during the reporting period was $6,384,142.29.

The total expenditure for the project as of 31 December 2025, is $26,397,450.89 and that includes $3,811,006.15 for UNDP, $22,586,444.74 for SMEPS and PWP.

This represents 64 percent of the original budget of $41,150,000. The total contribution received as of Dec 31, 2025, is $ 32,165,291.88 Annex 01.

SFISH 31 Dec 2025	
Amount Disbursed	**$ 9,099,873.62**
Amount Committed	**$ 230,580.54**
Contribution Received	**$ 6,384,142.29**

13 Annexes:

1. Annex 01: Financial Report
2. Annex 02: Risk Log
3. Annex 03: Procurement Dashboard
4. Annex 04: List of links (Communication)
5. Annex 05: SFISH - Database - Analysis - Dashboard
6. Annex 06: Vehicle Deep-Drive Report
7. Annex 07: Remote Verification Report
8. Annex 08: Spot Check Report