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Supporting Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security in Yemen Joint Programme (ERRY II) 2019-2022

Annual Report

March – Dec 2019



Compiled by JCU

April 2020

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List of Acronyms

CBT	Competency-Based Training
CFW	Cash for Work
DMTs	District Management Teams
EU	European Union
EFD	Enjaz Foundation for Development
FAF	For All Foundation
FAO	Food & Agriculture Organization
FFS	Farmers' Field School
FFA	Food assistance For Assets (also known as cash for work)
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
ILO	International Labor Organization
IP	Implementing Partner
IRY	Islamic Relief Yemen
LTA	long-term Agreement
JCU	Joint-Coordination Unit
MDF	Millennium Development Foundation
MFD	Mayar Foundation for Development
MFB	My First Business
MoAI	Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation
MoPIC	Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation
NAS	Needs Assessment Survey
OCHA	(UN) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PUNO	Partnering United Nations Agencies
RI	Relief International
SCMCHA	Supreme Council for Management and Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and International Cooperation
SFCG	Search for Common Ground
SDF	Social Fund for Development
SDCs	Sub-district level Committees
SFD	Sustainable Development Foundation
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SCI	Save the Children International
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VCC	Village Cooperation Council
WFP	World Food Programme
WUA	Water-Users Association
YLDF	Youth Leadership Development Foundation

1. Description of the Programme

Programme's Details

Programme Title	Supporting Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security in Yemen Joint Programme (ERRY II)	
Contract No.	MIDEAST/2019/405-606	
Implementation Period	March 2019 - February 2022	
Total Contracted amount	USD 51,853,858	
Donor	EU & SIDA	
Participating UN Organization (PUNO)	UNDP, FAO, WFP, ILO	
Administrative Agent (AA)	Multi Partners Trust Fund (MPTF)	
Convening Agent	UNDP	
Programme Implementing Partners	Care Int'l, RI, IRY, SCI, SFD, SDF, OXFAM, FAF, MFD, MDF, SFCG, YLDF, GHADAQ FOUNDATION, ENJAZ FOUNDATION	
Target Beneficiaries	Direct	740,404
	Indirect	601,278

2. Summary of the Progress and Context of the Action

2.1 Introduction

The present report is the Progress Report for Year I implementation of the Supporting Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security in Yemen Joint Programme (ERRY II). The programme second phase is financed by EU and Sida. It is jointly implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Food Programme (WFP) in sixteen vulnerable districts within six governorates in Yemen: Hajjah, Al-Hudaydah, Lahj, Abyan, Taiz and Sana'a. Building on the results achieved and lessons learnt during phase I, the initiative was scaled up for another phase of three years with the aim of enhancing resilience and self-reliance of crisis-affected rural communities in Yemen. ERRY II contributes to improved nutrition, food security, increased assets, and enhanced livelihoods capital and household's resilience while contributing to disaster risk reduction in accordance with the 2030 Agenda.

The Overall Objective of the Programme is to contribute to reduced vulnerability and strengthened resilience of crisis-affected communities in Yemen through the creation of sustainable livelihoods and improving access to basic services.

Specific Objective (Outcome): Crisis affected communities are better able to manage local risks and shocks for increased resilience and self-reliance.

The Joint Programme is expected to achieve the following results over the implementation timeframe:

- Output 1: Community livelihoods, productive assets and food security are improved to strengthen resilience and self-reliance;
- Output 2: Vulnerable communities benefit from solar energy for sustainable livelihoods opportunities and enhanced social service delivery;
- Output 3: Communities and local authorities have enhanced capacities to respond to conflict- and gender-sensitive needs.

Interventions target the most vulnerable community groups, including women, the unemployed, youth, the Muhamasheen, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and stressed host communities.

This annual report describes the key activities undertaken during the period from March to December 2019. The report also identifies the major achievements and results of the joint programme based on the work plan and against the objectively verifiable indicators of the logframe. In addition the report provides overall account of the challenges faced during the reporting period.

2.2 Context

Poverty: Classified by the World Bank and OECD as a fragile state and the only low-income country in the Middle East¹, Yemen is the most impoverished country in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The 2019 Global Hunger Index rating is alarming; it ranked Yemen 116 out of 117 countries surveyed². Food security is deteriorating, and Yemen's water per capita is one of the lowest in the world.

Yemen also ranks poorly among countries rated according to the UNDP's gender empowerment measures. Currently, there is no minimum marriage age and early marriage is common, which negatively impacts maternal health, child health, girls' education, female literacy and women's economic empowerment. Maternal mortality is the leading cause of death among women of reproductive age, and Yemeni women face a lifetime risk of maternal death that is nearly four times higher than the MENA average.

The conflict in Yemen is rapidly pushing the country towards social, economic and institutional collapse. Over 15,000 people have been killed³ and at least 200,000 wounded according to UNOCHA⁴. In 2014, prior to the conflict, 14.7 million people required assistance. In 2015, this number increased to 15.9 million; in 2016 to 21.2 million and in 2018 to 22.2 million. In 2019, 24.4 million, 80 per cent of the entire population, continue to require some form of assistance or protection and close to half of all families are in acute need⁵.

¹ States of Fragility 2015

² Global Hunger Index, 2019

³ OHCHR, Yemen: Civilians at mercy of sniping, shelling and airstrikes, Press Release

⁴ UNPCHA, Yemen: Humanitarian Response Plan Jan-Dec 2018

⁵ Yemen, Humanitarian Response Plan January-December 2019

Ten million people are one step away from famine and starvation. Two hundred and thirty of Yemen's 333 districts are now food insecure.⁶ Conditions in these districts are the worst in the country: 148 districts are classified as phase 4 – people in emergency - under the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) system and 103 districts are at risk of famine⁷. Conditions are worsening at a nearly unprecedented rate. The conflict has caused over four million people to flee their homes⁸.

The impact on infrastructure has been severe: health facilities, schools, factories, micro, small and medium enterprises and houses have been damaged or destroyed.

The new offensive by the Arab coalition has intensified in their efforts to control the strategic city of Hodeida. This is the biggest battle in Yemen's five-year-old war to date, and the first that has involved and sustained urban warfare, which has inflicted heavy casualties on both fighting forces and civilians and caused hundreds and thousands of people to be displaced to neighboring governorates and districts.

In August 2019, clashes erupted in the strategic southern city of Aden between the Southern Transitional Council forces and the government troops. Aden is a key port of entry for humanitarian aid and commercial goods, not only for the south but also for many areas in the north; therefore, the clashes in Aden Battles have disrupted the work of dozens of aid groups.

In the north, around 4,000 families were displaced in Sana'a, Marib, and Al Jawf following a rapid escalation of armed conflict in February 2020.⁹

Essential basic services and the institutions that provide them are at the brink of total collapse. Conflict, economic decline and subsequent disruption of operational budgets and salary payments in public sector institutions have contributed to this collapse. Intensifying conflict has compromised access to health care while there are ongoing risks of cholera, malaria, dengue and other disease outbreaks. In November 2019, the Ministry of Public Health and Population of Yemen reported a total 49,403 suspected cholera cases including 16 related deaths. The cumulative number of suspected cholera cases reported in Yemen since October 2016 to November 2019 is 2,236,570 including 3,886 related deaths.¹⁰

There's also a significant increase in the number of cases affected by Dengue outbreak in a number of governorates. Until December 2019, 76,768 suspected cases were reported across the country and 271 deaths, 71 per cent of all cases were in Al-Hudaydah Governorate.¹¹

COVID-19: During this reporting period no confirmed COVID-19 cases were reported in Yemen. However, the first confirmed case was announced on April 10, 2020, and towards the middle of May there were 128 confirmed cases¹². The country is seen to be extremely vulnerable to this pandemic, given the dire humanitarian situation due to the Yemeni Civil War where the country's infrastructure has been devastated by five years of conflict, leaving little capacity to respond. Only 51% of health centres are fully

⁶ Yemen, Humanitarian Response Plan January-December 2019

⁷ OCHA Yemen Humanitarian Update March 2020

⁸ UNHCR, Yemen

⁹ OCHA, Yemen, Humanitarian Update Dec 2019 – Jan 2020

¹⁰ Cholera Situation in Yemen November 2019

¹¹ Yemen: Dengue Outbreak - Dec 2019

¹² Yemen COVID-19 snapshot as of 16 May 2020

functional.¹³ COVID 19 impacts are pulling scarce resources from other lifesaving health responses including cholera and dengue fever, let alone the chikungunya virus, locally known as “Al-Mokarfis”, which has spread especially in Aden where the flooding caused by heavy rainfall ruined most of the city’s sanitation networks.

Import restrictions: Before the escalation of the crisis, Yemen imported 80-90 per cent of its staple foods and required an estimated 544,000 metric tons of imported fuel per month for transportation and powering water-systems and health facilities, among other activities. Damaged port infrastructure has further undermined the ability to import key commodities including food, fuel, and medical supplies at the scale required. This represents a serious threat as Yemen now imports 90–95 per cent of its staple food. The continued instability heavily impacted local agricultural production and access to markets. Although only a small share of food is produced domestically, nearly two-thirds of Yemenis derive their livelihoods from agriculture.

Severe economic decline: Already ailing before the escalation of the conflict, the Yemeni economy is being willfully destroyed. The alarming depreciation of the Yemeni Riyal is further undermining the Yemeni economy, which heavily relies on imports paid for in US dollars and has significantly contributed to the recent price spike of fuel and basic commodities. Furthermore, Yemen is experiencing a liquidity crisis in which people, traders and humanitarian partners struggle to transfer cash into and within the country.

The economy has contracted sharply since the conflict escalated. Enterprises have on average reduced operating hours by 50 per cent, leading to layoffs that are estimated at 55 per cent of the workforce. The agriculture and fishery sectors, which employed more than 54 per cent of the rural workforce and was the main source of income for 73 per cent of the population prior to the escalation of conflict has been severely impacted. Consequently, the livelihoods of 1.7 million rural households engaged in crop and livestock production has been seriously compromised.

The widespread conflict has impacted both urban and rural livelihoods. Over 78 per cent of households are in a worse economic situation compared to the pre-crisis period. An estimated 8 million Yemenis have lost their livelihoods. A survey conducted by the International Labor Organization (ILO) on employment, labor market and joint Small and Micro Enterprise Promotion Service (SMEPS), as well as a 2016 UNDP assessment on the impact of the conflict on Yemeni small and medium enterprises (SMEs), revealed that the manufacturing sector laid off about 40 per cent of full-time and 38 per cent of part-time employees leading to a loss of 132,000 jobs¹⁴. As a result, 12 per cent of household heads reported the loss of their primary source of income. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) decreased their economic activities by 80–90 per cent, leading to a similar percentage of jobs being lost¹⁵. Millions of people are now unable to meet their basic needs independently.

Salary payments for public sector employees have been severely disrupted due to funding constraints and the unprecedented liquidity crisis. As a result, the livelihoods of over a quarter of the population who are dependent on government salaries has further deteriorated.

¹³ COVID-19: Impact on Yemen, ACAPS

¹⁴ ILO. Crisis Impact on Employment and Labour Market

¹⁵ SMEPS-UNDP. Impact of the Crisis on Local SMEs. 2016.

The war grinds on into its fifth year, unleashing the worst man-made humanitarian crisis since World War II, causing massive physical damage and devastating the economy. The protracted armed conflict and the devastating effect of the civil war is not only reversing development gains but also destroying livelihood opportunities, heightening social and economic insecurity, endangering those who are already vulnerable, including women and young people, and espousing violent ideologies that are threatening to stunt prospects for peace, stability and development for decades to come.

2.3 Summary of the programmes progress/achievements against plans in Year I

Despite the tremendous challenges in the reporting period, ERRY II has created emergency employment opportunities, rehabilitated key community assets through the implementation of Food assistance for assets (FFA) activities.

The programme has also conducted an assessment to Identify potential Crops/Livestock value chains, provided a comprehensive programme of training through farmer field schools (FFS), rehabilitated dairy processing units, and reactivated WUAs/WUGs and signed LoAs with them for maintenance and rehabilitation of existing irrigation canals.

Besides, ERRY II conducted a market study focusing on seven different sectors featuring value chain map, macro, and micro linkages, local economic development, confidence-building measures, future of MSMEs in the selected sectors, regional analysis, market infrastructure bottlenecks, and improvement opportunities, etc.

For the enhanced capacities to develop conflict- and gender- sensitive community resilience plans, the major implemented activities included the formation of sub-district level committees (SDCs) & district management committees (DMTs), development of community resilience plans, implementation of self-help initiatives, and conduct of training sessions for the SDCs and DMTs members.

Also, ERRY II has created a micro business association, installed solar off-grid systems, as well as solar off-grid vaccine refrigerators.

Challenges to get permits for the implementation in the northern government presented a major constraint faced not only by the ERRY joint programme but also by many other projects. In June and July 2019, humanitarian and development organizations reported 299 access incidents where 66 NGO projects were awaiting sub-agreements from local authorities, with the average wait exceeding 100 days.

The table below provides a summary of the programme's progress towards achieving its annual targets in its first year of implementation.

Indicators	Baseline	Overall Target	Progress against targets			Reasons for deviation & remarks
			2019 Target	Reporting period	% of achievement	
Output 1: Community livelihoods and productive assets are improved to strengthen resilience						
1.1: Skills developed, and food security improved for vulnerable farming households						
# of farmers provided with inputs to improve sorghum/millet, tomato, and coffee value chains (disaggregated by gender)	10,000 in 2018	25,250 (19,000 sorghum/ millet; 5,900 tomato; 350 coffee)	0	0	0%	Procurement of seeds and other inputs is under technical evaluation.
# of farmers benefited from FFS (disaggregated by gender)	7,495 small holders in 2018	6,500 by 2022, (50% women)	1950	700	36%	
# of dairy producers supported with inputs (disaggregated by gender)	2,206 in 2018	6,000 by 2022, (90% women)	1800	0	0%	Procurement of dairy equipment is in progress.
# of farmers trained on sorghum/millet, tomato, milk and coffee value chains, livestock fattening and health, dairy product processing and marketing (disaggregated by gender)	10,000 in 2018	25,000 by 2022, (50% women)	0	900		This activity is waiting for finalizing the procurement of supply inputs
# of farmers trained on entrepreneurship skills and financial literacy		1,200	0	0	0%	Planned for year II
# of rural farmers associations providing training to upgrade members’ technical and entrepreneurship skill		80	0	0	0%	Planned for year II
Proportion of the targeted beneficiaries reporting increase in their income due to agriculture value chain support		70%	0	0	0%	Planned for year II
1.2: Livelihoods are stabilized, and community assets rehabilitated through providing short-term income support for vulnerable households and individuals						
# of participants in Food/Cash for Assets interventions	2,800 individuals by 2018 through ERRY	12,950 (30% women)	2,627	2,627	100%	

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# of beneficiaries benefitting from FFA cash/food transfers	33,912 individuals by 2018 through ERRY	90,650 individuals by 2021	18,389	18,389	100%	
Proportion of the population in targeted communities reporting benefits from an enhanced livelihood asset base through FFA using Asset Benefit Index	0	50%	50%	0	0%	Endline still to be completed
# of community-based assets restored and/or established (disaggregated by type)	371 assets by 2018	325	58	58	100%	
Total amount of cash transferred to targeted beneficiaries	USD 5,903,359 by 2018 through ERRY I	USD 6,992,500	\$1,764,180	\$969,193	55%	The total amount of cash transferred to targeted beneficiaries includes \$ 511,522 which was contributed from WFP resources This contribution will allow WFP and partners to complete more assets and support beneficiaries for a longer duration.
# of community Market assets restored through 3x6	0 in 2018	70 by 2020	-	1	0%	Delayed due to security clearances
# of beneficiaries participating in CFW activities through 3x6	0 in 2018	9,550 individuals (35% women& marginalized)	4,750	960	20%	Delayed due to security clearances
1.3: Sustainable livelihoods opportunities are created in the post-cash for work phase to support self-employment through entrepreneurship development for vulnerable households and individuals						
# of beneficiaries who received business development and life skills training	2,693 in 2018	9,550 by 2021	4,750	0	0%	No training was conducted during the reporting period to delay in getting the permits from authorities
% of beneficiaries who are able to graduate to sustainable livelihoods as a result of post-CfW activities of self-employment and employability		70%	0	0	0%	Will be measured at the midline and endline
# of women, men and youth who have improved access to income, business competency and have improved their livelihood	1,728 (70% of the targeted) have improved income	70%	4750	0	0%	Will be measured at the midline and endline

# of ToTs trained on business training packages (MFB & semiliterate)	53	125	0	0	0%	In November 2019, the ILO engaged an international consultant to update the content of "I Too Have a Small Business" training materials and finalize the package based on the comments / feedback from the trainers.
# of microbusinesses established and operational after 6 months	1,624 by 2018	4,974 (35% women, youth & marginalized)	0	0	0%	Will be implemented at a later stage of 3x6
1.4: Sustainable livelihoods opportunities area created in the post-Cash for Work phase to support employability through on-the-job training						
# of trainees with improved employability skills through informal apprenticeship scheme	600 in 2018	2,000 trainees	0	0	0%	It's on progress, 320 beneficiaries have been identified and new 7 CBT curricula developed.
% of vulnerable youth/women reporting improved income at least three months after completion of the training	60%	70%	0	0	0%	Will be measured at the midline and endline
1.5: Private sector capacity is strengthened to contribute to emergency crisis response and job creation						
# of individuals from private sector and government institutions at district and governorate level build their capacity to develop and implement participatory business continuity planning	0	90	0	0	0%	Will be measured when the activity is conducted during the reporting period
# of SME networks supported by the program reporting improvement in their capacity	2 networks by 2018	4 networks by 2022	0	0	0%	
# of households provided with small-scale productive assets and training on marketing	0 in 2018	1,000 including 40% female-headed households	0	0	0%	
Output2: Vulnerable communities benefit from solar energy solutions for sustainable livelihoods opportunities and enhanced social service delivery						
2.1 Energy resilience of key basic services (schools, health facilities, water, local administration offices) strengthened through improved access to reliable alternative sources of energy						
# of public institution facilities (health, education and district offices) supported with solar systems	210 by 2018 through ERRY I	182 by 2022	36	61	%169	
% of targeted public institution facilities (health, schools and district offices) and systems (water) have resumed and improved critical services		70% by 2022	0	0	0%	Will be measured at the midline and endline
# of community productive assets (MSME) supported through introduction of solar energy	19 by 2018 through ERRY I	41 by 2022	0	0	0%	Planned for Year II

# of HHs supported through introduction of solar energy (disaggregated by female-headed households)	5600 by 2018 through ERRY	11,000 by 2022	0	0	0%	
% of trained and certified women and youth in solar system installation who have adopted solar innovation		60% by 2022 (700 trainees)	60% (200 trainees)	0	0%	Due to the unstable security situation in the targeted governorates, training sessions did not take place in 2019 and IPs planned to conduct training in Q2 of 2020.
2.2 Women and youth play an active role in the provision of solar energy in their communities through solar microenterprises						
# of solar micro-enterprises established (disaggregated by gender)	200 micro businesses in 2018	400 micro business (60% women, youth & marginalized)	200	0	0%	In Q4 they will receive business and technical training. Establishment will take place in Q1 2020
# of trainees reporting improvement in their employability skills in solar energy micro-enterprises	0 in 2018	250	200	0	0%	The project will undertake solar home system (SHS) training for the target youth and women in the next quarter.
% of targeted MSME have benefitted through solar energy solutions	0 in 2018	70% by 2022	0%	0%	0%	
% of solar entrepreneurs who are able to access financial institutions and have expanded their businesses for profit	0 in 2018	20% by 2021	0%	0%	0%	
Output 3: Communities and local authorities have enhanced capacities to respond to conflict and gender sensitive priorities needs						
3.1 Water User Associations (WUA) established						
# of WUAs supported to promote efficient water and land management	15 in 2018	60 by 2022	20	0	0%	Planned for Year II
3.2: Community-based organizations have enhanced capacities to develop conflict- and gender- sensitive community resilience plans reflecting community priority needs and actions						
# of insider mediators recruited and trained to facilitate peaceful conflict resolution (disaggregated by gender)	229 in 2018	120 IMs (30% women)	140	48	34%	The identified IMs were trained on conflict scan, community dialogue and gender sensitivity as well as Do No Harm Principal in Az Zuhrah, Bani Qa'is, and Al- Shammayatain Districts
% of target communities with improved access to basic services due to conflict mitigating interventions	60%	70%	0%	0%	0%	
# of gender-sensitive conflict analysis conducted	4 by 2018	7 by 2022	7	0	0%	

# of selected priority interventions identified under the community resilience plans which have been implemented (disaggregated by village and sub-district)	0	135 and 53 respectively	0	0	0%	
% target communities have enhanced service delivery support through participatory approach (LG)	60%	70%	0%	0%	0%	
# of SDCs established and operational	0	49	25	43	%172	
# of conflict-mitigating initiatives supported		31	0	0	0	
# of community resilience plans developed (and operationalized) at sub-district level	0	49	25	43	%172	
3.3: Local authorities are better able to plan, monitor and coordinate gender- and conflict-sensitive resilience and recovery priorities and respond at the district level through a participatory approach						
# and % of targeted local authorities that are able to revitalize service delivery by implementing and operationalizing recovery plans	8 in 2018	8 in 2022	0	0	0	
# of DMTs reactivated to restore public service delivery	8 in 2018	8 in 2020	6	6	%100	
# of local authority members trained on planning and development	80 in 2018	200 in 2020	150	150	100%	

3. Activities carried out and key achievements:

The following section provides a detailed narration on the key results and the conducted program's activities that contributed to their respective expected outputs and targets during the first year of phase II of the programme; as well as their potential contribution towards impacting the resilience, livelihoods and food security of the targeted communities.

Output 1: Community livelihoods, productive assets and food security are improved to strengthen resilience and self-reliance

As communities continue to be affected by the protracted crisis which has caused a significant economic downturn resulting in a sharp rise in unemployment, closure of businesses, difficulty in accessing cash, ERRY II has supported the vulnerable communities, households and individuals by implementing various interventions, including creation of sustainable employment opportunities and income generation, strengthening the capacity of national partners and stakeholders, and rehabilitation of key community assets. Although major challenges were encountered that hindered the programme from reaching its full implementation potential during the first year, still some progress was made under output 1 as summarized below:

Summary of Achievements - Output 1:

- Under AVC, an assessment was conducted to identify potential Crops/Livestock value chains to improve income generation of rural farmers
- **200** farmers were supported with fodder seeds - 1 ton of Alfalfa and 1 ton of Rhodes grass - to improve livestock productivity
- **17** extensive technical training sessions on proper milking practices, dairy processing, animal health, and farm management have been conducted to build the capacity of 64 FFS trainers.
- **200** female farmers have been trained on "Alfalfa & Rhodes Grass Cultivation" to build the capacity of women in livestock related activities,
- **700** women farmers have been trained on "Practical Advice to Improve Livestock Feeding" and other related topics.
- **5** dairy processing units are being rehabilitated in Lahj & Abyan benefiting 81 women group members to improve the quality of their products and increase their income.
- **58** community assets have been restored and/or established.
 - 41 water harvesting schemes: including the construction of 16 water tanks and 5 ponds and the rehabilitation of 11 earth dams. Around 11,000 people will benefit from these assets.
 - 10 road rehabilitation and construction projects expected to benefit more than 5,600 people.
 - 3 school rehabilitation and construction projects, around 2,000 indirect beneficiaries will use these assets.
 - 3 sanitation projects: two collective latrine projects and one sewage system rehabilitation project, which will benefit 1,400 people.
 - 1 environment protection project: consisting of solid waste disposal in an area inhabited by 1,000 residents, to decrease risk of disease and contamination of water sources.
- Around USD **969,193** has been transferred to **2,627** food assistance for assets participants (**18,389** beneficiaries) through cash-in hand modality to support their access to food and rehabilitate their community assets.
- In Sarar District, Lahj, **850** individuals (280 females and 570 males) and 150 beneficiaries in Khanfar district, Abyan Governorate, have directly benefited from Cash for Work activities.
- **320** cash for work participants have been selected to join the informal apprenticeship programme.

Activity Result 1: Skills developed, and food security improved for vulnerable farming households through agricultural value chain development. (FAO)

During this reporting period, the programme carried out strategic activities in improving agriculture value chain to improve income generation and self-employment of crops/ livestock farmers in the targeted areas. The programme has conducted an assessment to Identify potential Crops/Livestock value chains which helped to:

- Understand the core functions and major actors involved in each potential value chain;
- Design interventions for supporting farmers to implement successful selected livestock/crop value chains while addressing potential value chain issues and problems;
- Select direct beneficiaries based on the selection criteria;
- Identify the main values chains and interventions which are:
 - Small ruminants fattening value chains development by improving backyard small ruminants fattening business through supporting women headed household.
 - Dairy value chain development by improving milk production, home processing and milk hygiene standards.
 - Sorghum and millet value chains to improve the productivity, management, and technical knowledge.
 - Tomato value chain to improve the productivity, management, and technical knowledge of tomato farmers.
 - Coffee value chain to improve to improve smallholder coffee production, handling, processing and marketing.

The programme has procured improved seeds for critical food security crops, including sorghum, millets and legumes. The seeds will be provided to 19,000 farmers to produce staple cereal grains and livestock fodder. In addition, the procurement of tomato seeds and fertilizers that will support 5,900 farmers is ongoing and seeds will be distributed upon the completion of beneficiaries' registration.

Since livestock production contributes to over 75% of the total rural households income and due to the poor animal feeding in Yemen and shortage of feeds, the programme has addressed this issue by supporting farmers with fodder seeds for demonstration and promotion of forage crop cultivations under potential conditions: Rainfed / small scale irrigation / Spate / Flood irrigation. During the reporting period, 200 farmers from Abyan, Lahj, and Taizz were provided with one ton of Rhodes grass seeds and one ton of Alfalfa seeds as indicated in the table below:

Table (1) Distribution of alfalfa and Rhodes Seeds

Gov.	Districts	# of HHs	Quantity of Seeds		Area / Faddan		Total area in Faddan	Benefited area (Ha)
			Alfalfa (Kg)	Rhodes (Kg)	Alfalfa	Rhodes		
Abyan	Khanfar	65	325	325	325	130	455	191.1
	Zanjibar	35	175	175	175	70	245	102.9
	Lowder	25	125	125	125	50	175	73.5
Lahj	Tuban	25	125	125	125	50	175	73.5
	Tor ALBaha	25	125	125	125	50	175	73.5
Taiz	ALShamytyan	25	125	125	125	50	175	73.5
Total		200	1000	1000	1000	400	1400	588

The cultivation of fodder crops of low water requirements and high resistance to drought & higher salinity has left a good impact on all farmers supported by the programme, especially after seeing the benefits of their livestock production as a result of feeding them with Rhodes and Alfalfa, which in turn contributes to increasing resilient livelihoods and food security of rural farmers.

The project has been preparing the procurement of vaccines and drugs that will help treat goat/sheep against widespread diseases to improve livestock productivity.

Considering the positive impact observed during phase I of the interventions related to empowering women-headed households and improving milk value chain production, the project has procured a variety of small dairy equipment to support 6,000 dairy smallholders for improving milk production, milk collection and milk hygiene.

The project has found that the groups of farmers and associations use their small houses, which are not well-equipped or meet the hygiene standards, to process dairy products. The project thus has rehabilitated 5 dairy units in Lahj and Abyan for milk collection, cooling, processing and marketing. The table below shows the sites of dairy production units and the number of women groups members for each dairy unit.

Table (2) Rehabilitation the Dairy Production Centers

Gov.	Districts	Name of association / group	Village	# of Dairy Unit Members
Lahj	Tuban	Al Sumood & Al Najah	Dar Almanasera	15
	Tuban/ Sabir	AL- Anwar	Al-Dubba	20
	Tuban	Extension Unit	Saber	16
	Tuban	Tarim	Saber	22
Abyan	Zanjibar	rural Women	Zanjibar	8
Total	5			81

The rehabilitation of these units will make them more suitable for processing milk and dairy productions, enable the participating women to improve the quality and validity of the products, and raise their marketing capacity to compete with the imported and locally manufactured products of milk powder at the village, center, or district level. One of the success stories under this component is that of Belqees, Lajh.

Belqees Al-Sharabi- DAIRY PRODUCER

Belqees Al-Sharabi, the head of dairy processing unit in Lajh governorate. *“Before the programme, I hardly knew anything about dairy production or the measures of cleanliness required while handling dairy products and cattle,”* Belqees said.

“But now I am capable of running the dairy processing unit and train other beneficiaries” “This intervention has empowered me changed my life for better and it is enough for me to learn this profession,” said Belqees.

Belqees uses 70 liters of milk to produce 70 bottles of yogurt and dairy products per day, making a net profit of 450 USD / a month.



Belqees, an extension officer working on dairy processing - Saber Village, Lahj Gov.

Upgrading skills and knowledge of farmers and women: During this reporting period, the project proceeded with providing a comprehensive programme of training through farmer field schools, extension materials, and demonstrations to enhance the technical skills and capacities of smallholder farmers. The following capacity building sub-activities have been conducted:

I. Empowerment of livestock women through training sessions and farmer field schools

The small-scale backyard sheep / goat fattening with making traditional home-processed dairy products for sale in villages, in markets or for home consumption and distribution to neighbors (Zabadi, Laban Hakin, Butter, Ghee Semna) are extensively widespread in villages and practiced by women. Such activities are considered as the most promising businesses in which rural women can move successfully from subsistence to market orientation with constant stream of income. To upgrade the knowledge and skills of rural farmers, the project has trained **200 livestock women farmers** on “Alfalfa & Rhodes Grass Cultivation” in Abyan, Lahj and Taizz governorates as shown in the table below.

Table (3) Ttraining of Farmers on “Alfalfa & Rhodes Grass Cultivation

Gov.	Districts	# of Trainees
Abyan	Khanfar	65
	Zanjibar	35
	Lowder	25
Lahj	Tuban	25
	Tor ALBaha	25
Taiz	ALShamyteen	25
Total		200

In addition, **700 women** have been trained on “Practical Advice to Improve Livestock Feeding” and other related topics in the 6 southern districts (Khanfir, Zinjibar, Lawdar, Tuban, Tur Al Baha, and Ash_Shamyatayn) as detailed in the following table:

Table (4) FFSs Sessions to livestock producers (100% women)

Gov.	District	# of participants
Lahj	Tuban	200
	Tur Albaha	100
Abyan	Khanfir	100
	Zanjibar	100
	Lowder	100
Taizz	Alshamyatayn	100
Total		700



A farmer field school (FFS) session on Alfalfa cultivation, Tuban District, Lahj Gov.



Dairy processing training session in Tuban District, Lahj Gov.

II. Production of extension booklets:

The project has produced extension booklets as a key technical tool to support the training and FFS sessions, using simple Arabic language and colourful attractive presentations. 5,700 booklets have been distributed to the targeted farmers as below:

Table (5) Distribution of extension booklets

Gov.	Districts	# of Ben.
Abyan	Khanfir	250
	Zinjibar	200
	Lawder	200
Lahj	Tuban	450
	Tor ALBaha	200
Taiz	Ash-Shamaytayn	200
Total		1500

III. Knowledge and technical skills of extension staff is upgraded:

The project has implemented extensive technical training to build the capacity of 64 trainers on proper practices of milking and dairy processing, implementation of farmer field schools (FFS) and data collection. The training aimed to provide the technical tools and to empower the extension staff to support producers with innovative good practices for improvement of crop/livestock value chains.

Table (6) Extension Staff Training

Gov.	Districts	# of training	# of participants
Lahj	Tuban	3	17
	Tur Albaha	2	6
Abyan	Khanfar	3	14
	Zanjibar	3	11
	Lowder	2	6
Taiz	Alshamyteen	2	5
Aden	Data Entry	2	5
Total		17	64

Activity Result 1.2: Livelihoods are stabilized, and community assets rehabilitated through labour intensive emergency employment for vulnerable households and individuals (UNDP and WFP)

In this component, WFP prepared for the implementation of Food assistance for assets (FFA) activities from March to June. Implementation in the field started in July 2019 in Bajel in al-Hudaydah and in October 2019 in Khanfar and Zingibar (Abyan) and Tur Al-Bahah (Lahj). Community consultations were held in all districts to enroll participants based on the activity's targeting criteria and select the assets that are most important to the community and that are aligned with ERRY's objectives.

Participants worked on **58** assets between July and December 2019. The average completion progress stood at 52 per cent and assets are expected to benefit more than 22,000 people when they are completed. The breakdown of the assets is as follows:



The residents of Al-Jarabiah Area, Bajil District, constructing a water pond for water harvesting and income generation.

- **41** water harvesting schemes: including the construction of 16 water tanks and 5 ponds and the rehabilitation of 11 earth dams. Around 11,000 people will benefit from these assets upon their completion.
- **10** road rehabilitation and construction projects: that are expected to benefit more than 5,600 people by improving their access to markets, water sources, schools, hospitals and other basic services.
- **3** school rehabilitation and construction projects: that included the construction of new classrooms in two schools to accommodate a higher number of students, especially girls. This activity also included the rehabilitation of a youth center for recreational activities. Around 2,000 indirect beneficiaries will use these assets.
- **3** sanitation projects: including two collective latrine projects and one sewage system rehabilitation project, which will benefit 1,400 people.
- **1** environment protection project: consisting of solid waste disposal in an area inhabited by 1,000 residents, to decrease risk of disease and contamination of water sources.

In Abyan and Lahj, around 66 women participants completed each month an average of 1,408 household visits, 1,354 focused group discussions and 2,762 awareness sessions to spread information about adequate hygiene practices (handwashing, water conservation, cholera prevention, etc.). Over 5,000 people benefitted from these messages. All the participants had received extensive training and illustrated material to hand over to visited households.

To facilitate the participation of beneficiaries in activities and support their access to food, WFP transferred around US\$ 945,070 to beneficiaries through cash-in hand modality during the reporting period. Most beneficiaries collected their transfers in designated mobile points near their residence while those who could go directly to the financial service provider's branch in district centers. Each participant received an average of US\$ 90 per month. WFP contributed its own resources amounting to US\$ 486,686 to support ERRY beneficiaries in October and November and enable the project's cycle to last longer. WFP implemented these activities with two partners: Islamic Relief Yemen (IRY) in Bajel and Care International in Abyan and Lahj.

Yahya Ahmed- FOOD FOR ASSET PARTICIPANT

"My dream is to study and work in media," Says Yahya Ahmed Abdullah, an 18-year-old resident of Al-Giraizi Village, Bajel District. He works on a motorbike to secure a day living for his family.

"The conflict in Yemen has badly affected the lives of people and left many of them without jobs." Yahya said, "my village lacks the basic needs; the roads are not paved."

"Many sick people died on their way to the health facilities as they had to cross 15 kilometers to reach the main road." he continued. Within ERRY II JP, Islamic Relief in partnership with WFP has constructed a new road for



Yahya Ahmed, participating in FFA activities to construct a new road for his village – Baji District, Al-Hudaydah Gov.

Al-Guraizi Village residents which eased their movement, shortened the distance by 10 kilometers, and created a source of income for Yahia and many unemployed individuals of his village.

UNDP has conducted a market study that focused on seven sectors, namely, beekeeping, handloom and textile, solar energy, meat and poultry, pottery, fisheries and food processing. Value chain map, macro, and micro linkages, local economic development, confidence-building measures, future of MSMEs in the selected sectors, regional analysis, market infrastructure bottlenecks, and improvement opportunities, etc. are the key features of the market study. The study also provides the SWOT analysis of all seven sectors and solutions to improve the market in the immediate, medium, and more extended terms that have also been provided. The study would go through the review by implementing partners UNDP senior management, program colleagues, and sub-offices. The study would be published and shared with clusters and partners who wish to intervene in the sectors. The findings of the study would also benefit upcoming program related to fisheries and agriculture projects.



Cash for work participants restoring small assets in their community- Sarar District, Abyan Gov.

Under the emergency employment and livelihood component, UNDP implemented the activities in the south as the implementing partners in the north continue to wait for the approval. During the reporting period, For All Foundation has implemented the first phase of emergency employment interventions reaching 850 individuals. Oxfam GB managed to engage 110 CFW beneficiaries within this period. The cash for work activities have focused on market rehabilitation such as building storage capacity, developing access roads and other market infrastructures to improve access to market.

The emergency employment and Food Assistance for Asset interventions targeted the most vulnerable and poor households and contributed to improving access to cash, food, basic services, and created livelihoods to 19,239 direct beneficiaries.

Synergy with CARE led EU consortium

Since CARE is also an implementing partner for ERY II, UNDP has made an effort to collaborate with EU led

consortium as the program has multiple cash-based interventions. In Abbs and Kanfer, OXFAM had implemented the first cycle. Long term cash transfers were provided in these two districts. UNDP -ERRY team has taken up these two districts and have recommended implementing both SDF and OXFAM to



One of the local markets that has been rehabilitated through Cash for Work intervention in Abyan Gov. The two pictures illustrate before and after the intervention.

identify the beneficiaries and support intervention. The common beneficiaries can receive the business skill capacity building support as well as a seed grant to establish entrepreneurship. In this case, UNDP and its implementing partner would not require emergency employment intervention. The savings can be supported to reach out to beneficiaries to improve the markets. With the consortium coordinator of the EU consortium, it is agreed between UNDP and CARE that both agencies would monitor the beneficiaries to understand whether and how they graduate from the vicious cycle of protracted crises and needs.

Activity Result 1.3: Sustainable livelihoods opportunities are created in the post-cash for work phase to support self-employment through entrepreneurship development for vulnerable households and individuals (UNDP, FAO and ILO)

The joint programme ensures complementarities and synergies among PUNOs to maximize the impact of the programme's interventions on the target communities and at the same time enhance the efficiency and sustainability of emergency employment and livelihoods interventions. Post-CfW support includes occupational training, competency-based training and life skills to enable the transition from emergency short-term employment to sustainable livelihoods opportunities. Some of the key activities conducted under this activity result are as follows:

- A refresher training for the previously trained TOTs has been prepared and will be conducted in March 2020 in Amman. Additionally, a new batch of TOTs will also be trained on the ILO's "I too have a small business" module in March 2020.
- In November 2019, the ILO engaged an international consultant to update the content of the "I Too Have a Small Business" training materials and finalize the package based on the comments/feedback from the trainers. The updated training materials will include pertinent topics such as life skills, basic financial management skills, conflict management and critical thinking.

Activity Result 1.4: Sustainable livelihoods opportunities created in the post-cash for work phase support employability through on-the-job training (ILO)

Most of the activities reported during this reporting period are mainly preparatory and involved planning, coordination, and the setting up phase in order to ensure smooth implementation of the program activities.

I. Preparation of a detailed work plan

Considering the integrated nature of ERRY II Joint Programme, ILO has developed a detailed work plan jointly with other PUNOs and the local implementing partners so as to ensure greater synergy, harmonization, and complementarity of the activities.

II. Selection of the Implementing Partner

The RFP to implement the implementation of apprenticeship program in high market demand- driven sectors and occupations was advertised in the Yemenhr websites. Based on the ILO procurement process and the scope of work articulated in the RFPs submitted, the program identified and selected two implementing partners: Mayar Foundation and Ghadaq for Development that were contracted in the

month of December 2019. Mayar Foundation for Development (MFD) has been selected for implementation of apprenticeship program in Lahj and Abyan, while Ghadaq for Development has been selected to implement in Hajja and Hodieda.

III. Induction of the selected IPs

ILO held induction workshops in Aden and Sanaa with the newly selected implementing partners in order to enhance their capacity to deliver the project outcomes. During the workshops, the partners were inducted on the program objective, expected results, monitoring and reporting. Additionally, detailed implementation plans were jointly developed and agreed on with the IPs. While Ghadaq has not got the implementation approval from authorities in the north, Mayar completed the coordination with authorities in the south as well as with WFP IPs to get the target beneficiaries' list.

Activity Result 1.5: Capacity of the private sector is strengthened to contribute to emergency crisis response and job creation (UNDP, ILO):

During the reporting period, one micro business association was created in the northern governorates of Hajjah and Hodeidah. The purpose of the association is to have a collective voice in making business resilience and sensitize the smallholders about the current market conditions. The association also supports the businesses in terms of providing the technical and advisory input as and when needed.

Output 2: Vulnerable communities benefit from solar energy solutions for sustainable livelihoods opportunities and enhanced social service delivery

Output 2 Summary of Achievements, Year I

- 25 solar off-grid systems have been installed in 4 districts as follows:
 - 2 health centers, and 2 schools in Al Musaymir.
 - 5 Health units, 4 schools and 1 Local Authority office in Sarar.
 - 5 Health units and 1 school in Khanfir.
 - 5 Health centers in Ash Shamayatayn.
- 36 solar off-grid vaccine refrigerators have been installed in 36 health centers in 4 districts as follows:
 - 10 health centers in Al Musaymir.
 - 3 Health centers in Sarar.
 - 6 Health centers in Khanfir.
 - 17 Health center in Ash Shamayatayn.

Under the solar energy component, two major interventions were conducted during the reporting time: the first is the development of a long-term agreement (LTAs) for solar procurement, and the second is development of LTA to boost the local economy and thus promote private sectors in Yemen to engage in solar energy implementation. The LTA process has now identified four solar suppliers through the due-diligence and compliance procedures. Those suppliers will be responsible for the implementation of solar

system installation. The LTA includes the import of solar systems, transporting and installing them, and handing them over to facilities. The LTA has cut the cost significantly in comparison to previous procurements. During the reporting period, 36 solar vaccines and 70 solar systems were being installed in the targeted areas, mostly in the south.

The programme has initiated the mapping activities of solar interventions in Yemen and has established a solar coordination working group. The purpose of the mapping activities is to identify the ongoing interventions as well as gaps. The solar sector would have a digital platform where partners can benefit from the information to design their future interventions.

To enhance the synergy with solar actors, meetings with UNICEF and UNHCR were conducted to discuss how solar energy can provide solutions for health and shelter problems. UNICEF has agreed in principle to pilot solar microgrid for its targeted health centers. The microgrid model would be based on a small business where the underutilized space (rooftop) would be rented by the health center to receive the rental. Small businesses can get the required areas to install solar panels and batteries. With UNHCR, the discussion has progressed about how to promote solar energy in making it a part of the non-food items package. UNHCR, in principle, has agreed to take the recommendation forward in order to build the solar prototype lantern as a package of non-food items.

Moreover, the program has identified four (4) priority occupations that has higher chances of creating job opportunities for the target beneficiaries. This was done in consultation with the private sector. The programme will develop CBT curricula materials in solar, handcrafts and repair/maintenance of air conditioners.

YEMENI WOMEN LAUNCH THE NATION'S FIRST PRIVATE SOLAR ENERGY GRID!

Eman Al Hadi, 32 Abss District, Hajjah. Leading a group of 10 female entrepreneurs to establish the first solar grid in Yemen with a grant of US\$37,000.

This project provides a clean source of energy at a cost of 30 per cent less than diesel-generated power. "We can provide the service to 40 households, and we hope we will be able to expand soon." says Eman.



A female entrepreneur, along with a group of 10 females, has launched the first solar private grid, benefiting 40 HHs by providing a clean source of solar energy with less cost.

Output 3: Communities and local authorities have enhanced capacities to respond to conflict and gender sensitive priorities needs.

Output 3 Summary of Achievements, Year I:

- 48 insider mediators identified and trained; 24 in each of Az Zuhrah and Bani Qa'is Districts.
- 46 SDCs were established and 46 CRPs were developed.
- 6 DMTs were reactivated and 150 individuals have been trained.
- An irrigation canal covering 71 Ha (3,800 m) has been rehabilitated to improve crops / livestock value chain productivity benefitting 216 farmers.

Activity Result 3.1: Water User Associations (WUA) established (UNDP and FAO)

As mentioned above, the activities of the joint programme were mainly designed and implemented to contribute to their expected outputs, one of which is enhancing the capacity of the local authorities and that would enable them to respond to the basic needs of their communities. FAO under ERRY II JP is supporting WUAs / WUGs either through strengthening and reactivating the role of 15 existing associations or the creation of new ones (45 WUAs). The areas of support included building the capacity of WUAs/ WUGs and signing LoAs with them for maintenance and rehabilitation of existing irrigation canals. The main objective is to improve water management by and for the community, through both improvements in water use efficiency and its fair distribution from canals and spate irrigation areas.



An irrigation canal covering 71 Ha (3,800 m) has been rehabilitated, benefiting 216 farmers.

Activity Result 3.2: Community-based organizations have enhanced capacities to develop conflict- and gender- sensitive community resilience plans reflecting community priority needs and actions (UNDP)

Under local governance component, the Social Fund for Development, UNDP contracted partner, carried out activities in the targeted districts of the south and the north. The major implemented activities included the formation of sub-district level committees (SDCs) & district management committees (DMTs), development of community resilience plans, implementation of self-help initiatives, and conduct of training sessions for the SDCs and DMTs members. At the sub-district level, 46 sub-district level committees were formed, each sub-district committee is composed of a maximum number of 8 members representing all villages fall under the sub-district.



Sub-district committee members developing a community resilience plan - Ash Shamayatayn District, Taiz Gov.

As a signal of proactiveness, over 400 Self-help initiatives have been implemented at community level in 6 target districts. Such small voluntary actions, pioneered by the community committees set up by the Program, sought to mobilize local resources in improving their daily life in areas such as roads, health, sanitation, water, vocational training, etc.

The members of the sub-district committees, who amounted to 230 so far, were trained on conducting needs assessments in addition to developing and implementing the community resilience plans. As a result, forty-six community resilience plans were developed by the targeted communities at the sub-district level. At the district level, 6 district management teams (DMTs) were formulated, and 150 members were trained.

Under social cohesion component, UNDP has contracted Enjaz Foundation for Development (EFD) in July 2019 as an implementing partner in the north and Search for Common Ground (SFCG) as an implementing partner in the south. Two activities were implemented by the programme IPs until December 2019. The first activity was the identification of 48 insider mediators, 24 IMs (12 men & 12 women) for Bani Qa'is District, Hajjah Governorate and 24 IMs for Az Zuhrah District, Al-Hudaydah Governorate. The second activity was conducting a training session for three successive days (8 hours/day) for the selected IMs of Bani Qa'is District on do no harm principles, as well as humanitarian principles of impartiality and neutrality. Another training session for five consecutive days (8 hours/day) on conflict scan and gender sensitivity was conducted for the same targeted group.

Other Activities Carried out during Year I

ERRY Donor Conference

In the second quarter of 2019, EERRY joint programme conducted advocacy workshop in Amman among development partners and humanitarian actors to promote resilience and humanitarian and development nexus. It has been advocating for resilience interventions in Yemen through communication and promoting best practices of resilience intervention in Yemen to others for replications by engaging donors on the approach of resilience that EERRY has adopted. In the conference a range of donors were invited, including World Bank, DFID, EU, Sida, and other relevant embassies. The



ERRY JP team sharing the impact of the joint programme first phase to many donors during EERRY JP Impact workshop- Amman, Jordan.

workshop included the overall impact presentation on EERRY I and testimonies from the partner UN

agencies on the evidence from the ground. In the workshop, the presentation was also made on resilience paper and what resilience means for Yemen.

External Missions

There were three high profile external visits made to ERRY joint programme. The visits were from EU delegation, Sida delegation, and UNDP administrator. On the 5th of November 2019, the EU delegation made a visit to Sana'a, at which a photo exhibition was conducted at Sheba Hotel where many beneficiaries of different components of ERRY II JP came from the governorates of Hajjah and Al-Hudaydah and joint this event to share their feedback on the program interventions with the EU delegates who got a chance to hear from the beneficiaries themselves. During the event, Alesandro and Rafeal, the EU Delegates to Yemen have welcomed the participants, beneficiaries, IPs, as well as the four UN Agencies. They also expressed their utter desire to go to the field themselves and meet the beneficiaries but the unstable security situation did not enable them to make it; therefore, they thanked the beneficiaries who came from far places to join the event.



EU delegates discussing with the programme team and beneficiaries the impact of interventions on their lives.

During the event, there were four corners in the hall for the 4 UN Agencies working in the program. The first corner was for ILO, where ILO took part in explaining to EU delegates the nature of ILO interventions, one of which is the Informal Apprenticeship Program at which many apprentices have benefited, and some of them have attended the event and highlighted how their skills, source of income, and lives have changed for better.

The second corner was given to WFP, which one of its main interventions was Food Assistance for Assets. The beneficiaries of FFA stated how this intervention primarily helped them to generate good income and improve their food security level.

The third corner was for FAO, which one of its core interventions is supporting agriculture and dairy product value chains for better livelihoods opportunities. Jabrah and Khadija have benefited from dairy products value chains interventions and because of getting milk processing equipment, they are able to produce good quality and more quantities of milk and other dairy products such as cheese and that as they said has helped to generate better income for them and their families. The EU delegates have tasted their products and were happy.

The fourth corner was for UNDP where the beneficiaries talked about the impact of the programme on their lives, mainly after setting up



Othman Al-Shamri, a physically challenged beneficiary from Bani Qais, Hajjah Gov, talking about his beekeeping business and his honey samples.

their micro-businesses thanks to the programme financial and business skills support. Othaman Al-Shamri benefited from the business training ERRY JP provided him with as well as the financial support, along with some technical consultation in beekeeping. Before his small business, Othman used to be dependant on his brothers to support his wife and 6 children. Now he feels more independent and is capable of sending his daughters to school.

In March 2019, the EU delegation along with the Head of Devco Unit visited Aden and met beneficiaries. The delegation was able to interact with beneficiaries, who came from Lahj and Abyan Governorates, to express the impact of the project and the change brought about by the programme diversified activities on their lives.



EU delegates listening to ERRY JP implementing partners and beneficiaries- Aden – Yemen

In the middle year of the reporting period, The UNDP Administrator made a visit to Aden where he was able to meet with ERRY's beneficiaries and to discuss the change that beneficiaries witnessed in their lives.

The Administrator spent time with some of ERRY JP beneficiaries who came from Lahj and Abyan. Saber Yousif, resident of Tuban in Lahj Governorate, works in the dying handloom industry to make Ma'awaz, a traditional cloth worn by most Yemeni men.

Saber talked to the administrator about the impact ERRY JP had on him and his family.



UNDP Administrator listening to one of ERRY beneficiaries expressing the impact of the programme on his life

Internal Planning Workshop

The Joint Coordination Unit organized a three-day [planning workshop](#) in May 2019. 34 participants attended the workshop, including the JCU team, the participating UN agencies in the joint programme, and some implementing partners. The overall objective of the workshop was to discuss the lessons learned from ERRY I, take the recommendations into consideration, and plan for the activities that will be conducted by the participating UN agencies and their implementing partners. A summary of ERRY I achievements and impact was presented, along with a substantial number of recommendations extracted from the annual review and impact assessments. It was emphasized that these recommendations should be highly considered during the implementation of ERRY II. There was also a thorough discussion on the target districts and subdistricts as well as the process of selecting beneficiaries under each component. After that the four agencies presented their planned activities and it was agreed that all the programme

activities should be implemented in collaboration with the Village Cooperative Councils established and reactivated by the joint programme. The JCU presented the different levels of the coordination mechanism in order for the programme to be implemented smoothly and effectively. Another key issue discussed during the workshop is the complementarity and synergy among PUNOs to maximize the impact of the programme interventions on the target communities.

Launching Workshops

The Joint Programme organized two launching workshops for ERRY II in the south and north. The launching workshops aimed at sharing the achievements and impacts of ERRY I, highlighting the lessons learned, officially launching the second phase of the programme, and discussing the districts to be targeted during ERRY II. [The launching workshop in Aden](#)



Launching workshop of ERRY II, Joint Programme in Aden - Yemen.

took place in April 2019 with the participation of the programme relevant key stakeholders including MoPIC and governorates officials, local authorities, districts managers, PUNOs, and IPs. During the workshop, the participants expressed their satisfaction with the results of ERRY I and thanked the European Union for funding the programme.

In the north, [the launching workshop in Sana'a](#) took place later in September 2019 and was attended by Sana'a officials including the vice minister of MoPIC and the vice minister of MoAI, as well as representatives and officials from local authorities, the executive managers of relevant offices in the governorates of Sana'a, Hodeidah, Taiz and Hajjah, and PUNOs and their IPs. In addition to officially launching the second phase of the programme, the discussions in the workshop centered around the key challenges facing the programme as well as ways of achieving conformity on the lines of coordination.



Launching workshop of ERRY II, Joint Programme in Sana'a - Yemen.

4. Visibility, Communication, and M&E

4.1 Visibility & Communication Activities

Communication and visibility component of [ERRY II JP](#) is one of the program key priorities as it aims at creating awareness among local communities, implementing partners, donors, the media, beneficiaries, and the public about ERRY's impact on the ground, as well as ensuring the visibility of EU & Sida contribution to the wellbeing of the people of Yemen.

The following activities were carried out during the reporting period as part of the program's communication & visibility strategy and annual communication plan:

- For advocacy purposes, UNDP country office along with Brussels office and EU, organized a joint event where two weeks of campaign was on display at various places in the city to narrate the story of Yemen. The event garnered large number of crowds and interests about UNDP-ERRY projects in Yemen.
- ERRY produced 4 snippets for the impact of the interventions related to [livelihoods](#), [solar energy](#), [local governance](#) and [social cohesion](#).
- 8 [stories](#) were published, one of which is a story entitled "[Private Micro-Grid](#)" that was published on different international and local websites such as [Devex Website](#) and different [blogs](#). It drew the attention of global media outlets and agencies.
- As ERRY II JP interventions get Yemeni women-headed household empowered –a film about women empowerment was produced by FAO and shared with donors in some workshops.
- Impact assessment on [agricultural value chain](#) was produced and published.
- [A factsheet](#) illustrating ERRY I components and ERRY II key achievements was produced, printed, published and disseminated to different stockholders.
- A documentary video of [ERRY I JP impact](#) was produced and presented during the SCM meeting and ERRY JP impact workshop in Amman.
- A brochure on [social cohesion intervention impact](#) was produced and shared.
- ERRY JP [Local Governance](#) & Social Cohesion impact briefing was produced, shared, and Published.
- ERRY JP [livelihood impact](#) briefing was produced, shared, and Published.
- ERRY JP [Solar good practices](#) and lessons briefing was produced, shared, and Published.
- ERRY JP [Agriculture Value Chain](#) impact briefing was produced, shared, and Published.
- ERRY JP success stories and case studies were documented and shared with donors and Participating UN agencies.
- [ERRY II briefing – Issue I](#) was designed, printed, and disseminated in English and Arabic.

Donors Visibility

- A [training workshop](#) on communications guidelines was conducted by JCU Communications Officer for ERRY JP focal points and implementing partners in the north and the south. The workshop had spotted the light on the donors' certain requirements

and standards when producing communication materials. And it was primarily organized to emphasize the importance of ensuring the donor's visibility in all communication materials produced as well as the field activities carried out.

- The donors' logos are included in all published communication materials to make the program stakeholders well aware that ERRY JP is co-funded by EU & Sida.
- For FAO, 3000 booklets containing the donors' logos were distributed to the target beneficiaries to upgrade their knowledge and ensure visibility of the donors' contributions. In all ERRY II JP social media posts and tweets, @EUinyemen, @Sida are always hashtagged or mentioned as a clear indication to EU & Sida contributions to enhancing the resilience of the vulnerable rural Yemeni communities.

Social Media

- Social media channels were launched and utilized to further expand the Communication outreach and to disseminate messages, results and activities.
- [ERRY II JP website](#) was launched to further enhance the program visibility and share its activities, success stories, and achievements with a bigger range of audience.
- For twitter, around 100 tweets about ERRY II interventions were posted on [ERRY II JP twitter](#) account.
- FAO has launched its first social media platform ([FAOYemen](#) Twitter Account) in April 2019 and started covering FAO - ERRY II JP activities. Moreover, the agriculture value chain interventions funded by the EU were covered on FAO website.

4.2 Monitoring and Evaluation Activities

M&E is an essential and integral part of ERRY programme management cycle. Therefore, an M&E comprehensive system has been developed so as to consistently and effectively monitor implementation of the programme's activities and evaluate its results.

A number of M&E activities were carried out during this reporting period as follows:

- [ERRY I Final Evaluation](#) was conducted during the period from May to July 2019 by external consultants in order to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, and sustainability of ERRY JP and its results. The findings and recommendations were used to shape ERRY II strategy and implementation.
- [ERRY I Final Narrative Report](#) was produced and shared in August 2019.
- The M&E system of ERRY II has been strengthened by setting up an integrated [M&E Plan](#) that guides the JCU, PUNOs and IPs through the programme implementation process. The plan is thus used as an internal tool to measure the progress of the programme towards its intended goal and objectives. The plan includes the M&E framework, data collection tools, accountability and complaint mechanism, and reporting guidelines, which have been developed following a

participatory approach in consultation with PUNOs and IPs. The M&E plan has been reviewed, modified, and endorsed by an M&E international consultant contracted by JCU.

- To operationalize the M&E plan, a [training workshop](#) was conducted by JCU for ERRY JP focal points and implementing partners in the north and the south on the programme M&E system, including M&E plan, framework, accountability & learning, and M&E tools and activities in order to build the capacity of the team, which will support the implementation of the M&E plan. Also, ILO project team has conducted a training session for their IPs on M&E system and reporting, and so has UNDP.
- The M&E framework, along with the indicators profiling, was jointly developed by JCU and M&E working group members. The framework sets out how the programme's progress and results will be tracked and measured using objective and measurable quantitative & qualitative indicators.
- Monthly technical meetings for JCU and PUNOs were held to discuss technical issues, to check the implementation progress, and to address implementation bottlenecks and formulate decisions.
- Regular field visits were conducted by the JCU team, PUNOs' focal-points and technical specialists to assess implementation progress and collect information about challenges and beneficiaries' satisfaction.
- WFP and their partners ensured that WFP hotline posters were available in all activity and cash distribution sites. In addition to direct WFP monitoring, WFP facilitated visits by third-party monitors to ERRY II activity sites and cash distribution points.
- A web-based data management system was developed by JCU to effectively manage the flow and processing of the programme various data. The system provides an integrated and holistic view of the joint programme's performance, activities, and beneficiaries in a relatively real-time fashion. The platform is based on DHIS interface and has been commonly applied by UN agencies and INGOs. At the project level, UNDP has customized the same system to manage the project-related data flow from the project team to IPs and targeted communities and vice versa. The purpose of system development is to enhance data accuracy/precision, validity, reliability, timeliness, relevance, and completeness. For each component, the information collection has been made at the sub-district level and for sub-activity level where also the pre and post data would be collected.
- The JCU has finalized the process of selecting a TPM international firm which will assist the programme in capturing, verifying, cataloguing data on the implemented activities. The TPM is expected to provide an independent perspective and to extend the reach of the programme in the areas where the programme's staff cannot access due to security constraints.
- UNDP contracted a consulting company to conduct a baseline study to understand the situation of the five livelihood capitals (social, physical, natural, human, and financial) among the targeted communities, households, and individuals in the targeted districts. The consultancy company has managed to conduct the survey in the southern targeted districts; however, it could not manage to get permission to conduct the study in the northern districts.
- UNDP has established a GRM that was shared with implementing partners during the RPA contracting. Such mechanism was rolled out and operationalized by UNDP's IPs upon launch of field activities. Among the tools put in place for receiving and responding to complaints were the phone numbers (including WhatsApp) and complaints boxes. Complaints received and their responses were duly documented and reported by IPs.

- UNDP has developed the conflict scan tool and updated the programme implementation guidelines.
- FAO has conducted a need assessment survey (NAS) in the southern targeted districts in Oct 2019. The data collection process was conducted by the MAI office staff in the target districts within three governorates, Abyan, Lahj, and only one district in Taiz. 4,713 households (26% female-headed households) in 6 out of 13 districts have participated in the NAS as summarized in the table below:

Gov.	District	Female Participants	Male Participants	Grand Total
Abyan	Khanfar	246	705	951
	Lawder	149	639	788
	Zingubar	178	401	579
Lahj	Tuban	408	592	1000
	Tur Al Bahah	40	755	795
Taiz	Ash Shamayatayn	224	376	600
Grand Total		1,245	3,468	4,713

In the northern governorate, Hajjah, Al-Hudaydah and Sana'a the assessment was not conducted due to non-issuance of permits. The report of the needs' assessment was finalized and shared with project staff for their reference.

For the northern governorates, the NAS was conducted in Al-Hudaydah & Hajjah. In Sana'a it was not conducted due to non-issuance of permits. The report of the needs' assessment was finalized and shared with project staff for their reference.

5. Main Implementation Challenges

The complexity of the Yemeni context is the main reason for many challenges faced by all agencies participating in the programme. As reported by the four participating UN agencies, the main challenges encountered while implementing ERRY II JP activities can be categorized as follows:

Security Situation

- The security situation in Yemen continues to be instable. Airstrikes, armed-clashes and movements risks in some target areas are hindering the implementation of the activities both by the project teams and the IPs, as well as a close monitoring and control of the programme's field activities.
- The unstable security situation in Abyan and Lahj has delayed the start of FFA activities till October 2019.
- The current prevailing security conditions in Yemen as mainly reflected in the whole country have forced the UN security authorities to restrict the staff movement to the minimum. These

unfavorable conditions have been reflected on the activities and efficiency of project work in the target areas.

- The programme targets a limited number of household beneficiaries compared to the massive number of vulnerable households that need to benefit from the programme. As such, the high number of needy farmers and women in some of the southern districts, not covered by the programme, requesting support from the programme, mainly for feed supplements (feed blocks, molasses, concentrate feeds), small-dairy equipment and fodder choppers, would sometimes threaten or prevent the project staff from entering their villages.

Challenges Related to obtaining permits and security clearance for the implementation:

- Security clearances by the authorities continues to be the most important barrier to the programme's activities and service delivery. Implementation permits take a substantial amount of time to be requested and granted, and are sometimes abruptly revoked.
- Delays in the provision of clearances, permits and signing sub agreements with SCMCHA for IPs have caused some projects to start 6 months later than the planned date, while others are still on hold till the date of producing this report. The process of IPs Sub agreement signing and obtaining permits from SCMCHA delayed the implementation of most of the activities in the northern governorates for more than 7 months due to extended requirements for various documents including detail budgets. However, IPs of UNDP and those of WFP have received their permits by May 2020.
- Involvement of some local authorities in some districts creates some complications and difficulties to implement some activities, such as the distribution process of inputs.
- There are many difficulties in getting visas to Yemen for international consultants and/or evaluators, which critically affect the efficiency and timeliness of deliverables.
- With COVID-19 pandemic and the preventive measures applied in the country, it is expected that the challenge of implementing the programme in Yemen will remain and linger.

Operational Challenges:

- Fluctuation in the exchange rate of the Yemeni Riyal had a substantial impact on the programme's implementation, with some of the activities, such as Cash for Work.

Annex 1: ERRY Work Plan – Year II



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Annex 2: ERRY II Implementing Partners

PUNOs	IPs	Region
UNDP	Social Fund for Development (SFD)	North & South
	Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF)	North
	Enjaz Foundation for Development (EFD)	North
	Millennium Development Foundation (MDF)	North
	Youth Leadership Development foundation (YLDF)	North
	For All Foundation (FAF)	South
	Care International (Care Int'l)	South
	Oxfam International	South
	Search for Common Ground (SFCG)	North & South
WFP	Care International (Care Int'l)	South
	Relief International (RI)	North
	Islamic Relief (IRY)	North
	Save the Children (SCI)	South and North
FAO	FAO	South and North
ILO	Ghadaq for Development	North
	Mayar Foundation for Development (MFD)	South

