وكالة تنمية المنشآت
الصغيرة و الأصغر
SmallMicroEnterprise
PromotionService

SMEPS PORTFOLIO



2021-2025

SMEPS Porfolio

Towards Development & Enhancing Economies

INTRODUCTION



A Message from the Executive Director
Safiya Al-Jabry
Executive Director



The past five years have been a period of significant challenge, change, and growth for our institution. Operating in an increasingly complex and fragile environment, we remained focused on our mission of empowering communities, strengthening resilience, and creating opportunities for women, youth, and vulnerable groups. Our 2025–2021 strategy provided a clear direction through this period. A central priority was to build a stronger, more capable, and more sustainable institution—one that could respond to changing circumstances while continuing to deliver quality programs and meaningful results.

Over the strategy period, we made important progress in institutional capacity, program growth, partnerships, governance, and quality. We expanded and diversified our funding base, strengthened relationships with international development partners, broadened our geographic reach, and invested in the capabilities of our teams across all three offices. These efforts strengthened our ability to manage increasingly complex programs and deliver at greater scale.

We also made deliberate investments in the systems and structures that underpin effective delivery. Internal processes were strengthened, quality assurance was embedded more firmly across our work, and new functions and mechanisms were introduced to improve efficiency, accountability, and organizational performance. At the same time, sustained investment in staff development helped build the skills and leadership capacity needed to respond to increasingly demanding objectives.

These institutional investments translated into tangible results. We expanded our portfolio of economic empowerment and livelihoods programs, reaching thousands of women and young people with financial, technical, and capacity-building support. We strengthened our partnerships with institutions including the World Bank and UN agencies, further establishing our organization

as a trusted local implementing partner in Yemen.
Perhaps most importantly, the period demonstrated the resilience of the institution itself. Even during periods of significant external disruption and suspension, we worked to maintain operational continuity, protect staff welfare, preserve institutional knowledge, and sustain the confidence of our partners and stakeholders.

Alongside program delivery, we strengthened the foundations for longer-term sustainability. Governance and accountability mechanisms were enhanced, including grievance mechanisms and HR reforms. Monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems were strengthened to generate better evidence, support informed decision-making, and demonstrate results. Our contribution to international case studies through our research and development unit, and knowledge platforms also enabled us to bring the experience and perspectives of local institutions into broader development discussions.

Taken together, these achievements represent more than the successful implementation of a five-year strategy. They reflect the commitment of our people, the strength of our partnerships, and our ability to adapt and continue delivering in an exceptionally difficult context. As we look to the future, the foundation built during 2025–2021 positions us to move forward with greater confidence and clarity. Our focus remains on inclusive growth, institutional sustainability, innovation, quality, and measurable impact—while ensuring that we remain responsive to the communities we serve and relevant to the changing development landscape. **The most important outcome of this period is not simply what we achieved, but the stronger, more resilient institution we have built to deliver impact in the years ahead.**

The portfolio that follows was prepared by **Mr. Mostafa Motahar – Donor Relations & Reporting Officer and Ms. Yusra Al-Hada - Donor Relations and Reporting Supervisor, with the support of Ms. Farah Al-Wazeer - Communications & Advocacy Supervisor, Mr. Saleem Al-Jaradi – Head of the Research, Evaluation & Quality Unit and Ms. Sarah Al Dubai - MEAL Supervisor,** captures the breadth of our work, the partnerships we have built, and the results that shaped our impact throughout the 2025–2021 strategic period.

About SMEPS

SMEPS was first established in 2005 believing in development and positive change. SMEPS is the subsidiary of the Social Fund for Development (SFD), which is considered one of the biggest leading national organizations working in development since 1997. SMEPS was established to support economic development through private sector development under three main mandates:

1) Value Chain Development

2) Entrepreneurship

3) Business Development Services.

SMEPS works to achieve its goals by pursuing "creative strategies for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) of diversity and growth through the market-oriented approach". In keeping with this approach, SMEPS interventions seek to build and facilitate the economic and technical capacities of market-driven private sector parties including the MSMEs themselves, rather than acting as a significant direct service provider to MSMEs.

Our Mission

To drive diversification and development in the small and micro-enterprises sector by fostering innovation, supporting new subsectors, and opening sustainable production lines. We aim to create vibrant markets and unlock opportunities for businesses to thrive.

Our Vision

To be the leading enterprise development agency driving innovation and economic growth through creative approaches and technological solutions.

Our Values

- Integrity
- Honesty
- Positive Attitude
- Influential Personality
- Community Participation
- Mutual Respect
- Accountability
- Transparency

OUR DONORS & PARTNERS




THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

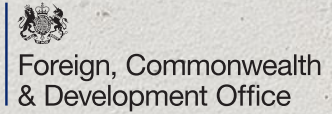

Funded by
the European Union


Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations


The Saudi Development and
Reconstruction Program for Yemen


UNIDO
UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION


KING SALMAN HUMANITARIAN AID & RELIEF CENTRE


Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office


german
cooperation
giz
Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH


UNDP


الصندوق
الاجتماعي
للتنمية
SFD
Social Fund for Development


IsDB
البنك الإسلامي للتنمية
Islamic Development Bank


unesco
منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة


اغاثة
KSR
الجمعية الكويتية للإغاثة
KUWAIT SOCIETY FOR RELIEF


JICA


WFP
World Food
Programme


ILO


UNOPS


MERCY
CORPS

STRATEGIC MILESTONES



Key Achievements 2025 – 2021



100,000,000/91,072,142$
secured funds



32,000/40,042 MSMEs
(%45 females) supported



%40/%61community
investment leveraged



%70/%83 increase in
MSMEs' income



%70/%62 increase in
MSMEs' productivity



%40/%22 of MSMEs
introduced new products



200,000/326,331 jobs opportunities
(%26.7 Females, %27 permanent jobs)

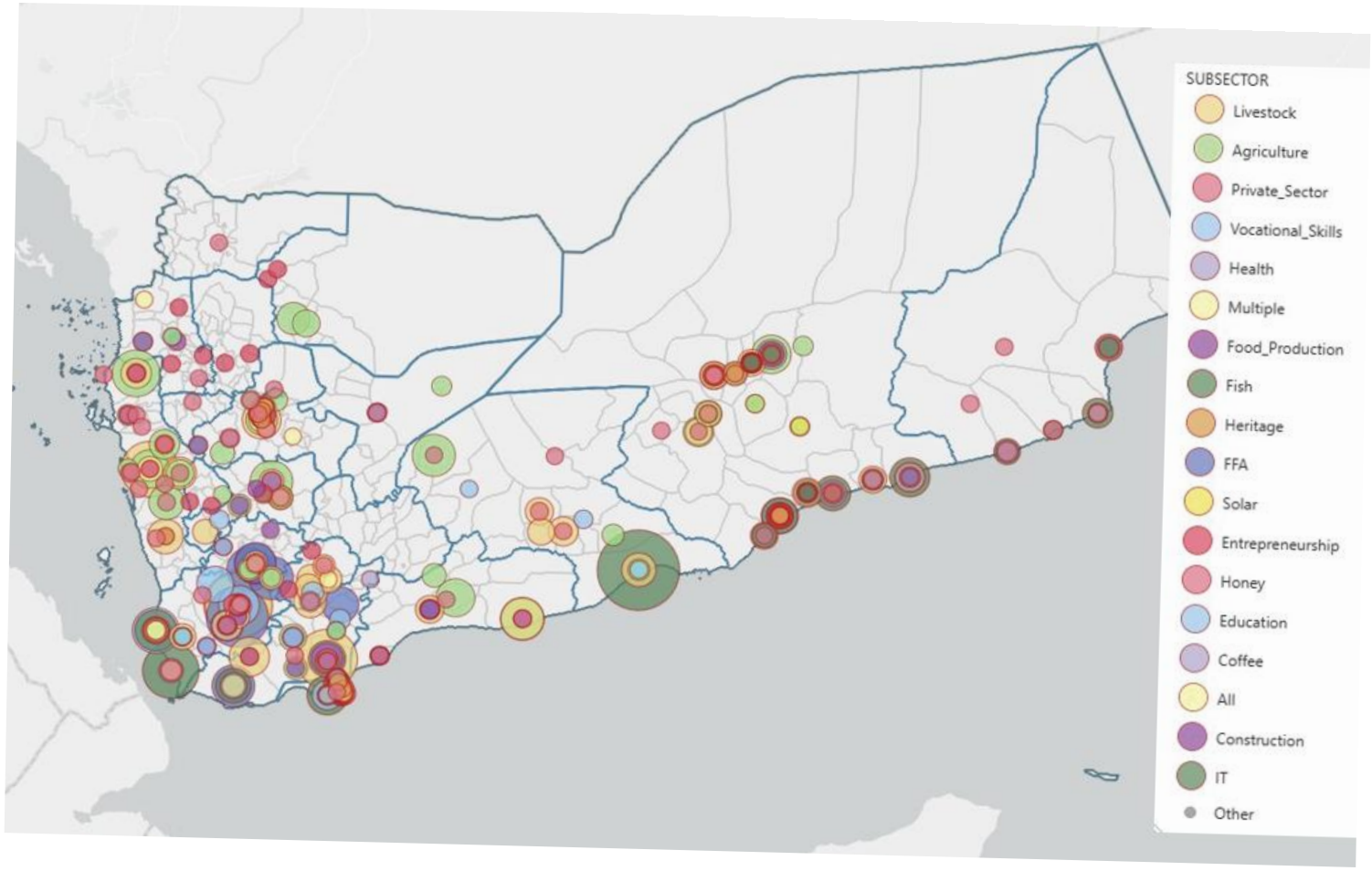


9/27 research studies
produced

Map of Interventions



(Number of Beneficiaries per Governorate during 2021-2025)


SUBSECTOR
Livestock
Agriculture
Private_Sector
Vocational_Skills
Health
Multiple
Food_Production
Fish
Heritage
FFA
Solar
Entrepreneurship
Honey
Education
Coffee
All
Construction
IT
Other



5 Years of Institutional Growth & Advancenent

- Expanded institutional capacity through the establishment of core functions, including Compliance, Donor Relations & Reporting, Partnerships, Research & Development, and Environmental & Social Safeguards.
- Empowered SMEPS branches through decentralization and capacity development, improving their operational efficiency and project delivery.
- Provided various specialized and generic trainings to 9,720 employees and consultants.
- Expanded sectoral portfolio by introducing Creative Industries, Entrepreneurship in Construction programs, and adopted innovative approaches such as digitalization, innovation, and green technology.
- Strengthened strategic partnerships with international donors and expanded integrated value chain programming across agriculture, livestock, and fisheries.



- Diversified donor portfolio and secured larger programs for more geographical coverage, particularly in the fisheries sector.

- Increased international engagement through participation in global conferences, exposure visits, and knowledge exchange initiatives, such as:
  - Japan Annual Women Conference
  - Stockholm Environmental Conference
  - UNESCO annual meeting
  - Exposure visits to Kenya for potato and dairy sector
  - Knowledge exchange of BRAVE program with MEBF in Burkina Faso & Bank of Industry Nigeria
  - Coffee reception and other advocacy initiatives

- Developed robust systems including remote monitoring, MIS, ERP platforms, and e-learning platform serving staff, consultants, and the public to enhance transparency, accountability, operational efficiency, adaptive management, and organizational learning.

- Conducted comprehensive value chain analyses, market & need assessments, and feasibility studies across multiple economic sectors.

- Obtained ISO 9001:2015 certification, strengthening institutional quality management and operational excellence.


CERTIFICATE
TÜV

OUR PROGRAMS:



DRIVING IMPACT ACROSS YEMEN

Value Chain Development







Dairy Value Chain

Livestock breeders & SMEs supported:
9,551(45% dairy producers)

Jobs created:
35,349 (41% females)

Micro supply chain enablers (Input & Service Providers)

- ***1st*** production line for concentrated feed
- ***Invested in Solar energy*** to reduce wastes in medicines
- Increase breeders access to vet services ***(from 19–32 clients/day)***
- Enhance services provided ***(Mobile pharmacy/ input delivery)***

Livestock Breeders

- Production increased ***by 213% (1.3 – 4.3 L/day)***
- Enhanced breeders access to basic services ***(Food, education, health, market)***
- Average milk sold 3.5 L/day with total income reached ***from 0 to YER 40,000/month)***
- ***13%*** of breeders expanded their business activity with ***total investment of YER 14.2 million***

Dairy Producer Groups & Collection Centers

- Daily Milk collected *1,500 liter/day*
- *463 Replicants* linked to producer groups & collection center (1:1)
- *5 producer groups* formulated by community
- Average daily sales per center *reached YER 4.7 million*

Dairy Cooperatives

- Strengthening cooperative's role and expended services to new villages, *reaching to 12,000 members*
- Daily Milk collected increased *from 10,000 to 101,766 liter/day*
- Average daily sales reached *YER 40.7 million*
- Decrease in milk wasted *from 28% to 4%*

NANA/NAD/ Yamani Factory

- Daily Milk collected reached *to 132,383 Liter/day*
- Covered factory dairy needs *by 28% (Before 5%)*
- Decrease in milk wasted *by 4% (5,091 liter/day)*
- Nana reduced powdered *milk consumption by 16%*

Fishery Value Chain

Fishermen supported & SMEs:
4,468

Jobs created:
15,214

Fishermen

- ***41%*** increase in catch per trip ***(from 137 kg to 156 kg)***
- Reduced waste in production ***by 62% (11.4% - 4.3%)***
- Diversification of fish catches ***(squid by 16%, spangled emperor fish by 13%, King Fish by 9.5%)***
- ***46%*** increase in net profit per fishing trip ***(from $835 to $1,223)***



supply chain enablers

(Ice producers, Input providers/producers, Transporters, fish stores, exporters, etc)

- ***53% of SCEs expanded*** geographic operations
- ***29% of SCEs adopted*** new technologies (Solar, machines)
- ***74.7%*** increase in monthly sales volume ***(from 11.3 to 19.8 tons)***
- ***47.5%*** increase in monthly profits ***(from $2,061.7 to $3,041.3)***



Fish Cooperatives

- ***Providing new services*** (e.g., storing fish, providing ice, technical support, fish handling).
- ***28.5% increase of number of*** active members ***(from 246 to 316 members)***
- 36% increase in profit ***(from $2,736 to $3,717 average profit/month)***
- ***11 new jobs created*** (temporary)

Horticulture Value Chain

Farmers & SMEs supported:
8,821 (11% females)

Jobs created:
65,079 (11% females)

Farmers

- Miro-producers productivity increased *by 39% (15.5 - 21.6 ton/0.25 hectare/year)*
- Reduced waste in production *by 63% (8.12% - 3%)*
- Reduced operational *expenses by 13%*
- *28% of farmers expanded* their activities with *total investment of $1.5 million*
- Revenues increased by *70% ($700 – $1,188/ year)*

Horticulture Cooperative

- Reduced waste in *production by 51%*
- Expansion & growth of cooperatives raised *by 38% (Services, production lines, products, etc)*
- Increased cooperatives *profits by 158%*
- Horticulture cooperatives members increased *by 16% to receive services (Ploughing, marketing, input providers, etc)*

Supply Chain Enablers (Market)

- Contribution to cover markets demand for raw materials locally ***(100% of agrostar chilis covered locally by farmers to produce chili sauces)***
- ***Expansion & growth of SMEs raised by 23%*** (Services, production lines, products, new branches etc)
- SMEs investment ***for enhancement growth ($173K)***.
- Reduced waste in ***production by 37%***
- SMEs investment for ***enhancement growth ($173K)***

Dairy Cooperatives

Contribution to cover markets demand for raw materials locally ***(100% of agrostar chilis covered locally by farmers to produce chili sauces)***

success story

Henna Harvest:

Reviving the Green Gold of Hadramout



For generations, the lush Ghaili Henna trees were the pride and economic lifeblood of the Ghail Bawazir district in Hadramout. But as conflict raged over eight years and internally displaced persons sought refuge in nearby Mukalla, the district›s precious water supply was diverted to supplement the city. Stripped of their vital resources, the once-abundant henna lands began to dry up. The ancient dirt irrigation canals, locally known as Al-Ma'ayen, were failing. Taking over two and a half hours just to reach the farms, the porous dirt routes swallowed %60 of the water before it ever touched a tree root. Farmers were forced to run pumps for up to nine exhausting hours every 20 days just to keep their crops alive. Parched land, coupled with outdated farming practices, led to poor harvests, plummeting prices, and a creeping despair that pushed many to abandon henna cultivation entirely.

Recognizing that the entire sector was on the brink of collapse, a comprehensive rescue mission was launched to breathe life back into the valley. The intervention began at the source: water. Through a massive infrastructure effort, 2,866 meters of the three main irrigation canals (Al-Harth, Al-Naqa'a, and Leshwal) were lined with cement-coated stones. The impact was immediate and staggering. The water that once took two and a half hours to painfully seep through the dirt now surged to the fields in just 25 minutes, recovering nearly %60 of the previous water loss and rescuing the livelihoods of over 2,040 farmers.

But water was only half the battle; the farmers also needed modern expertise. A targeted capacity-building program transformed their agricultural practices. Farmers were trained in safe food production, modern processing steps, and quality evaluation, alongside crucial business and financial management skills. Simultaneously, targeted grants filled critical operational gaps,

providing the farmers with high-quality fertilizers and leaf dryers. To elevate the entire community, 13 women received specialized vocational and administrative training to craft innovative, transformative henna products, adding new value to a traditional crop. The project did not stop at the farms; it revitalized the entire value chain. Recognizing that transportation and processing were severe bottlenecks, the initiative supported local transporters with new vehicles to safely move the goods to market. Furthermore, nine local henna mills—previously plagued by failing machinery and poor infrastructure—were upgraded with modern grinding and packaging machines, alongside facility improvements. This created a seamless, highly efficient business linkage bridging the newly empowered farmers directly to modernized factories.



Today, the leaves of Ghail Bawazir's henna trees have returned to a vivid, healthy green, and the community's economy is flourishing. The integration of modern knowledge and targeted grants reduced crop waste by a remarkable %76.5 and cut seasonal water consumption by %56.7. Driven by the dramatically improved quality of the harvest, the market price for 12 kilograms of henna nearly doubled, leaping from 8,000 YER to 15,000 YER. This surge in value drove a %63.9 increase in seasonal revenue for the farmers and a %3.5 boost in overall productivity. Through resilient infrastructure and empowered minds, Ghail Bawazir didn't just save its henna trees—it cultivated a thriving, sustainable future for the entire district.

Value Chain Projects



01 | Yemen Food Security Response and Resilience (FSRRP) - Additional Fund

$17,751,832
Project Value

October 2023 -December 2026
Implemention Period

9
Targeted Governorates

Donor THE WORLD BANK IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

Partner Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

location Taiz, Al-Hudaydah, Dhamar, Abyan, Lahj, Al-Jawf, Hajjah, Shabwah, Al-Dhale

sector Livestock, Sesame and MSMEs

Project Brief

The Food Security Response and Resilience Project (FSRRP) in Yemen targets severe food insecurity by enhancing productivity in dairy and sesame value chains to meet households› and communities› food security needs. The project also supports MSMEs, micro-producers, SMEs, and cooperatives to build more resilient communities capable of coping with food insecurity, health, nutrition, and poverty, which have been exacerbated by protracted conflict and economic collapse. It specifically addresses the disproportionate impact of the crisis on women-headed households, providing support through livestock producers, sesame farmers, supply chains, and agricultural co-operatives & leading companies to stabilize the economy and ensure access to vital resources for vulnerable populations.

Beneficiaries:

11,500	4,000	200	120
Livestock Breeders	Sesame Farmers	Supply Chains Enabler	agricultural co-operatives & leading companies

02 Yemen Food Security Response and Resilience Project (FSRRP) - PF

$512,645.03
Project Value

September 2022 -February 2025
Implemention Period

7
Targeted Governorates

Donor THE WORLD BANK IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

Partner Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

location Taiz, Al-Hudaydah, Dhamar, Abyan, Lahj, Shabwah and Hajjah.

sector Fish, Horticulture and Livestock

Project Brief

The project aims to serve as a scalable platform that offers a combination of complementary short-term and medium-term activities to strengthen food security in Yemen, as well as flexibility for adjustment to the evolving food security situation going forward. The project focuses on building the resilience of Yemeni households to food security crises and improving household food security and nutrition by increasing food availability, access and utilization in the project areas. SMEPS will implement the related activities under increasing production and sale of nutritious products in the targeted sectors through an innovative, participatory and interactive learning approach.

Beneficiaries:

1,500	940	1,205
Fishermen	Horticulture producers	dairy producers

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

$24,240,048
Project Value

December 2022 -February 2027
Implemention Period

4
Targeted Governorates

Donor THE WORLD BANK IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

Partner UNDP

location Al Mahrah, Aden, Hadramaut and Taiz

sector Fish, Food Processing, and MSMEs.

Project Brief

The Sustainable Fisheries Development Project (SFISH) in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden aims to support and improve fish production while preserving its quality through reducing post-harvest losses. It also focuses on improving market access and restoring livelihoods associated with fishing, creating economic opportunities, and enhancing the value chain between fishermen, marketers, fish suppliers, wholesalers, and retailers to improve market access in targeted coastal areas. The project provides grants to fisher families and small enterprises involved in the fish value chain, supporting entrepreneurship and business development for women and youth in the fish value chain. This support provided to small-scale enterprises seeks to improve income and food security by increasing production, marketing, and fishery guidance through cost reduction, increased productivity, optimal use of available resources, reduced occupational risks, and occupational safety related to fishing operations.

Beneficiaries:

3,000	1,680	920	35
Fishermen	women micro-producers	Supply Chain Enablers	fisheries cooperatives and lead firms

04 Yemen Social Protection Enhancement & COVID-19 Response Project – Phase 1, 2, & 3

$14,563,701
Project Value

June 2021 -September 2026
Implemention Period

19
Targeted Governorates

Donor THE WORLD BANK IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

Partner UNDP

location Al-Hudaydah, Dhamar, Taiz, Hadramout, Sanaa, Lahj, Aden, Abyan, Marib, Hajjah, Al-Dhalee, Al-Jawf, Amran, Ibb, Raymah, Al-Maharah, Al-Mahwit, Saadah, Shabwah

sector Livestock, Fish, Entrepreneurship, & MSMEs

Project Brief

The ESPECRP project was designed, scaling up YECRP achievements and aiming to improve productivity and resilience in key value chains to create jobs, strengthen livelihoods, and enhance food security and household nutrition. By supporting MSMEs, SMEs, cooperatives, and micro producers, the initiative helps them withstand fragility, sustain vital food supply, and drive recovery and peacebuilding. Through market systems development, access to finance, and stronger linkages, the project fosters sustainable economic opportunities for vulnerable populations, while enabling cooperatives and supply chain actors to expand production, improve quality, and explore regional export routes. By its completion, the project will support MSMEs across horticulture, livestock, fisheries, food supply chains, entrepreneurship, and cooperatives, generating thousands of jobs and reinforcing the private sector's role in reducing conflict risks.

Beneficiaries:

2,210	710	770	70
smallholders	Supply chain Enablers	Entrepreneurs	Business Cooperatives and Associations

05 The Market Access Project

$2,000,000
Project Value

September 2023 -June 2026
Implemention Period

3
Targeted Governorates

Donors





location Sana'a, Aden, Hadramout

sector Coffee, Honey, Agriculture

Project Brief

The project aims to enhance the competitiveness of Yemen›s agricultural sector by strengthening the coffee, honey, and onion value chains. It addresses key constraints limiting produ̇cers› access to domestic and international markets through improving product quality, adopting international standards, strengthening producer capacities, and expanding market linkages. The project also promotes value addition, digital marketing, and sustainable agricultural practices to increase farmers› incomes, create employment opportunities, and contribute to inclusive agricultural-led economic growth.

Beneficiaries:

126
Farmers, MSMEs & Cooperatives

06 Strengthening Institutional and Economic Resilience in Yemen (SIERY)

$7,603,544
Project Value

October 2021 -September 2023
Implemention Period

5
Targeted Governorates

Donor Funded by the European Union

Partner UNDP

location Aden, Hadhramaut, Amant Al-Asemah, Sana'a, and Al Hudaydah

sector Agriculture (Henna, Dates, Honey, Coffee, Grapes & Horticulture), Livestock, Fish, Garment, Health

Project Brief

This project seeks to promote inclusive and equitable economic growth by strengthening targeted MSMEs through a value chain development approach that enhances food security, improves access to health, generates income, and creates jobs. It ensures that poor and low-income families, alongside MSMEs, actively participate and benefit, thereby advancing economic empowerment and resilience. In the short term, the project will meet the immediate needs of MSMEs to stabilize livelihoods, while in the longer term it will build sustainable resilience by linking emergency support to recovery and growth. Under this project, SMEPS implemented the economic resilience component to empower smallholders and SMEs, expand microfinance, rehabilitate community prioritized infrastructure, and create jobs that stabilize markets. At the same time, it reinforced institutional resilience by supporting local authorities to deliver equitable services, foster social cohesion, and strengthen accountability.

Beneficiaries:

1,600
Smallholder producers

400
SMEs & Business Cooperatives

07 | Supporting Grain Cultivation and solar energy

$1,500,000
Project Value

July 2024 -September 2025
Implemention Period

1
Targeted Governorates

Donor

إغاثة KSR
الجمعية الكويتية للإغاثة
KUWAIT SOCIETY FOR RELIEF

location Sana'a, Aden, Hadramout

sector Agriculture, Solar

Project Brief

The project aims to strengthen the resilience and productivity of Yemen›s cereal sector by enhancing sustainable grain production and expanding access to renewable energy solutions. Through support for improved agricultural practices, farmer capacity building, and strengthened producer organizations, the project increases cereal yields, reduces production costs, and contributes to national food security. Complementing these efforts, the project promotes solar-powered irrigation systems to lower energy costs, improve water-use efficiency, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and enhance the sustainability and climate resilience of cereal production.

Beneficiaries:

243
Farmers, MSMEs

08 | Emergency Resilience Grants Project
under YECRP Programme - Phase 3

$5,082,796
Project Value

November 2019 -March 2022
Implemention Period

19
Targeted Governorates

Donor THE WORLD BANK IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

Partners UNDP, SFD الصندوق الاجتماعي للتنمية Social Fund for Development

location Hadramout, Ibb, Al-Dhalee, Sanaa, Shabwah, Lahj, Al-Hudaydah, Al-Mahwit, Taiz, Abyan, Hajjah, Dhamar, Amran, Amanat Al-Asemah, Marib, Aden, Al-Maharah, Raymah

sector Agriculture, Livestock, Fish

Project Brief

The Emergency Resilience Grants Project supports rural smallholder producers in agriculture, livestock and fisheries with the main aim of restoring their livelihoods and strengthening their resilience to continue & increase food production hence supporting household access to food security and basic services. The project focuses on building the capacity and skills targeted HHs by supporting them with technical capacity to use modern technologies in farming, animal breeding and fishing, hence reducing costs, increasing productivity, incomes and creating job opportunities and financial grants to procure productive assets.

Beneficiaries:

5,242	2,317	607
Farmers	Livestock Breeders	Fishers

09 Emergency Resilience Grants Project

(ERG - DFID) - Phase 1, 2, 3

$6,400,000
Project Value

February 2019 - April 2021
Implemention Period

12
Targeted Governorates

Donor
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

location
Sana'a, Dhamar, Hadhramout, Ibb, Mareb, Taiz, Lahj, Shabwah, Al-Dhalee, Amran, Hajjah, and Al-Mahrah.

sector
Agriculture, Livestock, Fish, Health

Project Brief

The Emergency Resilience Grants Project came with the aim to restore and strengthen the resilience of vital private sectors in providing quality health services, food security and livelihoods to the community sustainably. The project focuses on building the capacity and skills of its beneficiaries by supporting them with financial grants that improves and help their small farms or midwifery clinics to continue more efficiently. Thus, the project contributes in improving and helping the communities targeted to recover and survive using their local resources and capacities to continue providing their services in a larger scale. In addition, the private health clinics will contribute in generating and their sustaining jobs and provide high-quality health services to the local community in light of the current situation.

Beneficiaries:

842	1,031	151	145
Farmers	Livestock Breeders	Community Midwives	Fishermen

10 Emergency Livelihoods Support

Phase 1, 2, & 3

$10,095,733
Project Value

January 2019 - December 2023
Implemention Period

8
Targeted Governorates

Donor WFP World Food Programme

location Ibb, Taiz, Lahj, Al-Mahwit, Sanaa, Hadramout, Amanat Al-Asemah, Aden

sector Agriculture, Livestock, Fish, Vocational, Food for Assets (FFA) Agriculture, Livestock, Fish, Vocational, Food for Assets (FFA)

Project Brief

The project was designed with the aims to explore innovative ways to restore rural livelihoods and strengthen community resilience in Yemen. The main aim of the project was to support communities in the targeted areas to increase food production, strengthen household access to food security and increase household food consumption. It targeted women livestock breeders, large ruminant holders to increase production of milk and other dairy products. The project also seeks to achieve specific objectives that includes: 1) Conditional cash grants and technical support for Improving the human capital, assets and natural resource base, productivity, surplus and access to markets livestock breeder's HHs; 2) Building and rehabilitating household and livestock community assets to restore agricultural land, increase soil and water availability, enhance food productivity, and promote dietary diversity, including through the empowerment of women and girls; 3) Providing cash transfers to households participating in asset creation activities and trainings to support their income. 4) Delivering targeted nutrition awareness and training.

Beneficiaries:

409	400	948	5,601
Farmers	Fishers	Livestock breeders	Community workers

11 Emergency Resilience Grants Project

(ERG - DFID) - Phase 1, 2, 3

$4,446,663
Project Value

December 2020 - May 2022
Implemention Period

4
Targeted Governorates

Donor

البرنامج السعودي لتنمية وإعمار اليمن
The Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen

location Al-Dhalee, Abyan, Lahj, Aden

sector Agriculture, Livestock, Fish

Project Brief

This project aims to restore the livelihoods of the affected population in the vital sectors through meeting the immediate needs of households and communities in the short and immediate term while linking longer term resilience building efforts for these value chains. This will be done through implementing fast-disbursing interventions that serve as a rapid response; providing households and communities affected by the conflict with technical skills and financial support to utilize resources better and procure necessary items to make value chains more productive.

Beneficiaries:

566	657	295	6	27
Farmers	Livestock Breeders	Fishers	Landing sites	Bio-Gas beneficiaries

12 | Livelihood Support Project for smallholder producers

$3,000,000
Project Value

June 2021 - september 2022
Implemention Period

4
Targeted Governorates

Donor

الجمعية الكويتية للإغاثة
KUWAIT SOCIETY FOR RELIEF

location Abyan, Shabwah, Al-Mahrah, Hadhramout

sector Agriculture, Food processing

Project Brief

This project aims to restore and strengthen agricultural value chains by helping smallholder farmers and rural communities reduce production costs, increase yields and quality, and adopt modern practices under expert guidance. By providing urgent support alongside sustainable interventions, it seeks to improve food security, nutrition, and household incomes, create new jobs for men and women, and build resilient local markets. Ultimately, the project addresses both immediate needs and long-term recovery by empowering communities to sustain livelihoods, connect to markets and services, and contribute to social cohesion and peacebuilding.

Beneficiaries:

851
(401 Farmers and 450 Food producers)

Business Development & Enterpenuership



Creative Industries Results

48

CSOs supported in Sana'a, Aden, Al-Hodiedah & Shibam

792

Products & services produced & content documented

173,330

Working days created

697

Young artists and cultural professionals (45.7% women), benefited from the CSOs in different fields of:



Art



Storytelling



Poetry



Film-making



Handicrafts



Architecture

Creative Industries Results

Strengthening CSOs Institutional capacity

44%
of CSOs enhanced their institutional structure

67%
of CSOs created strategic plans for sustainability and growth

78%
of CSOs improved their financial systems

89%
of CSOs created risk management plan

44%
of CSOs prepared proposals seeking fundings from donors for sustainability and growth

78%
of CSOs improved their systems, plans, procedures (M&E, Advocacy, procurement)

Economic Indicators:

27%
increase in average monthly income

14%
of youth accessed to finance for growth

77%
of youth have inspired new ideas to invest in preserving Yemeni cultural heritage field

16%
of youth reached out to potential supporters (Donors, markets, enterprises, etc)

47%
of youth clients increased

Creative Industries Results

Human Capital:

90%

of youth gained knowledge about Yemeni historical and cultural heritage

49%

of youth gained skills and the remaining 61% improved their skills to produced quality products .

56%

of youth used different channels to promote their products

94%

of youth problems were solved/addressed (49% lack of skills & 36% lack of funding).

Social:

47%

of youth transferred their skills to others (514 youth, 39% females)

20%

of women improved their ability in decision making

18%

of the replicants got new source of income

37%

of youth improved their ability in decision making

Entrepreneurship Results

86%
Entrepreneurs established or strengthened their businesses

144%
Average increase in sales/revenue

121%
Average increase in number of clients/customers

38%
Entrepreneurs expanded into new markets/geographic areas

71%
Entrepreneurs formalized their businesses

89%
Entrepreneurs introduced/ enhanced new products or services

55%
Entrepreneurs improved their access to finance

668
Sustained existing jobs and created new jobs

212%
Average increase in business profits

SMEs, Business Cooperatives Results

$16.2 million
Businesses leverage or investment for growth

20,595
Sustained existing jobs and created new jobs

31%
Average reduction in fuel consumption - contributing to decrease CO_2 emissions

39%
Average increase in sales/revenue

57%
Average increase in number of clients/ customers

26%
Businesses expanded their services & operations

23%
Businesses improved their access to finance

51%
Average increase in business profits

31%
Average increase in production

69%
Average reduction in waste produced

Business Associations Results

Number of Members they serve:

from 48K to 54K members

Number of SMEs processes increased by:

29% from 2,906 to 3,758

Enhanced BAs Operations & Efficiency

43% of BAs automated the tasks (Procedures) from paper-based to systems.

82% BAs have digitalized their database for their members.

BAs have minimized the time consumption of the procedures; thus, increased the efficiency of work ***(from one-month process to 4 days).***

BAs Growth & Sustainability

Sustained existing jobs and created ***new jobs: 332***

Increase BAs revenues by 16.4% ***(from 195K to 227K YER/year)***

Introduced new services ***(Average of 2 new services per BA)*** such as new business unites to support SMEs, conducting feasibility studies, and trainings etc.



success story

Red Gold

The Al-Sahi Association's Entry into Specialty Coffee Markets

In the agricultural terraces of Al-Sahi, local farmers made a courageous decision: they chose to stop cultivating Qat and instead revive their farming heritage by planting coffee, known locally as «Red Gold.» Despite their enthusiasm, they encountered significant challenges. Their initial production was weak, barely reaching one ton per year. Furthermore, traditional harvesting and drying methods caused a staggering %60 loss of their crop. The surviving coffee was sold as an ordinary commercial product at very low prices, leaving farmers unable to reach profitable markets.

Recognizing their potential, the SMEPS ‹MARKETS› project stepped in to support the Al-Sahi Association. The intervention provided essential assets, including 70 modern drying beds, a community water tank to resolve irrigation issues, and a solar energy system. More importantly, the project invested in their education by sending the association's core staff on a specialized training trip to Kenya. There, they learned the entire coffee lifecycle, from modern planting and fermentation to professional roasting and tasting.



When they returned, they shared this knowledge with 90 local farmers. The impact was immediate. The community planted 3,100 new coffee seedlings and increased their production by %50. Thanks to better post-harvest practices, crop waste dropped dramatically from %60 to just %25. Most impressively, their product was upgraded to an +85 «Specialty Coffee» rating, breaking their market isolation and allowing the farmers to confidently negotiate direct deals in competitive markets.

Capacity Building Projects



13 | Technical and Vocational Training (UNIDO)

$139,920
Project Value

April 2021 - January 2024
Implemention Period

2
Targeted Governorates

Donor JICA

Partner UNIDO — UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

location Sana'a & Aden

sector Solar & Fish

Project Brief

The project aims to empower and build the capacities of young people in the aspects of vocational training for the beneficiaries to reach the economic empowerment of youth within the local communities and the displaced affected by the Corona pandemic through capacity-building programs in entrepreneurship (MFB), and capacity-building programs in the vocational aspects in the maintenance of solar energy, maintenance of boats, marine engines, and fishing nets for a number of beneficiaries in the intervention areas (Sana'a – Aden).

Beneficiaries:

140
MSMEs

14 MSMEs Development in Technology (MDT Project)

€593,026.28
Project Value

September 2022 - February 2024
Implemention Period

3
Targeted Governorates

Donor & Partner

german cooperation
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

location Sana'a, Aden, Hadramout

sector Solar, IT and Women

Project Brief

The project aims to enhance the competitiveness, resilience, and growth of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) by supporting businesses in the Information Technology (IT), Solar Energy, and Women-led Enterprise sectors. Through specialized capacity building, technical assistance, and business grants, the project strengthens enterprise performance, increases sales, creates employment opportunities, expands market access, and promotes sustainable economic growth.

Beneficiaries:

98
MSMEs

25
Business Advisors

15 Vocational and Business Skills Training Project – Phase 1 & 2

$5,299,762
Project Value

March 2021 -October 2024
Implemention Period

14
Targeted Governorates

Donor

Partner

location
Hadramout, Lahj, Taiz, Al-Dhalee, Al-Maharah, Marib, Aden, Shabwah, Abyan, Sanaa, Dhamar, Amanat Alasemah, Ibb

sector
Food processing, Solar, Textile & handloom and Maintenance

Project Brief

The project aims to strengthen the resilience of youth to overcome shocks and enable them to move towards alternative livelihoods to conflict & improved human capacity hence improving their access to basic and vital services. This follows the project theory of change which assumes that if livelihoods are improved through improving youth skills, capital, incomes, production and productivity, targeted communities in rural areas will be more resilient and will be able to effectively cope with the current unemployment, food insecurity, health, nutrition and poverty.

Beneficiaries:

910	762	530	378
Food processing	Textile & handloom	Maintenance	Solar

16 | Supporting Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security in Yemen

$290,826
Project Value

September 2021 - February 2022
Implemention Period

3
Targeted Governorates

Donor ILO

location Abyan, Taiz and Lahj

sector Different Sectors

Project Brief

This project was developed with ILO to support women-affected communities by building their capacities on Entrepreneurship, where they can be economically and financially resilient hence increasing their economic opportunities to start-up their own businesses. The project aims to empower women in decision making, strengthen women's voice in their households and communities, aid in creating new job opportunities, improve the quality of existing jobs, improve quality of locally produced products and services hence improving the standard of living for benefiting households and communities.

Beneficiaries:

578
rural women and cooperatives

17 | Sustainable Business Livelihood Project

$19,457
Project Value

September - November 2021
Implemention Period

1
Targeted Governorates

Donor MERCY CORPS

location Aden

sector Different Sectors

Project Brief

This project seeks to build existing businesses technical capacities on business continuity management and entrepreneurship "My First Business". Thus, improves business owner›s capacities to manage their projects, control the financial aspects, assess the risks and determine their business priority articulated in a Business Continuity Plan (BCP). The SMEs will also receive consultancy services by the certified business advisors to help them design their plans and submit them for Mercy Corps to receive the grants from Mercy Corps.

Beneficiaries:

83
SMEs received skills development

18 Business Resilience Assistance for Value-adding Enterprises for Women "BRAVE WOMEN"

$8,194,957
Project Value

April 2019 - April 2022
Implemention Period

5
Targeted Governorates

Donors

we-fi WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS FINANCE INITIATIVE

IsDB Islamic Development Bank

location Sana'a, Aden, Hadramout, Ibb, Taiz

sector Food, Health, Garment, Education, Services, Industrial

Project Brief

BRAVE WOMEN was designed to scale up the success of the first two phases of the BRAVE project and the data collected which showed that women businesses were growing. The project came with the aim to strengthen the resilience, growth, and sustainability of women-owned and women-managed Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in fragile and conflict-affected settings. Through business resilience training, technical advisory services, matching grants, and market linkages, the project enhances business continuity, improves access to finance, promotes job creation, and empowers women entrepreneurs to expand their businesses and contribute to inclusive economic development.

Beneficiaries:

587
Women MSMEs

19 | Yemen Emergency Lifeline Connectivity Project (YELCP)

Training

$ 477,779
Project Value

November 2022 - August 2025
Implemention Period

10
Targeted Governorates

Donor THE WORLD BANK IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

Partner UNOPS

location Abyan, Al Bayda', Amran, Dhamar, Hadramout, Ibb, Lahj, Sa'ada, Shabwah, Taiz

sector Construction

Project Brief

The project aims to strengthen and formalize micro-enterprises (MEs), particularly women-led businesses, enabling them to participate competitively in labour-intensive rural and village road maintenance under this project. Through business development services, technical and managerial training, business formalization, contract management, and occupational safety and environmental compliance, the project enhances enterprise competitiveness, creates sustainable employment opportunities, and supports inclusive local economic development.

Beneficiaries:

44
MSMEs

20 Youth Employment Through Heritage and Culture in Yemen- Phase 1, 2, 3, 4

$1,764,465
Project Value

October 2020 - September 2026
Implemention Period

6
Targeted Governorates

Donor Funded by the European Union

Partner unesco منظمة الأمم المتحدة للتربية والعلم والثقافة

location Aden, Hadramout, Taiz, and Socotra, Al-Hudaydah, Sana'a

sector Creative industries (Art, Storytelling, Poetry, Film-making, Manuscripts, Handicrafts & Architecture)

Project Brief

The project aims to enhance livelihood opportunities for urban youth by revitalizing Yemen›s Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI) and restoring cultural heritage as a driver of economic recovery, social cohesion, and peacebuilding. Through the rehabilitation of historic cities, support for cultural entrepreneurship, and capacity building for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and creative enterprises, the project strengthens institutional capacities, preserves traditional skills, and creates sustainable employment opportunities. The intervention combines Cash-for-Work, organizational development, technical training, business development services, and small grants to empower vulnerable youth, particularly women and promote the growth and sustainability of the cultural and creative economy.

Beneficiaries:

220
CSOs and SMEs

success story

Elaa'n's Turning Point:

From Mobile Midwife to Clinic Owner



Elaa’n, a dedicated midwife in Lahj, has always been passionate about maternal health. However, her early career was remarkably challenging. Operating with nothing but a mobile midwifery bag, she faced severe financial constraints, earning an average of just 100,000 YER a month. Although she wanted to provide better care for her community, she lacked the resources and a proper facility to do so.

Her turning point came when she was selected for a targeted support project. Elaa›n received comprehensive training in business management and advanced midwifery techniques. Alongside these crucial skills, she was awarded a 3,000$ financial grant. Using this support, she transformed a floor of her own home into a modern, fully equipped clinic, obtaining the needed infrastructure to commence her operation.

The results were truly remarkable. Her patient volume tripled, allowing her to serve 30 patients daily and increasing her monthly deliveries from 10 to 20. Consequently, her monthly income increased by %1,300 to reach 1,300,000 YER. Furthermore, her success significantly benefited the wider community. She became a local employer, hiring six health workers and a cleaner, and she successfully partnered with a dentist and a lab specialist to introduce diverse new medical services to the area. Now Elaa’n is an empowered woman who works to generate her income, in which he has become a valuable asset in society.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS



64%Reduction in

- Average reduction in excess or waste produced (From 7.7% to 2.7%)
- Average reduction in fuel and oil consumption
- Average reduction in CO_2 emissions through the use of renewable energy (From 2,363 to1,046 kg/year)
- Average reduction in the prevalence of diseases among livestock (From 70.9% to 31.4%)
- Average reduction in newborn livestock mortality rate (From 20% to 13%)
- Average reduction in water used for irrigation (From 2,321.4 to1,056.8 m^3/0.25 hectare/year)
- Average reduction in groundwater stress (SDG Indicator 6.4.2)
- Average reduction in pesticide used



LINKS TO FURTHER READINGS

Annual Reports

Write-ups/Articles

Videos

2021- 2025



@SMEPSYEMEN

smeps.org.ye