



وكالة تنمية المنشآت
الصغيرة و الأصغر
Small & Micro Enterprise
Promotion Service



Private Health Care Providers in Yemen

The Life Support Machine to the Health Care System

Overview

In Yemen, the modern, conventional health system dates back to the last quarter of the 19th century. However, health in Yemen has always been undermined by the government even after unification of the country in the mid-1990s. The world bank group report on Yemen Economic Overview (2019) shows that from 2001 to 2014, only 5% of the government's revenues was allocated to the health sector. Hence, during the conflict in 2015, public health care nearly collapsed. The recent Humanitarian Needs Overview of 2019 shows that only 51% of public health facilities are functional despite the heavy efforts from donors and international organization that goes to support this sector. Yemen health cluster bulletin of May 2019, shows that a total of 2,868 public health facilities in 17 governorates are supported by humanitarian organizations yet 19.7 million people remain in need of health care (HNO, 2019).

This increasing figure shows an 'aid disconnect' in the health sector where the Ministry of health data shows that 75%, if not more, of the Yemeni population collect their health care from private health care providers including micro and small clinics. The role of private health care in Yemen remains vital where in Sana'a alone, there are more than 90 private health facilities compared to 8 public hospitals. In addition, the spread of COVID19 and other epidemics continue to challenge the health sector. Official reports show that there are 128 confirmed cases and 28 deaths. However, there is a high chance that the figures are much higher considering the shortage in testing facilities and kits in all the Yemeni cities. In addition, Aden has been declared an 'infested' city with rising deaths from several diseases including Malaria and Chikungunya, hence a collective effort of supporting all health care providers; both public and private is necessary.



Private Health Care Support - SMEPS

The Small and Micro Enterprise Promotion Service (SMEPS) was one of the first agencies to respond to the crisis in Yemen supporting the resilience and continuity of vital sectors including the private health care in an effort to compliment the ongoing humanitarian efforts geared towards the public sector. The idea was to support the health sector value chain, making the response sustainable, and focusing on those chains that have the most impact. This support was designed to reflect on lessons learnt from the conflict of 2015, where there was shortage in medical items and supplies to care for those injured. SMEPS therefore focused on supporting hospitals, specialized clinics, laboratories, pharmacies, midwives, dentists and most importantly, local manufacturers and producers of medical items such as pharmaceutical companies, hygiene produces & oxygen plants. The support included technical support in business continuity and financial grants in the form of matching grants and through financial service providers to lift the financial sector from liquidity problems and to ensure there is sustainability for the supported enterprises.

So far, SMEPS, in the health sector has supported:

- 645 SMEs with business continuity training, consultancy support and matching grants to continue & expand their operations.
- 230 community midwives through strengthening the humanitarian-development nexus by providing them with business continuity & entrepreneurship training, integrated health and nutrition training & financial grants to open and equip their small clinics.
- 28 lead firms with business continuity training, consultancy support and matching grants to expand production through adding improved specialized devices, new production lines and technological equipment to advance their operations. Supported lead firms include:
 - **Oxygen production plants** in Aden and Hadramout who increased their asset base to procure 1,600 cylinders from outside the country, hence covering the needs, at the time, of most hospitals in areas around Aden and Hadramout.
 - **Pharmaceutical & antiseptics manufacturers:** This sector has a direct impact on saving lives, especially for those people with chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, mental illness etc. In addition, hygiene materials are essential in combating epidemics such as the cholera, diphtheria & now COVID19. SMEPS supported two large pharmaceuticals and five manufacturers of hygiene items. Support in this sector is still ongoing where 10 lead firms will be receiving additional support to increase production of vital items to combat COVID19.

- **Dental laboratories:** These were supported to procure vital equipment that changed the way dental care is provided through bringing in new equipment in the dental industry hence providing patients with modern surgical procedures for patients with jaw deformities and other serious diseases.

Coordination with Yemen Private Sector Cluster (YPSC)

In 2018, SMEPS and the World Bank worked on reviving the bank's initiative of Bringing Businesses Back (BBB). The initiative aims at easing the business enabling environment through tackling bottlenecks that affect the functions of businesses in Yemen. This was to be achieved through formulating a network of representative bodies of the private sector who represent thousands of enterprises and to ensure the network will be made up of decision makers. The network was launched in early 2019 under the title 'Yemen Private Sector Cluster.' The main aim of the cluster is to advocate for macro-level issues affecting the private sector to support the continuity of businesses in Yemen. These include issues related to economic decision and policy making, humanitarian-development efforts and reconstruction & recovery efforts. Being a private sector development agency & working in supporting the resilience of business in Yemen, SMEPS role in the formulation of the cluster was significant and currently, SMEPS has a dedicated team running the cluster's operations as a secretariat. SMEPS continues to work closely in supporting the YPSC to advocate for critical issues and in the clusters' ongoing efforts to support the country combat COVID19.

COVID19 Preparedness & Response

1. YPSC Response

One of the biggest private sector entities in Yemen, HSA - (Hayel Saeed Group) launched an initiative under 'The international initiative to overcome COVID-19 in Yemen'. This initiative was launched as a private sector initiative to compliment the efforts of local authorities and international partners in having a preparedness and response plan to overcome the spread of COVID-19. The purpose of the initiative is to have collaborative efforts in supporting the procurement of essential medical supplies, support the ongoing efforts in preparedness and response and support other private sector initiatives such as investments in clinical and scientific resources and communication. Main challenges in achieving the set goals were those related to importing these supplies to the country and other raw materials by the private sector needed to produce hygiene materials and other medical supplies.

Therefore, HSA group and YPSC members coordinated with WHO and WFP in April, 2020 to discuss the possible logistic support of WHO in importing these equipment's for the health authorities in Yemen. WHO welcomed the positive initiative and agreed to collaborate and facilitate the equipment's access through UNHAS flights and UN Cargo shipment. So far, three shipments with medical items & equipment from the initiative have arrived.

In addition, private sector continues to collectively work to support:

- Stranded Yemenis in bordering countries with cash relief
- Provide cash relief to families affected by floods
- Support health facilities with masks and PPE suits
- Distribute food and medicine to families in need

Total allocated funds from private sector for these efforts - \$60 million.

2. SMEPS Response:

SMEPS took an early initiative to prepare & respond to the threats of COVID19 in consultation with the private sector. The plan was developed when the first COVID19 case was reported in Jordan & actions taken by the government to close the main ports. The following steps were taken by the agency to respond to both rural households and support businesses survive COVID19:

- **Rural Household Awareness Campaign on COVID19 & other communicable diseases:** Targeting small holder producers of local food to increase production which include farmers, fishers and livestock breeders. So far, 70,000 individuals in rural areas have received awareness and hygiene items.
- **Support to community midwives** in hard to reach areas with needed training to combat COVID19 in their areas. To date, 302 midwives and community health workers have received training, hygiene materials & personal protective equipment to support their efforts.
- **Mapping of vital local producers and manufactures of medical items & identifying pressing needs to increase production:** SMEPS held a consultation meeting with local producers of hygiene materials and a list of needed items needing waivers for imports and/or logistical support in importing was raised and shared with the UNDP, WB and SE office for support.
- **Mapping of large-scale producers of personal protective equipment and masks.**
- **Identifying pressing needs within oxygen producers** who need an increase in the oxygen cylinders to be procured from outside the country – **table below shows the production capacity & gaps of vital sectors.**
- **Training of health workers:** 535 health workers in 126 private hospitals in Sana'a, Aden & Hadramout trained on case identification & management of COVID19. In addition, SMEPS is working on the production of a series of online training videos on case identification & management of COVID -19 for health workers.



COVID19 Preparedness & Response

NO#	Name of company	Governorates	Sub-sector	Quantity of production per day	Production capacity	Need
1	Saba Pharma	Sanaa	Paracetamol & Vitamin C & E	3 million capsules	Have 3 production lines, but are currently using only 1 production line. Capacity can be increased to produce 2-3 times more if materials are available.	Raw materials – see list attached.
			Sanitizers	30,000 – 125 & 500ml bottles		
2	Yemeni Egyptian Pharmaceutical company	Sanaa	Paracetamol	20,000 – small packets	40,000 packets per day	Raw materials – see list attached
			Sanitizers	100 – 5L bottles	Can double/triple number	
3	Al-Salehi plant for oxygen cylinders ¹	Aden	Oxygen cylinders	500 cylinders	Can increase production if they had an increase in the cylinders	Cylinders that need to be imported
4	Al-Mahar oxygen plant	Hadramout	Oxygen cylinders	100 cylinders	Can increase production if they had an increase in the cylinders	Cylinders that need to be imported
5	Shajarat Al-Gharib	Sanaa	Masks	10,000	20,000 per day	Increase workers
			PPE Suites	None	5,000 – 7,000 per day.	Raw material – fabric

NO#	Name of company	Governorates	Sub-sector	Quantity of production per day	Production capacity	Need
6	Al-Amal	Sanaa	PPE suites	5,000	8,000	Increase workers
7	Freesia	Sanaa	Sanitizers	10,000 – 125ml bottles	15,000 – 125 m per sensitizer	Raw material – attached list Increase workers
			Soaps	10,000	15,000	
8	Ibn Al-Khadroj	Aden	Sanitizers	960 – 500ml bottles	Can double the amount if raw materials are available	Raw materials – list attached
9	Golden Lab	Sanaa	Sanitizers	1,000 – 125/ 500 ml bottles	Can double the amount if raw materials are available	Raw materials – list attached
			Soap	1,000		
10	Al-Noor industry	Aden	Sanitizers	960 - 125/ 500 ml bottles	Can double the amount if raw materials are available	Raw materials – list attached

Attachment: List of raw materials raised by local manufacturers and producers.

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