Yemen Social Fund for Development

Linking Humanitarian Assistance and Social Protection Systems

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Impact of War

- 22 millions out of 29.3 m Yemenis in need of assistance, 11 m in acute need
- 18 m food insecure, 8.4 m at risk of famine
- (400,000 children facing SAM) & 3 m IDPS/returnees
- 16 million lack access to water/sanitation
- >1 m Cholera suspected cases & 55% of health facilities are not working
- >1,600 affected schools are unfit and 2 million children are out of school
- 1.2 million civil servants not receiving salaries and private business are reduced/closed

Source: 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan, UN-OCHA, January 2018
International Humanitarian Programs

2018 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan

– Requires $3 b targeting 13 m people
– 67 life saving & protection activities
– 10 humanitarian & livelihood activities including demining

• Actors: 8 UN, 36 INGOs, 109 NNGOs
• Humanitarian aid is externally funded & actors are dependent on local implementers.

SFD funding: $200m
Brief Introduction to SFD

• Established in 1997 to contribute to poverty reduction and reinforce Yemen social safety net.

• SFD has been offering multi-sectoral demand-driven activities through four programs: (i) Community and Local Development, (ii) Small & Microenterprises, (ii) Capacity Building and, (iv) Labour Intensive Cash for Work.

• SFD, is the only large Social Protection & development player that continued during the conflict (History of neutrality and impact)

• SFD capacities to respond to the shocks have been developed since the global food crisis in 2008. E.g. Labour Intensive Works activities have a social protection-sensitive design; can be scaled up and down in response to the shock

*Social Welfare Fund had suspended the cash assistance since 2014, even before the war
SFD putting Humanitarian-Social Protection Linkages in Action

Cash based interventions:

• **Cash for Work**: immediate wages to meet basic needs, building skills & create assets for recovery & resilience

• **Cash for Social Services**: Creating employment for youth while supporting basic services in nutrition, education and community mobilization

• **Cash on nutrition**: transfers to most impoverished mothers, youth community educators and referred cases

• **Grants and knowledge to SMES recovery** as being the largest existing source of livelihood

• **Supporting SMES, small farmers & fishers** to enhance resilience & regrow capital
Supporting humanitarian organizations to deliver aid:
- Humanitarian partners utilizing community structures organized/built by SFD
- SFD’s supported access roads, health facilities and schools are being used by humanitarian partners to deliver aid
- SFD built local capacities of hundreds of rural development advocators who are supporting humanitarian partners in needs assessment, evaluations, monitoring, beneficiary verifications, etc

SFD’s targeting approach shifted from poverty to conflict related indicators collected by UN actors including:
- Population movement: IDPs/returnees
- People in dire needs
- Food insecurity

Increasing demands on humanitarian aid services:
- SFD community based nutrition activities increase the demand on UNICEF services.
Solutions to work in conflict setting

**Cash delivery**
- Reaching 80% of the beneficiaries through financial service providers FSPs offering financial education leading more beneficiaries to open saving accounts.

**Mobile banking**
- Advocated for a relevant law and encouraged the private sector to use it;
- May overcome liquidity and access challenges during conflict;
- The two SFD-supported microfinance banks are the first to initiate the service;
- SFD targets to reach 10% of the beneficiaries through MB in 2018;
- Currently the number of users nationwide are: 520,000

**Remote monitoring**
- SFD increasingly relying on mobile telecommunication technology to collect and send reliable data and pictures from the field for M&E purposes.
- Offer the opportunity to communicate with beneficiaries from a distance.
Cash for Work: building resilience

• Established in 2008 to respond to the global food crisis.

• Designed to scale up and down in response to needs

• Increased resilience by providing short-term income, skills, and productive assets

• Core activities include agricultural land rehabilitation; rainwater harvesting, paving roads, etc.

• Outcome since 2009: ~ 260,000 HHs received up to $500 each in exchange of work.
Cash for Work: Emergency-Resilience Linkages

- We found that when the transfer reached $500 for a household, people not only improved their food intake and repaid their debts but also started to invest in productive assets: tools, livestock..etc..

- Economic necessities override cultural barriers to women participation in the CfW.

- CfW Improves social solidarity as it brings the community around a common good

- CfW Participants prefer to work rather than to receive handouts it preserves dignity and give them choices in how to spend for their needs.

- Designed to suit various capacities: e.g. women preferred to work closer to home, in specific time and in a group.

- As large humanitarian agencies target only IDPs in collective centres, CfW is complementing their work by targeting them in host communities
Cash for nutrition: saving lives and building resilience

Employing young women as community educators

Critical life-saving services for vulnerable women and children under 5

- Monthly health education sessions for cash assistance for twelve months.
- Provide transportation cost and accommodation fees for cases admitted for treatment

As of December 2017:
- 64,059 mothers and children received services
- 13,380 mothers received cash assistance
- 1995 young persons received wages: ~$1000 over 12 months

- Access to treatment supported by UN agencies
- Improve knowledge and practices
- Diversified food intake
- Increasing youth trust and engagement in the community

8 March 2018
Creating sustainable jobs at time of conflict: enhancing resilience

MFIs are supported with grants to:
- Recover and serve ~100,000 clients
- Support 4000 SMES to re-build their capital

Farmers & fishers resilience is supported with grants & knowledge to recover and regrow:
- 26000 farm job opportunities created
- 167% Farm production grown & 20 tons of food produced/day
- food security.

SMES are the largest existing source of livelihood

8 March 2018
Since 2007, 5,000 Village Cooperative Councils (VCCs) created to lead communities and represent them at Local Authorities at district level.

Since 2015, 7803 initiatives completed in 2300 villages.
880 village projects supported with 50% of SFD funding.

348 VCCs volunteered in implementing 1,121 humanitarian activities for WFP, UNICEF, Save the Children, UNDP, Vision Hope, Oxfam, Al-Tanwir, Care International among others. E.g. distribution of food baskets.
Lessons Learnt

- The current context of Yemen is rapidly changing and unpredictable, it requires donors to be flexible in their conditionality to allow increased spending and rapid response.

- Connect conflict affected persons with development programs to strengthen their capacities and resilience

- Supporting, when possible, local & community structures as an instrument to support humanitarian actions and improve its access.

- Keep an eye on vulnerability, gender and development: the country needs more than just handout and let think also of SDGs

- Given the UN-led 2016 World Humanitarian Summit’s call for players to bridge between development and humanitarian action in order to effectively improve the situation of the conflict affected, SFD is the largest opportunity for donors to achieve sustainable results in Yemen.
Thanks a lot SFD.
Yemen Social Fund for Development

Value added in Resilience, Social Protection and Humanitarian Response

19-22 February