Economic Empowerment and Improving Livelihoods

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The current war in Yemen for four years now made hundreds of thousands of Yemenis lose their jobs, both in the public sector with salaries suspended for two and a half years successively, or the private sector, on which the war has had an unfavorable direct effect. This prompted many companies and firms to discharge many employees, as austerity measures taken to shun the burdens of war.
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About 2000 poor families benefit from food aid in Tihama and Wusab

Emergency relief for displaced and conflict-affected families

Range of essential medicines offered for al-Wahat Hospital, Lahj Governorate

Relief programs implemented for Yemeni refugees and needy locals in Djibouti

SADEK Defies Disability and Builds A Family
CSSW and YHF
Give Hope to Displaced People in Marib Governorate
For years, the ongoing war in Yemen has displaced waves of people to Marib, the lightly populated governorate lying 175 km east of Sana’a. The Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW), a Yemeni NGO devoted to improving the lives of internally displaced people, has seen its role in Marib change in recent years: initially seeking to protect the vast numbers of IDPs in the governorate, CSSW recently partnered with OCHA and the Yemen Humanitarian Pooled Fund to develop long-term programs supporting Marib’s IDP population.

Marib’s native-born population is roughly 350,000; the IOM estimated in 2018 that 895,000 IDPs had joined them, creating immense challenges for the overall population, the governorate’s administration, and NGOs like CSSW.

In such an environment, IDPs take nothing for granted; in some cases, only a carefully managed, large-scale humanitarian effort can restore some of the basic necessities IDPs have left behind. In a scene replayed daily in Marib, a displaced man recently credited CSSW with an important step back to normality. “Thanks to everyone who contributed to my daughters’ return to school and saved them from loss and ignorance,” he said as he watched his three daughters returning to school in their new uniforms after a difficult displacement journey from Hodeidah to Marib.

Other IDPs come from Marib governorate itself. Fatima, for example, was displaced from her home in Sirwah district as a result of the ongoing conflict in the outskirts of the district, specifically in the al-Rawdah area.

Fatima is an elderly single woman who suffers several chronic diseases and the effects of a recent stroke, and cannot afford necessary treatment for her conditions. A team from the Community Center for IDPs in Marib visited the neighborhood where Fatima lives. In turn, the team studied her status and tracked her case. Fatima now receives regular medical care and cash assistance, and a new tent has replaced her dilapidated one.

As the war grinds on, the displacement continues. Mitigating the human consequences of war is one of CSSW’s key goals. The Protection Project 2018, funded by YHPF and implemented by CSSW in four
districts across Marib, was established to shield displaced persons from the worst humanitarian crises they faced.

**Overview and assessment**

With support from YHPF, CSSW developed the 2018 Protection Project, which targeted four districts in Marib (Sirwah, Marib al-Wadi, Madghal, and the city of Marib). These districts were selected for their large numbers of displaced people and the harsh conditions in which they continued to live.

The project aimed to provide an integrated response to the direst challenges facing IDPs, offering basic life-saving assistance such as food and shelter. It also provided protection services to vulnerable individuals, such as monitoring services, psychosocial and legal support, cash assistance, and referral of critical cases to more specialized agencies.

The program included a significant focus on the unique challenges facing female IDPs, providing psychosocial support for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), establishing safe spaces for women and girls, as managing cases of conflict-affected children and disbursing cash assistance to their mothers. These gender-influenced services were enhanced by support for community-protection networks and case-management sessions.

CSSW’s programs and projects are implemented according to well-considered methodology that produces an effective and efficient conduit between donors and beneficiaries. The program’s first step was an assessment phase built around field studies conducted by teams of qualified researchers.

The results of this assessment showed that 41,240 people affected by the conflict were monitored as likely victims of human rights violations and protection challenges. IDPs represented 21,286 cases and children 11,696 cases.

7,476 families were assessed, comprising 41,029 family members. Households’ needs varied, the most common being monetary aid, medical assistance,
food relief and prevention of malnourishment, provision of shelter, water and sanitation, and child-protection services.

**The service phase**

With the assessment phase providing a detailed roadmap, the service phase could begin.

The Project also aimed to provide protection and shelter assistances and services in the form of an integrated response to IDPs and conflict-affected population to fill in the humanitarian gaps.

The most immediate and effective form of relief to IDPs is often cash assistance. 25,460,270 YER of emergency cash assistance was disbursed during the project period, benefiting 320 individuals.

120 families in Sirwah district received immediate emergency shelter, and another 3,000 in Sirwah, Marib city, and Madghal district received winterization services and non-food items. 5,491 women and girls accessed safe spaces created by the program.

100 children were directly supported by the project, receiving 172,162,150 YER in assistance, mostly in the form of case management and direct child-protective services addressing serious issues such as child labor and denial of education.

17,554 individuals benefited directly from psychological counseling and psychosocial support sessions. These services are central to any relief plan: the majority of IDPs suffer from psychological trauma directly related to their displacement, whether because of experiences with the ongoing war or from the pressures they face following their displacement. Effective psychological counseling allows other forms of relief to convey their full intended benefits.

Community workers made roughly 1,250 visits to the homes of IDPs. Based on their findings, 4,473 cases of legal support and counseling were opened on issues of protection, violations of Yemeni and international law, and advice on specific legal issues.

204 community-awareness
sessions benefited 6,662 individuals. These programs addressed various topics of crucial importance to IDPs, including children’s rights, women’s rights, human rights, disease prevention, conflict resolution, self-protection, the importance of education and volunteering, and so on.

The program placed special emphasis on supporting and developing community-protection networks. 80 training courses were conducted, benefiting 1,250 individuals.

A similar but separate program of community-awareness sessions, developed and presented by members of community-protection networks, produced 73 sessions benefiting 1,543 individuals.

Along with these direct forms of aid and service, around 15,700 individuals benefited from referrals to CSSW’s partner NGOs working in Marib.

The project’s initial goal was to serve 97,833 persons. By the end of 2018, it had reached 136,061 IDPs, representing a completion rate of 139%. This dramatic increase was made possible by CSSW’s remarkable ability to efficiently adjust its support programs in response to local and individual needs.

Challenges and recommendations
The 2018 Protection Project has had a significant impact on Marib’s IDPs. The expressions of gratitude mentioned earlier in this article are repeated every day as IDPs thank CSSW and OCHA for their assistance.

Any project of this scale and ambition encounters some obstacles. Geography is chief among them: Marib contains large stretches of mountainous and desert regions, and some IDPs live in quite remote areas. Marib’s diverse cultural environment and the continued influx of IDPs can also slow the delivery of humanitarian services, and the lack of new displacement camps means that aid workers must often travel to IDPs in scattered locations, rather than offering centralized services.

Challenges also include the
difficulty of reaching Marib in the first place, along with a lack of services and infrastructure in the governorate. Many camps lack basic services such as electricity, water, and sanitation, and others enjoy those services only sporadically. The governorate’s underdeveloped health and education infrastructure are sometimes overwhelmed by influxes of IDPs: the education system in particular is finding it difficult to accommodate large numbers of new students. Psychological services are difficult to come by in Marib, preventing many IDPs from effectively managing the emotional trauma surrounding their displacement.

It is worth noting that the humanitarian field has its bad actors. IDPs who have had negative experience with NGOs (or with people posing as representatives of humanitarian agencies) are naturally reluctant to cooperate with humanitarian workers again. CSSW noticed this dynamic in the earliest phase of the project, when some IDPs reacted negatively to the field teams administering the initial survey.

Exchange-rate fluctuations, rising food prices, and the Riyal’s diminishing purchasing power also complicated matters. Above all, the continually rising number of IDPs makes it difficult for even the most experienced and diligent NGO to plan ahead with perfect accuracy.

The Protection Project 2018’s final report presents a number of recommendations. These include a governorate-wide focus on the gaps in its infrastructure, followed by a sustained commitment to addressing essential challenges such as food security, malnutrition, shelter, education, water, and sanitation. A more effective and sustained improvement of these conditions for all residents of Marib will make it all the easier to address the specific challenges faced by its IDPs.

The report also recommends working formally with projects that provide reliable livelihoods for IDPs, helping them achieve a degree of self-sufficiency. In addition, it is absolutely crucial that humanitarian partners coordinate among themselves to avoid duplication of services and to distribute aid fairly and efficiently in targeted areas.
Last November, CSSW, in cooperation with the al-Ummah Association carried out an emergency relief campaign for the conflict-affected poor and displaced families. The relief campaign which distributed food baskets consisting of wheat, rice, sugar, oil and pulses benefited 2058 families affected by starvation in the Tihama regions which include Wusab alSafel districts of Jarban, al-Dasher and Bani Sawada, where the poor people there experience famine, higher poverty rates, increasing humanitarian needs, rising temperatures and continuous power outage.

The campaign-offered food alleviated the distress of the beneficiary families and helped them overcome the difficulties they experience in acquiring the essential living requirements.
Emergency relief for displaced and conflict-affected families

CSSW Wusab Office, in partnership with the Turkish Al-Fateh Foundation, implemented an urgent relief campaign for displaced and affected families in the two districts of Wusab. The campaign’s aid included flour, rice, sugar, oil, pulses and sauces, benefiting 370 displaced and affected families. The campaign-offered food-stuffs contributed to alleviating the suffering of beneficiary families and helped them overcome the difficulties they experience in providing basic living necessities.

Sewing machines distribution for orphan families in Wusab

CSSW Wusab Office distributed five sewing machines with solar-powered accessories over the families of orphans. A reliable source of information said that the project is part of the community development programs to fight poverty, improve orphan families income and help reach the self-sufficiency level.
CSSW Marib Branch, in cooperation with Deniz Feneri organization of Turkey, distributed food baskets consisting of flour, rice, sugar, pulses and oil to 200 IDP families. The branch also distributed shelter materials and water tanks to 22 displaced and affected families in Alsayelah Camp in partnership with the Turkish IHH organization. The distributed materials alleviated the beneficiary families-experienced distress and helped them overcome the difficulties they face in finding essential requirements for living conditions.
CSSW, in partnership with WIFA Organization of Germany, distributed food baskets to 200 poor and badly affected families in the Capital Sana’a. Each family received a food package consisting of flour, rice, sugar, oil and legumes. The distributed materials contributed to alleviate the suffering and beneficiary families to overcome the difficulties they face in providing the essential requirements for their living.

In cooperation with the Turkish IHH organization, CSSW Sana’a Branch distributed food baskets consisting of flour, rice, sugar, pulses and oil, benefiting 1,000 displaced families in al-Khaneq camp. In addition, CSSW Sana’a Branch, with Deniz Feneri, distributed food items to displaced people in al-Mil camp. The distributed items alleviated the suffering of the beneficiary families and helped them overcome the difficulties they face in finding essential requirements for living.
CSSW Lahj Branch offered a package of essential medicines free gratis to al-Wahat Hospital, Tuban district to help the poor who cannot afford to buy such medicines. Dr. Arwa al-Saqqaf, Director of Al-Wahat Hospital, expressed her gratitude and appreciation for CSSW efforts in the field of health and the provision of therapeutic treatment in Yemen.

150 children benefited Medical surgical camp for removal of children tonsils in Sana’a

In partnership with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, CSSW managed a medical surgical camp to remove tonsils from the poor families children. The Camp witnessed 150 operations performed to remove the inflamed tonsillitis in children and provide post-operative treatment.
The second phase of medical clinic operation launched in al-Khaneq Camp

CSSW Sana’a Branch, in partnership with IHH of Turkey organization, launched the second phase of the medical clinic operation in al-Khaneq Camp for the displaced persons. A source of the branch said that the clinic consists of a specialized medical staff to render services to the displaced people. Such services include inspection, testing and free treatments for patients. This occurs within the Branch efforts in cooperation with the Turkish IHH relief agency to alleviate the suffering of citizens affected by the distress, noting that the clinic daily admits more than 100 displaced persons in the camp.

Inauguration of a manual well in Wusab

CSSW Wusab Office Launched a 30-meter-deep manual borehole. The project included the well drilling, construction of a concrete reservoir, and water pump installation. The well supplied water to 550 beneficiary families in the region.
SSW Djibouti office, in partnership with the Malaysian Relief for Life of and the Australian AusRelief, implemented a number of relief programs for Yemeni refugees and needy families among the Djiboutian community. The relief campaign included distribution of school bag to Yemeni refugee students in the capital city of Djibouti benefiting 200 students. The office also distributed food baskets to Yemeni refugees in the Yemeni central refugee camp in Obokh area, benefiting 350 families, while 150 families from the Djiboutian community benefited from the distribution of food baskets.

Meanwhile, the Office carried out a medical campaign, which included medical examinations and a number of surgeries for more than 50 Yemeni refugee cases in Djibouti. It also distributed wheelchairs and crutches to disabled Yemeni refugees in the capital city. A number of (9) economic empowerment programs implemented for Yemeni refugees, including sewing machines with accessories, vending carts, handicrafts, incense and perfumes.

The programs contributed to alleviating the suffering of Yemeni refugees and needy families in the Djiboutian community, as well as bringing happiness and joy to their families and relatives in the country.
Participation in arts and crafts promotion bazaar in Sana’a

CSSW participated in the promotional bazaar for handicrafts held at Taj Saba Hotel within a 16-day campaign to combat violence against women. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Yemen Women’s Union funded the Bazaar.

CSSW participated in the presentation of safe space services project products for the displaced women in Marib and al-Jawf. The products included the manufacture of incense, perfume, henna and livestock breeding.

The project motivated the displaced women to continue carrying out income-generating projects, self-reliance, empower them economically and enhance their role in society.

Training course in professional photography concluded

CSSW recently concluded a training course in professional photography for media professionals at the main center and branches.

The 6-day course contributed to the achievement of 18 trainees and experienced basic skills and knowledge in identifying the types of cameras, lenses, correct modes of photography, editing and processing of images and photographing people using light drawing.

During the course, a field photography was performed, which included photographing the nature, taking the appropriate angles and controlling the factors affecting the
The current war in Yemen for four years now made hundreds of thousands of Yemenis lose their jobs, both in the public sector with salaries suspended for two and a half years successively, or the private sector, on which the war has had an unfavorable direct effect. This prompted many companies and firms to discharge many employees, as austerity measures taken to shun the burdens of war.

The cost of war in the shattered country has not only ruined infrastructure, but also contributed to an unprecedented redundancy. According to international organizations reports, the Yemeni young people are left with idle with no other option except to look for even one-day work to earn their livelihood.
Thousands of companies and factories shutdown in many Yemeni cities since the war began. As a result, 80% of young people lost their jobs, and, according to UN reports, the situation rendered 70% of laborers laid off at the private sector companies. The unemployment rate in 2018 attained about 60%.

With this awkward challenge, economic empowerment plans, including income-generating projects and microenterprises, stand out as an appropriate option to cope with the unemployment experienced by millions of Yemenis who found themselves victims of war coupled with poverty.

**Efforts to confront the implications**

In liaison with various local and international concerned agencies and institutions, CSSW strived to make more efforts to alleviate the misfortune of tens of thousands of Yemeni families in all provinces by offering food support and shelter projects to displaced families. Such support included small, income-generating enterprises to secure stable income sources for these and other poor families in Yemen, both according to need and concern. CSSW-undertaken projects reflect a specific move in supporting and shifting Yemeni families from the needy state to sufficiency and production status. In the current account, we highlight the major achievements of such completed projects.

**Capacities Activation**

By virtue of its field experience over three decades, CSSW felt that the income-generating micro-finance system is the optimum means for the family and the whole society. Instead of going on with financ-
ing the needs of poor house-holds to food, water, housing, drugs, etc., the focus of effort on financing income source for these families, is more benefiting to help them achieve self-reliance. It protects them from humiliation, begging and the concerns of periodic waiting for aid, which may cease any one day. Moreover, it saves the family the trouble of dependency on others, and develops the sense of responsibility and self-reliance. With the largest number of orphans it embraced since it started in Yemen, CSSW sponsors more than 60,000 female and male orphans. It strived to make orphans and other needy families empowered economically. However, this idea came in support of the plan of regular cash assistance CSSW pays to orphan families, and food aid it provides to needy families from time to time. Importance of diversified eco-nomic empowerment projects CSSW Empowerment plans include economic and educational projects, which seek to cover the living requirements of orphans and their families, convert orphans from being sponsored to become sponsors and their needy families to pro-duction condition. The table below reviews the most outstanding completed projects, beneficiaries and locations during 2017 and 2018.

**Conclusion**

CSSW felt that income-generating projects were a recent necessity, and, as such, diversified such projects as commensurate with requirements and interests of needy families and orphans. Accomplishments, in this re-gard, are attributed to nothing but CSSW’s tireless and cease-less efforts to promote inst
The motion disability may be matched by the onset, ambition or talent of the disabled person, so as to outweigh the healthy body people.

In a small room lives Sadek a disabled person displaced from Ibb province to Marib. He was wounded by a random bullet in the spine, leading to hemiplegia and atrophy of the lower extremities. Sadek feels painful Sadness, isolation, depression, sadness, feeling of helplessness and dissatisfaction with self. Disability made him locked in the house, unable to walk, and the movement feels embarrassed to those who sit next to him. He hates the feelings of compassion, as if the worries of the world were over his head. He was a young man in his twenties. Of displaced people who face dire and painful circumstances. after the war forced them to leave their homes and left various disabilities that face the difficulty of life and suffer the pain of suffering.

Propagation of Joy and Optimism As the days pass and Sadik is still at home, he did not leave for several days until the protection team visited the Social Center for Displaced Persons to inspect his condition and find out his needs.

The social worker was surprised by a young man sitting in a wheelchair with four wheels and a slender leg. Telling the deep suffering of a person who deserves a humanitarian attitude and help.

The tender touch of the social center gave Sadiq a cash help that brought back his smile, joy and hope in life and self confidence. It contributed to completing the physiotherapy sessions.

Does disability hinder building a family? People with disabilities have the same emotional needs as the disabled person is thinking about finding a partner to help him in his difficult circumstances. This will relieve the life process and build a family, and the disabled person has the right to have children.

Sadik’s story is not like all other stories. It is exceptional. The social worker encouragement and support played a significant role in Sadek’s practice of his normal life and has been able to build a cohesive family.

Sadik says, “when my condition has improved, I have been connected to my current wife. We are compatible and each of us seeks to please the other and feel acceptable and satisfied. I was very happy to know my wife is pregnant and I kept counting the minutes and seconds to see my child and delight”.

“Thank you for CSSW’s efforts and OCHA’s, which have supported me and now I can continue my life better than before.” added Sadek.
Ramadan is a season of charity, compassion and sympathy among Muslims. It coincides with Yemen’s passing through a major humanitarian crisis, which has affected the lives of Yemenis in general, and poor families and displaced people in particular. The suffering exacerbates by the high prices of foodstuffs and the exploitation of the needs of the population, which foreshadows a humanitarian disaster, and as thus requires an urgent intervention. For the Ramadan season, we are working hard to reach as many people as possible to alleviate the suffering of those who are in a dire need and to save their lives from exploitation.

### Food Basket
For displaced people, poor and affected families, widows and orphans
- **big food basket**
  - Flour 50kg, rice 10kg, sugar 10kg, dates 3kg, beans 24 cans, and cooking oil 1.8 liters.
- **small food basket**
  - Flour 25kg, rice 10kg, sugar 10kg, dates 3kg, and cooking oil 1.8 liters.
- **Beneficiaries**
  - 120,000 families

### Fast Breaking
For passersby, needy people, students, displaced, refugees, etc.
- **Meal components**
  - Rice, sauce of cooked vegetable, dates, bread, meat, fruits, and water
- **No. of tables**
  - 100 tables daily, 100 individuals in each table
- **No. of Beneficiaries**
  - 300,000 individuals

### Eid Clothing and Gifts
For children of poor people, orphans, displaced, disabled, patients and prison inmates.
- **Complete Eid clothing for girls or boys**
- **Cash gift and Eid sweets**
- **No. of clothing beneficiaries**
  - 160,000 children
- **No. of gift beneficiaries**
  - 30,000 children

### Dates and Meat
For displaced people, poor, affected families, widows and orphans.
- **5 kg dates for each family**
- **2 kg meat for each family**
- **No. of dates beneficiaries**
  - 50,000 families
- **No. of meat beneficiaries**
  - 10,000 families

### Cost Breakdown

- $66 big basket
- $43 small basket
- $200 one table
- $2 one meal
- $30 Eid clothing
- $10 Eid gift
- $16 cost for meat
- $10 cost for dates

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