

CLUSTER: PROTECTION

The Need Yemen's civil war has led to upwards of 50,000 children becoming orphans, in addition to 3 million people with disabilities and 3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) who faced acute need in 2020. Globally, orphans, people with disabilities, and IDPs experience higher levels of marginalization and lower quality of life. Their prospects in Yemen are particularly dire, given the country's severe poverty and violence, along with the systemic collapse of social services. The Protection cluster implements projects that empower individuals who are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse; in Yemen, our Protection activities in 2020 centered on orphans, people with disabilities, and IDPs.

Project: Support for Hajjah and al-Mahweet Orphanages

Donor: Private Donations to VHI

Partner: Hajjah and al-Mahweet Orphanages



With the government unable to provide orphanages with any money for essentials, including staff salaries and food, many orphaned children now live on the streets or with relatives who are too poor to care for them. The Hajjah and al-Mahweet Orphanages fell into severe disrepair, and children there with no living relatives to move in with had to leave school so that they could beg for food.

Vision Hope has been supporting the Hajjah Orphanage since 2017 by providing money for salaries and school fees, school supplies, clothing, food, hygiene items, and furniture, in addition to performing much-needed repair work on the building. The children, who had been forced to leave school so that they could beg for food, were able to stop begging and go back to school, and some who had been forced to leave the orphanage were able to return and receive the quality care that every child needs.

The partnership with the orphanage was so successful that in 2018, Vision Hope expanded its orphan outreach to include the al-Mahweet Orphanage, which received similar assistance. In 2020, Vision Hope was able to continue partnering with the orphanages and provide 127 children with enough of their basic needs that they can have a meaningful, dignified childhood.

Project: Professional and Economic Empowerment of People with Disabilities

Donor: Cornerstone Trust

Partner: Amal Channels Association



This groundbreaking project trains heads of household (HHs) with disabilities in vocational skills -- including sewing, cooking, and perfumery -- so that they can earn an income to support themselves and their families. A total of 60 HHs with disabilities, most of them widows, received training in 2020; despite interruptions due to Covid 19, more than 80% of their products were of a high enough quality to sell for a profit.

Additionally, this project provided 10 wheelchairs and 10 sets of hearing aids to 20 individuals who lacked the financial means to procure these life-enhancing devices.

Because people with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to Covid 19, we provided them with enhanced support to help protect them from the virus. 80 families with a member who is disabled received a Covid19 prevention kit, which included much-needed sanitizing items, such as bleach, as well as hygiene items, including a water filter and soap.

■ “Disability Is Not Something On The Outside.”

Samiya, who lives with her widowed mother, experiences a mobility impairment that has made earning an income nearly impossible. Additionally, her father's death left the family without the financial support that she needed in order to attend school for professional training. At 29 years old, she felt that her life was meaningless and that she was a burden, as she had to rely on others to help provide for many of her basic needs.

Everything changed for Samiya when Vision Hope selected her to receive six months of vocational training in sewing. Now, instead of needing other people to give her clothes and money, she sews her own clothes and earns a substantial income by sewing clothes for others. In her words, “Before the sewing course, I felt that my life was aimless, and my dreams had been shattered. Through the course, I realized that disability is not something on the outside, in my body, but something that people project onto me when they do not understand.” When people like Samiya receive the necessary training that they need to support themselves, they become powerful agents of hope for others in the community.





YEMEN

Project: Rapid Response Mechanism
Donor: United Nations Population Fund



“There Are Still Good People In The World.”

The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) provides a kit, containing critical emergency supplies for one week, to IDPs within 72 hours of displacement. RRM is not a long-term solution but rather a life-saving measure for families experiencing sudden and extreme need. Approximately 9,013 families who fled violence and 3,938 families who experienced severe upheaval due to flooding received an RRM kit in 2020.

Heba was a young woman living with her family in Taiz Governorate until fighting in the war destroyed their home and belongings, leaving them destitute and afraid for their lives. Moreover, the violence and devastation that they had experienced made them despair that life could become better and that people would ever care for each other again.

The family fled to al-Mahweet Governorate, where they had no friends or relatives to help them and no money to begin a new life. The host community that received Heba’s family was very gracious and helped them find a small apartment, along with some food and clothing; however, the host community’s resources were already stretched so that, despite the hospitable culture, well-meaning people were unable to provide for the needs of Heba’s family.

Then the RRM team from Vision Hope came to Heba’s apartment and provided an emergency relief kit that contained food and other life-saving essentials. She said, “I did not expect that we would receive any assistance because we were in a new place and not registered anywhere. Vision Hope helped with our most basic needs and showed us that there are still good people in the world.”

