

## RESULTS SUMMARY

### Women, Peace and Security in Yemen

Author: Oxfam Denmark (2024)



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PROJECT	<b>Title:</b>	Yemen humanitarian and resilience programme for vulnerable conflict and disaster affected internally Displaced People (IDPs) and host communities
	<b>Partner:</b>	Sheba Youth Foundation for Development (SYF)
	<b>Country:</b>	Yemen
	<b>Period:</b>	2022-2026

CHANGE	Danida funding enabled Sheba Youth Foundation (SYF), with technical support from Oxfam, to support the formation of nine community based women led organisations to strengthen their engagement with local authorities on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) issues in Taiz. This marked a shift towards greater and more meaningful women's participation in local decision making. Oxfam supported a Yemeni feminist activist to brief the UN Security Council, thereby amplifying voices from local to global spaces.
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CONTEXT	Yemen's prolonged conflict has created one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, with 19.5 million people in need and over 4.5 million displaced. Women, despite their vital roles in community resilience and humanitarian response, remain largely excluded from decision making spaces. Deepening gender inequalities and restrictive norms, including the Mahram system, highlight the urgency of promoting women's active participation, especially given Yemen's status as a Danida priority country within the fragile contexts framework.
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CONTRIBUTION	SYF trained 108 women CSO representatives and 36 local authority representatives on gender, conflict transformation and dialogue facilitation. With technical support from Oxfam, they drafted two policy papers on women's participation in peacebuilding and humanitarian response. These papers served as tools to engage local authorities, who contributed through joint drafting sessions. The process strengthened the women's ability to influence local decision makers and opened dialogue on peacebuilding and humanitarian response.
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IMAGES	 Credit: Golden Media Company	 Credit: Marib Girls Foundation
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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### ACTIVITIES

SYF supported the formation of nine women led community based organisations. These groups were brought together for joint training with local authorities on topics such as gender, rights, conflict transformation, and dialogue facilitation. With technical support from Oxfam, the women applied their strengthened knowledge and local insight to co-develop two policy papers, one on women's participation in peacebuilding and one on humanitarian response. The papers were used to initiate structured engagement with local authorities at sub-district and district levels, who contributed through joint discussions and drafting sessions. With continued support from SYF, the organisations finalised their policy papers with input from authorities. These served as tools to open dialogue on women's roles in local governance and to strengthen their participation in local decision making processes.

### LESSONS

The development of the policy papers took longer than expected due to the iterative process of internal consultation and engagement between women-led CSOs and local authority representatives at sub district and district levels. However, this back and forth proved valuable in strengthening legitimacy and ownership. A key lesson is the importance of allowing flexible timelines when co-producing tools with diverse stakeholders. Building from this, the next phase will use the finalised policy papers to support an umbrella group, bringing together representatives from the nine women led organisations, to engage with authorities at the governorate level. This locally rooted, bottom up model shows strong potential for replication in other areas.

### EVIDENCE

Evidence of change is documented in Oxfam reporting. Pre and post training assessments showed participants' knowledge increased from 1.35 to 96.3 percent as a result of capacity building. Two policy papers on women's participation in peacebuilding and humanitarian response were co developed by nine women-led community based organisations through structured consultations with local authorities. This co production process built trust and ownership, making the papers effective tools for structured engagement with decision makers. These papers are now being used by a women's civil society network, formed through the project, to support planned advocacy at governorate level. At the international level, Danida funding enabled a Yemeni feminist activist (with Oxfam support) to brief the United Nations Security Council in 2023, linking grassroots perspectives to global advocacy and reinforcing the value of locally grounded evidence in advancing the WPS agenda.

### DOMAINS

*Development strategy priorities:*

Insert strategy priority

*Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability*

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*Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights*

X

*Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights*

X

*Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights*

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*Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability*

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*Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work*

X