

November 2023

MC's agricultural expert during field observation.  
Khanfar, Abyan / Nov 2, 2023  
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# EVALUATION REPORT

## Third-Party Evaluation of Japan Platform-funded Project in Yemen

*"Agriculture Emergency Rehabilitation Project (EASLA)  
in Lahj and Abyan, Phase 1 & 2".*

Funded by:



Implemented by:



Evaluated by:



Monitoring & Evaluation  
مركز ميل للمتابعة والتقييم

## EVALUATION SUMMARY

<b>Country</b>	Republic of Yemen		
<b>Project Title</b>	Agriculture Emergency Rehabilitation Project in Lahj and Abyan - Phase 1 & 2.		
<b>Donor</b>	Japan Platform (JPF)		
<b>Implementing Partner</b>	Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)		
<b>Evaluated by</b>	MEAL Center (MC)		
<b>Type of Evaluation</b>	Project <u>Phase 1:</u>	Impact Evaluation	
	Project <u>Phase 2:</u>	Final Evaluation	
<b>Project Locations</b>	Project <u>Phase 1:</u>	Abyan (Khanfar district)	Lahj (Al Qabaitah district)
	Project <u>Phase 2:</u>	Abyan (Khanfar district)	
<b>Evaluation Objectives</b>	<div>1. Verify adherence to humanitarian principles and standards, with a focus on neutrality.</div> <div>2. Ensure adherence to the project proposal and monitor its progress.</div> <div>3. Analyze the impact of the project on the target population.</div> <div>4. Verify adherence to humanitarian standards and best practices.</div> <div>5. Understand beneficiary satisfaction and assess if needs are being met.</div> <div>6. Evaluate the management of local implementing partners and identify effective support measures.</div> <div>7. Determine suitable short-term, medium-term, and long-term assistance for effective aid.</div> <div>8. Identify the most suitable projects and strategies for implementation by JPF and member NGO.</div> <div>9. Provide feedback to improve future project planning and implementation.</div> <div>10. Document lessons learned and extracted best practices for future projects.</div>		
<b>Evaluation Methodology</b>	<div>a) Desk review for project related documents.</div> <div>b) Conducting key informant interviews (KIIs) and household beneficiary surveys.</div> <div>c) Conducting project staff interviews.</div> <div>d) Conducting focus group discussions (FGDs).</div> <div>e) Field observation visits.</div>		
<b>Evaluation Duration</b>	September 2023 – November 2023		

**Table 1:** Evaluation Summary

## DISCLAIMER

This report was produced by the MEAL Center (MC) and commissioned by Japan Platform (JPF) for a third-party evaluation (TPE). The views expressed in this report are those of the MC and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of JPF.

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We trust that the findings and recommendations outlined in the evaluation will significantly enhance informed and responsive planning for future endeavors.

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<b>JPF</b>	Japan Platform
<b>ADRA</b>	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
<b>MC</b>	MEAL Center
<b>EASLA</b>	Emergency Agriculture support in Lahj and Abyan
<b>EASLA1</b>	Emergency Agriculture support in Lahj and Abyan (Phase 1)
<b>EASLA2</b>	Emergency Agriculture support in Lahj and Abyan (Phase 2)
<b>TPE</b>	Third-Party Evaluation
<b>TPM</b>	Third-Party Monitoring
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Government Organization
<b>OECD-DAC</b>	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development - Development Assistance Committee
<b>CHS</b>	Core Humanitarian Standards
<b>USD</b>	US Dollar
<b>YER</b>	Yemeni Riyal
<b>HRP</b>	Humanitarian Response Plan
<b>IDPs</b>	Internally displaced persons
<b>HHs</b>	Households
<b>KIIs</b>	Key Informant Interviews
<b>FGDs</b>	Focus Group Discussions
<b>CC</b>	Community Committee
<b>LA</b>	Local Authority
<b>GAPs</b>	Good Agricultural Practices
<b>FSAC</b>	Food Security and Agriculture Cluster
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>SFD</b>	Social Fund for Development
<b>ERC</b>	Emergency Relief Coordinator
<b>IASC</b>	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
<b>PLWs</b>	Pregnant or Lactating Women



## 1. Situation of beneficiaries in the target area

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the conflict in Yemen has been ongoing for more than eight years, and millions of people are suffering from the compounded effects of armed violence, ongoing economic crisis, and disrupted public services.<sup>1</sup> As a result, more than 23.4 million people (almost 3/4 of the population) will need humanitarian assistance and protection in 2022, an increase of 13 percent from 2021. According to Yemen Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022, 17.4 million (54% of the population) are likely to experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) in the period between January and May 2022<sup>2</sup>, which is expected to reach 19 million (60 percent of the population) in the next 6 months assuming decrease of food assistance, deterioration in economic conditions and further devaluation of the Yemeni Rial, rise in global food prices and increase in fuel prices<sup>3</sup>.

In 2017, the Hadi government began issuing new Yemeni Rial (YER) bills, but the Houthis banned the circulation of the new bills in their controlled areas. Therefore, the Yemeni Rial circulating in the southern region controlled by the Hadi government (Internationally Recognized Government = IRG region) and the Yemeni Rial circulating in the northern Houthi-controlled region (De Facto Authority = DFA region) coexist as if they were two different currencies. The exchange rate of each Yemeni Rial against the U.S. dollar is also very different<sup>4</sup>. The devaluation of the Yemeni Rial has had the most significant impact in the southern IRG region (including Lahj, Aden, and Abyan), where the IRG Yemeni Rial peaked at 1,506 YER in November 2021 and stood at 1,013 YER as of May 22, 2022<sup>5</sup>. This economic turmoil, including the Yemeni Rial crash, which has become more severe in recent years, has caused more than 40% of households to lose their main source of income<sup>6</sup>.

More than half of Yemen's population is engaged in agriculture, which has been the foundation of the country's economy and people's livelihoods<sup>7</sup>. However, the protracted conflict and resulting economic crisis, the global COVID19 pandemic, climate change, and the pest damage have put Yemen's agricultural activities at risk<sup>8</sup>. Yemen's traditional agriculture is the country's mainstay, and productivity was not high to begin with. The conflict has led to shortages and price increases of seeds, fertilizers, and fuel, and the conflict has caused damages to agricultural machinery and irrigation<sup>9</sup>. Currently, the agricultural production rate in Yemen is only 15-20% of the food supply and demand<sup>10</sup>. The country relies on imports for wheat, a staple food, and grain prices are significantly affected by the current situation in Ukraine, as more than 40% of grain imports have come from Ukraine and Russia<sup>11</sup>. The situation is becoming

<sup>1</sup> OCHA, December 2022, [Yemen Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023](#), p.6

<sup>2</sup> OCHA, April 2022, [Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2022](#), p.5.

<sup>3</sup> OCHA, April 2022, [Yemen Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022](#), p.60.

<sup>4</sup> Sato H, 2022, *op.cit.*, p.21

<sup>5</sup> Cash Consortium of Yemen, 9 Jun 2022, [Flash Update 46 YER Exchange Rate Volatility May Week 2 & Week 3](#).

<sup>6</sup> Technical Working Group on Currency Exchange, October 2020, [Yemen's Currency Crisis and the Corresponding Impacts on Markets – Analysis and Correlation](#), p.7. Sherilyn Raga et al., December 2021, [Impact of conflict on the financial sector in Yemen: Implications for food security \(ODI working paper\)](#).

<sup>7</sup> FAO, [YEMEN: Shocks, agricultural livelihoods and food security](#), December 2021, p.11. World Bank, [Yemen Food Security Response and Resilience Project \(P176129\) Project Information Document](#), March 2021, p.7.

<sup>8</sup> OCHA, April 2022, [Yemen Humanitarian Needs Overview](#), p.61

<sup>9</sup> World bank, 2021, [Project Information Document \(PID\)](#), p.11

<sup>10</sup> WFP, 29 July 2021, [US \\$127 million from World Bank to shore up food security and rural livelihoods in Yemen](#).

<sup>11</sup> IPC, [Yemen: Food Security and Nutrition Snapshot March 2022](#), p.1.

increasingly serious, with Minimum Food Basket (MFB) <sup>12</sup> costs in March 2022 up 85% over March 2021, and flour prices up 72% over the same period last year<sup>13</sup>.

## 2. Needs Analysis

Yemen was once one of the major agricultural countries in the Middle East. In particular, Lahj & Abyan governorates are fertile areas with various crops such as millet, sorghum, corn, sesame, peanuts, tomatoes, carrots, okra, and fruits are grown, where 70% of the total population depends on agriculture as an income source<sup>14</sup>. However, the seven-year ongoing conflict has made it increasingly difficult for residents to continue their agricultural activities due to soaring fuel prices and agricultural materials, loss of livestock, damage to and theft of irrigation equipment, and drying up farmlands due to lack of water<sup>15</sup>. In fact, due to the geographical characteristics of Yemen with limited water resources, agricultural water is dependent on water sources rather than natural water, making crop production more difficult due to damage to irrigation equipment and rising repair costs<sup>16</sup>. In addition, the torrential rains and insect infestations that hit both regions in 2021 caused extensive damage to small farmers<sup>17</sup>.

Despite these conditions, crop harvests keep the food supply of a certain percentage of rural households and provide a source of income<sup>18</sup>. Therefore, restoring agricultural activities is very important in Yemen, and Abyan and Lahj in particular, as crop production contributes to the food supply's stability and increases income opportunities to be able to secure their basic needs. Among other activities, irrigation repair using simple materials (engine pumps, pipes, etc.) which were provided by the project was a highly effective intervention method that helped the conflict affected rural households to rebuild their productive base at a minimal cost. Although the project seems to be development, its interventions provided the agriculture materials for the conflict affected farmers who lost their livelihoods due to the interruption of their agriculture activities. Therefore, the provided agriculture tools served uniquely as an emergency intervention that helped the afflicted targeted households to restore their farming and agriculture activities and secure their basic livelihoods needs and be able to continue income generating utilizing the agricultural productive assets provided by the project.

Repairing irrigation systems that have been destroyed or left in disrepair due to conflict was thus an important need that is directly related to the restoration of food production. Given the severity of the needs of the vulnerable groups and the conflict impact on their agricultural livelihoods, EASLA project has provided agricultural inputs and training through the distribution of irrigation kits as well as conducting agriculture related trainings and workshops for the vulnerable farmers in Lahj & Abyan<sup>19</sup> governorates of Yemen. The intervention, therefore, increased the resilience of the targeted households resulting in a more sustainable impact as it helped the targeted HHs to restarting or restoring livelihoods activities that have been disrupted by the conflict<sup>20</sup> and this what highlights the uniqueness of this project approach. Consequently, ADRA asset provision/replacement is considered "protection" and/or "relief and early recovery" (humanitarian intervention), <sup>21</sup>NOT development intervention. Asset provision/replacement

<sup>12</sup> Yemen Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, November 2018, [Revised FSAC minimum Food Basket \(MFB\)](#).

<sup>13</sup> FEWS, April 2022, [Yemen Food Security Outlook: March to September 2022](#), pp.10-11.

<sup>14</sup> ADRA Yemen, January 2022, [Area Assessment: Lahj](#). South 24, 28 December 2021, ["Abyan: Neglected Agricultural Potential and Struggle for Crops"](#) (accessed on 15 June 2022).

<sup>15</sup> ADRA Yemen, January 2022, [Area Assessment: Lahj](#).

<sup>16</sup> FAO 2021, [YEMEN agricultural livelihoods and food security Monitoring report](#), December 2021, p.11. FAO, [YEMEN Agricultural livelihoods and food security in the context of COVID-19 Monitoring Report](#), January 2021, p.15. World Bank, [Yemen Food Security Response and Resilience Project \(P176129\) Project Information Document](#), March 2021, p.6-7.

<sup>17</sup> OCHA, April 2022, [Yemen Humanitarian Needs Overview](#), p.61

<sup>18</sup> FEWS, April 2022, [Yemen Food Security Outlook: March to September 2022](#), p.12.

<sup>19</sup> The candidate target counties are respectively Al-Qubbaita (Lahj governorates) and Khanfar (Abyan governorates). See map of project sites.

<sup>20</sup> Susanne Jaspars and Dan Maxwell, 2009, ["Food security and livelihoods programming in conflict: a review"](#), pp.9-16.

<sup>21</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, 2010, [IFRC guidelines for livelihoods programming](#), p.25-26.

(protection as Humanitarian intervention) rehabilitate the likelihood of the disaster-victims and support their recovery, which leads to sustainable livelihood (Development). In the process of recovery, it can be assumed that social capitals (social relations, informal/formal institutions, market network) will be rehabilitated/improved, and strengthened, which will promote the social cohesion. If this process of social capital improvement and the promotion of social cohesion progress, the degree of "Peace" will be improved. In this sense, asset provision/replacement is one of the fundamental approaches for humanitarian intervention to formulate "Development and Peace", particularly in Yemen similar context.

The project, therefore, provided a method of livelihood to beneficiaries who have lost their livelihood due to the conflict and restore them to a state where they can resume their livelihoods<sup>22</sup>. The Yemen HRP 2022 includes livelihood restoration alongside hunger and malnutrition prevention as the second strategic objective<sup>23</sup>, and also incorporated a strategy integrating food assistance and livelihood restoration in food insecure areas as a sectoral objective for food security and agriculture cluster (FSAC).<sup>24</sup> This indicates that a shift in strategy was required to promote sustainable food production and livelihood restoration/reconstruction where possible while continuing emergency assistance in turmoil socioeconomic situations, which was the evidence of the project's approach<sup>25</sup>.

Before, the project interventions, the beneficiaries mentioned many challenges included a lack of water supply, high diesel consumption, limited financial resources for land cultivation and agricultural inputs, outdated machinery, and equipment shortages. The old and unreliable machinery frequently broke down, resulting in costly repairs and decreased productivity. Insufficient access to water affected crop growth and yield.

Between September 2022 and May 2023, ADRA targeted 88 households in the first phase, including 72 HHs in Al Qabaytah of Lahj governorate and 16 HHs in Khanfar of Abyan governorate. Additionally, ADRA targeted 45 HHs in a second phase in Khanfar Abyan between March 2023 and September 2023. Applying beneficiary selection criteria, ADRA supported farmer who have lost their livelihood due to the conflict and are unable to continue farming to resilience to a state where they can resume their farming activities. Therefore, the project helped existing farmers to restart previous activities.

In the targeted region, farmers typically rely on personal pump and piping systems to extract water from local sources, as rainfall is insufficient to meet crop needs. These systems are mainly individual household wells and not part of larger irrigation networks. However, the costs associated with repairing and maintaining these systems have made agricultural endeavors less profitable. As a result, many farmers are unable to afford the necessary repairs, leading to a decline in crop production. To break this detrimental cycle, the project provided equipment and materials such as engine pumps and pipes to restore the irrigation systems. Furthermore, the residents received training in Adaptive Agriculture, equipping them with the skills needed to overcome challenges and resume their farming activities.

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<sup>22</sup> The Iraqi Emergency Livelihoods Cluster has developed the "[Emergency Livelihoods](#)" website, which lists various ways to restore the population to a state where they can resume their livelihoods by providing them with the means/materials and equipment they have lost due to the conflict. Asset Replacement/Recovery is an important part of this process. The approach of this project is similar to that of Asset Replacement/Recovery. Emergency Livelihoods Cluster (ELC) Iraq, 2021, [Assets Replacement: standard Operation Procedures](#).

<sup>23</sup> [Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2022](#), p.7.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, p.55.

<sup>25</sup> According to Hiroshi Sato Ph.D., also points out the importance of the development model in conflict situations: "If peace is not expected in the short term, what the international community should work on, alongside humanitarian aid, is the provision of public services such as education and health, and the continuation of development projects aimed at improving people's lives even during conflict". Sato Hiroshi, 2020, "[求められる「紛争下の開発」モデル - イエメン内戦の経緯と現況\(The 'Development under Conflict' Model Required: Background and Current Status of the Yemeni Civil War\)](#)", 国際開発ジャーナル (Journal of International Development) Mar 2020, pp.32-35.



The Project “Agriculture Emergency Rehabilitation Project in Lahj and Abyan” **main objective was to rebuild a foundation for self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods by increasing agricultural productivity and enhancing the resilience of beneficiary households. The beneficiaries are expected to develop plans for agricultural production and have access to necessary resources for execution.**

The purpose of this evaluation is to effectively capture information, verify activities, analyze data, and provide valuable recommendations that can be utilized in the implementation of similar projects. The outcomes of this evaluation will be used by JPF to inform decision-making and improve future project implementations.

**MC used a mixed-method approach, utilizing quantitative and qualitative (structured and semi-structured survey questionnaires) tools** such as observations, desk reviews, site visits, direct interviews with beneficiaries and project staff, community members, key informants (KIs) in-depth, and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs/Qualitative interviews). The data collection included gender, age, and location disaggregation. The total sample size in the two districts of Khanfar in Abyan governorate and Al Qabaitah in Lahj governorate was 132 individuals in 15 in two FGDs. Data were collected through a group of electronic tools (forms) that are facilitated using electronic mobile devices (smartphones and tablets) for data collection and submission of collected data to an online server during the field visits. The data came to one server from all field monitors once the mobile device found internet coverage. This enables the database specialist to provide feedback on data quality while monitors are still in the field. This helped correct mistakes or modified the sample if the data collected was not in line with what was planned.

## 1. Findings and Analysis

***The main findings are presented below in accordance with the evaluation questions that reflect OECD DAC criteria.***

### 1.1 Relevance

#### **Challenges faced before the intervention:**

Before the project intervention, the beneficiaries faced numerous challenges in their agricultural activities. The key needs identified included the requirement for new machines, pumps, and solar energy systems. The project was perceived as addressing these challenges by the beneficiaries and all ten Community Committee (CC) members in Abyan and Lahj. The interventions specifically helped overcome issues related to water pumping, as many beneficiaries had old or non-functional pumps. Other farmers in the community could now access water from the wells of the beneficiaries and pay a portion of their harvest as compensation.

The challenges mentioned by the beneficiaries included a lack of water supply, high diesel consumption, limited financial resources for land cultivation and agricultural inputs, outdated machinery, and equipment shortages. The old and unreliable machinery frequently broke down, resulting in costly repairs and decreased productivity. Insufficient access to water affected crop growth and yield. The high diesel consumption of the outdated machinery added financial burdens for the farmers. The absence of necessary equipment hindered efficient agricultural practices, while limited financial resources prevented the farmers from affording essential equipment and inputs. Additionally, a lack of knowledge about modern irrigation techniques and practices further constrained their productivity.

These findings highlight the relevance of the project in addressing the identified needs and challenges faced by the beneficiaries. By providing new machinery, addressing water supply issues, and offering financial support, the project aimed to alleviate the barriers to successful agricultural activities. Moving forward, it is crucial to continue considering local needs and priorities when planning and implementing similar interventions to ensure sustainable and impactful outcomes.

### **Project alignment with priority needs:**

The Agriculture Emergency Rehabilitation Project was found to align with national agricultural policies, according to local authorities in Abyan's Khanfar and Lahj's Al Qabaitah. The project was commended for addressing the needs of farmers in the targeted areas who had faced challenges due to the war, including damage to infrastructure, loss of equipment, and unprepared markets. The interventions provided stability and restored agricultural activities, benefiting households, and strengthening the local market for agricultural products. The overwhelming majority of beneficiaries (98%) confirmed that the project effectively responded to their priority needs, particularly through the provision of new pumps and tools for water sourcing, enabling them to resume farming activities.

While most beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the project, a small number mentioned some remaining challenges, such as the need for financial support for land protection and purchasing agricultural inputs. However, overall, the project intervention had positive outcomes, providing new equipment and valuable training on modern irrigation techniques and pest control, which enhanced farmers' knowledge and skills in agriculture.

### **Relevance of conducted good agricultural practices (GAPs) training:**

The project not only distributed agriculture inputs but also provided beneficiaries with training on good agricultural practices (GAPs) to enhance their knowledge and improve their cultivation practices. The training covered topics such as water requirements of crops, pest control, drip irrigation, and market chains. Approximately 95% of the beneficiaries in Phase 2 (42 out of 44) reported receiving GAPs training, which they found relevant to their needs and applicable to their cultivation practices. They highlighted learning points such as land rehabilitation, drip irrigation, pest control, marketing strategies, and equipment maintenance.

While the majority of beneficiaries received GAPs training and found it beneficial, around 5% mentioned not receiving any training. However, the relevance of the training was widely recognized by the community council members, project staff, and participants in focus group discussions (FGDs). They emphasized the importance of the training in bridging knowledge gaps, improving production, and enhancing marketing strategies. The training was seen as empowering farmers to make better decisions and increase their income, particularly in areas with limited access to agricultural extension services.

## **1.2 Coherence**

### **Insights regarding coordination efforts between the project and authority:**

Interviewed officials in the district agriculture offices highlighted the potential for sharing insights about the coordination efforts between the project and the Ministry of Agriculture. Meetings with the entities responsible for implementing the project can provide valuable information on the needs of the planned area and shed light on the level of engagement and cooperation between the project and the Ministry. These insights would contribute to effective coordination and collaboration.



### **Effective coordination platform:**

The FSAC cluster, used by ADRA for coordination of its agriculture interventions in Abyan and Lahj, was identified as an effective platform. The FSAC ensures coherent and integrated humanitarian responses based on assessed agriculture needs. ADRA attends monthly meetings held by FSAC. It was suggested to include the project areas in the FAO's targeting, and promises were made by relevant authorities to consider this in the future.

In terms of coordination mechanisms, while the targeted farmers in the targeted areas lack internet access, they have been provided with phone numbers for communication. Community committees serve as representatives of the farmers, facilitating effective communication and collaboration with local authorities, traders, and other stakeholders.

### **Synergies and collaborations:**

Discussions have been initiated to establish agricultural and marketing associations or cooperatives, aiming to foster collaboration and partnerships with stakeholders in the agricultural and marketing sectors. This collaborative approach can enhance the project's impact and effectiveness.

There is integration and alignment between the project and other developmental initiatives in the region. For example, the Social Fund for Development (SFD) is implementing a project in Batis sub-district in Khanfar Abyan, rehabilitating valleys and irrigation channels. The two projects integrate well, with specific openings and bridges created to deliver water for irrigation purposes, reducing reliance on wells during floods. Furthermore, the project staff confirmed that there was no duplication of activities in the targeted areas, as no other organization was implementing a similar project there.

Overall, the findings highlight the importance of coordination efforts between the project and relevant authorities, the effectiveness of the FSAC cluster as a coordination platform, and the establishment of collaborations and synergies with stakeholders. These factors contribute to the project's effectiveness, ensure efficient use of resources, and enhance the overall impact on agricultural development in the region.

## **1.3 Efficiency**

### **Resources utilization to achieve the desired outcomes:**

The project effectively utilized its resources, including financial, human, and material assets, to achieve the desired outcomes in an efficient manner. The selection criteria for beneficiaries were based on needs and vulnerability, with priority given to households hosting IDPs, households headed by females, households with disabled members, malnourished children or pregnant/lactating women, households with children under 5 years old, large families, and households with no access to regular income. The project established criteria for selecting eligible areas, farmers, and contractors.

To optimize resource efficiency, the project formed community committees (CCs) to ensure the smooth distribution of inputs and consulted them for beneficiary selection. Connections with merchants were established through CCs to assist farmers in acquiring agricultural inputs not provided by the project. The project facilitated the establishment of market linkages and value chains, leading to increased income for farmers.

The project staff and CC members believed that the same results could have been achieved with the same or fewer resources. Suggestions included providing solar energy systems, improved seeds, manual agriculture machines, livestock, veterinary kits, or additional training. Distributing solar

systems for farmers was recommended to enhance resilience and decrease reliance on fuel consumption.

### **Project strategies to overcome challenges during the implementation process:**

The project faced challenges, including resistance from non-beneficiaries and primitive agricultural practices of farmers. To address these challenges, the project engaged with the community, explained the selection criteria, and highlighted the project's importance. Notable figures and local authorities were involved in resolving issues. Training courses were conducted to overcome challenges related to farmers' practices and the restoration of their activities.

### **Efficiency of GAPs training and restoration of irrigation facilities:**

The majority of beneficiaries and community committee members reported that the adaptive agriculture training and restoration of irrigation facilities significantly facilitated their agricultural rehabilitation. The training provided valuable knowledge on maintaining pumps, improving soil fertility, pest management, marketing agricultural products, and improving living conditions. The training was highly appreciated, although some beneficiaries already had prior knowledge.

### **Efficiency of agriculture inputs:**

Almost all beneficiaries believed that the provided equipment and tools were the best option to enhance their access to agriculture livelihood activities. The beneficiaries were involved in the needs assessment, and the equipment provided was well-suited to their requirements. Some community committee members suggested that providing solar energy systems would be a better alternative to diesel generators. The project demonstrated efficiency in utilizing resources to provide necessary materials for targeted beneficiaries, focusing on productive assets rather than seed distribution or ineffective training programs.

Overall, the project effectively utilized resources, implemented strategies to overcome challenges, and provided valuable training and agricultural inputs to enhance the livelihoods of beneficiaries. The selection criteria, community engagement, and market linkages contributed to resource efficiency and income generation. The project's impact was highly regarded by beneficiaries, who believed that the provided equipment and training significantly improved their agricultural practices and living conditions.

## **1.4 Effectiveness of EASLA I**

The summary findings below are focusing on the analysis of effectiveness related to EASLA I (phase one) in Khanfar district in Abyan Governorate and Al Qabaitah district in Lahj Governorate.

The project aimed to enhance the resilience of conflict-affected communities by providing agricultural tools, training, and support to farmers. The needs of the communities were identified through assessments conducted by the organization and direct dialogues with beneficiaries. The project staff inspected the areas and conducted field visits to ensure suitability for the project. Most of the Community Committees (CCs) reported that the targeted beneficiaries were not likely to be displaced by the conflict. There were concerns about beneficiaries taking the distributed assets with them, but the organization had administrative procedures in place to monitor the distribution process. The project was seen as effective in achieving its objectives and enhancing the resilience of the communities. It provided agriculture livelihood opportunities, enabled farmers to cultivate more land, requiring more manpower from people in their surroundings and created new job opportunities

based on the newly gained knowledge of how to care for the land, such as removing harmful weed. The project activities also had a positive effect on the community's relationship with the local government.

#### **Effectiveness of conflict:**

There were no conflicts or problems among people in the project areas, except for a few issues related to the selection criteria. The CCs had reservations about the number of beneficiaries targeted and gender disparities in the selection criteria, indicating a need for more inclusive and gender-responsive approaches. Most of the farmers did not face disruption of access to the market due to the conflict. Female farmers were perceived to have increased safety and security needs, including protective equipment and first aid kits. The distributed assets were not exposed to theft, attacks, or looting, and the project area was considered safe. The project did not provide inputs directly, but beneficiaries used various methods to acquire the necessary resources, such as borrowing money, selling livestock, or purchasing on credit.

#### **Effectiveness of provided agriculture items:**

All of the targeted farmers expressed satisfaction with the project, as it met their needs to restart their agriculture activities and improved their livelihoods, which helped them to provide their basic needs of food, health, and education. They appreciated ADRA and the donor for their support. The behavior of ADRA staff during the project implementation was also highly satisfactory, according to all the interviewed beneficiaries. All the beneficiaries knew who to contact in case of complaints or comments. However, they reported that did not raise any complaints during the project implementation

#### **Effectiveness of conducted training:**

The conducted training had a highly positive impact on the knowledge and skills of the beneficiaries in agricultural activities. They gained valuable knowledge in various areas such as crop protection, water management, equipment maintenance, and marketing strategies. The training promoted sustainable practices and technologies, allowing farmers to invest in seeds and fertilizers instead of maintenance costs. Many beneficiaries transferred the acquired knowledge to their communities, resulting in the adoption of good agricultural practices. However, illiteracy among some beneficiaries hindered their ability to actively transfer knowledge. The project also improved water resource management and irrigation practices, leading to increased cultivation and income. Market linkages were enhanced, with farmers learning valuable skills for marketing and establishing connections with merchants. However, some beneficiaries did not find the project activities useful in terms of market linkages.

#### **Community ownership:**

In both Phase 1 (100%) and Phase 2 (93%), the project successfully engaged the targeted farmers, ensuring their participation in rehabilitation efforts and ownership. The beneficiaries were involved in the installation process of the supplied equipment, and the project transferred ownership of the assets to them, providing legal documentation as proof. The respondents in Phase 2 confirmed their engagement from the needs assessment stage and were provided with communication channels for feedback and complaints. The project staff emphasized the permanent transfer of equipment ownership and the farmers' responsibility for transportation, installation, and maintenance to enhance ownership and safety. They highlighted the successful engagement and empowerment of

local communities and stakeholders, with CC members selected from and by the community. The CCs reported beneficiary engagement in training and the creation of job opportunities in agriculture for unemployed individuals in the community. Overall, the project focused on active involvement, asset ownership, and community empowerment throughout its implementation. .

## 1.5 Effectiveness of EASLA II

The summary findings below are focusing on the analysis of effectiveness related to EASLA II (phase two) in Batis sub-district of Khanfar district in Abyan Governorate. The analysis of findings shows that EASLA II, have effectively addressed the needs of beneficiaries in terms of adaptive agriculture training, restoration of irrigation facilities, and strengthening resilience.

### Effectiveness of conflict:

In terms of conflict and security, the targeted farmers in Abyan reported no conflicts or problems among the people in their area due to the project interventions. The project staff followed selection criteria to identify eligible beneficiaries, which helped mitigate such issues. The majority of beneficiaries did not face safety or security risks while traveling to their land or markets. However, there were occasional roadblocks due to floods or clashes between security forces and other groups, affecting a small number of farmers. The project staff emphasized that the area had been relatively safe, although recent events had compromised stability.

Regarding access to markets, the vast majority of farmers reported no disruption due to the conflict. They were able to sell their products easily, and some even had merchants visiting their farms for purchases. However, the male participants in the focus group discussion expressed concerns about the conflict hindering their market access and leading to increased prices of food and agricultural equipment. The project's provision of equipment enabled them to cultivate their lands and increase their income. The beneficiaries did not report increased safety and security needs for female farmers, and none of the distributed assets were exposed to theft or attacks.

### Effectiveness of provided agriculture items:

In terms of providing agriculture items, most farmers acquired the necessary inputs such as seeds and fertilizers from the market by purchasing them or borrowing money. Some used seeds from their previous harvests, while others received support from FAO. Overall, the beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the project interventions, particularly the provision of pumps and generators that helped them resume cultivation. Some suggested that the project could have reimbursed the installation costs.

### Effectiveness of conducted training:

The conducted training received positive feedback from the majority of farmers, who reported learning various aspects related to their agricultural activities beyond irrigation rehabilitation. These included marketing, pest control, land rehabilitation, crop protection, equipment maintenance, and fertilization. However, a small number of farmers, particularly female participants, stated that they learned nothing useful beyond irrigation rehabilitation.

Approximately 73% of the surveyed farmers (32 out of 44) transferred the knowledge they gained to others in their community, and this was confirmed by all the CCs. These beneficiaries indicated that within their communities, others began adopting various good agricultural practices. These practices included implementing modern irrigation methods, adopting effective land cultivation and

maintenance techniques, practicing insect control, utilizing oil coating to protect wooden structures from termites, cultivating new crops such as melons, watermelons, and sesame, maintaining agricultural equipment properly, and improving marketing strategies.

The project had a significant impact on water resource management and irrigation practices. All beneficiaries reported improvements in water resource management and irrigation practices through the use of drip irrigation methods and irrigation networks. This resulted in more efficient water use and the ability to irrigate larger areas. Regarding market linkages, a majority of respondents reported learning useful information to improve their market connections through the project activities. This included understanding the importance of networking, planning market visits, exporting, and importing products, and promoting their produce. However, some beneficiaries, particularly female participants, believed they had not learned anything in this regard, without specifying the reason for that.

### **Community ownership:**

The project emphasized community ownership and participation. The vast majority of beneficiaries stated that they were engaged in the project's rehabilitation efforts and ownership. They were involved in the needs assessment stage, provided feedback channels, and received ownership of the assets. The project staff highlighted this approach as a means to enhance beneficiary ownership and ensure the safe transfer of equipment to the targeted areas.

## **1.6 Sustainability**

The sustainability of the project activities was assessed in terms of financial, economic, social, and environmental sustainability. The beneficiaries expressed confidence that the positive impacts of the project would last even after the formal support ended. Almost all of the beneficiaries reported having adequate skills to maintain the irrigation system, except for one who relied on selling the harvest to cover maintenance costs.

### **Sustainability measures and beneficiary feedback on maintenance skills and training:**

The majority of beneficiaries received training on maintaining the functionality of distributed agricultural inputs, except for a small percentage of them (11%) who did not mention the reasons. The training covered operating and protecting generators and pumps, regular maintenance checks, oil replacement, and preventing theft. Beneficiaries were also advised to save money from their harvests for equipment maintenance. Project staff and community committees confirmed the training and emphasized the importance of oil changes and saving for maintenance costs. The project implemented measures for long-term sustainability, including collaboration with local authorities and community committees, agreements supervised by stakeholders, provision of maintenance information, and facilitating income generation. The CCs stressed equipment maintenance and supervision of farmers' work for sustainability. The Agricultural Extension Office and district directors expressed plans and monitoring efforts to support long-term sustainability.

### **Sustainability of local ownership:**

The project staff emphasized that local ownership and community engagement were fostered by allowing beneficiaries to vote for their community committees and permanently providing them with equipment. This approach contributed to sustaining resilience and livelihood opportunities.

Overall, the project implemented measures to ensure the long-term sustainability of outcomes and benefits, fostered local ownership, and engaged the community. The transfer of ownership, provision of maintenance information, and income generation opportunities aimed to sustain the achieved resilience and livelihood improvements.

## 1.7 Impact of EASLA I

Before the project implementation, targeted farmers had a range of agricultural needs, including equipment such as pumps, irrigation networks, solar energy systems, and manual tillers. Solar energy systems were particularly in demand due to high electricity costs and the desire for sustainable energy sources. After the project, the primary needs shifted, with farmers expressing a greater emphasis on solar energy systems and requesting equipment like hand tillers. Agricultural inputs such as seeds and insecticides were also identified as important needs. The Community Committees confirmed the initial need for equipment, but the evaluation revealed evolving needs for ongoing agricultural activities, including inputs and sustainable energy sources.

### Improvement of agricultural productivity:

Approximately 57% (n=50 out of 88) of the targeted farmers reported a significant improvement in their agricultural productivity as a result of the project. In Khanfar of Abyan, this figure reached 100%. The farmers highlighted several factors contributing to the improved productivity. The project played a crucial role in securing an adequate water supply for their crops, leading to abundant yields. The improved irrigation systems allowed them to cultivate new types of crops, including vegetables and fruits. Additionally, the project facilitated land rehabilitation and protected crops against insects, further enhancing productivity. However, the remaining 43% of the beneficiaries (38 out of 88) indicated that their agricultural productivity had only improved to some extent. They attributed this limitation to the rising prices of oil derivatives, which affected their farming activities. To mitigate such disruptions, it is recommended to consider distributing solar energy systems, as they can help farmers maintain their agricultural operations even during fuel-related crises.

### Impact of income increase:

The majority of beneficiaries (97% or 85 out of 88) reported an increase in their income due to the project interventions. This income boost had a significant positive impact on their lives. Beneficiaries were able to meet their healthcare needs, access education, purchase food and medicines, and improve their overall living conditions. The project contributed to their self-sufficiency in daily expenses and provided opportunities for livelihood improvement through crop cultivation and sales. However, in Lahj's Al-Qabaitah district, 3% of the beneficiaries stated that there was no increase in their income as a result of the project. The reasons behind this discrepancy were not specified, but it may be attributed to local factors specific to that district.

### Impact on economic well-being, livelihoods, and food security:

All of the Community Committees (CCs) in Abyan believed that the project had a significant positive impact on the economic well-being and livelihoods of the farmers and agricultural workers in the targeted communities. However, in Lahj, most CCs (5 out of 6) perceived the impact as limited. This difference in perception may be linked to the increase in diesel prices, which affected the overall economic situation in Lahj. Around 95.5% of the targeted farmers (84 out of 88) reported an improvement in their household's food security and nutrition outcomes due to the project. The interventions provided them with a stable source of income that allowed them to access a diverse

range of food. The cultivation of various crops, including vegetables and fruits, contributed to the availability of nutritious food. However, 4.5% of the beneficiaries in Lahj disagreed with this assessment, with some stating a limited impact and others perceiving no contribution at all.

#### **Impact on education and other aspects:**

The evaluation shows a positive impact on education in the targeted areas. Beneficiaries reported being able to support their children's education financially, covering transportation and educational needs. However, a small number of beneficiaries in Lahj did not perceive any positive change, mainly because their children were under five years old. The project also had other positive effects, according to the beneficiaries. These included improved and diversified agricultural crops, enhanced agricultural knowledge, improved access to healthcare, debt repayment, obtaining animal feed, diversifying food, creating job opportunities, and saving. Some beneficiaries in Lahj did not report any significant changes.

#### **Impact on agricultural development in the target areas:**

The project had a positive impact on agricultural development in the target areas. It increased farmers' connection to agricultural land, provided a source of income for them and their families, reduced conflict resulting from unemployment, and improved the variety and quality of food in the region. It also created job opportunities to the people in the wider community as the provided equipment enabled more land to be cultivated, needing more manpower, and the training made the beneficiaries aware of more ways to care for their products, leading them to need more workers. Most beneficiaries expressed that the project brought about transformations in terms of employment prospects and livelihood restoration and expansion within the agricultural sector.

#### **Impact on farmers' capacity building and skills:**

All targeted farmers stated that the project strengthened their capacity and skills to manage and sustain their agricultural activities. They reported improved irrigation techniques, pest control knowledge, and better decision-making regarding crop cultivation. The project staff confirmed that the farmers' abilities improved significantly after training courses. It is recommended to allocate sufficient time and resources in future programs to establish agricultural cooperatives, which would further enhance farmers' capacity and market access.

#### **Project promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment:**

While 51% of the targeted beneficiaries (45 out of 88 all of whom were in Lahj), along with the six CC representatives in Lahj reported that the project did not promote gender equality and women's empowerment, 49% believed it promoted it to some extent. Challenges in promoting gender equality were attributed to societal traditions and customs. The project staff mentioned that long-term interventions would be needed to address these challenges effectively. They noted that the selection criteria included households headed by women and highlighted the significant role of women in agricultural activities.

#### **Unforeseen impacts:**

Based on the analysis of the findings, the majority of targeted farmers (83% or 73 out of 88) and almost all community representatives acknowledged some unforeseen positive impacts of the project. These positive impacts included improved family relations, reduced tension within households, increased self-esteem among farmers, knowledge transfer to the wider community, job



creation for the workers in the cultivation of land were women, especially doing tasks such as removing harmful weeds, improved food availability, and increased self-sufficiency. The project staff also noted that other farmers in the targeted areas learned from the project beneficiaries and sought assistance from the project team. However, a small percentage of beneficiaries (17%) in Al-Qabaitah, Lahj, did not perceive any unforeseen impacts, either positive or negative. Negative impacts were minimal and mainly related to the high prices of diesel and the non-provision of seeds, which were not unintended consequences of the project. Overall, the evaluation suggests that the project had no unintended or unforeseen negative impacts.

### **Impact on resilience of agricultural activity:**

Almost all beneficiaries (99% or 87 out of 88) believed that the project enhanced the resilience of their agricultural activity to withstand future shocks and challenges. They expressed that the equipment provided by the project would enable them to continue cultivating their land and generate income to sustain the equipment. This income, combined with the knowledge gained on crop protection, would help them overcome various challenges they may face. Beneficiaries mentioned that the project helped them combat diseases, purify seeds, and use correct irrigation methods. The project also facilitated self-sufficiency and allowed for storing some harvest for year-round usage. Only one beneficiary felt that the resilience of their activity was not enhanced due to the increase in diesel prices, which affected their ability to operate the pump.

### **Enhancing humanitarian aid in conflict zones**

Japanese NGO assistance and intervention in challenging environments, such as conflict zones like Yemen, face obstacles but can turn them into advantages. By building on successful interventions that prioritize localization, costs can be reduced, and sustainability enhanced. Japanese NGOs play a crucial role in capacity building by providing training and technical expertise, focusing on sustainable agricultural practices, and enhancing value chains. Providing valuable agricultural assets to farmers is deemed to be enhancing resilience, self-sufficiency, and income generation, contributing to long-term resilience and improved living conditions. Beneficiaries have reported restored their agricultural productivity, reduced labor burden, and improved income levels. The provision of diesel motors and irrigation networks has enabled farmers to maintain cultivation areas they used to cultivate before the decline as a result of the conflict, adopt efficient irrigation practices, and diversify cropping patterns. Partnerships, research, innovation, and resource mobilization further strengthen the impact of interventions, fostering sustainable development and resilience in local communities.

## **1.8 Impact of EASLA II**

### **Improvement of agricultural productivity:**

The evaluation revealed that the majority of beneficiaries (59.1% or 26 out of 44) reported a significant improvement in their agricultural productivity due to the project. The equipment provided helped them resume agricultural activities and save money previously spent on diesel, which allowed them to purchase seeds. The modern irrigation system and the knowledge gained through awareness-raising courses also contributed to more efficient implementation of farming activities. Approximately 23% of beneficiaries experienced some improvement, while the remaining 18% reported little or no improvement, likely due to the recent completion of the project.

### **Impact on economic well-being, livelihoods, and food security:**

56.8% of respondents (25 out of 44) reported an increase in income as a result of the project. They were able to cultivate vegetables quickly, save on food expenses, and eliminate rental costs for agricultural equipment. Additionally, 64% of beneficiaries experienced an enhancement in their livelihoods, with improved food security and nutrition outcomes. The equipment provided not only reduced expenses but also allowed them to allocate resources to other needs. However, 43.2% did not see an increase in income, likely due to the recent completion of the project. Some beneficiaries also noted positive changes in health and education.

### **Impact on farmers' capacity building and skills:**

All beneficiaries emphasized that the project strengthened their capacity and skills in managing and sustaining their agricultural activities. The training they received enhanced their ability to irrigate land, protect crops, and maintain the distributed equipment.

### **Impact on agricultural development in target areas:**

The majority of targeted individuals (71% or 31 out of 44) reported changes in employment opportunities and livelihood diversification within the agricultural sector. The project created new job opportunities in planting and harvesting, benefiting 10 to 20 people according to one beneficiary. However, 29.5% of respondents had not yet witnessed such changes, which can be attributed to the recent completion of the project.

### **Project promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment:**

The evaluation findings indicate that the EASLA II (Phase II) project made significant efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in agricultural activities. Respondents, including female participants, mentioned that the project targeted women who met the criteria and provided them with the same equipment and training as men. Although men attended the training courses on behalf of women, the women actively engaged in the cultivation process with the participation of their children. This approach ensured that women gained valuable knowledge and skills, allowing them to contribute to agricultural activities alongside their male counterparts. The project successfully promoted gender equality and women's empowerment while respecting community norms and sensitivities.

### **Unforeseen impacts:**

The evaluation revealed that a majority of the targeted farmers (68% or 30 out of 44) acknowledged some unforeseen positive impacts of the project. These included increased motivation among farmers to cultivate their land, improved living conditions, and better access to food and medicine. Beneficiaries expressed gratitude for the unexpected support provided by the project. They also highlighted the promotion of equality between men and women and the empowerment of women, which were unforeseen outcomes. However, 31% of respondents stated that they could not determine the unforeseen impacts until they had started utilizing the newly provided equipment for cultivation.

### **Impact on the environment:**

Regarding the negative impact on the environment, project staff and community council members in Ba-Tais emphasized that the newly provided generators consumed less diesel and emitted less

exhaust compared to the beneficiaries' previous equipment. The project staff and half of the community councils in Lahj also mentioned that beneficiaries were taught how to dispose of oil without harming the environment. One method suggested was using it to coat wood in their houses, which also acted as protection against pests. However, it was noted that providing beneficiaries with solar energy systems would further mitigate the negative impact on the environment. The project staff also highlighted that the project contributed to the conservation and protection of natural resources in the project area. The equipment provided, along with the knowledge shared, reduced water consumption, protected local plants that were previously cut down for income, and promoted the use of less harmful biological fertilizers.

### **Impact on the resilience of agricultural activity:**

The majority of targeted farmers (80% or 35 out of 44) believed that the project enhanced the resilience of their agricultural activities to withstand future shocks and challenges. They expressed confidence that the provided equipment and knowledge would enable them to continue their activities for a long time. Farmers mentioned that they now had the necessary tools for planting and harvesting, which would help them overcome future challenges. However, 20.5% of respondents, particularly the male participants, believed otherwise, attributing their skepticism to the late completion of the project implementation.

### **Impact of EASLA I and EASLA II**

Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the project had similar impacts on agricultural productivity, but with some differences. In Phase 1, approximately 56.8% of targeted farmers (50 out of 88) reported a large extent improvement in agricultural productivity. They credited the project for securing water, improving irrigation, rehabilitating, and cultivating new lands, and protecting their produce against insects. Some farmers also mentioned cultivating new crops and vegetables. Likewise, in Phase 2, 59.1% (26 out of 44) reported a large extent improvement in agricultural productivity. This improvement was attributed to the equipment provided, which allowed farmers to restore their activities, save money on diesel, and purchase seeds. Some beneficiaries in Phase 2 also mentioned the rehabilitation of land and the provision of necessary equipment. However, 18.2% of Phase 2 beneficiaries (8 out of 44) stated little or no improvement, mainly because the project had recently finished, and they had not reached the production stage.

Phase 1 and Phase 2 differed in their impacts on income increase and food security/nutrition outcomes. In Phase 1, the majority of respondents (96.6% or 85 out of 88) reported an increase in income due to the project, with beneficiaries using the additional income for health needs, education, and other livelihood activities. Nevertheless, in Phase 2, only 56.8% of respondents (25 out of 44) experienced some increase in income, possibly because the project had recently been completed. Similarly, Phase 1 had a higher percentage (95.5% or 84 out of 88) of farmers reporting improvement in food security and nutrition outcomes, attributing it to diverse food sources provided by the project. In Phase 2, 63.6% of farmers (28 out of 44) believed the project had contributed to their food security and nutrition outcomes, while 36.4% saw no change yet due to the recent completion of the project. Overall, Phase 1 had a more significant impact on income increase and food security/nutrition outcomes compared to Phase 2.

Phase 1 and Phase 2 brought about relatively distinct changes. In Phase 1, beneficiaries reported positive changes in their living conditions, including increased self-sufficiency in expenditure. They highlighted improvements in education support for their children, enhanced agricultural knowledge

and food diversification, better access to healthcare, debt repayment, and various other positive changes. However, in Phase 2, beneficiaries primarily emphasized the positive changes related to livelihood improvement and food security, attributed to the equipment provided. Overall, Phase 1 showcased a broader range of positive impacts across education, agriculture, healthcare, and livelihood restoration, while Phase 2 focused more on livelihood and food security improvements, with potential further impacts to be assessed later.

Phase 1 and Phase 2 had similar impacts in terms of strengthening beneficiaries' capacity and skills to manage and sustain their agricultural activities. In both phases, all targeted farmers highlighted that the project had improved their ability to irrigate, control pests, and make informed decisions about cultivation. Furthermore, both phases brought changes in terms of employment opportunities and livelihood diversification within the agricultural sector, but it appeared more in Phase 1. In Phase 1, almost all beneficiaries (97.7% or 86 out of 88) reported such changes, citing increased need for labor during harvest seasons. Similarly, in Phase 2, a majority of beneficiaries (70.5% or 31 out of 44) mentioned new job opportunities in planting and harvesting. A significant portion of beneficiaries in Phase 2 (29.5% or 13 out of 44) had not witnessed these changes yet, likely due to the recent completion of the project. Overall, both phases significantly enhanced capacity, skills, and employment prospects within the agricultural sector.

### **Lessons learned from EASLA I**

The implementation of EASLA I taught project staff valuable lessons, such as the significance of resolving conflicts within the community through project intervention and collaboration with community leaders and authorities. Additionally, providing equipment to beneficiaries proved beneficial, as it allowed farmers to share water with neighboring farms without any monetary compensation. The staff also realized the value of redistributing usable old equipment to farmers who did not receive support or to beneficiaries who faced a shortfall in their grant. This approach not only optimized resource utilization but also fostered a sense of collaboration and support among farmers. Furthermore, the importance of minimizing water waste and promoting crop diversity became evident during this phase. Strengthening the relationship between local authorities, the agricultural office, and beneficiaries was another key lesson learned. Lastly, the project team successfully assessed and addressed security concerns throughout both phases, ensuring the safety of the project implementation.

EASLA II provided additional insights. The project staff recognized the importance of collaboration among beneficiaries during the equipment installation process, which created a supportive atmosphere and enhanced ownership. Adjustments were made to the project's Phase 3 area in due to security concerns, ensuring a safer environment for all involved. Building upon the lessons from Phase 1, the team added a component to promote good agricultural practices. This was done to address the farmers' lack of knowledge identified in Phase 1. Effective coordination and clear selection criteria were implemented to avoid negative feelings among those not selected, fostering a sense of fairness and transparency. Furthermore, discussions were held regarding the inclusion of a component to foster social activities for Phase 3, although it had not been implemented at the time.

## **1.9 Localization**

The localization of the project's findings through the collaboration between ADRA Yemen and ADRA Japan has been instrumental in its success. ADRA Yemen's deep understanding of the local context and their role in coordination, beneficiary identification, and project implementation, combined with

ADRA Japan's expertise in networking with donors, financial management, and advocacy, have resulted in a project that is tailored to the specific needs of the Yemeni communities. The technical expertise of both organizations, particularly in agriculture, is recommended to be leveraged to enhance localization and ensure effective implementation. Therefore, it is recommended to continue strengthening the collaboration between ADRA Yemen and ADRA Japan, focusing on knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and financial management to further enhance localization in future projects.

## 2. Conclusions

- The project's impact on the beneficiaries clearly demonstrates its humanitarian nature, as it has brought about positive changes and improvements in various aspects of their lives. The ability to provide treatments, access education, purchase food and medicines, and increase income through crop cultivation and sales have significantly contributed to the well-being and self-sufficiency of families.
- The provision of new pumps and diesel motors allowed for improved water supply, benefiting both the beneficiaries and other farmers in the area. Additionally, the project training on good agricultural practices (GAPs) enhanced the farmers' knowledge and skills, empowering them to optimize water usage, control pests, and improve their productivity and marketing strategies.
- The project effectively utilized its resources, including financial, human, and material assets, to achieve its desired outcomes in an efficient manner. The selection criteria for beneficiaries were based on needs and vulnerability, prioritizing households with specific characteristics, especially the previous farmers who lost their livelihoods and stopped their farming activities. Strategies such as community committees and market linkages were implemented to optimize resource efficiency and facilitate income generation for farmers. Challenges during implementation, such as resistance from non-beneficiaries, were overcome through communication and engagement with local authorities.
- The adaptive agriculture training and restoration of irrigation facilities were highly valued by beneficiaries, contributing significantly to their agricultural rehabilitation. The majority of beneficiaries considered the provided equipment and tools as the best option to enhance their access to agriculture livelihood activities.
- Efforts have been made to establish effective coordination mechanisms, such as the FSAC cluster, which serves as a platform for integrated humanitarian responses and regular information sharing. Project staff noted that collaboration is fostered through discussions to establish agricultural and marketing associations or cooperatives. Despite challenges, including limited internet access for farmers, phone numbers and community committees are utilized to facilitate communication and engagement.
- The CCs agreed on suitable selection criteria, but some of the community committee in AL Qabaitah had reservations on the number of excluded beneficiaries. Gender disparities in the criteria were raised, suggesting a need for revising and ensuring a more inclusive and gender-responsive approach.
- The evaluation reveals mixed perceptions regarding the project's promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in agricultural activities. While over half of the beneficiaries and some community representatives in Lahj expressed dissatisfaction, citing societal customs and project exclusions, others refuted these claims and believed the project had promoted gender equality.

- All the beneficiaries, along with all of the community committee, stated that there were no safety or security risks for them on the way to their land or the market. Furthermore, no security incident was recorded during the implementation process or the distribution of agriculture equipment
- The analysis of findings indicate that the project area is safe and there are no concerns to disrupt the agriculture activities of the beneficiaries as a result of a thuggery.
- All beneficiaries in Khanfar and Al Qabaitah expressed their satisfaction with the implemented project and the inputs they received which help them to meet their needs, provide them with a source of income that enable them meet other needs, such as food, health, and education necessities.
- The project demonstrated a strong commitment to community ownership by actively engaging the targeted farmers and ensuring their participation in rehabilitation efforts and installation of the provided items.
- The type of the distributed agriculture kits and assets like diesel engines, pumps, etc which is deemed to be more sustainable to endure after the end of the project. Additionally, several measures were reported to be taken to ensure the long-term sustainability of project outcomes and benefits for the beneficiaries, including collaborating with local authorities and community committees to select areas and individuals with the greatest need and eligible, and providing necessary information for equipment maintenance, and facilitating income generation for the farmers.
- The findings analysis shows that the project has many impacts including the improvement of agriculture productivity. However, 43% of the beneficiaries said their agricultural productivity improved only to some extent. They mostly attributed that to the increase in the prices of oil derivatives.
- The majority of beneficiaries in the first phase reported a positive impact of the project on their income increase. However, this was not as clear for some beneficiaries in the second phase. In the first phase, beneficiaries were able to utilize the agriculture equipment and tools they received to improve their agricultural products, leading to an increase in their income. On the other hand, some beneficiaries in the second phase had only recently received their agriculture equipment and tools and they have just restarted their agriculture practices, so the impact was not immediately visible during the data collection period. However, it is expected that the impact will become evident after some time, particularly after the harvest of their products.
- The findings indicate that the majority of targeted farmers and most CC representatives acknowledged some unforeseen positive impacts resulting from the project. These included improved family relations, reduced tension within households, enhanced self-esteem of farmers, knowledge transfer to the wider community, job creation, improved food availability, and increased self-sufficiency. On the other hand, it can be concluded that the project had no unintended or unforeseen negative impacts.
- The vast majority of beneficiaries (99%) expressed their belief that the project had strengthened the resilience of their agricultural activities, enabling them to better withstand future shocks and challenges. They emphasized that the equipment provided by the project would support their ongoing cultivation efforts, generating income that would help sustain and maintain the equipment in the long term.

### 3. Lessons Learnt

1. The project provided beneficiaries valuable agriculture productive assets that could be utilized as sustainable assets to resume their agriculture activities and enhance their resilience after the end of the project. Providing similar assets (diesel motors and irrigation network, is more commendable than other intervention which might support beneficiaries with less important agriculture inputs such as seeds and fertilizers.
2. The project's outcomes and effects on the beneficiaries serve as a valuable lesson, highlighting its humanitarian essence. The project's interventions have resulted in notable positive transformations and advancements across multiple dimensions of the beneficiaries' lives. The project's success in enabling the provision of medical treatments, facilitating access to education, ensuring access to food and medicines, and fostering income growth through agricultural activities has played a pivotal role in improving the overall welfare and self-reliance of families.
3. The project contributed to self-sufficiency and achieving better living conditions for families through rehabilitating their agriculture facilities and enhancing their resilience by securing sustainable source of income.
4. Distribution of diesel engines or diesel operated generators might be exposed to the disruption of the agriculture activities as a result of the repeated fuel crisis and skyrocketing in fuel price, which might prompt some of the beneficiaries to stop or reduce their agriculture activities.
5. Though there were no thuggery incidents reported by any of the project beneficiaries, building a small room for the provided motor to the beneficiary near to his well is commendable, specifically those who cannot afford building such kind of room to enhance the protection of the provided agriculture equipment.
6. One of CC highlighted concerns regarding gender disparities in the selection criteria. It is implied that some of the criteria may have favored men over women, potentially leading to a lack of inclusion and equitable representation of women in the project. These reservations indicate the importance of reviewing and revising the selection criteria to ensure a more inclusive and gender-responsive approach, addressing the concerns raised by the Lahj CCs.
7. The project staff stated that the project period was short for the staff to establish agriculture cooperatives. Insights gained from this experience highlight the importance of allowing an adequate timeframe for establishing cooperatives within project planning and implementation. A shorter project duration can limit the staff's ability to engage farmers, conduct necessary training, and provide the necessary support for the successful establishment of cooperatives.
8. Providing training on maintenance practices will help beneficiaries ensure the longevity and proper functioning of project assets. Including maintenance training as part of project implementation was good to improve the sustainability of interventions.
9. Strengthen collaboration with local authorities, sheikhs, and notables to ensure community engagement and effective project implementation. Local stakeholders can provide valuable insights and support for project success.
10. The project applied a method where eligible female beneficiaries can nominate a substitute participant, such as their adult sons or another trusted male family member, to attend the training sessions on their behalf. This approach respects cultural norms while still providing women with indirect access to the knowledge and skills imparted during the trainers.



11. One important lesson learned from the evaluation is that the success of the project was not solely dependent on technical agricultural expertise. Instead, it emphasized the significance of factors such as overall financial management and establishing donor networks. However, an insightful takeaway from this experience is that ADRA Japan could enhance the localization aspect by sharing its successful international experiences with ADRA Yemen. By adapting and applying this international expertise to the specific context of Yemen, it would lead to a more effective approach in achieving project goals.
12. ADRA recognized the value of redistributing old but still functional equipment. Instead of leaving it unused, the project staff decided to provide the equipment to other farmers in the region who did not receive support or to beneficiaries who did not have all their needs met by the grant. This approach ensures efficient utilization of resources and benefits a wider group of individuals and enhance the social cohesion and solidarities among HHs in the targeted areas.
13. From the lessons learnt during the implementation of EASLA I is the significance of establishing strong linkages between the project, local authorities, and the Agriculture Extension Office. This collaboration helps facilitate effective communication, coordination, and support between these entities, leading to improved project implementation and outcomes.
14. The direct communication channels between beneficiaries and trainers. By distributing the contact information (phone numbers) of trainers from the Agriculture Office to the beneficiaries, ADRA facilitated easier and more direct communication. This step helps address queries, provide guidance, and ensure a smooth flow of information between beneficiaries and trainers.
15. Emergency humanitarian crisis response projects are typically designed to address immediate needs and provide rapid assistance. However, in complex and protracted crises like the conflict in Yemen, there is often a need to transition from emergency response to long-term development support. It is crucial to assess the evolving situation on the ground and determine whether the project's objectives can be achieved through a phased approach that balances immediate relief with sustainable development.
16. Projects spanning multiple periods allow for a more comprehensive and sustainable approach to addressing the underlying causes of the crisis. By transitioning from emergency response to long-term development, there is an opportunity to address systemic issues and build resilience within affected communities. Evaluating the potential impact of continuing support for multiple periods involves assessing the project's ability to promote self-reliance, empower local actors, and create lasting positive change.
17. Collaboration with other humanitarian aid organizations is critical when supporting projects that span multiple periods. Assessing the validity of continuing support involves evaluating the effectiveness of coordination mechanisms, partnerships, and the division of responsibilities among organizations. Collaborative efforts enable the sharing of expertise, resources, and best practices, ultimately enhancing the overall impact and efficiency of the project.

### **Enhancing Self-Reliance of Beneficiaries in Agriculture: Strategies for Sustainable Development**

The project targeted different beneficiaries in different areas and project phases. However, if the project will continue targeting the same beneficiaries until they became self-reliant, the following suggestions are needed to be considered:

- Provide farmers with solar systems instead of diesel motors
- Provide farmers with improved seeds

- Teach farmers how to produce natural fertilizers and pesticides through recycling the waste of animals and the available natural resources
- Establish agriculture cooperatives to help in providing quality seeds and to market products of farmers to be sold in a good and fair price
- Enhance **effective exit strategy** through collaborating with District Agriculture Office to continue mentoring the farmers and to coordinate with any potential partners to build on the success of EASLA project and target the same farmers with the missing/further needs
- Assist farmers by providing training, access to inputs, market connections, and post-harvest management practices to enhance agricultural value chains. This involves capacity building, promoting sustainable farming techniques, and strengthening farmer cooperatives.

## 4. Recommendations

*The recommendations below apply to future projects, local authorities, project staff, and JPF.*

### 4.1 For Future Projects

If there is a next phase of the project in the same area or other areas of similar needs building on the great positive impact on and success achieved by this project, **the following recommendations could be considered:**

- a) Beneficiaries expressed a desire for solar power systems to replace diesel, which was costly and increasing in price. To enhance the livelihoods protection in any further implementation of similar project, it is recommended to consider distributing solar systems for farmers to enhance their resilience and increase the efficiency of the project in terms of sparing the money paid on fuel consumption for current distributed diesel motors. Future projects can consider providing renewable energy solutions to reduce dependence on expensive and unsustainable energy sources.
- b) Farmers highlighted the importance of receiving seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, and hand tillers to improve their agricultural activities. Including these inputs in future projects can help farmers achieve better results and increase productivity.
- c) The establishment or rehabilitation of agricultural cooperatives can enhance cooperation among farmers, improve access to resources and markets, and create a supportive network for agricultural activities. Future projects are recommended to consider incorporating cooperative structures. It is also recommended to consider prolonging the project implementation period for the establishment of agriculture cooperatives with the activities of similar interventions.
- d) The suggestion of supporting farmers financially to purchase agricultural inputs and diesel can alleviate the financial burden on beneficiaries and facilitate their engagement in agricultural activities. This can be achieved through targeted financial assistance programs at least after the distribution of agriculture inputs.
- e) It is recommended to consider revising the selection criteria to address concerns of exclusion and gender disparities, promoting a more inclusive approach with equitable representation of women. This can be done through conducting a comprehensive gender impact assessment and engaging with stakeholders for input on refining the criteria.
- f) It is recommended to build a small room for the provided motor to the beneficiary near to his well or farm to secure the protection of the provided agriculture equipment.

- g) To enhance the safety and security needs of female farmers, it is recommended to build a small room for female farmers in addition to provide them with protective equipment, such as gloves, boots, and masks.
- h) Project staff suggested holding intensive and longer training programs on agricultural practices to enhance farmers' knowledge and skills. This can contribute to the sustainability of project outcomes and ensure farmers are adequately trained to implement new practices effectively.
- i) In future projects, it is recommended to include female trainers to be tasked to conduct the training for female farmers. Due to the conservative nature of these societies, such courses could be held in informal settings, like open spaces within the villages.
- j) During the implementation of GAPs trainings, it is recommended to conduct extensive training of a longer period, focus more on practical aspects in order to enhance effectiveness and application. By emphasizing hands-on learning experiences, farmers can gain practical skills and knowledge that can be directly applied in their agricultural practices. This approach allows for a more meaningful and impactful training experience, enabling farmers to implement GAPs effectively in their day-to-day farming operations.
- k) The agricultural expert recommended more training on the modern irrigation methods, such as drip irrigation, to reduce the agricultural consumption of water, which amounts to 3.5 billion cubic meters at a time when only 2.1 billion cubic meters are restored on a yearly basis in Yemen. He also suggested introducing integrated pest and disease control and focusing on combating the whitefly, which transmits viral diseases such as yellowing and stunting through tomatoes and cucurbits, because chemical control is not sufficient for this purpose.
- l) To maximize the impact of future projects, it is valuable to consider providing hand tillers to farmers, as an alternative to expensive plowing methods.

## 4.2 For Local Authorities

- a) The project staff recognized the importance of collaborating with local authorities, sheikhs, and notables to resolve conflicts and ensure community engagement. Future projects should prioritize building strong relationships with local stakeholders and involving them in project implementation.
- b) Although no security risks were reported during the implementation of the project, however, it is commendable to consider close coordination with authority in the district level along with stakeholders such as community committees to avoid any security risk may occur during the project implementation.
- c) It is also recommended to strengthen engagement with local stakeholder and community members throughout the project cycle, from planning to implementation and evaluation. This involvement can help ensure that projects are aligned with local needs and priorities.

## 4.3 For ADRA

- a) It is recommended to coordinate with stakeholders and other partners within the FSAC cluster to provide the targeted beneficiaries with quality seeds and fertilizers to maximize the impact and benefit from the implemented project.

- b) It is commendable to explore partnerships with other organizations or agencies to complement each other's expertise and resources. Collaborative efforts can lead to more impactful and sustainable projects.
- c) It is advisable for ADRA to coordinate with authority agriculture district office to appoint extension workers to conduct regular visits to the farmers, educate them so that they could help themselves, in addition to linking them with research-based information to improve agricultural production, productivity, processing, and marketing of agricultural goods and services.
- d) It is recommended to conduct thorough investigations of targeted areas before designing projects to ensure comprehensive coverage of community needs and to write project proposals based on these needs assessments.
- e) It would be commendable if ADRA Japan could enhance the localization aspect by sharing similar expertise with ADRA Yemen based on successful international experiences in other contexts. This sharing of international experience adapted to the local context of Yemen would contribute to a more effective approach.
- f) It would be commendable to establish a formal knowledge-sharing mechanism between ADRA Japan and ADRA Yemen to facilitate the exchange of technical expertise and experiences. This can include regular meetings, workshops, and virtual platforms where staff members from both organizations can share insights, lessons learned, and best practices in agriculture. By promoting a culture of learning and collaboration, the project implementation can benefit from the combined knowledge and expertise of both teams.
- g) Prior to project implementation, encourage joint contextual assessments conducted by staff members from both ADRA Japan and ADRA Yemen is advisable. This collaborative approach ensures that the project design and interventions are grounded in a comprehensive understanding of the local context, including farming practices, climatic conditions, and market dynamics. By pooling resources and insights, the project can be tailored to address the specific needs and capacities of the Yemeni communities effectively.
- h) It is recommended to establish a mentorship program where experienced staff members from ADRA Japan provide guidance and support to their counterparts in ADRA Yemen. This program can focus on specific areas of technical expertise and project management. Through regular mentoring sessions, the staff in ADRA Yemen can enhance their skills and knowledge, enabling them to further localize the project implementation. This mentorship program fosters professional development and strengthens the capacity of the local team to effectively adapt and implement the project interventions.

#### 4.4 For JPF

- a) Supporting farmers with productive assets deemed to be more effective, therefore, it is recommended to continue adopting funding similar interventions for vulnerable farmers who lost their agriculture activities due to the repercussion of the conflict.
- b) It is recommended to scale up the allocation of funding allocated for similar project to provide solar systems for farmers to ensure more efficiency, sustainability to secure access to source of power with less expenses on fuel, which has fluctuating and skyrocketing price, particularly in southern governorates.

- c) It is recommended to consider having the integration in JPF support in the targeted areas. This could be done through continue JPF support in the same area but in a different form, like livestock support.
- d) It is recommended to implement comprehensive projects that address various community needs, including health, livelihood, beekeeping, and maintenance training for youth to ensure a holistic approach to development and therefore meet various community needs.
- e) It would be recommended to state that these projects demonstrated that agricultural development assistance could be an effective intervention, as far as one is implemented in some area where no major conflict is observed even though the targeted country is in war, fragmented or politically instable."

#### **4.5 For Effective Crisis Response and Sustainable Development Strategies:**

- a) Conduct thorough needs assessments and contextual analysis to understand the evolving dynamics of the crisis. This will help determine the appropriate balance between emergency response and long-term development support. Regular monitoring and evaluation should guide decision-making, ensuring that interventions remain relevant and effective.
- b) Design projects with a phased approach, allowing for a smooth transition from emergency response to long-term development. Each phase should have clear objectives, timelines, and indicators for success. This approach facilitates the gradual shift from immediate relief to sustainable interventions, considering the specific needs and capacities of the affected communities.
- c) Active engagement with local stakeholders is crucial throughout the project's lifespan. Involve affected communities, local authorities, and civil society organizations in decision-making processes, ensuring their ownership and active participation. This engagement fosters sustainability and empowers communities to drive their own development.
- d) Collaborate closely with other humanitarian aid organizations, government agencies, and local actors to leverage resources, expertise, and coordination efforts. Strengthening partnerships enhances the overall impact and avoids duplication of efforts. Regular communication and sharing of information will ensure a more comprehensive and efficient response.
- e) Maintain flexibility and adaptability in project design and implementation. Continuously assess the changing context, adjust strategies as needed, and incorporate lessons learned from previous phases. This will help address emerging challenges and capitalize on new opportunities for effective support.



The contract for the third-party evaluation (TPE) of the project “Agriculture Emergency Rehabilitation Project in Lahj and Abyan” was approved by Japan Platform (JPF). The kick-off meeting of the evaluation was on 09/24/2023. The team of MEAL Center was informed by the JPF team about the main focus of the TPE and the overall scope of work. The team was mobilized during the same week by preparing the field researchers and supporting staff. They were given orientation on the project and methodology of work. **The inception phase involved:**

- Initial briefing meeting with JPF.
- Desk review of existing project documentation (including proposal documents and reports)
- Tools design.
- Data collection methodology, recruiting field researchers, developing training materials and conducting the training, and preparing the logistics for the field phase.
- Obtain feedback on data collection tools.
- Interviewees were identified in preparation for the evaluation.

## 1. Background of the Evaluated Project

Country	Republic of Yemen				
Project Title	Agriculture Emergency Rehabilitation Project in Lahj and Abyan - Phase 1 & 2.				
Donor	Japan Platform (JPF)				
Implementing Partner	Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Japan and ADRA Yemen				
Project Locations	Phase 1:	Abyan (Khanfar district)		Lahj (Al Qabaitah district)	
	Phase 2:	Abyan (Khanfar district)			
Project Duration	Phase 1:	Start Date	Sep 15, 2022	End Date	May 14, 2023
	Phase 2:	Start Date	Mar 30, 2023	End Date	Sep 29, 2023
Project Purpose	To rebuild a foundation for self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods by increasing agricultural productivity and enhancing the resilience of beneficiary households. The beneficiaries are expected to develop plans for agricultural production and have access to necessary resources for execution.				
Number of Estimated Beneficiaries	Phase 1: 80 Households (560 people). <i>(80 household was a plan, but achieved to support 88 household (616 people)).</i>			Phase 2: 45 Household (315 people).	
Project Targets	The project targets vulnerable households, including those hosting IDPs, households headed by females, households with disabled members, malnourished children or pregnant/lactating women, households with children under five, large families, and households with no access to regular income.				
Action Focus	Agriculture, and Livelihood				

## 1.1 Project Activities

- Targeted households are provided with irrigation tools.
- Baseline/Area assessment is conducted to collect initial information.
- Coordination with local government and the community leaders are held to prepare the list of beneficiaries based on the shared criteria.
- Beneficiary verification is conducted
- Assessment and screening of vendors is conducted.
- Tools and kits are provided to the beneficiaries.
- Good agricultural practices (GAPs) training is provided to the beneficiaries.

## 1.2 Project Objectives

**Overall objective.** To rebuild a foundation for self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods by increasing agricultural productivity and enhancing the resilience of beneficiary households. The beneficiaries are expected to develop plans for agricultural production and have access to necessary resources for execution.

**Specific Objective.** To enhance resilience of the conflict-affected communities in Lahj & Abyan governorates of Yemen

## 2. Purpose of the Evaluation

This evaluation aims to assess Project 1 funded by JPF. The objective is to collaborate with a third-party monitoring (TPM) entity, the MEAL Center (MC), to proficiently gather information, validate activities, analyze data, and offer valuable recommendations. MC's role ensured rigorous quality control in project areas inaccessible to JPF due to diverse constraints. The findings from this evaluation are intended for JPF's strategic decision-making and to enhance the execution of future projects.

## 3. Scope of the Evaluation

The evaluation assessed the EASLA1 project that has been implemented in Abyan (Khanfar district) and Lahj (Al-Qabaitah district) and EASLA2 that has been implemented only in Abyan (Khanfar district). The evaluation sample covers all the targeted beneficiary HHs in the targeted districts. MC collected data related to verifying and vetting the quality of performance of project output and outcome indicators, activities, and interventions. MC led the design rollout of the data collection tools, training the field team, and the overall field data collection and analysis of data. **Scope of the evaluation includes:**

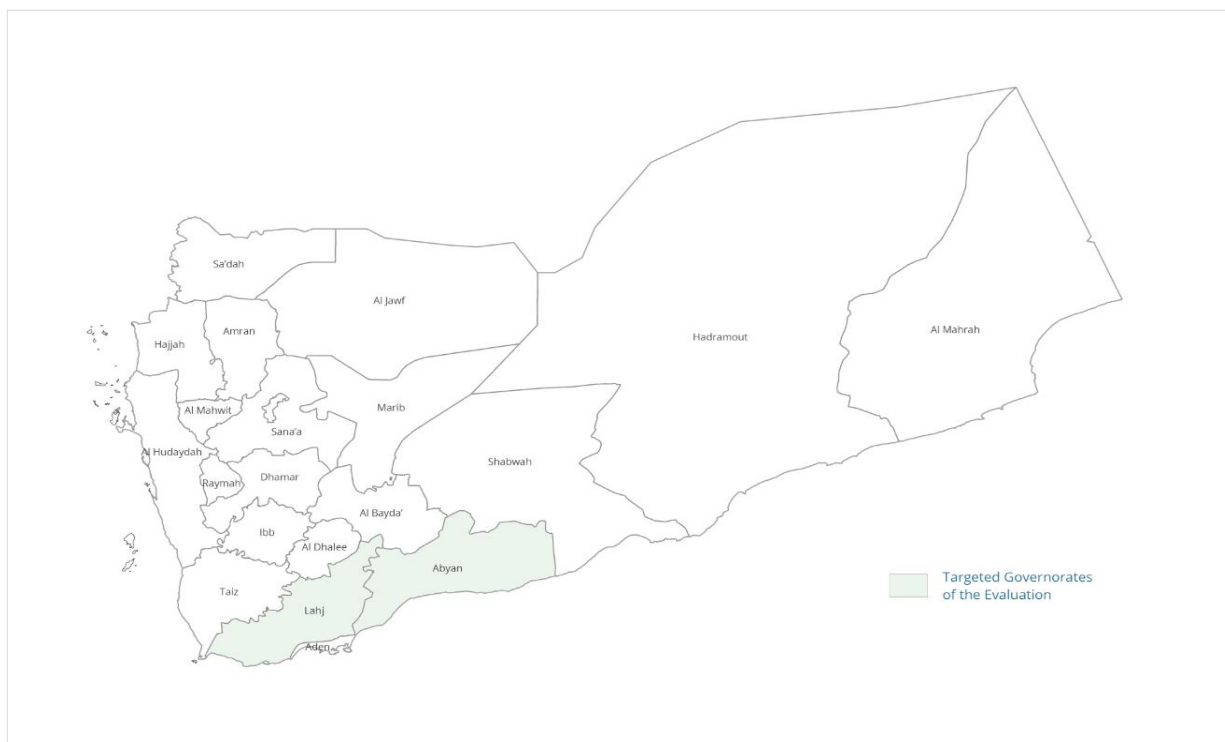
- Assess effectiveness and impact of the project in Yemen, focusing on alignment with the development nexus.
- Evaluate outcomes related to improving agricultural practices, enhancing food security, and promoting sustainable livelihoods in Lahj and Abyan.
- Analyze the interplay between humanitarian assistance and development initiatives.
- Identify synergies and opportunities for maximizing positive outcomes and building resilient communities.
- Provide insights and recommendations for improving JPF's approach to the humanitarian-development nexus.



**The targeted governorates and locations to be assessed by this evaluation are:**

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Governorates</b>	<b>Districts</b>
Phase1	Abyan and Lahj	Abyan (Khanfar), Lahj (Al-Qabaitah)
Phase 2	Abyan	Khanfar District

**Table 2:** Targeted districts in evaluation of EASLA1 & EASLA2



**Figure 1:** Map of the targeted location by the project

## 4. Evaluation Objectives

- Verify adherence to humanitarian principles and standards, with a focus on neutrality.
- Ensure adherence to the project proposal and monitor its progress.
- Analyze the impact of the project on the target population.
- Verify adherence to humanitarian standards and best practices.
- Understand beneficiary satisfaction and assess if needs are being met.
- Evaluate the management of local implementing partners and identify effective support measures.
- Determine suitable short-term, medium-term, and long-term assistance for effective aid.
- Identify the most suitable projects and strategies for implementation by JPF and member NGO.
- Provide feedback to improve future project planning and implementation.
- Document lessons learned and extracted best practices for future projects.

## 5. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation is guided by the Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development - Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC) criteria. The evaluation utilized the OECD/DAC Evaluation Criteria to assess project performance and the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) to evaluate the quality of interventions and accountability aspects. ***The CHS and OECD-DAC criteria for evaluating the project include:***

1. **Relevance:** Assessing the extent to which the project aligns with local needs and priorities in Yemen.
2. **Coherence:** Evaluate the consideration of contextual factors, alignment with the national health system, coherence with other stakeholders, adherence to health and humanitarian principles, and synergies with other interventions by JPF and its member NGO.
3. **Efficiency:** Determine whether the project has delivered its interventions in a timely and economical manner, ensuring effective use of resources.
4. **Effectiveness:** Determine the extent to which the project interventions have achieved satisfactory results and objectives in addressing the needs of beneficiaries, particularly in the areas of adaptive agriculture training, restoration of irrigation facilities, and strengthening resilience.
5. **Impact:** Determine whether the project's results and achievements in the areas of agriculture rehabilitation, livelihood capacity enhancement, and agricultural productivity have generated significant positive or negative effects on the targeted population.
6. **Sustainability:** Assess the extent to which the benefits of the project are maintained after formal support has ended, considering various dimensions such as financial, economic, social, and environmental sustainability. Focus on the continuation of the overall value of the intervention and the adaptation of acquired knowledge and skills.

In addition to the above criteria, ***the evaluation also addressed the following aspects:***

- **Beneficiary satisfaction:** Assessing satisfaction levels among beneficiaries, with a focus on gender disaggregation and feedback from stakeholders.
- **Contributions to HRP 2022 and program goals:** Evaluating the project's impact on improving living standards, resilience, and timely assistance as outlined in the HRP 2022.
- **Participation and accountability:** Assessing the involvement of crisis-affected individuals, especially vulnerable groups, in decision-making processes and evaluating the project's contribution to local ownership and capacity building.
- **Lessons learned and recommendations:** Identifying key lessons for the implementing NGO and JPF member agencies, providing recommendations on project design, stakeholder engagement, and improvements in various areas. Sharing replicable lessons on gender mainstreaming, behavior change, and intersectoral programming. Recommending program priorities for JPF and highlighting areas for further discussion on localization and the humanitarian-development nexus.



# EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

MC used a mixed-method methodology, utilizing quantitative and qualitative (structured and semi-structured survey questionnaires) tools such as observations, desk reviews, site visits, direct interviews with beneficiaries and staff at the project sites/locations, community members, key informants (KIs) in-depth, and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs/ Qualitative interviews).

## 1. Study Design

The evaluation employed quantitative and qualitative participatory methods. The data collection included gender, age, and location disaggregation and reached all the beneficiaries targeted by the project.

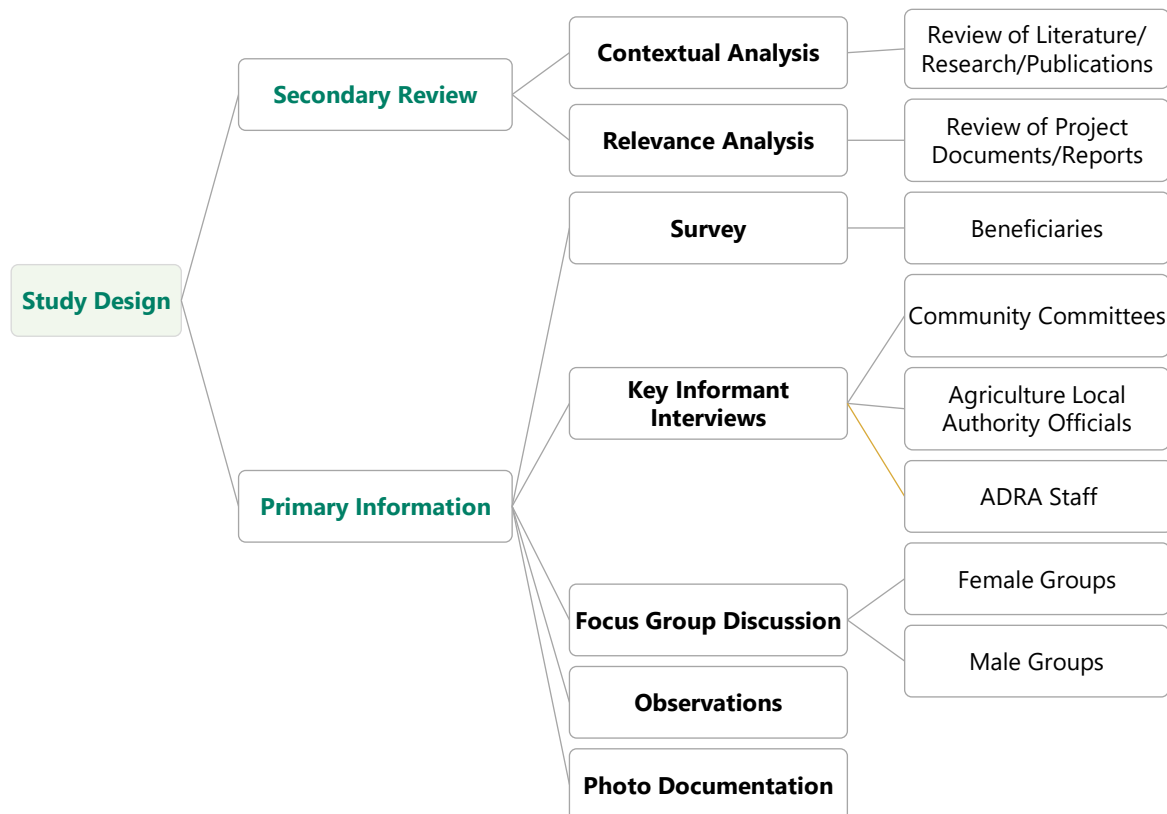


Figure 2: Evaluation Design

## 2. Evaluation Sample

The total beneficiaries of the "Agriculture Emergency Rehabilitation Project in Lahj and Abyan" project is 132 HHs include (88 beneficiary HHs of phase 1 and 44 HHs benefited from phase2). The sample included almost all the targeted beneficiaries by the project (132 out of 133 HHs).

The balanced number of participants in the quantitative and qualitative interviews is meant to obtain enough details for evaluators to pass a value judgment about the project and evaluate the project effectiveness and impact on the beneficiaries.

Below is the targeted sample (*household surveys, focus group discussions* and *key informant interviews*).

Agriculture Emergency Rehabilitation Project in Lahj and Abyan					
Stakeholders and beneficiaries	Lahj (Al-Qabaitah District)		Abyan (Khanfar)		Total
Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)					
FSAC Representative	1				1
Manager of Agriculture office in the district	1		1		2
Community Committees	6		4		10
Sub-Total (KIIs)					13
Project Staff					
Project Staff	4				4
Beneficiaries' interviews	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Beneficiaries of agriculture inputs (Phase 1)	64	8	16		88
Beneficiaries of agriculture inputs (Phase 2)			39	5	44
Sub-Total beneficiaries					132
Focus group discussions					
Beneficiaries of agriculture inputs			2 (1 male and 1 female)		2
Sub-Total FGDs					15

*Table 3: Distribution of Qualitative and Quantitative Survey Samples*

### 3. Evaluation Activities

- Desk review of project documents, including but not limited to the approved project proposal, project log frame, beneficiary selection criteria, latest project progress and final reports.
- Beneficiary surveys to verify that HHs received the proposed service or input.
- Key indicators as defined in the proposal.
- Project Site visits and verification of project activities.
- In-depth interviews with beneficiaries to collect success stories.
- Key Informant in-depth Interview with stakeholders.
- Focus Group Discussions (Qualitative interviews).
- Country and sector context analysis.

### 4. Evaluation Tools

The evaluation tools were developed for the HH Survey, FGD and KII tools. Field data collection took place in the target locations during the first half of November 2023. This is in addition to interviews and discussions with ADRA project team. The data was collected through paper-printed questionnaires. The evaluation team leaders monitored the data collection activities closely, and by the end of the day, every

researcher reported their work (number and type interviews with gender disaggregation) to ensure adhering to the proposed sample and covering all the required individual interviews, KIs, FGDs and monitoring observation. Then it was entered on “Kobo toolbox” software using mobile phones. The data has been exported to Microsoft Excel. Data has been verified by team leaders on the field and by MC MEAL team members.

## 5. Evaluation Researchers

The field team was composed of 9 researchers (73% female). In Al Qabaitah district, a team of six researchers were involved in field data collection, including four female researchers and three in Khanfar district, including two female researchers. (see Table 4). The team members were selected from the target areas based on their previous experience in field research. Field data collection teams received training before the fieldwork. A data analyst was devoted to developing a database from collected data, based on which statistical analysis was conducted.

<i>Field Researchers per District</i>			
<i>District</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Total</i>
Al Qabaitah	4	2	6
Khanfar	2	1	3
<i>Total</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>9</i>

*Table 4: Field Researchers per District*

## 6. Data Cleaning and Analysis

The analysis for reporting requires triangulation of qualitative data, quantitative data, and documentation. Managed by the MC data team, all uploaded data to the server will first be validated to ensure accuracy. The collected data will be cleaned initially through the website platform, which was developed to facilitate real-time tracking and monitoring of submitted raw data before conducting the analysis. Afterwards, normalization is conducted to ensure authentic and accurate data interpretation and remove any ambiguity, duplication, or inconsistencies. Then the data set will be cleaned through manual and automated revisions.

**Quantitative Data Analysis.** The analysis involves summarizing data with graphical representations in form of histograms, pie charts and bar charts, to name a few. This provides a quick method of making comparisons between different sets of data and spotting the smallest and largest values, trends, or changes over a period of time.

**Qualitative Data Analysis.** Qualitative data analysis is a process aimed at reducing and making sense of vast amounts of qualitative information – very often from multiple sources, such as focus group discussion notes, individual interview notes and observations – in order to deduce relevant themes and patterns that address the M&E questions posed. When analyzing qualitative data, the focus was on the words spoken by the respondents, the context in which the data was collected, the consistency and contradictions of respondents’ views, the frequency and intensity of participants’ comments, their specificity and emerging themes and patterns.

For the qualitative portion, the evaluation team used minimum focus group discussions, key informant interviews, direct observations, and site visits. However, the final decision on the methods was provided by the evaluation team. The evaluation team kept in mind that it is undertaking a major responsibility in its attempt to make cross-cultural references and analysis. The qualitative data were represented in a narrative form and, wherever it was meaningful and possible, it was accompanied with descriptive statistics. Regardless of their nature, data were disaggregated by gender.

## 7. Limitations to the Study

The evaluation did not face significant challenges related to security or access to the targeted location. The field researchers did report any challenges during the fieldwork. The pre-coordination with ADRA project staff who collaborated with the team and informed the community committees in the targeted areas to collaborate with the field researchers and help them to reach to the beneficiaries targeted by the project. The roughness of the road to some remote areas in Al-Qabitah was the only challenge for the researchers in reaching the place, but it did not hinder them to reach to all the targeted beneficiaries.



### 1. Relevance

This section of the report will assess the extent to which the project aligns with local needs and priorities of the beneficiaries in the targeted areas.

#### 1.1 Challenges Faced Before the Intervention

Most of the interviewed beneficiaries reported that there were many priorities needs and challenges faced in agricultural activities before the project intervention. The key needs identified include the requirement for new machines, pumps, and solar energy systems. All of the ten CC members in Abyan and Lahj stated that the project addressed the challenges that faced the beneficiaries in their agricultural activities. Four of the CC members pointed out that the project interventions helped the beneficiaries overcome the issue of water pumping as they either had old or outright out-of-work pumps. They indicated that the other farmers can now water their lands from the wells of the beneficiaries and pay 20% of their harvest.

Among the challenges mentioned by the beneficiaries the lack of water supply, high diesel consumption, and limited financial resources for land cultivation and agricultural inputs. The old and faulty equipment resulted in frequent breakdowns and costly repairs. ***Below are some additional details regarding the priority needs and challenges mentioned by the beneficiaries:***

- **Outdated Machinery:** The beneficiaries faced difficulties due to old and unreliable machinery. These machines frequently malfunctioned, resulting in disruptions to farming activities. Repairing the machines was costly, and the lack of proper maintenance led to decreased productivity.
- **Water Supply:** Insufficient access to water was a significant challenge. The farmers relied on pumps to extract water from wells or other sources for irrigation. However, the pumps were either non-functional or in need of repair. This led to a scarcity of water for crops, negatively impacting their growth and yield.
- **High Diesel Consumption:** The old machinery mentioned by the beneficiaries consumed a significant amount of diesel fuel. This added to the financial burden of the farmers and limited their ability to cultivate larger areas of land.
- **Equipment Shortage:** There was a lack of necessary equipment for farming activities. This included pumps, and tools for land preparation. The absence of essential equipment hindered efficient and effective agricultural practices.
- **Financial Constraints:** Limited financial resources posed a challenge for the farmers. They struggled to afford the necessary equipment, repairs, and inputs like seeds.
- **Limited Knowledge:** Some of the beneficiaries also reported that there was a lack of knowledge and information about modern irrigation techniques and practices. This limited their ability to optimize water usage and maximize crop productivity.

All the aforementioned challenges faced the affected households caused the disruption of their agriculture activities and livelihoods. The beneficiaries identified a range of needs, including the requirement for new machinery, pumps, and solar energy systems. The project successfully provided



these tools and equipment, enabling the farmers to overcome issues such as water scarcity, high diesel consumption, and limited financial resources and be able to restart their agriculture activities.

The provision of new pumps allowed for improved water supply, benefiting both the beneficiaries and other farmers in the area. Additionally, the project training on good agricultural practices (GAPs) enhanced the farmers' knowledge and skills, empowering them to optimize water usage, control pests, and improve their productivity and marketing strategies.

## 1.2 Project Alignment with the Priority Needs

The local authorities of Abyan's Khanfar and Lahj's Al Qabaitah indicated that the Agriculture Emergency Rehabilitation Project aligned with the national agricultural policies. The Director of the Agriculture Office in Khanfar pointed out that the project provided each farmer with what they needed, and the Director of Al Qabaitah highlighted that providing the farmers with their needs was reflected in the provision of the agricultural products needs of the people in the area.

The project staff pointed out that during the war, some of the targeted areas were damaged directly or indirectly, some people lost their agricultural equipment either due to theft or destruction, and the markets were not ready to receive the agricultural products.

The high prices prevented the farmers from replacing them, and the government did not extend a helping hand, which heightened the importance of such interventions. This led to the inability of households to secure their basic needs of food, health and education for their children, in light of the absence or the shortage of NGOs interventions. According to the project staff, the interventions contributed to the stability of the population and the restoration of their agricultural activity, which provided their households with a decent living. It also contributed to strengthening the local market for agricultural products. Therefore, the project helped the beneficiaries to restore their agriculture facilities and enhanced their livelihoods from selling their products in the market to be able to secure source of income to meet their needs and to avoid further loss of their assets.

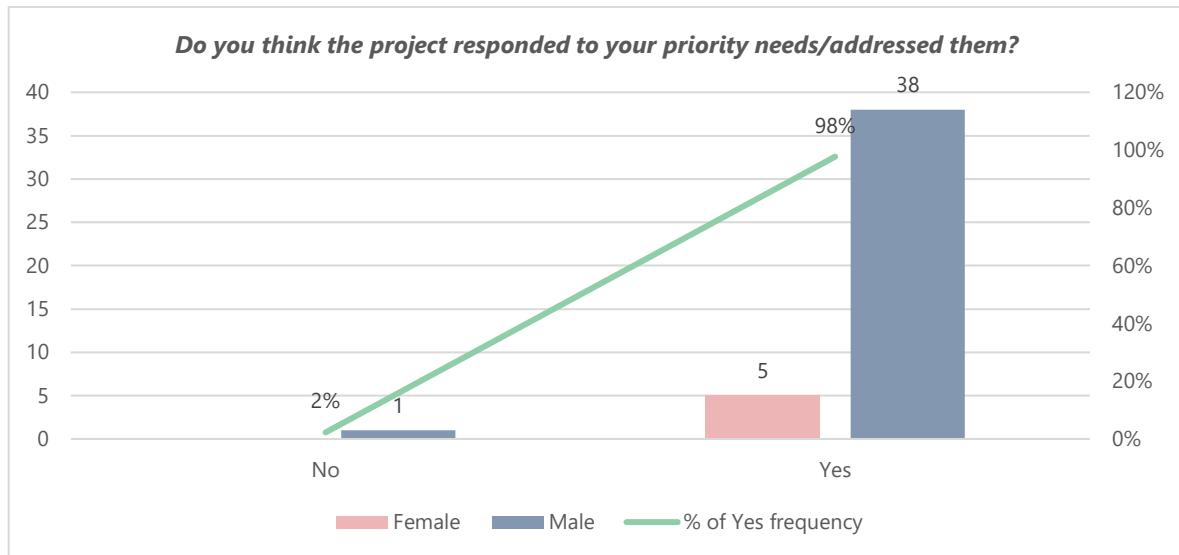
***“The project is at the heart of the needs of the targeted areas and farmers due to the state losing its function in the field of agriculture, supporting farmers and giving them free grants, and thus the organization intervened and gave a ray of hope to the farmers”.***

One of the project staff said.

The overwhelming majority of the beneficiaries (98% or 43 out of 44) stated that the project responded to their needs. Moreover, 39 out of the 44 beneficiaries indicated that the project addressed their needs to a large extent as it provided them with the tools they were in need of. They noted that the project provided them a new pump, which helped in sourcing water from the well, replacing the old malfunctioning pump and helped them to restart their livelihoods.

This equipment enabled the farmers to resume their farming activities by supplying water to the agricultural land. The FGD male participants noted that the provided equipment was particularly helpful because they had to stop their agricultural activities due to not being able to secure the needed water for irrigation.

Therefore, replacing or provisioning of the agriculture assets and resources that have been lost or damaged helped to save lives of people in the targeted areas and reduce immediate suffering through provision of basic resources like food, water, health services. These findings echoed the importance of the project outcome which served as a relief intervention, but also it leads to the recovery of the HHs livelihoods and might result at the end to the achieving the development of beneficiaries' situation.



**Figure 3:** Do you think the project responded to your priority needs/addressed them?

All of the ten CC members who took part in the survey, along with the two local authority representatives, confirmed that the project responded to the needs of the beneficiaries. A CC member in Khanfar of Abyan explained that the provided equipment, along with the training the farmers received, helped the beneficiaries increase their agricultural productivity and improve their financial situation. The Director of Al Qabaitah district in Lahj added that the project enabled the farmers to cultivate grains, which are their main food. Three of the CC members interviewed in Al Qabaitah of Lahj indicated that the increase in the prices of diesel would hinder the benefit the farmers got from the project intervention, recommending providing them with solar energy systems.

Meanwhile, 4 out of 44 interviewed beneficiaries indicated that their needs were responded to some extent. They noted that some shortcomings were not addressed by the project, including the financial support necessary for land protection, purchasing agricultural seeds, and fuel was not provided. These farmers faced economic difficulties, which made some of them face some difficulty to start their cultivation process. Despite these challenges, the responses of the beneficiaries indicate that the project intervention had positive outcomes. In the long term, it provided a new pump that facilitated water supply to the fields. Additionally, the farmers received valuable training on modern irrigation techniques and pest control, which enhanced their knowledge and skills in agriculture.

The project's alignment with national agricultural policies was acknowledged by local authorities, who recognized its contribution to restoring agricultural activities and livelihoods in the targeted areas. The overwhelming majority of beneficiaries confirmed that the project effectively responded to their priority needs. While a small number of beneficiaries expressed some remaining challenges, such as the need for financial support for land protection and purchasing agricultural inputs, the overall outcomes of the project were positive.

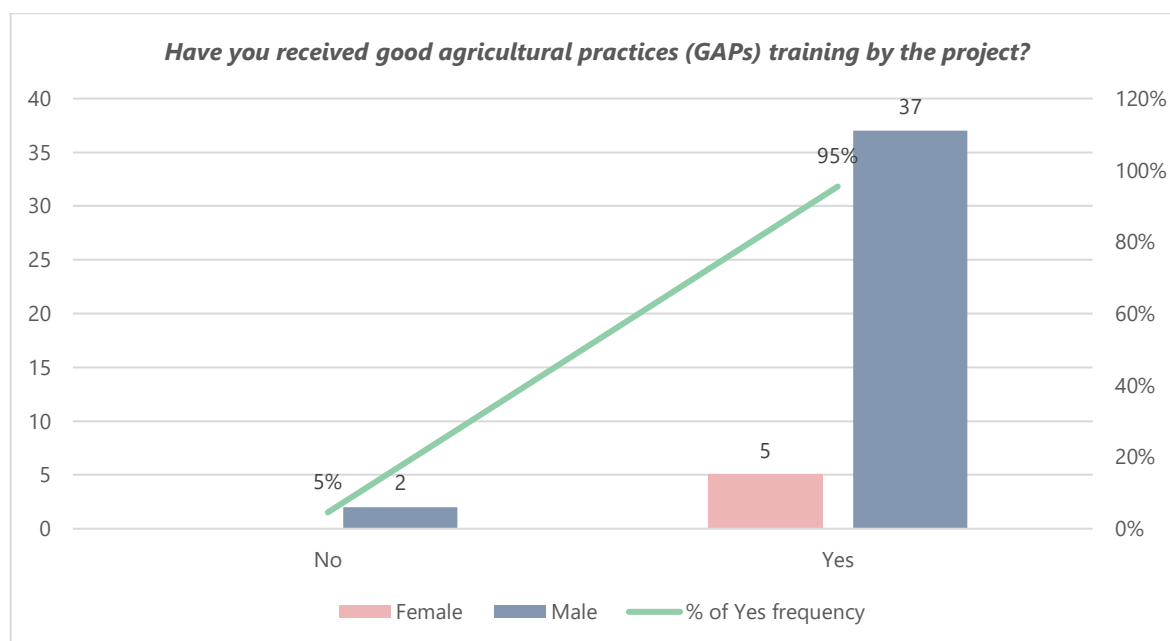
To conclude, the project intervention was very relevant and the best choice from other type of interventions because the targeted areas is characterized of fertile agricultural lands, where most of the areas' people are farmers. Therefore, the project agriculture intervention helped these farmers, particularly the conflict affected farmers, to restart their agriculture activities and livelihoods.

### 1.3 Relevancy of the Conducted Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) Training

Along to the distributed agriculture inputs the project provided the beneficiaries with the required skills to enhance their agriculture knowledge and good practices in order to increase their products. The project targeted 88 beneficiaries in the first phase of the project in Khanfar Abyan and Al Qabaitah Lahj and targeted in the second phase 45 beneficiaries in Khanfar Abyan. The training topics in the first phase included: 1) The water requirement of agricultural crops; 2) Best control of agricultural diseases and pests; and 3) Drip irrigation. In the second phase, the 45 beneficiaries in Khanfar Abyan received GAPs training on the following topics: 1) The water requirement of agricultural crops; 2) Best control of agricultural diseases and pests; 3) Drip irrigation; and 4) Market chain.

When asked whether they received GAPs training by the project, about 95% of the beneficiaries (n=42 out of 44) reported having received training on good agriculture practices (GAPs) during the project. All of these respondents thought that the training topics were relevant to their needs and were applicable to their cultivation practices. ***Some of the points they said they had learned during the training included:***

- How to rehabilitate the land;
- Drip irrigation;
- Controlling pests and using pesticides;
- Marketing the produce; and
- Operating and maintaining pumps and generators.



**Figure 4:** Have you received good agricultural practices (GAPs) training by the project?

However, around 5% of the beneficiaries noted that they received no training on GAPs.

The male and female participants of the FGDs held in Abyan stressed that the training topics were relevant to their needs. The female beneficiaries said they were able to practice what they had learned. The male participants elaborated more on the topics covered in the training, and they matched what was mentioned by the respondents to the survey.

All the CC members, along with the project staff, believed that the conducted good agricultural practices (GAPs) training for the targeted beneficiaries was very relevant. They indicated that the training provided the farmers with information they did not have, which would help them improve their production and marketing, and therefore make good money. The project staff explained that the training included irrigation techniques, such as the disadvantages of open irrigation, flood irrigation, and drip irrigation; agricultural pest control; and the profit/loss calculations, as the targeted areas have a large gap between farmers and the Agricultural Extension Office.

In conclusion, the relevance of the conducted GAPs training was widely recognized by the beneficiaries, who found the training topics applicable to their cultivation practices. The knowledge gained in areas such as land rehabilitation, drip irrigation, pest control, and marketing strategies empowered the farmers to improve their production and increase their income. Both the beneficiaries and project stakeholders, including community council members and project staff, emphasized the significance of the GAPs training in bridging the knowledge gap and supporting sustainable agricultural practices.

Overall, the project intervention successfully addressed the priority needs of the beneficiaries, provided them with necessary tools and equipment, and imparted relevant agricultural knowledge and skills. It contributed to the stability of the population, rehabilitated their agriculture assets, improved agricultural productivity, and strengthened the local market for agricultural products. By addressing the challenges faced in agricultural activities, the project played a vital role in enhancing the livelihoods of the beneficiaries and creating a ray of hope for the farmers in the targeted areas.

## 2. Coherence

This section aims to evaluate the consideration of contextual factors, coherence with other stakeholders, and synergies with other interventions by JPF and its member NGO.

### 2.1 Insights Regarding Coordination Efforts Between the Project and Authority

The interviewed officials in the district agriculture offices in Khanfar and Al Qabitah mentioned the potential for sharing insights regarding the coordination efforts between the project and the Ministry of Agriculture at both the national and local levels through the agriculture office. To obtain these insights, it is suggested to arrange meetings with the entities responsible for implementing the project. These meetings can provide valuable information and details about the needs of the planned area to be targeted in addition to the coordination and collaboration between the project and the Ministry of Agriculture, shedding light on the level of engagement and cooperation between the two entities.

### 2.2 Effective Coordination Platform

FSAC cluster is one of the effective platforms that are used by ADRA for coordination of its agriculture interventions in Abyan and Lahj. The FSAC provides a platform for coherent, coordinated, and integrated humanitarian responses driven by the assessed food security needs of the affected population. The cluster system in Yemen is accountable to the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC)

and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). The FSAC undertakes regular 3Ws or 4Ws mapping to ensure that information on the programs and projects of Cluster partners is comprehensive and up-to-date, as a basis of monitoring humanitarian response, and identifying eventual gaps<sup>26</sup>.

The interviewed representative of ADRA in the FSAC cluster mentioned that ADRA is attending monthly meeting held by FSAC. Another project staff stated that coordination is carried out through a cluster approach. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) distributes seeds as an integrated activity, but it has not been implemented in the project areas. It is suggested to include these project areas in the FAO's targeting, and a promise has been made to consider this in the future by the Director-General of the Agriculture Office in Lahij and the Deputy Director of the Agriculture Sector in the southern and eastern provinces.

Regarding the mechanisms or platforms that have been established to ensure coordination and effective collaboration among stakeholders and the beneficiaries, they noted that the targeted farmers in the valley do not have internet access. However, phone numbers have been distributed among them, enabling communication. The community committees play a role as representatives of the farmers when interacting with local authorities, traders, and other relevant individuals or groups. These committees serve as a means of coordinating and representing the interests of the farmers, facilitating effective communication and collaboration with various stakeholders.

## 2.3 Synergies and Collaborations

When asked about the synergies and collaborations that have been established with relevant stakeholders to enhance the project's impact and effectiveness, the project staff mentioned the initiation of discussions to establish agricultural and marketing associations or cooperatives. These discussions aim to foster collaboration and create partnerships with stakeholders in the agricultural and marketing sectors, which can contribute to enhancing the overall impact and effectiveness of the project.

They noted that there is integration and alignment of the project with other developmental initiatives in the region. One of the project staff mentions a specific project being implemented by the Social Fund for Development (SFD) in Batis sub-district in Khanfar Abyan, which involves the rehabilitation of valleys and irrigation channels. In this project, specific openings and bridges are created to deliver water to farmers for irrigation purposes. In the event of floods, this water can be utilized instead of wells, highlighting the integration between the two projects. However, the project staff confirmed that there was no duplication for the implemented activity in the targeted areas because there was no organization implementing similar project in these areas.

In conclusion, the project demonstrates a strong focus on coherence and coordination with relevant stakeholders. Efforts have been made to establish effective coordination mechanisms, such as the FSAC cluster, which serves as a platform for integrated humanitarian responses and regular information sharing.

The project seeks to align with other developmental initiatives in the region, such as the rehabilitation of valleys and irrigation channels by the SFD. Collaboration is fostered through discussions to establish agricultural and marketing associations or cooperatives. Despite challenges, including

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<sup>26</sup> [ToR of Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, Yemen](#)

limited internet access for farmers, phone numbers and community committees are utilized to facilitate communication and engagement.

Overall, the project deemed to be enhancing its impact and effectiveness through synergies and collaborations, while avoiding duplication of efforts in the targeted areas.

### 3. Efficiency

This section highlights to which extent the project has delivered its interventions in a timely and economical manner, ensuring effective use of resources.

#### 3.1 Resources Utilization to Achieve the Desired Outcomes

The project staff said that the project utilized its resources (financial, human, and materials) to achieve the desired outcomes in a highly efficient manner. The project team inspected the areas, households, wells, and land to verify the project's ability to meet its desired outcomes. The areas where results could be achieved were selected based on the selection criteria.

According to project proposal, the Selection criteria is strictly based on an assessment of needs and vulnerability of people. The selected households must have access to an agricultural land and have physical resources such as seeds and fertilizers as well as have proven previous experience in agricultural activities. ***The following will be prioritized:***

- Households hosting IDPs.
- Households headed by females.
- Households that have disabled members.
- Households that have malnourished children or pregnant or lactating women (PLW).
- Households with a child or more under 5 years old.
- Large family (at least six household members including children under five).
- HH with no access to regular income.

Regarding measures or strategies implemented to optimize the project's efficiency in delivering the agriculture inputs to the beneficiaries, the project staff reported that certain criteria were established for selecting eligible areas and farmers and selecting good contractors. Ahead of that said another project staff that along with the close coordination with the authorities, ADRA formed the community committee to ensure the smooth distribution of the inputs. The community committee were also consulted regarding matching the selection criteria and verifying from the eligibility of beneficiaries to be selected.

In addition, to assist the farmer in acquiring the agricultural inputs that were not provided by the project, such as seeds, the connections with merchants were made through the CC so that the farmers could obtain their needs and pay at a later time. The farmers themselves were made to come together and collect money to buy some seeds, which then were distributed among them.

The project staff stated that the project facilitated the establishment of efficient market linkages and value chains for agricultural products, leading to increased income for farmers. The project team mentioned that the CCs that were created by the project helped create linkages between the farmers and the merchants so that they could obtain what they needed and pay later. That helped the farmers resume their agricultural activities and gain some income. From the aforementioned findings, it is evident that the project helped the targeted HHs to restore their livelihoods and agriculture activities

that have been disrupted. After providing them with agriculture assets that were lost or damaged, ADRA support livelihoods-related markets and this helped them to resume their income-generating activities.

When asked about the possibility of achieving the same results of the project with the same or fewer resources, almost all of the CC members (9 out of 10) thought that the same results of the project could be achieved with the fewer resources. They indicated that the beneficiaries could have been provided with solar energy systems, improved seeds, and manual agriculture machines.

The project staff believed that the same results could have been achieved with the same resources in other ways, as well, such as providing the beneficiaries with livestock, a veterinary kit, or more training. He explained that the targeted areas lack the basic information on the way to care for their livestock. He mentioned the example of some people complaining that their livestock were suffering from fever which could have been treated easily had they had this basic knowledge of using human painkillers at a lesser amount.

*"It is also possible to train and qualify the beneficiaries with the same amount. In these areas, their livestock dies, and they don't even have a veterinarian to assist them. It is possible to distribute a veterinary kit to them, valued at up to \$700, which would achieve significant results. Some people were complaining about their livestock suffering from fever, and the solutions are simple, but they don't know them".*

One of the project staff said.

Therefore, to enhance the livelihoods protection in any further implementation of similar project, it is recommended to consider distributing solar systems for farmers to enhance their resilience and increase the efficiency of the project in terms of sparing the money paid on fuel consumption for current distributed diesel motors.

The provision of agriculture tools and equipment played a crucial role to protecting livelihoods activities because it enabled the targeted beneficiaries to meet their immediate and ongoing needs. By addressing the immediate needs of conflict-affected people and supporting their recovery, asset provision contributed to their overall livelihood rehabilitation of their agriculture activities and therefore improving their livelihoods.

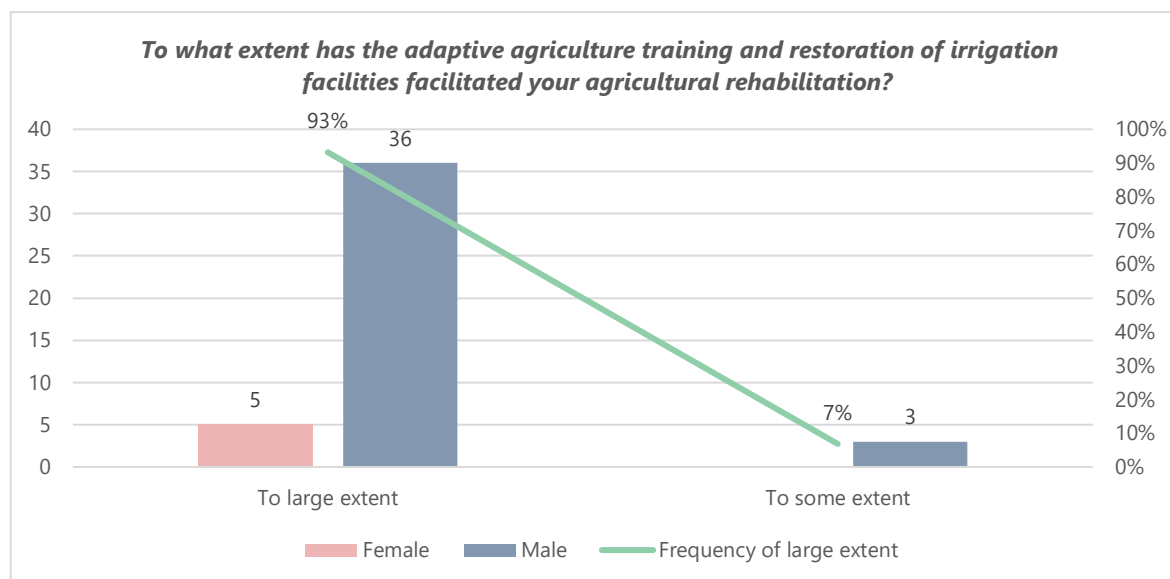
### 3.2 Project Strategies to Overcome Challenges During Implementation Process

According to the project staff, the most significant challenge they faced was the fact that the project targeted a limited number of people, which made others furious and sometimes blocked the road. To solve these issues, those people were spoken to and made to understand the importance of the project to their areas and the selection criteria were explained to them. In addition, the aid of the notable figures in those areas was needed, and for the more intransigent people, which only happened in Abyan, the intervention of the local authorities was requested. Other challenges included the primitive agricultural practices of the farmers and the restoration of their activities. They were overcome through the training courses.



### 3.3 Efficiency of GAPs Training and Restoration of Irrigation Facilities

The vast majority of the respondents (41 out of 44) indicated that the adaptive agriculture training and restoration of irrigation facilities facilitated their agricultural rehabilitation to a large extent. They explained that the training provided them with much-needed information.



**Figure 5:** Measuring the impact of training & irrigation on farming

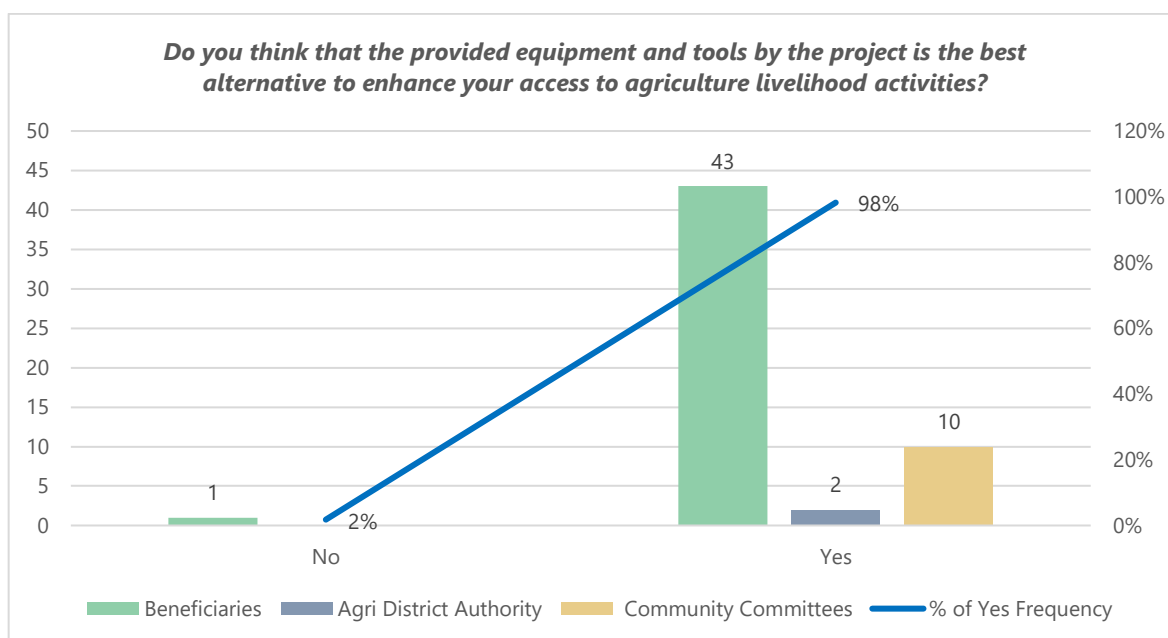
*“Training helped us gain a lot of knowledge that will help us throughout life. This knowledge includes the process of maintaining the pump, as well as how to preserve agricultural land, make it more fertile than before, and make it free of agricultural pests. All of this contributes to improving our agricultural production as farmers, the process of marketing the agricultural product. [We also learned] how to supply, save, and improve our living conditions”.*

A farmer from Khanfar district in Abyan governorate said.

Almost all of the CC members (9 out of 10) echoed the response of the beneficiaries about the training helping the farmers to a large extent. The only CC member who thought the training helped only to some extent attributed that to the fact that the farmers had previous knowledge, but they still learned new things.

### 3.4 Efficiency of Agriculture Inputs

Almost all of the beneficiaries (97.7% or 43 out of 44), along with the participants of the two FGDs in Abyan, believed that the provided equipment and tools by the project were the best option to enhance their access to agriculture livelihood activities. The FGD participants added that the provision of this equipment was the first step that would help them improve their living conditions. The remaining 2.3% (one beneficiary) indicated that providing them with solar energy systems would have been better.



**Figure 6:** Do you think that the provided equipment is the best alternative to enhance access to agriculture livelihood activities?

All of the key informants (10 CC members and 2 local authority representatives) agreed with the beneficiaries. One of the CC members said the provided equipment suited the beneficiaries because the beneficiaries were involved in determining their needs. The project staff reiterated that, explaining that the beneficiaries were involved in the needs assessment and determined what to receive within a budget of 2,150 USD. This gives indication that the project considered the involvement of the targeted beneficiaries in the decision-making process to determine their needs.

The Director of the Agriculture Office in Abyan's Khanfar explained that the project provided the targeted farmers with their needs, including the provision of the irrigation pipes and pumps. Half of the CC members, however, noted that providing the beneficiaries with solar energy systems would be a better alternative to diesel generators.

The agricultural expert pointed out that the current intervention was the most appropriate because it helped some farmers expand the cultivated land, while others entered into a partnership with some who did not have wells or sources of irrigation in their lands paying them a third of their future harvest. He noted that the realization that the designated amount of \$2150 per farmer was limited but it was utilized efficiently to provide the necessary materials for the targeted beneficiaries. Otherwise, it was discovered that implementing a solar energy system as a replacement for the same service would incur costs ranging from \$6,000 to \$7,000 per farm which would exceed the allocated budget and decrease the number of benefited farmers. Consequently, it became evident that interventions focusing on productive assets for the farmers whose agriculture assets were lost or damaged is more effective than seed distribution to be able to rehabilitate their agriculture facilities.

Overall, the project effectively utilized its resources, including financial, human, and material assets, to achieve its desired outcomes in an efficient manner. The selection criteria for beneficiaries were based on needs and vulnerability, prioritizing households with specific characteristics, especially the previous farmers who lost their livelihoods and stopped their farming activities or had partially continued farming on a smaller scale during the conflict.

Strategies such as community committees and market linkages were implemented to optimize resource efficiency and facilitate income generation for farmers. Challenges during implementation, such as resistance from non-beneficiaries, were overcome through communication and engagement with local authorities. The adaptive agriculture training and restoration of irrigation facilities were highly valued by beneficiaries, contributing significantly to their agricultural rehabilitation. The majority of beneficiaries considered the provided equipment and tools as the best option to enhance their access to agriculture livelihood activities. Overall, the project demonstrated efficiency in resource utilization and implementation strategies, resulting in positive impacts on agricultural practices and the livelihoods of beneficiaries.

#### 4. Effectiveness of EASLA I (Phase 1)

This part of the report underscores the extent to which the project interventions in phase one (EASLA I) have achieved satisfactory results and objectives in addressing the needs of beneficiaries, particularly in the areas of adaptive agriculture training, restoration of irrigation facilities, and strengthening resilience.

The local authority agriculture representatives affirmed that the ongoing conflict in Yemen had a negative impact on agricultural practices in the project areas. The Director of Al Qabaitah district explained that the conflict resulted in the increase in the prices of seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, and diesel. The CC members also pointed out that the ongoing conflict in Yemen led to the increase in the prices of fuel and agricultural inputs, which affected the agricultural practices. Three of the CCs, all in Al Qabaitah, added that the war restricted the movement between the governorates, which made obtaining the agricultural inputs even more difficult.

The analysis of the target communities in the selected areas reveals that the specific needs and challenges related to agriculture and food security differ based on demographic and socio-economic characteristics. Within this context, it was observed that half of the Community Committees (CCs), particularly in Lahj, emphasized the need for solar energy systems and manual agriculture machines. The head of the CC in Wadi Thar Al-Awsat highlighted the necessity of manual agriculture machines to reduce the high costs associated with land plowing, which were estimated at 30,000 YER per hour. Other identified needs included seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, and agricultural training. The Director of the Agriculture Extension Office in Khanfar emphasized the need for larger-scale projects, while the Director of Al Qabbaitah district called for the provision of fertilizers, manual agriculture machines, and the replacement of diesel engines with solar energy systems. These diverse needs indicate the importance of tailored interventions and support to address the specific requirements of each area, taking into account their unique circumstances and challenges.

Most of the CCs reported that the project identified the need for the main project components, which include distributing agriculture tools to pump water from wells and transport it to the fields using pipes, as well as providing agricultural training to farmers, based on the needs that had been reported before. The CC in explained that the needs were reported by the Agricultural Office in the district, it was followed by assessments conducted by the organization and direct dialogues with the beneficiaries to understand their needs. The project staff echoed this, adding that the organization inspected the areas after being recommended to them for matching the criteria. After that, there were field visits to the targeted lands to check their suitability for the project and their needs. The farmers were also involved in determining the received assistance within a 2,150 USD budget.

Regarding the likelihood of displacement of the targeted beneficiaries, most of the CCs (9 out of 10) reported that the targeted group are not likely to be displaced by the conflict, while the remaining one

said there was a small probability. With regard to the possibility of the beneficiary taking the distributed assets with them, three CCs said it was possible, while one indicated that it was stipulated that they were not allowed to move them from their area.

According to the project staff, there were administrative procedures for the distribution process through distributing special vouchers to each beneficiary by the organization, and there were invoices submitted by the contractor or merchant. Each of the beneficiaries would check their equipment after being notified that there was ready. The staff also added that the local authority, the agricultural authority, and the CCs were involved in the monitoring indicating that the beneficiaries were made aware about the feedback/complaint mechanism. In addition, the organization's MEAL team would supervise each distribution.

Almost all of the CC members (9 out of 10), along with the Director of the Agricultural Extension Office in Abyan, indicated that the project's objectives and outcomes in enhancing the resilience of conflict-affected communities had been achieved to a large extent. "Indeed, such projects give community members a strong motive to stay in the region instead of emigrating to other areas to look for source of income or job opportunities," said the head of the CC in Wadi Thar Al-Awsat. This shows the effectiveness of the project outcomes which bridged the gap in the protecting the livelihoods of people in the targeted areas. The project staff confirmed that the agricultural products have reached several areas in Lahj (the same governorate) and Aden (the neighboring governorate). The Director of Al Qabaitah district in Lahj and the last CC member thought they enhanced the resilience of the communities only to some extent. The LA representative attributed that to the increase in the prices of diesel.

Most of the CCs also indicated that the project has been successful in improving access to agriculture livelihood opportunities for the targeted beneficiaries because it enabled them to cultivate more land and new kinds of products, creating new job opportunities. The LA representative expressed a similar sentiment, stressing that other people in the community benefitted from this job opportunity.

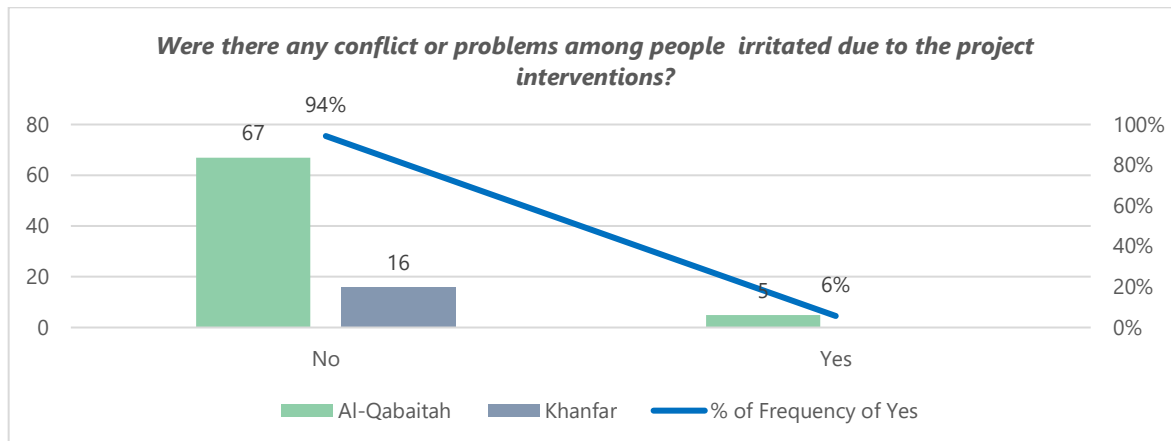
The project staff believed that the project activities had positive effects on the community and its relationship with the local government. They added that the local authorities, like the director of Agriculture Office and the director of the district, visited the areas and people complained to them about their many problems. In addition, the trainers were from the Agriculture Office, and their numbers were distributed to the beneficiaries so that they could support them later in case of need, such as addressing the problems they faced. The local authority was also present at the time of distribution.

#### 4.1 Effectiveness of Conflict

In their answers to "Were there any conflict or problems among people irritated due to the project interventions?", the vast majority of the beneficiaries (94% or 83 out of 88), including all the targeted people in Lahj's Al Qabaitah, reported that there were no conflicts or problems among people in their areas irritated due to the project interventions. Only 6%, all of whom were in Abyan's Khanfar, mentioned there were problems caused by the intervention. They indicated that the problems arose mainly due to the project not targeting all of the farmers in the area. Two of the beneficiaries pointed out that these issues were resolved by the Community Committees after explaining the selection criteria.

The CCs generally agreed that the selection criteria of the project were suitable, but the ones from Lahj had reservations on the number of beneficiaries targeted, as many eligible ones were excluded. Additionally, the Head of the CC in Wadi Thar Al-Awsat in Lahj's Al Qabaitah specifically highlighted concerns regarding gender disparities in the selection criteria. It is implied that some of the criteria

may have favored men over women, potentially leading to a lack of inclusion and equitable representation of women in the project. These reservations indicate the importance of reviewing and revising the selection criteria to ensure a more inclusive and gender-responsive approach, addressing the concerns raised by the Lahj CCs.

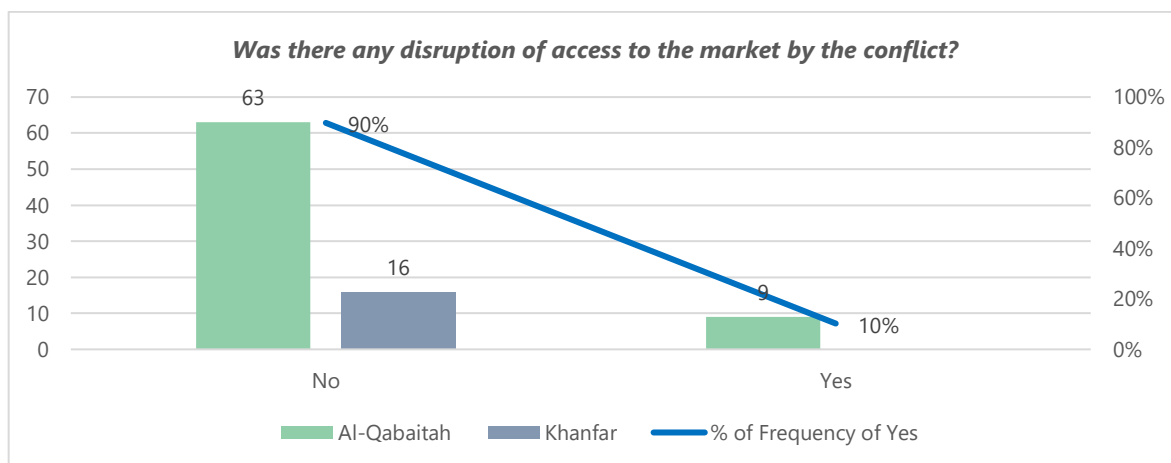


**Figure 7:** Were there any conflict or problems among people irritated due to the project interventions?

Although most of the CCs, including all of those in Abyan, stated that the project did not make them more vulnerable to risk due to the situation in the area, some of them believed otherwise. All of these CCs agreed that the risk was only at the beginning of the project implementation and was caused by the selection criteria, and they were mitigated by informing the beneficiaries about those criteria. Additionally, all of the beneficiaries, along with all of the CCs, stated that there were no safety or security risks for them on the way to their land or the market.

Regarding the alter of potential violence among community members due to the project, while two of the CCs believed that the project did not significantly alter the potential for violence among community members, the remaining eight thought it did. They said the potential for violence decreased because the project provided new job opportunities and improved the living conditions of the community.

Approximately 90% of the farmers who were targeted in this intervention (79 out of 88) faced no disruption of access to the market by the conflict. The remaining 10%, all of whom were in Lahj's Al Qabaitah, reported facing some issues due to the conflict around the Al-Anad Military Base, which is near the market.



**Figure 8:** Was there any disruption of access to the market by the conflict?

### Safety and security needs of female farmers:

Approximately 82% of the beneficiaries (93.75% of those in Abyan's Khanfar and 79.8% of those in Lahj's Al Qabaitah) believed that female farmers did not have increased safety and security needs. Meanwhile, 18% of them (6.25% of the targeted individuals in Khanfar and 20.8% of those in Al Qabaitah) had a different opinion. They all pointed out that female farmers needed protective equipment, such as gloves, boots, and masks. Some of them added that women needed first aid kits, as well. One respondent in Khanfar of Abyan believed there was a need to build a room on the farm to protect the family. The inclusion of first aid treatments and the desire for a small room for rest during farm work highlights the need for safety and protection in their agricultural activities.

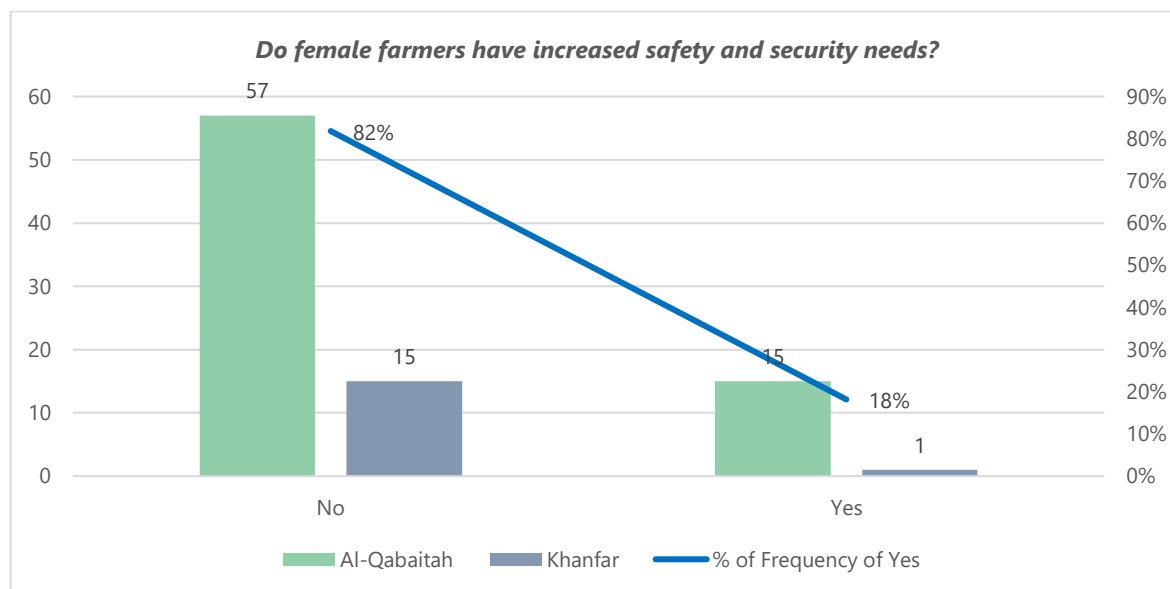


Figure 9: Do female farmers have increased safety and security needs?

When asked whether the distributed assets were exposed to theft, attacks or looting, all of the targeted farmers affirmed that the distributed assets had not been exposed to theft, attacks, or looting. The project staff stressed that the people were not exposed to greater risks through the distribution of valuable assets. They also pointed out that the distributed assets were not at immediate risk of theft, attacks, or looting, especially in the Wadi Thar area, because the community there is tribal. They added that although some people in Ba-Tais of Khanfar were concerned about theft, no incidents had been recorded. This gives indication that the project area is safe and there are no concerns to disrupt the agriculture activities of the beneficiaries as a result of a thuggery.

## 4.2 Effectiveness of Provided Agriculture Items

### Managing providing inputs (seeds, fertilizers):

Though the project did not provide any inputs (such as seed, fertilizer), most of the beneficiaries, especially in Lahj's Al Qabaitah, pointed out that they obtained the necessary inputs after the end of the project by selling some of their livestock. A large number also indicated that they resorted to borrowing money or purchasing the needed inputs. Some farmers, especially in Abyan's Khanfar used their money to obtain what they needed. A few beneficiaries used seeds they had harvested in the past. All of the CCs in Al Qabaitah agreed that some farmers had to sell some of their livestock to be able to purchase these inputs. In addition, over half of the CCs pointed out that some farmers borrowed money from their relatives or purchased the inputs on credit.

This demonstrates various methods used by the targeted beneficiaries, such as borrowing money, taking debts from local shop owners, selling livestock, and purchasing inputs with the proceeds from selling charcoal. Other strategies include borrowing from suppliers and repaying after selling the crops, borrowing from others, and obtaining debts from traders. Though this reflects the resourcefulness and adaptability of individuals in acquiring the needed resources through a combination of financial arrangements, sales, and personal savings, it indicates that the targeted beneficiaries were unable to rehabilitate their agriculture equipment without the intervention of the project due to their affliction.

### **Beneficiaries' satisfaction:**

All of the farmers who were targeted in this intervention expressed satisfaction with the project because it met their needs, providing them with a source of income that helped them meet other needs, such as food and education.

*"[the interventions] helped farmers improve their livelihoods".*

A man from Khanfar district in Abyan said.

*"These interventions have benefited us a lot and improved our income, especially for orphans. Living has improved and many family needs have been met".*

A female beneficiary from Al Qabaitah in Lahj added.

Many of the beneficiaries extended their appreciation to ADRA and the donor. Six of the farmers in Al Qabaitah district of Lahj governorate, however, pointed out that if the project were to provide them with solar power systems, it would help them even more as they still suffer to obtain diesel for the engines amid the skyrocketing prices. This was matched by the CCs.

As for their satisfaction with the behavior of the ADRA staff while providing kits and equipment/training, all of the beneficiaries were satisfied with the way the of ADRA staff behaved when implementing the project. This was echoed by all of the CCs.

Additionally, though 100% of the beneficiaries indicated having knowledge about who to contact if they have a complaint or comment about the staff or activities of ADRA, none of the 88 beneficiaries reported having ever complained to ADRA about a service it provided or the staff providing the service. Furthermore, ADRA staff reported distributing complaints and feedback brochures for each beneficiary. It includes free hotline number (8000677) and two mobile numbers for calls and SMS (774021542 -774021541). According to the project staff, almost all the received complaints were from the not targeted beneficiaries complaining about why they were not targeted though they think that they are eligible. When asked about the reason for not targeting them, one of the project staff noted that they did not much the stipulations of beneficiaries selection criteria.

This finding suggests that ADRA staff exhibited positive and satisfactory behavior while interacting with the beneficiaries, which likely contributed to a positive overall experience for the recipients of the project. The unanimous satisfaction expressed by all beneficiaries and CCs reflects a strong level of approval and highlights the effectiveness of the ADRA staff in carrying out their responsibilities during the implementation of the project.



### 4.3 Effectiveness of Conducted Training

With the exception of one beneficiary, all the interviewed beneficiaries reported gaining knowledge and skills relevant to their agricultural activities. They acquired various practices and techniques, including safeguarding their crops against different insect pests, determining the appropriate amount of water for their land plots, assessing the cultivability of their plots, protecting agricultural equipment and performing necessary maintenance, ensuring safe transportation of harvested produce to the market, effective marketing strategies, distinguishing between harmless and harmful insects, understanding which plants to cultivate and when, proper care for specific crops like watermelon and tomatoes, utilizing insecticides appropriately, cultivating specific fruits and vegetables, and implementing methods to reduce farming costs. The beneficiaries received comprehensive training on a wide range of topics that significantly enhanced their agricultural expertise and productivity.

According to the project staff, the project had successfully promoted sustainable agricultural practices and technologies among farmers in the project area. They explained that the farmers received training in modern techniques for irrigation, agricultural pest control, and value chains, adding that the distribution of project equipment saved the farmers money that would have been wasted on maintenance and purchasing expensive spare parts. After they received the equipment and used it, they spent that amount of money on seeds and fertilizers.

When asked whether they transferred the knowledge they learnt from the project to other people at their community, most of the beneficiaries (82% or 72 out of 88), especially in Lahj (87.5% of the beneficiaries there), reported that they transferred the knowledge they had learned from the project to the other people in their community. **Of these farmers, 98.6% indicated that other people in their communities started applying good agricultural practices, including:**

- The modern methods of irrigation;
- The best way to cultivate and maintain the land;
- Insect control;
- Disposing of oil by coating the wooden parts of the house, protecting them from termites;
- The way to cultivate new produce, such as melon, watermelon, and sesame;
- The best way to maintain agricultural equipment; and
- Marketing;

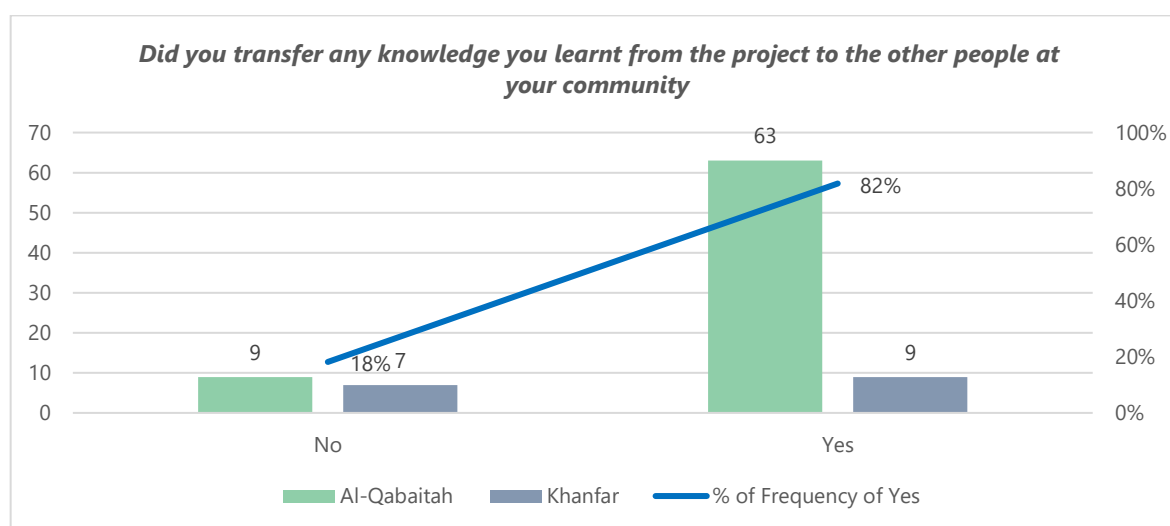
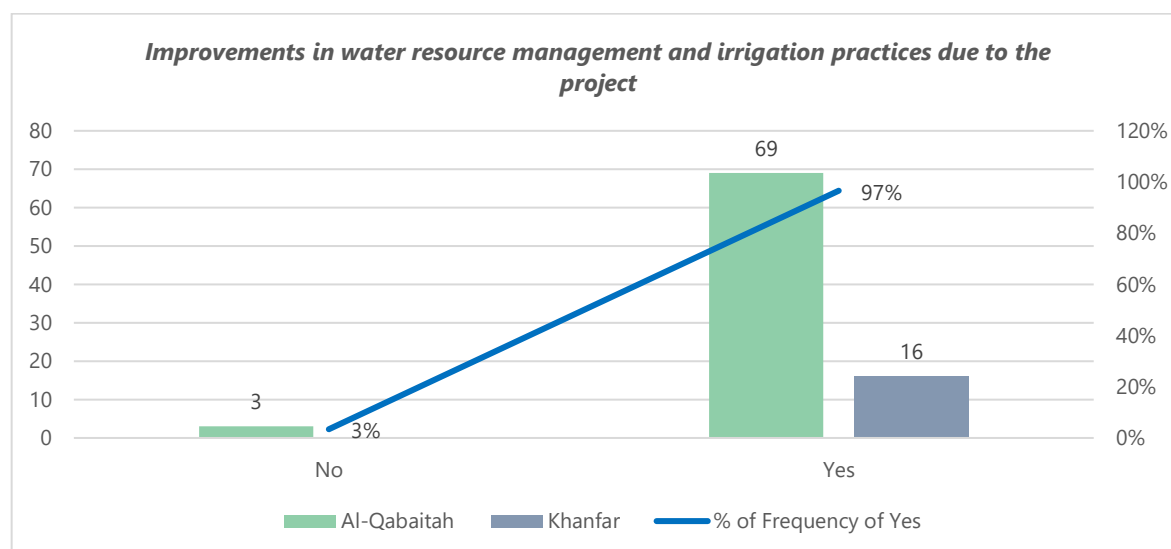


Figure 10: Did you transfer any knowledge you learnt from the project to the other people at your community

All of the CCs confirmed that, adding that other people at the community started applying some of those good agriculture practices. Meanwhile, 18% of the respondents, especially in Abyan, did not transfer the knowledge they acquired from the project. This percentage included approximately 43.8% of the beneficiaries in Abyan, which is worth highlighting. This could be attributed to the fact that most of the beneficiaries were illiterate, and therefore were not able to actively pinpoint the knowledge to transfer it. The project staff affirmed the illiteracy of most of the beneficiaries, underscoring that they had internalized at least 50% of the practices.

### Improvements in water resource management and irrigation practices due to the project:

The overwhelming majority of the targeted farmers (97% or 85 out of 88) reported improvements in water resource management and irrigation practices as a result of the project interventions. They pointed out that their irrigation practices had become more efficient as they had been able to water larger spaces with less water, effort, and cost, and in a shorter period of time. That resulted in these farmers being able to cultivate more and gain a higher income. "In the past, we used to get water from the neighboring farms and pay for it with 20% of our produce," said a farmer from Al Qabaitah district in Lahj. Only 3% (three individuals), all in Lahj's Al Qabaitah, did not notice any improvements in their practices. They attributed this to the increase in the prices of fuel which is needed to operate the pumps.



**Figure 11:** Improvements in water resource management and irrigation practices due to the project

According to the CCs, before the intervention, the beneficiaries' water management and irrigation systems were poor and watering land used to consume time, effort, and water. However, that changed due to the project. The project staff pointed out that the farmers used to irrigate their land in a manner that would cause 40% of the water to be consumed by the soil and 30% would evaporate, but with the improved irrigation network provided by the project, the effectiveness of their irrigation increased substantially. The agricultural expert confirmed that the intervention improved the irrigation of the farmers significantly.

The project staff, however, indicated that the beneficiaries in the Wadi Thar area had not been entirely convinced that the new irrigation techniques were successful, recommending that a pilot experiment be implemented there. The results of such an experiment could encourage all the farmers, including the ones who had not been targeted by the project, to adopt these techniques.

### Market linkages:

Most of the interviewed beneficiaries (78% or 69 out of 88) said that they had learned things through the project activities that help improve the market linkages. They explained that the project provided them with courses that helped them with marketing, purchases, and sales.

*“We learned how to market the crop on the ground before harvesting it and selling it in the market. Some people come to farmers’ lands to buy agricultural crops before they are harvested”.*

Said a farmer from Khanfar of Abyan.

The project staff confirmed that, adding that it helped the farmers have a better understanding of gains and losses and establish linkages with merchants so as to purchase what they needed and pay for it at a later point in time.

Almost all of the CCs (9 out of 10) indicated that the project activities helped with improving the market linkages as it established some connections between the farmers and some of the merchants and suppliers. The project staff echoed that, stating that the CCs helped in connecting the farmers with the merchants.

Nonetheless, approximately 22% (19 out of 88) of the beneficiaries (31.3% in Abyan and 19.4% in Lahj) learned nothing useful in terms of market linkages.

## 4.4 Community Ownership

All of the 88 targeted farmers pointed out that the project engaged with them to ensure their participation in rehabilitation efforts and ownership. Some of them pointed out that the project tasked the beneficiaries with the installation process of the equipment it had supplied. The beneficiaries also underscored that the project transferred the ownership of the assets to the beneficiaries and provided them with legal papers to prove it.

The project staff echoed that, explaining that the equipment provided to the farmers was given to them permanently, but although they were transported to an area near their residences, the farmers were tasked with taking them to their farms, installing, and maintaining them.

The project staff indicated that this was a way they used to enhance the ownership of the beneficiaries of the project and ensure the safety of moving the equipment into the targeted areas. They also added that the project successfully engaged and empowered local communities and stakeholders in the rehabilitation efforts. They explained that the CC members were selected from the community and by the community to serve the community.

Almost all of the CCs (9 out of 10) gave a similar response. They said that the beneficiaries were engaged in the training course and that job opportunities were created in the field of agriculture for the unemployed in the community.

To sum up, the project demonstrated a strong commitment to community ownership by actively engaging the targeted farmers and ensuring their participation in rehabilitation efforts. The beneficiaries themselves acknowledged that they were involved in the installation process of the equipment provided by the project, emphasizing their active role in taking ownership.

The project staff further confirmed that the assets were permanently transferred to the beneficiaries, and legal documentation was provided to validate this ownership. Additionally, the project successfully empowered local communities and stakeholders, as highlighted by the selection of Community Committee (CC) members from within the community to serve and represent their interests.

## 5. Effectiveness of EASLA II

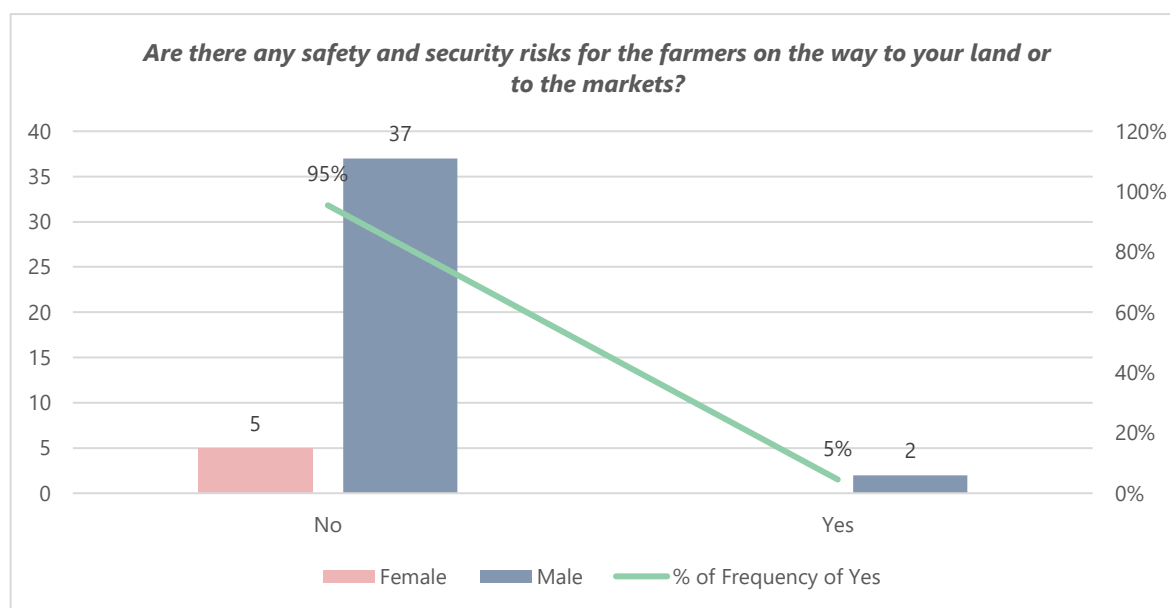
This part of the report highlights the extent to which the project interventions in phase two (EASLA II) have achieved satisfactory results and objectives in addressing the needs of beneficiaries, particularly in the areas of adaptive agriculture training, restoration of irrigation facilities, and strengthening resilience.

### 5.1 Effectiveness of the Conflict

All of the targeted farmers in Abyan, including the participants of the two FGDs, stated that there had been no conflicts or problems among people in their area irritated due to the project interventions. They, along with the project staff, pointed out that the project staff followed some selection criteria for determining the eligible beneficiaries, which limited such issues, especially the previous farmers who lost their livelihoods and stopped their farming activities or had partially continued farming on a smaller scale during the conflict.

Almost all of the beneficiaries (95% or 42 out of 44), together with all of the FGD participants, indicated that there were no safety or security risks for them on the way to their land or to the markets.

Meanwhile, one of the remaining two farmers (5%) explained that sometimes floods blocked their road, while the other one, along with the participants of the male FGD, stated that, although seldom, the way to the market could be blocked due to clashes between security forces and other groups.



**Figure 12:** Are there any safety and security risks for the farmers on the way to your land or to the markets?

The project staff stressed that the area targeted had been safe for a long time, and although it might be less stabled now after the assassination of the security commander in Abyan recently, no incidents had occurred.

Almost all of the farmers (97.7% or 43 out of 44), in addition to all of the male and female participants in the FGDs, said that there had been no disruption of access to the market by the conflict. The only farmer who reported otherwise stated that there had been some rare occasions in the past when some clashes took place between security forces and other groups. The FGD participants confirmed that they were able to access the market to sell their products easily. One of them added that a merchant would go to his farm to buy his products.

While the female FGD participants said there were no negative effects, all of the participants of the male FGD pointed out that the conflict would hinder their ability to access the market and sell their products.

They added that the conflict had resulted in a rise in the prices of food and agricultural equipment. The project provided them with equipment, enabling them to cultivate their lands and increase their income.

All targeted beneficiaries said that female farmers did not have increased safety and security needs. Furthermore, all of the targeted farmers stressed that none of the distributed assets had been exposed to theft, attacks, or looting. This was also confirmed by the project staff.

## 5.2 Effectiveness of Provided Agriculture Items

### Managing providing inputs (seeds, fertilizers):

To get the necessary inputs to start their agricultural activities, most of the farmers (27 out of 44) acquired them from the market by purchasing them (some had to sell some of their belongings or borrow money) or by borrowing them from merchants so as to pay for them after the harvest season.

*“Currently, we have borrowed money and purchased these seeds on credit from other farmers or from a store that sells agricultural seeds; and the same for pesticides”.*

A farmer from Khanfar said.

Some farmers (13 out of 44) were able to use seeds from their previous harvests, whereas others (4) received some support from FAO. The participants in the FGDs had similar answers, as three of them had to borrow money to purchase the seeds, two purchased them on credit, two purchased them normally, one sold some of his belongings to secure the money, and one received them from other organizations.

### Beneficiaries' satisfaction:

All of the targeted individuals in Khanfar of Abyan, along with all of the FGD participants, affirmed that they were satisfied with the project interventions. They explained that the interventions provided them with their needs, such as the pumps and generators, which helped them resume cultivating their land. Some of them, nonetheless, wished that the project had provided them with the cost of installation as a farmer said, *“If only the project would reimburse the cost of the installation of the generator and the pump.”*

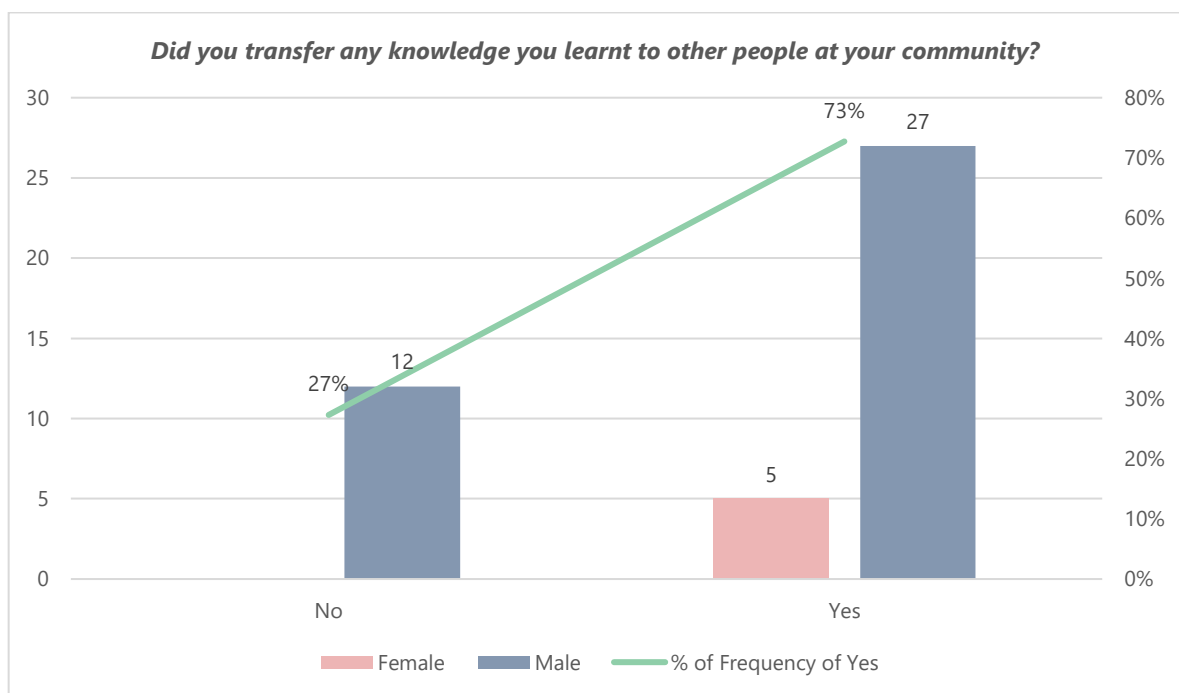
Moreover, all the beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the behavior of the ADRA staff with them while providing the support. Although one of them said otherwise, the reason provided was not related to the behavior, but rather to the fact that the organization did not cover the installation cost.

Furthermore, despite all the beneficiaries being aware of the appropriate channels to voice their complaints or provide feedback regarding the activities and staff of ADRA, none of the 44 beneficiaries disclosed having lodged any complaints to ADRA regarding its services or the conduct of its staff.

### Effectiveness of conducted training:

The vast majority of the farmers (41 out of 44), along with the male participants of the FGDs, indicated that they had learned a few other things related to their agricultural activities during the project other than irrigation rehabilitation. These things included marketing, pest control, land rehabilitation, protecting their agricultural crops, equipment maintenance, and fertilization. A farmer said, "We benefited from the training course on how to deal with all agricultural aspects, which, God willing, will improve our agricultural production." Meanwhile, 3 out of the 44 farmers, along with all the female participants in the FGDs, indicated that they had learned nothing useful relating to their agricultural activities through project activities other than irrigation rehabilitation.

Most of the targeted farmers in Khanfar (73% or 32 out of 44) said that they had transferred some knowledge they had learned from the project to the other people at their community. Most these farmers (71.9%) reported that the other individuals in their community started applying some of those good agriculture practices, such as the modern irrigation method, the insect control methods, and the right way to use fertilizers; while 28.1% indicated that those practices were not employed by the other members of their community. Similarly, all of the male and female participants of the FGDs, save for two, confirmed that the beneficiaries had transferred knowledge they had learned from the project to other people in their community and that those people had started to applying them. On the other hand, 27% of the total number of farmers noted that they transferred no knowledge to others in their community.



**Figure 13:** Did you transfer any knowledge you learnt to other people at your community?

### **Improvements in water resource management and irrigation practices due to the project:**

All of the beneficiaries stated that there had been improvements in their water resource management and irrigation practices as a result of the project interventions. They explained that the drip irrigation method helped conserve water while ensuring that the agricultural crops received sufficient water. They also added that, thanks to the irrigation networks, they were able to irrigate more land.

### **Market linkage:**

Most of the respondents (72.7% or 32 out of 44) stated that they had learned useful information to improve their market linkages through the project activities. They explained that they learned the importance of having connections with people from the market so as to help them plan their visits to the market ensuring that it is not flooded with products. They also received knowledge on how export their products outside the governorate and import their needs, in addition to how to promote them. Meanwhile, 27.3%, along with all the female participants in the FGDs, believed they had learned nothing in this regard.

## **5.3 Community Ownership**

The overwhelming majority of the beneficiaries (93.2% or 41 out of 44) stated that the project had engaged with them to ensure their participation in the project rehabilitation efforts and ownership. They said that the project involved them during the needs assessment stage at the beginning of the project and provided them with the phone numbers they could use to provide feedback or file complaints. They added that the project transferred the ownership of the assets to them.

The project staff echoed that, explaining that the equipment provided to the farmers were given to them permanently, but although they were transported to an area near their residences, the farmers were tasked with taking them to their farms and installing them. The project staff indicated that this was a way they used to enhance the ownership of the beneficiaries of the project and ensure the safety of moving the equipment into the targeted areas.

## **6. Sustainability**

This section analyzed the sustainability of the project activities and assess the extent to which the benefits of the project are maintained after formal support has ended, considering various dimensions such as financial, economic, social, and environmental sustainability. Focus on the continuation of the overall value of the intervention and the adaptation of acquired knowledge and skills.

The project intervention aims to provide necessary assets to individuals who have lost their livelihood assets due to conflict, enabling them to restore their livelihoods until they can sustain them independently. Typically, in livelihood restoration interventions, the process involves restoring the livelihood level of target households, providing necessary inputs for livelihood activities, and providing support for about a year to ensure a smooth restoration process. However, in this project, the provision of inputs and follow-up was not included based on the experience of ADRA Yemen, as it was anticipated that almost all beneficiaries would resume agriculture on their own after irrigation was rehabilitated.

According to project final report, the selected beneficiaries met specific conditions: either they had partially continued farming on a smaller scale during the conflict, had the means to cultivate their fields, or owned livestock, which facilitated their plans to resume farming post-project completion.



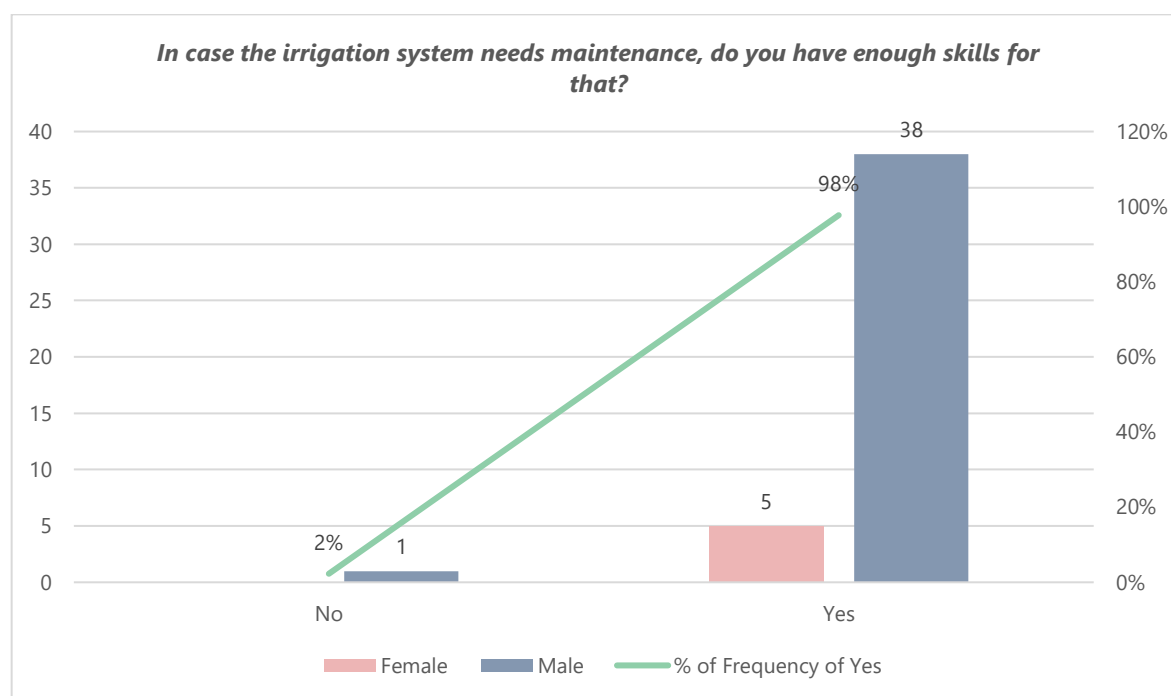
Upon completion of the irrigation restoration, the beneficiaries took various measures to acquire necessary seeds, fertilizers, and other inputs for resuming agriculture. These measures included using home-grown seeds, utilizing livestock manure as fertilizer, jointly purchasing seeds and fertilizers with fellow farmers, or buying inputs from agricultural supply stores and paying after the crop harvest.

Based on the above findings, it can be recognized that the beneficiaries' resumption of farming aligns with the mid-term outcome of restarting/enhancing agricultural livelihood activities and improving livelihood levels to pre-conflict levels.

This analysis of the findings highlights how asset provision as a humanitarian intervention contributed to rehabilitating the likelihood of conflict affected people and supporting their recovery, leading to sustainable livelihood development. By providing necessary assets, in this case, irrigation facilities, the project facilitated the beneficiaries' independent resumption of farming activities, enabling them to restore their livelihoods. The project's success in achieving its mid-term outcome indicates its effectiveness in promoting sustainable livelihoods and supporting the long-term well-being of the beneficiaries.

## 6.1 Sustainability Measures and Beneficiary Feedback on Maintenance Skills and Training

All of the beneficiaries, including all the participants of the FGDs, agreed that the positive impacts of the support would last after the project ended. Moreover, all of the beneficiaries, except for one, representing 98% reported having adequate skills to do needed maintenance to the irrigation system. The only beneficiary who did not think they had the skill to do so pointed out that they pay for the maintenance by selling the harvest of their land or borrowing some money that they would pay back when they sell the harvest.

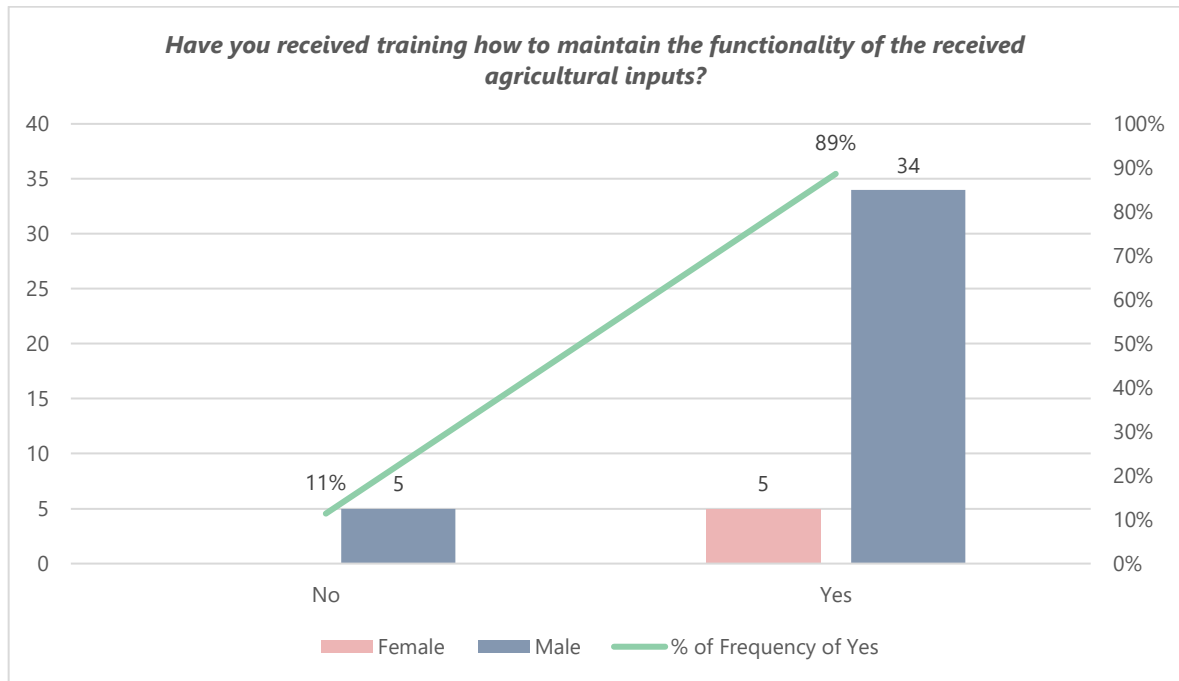


**Figure 14:** *In case the irrigation system needs maintenance, do you have enough skills for that?*

Furthermore, most of the interviewed beneficiaries (89% or 39 out of 44) ascertained that they had received training on how to maintain the functionality of the received agricultural inputs, such as diesel engines and pumps. However, 11% reported that they did not receive any training on the distributed equipment. Seventeen out of the 44 respondents indicated that they were made aware

that they needed to save money from selling the harvest so as to pay for the maintenance of the agriculture inputs. **The others indicated that what they learned during the training included:**

- a) How to operate the generators and pumps;
- b) Covering them from the sun or building rooms for the generators;
- c) Frequently checking the oil and the parts of the pump;
- d) Using new oil instead of used oil; and
- e) Guarding them so they would not be stolen.



**Figure 15:** Have you received training how to maintain the functionality of the received agricultural inputs?

All of the CCs, except for one in Ba-Tais of Abyan, affirmed that the beneficiaries had received such training. They pointed out that the farmers were informed that they needed to change the oil in their generators and pumps after using them for 50 hours. They were also told to save up some money so as to pay a mechanic to fix the equipment if more serious issues were encountered.

All of the 44 survey respondents, along with all of the CCs, believed that they would continue adapting knowledge and skills they had obtained from the good agricultural practices training conducted by ADRA. All of the participants of the FGDs matched that response, adding that this information will help them for a long time in the future, as the training touched on some of the issues, they used to encounter them while working. These responses demonstrate a strong belief in the enduring value and practicality of the training, highlighting its potential to positively impact agricultural practices and outcomes in the future.

When asked about the measures taken to ensure the long-term sustainability of project outcomes and benefits for the beneficiaries, **the project staff noted that the project ensured the long-term sustainability of the outcomes through:**

1. Cooperating with the local authority in selecting the areas with the greatest need;
2. Cooperating with community committees in selecting and recommending the most needy, honest, and responsible people;

3. Making agreements between the organization and the beneficiaries under the supervision of the local authority, community committees, notables, and sheikhs;
4. Providing the farmers with the necessary information they needed to carry out the maintenance of the equipment; and
5. Through helping the farmers gain some income, connecting them with the land and the equipment to continue making profits.

The CC member in Ba-Tais echoed the points mentioned by the project staff. The other CCs stressed that the sustainability of the project outcomes was ensured through the maintenance of the provided equipment and the supervision of the work of the farmers. To ensure the long-term sustainability of project outcomes and benefits for the beneficiaries the Director of the Agricultural Extension Office in Khanfar of Abyan stated that the office had set up plans according to the needs of the area and presented them to organizations to implement them. The Director of Al-Qabaitah district of Lahj pointed out that the agriculture district would monitor the targeted farmers and urge them to maintain the equipment provided to them by the organization and use them to cultivate their lands to meet the needs of the community of agricultural crops.

To sum up, the project staff outlined several measures taken to ensure the long-term sustainability of project outcomes and benefits for the beneficiaries. These measures included collaborating with local authorities and community committees to select areas and individuals with the greatest need, establishing agreements under the supervision of various stakeholders, providing necessary information for equipment maintenance, and facilitating income generation for the farmers. The CCs also emphasized the importance of equipment maintenance and supervision of farmers' work in ensuring sustainability. Additionally, the Agricultural Extension Office in Khanfar and the Director of Al-Qabaitah district highlighted their respective plans and monitoring efforts to support the long-term sustainability of project outcomes, including meeting the agricultural needs of the community. These concerted efforts and strategies aim to foster lasting impact and benefits for the beneficiaries, promoting sustainable agricultural practices and community development.

## 6.2 Sustainability of Local Ownership

The project staff pointed out that the project fostered local ownership and community engagement through allowing the beneficiaries to vote for their community committees and giving them the equipment permanently, which helped sustain the achieved resilience and livelihood opportunities. The CCs confirmed that the transfer of ownership of the provided equipment to the beneficiaries, as well as conveying information about the good agricultural practices, helped in sustaining the livelihood opportunities.

In summary, the project has taken significant steps to ensure the long-term sustainability of project outcomes and benefits. The positive feedback from beneficiaries regarding maintenance skills, training, and the enduring value of knowledge obtained underscores the potential for continued positive impact in agricultural practices. Through collaboration, information dissemination, income generation support, and local ownership, the project has laid a foundation for sustainable agricultural practices and community development.

## 7. Impact of EASLA I (Phase I)

This part of the report determines whether EASLA 1 project's results and achievements in the areas of agriculture rehabilitation, livelihood capacity enhancement, and agricultural productivity have generated significant positive or negative effects on the targeted population.

**Previous and current agriculture needs:** Most of the targeted farmers had needed agricultural equipment in the past, such as pumps, irrigation network, and solar energy system and manual tiller due to the high cost of mechanized tilling. The need of these equipment and tools was to help them to restart their agriculture activities. After the implementation of the project, they mainly needed solar energy systems (requested by the vast majority of farmers in Lahj); some other equipment, such as hand trillers; and agricultural inputs, such as seeds and insecticides.

The CCs said confirmed that the beneficiaries, at the time of the implementation of the project, were in need of the equipment the organization provided them with, but at the time of the evaluation, they were in need of agricultural inputs, such as seeds, and solar energy systems. Most of the farmers reported that the project had a significant impact. Some of them explained that it provided them with some of their needs and the equipment to generate income and meet the others. All of the CCs except for the CC member in Ba-Tais reported that the project had a positive impact, although the ones in Lahj thought it was limited.

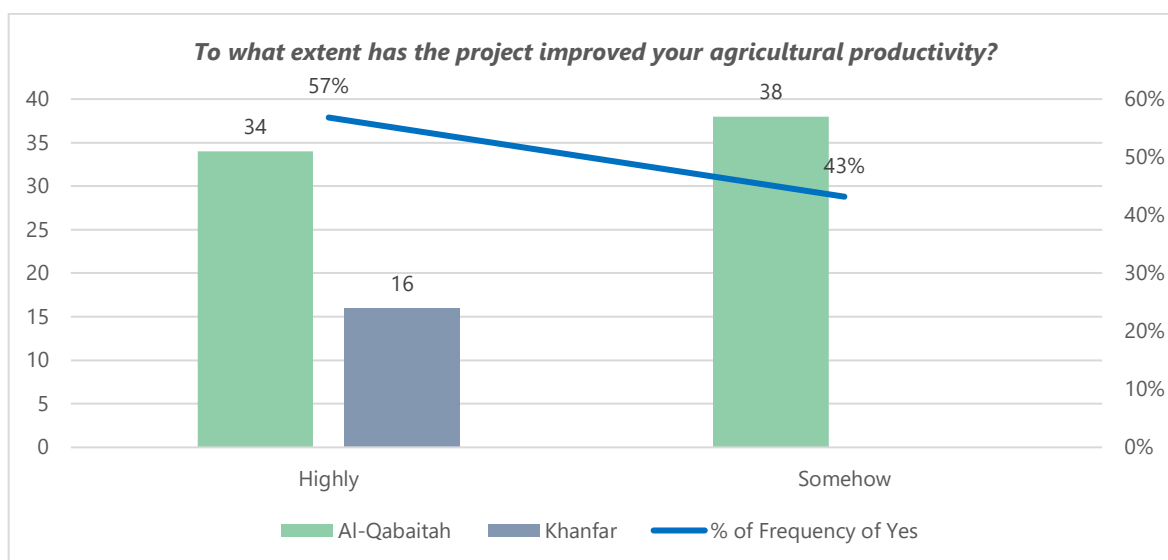
### 7.1 Improvement of Agricultural Productivity

Approximately 57% (50 out of 88) of the targeted farmers, including 100% of those targeted in Khanfar of Abyan, reported that the project had improved their agricultural productivity to a large extent. They explained that the project helped them secure and provide enough water to their crops, making their lands produce copiously. Some of them also pointed out that the improved irrigation helped them cultivate new kinds of crops, vegetables, and fruit. Others indicated that the project enabled them to rehabilitate and cultivate new lands and protect their produce against insects.

*"I used to farm only during rainy season, but now I cultivate at any time. My productivity has increased by around 80%".*

A farmer from Lahj's Al-Qabaitah explained.

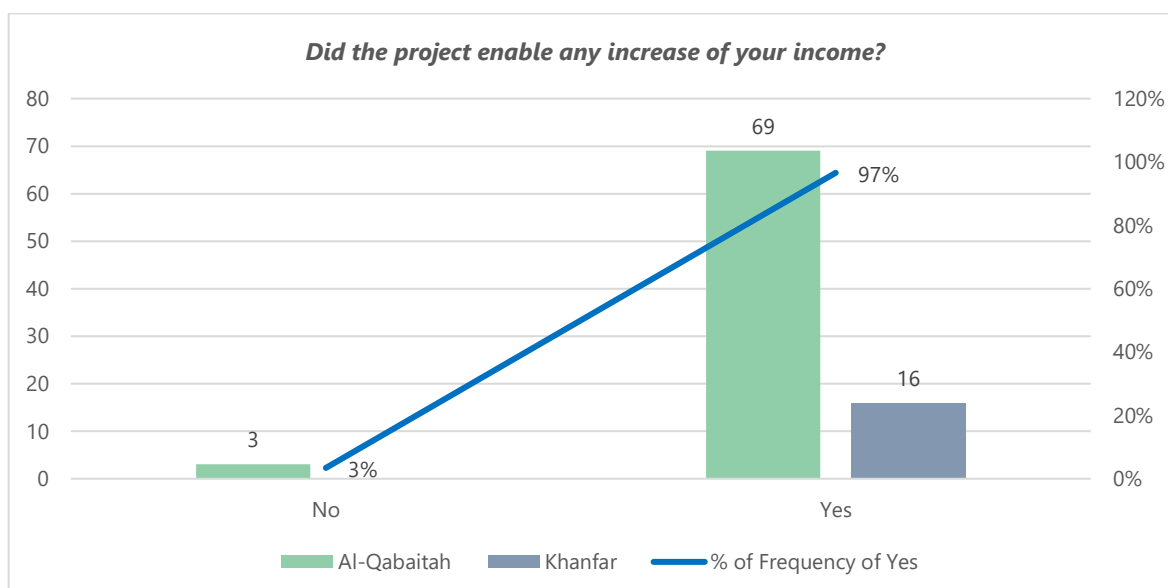
Meanwhile, the remaining 43% of the beneficiaries (38 out of 88) said their agricultural productivity improved only to some extent. They mostly attributed that to the increase in the prices of oil derivatives. Therefore, it is commendable to consider distributing solar systems for the beneficiaries to avoid the disruption of their agriculture activities as a result of the repeated fuel crisis and skyrocketing in fuel price, which might prompt some of the beneficiaries to stop or reduce his agriculture activities.



**Figure 16:** To what extent has the project improved your agricultural productivity?

## 7.2 Impact of Increase of Income

The vast majority of the respondents (97% or 85 out of 88), along with all of the CCs, noted that there was an increase in their income due to the interventions of the project. Meanwhile, 3%, all of whom were in Lahj's Al-Qabaitah, said that there was no increase in their income as a result of the project.



**Figure 17:** Did the project enable any increase of your income?

The project's impact on the beneficiaries clearly demonstrates its humanitarian nature, as it has brought about positive changes and improvements in various aspects of their lives. The ability to provide treatments, access education, purchase food and medicines, and increase income through crop cultivation and sales have significantly contributed to the well-being and self-sufficiency of families. The project has played a crucial role in addressing pressing needs and achieving better living conditions. The project impact resulted in the availability of resources for education and healthcare, the diversification of food through vegetable cultivation, and the ability to afford necessary items for

daily living. The analysis also indicates that the project has helped in treating children, improving food security, and addressing family issues.

Most of the beneficiaries utilized the income increase generated due to the intervention to satisfy their health needs, especially in Wadi Thar Al-Asfal and Wadi Thar Al-Ala of Lahj's Al-Qabaitah district. Education was the second priority to the beneficiaries, followed by other livelihood activities, especially for the people of Wadi Thar Al-Awsat. The beneficiaries in Abyan's Khanfar district were at a better position in terms of needs, and therefore managed invest, especially in Al-Makhzan area, or save up, as was the case in Ad-Dawkarah area.

The CC in Al-Makhzan of Abyan's Khanfar explained that the beneficiaries used their income in providing the educational needs obtaining medicine for their children. The beneficiaries there also invested in land and cultivated it or built some houses. Similarly, one of deputy heads of the CC in Wadi Thar Al-Ala in Al-Qabaitah district of Lahj said the beneficiaries used the income to access health and invested in cultivating the land to meet their needs. Meanwhile, the other five CC representatives in Lahj reported that the beneficiaries had not been able to save up money or invest it, and three of them added that they did not use the income in the field of education. All of them, however, said that some of the income was spent on health. Overall, the findings indicate that the project has significantly improved living standards and resilience among the targeted beneficiaries, who have been able to meet their needs through the generated income from their agricultural activities

Nonetheless, the analysis of the findings show that the project has improved the living standards and resilience of the targeted beneficiaries who reported meeting their needs through the generated incomes from selling the products of their agriculture activities. Therefore, the implemented project, through its impact on the beneficiaries' lives and their ability to meet essential needs, clearly aligns with the second strategic objective of the humanitarian response plan of 2022. The project's focus on addressing immediate needs, promoting self-sufficiency, and improving living conditions highlights its humanitarian nature, demonstrating its commitment to enhancing the well-being and resilience of the affected communities in the targeted areas.<sup>27</sup>

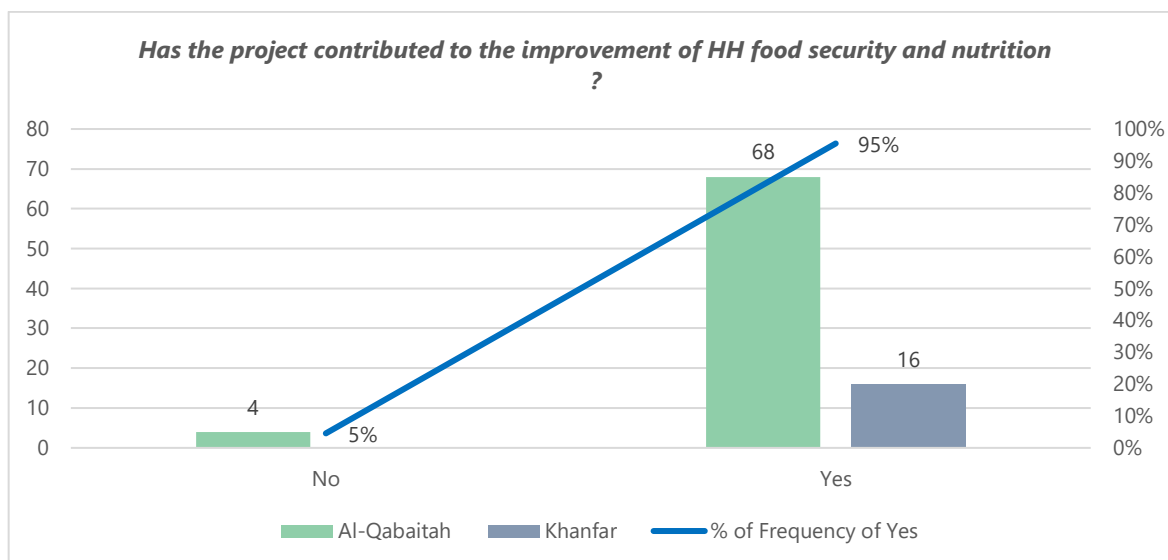
### 7.3 Impact on Economic Well-being, Livelihoods, and Food Security

All of the CCs in Abyan stated that the project positively impacted on the economic well-being and livelihoods of farmers and agricultural workers in the targeted communities to a large extent while most of the CCs in Lahj (5 out of 6) believed the project impacted the beneficiaries only to some extent. They attributed that to the increase in the prices of diesel.

Approximately 95.5% of the targeted farmers (84 out of 88) reported that the project contributed to the improvement of their households' food security and nutrition outcomes. They explained that the interventions provided them with a source of income that helped them have meals of various types of food. A beneficiary from Al-Qabaitah in Lahj explained, *"The project provides us with diverse and beneficial foods that our bodies need, such as fish and chicken."* Only 4.5%, all of whom were from Lahj, said there was no improvement in their food security and nutrition outcomes because of the project. Three of these four beneficiaries indicated that the project contributed, but only to a limited extent, while the fourth one said there was no contribution at all.

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<sup>27</sup> Strategic Objective 2: Improved living standards and resilience of crisis-affected vulnerable women, girls, boys and men through timely and safe provision of assistance ([Humanitarian Response Plan 2022](#))



**Figure 18:** Has the project contributed to the improvement of HH food security and nutrition?

The project staff stated that the project interventions provided the targeted farmers with the necessary means to resume farming their lands around the year, instead of only during the rainy season. This helped improve the food security of the targeted farmers through providing them with income that helped them meet their nutritional needs. In addition, the cultivated crops were also present on their tables. The CCs agreed that the project contributed to the improvement of food security, attributing that to the diverse agricultural crops cultivated by the farmers. The local authority representatives think that the project contributed to enhancing food security and reducing food insecurity among the local population in the targeted districts.

***“The project contributed to the cultivation of many fruits and vegetables and met the citizen’s needs in this regard in the region and its neighboring areas within the district”.***

Said the Director of Al-Qabaitah district.

Additionally, many CCs considered the change of agricultural practices, such as the modern irrigation techniques, were the most significant changes brought about by the project because the farmers lacked them. Other CCs, especially in Abyan, said the change in the living conditions of the beneficiaries was the most noteworthy while others believed it was the provision of equipment to the farmers.

The beneficiaries in general believed that the project brought about positive changes into their living conditions, including food and daily expenses. It led to ***“self-sufficiency in terms of expenditure,”*** according to farmer from Wadi Thar Al-Awsat in Lahj’s Al-Qabaitah.

Through the analysis of the interplay between humanitarian assistance and development initiatives of this project, the evaluation has identified several synergies and opportunities for maximizing positive outcomes and fostering resilient communities. The project has demonstrated significant positive changes and improvements, including the provision of treatments, access to education, availability of food and medicines, and increased income through crop cultivation and sales. These



achievements have not only contributed to short-term self-sufficiency and improved living conditions for families but also hold long-term benefits. This is due to the beneficiaries receiving the necessary equipment and tools to sustain their agricultural endeavors even after the project's completion. Additionally, the acquired skills and knowledge from the training are expected to empower them to continue thriving and enhancing their cultivation practices, thereby generating ongoing income from their agricultural products.

## 7.4 Impact on Education and Other Aspects

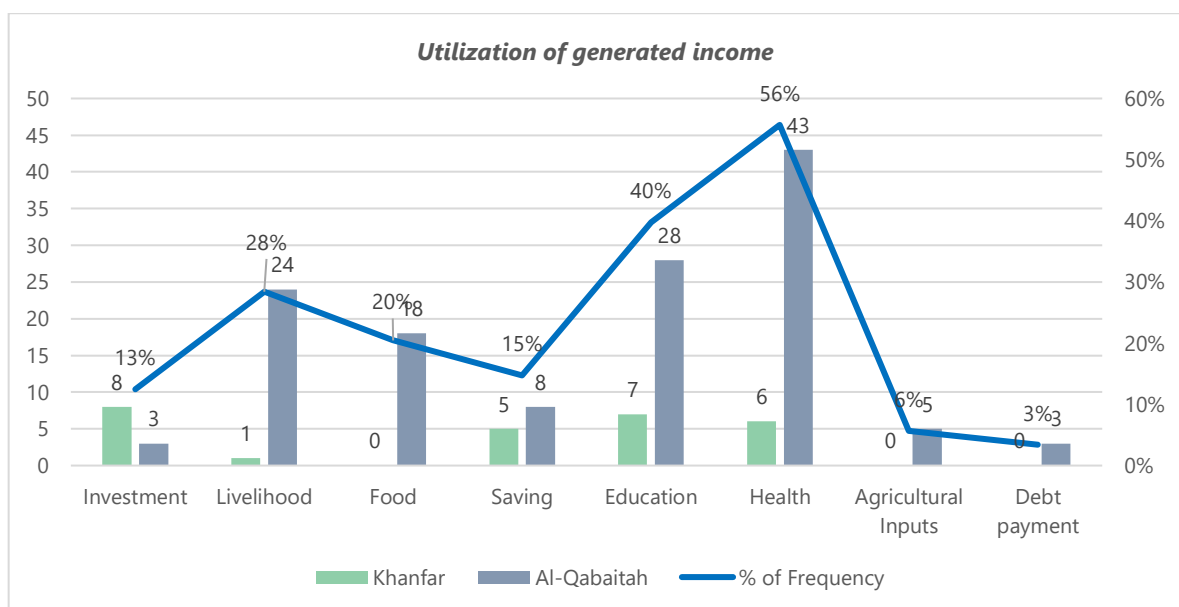
Furthermore, in addition to the positive effects mentioned earlier, the results indicate a favorable influence on the education aspect in the targeted areas. Most of the targeted beneficiaries reported a positive impact on their households' education. They indicated that they were able to get enough money to be able to support their children pay for transportation, provide them with some education needs.

*"The project provided [money for] transportation because I live far from downtown. A while ago, [my children] stopped going to school because my financial situation was terrible".*

A farmer from Khanfar district of Abyan said.

Sixteen beneficiaries, 4 in Abyan and 12 in Lahj, said the project had no positive change on their households' education. Some of those in Lahj attributed this to their children being under five years of age.

A large number of beneficiaries (31) added that the project helped them improve and diversify agricultural crops, 9 and 8 believed it enhanced their agricultural knowledge and improved their access to healthcare respectively, and 6 noted being able to pay back money they owed people, mostly merchants. Other mentioned changes such as obtaining animal feed, diversifying food, creating new job opportunities, and saving. Meanwhile, 17 individuals, all in Lahj, did not believe the support from ADRA brought about any other changes.



**Figure 19:** Utilization of generated income from agricultural activities

In conclusion, the evaluation indicates a positive influence on the education aspect in the targeted areas, with beneficiaries reporting improved access to education for their children. The project's financial support enabled households to cover transportation and educational needs, positively impacting their children's ability to attend school. Additionally, the project had various other positive effects, including improved agricultural practices, increased agricultural knowledge, enhanced access to healthcare, debt repayment, and the creation of new job opportunities. However, some beneficiaries in Lahj did not perceive any significant changes, which is attributed to factors such as the age of their children or individual circumstances.

## 7.5 Impact on Agricultural Development in the Target Areas

Both LA representatives indicated that the overall impact of the project on the agricultural development in the target areas was positive. The Director of Al-Qabaitah district added that the positive impact included: 1) Increasing farmers' connection to agricultural land, 2) providing a source of income for them and their families, 3) providing job opportunities for the unemployed in the area, 4) reducing conflict between residents of the region as a result of unemployment, and 5) improving the type and diversity of food in the region and thus improving the standard of living.

Almost all of the beneficiaries (98% or 86 out of 88) expressed that the project had brought about transformations in terms of employment prospects and the expansion of livelihood options within the agricultural aspect. They explained that the rehabilitation of the land resulted in an increased demand for workers, particularly during the periods of crop harvesting.

*“Throughout the farming seasons, there are numerous agricultural activities that necessitate human labor, such as harvesting and planting the fields”.*

A female beneficiary from Lahj emphasized.

This was confirmed by the CCs, who described the changes as big, especially during the processes of farming, cultivating, and harvesting. The project staff indicated that the project interventions created job opportunities for the other people in the targeted areas since the interventions made the cultivation of larger land feasible and more manpower needed, resulting in a change in the livelihoods of more people than the targeted beneficiaries. Meanwhile, 2 out of 88 farmers (both in Lahj) had a different opinion. They said that their family members were the people doing the work on their land.

## 7.6 Impact on Farmers' Capacity Building and Skills

All of the targeted farmers pointed out that the project had strengthened their capacity and skills to manage and sustain their agricultural activities. They indicated that they could irrigate their land and control pests and insects more efficiently, including using bio-insecticides. They added that they became more capable of determining what to cultivate and when to do so. Additionally, all of the CCs agreed that the project contributed to building the technical and managerial capacity of local farmers and to a large extent.

The project staff confirmed that the farmers' ability was improved by at least 50% after training courses in pest control and irrigation techniques and types, including when to irrigate. They also pointed out that the project provided the farmers with some knowledge about making profit and

loss calculations so as to be able to take informed decisions that would help them sustain their agricultural activities. The project staff, however, noted that the project was short, so the time was not enough to establish agricultural cooperatives, although their establishment could have obtained higher quality seeds for the farmers and negotiated better prices for their benefit.

To address this limitation, it is recommended to allocate sufficient time and resources in future programs to establish agriculture cooperatives as a key component. This will allow farmers to pool their resources, share knowledge and expertise, and collectively address common challenges. By working together in cooperatives, farmers can secure better deals for inputs like seeds, and improve their market access.

Incorporating the establishment of agriculture cooperatives within the scope of similar interventions will require careful planning and coordination. It is important to involve relevant stakeholders, such as agricultural extension services, local farmer associations, which can provide guidance and support in setting up and managing the cooperatives effectively.

## 7.7 Project Promotion of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Over half of the targeted beneficiaries (45 out of 88 all of whom were in Lahj), along with the six CC representatives in Lahj, reported that the project did not promote gender equality and women's empowerment in agricultural activities and 5 thought it only promoted it to some extent. Some beneficiaries and CCs attributed that to the traditions and customs of the society, while other beneficiaries blamed the project for ignoring women who were eligible to receiving the assistance.

***"There is no equality, as the project targeted only two women. Although there are women who are widows and have agricultural lands and wells, the project did not target them".***

A farmer from Wadi Thar Al-A'la in Lahj's Al-Qabaitah explained.

The Head of the CC in Wadi Thar Al-Awsat of Lahj's Al-Qabaitah supported this pointed, indicating that the selection criteria favored men. Meanwhile, other beneficiaries refuted this claim, saying some women were excluded because their wells did not meet the water level threshold to make them eligible. The CCs in Abyan, as well, believed that the project had promoted gender equality in agricultural activities.

The project staff confirmed that the promotion of gender equality was a challenge due to the nature of the targeted communities, pointing out that such a notion would require a long-term intervention so that the community would trust the project team enough to allow for this policy. Nonetheless, they said that the selection criteria included households headed by women, adding that the project promoted women's work as most of the employees on the land were women. It is worth noting that the female beneficiaries did not blame the project and explained the lack of promotion of equality to the society's norms or to the fact that the women that were not targeted did not meet all the selection criteria.

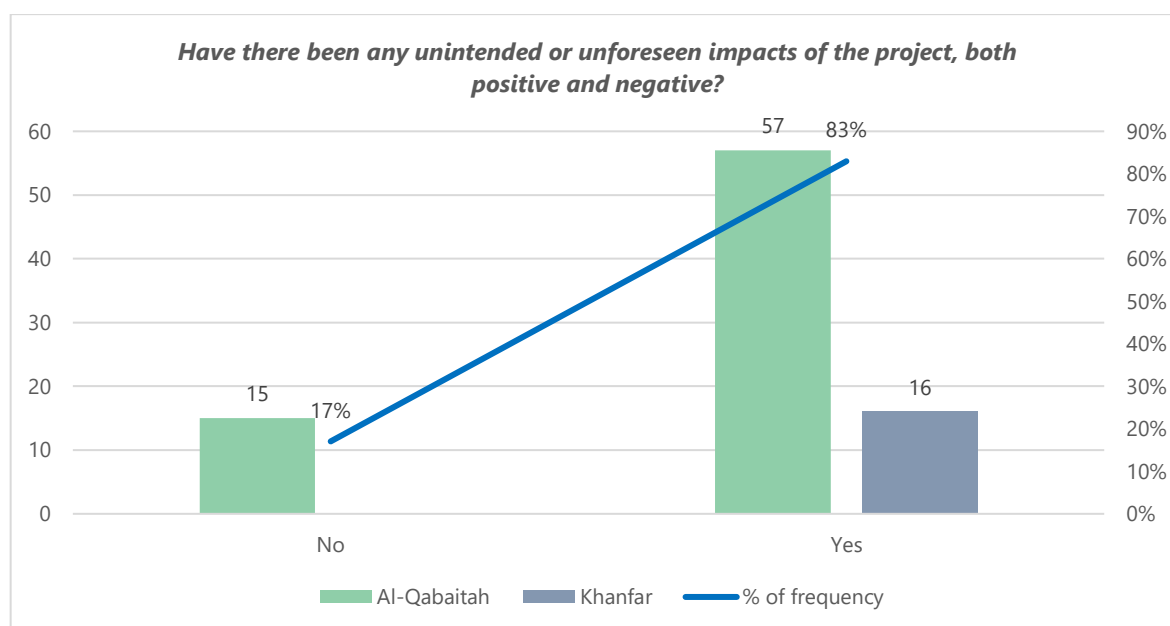
In conclusion, the evaluation reveals mixed perceptions regarding the project's promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in agricultural activities. While over half of the beneficiaries and some community representatives in Lahj expressed dissatisfaction, citing societal customs and project

exclusions, others refuted these claims and believed the project had promoted gender equality. The project staff acknowledged the challenge of promoting gender equality in communities with deep-rooted traditions, emphasizing the need for long-term interventions to build trust and implement inclusive policies.

Therefore, it is recommended to consider conducting targeted awareness campaigns and sensitization programs to consider societal norms and promote gender equality to have access to the project assistance. Although most of those working in cultivation and agriculture activities in Yemen countryside are women, these initiatives should emphasize the importance of women's participation in agriculture, highlight successful female farmers, and address misconceptions or biases that hinder women's engagement.

## 7.8 Unforeseen Impacts

Most of the targeted farmers (83% representing 73 individuals), along with almost all of the CC representatives (9 out of 10), indicated that that there had been some unforeseen positive impacts of the project. On the other hand, approximately 17% representing 15 beneficiaries, all in Al-Qabaitah of Lahj, believed there were none, neither positive nor negative.



**Figure 20:** Have there been any unintended or unforeseen impacts of the project, both positive and negative?

The positive impacts mentioned by the beneficiaries included the improvement of family relations and the reduction of tension between the household members, the improvement of farmers' self-esteem, the transfer of agricultural knowledge and good practices to the other farmers in the community, the creation of job opportunities, improving and diversifying the food items available to the households, and reaching self-sufficiency. The project staff pointed out the other farmers in the targeted areas learned from the beneficiaries, copied their educational material, and requested the help of the project team at times.

Meanwhile, 62 of the beneficiaries (9 out of 16 in Abyan and 53 out of 72 in Lahj), along with most of the CCs and the project staff, reported outright that there were no negative impacts caused by the project. Although the remaining 11 beneficiaries and one CC representative brought up some points, they mainly revolved around the high prices of diesel and the fact that the project did not provide

them with seeds, which were not unintended. Therefore, based on the responses provided by the beneficiaries, it is safe to assume that the project had no unintended or unforeseen negative impacts.

In conclusion, the findings indicate that the majority of targeted farmers and most CC representatives acknowledged some unforeseen positive impacts resulting from the project. These included improved family relations, reduced tension within households, enhanced self-esteem of farmers, knowledge transfer to the wider community, job creation, improved food availability, and increased self-sufficiency.

Additionally, the project staff noted that other farmers learned from the beneficiaries and sought assistance from the project team. On the other hand, a small percentage of beneficiaries expressed no perceived positive or negative impacts, primarily focusing on the high prices of diesel and the non-provision of seeds, which were not unintended. Overall, based on the beneficiaries' responses, it can be concluded that the project had no unintended or unforeseen negative impacts.

## 7.9 Impact on Resilience of Agricultural Activity to Withstand Future Shocks and Challenges

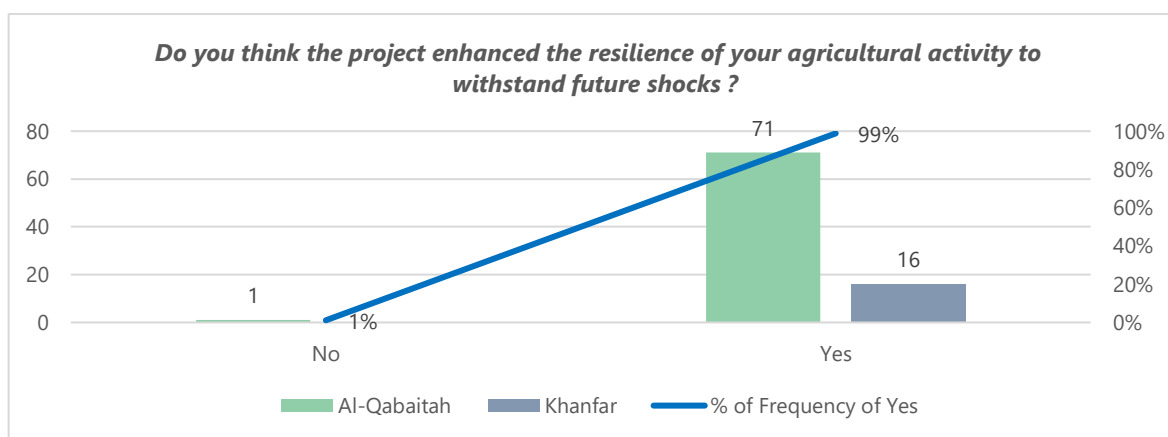
Almost all of the beneficiaries (99% or 87 out of 88) believed that the project enhanced the resilience of their agricultural activity to withstand future shocks and challenges.

They indicated that the equipment provided by the project would help them continue cultivating their land in the future and gain income that would help them maintain the equipment. This income, which was enhanced by the knowledge they of protecting their crops, would also help them face other challenges.

***“[The project helped with] overcoming the difficulties faced by the farmer, such as combating diseases, purifying seeds, or using correct irrigation methods”.***

Said a farmer from Wadi Thar Al-Asfal.

In addition, they were able to achieve self-sufficiency and store some of the harvest for self-usage around the year. Only one beneficiary thought the resilience of their activity was not enhanced, explaining that they could not operate the pump due to the increase in the prices of diesel.



**Figure 21:** Do you think the project enhanced the resilience of your agricultural activity to withstand future shocks?

The project staff indicated that the people of the targeted areas had already been able to withstand shocks and challenges to the extent that they would give up a third of their harvest in exchange for water their agricultural land, indicating that with the provided equipment by the project, their resilience was further enhanced. The staff believed that providing the farmers with solar energy systems would enhance their resilience even more.

The agricultural expert recommended more training on the modern irrigation methods, such as drip irrigation, to reduce the agricultural consumption of water, which amounts to 3.5 billion cubic meters at a time when only 2.1 billion cubic meters are restored on a yearly basis. He also suggested introducing integrated pest and disease control and focusing on combating the whitefly, which transmits viral diseases such as yellowing and stunting through tomatoes and cucurbits, because chemical control is not sufficient for this purpose.

In conclusion, the overwhelming majority of beneficiaries expressed their belief that the project significantly enhanced the resilience of their agricultural activities to withstand future shocks and challenges. The equipment provided by the project played a vital role in enabling them to continue cultivating their land and generate income for its maintenance. The beneficiaries also highlighted the knowledge gained in crop protection, enabling them to overcome difficulties such as diseases, seed purification, and irrigation methods. Achieving self-sufficiency and storing harvest for year-round usage further demonstrated the positive impact of the project. While one beneficiary cited challenges with operating the pump due to increased diesel prices, the project staff noted the existing resilience of the targeted communities and believed that providing solar energy systems would further enhance their resilience.

## 7.10 Enhancing Humanitarian Aid in Conflict Areas

### **The Impact of Japanese NGO assistance and intervention in challenging environments:**

Due to the conflict in Yemen, direct intervention by Japanese NGOs faces challenges; however, this situation can be turned into an advantage. Building on the success of current interventions that prioritize localization, further interventions can be planned, reducing costs, and enhancing sustainability. Japanese NGOs can play a crucial role in capacity building by providing training and technical expertise to local partners and communities. This includes sharing knowledge on sustainable agricultural practices, market connections, and post-harvest management practices to enhance agricultural value chains.

In a war-affected country like Yemen, infrastructure such as irrigation systems, and rural roads may be damaged or disrupted. NGOs can contribute to the rehabilitation and repair of critical infrastructure through cash for work interventions, ensuring that farmers have access to irrigation water, and transportation networks. This helps in resuming agricultural productivity and market access.

Adopting implementation of similar interventions that emphasize the distribution of valuable agriculture productive assets to beneficiaries has served properly in an emergency situation which seems to be continuing for a longer time due to the absence of a political horizon. Therefore, these assets, including diesel motors and irrigation networks, are considered crucial resources that enable farmers to restore and restart their agricultural activities effectively. Unlike interventions that solely provide seeds and fertilizers, the provision of productive assets ensures long-term sustainability and resilience. By equipping farmers with assets that support irrigation and mechanization, the project

enabled farmers to restore their livelihoods and agriculture activities that have been disrupted to resume their income generating activities, and optimize resource utilization.

Although categorized as an emergency agriculture intervention, the project's primary objective is to enhance the resilience of targeted farmers. By providing valuable productive assets, the project empowers farmers to become self-sufficient and achieve improved living conditions. These assets serve as sustainable sources of income, enabling farmers to resume and sustain their agricultural activities beyond the project duration. By reducing dependency on external support and enhancing income generation, the project contributes to the long-term resilience of beneficiaries and their ability to withstand the challenges posed by war.

The project's approach of providing valuable agriculture productive assets has yielded positive outcomes. Beneficiaries have reported restored their agricultural productivity, reduced labor burden, and improved income levels. The provision of diesel motors and irrigation networks has enabled farmers to maintain cultivation areas they used to cultivate before the decline as a result of the conflict, adopt efficient irrigation practices, and diversify cropping patterns. Consequently, this has contributed to enhanced food security, improved nutrition, and increased economic opportunities within the target communities.

Furthermore, ADRA Japan can facilitate partnerships and collaborations between local actors, NGOs, and relevant stakeholders. By fostering connections and networks, they can create synergies and leverage resources to maximize the impact of interventions. This can involve bringing together agro-dealers, farmers' cooperatives, financial institutions, and government agencies to work collectively towards strengthening the agricultural value chain and promoting economic resilience.

Japanese NGOs can also support research and innovation in the agricultural sector. By funding and conducting studies, they can identify emerging challenges and opportunities, develop context-specific solutions, and pilot innovative approaches. This can contribute to the overall knowledge base and inform evidence-based interventions that address the specific needs of Yemeni farmers and communities. In addition, Japanese NGOs can actively participate in fundraising efforts and resource mobilization. By tapping into their networks and leveraging relationships with donors, they can secure additional funding to expand their interventions and support the scaling up of successful projects. This financial support can be directed towards providing improved access to inputs, establishing market linkages, and promoting inclusive value chains that benefit small-scale farmers and marginalized communities.

By adopting a multi-faceted approach that includes capacity building, partnership facilitation, research and innovation, and resource mobilization, Japanese NGOs can make significant contributions to the agricultural sector in Yemen. Despite the challenges posed by the conflict, their involvement can foster sustainable development and enhance the resilience of local communities.

#### **Further insights mentioned by the KIs**

Employing a third-party to monitor project progress during implementation could also be considered. To maximize their impact, Japanese NGOs are advised to focus on resilience interventions that empower beneficiaries to generate income, with agriculture being a promising field in Yemen.

However, to increase the effectiveness and sustainability of such interventions, it is important to ensure that project components are complemented by other initiatives implemented by NGOs or local authorities. For instance, if agricultural equipment is distributed by Japanese NGOs, its impact can be amplified if other organizations provide complementary inputs like seeds.



## 8. Impact of EASLA II (Phase II)

This part of the report determines whether EASLA II project's results and achievements in the areas of agriculture rehabilitation, livelihood capacity enhancement, and agricultural productivity have generated significant positive or negative effects on the targeted population.

The targeted farmers, including some of the female participants of the FGDs, indicated that what their needs before the project implementation was a pump (according to most of them), a generator, and pipes. These needs were met in the project. They pointed out that after the end of the project they needed solar power systems, agricultural inputs, such as seeds, and money.

*“At the time of the project implementation, we needed the pump and its accessories, but now we need an alternative [to diesel], which is the solar power system”.*

Said a farmer from Khanfar.

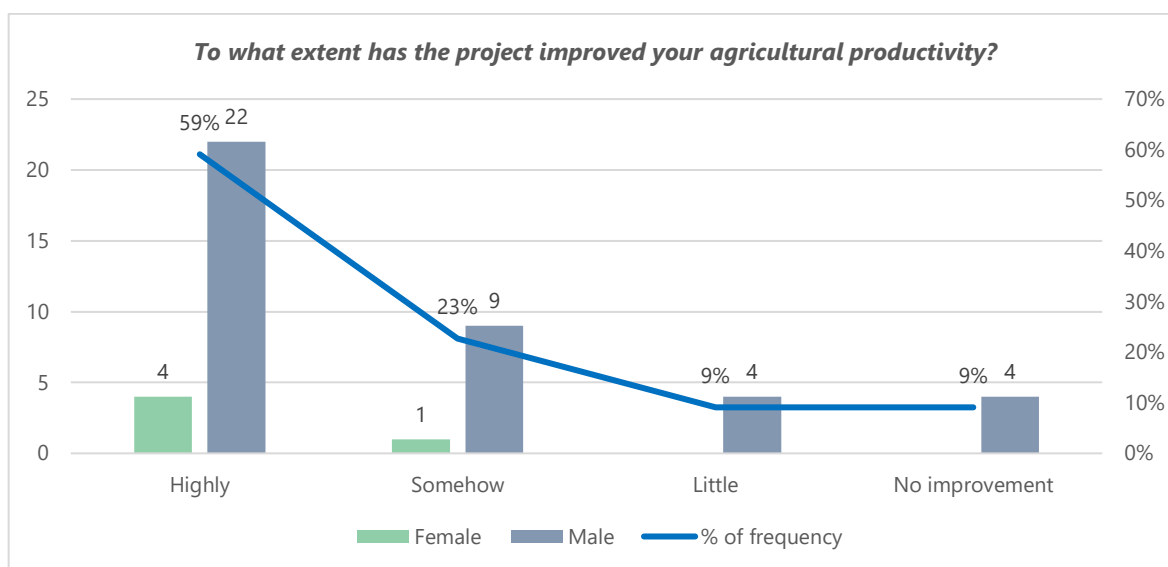
Meanwhile, the male participants of the FGD listed a number of needs, including 1) money for the installation of provided equipment, 2) support to plow the land as it could cost up to 30,000 YER per hour, and 3) provision of seeds.

The evaluation findings reveal that the targeted farmers expressed specific needs both before and after the project implementation. Initially, their requirements included pumps, generators, and pipes, which were successfully provided. However, following the project's completion, the farmers expressed the need for solar power systems as an alternative to diesel, along with agricultural inputs such as seeds and financial assistance.

### 8.1 Improvement of Agricultural Productivity

Most of the beneficiaries targeted in the second phase of the project (59.1% or 26 out of 44) reported that the project improved their agricultural productivity to a large extent. They explained that the equipment provided to them as part of the intervention helped them resume their agricultural activities and save up some money, they used to spend on procuring diesel, enabling them to purchase seeds. In addition, the modern irrigation system, and the information they learned in the awareness-raising course helped them implement these activities more efficiently.

Approximately 23% of the beneficiaries (10 out of 44), along with the female participants of the FGDs, said their agricultural productivity improved to some extent. They explained that the project rehabilitated their land and provided them with the necessary equipment to cultivate it. They, however, underscored that they had not reached the stage of production as the project recently finished. The same reason was provided by the remaining 18% who thought the project improvement of their production was little (9%) or non-existent (9%) as well as the male participants of the FGD held in the Ba-Tais area of Abyan's Khanfar district.



**Figure 22:** To what extent has the project improved your agricultural productivity?

In other words, the evaluation findings indicate that the second phase of the project had a significant positive impact on agricultural productivity for the majority of beneficiaries (59% or 26 out of 44). The provision of equipment, savings on diesel expenses, adoption of modern irrigation systems, and knowledge gained through awareness-raising courses were all attributed to the reported improvements. However, approximately 23% of beneficiaries (10 out of 44) acknowledged moderate improvements due to land rehabilitation and provided equipment, while the remaining 18% expressed limited or no improvement, largely attributed to the recent completion of the project and the subsequent lack of production progress.

## 8.2 Impact on Economic Well-being, Livelihoods, and Food Security

Over half of the respondents (56.8% or 25 out of 44) said the project enabled some increase of their income. They were able to gain some income from cultivating some vegetables because they took a short time to grow and save up some expenditure on food and agricultural equipment rental. On the other hand, 43.2% saw no increase in their income, which could be due to the fact that the project had recently been completed.

Most of the beneficiaries (64% or 28 out of 44), including a female participant from the FGDs, reported an enhancement in their livelihoods due to the project. The FGD member elaborated on how some farmers were able to save money by eliminating rental costs for equipment. Other beneficiaries expressed that the project had improved their food security and nutrition outcomes, as they saved money on diesel and equipment rentals, allowing them to provide food for their households. The equipment provided by the project not only saved them expenses but also enabled them to allocate resources towards fulfilling other needs, particularly related to food security.

***“It helped in providing food for my family because I’m a housewife and I only own this farm”.***

Said a female farmer from Khanfar.

Meanwhile, 36.4% 16 out of 44), together with the remaining FGD participants, indicated that there had been no change, which was attributed to the fact they had not reached the harvest cycle after being targeted with the intervention.

Most of the beneficiaries noted that the most positive change brought about by the equipment provided to them as part of the project helped them improve their lives, including aspects of their health and education. The female members of the FGDs had a similar opinion. Meanwhile, the male participants stated that such a question could only be answered after the harvest and the marketing of the agricultural products.

To sum up, the analysis of the findings revealed that more than half of the targeted beneficiaries saw an increase in income through cultivating vegetables and saving on expenses. However, the remaining beneficiaries reported no income change due to the recent completion of the project. Most beneficiaries (64% or 28 out of 44) experienced improved livelihoods, enhanced food security, and cost savings on diesel and equipment rentals.

The equipment provided had positive effects on health and education, according to beneficiaries and female FGD participants. Male participants emphasized the need to assess impact post-harvest and product marketing.

### 8.3 Impact on Farmers' Capacity Building and Skills

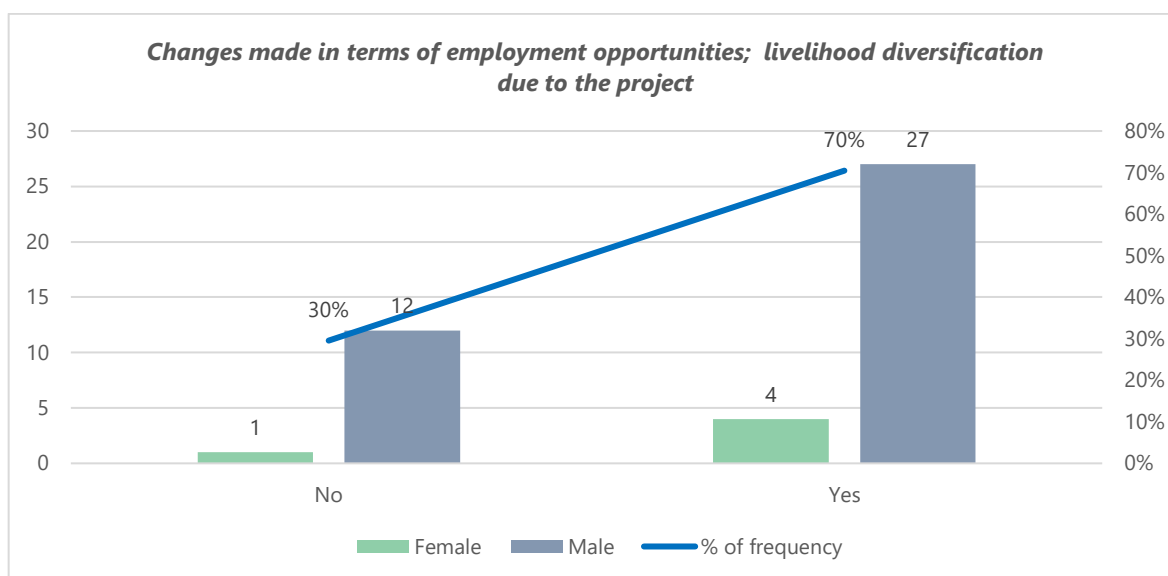
All of the beneficiaries underscored that the project strengthened their capacity and skills to manage and sustain their agricultural activities. They explained that the training they received strengthened their ability to irrigate the land, protect their agricultural crops, maintain the distributed equipment.

*"The project enhanced my ability to manage project activities through my knowledge of how to maintain the pump and how to preserve it, in addition to obtaining the pump, which will enable me to pump water at any time and start the farming process".*

Said a beneficiary in Abyan's Khanfar.

### 8.4 Impact on Agricultural Development in the Target Areas

The majority of the targeted individuals (71% or 31 out of 44) said that the project made changes in terms of employment opportunities and livelihood diversification within the agricultural sector. These new job opportunities included planting and harvesting. A beneficiary from Khanfar noted, *"While planting crops, we need workers, so job opportunities are created for 10 to 20 people."* The remaining 29.5% (13 out of 44) reported not having seen such changes yet, mainly due to the project being recently completed.



**Figure 23:** Changes made in terms of employment opportunities; livelihood diversification due to the project

## 8.5 Project Promotion of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Almost all of the respondents, including the female ones, indicated that the project promoted gender equality and women's empowerment in agricultural activities to a large extent. They pointed out that the women that met the criteria were targeted by the project as well as the men and received the same equipment and training, although a male from their side would be participate in such training.

*"The participation of women was evident in the targeting process, as there were a number of targeted women among the names of the men who benefited from the project. Although on their behalf were their sons attending the training course, the women carry out the process of cultivation on the agricultural land with the participation of their children".*

A participant said.

The project, therefore, promoted gender equality and women's empowerment while respecting community norms and sensitivities. It allowed for indirect participation of women through substitute participants, ensuring that they gain valuable knowledge and skills to contribute to agricultural activities alongside their male counterparts.

## 8.6 Unforeseen Impacts

The majority of the farmers who were targeted (68% or 30 out of 44) believed that the project had some unforeseen positive impacts, including encouraging the farmers to cultivate their land, improving their living conditions, and helping them secure food and medicine. A female beneficiary stated, *"I wasn't expecting I'd be able to provide a living for my family, but thank God, food and medicine were provided."* Another farmer added that the project promoted equality between men and women and empowered women, which was not expected.

Meanwhile, 31% (14 out of 44) stated that there were no unforeseen impacts of the project, neither positive nor negative. The FGD participants pointed out that they would not be able to determine the unforeseen impacts until they had started the cultivation process using the newly provided equipment.

## 8.7 Impact on Environment

Regarding the negative impact on environment, the project staff, along with the CC member in Ba-Tais, highlighted that since the newly provided generators consumed much less diesel than the ones the beneficiaries used to have and were more efficient, less exhaust was emitted. In addition, the project staff and half of the CCs, all of whom were in Lahj, indicated that the beneficiaries were taught how to get rid of the oil without harming the environment, and one way to do that is to use it to coat the wood in their houses, which would also protect them against pests. They, however, noted that providing the beneficiaries with solar energy systems would make the negative impact on the environment even less.

The project staff also indicated that the project contributed to the conservation and protection of natural resources in the project area. They explained that the newly provided equipment, along with the information conveyed, reduced the consumption of water. In addition, the resumption of the agricultural activities protected the plants in the area after they used to be cut down to be sold as coal as a source of income. Finally, the knowledge the farmers gained in the training course promoted the use of biological fertilizers, which are less harmful to the environment.

## 8.8 Impact on Resilience of Agricultural Activity to Withstand Future Shocks and Challenges

Most of the targeted farmers (80% or 35 out of 44), along with all the female members of the FGDs, thought that the project enhanced the resilience of their agricultural activity to withstand future shocks and challenges. They indicated that the equipment and knowledge they received would help them carry out their activities for a long time.

***“We can overcome challenges in the future because we have the necessary equipment for planting and harvesting”.***

Said one of the farmers.

Meanwhile, 20.5%, along with the male members of the FGDs, believed otherwise, attributing that to the late completion of the project implementation.

In conclusion, the evaluation findings indicate that the EASLA II (Phase II) project had a positive impact on agricultural productivity for the majority of beneficiaries. It improved income generation, livelihoods, and food security for a significant portion of the targeted population. The project also enhanced farmers' capacity building and skills, enabling them to better manage their agricultural activities. Additionally, the project contributed to agricultural development by creating employment opportunities and livelihood diversification. The minor limitations reported by some beneficiaries were largely attributed to the recent completion of the project, indicating the potential for further positive effects in the future.

EASLA II project effectively promoted gender equality and women's empowerment in agricultural activities, with women actively participating in farming processes. The project had unforeseen positive impacts, such as increased motivation, improved living conditions, and empowerment of women. Efforts were made to minimize the negative impact on the environment, through reduced diesel consumption, disposal methods for oil, and promotion of sustainable agricultural practices. The project also enhanced the resilience of agricultural activities for the majority of beneficiaries, although some expressed concerns in this regard because they have just received the agriculture inputs.

## 9. Localization

### 9.1 Added Value of ADRA Japan on Project Localization

According to the project staff of ADRA Yemen, ADRA Japan played a significant role in the implemented interventions by fostering localization and minimizing interference. This approach proved beneficial as it allowed for future projects to be independently sustained, even when funded by different donors. Additionally, ADRA Japan assisted in providing theoretical explanations and reports to persuade the donors, particularly the JPF, about the project's significance. The project staff reported that project design and implementation, monitoring and evaluation and follow-up are all managed by ADRA Yemen based on close communication between ADRA Japan and ADRA Yemen.

Weekly meetings were held to address challenges and provide updates, underscoring the vital role of ADRA Japan. Their expertise in agriculture, finance, and program management ensured that issues were promptly resolved, safeguarding project outcomes. ADRA Yemen highly valued the insights and guidance shared by ADRA Japan during the weekly meetings, considering them invaluable. According to one of ADRA Japan staff, the most important contribution that ADRA Japan is to theorize the humanitarian and development context.

Regarding the technical expertise, both the staff of ADRA Japan and ADRA Yemen reported having a good experience in agriculture. *"As agriculturist "4 years' experience as an agricultural project manager in Laos focusing on crop diversification and small-scale irrigation, and 15 years agriculture practitioner), I sometimes "interpreted" the concepts so that its design would be understood well in Japanese context",* said one of ADRA Japan team member. However, ADRA Yemen was responsible for technical aspect, because of the knowledge of its staff about the context where the project was implemented.

One of ADRA Yemen key staff stated having master's degree in Agricultural Sciences, and worked as an agricultural engineer for two years. He worked as general manager of a 400-acre farm with 80 workers and manager of a 1500-hectare farm with a workforce of 150 employees. Additionally, he was project manager at the Agriculture and Irrigation Office and Deputy Director-General of the Agriculture Office in Abyan. The work he was involved in agricultural expertise, include production methods, marketing strategies, and addressing the wide range of issues faced by farmers. This indicates that ADRA local staff has very strong technical agriculture expertise

Despite the technical agriculture experience mentioned earlier, the evaluation revealed that the crucial factors were not solely related to technical support but rather focused on overall financial management and donor networking. However, a valuable lesson learned from this experience is that ADRA Japan could enhance the localization aspect by sharing similar expertise with ADRA Yemen based on successful international experiences in other contexts. This sharing of international experience adapted to the local context of Yemen would contribute to a more effective approach.

Recognizing the need for increased funding, ADRA Yemen and ADRA Japan agreed that incorporating additional components within the project would enhance sustainability and impact. This extra funding would facilitate collaborations with local partners and other companies operating in the field. A crucial aspect emphasized was the engagement of agro dealers at the community level, enabling them to strengthen the value chain for supplying quality inputs. These dealers could also receive training in agriculture business, complementing the support provided to farmers. Furthermore, they could serve as agents for companies in other areas, ensuring farmers receive fair compensation.

## **9.2 Enhancing Localization: Leveraging Technical Expertise for Effective Project Implementation**

The experience and technical expertise gained by both ADRA Japan and ADRA Yemen in agriculture can be utilized to enhance localization in the implementation of the project. By leveraging their combined knowledge and experience, the project can be tailored to better suit the specific context and needs of the Yemeni communities.

The staff of ADRA Japan, with their understanding of other context agricultural practices, can play a crucial role in interpreting and adapting concepts to ensure better comprehension and applicability within the local context. This involves effectively translating technical terms and methodologies to align with the knowledge and practices of the Yemeni farmers. By bridging this gap, the project can be implemented more smoothly and effectively. Additionally, the staff of ADRA Yemen, with their local expertise, can provide valuable insights into the unique challenges and opportunities present in Yemen's agricultural sector. They can contribute their knowledge of local farming practices, climatic conditions, and market dynamics to inform the project's design and implementation. This localized perspective helps ensure that the interventions are well-suited to the specific needs and capacities of the targeted communities.

Through collaborative efforts between ADRA Japan and ADRA Yemen, technical expertise can be shared, exchanged, and adapted to create a localized approach. This approach takes into account the local context, cultural practices, and existing knowledge systems. By incorporating the experiences and expertise of both teams, the project can be implemented in a way that maximizes its impact and sustainability.

Moreover, ongoing communication and coordination between the teams from both organizations are crucial. Regular exchange of information, lessons learned, and best practices can further enhance the localization aspect of the project. This collaborative approach fosters mutual learning, ensuring that the project benefits from the combined expertise and experiences of ADRA Japan and ADRA Yemen.

## **9.3 Roles of ADRA Yemen and ADRA Japan**

The localization efforts undertaken by ADRA Yemen and ADRA Japan have been contributory in the implementation of the project. Both organizations were reported playing distinct but complementary roles, leveraging their respective strengths and expertise to ensure the project's localization and effectiveness.

ADRA Yemen's role in coordination with stakeholders, beneficiary identification, agriculture trainings, procurement and distribution of irrigation kits, and monitoring project activities demonstrates their deep understanding of the local context and their ability to address the specific needs of the Yemeni



communities. By actively engaging with local stakeholders and tailoring interventions to align with local practices, ADRA Yemen has contributed to the localization of the project, ensuring its relevance and acceptance within the community.

ADRA Japan's role in networking with donors, advocating for donor funding, and providing financial management support has further enhanced the localization efforts. Their ability to establish connections with donors and secure funding has played a vital role in sustaining the project and ensuring its successful implementation. By providing financial management expertise, ADRA Japan has supported the efficient allocation and utilization of resources, maximizing the project's impact.

Moving forward, it is crucial to build on the lessons learned from this successful localization experience. By prioritizing collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and capacity-building, ADRA Yemen and ADRA Japan can further enhance their localization efforts in future projects. This includes strengthening local partnerships, expanding networking with donors, investing in staff capacity-building, and ensuring sound financial management practices.

To sum up, ADRA Yemen was responsible for overseeing the entire project implementation process, which included coordinating with various stakeholders involved, identifying beneficiaries, providing agriculture trainings, procuring and distributing irrigation kits, and monitoring all project activities. On the other hand, ADRA Japan played a supervisory role in the project implementation rather than actively participating in the execution process. Their responsibilities include providing support for financial management, offering theoretical explanations to contextualize the humanitarian and development aspects, and closely monitoring the progress of project implementation to ensure it aligns with the planned timeline.



### First Success Story



**Omar Salim Abdullah Ba-Sultan**

Abyan Governorate, Khanfar District, Al-Dawkara Village

During the project's field visits and interviews with beneficiaries, one of the beneficiaries interviewed was Omar Salim Abdullah Ba-Sultan. He had eight sons and four daughters and lacked the means to sustain his family. His agricultural lands were widely dispersed, making it difficult for him to cultivate them. His financial situation was extremely challenging, and he struggled to provide for his family's basic needs, including education and healthcare. Despite these difficulties, Omar never lost hope and worked as a daily laborer to secure food for his family since he couldn't cultivate his lands.

*"Days, months, and years went by until the EASLA project provided equipment through ADRA organization, and I was selected as a beneficiary based on the set criteria. Alhamdulillah, my problems started to be resolved. I never expected to have access to modern irrigation networks that bridged the gap I had been facing. Through the equipment provided, I was able to cultivate some of my lands, and I no longer had to worry about the cost of diesel for irrigation. Gradually, I started saving money to buy seeds and eventually cultivated all of my lands. Selling the produce generated income, and I began to witness improvements in my financial situation".*

Said Omar.

*"Thanks to the project, I was able to provide better food for my family, improve their education, and ensure transportation, as the farm is located far from the schools. Alhamdulillah, my financial situation has greatly improved. With the accumulated savings, I built a new house for my family. Moreover, I initiated another project by acquiring beehives, which we call "Nub" in our region. Currently, I have around 150 beehives. All praise be to Allah for the benefits that have reached both the farm and the beehives "Nub." The credit for these improvements goes to the supporting and implementing parties. I express my gratitude to ADRA for their support".*

Omar concluded.

## Second Success Story



**Ahmed Mohammed Al-Dahbali**

Abyan Governorate, Khanfar District

Ahmed faced difficulties in providing the necessary equipment and irrigation network for his distant lands due to his challenging financial situation. However, **the project motivated Ahmed to persevere and rely on himself. It provided him with agricultural equipment and an irrigation network to adequately irrigate and rehabilitate his lands**, enabling him to cultivate previously unviable crops such as wheat, sugarcane, watermelon, and eggplant, which required sufficient water supply.

**Through the continuous cultivation and consistent harvest of these crops in the past year, Ahmed was able to save money for his family's needs**, including livelihood, education, and healthcare. He also managed to purchase a piece of land for his children and renovate his old house. Moreover, Ahmed invested in animal husbandry, and he plans to lease another agricultural land in the coming harvest season to expand his farming activities and further utilize his savings for investment.

**Ahmed expressed his deep gratitude to the ADRA organization for their humanitarian project, which significantly contributed to improving his livelihood and placing him in a much better position than before.**



*The livestock of Ahmed*



*The small land Ahmed bought from the money he saved after benefiting from the project.*



### Third Success Story



**Ali Maghbush Saeed Khudair**

Wadi Thar village of Al Qabaitah district, Lahj governorate

**Ali is a sheep herder, and his family faced severe financial challenges before the intervention of EASLA project.** Due to a malfunctioning pump, Ali was unable to utilize his farm effectively and struggled to support his children. They resorted to producing charcoal and herding sheep, but the income was insufficient for their basic needs.

**The project brought about a dramatic transformation in Ali's life. With the provision of a new pump and equipment for the well, he was able to resume farming and cultivate vegetables on his land.** This allowed his children to attend school. **The project not only resolved the pump issue but also enhanced their access to agricultural resources and opportunities.**

Before the project, Ali faced numerous challenges as the head of the household. His inability to farm and the resulting financial hardships prevented him from providing for his family adequately. The project addressed these challenges by supplying the necessary equipment to operate the well. **Consequently, Ali could expand his agricultural activities, sell his produce in the market, and improve his family's income.**

The project's impact extended beyond economic stability. It positively influenced his living conditions by providing daily expenses, improving the quality of their food, and enabling the children to pursue education. **The training received through the project empowered Ali with modern farming techniques, such as drip irrigation, which significantly reduced labor and increased productivity.**

**With newfound knowledge and resources, Ali established his own business in the agricultural market.** He set up a vegetable stall and successfully sold his produce, contributing to his income and overall economic stability. **The project not only improved Ali's livelihood but also enhanced his ability to withstand difficulties, fostering resilience within his family.**



## CONCLUSIONS

- The project's impact on the beneficiaries clearly demonstrates its humanitarian nature, as it has brought about positive changes and improvements in various aspects of their lives. The ability to provide treatments, access education, purchase food and medicines, and increase income through crop cultivation and sales have significantly contributed to the well-being and self-sufficiency of families.
- The provision of new pumps and diesel motors allowed for improved water supply, benefiting both the beneficiaries and other farmers in the area. Additionally, the project training on good agricultural practices (GAPs) enhanced the farmers' knowledge and skills, empowering them to optimize water usage, control pests, and improve their productivity and marketing strategies.
- The project effectively utilized its resources, including financial, human, and material assets, to achieve its desired outcomes in an efficient manner. The selection criteria for beneficiaries were based on needs and vulnerability, prioritizing households with specific characteristics, especially the previous farmers who lost their livelihoods and stopped their farming activities. Strategies such as community committees and market linkages were implemented to optimize resource efficiency and facilitate income generation for farmers. Challenges during implementation, such as resistance from non-beneficiaries, were overcome through communication and engagement with local authorities.
- The adaptive agriculture training and restoration of irrigation facilities were highly valued by beneficiaries, contributing significantly to their agricultural rehabilitation. The majority of beneficiaries considered the provided equipment and tools as the best option to enhance their access to agriculture livelihood activities.
- Efforts have been made to establish effective coordination mechanisms, such as the FSAC cluster, which serves as a platform for integrated humanitarian responses and regular information sharing. Project staff noted that collaboration is fostered through discussions to establish agricultural and marketing associations or cooperatives. Despite challenges, including limited internet access for farmers, phone numbers and community committees are utilized to facilitate communication and engagement.
- The CCs agreed on suitable selection criteria, but some of the community committee in AL Qabaitah had reservations on the number of excluded beneficiaries. Gender disparities in the criteria were raised, suggesting a need for revising and ensuring a more inclusive and gender-responsive approach.
- The evaluation reveals mixed perceptions regarding the project's promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in agricultural activities. While over half of the beneficiaries and some community representatives in Lahj expressed dissatisfaction, citing societal customs and project exclusions, others refuted these claims and believed the project had promoted gender equality.
- All the beneficiaries, along with all of the community committee, stated that there were no safety or security risks for them on the way to their land or the market. Furthermore, no security incident was recorded during the implementation process or the distribution of agriculture equipment.
- The analysis of findings indicate that the project area is safe and there are no concerns to disrupt the agriculture activities of the beneficiaries as a result of a thuggery.
- All beneficiaries in Khanfar and Al Qabaitah expressed their satisfaction with the implemented project and the inputs they received which help them to meet their needs, provide them with a source of income that enable them meet other needs, such as food, health and education necessities.

- The project demonstrated a strong commitment to community ownership by actively engaging the targeted farmers and ensuring their participation in rehabilitation efforts and installation of the provided items.
- The type of the distributed agriculture kits and assets like diesel engines, pumps, etc which is deemed to be more sustainable to endure after the end of the project. Additionally, several measures were reported to be taken to ensure the long-term sustainability of project outcomes and benefits for the beneficiaries, including collaborating with local authorities and community committees to select areas and individuals with the greatest need and eligible, and providing necessary information for equipment maintenance, and facilitating income generation for the farmers.
- The findings analysis shows that the project has many impacts including the improvement of agriculture productivity. However, 43% of the beneficiaries said their agricultural productivity improved only to some extent. They mostly attributed that to the increase in the prices of oil derivatives.
- The majority of beneficiaries in the first phase reported a positive impact of the project on their income increase. However, this was not as clear for some beneficiaries in the second phase. In the first phase, beneficiaries were able to utilize the agriculture equipment and tools they received to improve their agricultural products, leading to an increase in their income. On the other hand, some beneficiaries in the second phase had only recently received their agriculture equipment and tools and they have just restarted their agriculture practices, so the impact was not immediately visible during the data collection period. However, it is expected that the impact will become evident after some time, particularly after the harvest of their products.
- The findings indicate that the majority of targeted farmers and most CC representatives acknowledged some unforeseen positive impacts resulting from the project. These included improved family relations, reduced tension within households, enhanced self-esteem of farmers, knowledge transfer to the wider community, job creation, improved food availability, and increased self-sufficiency. On the other hand, it can be concluded that the project had no unintended or unforeseen negative impacts.
- The vast majority of beneficiaries (99%) expressed their belief that the project had strengthened the resilience of their agricultural activities, enabling them to better withstand future shocks and challenges. They emphasized that the equipment provided by the project would support their ongoing cultivation efforts, generating income that would help sustain and maintain the equipment in the long term.



1. The project provided beneficiaries valuable agriculture productive assets that could be utilized as sustainable assets to resume their agriculture activities and enhance their resilience after the end of the project. Providing similar assets (diesel motors and irrigation network, is more commendable than other intervention which might support beneficiaries with less important agriculture inputs such as seeds and fertilizers.
2. The project's outcomes and effects on the beneficiaries serve as a valuable lesson, highlighting its humanitarian essence. The project's interventions have resulted in notable positive transformations and advancements across multiple dimensions of the beneficiaries' lives. The project's success in enabling the provision of medical treatments, facilitating access to education, ensuring access to food and medicines, and fostering income growth through agricultural activities has played a pivotal role in improving the overall welfare and self-reliance of families.
3. The project contributed to self-sufficiency and achieving better living conditions for families through rehabilitating their agriculture facilities and enhancing their resilience by securing sustainable source of income.
4. Distribution of diesel engines or diesel operated generators might be exposed to the disruption of the agriculture activities as a result of the repeated fuel crisis and skyrocketing in fuel price, which might prompt some of the beneficiaries to stop or reduce their agriculture activities.
5. Though there were no thuggery incidents reported by any of the project beneficiaries, building a small room for the provided motor to the beneficiary near to his well is commendable, specifically those who cannot afford building such kind of room to enhance the protection of the provided agriculture equipment.
6. One of CC highlighted concerns regarding gender disparities in the selection criteria. It is implied that some of the criteria may have favored men over women, potentially leading to a lack of inclusion and equitable representation of women in the project. These reservations indicate the importance of reviewing and revising the selection criteria to ensure a more inclusive and gender-responsive approach, addressing the concerns raised by the Lahj CCs.
7. The project staff stated that the project period was short for the staff to establish agriculture cooperatives. Insights gained from this experience highlight the importance of allowing an adequate timeframe for establishing cooperatives within project planning and implementation. A shorter project duration can limit the staff's ability to engage farmers, conduct necessary training, and provide the necessary support for the successful establishment of cooperatives.
8. Providing training on maintenance practices will help beneficiaries ensure the longevity and proper functioning of project assets. Including maintenance training as part of project implementation was good to improve the sustainability of interventions.
9. Strengthen collaboration with local authorities, sheikhs, and notables to ensure community engagement and effective project implementation. Local stakeholders can provide valuable insights and support for project success.
10. The project applied a commendable method where eligible female beneficiaries can nominate a substitute participant, such as their adult sons or another trusted male family member, to attend the training sessions



on their behalf. This approach respects cultural norms while still providing women with indirect access to the knowledge and skills imparted during the training.

11. One important lesson learned from the evaluation is that the success of the project was not solely dependent on technical agricultural expertise. Instead, it emphasized the significance of factors such as overall financial management and establishing donor networks. However, an insightful takeaway from this experience is that ADRA Japan could enhance the localization aspect by sharing its successful international experiences with ADRA Yemen. By adapting and applying this international expertise to the specific context of Yemen, it would lead to a more effective approach in achieving project goals.
12. ADRA recognized the value of redistributing old but still functional equipment. Instead of leaving it unused, the project staff decided to provide the equipment to other farmers in the region who did not receive support or to beneficiaries who did not have all their needs met by the grant. This approach ensures efficient utilization of resources and benefits a wider group of individuals and enhance the social cohesion and solidarities among HHs in the targeted areas.
13. From the lessons learnt during the implementation of EASLA I is the significance of establishing strong linkages between the project, local authorities, and the Agriculture Extension Office. This collaboration helps facilitate effective communication, coordination, and support between these entities, leading to improved project implementation and outcomes.
14. The direct communication channels between beneficiaries and trainers. By distributing the contact information (phone numbers) of trainers from the Agriculture Office to the beneficiaries, ADRA facilitated easier and more direct communication. This step helps address queries, provide guidance, and ensure a smooth flow of information between beneficiaries and trainers.
15. Emergency humanitarian crisis response projects are typically designed to address immediate needs and provide rapid assistance. However, in complex and protracted crises like the conflict in Yemen, there is often a need to transition from emergency response to long-term development support. It is crucial to assess the evolving situation on the ground and determine whether the project's objectives can be achieved through a phased approach that balances immediate relief with sustainable development.
16. Projects spanning multiple periods allow for a more comprehensive and sustainable approach to addressing the underlying causes of the crisis. By transitioning from emergency response to long-term development, there is an opportunity to address systemic issues and build resilience within affected communities. Evaluating the potential impact of continuing support for multiple periods involves assessing the project's ability to promote self-reliance, empower local actors, and create lasting positive change.
17. Collaboration with other humanitarian aid organizations is critical when supporting projects that span multiple periods. Assessing the validity of continuing support involves evaluating the effectiveness of coordination mechanisms, partnerships, and the division of responsibilities among organizations. Collaborative efforts enable sharing of expertise, resources, and best practices, ultimately enhancing the overall impact and efficiency of the project.

### **Enhancing Self-Reliance of Beneficiaries in Agriculture: Strategies for Sustainable Development**

The project targeted different beneficiaries in different areas and project phases. However, if the project will continue targeting the same beneficiaries until they became self-reliant, the following suggestions are needed to be considered:

- Provide farmers with solar systems instead of diesel motors
- Provide farmers with improved seeds

- Teach farmers how to produce natural fertilizers and pesticides through recycling the waste of animals and the available natural resources
- Establish agriculture cooperatives to help in providing quality seeds and to market products of farmers to be sold in a good and fair price
- Enhance **effective exit strategy** through collaborating with District Agriculture Office to continue mentoring the farmers and to coordinate with any potential partners to build on the success of EASLA project and target the same farmers with the missing/further needs
- Assist farmers by providing training, access to inputs, market connections, and post-harvest management practices to enhance agricultural value chains. This involves capacity building, promoting sustainable farming techniques, and strengthening farmer cooperatives.



The recommendations below apply for future projects, local authorities, ADRA, and Japan Platform (JPF).

### 1. For Future Projects

If there is a next phase of the project in the same area or other areas of similar needs building on the great positive impact on and success achieved by this project, ***the following recommendations could be considered:***

- a) Beneficiaries expressed a desire for solar power systems to replace diesel, which was costly and increasing in price. To enhance the livelihoods protection in any further implementation of similar project, it is recommended to consider distributing solar systems for farmers to enhance their resilience and increase the efficiency of the project in terms of sparing the money paid on fuel consumption for current distributed diesel motors. Future projects can consider providing renewable energy solutions to reduce dependence on expensive and unsustainable energy sources.
- b) Farmers highlighted the importance of receiving seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, and hand tillers to improve their agricultural activities. Including these inputs in future projects can help farmers achieve better results and increase productivity.
- c) The establishment or rehabilitation of agricultural cooperatives can enhance cooperation among farmers, improve access to resources and markets, and create a supportive network for agricultural activities. Future projects are recommended to consider incorporating cooperative structures. It is also recommended to consider prolonging the project implementation period for the establishment of agriculture cooperatives with the activities of similar interventions.
- d) The suggestion of supporting farmers financially to purchase agricultural inputs and diesel can alleviate the financial burden on beneficiaries and facilitate their engagement in agricultural activities. This can be achieved through targeted financial assistance programs at least after the distribution of agriculture inputs.
- e) It is recommended to consider revising the selection criteria to address concerns of exclusion and gender disparities, promoting a more inclusive approach with equitable representation of women. This can be done through conducting a comprehensive gender impact assessment and engaging with stakeholders for input on refining the criteria.
- f) It is recommended to build a small room for the provided motor to the beneficiary near to his well or farm to secure the protection of the provided agriculture equipment.
- g) To enhance the safety and security needs of female farmers, it is recommended to build a small room for female farmers in addition to provide them with protective equipment, such as gloves, boots, and masks.
- h) Project staff suggested holding intensive and longer training programs on agricultural practices to enhance farmers' knowledge and skills. This can contribute to the sustainability of project outcomes and ensure farmers are adequately trained to implement new practices effectively.
- i) In future projects, it is recommended to include female trainers to be tasked to conduct the training for female farmers. Due to the conservative nature of these societies, such courses could be held in informal sets, like open spaces within the villages.

- j) During the implementation of GAPs trainings, it is recommended to conduct extensive training of a longer period, focus more on practical aspects in order to enhance effectiveness and application. By emphasizing hands-on learning experiences, farmers can gain practical skills and knowledge that can be directly applied in their agricultural practices. This approach allows for a more meaningful and impactful training experience, enabling farmers to implement GAPs effectively in their day-to-day farming operations.
- k) The agricultural expert recommended more training on the modern irrigation methods, such as drip irrigation, to reduce the agricultural consumption of water, which amounts to 3.5 billion cubic meters at a time when only 2.1 billion cubic meters are restored on a yearly basis in Yemen. He also suggested introducing integrated pest and disease control and focusing on combating the whitefly, which transmits viral diseases such as yellowing and stunting through tomatoes and cucurbits, because chemical control is not sufficient for this purpose.
- l) To maximize the impact of future projects, it is valuable to consider providing hand tillers to farmers, as an alternative to expensive plowing methods.

***Other Recommendations mentioned by the interviewees:***

- m) The Director of Al-Qabaitah district pointed to the need of training the agricultural cadre and intervening in protecting the banks of agricultural valleys to protect the soil from being eroded by torrents.
- n) The Director of Al-Qabaitah district suggested building dams to feed the wells with water.

***Overall Recommendations for Future Programs***

The following recommendations are for any upcoming programs either in Agriculture or any other sectors:

- o) **Needs Assessment:** Conduct a thorough needs assessment to gather comprehensive information on the target population's requirements, challenges, and opportunities. This will provide a solid foundation for developing appropriate program interventions.
- p) **Implementing Partner (IP) Selection:** Establish a robust selection process for identifying and engaging suitable implementing partners. Consider their expertise, experience, capacity, **accessibility** and alignment with project goals to ensure effective program implementation.
- q) **IP Capacity Assessment:** Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the implementing partner's capacity to deliver the desired outcomes. This assessment should include their technical capabilities, financial stability, staffing, and management capacity to handle the program requirements effectively.
- r) **Communication System:** Develop a clear and efficient communication system to facilitate effective coordination and information flow among project stakeholders. This system should ensure regular communication updates, feedback mechanisms, and channels for addressing concerns or issues promptly.
- s) **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System:** Implement a robust M&E system to monitor and evaluate program progress, impact, and effectiveness. This system should include clear indicators, data collection methods, reporting mechanisms, and regular review processes to inform decision-making and program adjustments.

- t) **Beneficiary Selection:** Establish transparent and inclusive processes for beneficiary selection, ensuring fairness, equity, and representation. Consider using criteria such as vulnerability, needs, and inclusivity to ensure the program reaches the intended beneficiaries effectively.
- u) **Humanitarian Resources:** Determine the required number and expertise of humanitarian resources based on the program's specific goals and outputs. Consider the diverse needs of the target population, including gender considerations, and ensure the appropriate specialists and resources are available to address these needs effectively.
- v) **Budget:** Develop a comprehensive and realistic budget that aligns with the program's objectives and activities and fit the needs and priorities of the households to be targeted in accordance to the results of the needs assessment. Consider all necessary costs, including personnel, equipment, training, monitoring, and evaluation, to ensure adequate resources are allocated for successful implementation.

## 2. For Local Authorities

- a) The project staff recognized the importance of collaborating with local authorities, sheikhs, and notables to resolve conflicts and ensure community engagement. Future projects should prioritize building strong relationships with local stakeholders and involving them in project implementation.
- b) Although no security risks were reported during the implementation of the project, however, it is commendable to consider close coordination with authority in the district level along with stakeholders such as community committees to avoid any security risk may occur during the project implementation.
- c) It is also recommended to strengthen engagement with local stakeholder sand community members throughout the project cycle, from planning to implementation and evaluation. This involvement can help ensure that projects are aligned with local needs and priorities.

## 3. For ADRA

- a) It is recommended to coordinate with stakeholders and other partners within the FSAC cluster to provide the targeted beneficiaries with quality seeds and fertilizers to maximize the impact and benefit from the implemented project.
- b) It is commendable to explore partnerships with other organizations or agencies to complement each other's expertise and resources. Collaborative efforts can lead to more impactful and sustainable projects.
- c) It is advisable for ADRA to coordinate with authority agriculture district office to appoint extension workers to conduct regular visits to the farmers, educate them so that they could help themselves, in addition to linking them with research-based information to improve agricultural production, productivity, processing, and marketing of agricultural goods and services.
- d) It is recommended to conduct thorough investigations of targeted areas before designing projects to ensure comprehensive coverage of community needs and to write project proposals based on these needs assessments.
- e) It would be commendable if ADRA Japan could enhance the localization aspect by sharing similar expertise with ADRA Yemen based on successful international experiences in other contexts. This

sharing of international experience adapted to the local context of Yemen would contribute to a more effective approach.

- f) It would be commendable to establish a formal knowledge-sharing mechanism between ADRA Japan and ADRA Yemen to facilitate the exchange of technical expertise and experiences. This can include regular meetings, workshops, and virtual platforms where staff members from both organizations can share insights, lessons learned, and best practices in agriculture. By promoting a culture of learning and collaboration, the project implementation can benefit from the combined knowledge and expertise of both teams.
- g) Prior to project implementation, encourage joint contextual assessments conducted by staff members from both ADRA Japan and ADRA Yemen is advisable. This collaborative approach ensures that the project design and interventions are grounded in a comprehensive understanding of the local context, including farming practices, climatic conditions, and market dynamics. By pooling resources and insights, the project can be tailored to address the specific needs and capacities of the Yemeni communities effectively.
- h) It is recommended to establish a mentorship program where experienced staff members from ADRA Japan provide guidance and support to their counterparts in ADRA Yemen. This program can focus on specific areas of technical expertise and project management. Through regular mentoring sessions, the staff in ADRA Yemen can enhance their skills and knowledge, enabling them to further localize the project implementation. This mentorship program fosters professional development and strengthens the capacity of the local team to effectively adapt and implement the project interventions.

#### 4. For JPF

- a) Supporting farmers with productive assets deemed to be more effective, therefore, it is recommended to continue adopting funding similar interventions for vulnerable farmers who lost their agriculture activities due to the repercussion of the conflict.
- b) It is recommended to scale up the allocation of funding allocated for similar project to provide solar systems for farmers to ensure more efficiency, sustainability to secure access to source of power with less expenses on fuel, which has fluctuating and skyrocketing price, particularly in southern governorates.
- c) It is recommended to consider having the integration in JPF support in the targeted areas. This could be done through continue JPF support in the same area but in a different form, like livestock support.
- d) It is recommended to implement comprehensive projects that address various community needs, including health, livelihood, beekeeping, and maintenance training for youth to ensure a holistic approach to development and therefore meet various community needs
- e) It would be recommended to state that these projects demonstrated that agricultural development assistance could be an effective intervention, as far as one is implemented in some area where no major conflict is observed even though the targeted country is in war, fragmented or politically instable.”

## 5. For Effective Crisis Response and Sustainable Development Strategies:

- a) Conduct thorough needs assessments and contextual analysis to understand the evolving dynamics of the crisis. This will help determine the appropriate balance between emergency response and long-term development support. Regular monitoring and evaluation should guide decision-making, ensuring that interventions remain relevant and effective.
- b) Design projects with a phased approach, allowing for a smooth transition from emergency response to long-term development. Each phase should have clear objectives, timelines, and indicators for success. This approach facilitates the gradual shift from immediate relief to sustainable interventions, considering the specific needs and capacities of the affected communities.
- c) Active engagement with local stakeholders is crucial throughout the project's lifespan. Involve affected communities, local authorities, and civil society organizations in decision-making processes, ensuring their ownership and active participation. This engagement fosters sustainability and empowers communities to drive their own development.
- d) Collaborate closely with other humanitarian aid organizations, government agencies, and local actors to leverage resources, expertise, and coordination efforts. Strengthening partnerships enhances the overall impact and avoids duplication of efforts. Regular communication and sharing of information will ensure a more comprehensive and efficient response.
- e) Maintain flexibility and adaptability in project design and implementation. Continuously assess the changing context, adjust strategies as needed, and incorporate lessons learned from previous phases. This will help address emerging challenges and capitalize on new opportunities for effective support.
- f) Invest in capacity building at the local level. Empower local actors, including community-based organizations and government institutions, to take a leading role in project implementation and long-term development processes. This approach builds resilience and sustainability within the affected communities.





## Annex I - Evaluation Inception Report

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Final Version -  
Inception Report- TI

## Annex II - TOR for Evaluation

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TPE\_Tender\_Dossier\_J  
PF\_YMN\_23\_001.pdf

## Annex III - Data Collection Tools in English

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Project Staff



KII Community



KII Agriculture District



KII - FSAC



Household Survey



Household Survey 1st

questionnaires Final VCommittees Final VersAuthority\_Final VersionRepresentatives ques2nd phase\_Final Versiphase\_Final Version.d



Household FGD\_ Final  
Version.docx

## Annex IV - Data Collection Tools in Arabic

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Project Staff



KII Community



KII Agriculture District



KII - FSAC



Household Survey



Household Survey 1st

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Household  
FGD\_V3-Translated - 1

## Annex V - Data Used for Analysis

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Agriculture  
Emergency Rehabilita

## Annex VI - Evaluation Team from MEAL Center

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9	9 Field Researchers	(6 Female & 3 Male)	-

## Annex VII - Comparative Assessment of EASLA to Other NGOs Initiatives

### Title: Comparative Assessment of Agriculture Rehabilitation Project in Lahj and Abyan (Phase 1 and Phase 2) in Comparison to Other NGOs Initiatives

#### Objective:

The objective of this is to compare the Agriculture Emergency Rehabilitation Project in Lahj and Abyan – Phase 1 and Phase 2 with other similar agriculture projects implemented by various NGOs, government agencies, and the UN. The aim is to analyze and assess the similarities, differences, strengths, and weaknesses of this project. The findings will be presented in a tabulated format for better clarity and understanding.

#### Methodology:

The comparison will primarily rely on a thorough literature review. This involves conducting an extensive review of existing literature and studies specifically focusing on agriculture project in the regions of Abyan and Lahj. The literature review will serve as a valuable resource for gathering insights and information. Relevant sources for the review will include reports from NGOs and the expertise of the MEAL Center (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning Center). The expertise obtained from evaluating and monitoring projects such as the Supporting Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security in Yemen Joint Programme (ERRY I to ERY III) (2017 to 2023) will be utilized. This comprehensive review of ERY provides insights and lessons learned in agriculture.

The comparison will be presented in a tabulated format, highlighting key aspects such as project objectives, target beneficiaries, activities implemented, outputs achieved, challenges faced, and best practices observed.

By conducting this comparative assessment, we aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of different agriculture rehabilitation projects in Lahj and Abyan. The findings can contribute to informing future project design, implementation, and policy-making in the agriculture sector.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Implementing Organization</b>	<b>Target Area</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Key Features</b>
<a href="#">SDRPY Renewable Energy Project (2023)</a>	Saudi Program for Development and Reconstruction of Yemen (SDRPY), the Arab Gulf Program for Development (AGFUND), and the Selah Foundation for Development	Hadramout, Abyan, and Lahj	Provide 35 agricultural irrigation systems powered by solar energy	Uses solar energy to provide irrigation water, which is a sustainable and environmentally friendly solution to the water scarcity problem in Yemen.
<a href="#">Support and Develop Agricultural Activities Project (2023)</a>	Nahda Makers	Lahj and Abyan	Supply and install greenhouses and irrigation networks, and train farmers on modern agricultural techniques	Provides farmers with the tools and knowledge they need to improve their agricultural productivity.
<a href="#">Impact Assessment of the Agriculture Value Chain Component (project from 2017 till 2024)</a>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Hajjah, Hodeida, Lahj, and Abyan	Assess the impact of the Agriculture Value Chain component of the Enhanced Rural Resilience in Yemen (ERRY) Joint Programme	Provides insights into the effectiveness of different agricultural interventions in Yemen.
<a href="#">Japan Boosts FAO Water and Agricultural Assets Conservation Efforts in Yemen (2020)</a>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Wadi Bana	Conduct infrastructure rehabilitation work, introduce efficient and sustainable farming and irrigation practices, and empower women in water resources governance	Focuses on building the resilience of communities to shocks such as floods and droughts.





*An interview with one of beneficiaries, Khanfar district, Abyan governorate, captured by MEAL Center field staff, November 02, 2023*



*An interview with one of beneficiaries, Khanfar district, Abyan governorate, captured by MEAL Center field staff, November 02, 2023*



*one of beneficiaries besides the installed diesel motor, Khanfar district, Abyan governorate, captured by MEAL Center field staff, November 02, 2023*



*An interview with one of beneficiaries in his farm, Khanfar district, Abyan governorate, captured by MEAL Center field staff, November 02, 2023*



*One of the beneficiaries besides his diesel motor in his farm, Khanfar district, Abyan governorate, captured by MEAL Center field staff, November 02, 2023*



*An interview with one of beneficiaries in his farm, Khanfar district, Abyan governorate, captured by MEAL Center field staff, November 02, 2023*





*One of the female beneficiaries in her farm, Khanfar district, Abyan governorate, captured by MEAL Center field staff, November 02, 2023*



*An interview with the Director of Agriculture Office, Khanfar district, Abyan governorate, captured by MEAL Center field staff, November 07, 2023*



*MC researchers conducting female FGD, Khanfar district, Abyan governorate, captured by MEAL Center field staff, November 04, 2023*



*MC researchers conducting male FGD, Khanfar district, Abyan governorate, captured by MEAL Center field staff, November 04, 2023*



*MC agricultural expert observing the provided items for one of the beneficiaries in his farm, Khanfar district, Abyan governorate, captured by MEAL Center field staff, November 02, 2023*



*MC agricultural expert interviewing beneficiaries, Khanfar district, Abyan governorate, captured by MEAL Center field staff, November 05, 2023*





*The label of the provided diesel engine, Khanfar district, Abyan governorate, captured by MEAL Center agriculture expert, November 02, 2023*



*The label of the provided diesel engine, Khanfar district, Abyan governorate, captured by MEAL Center agriculture expert, November 05, 2023*



*An interview with one of female beneficiaries in her farm, Al Qabaitah district, Lahj governorate, captured by MEAL Center field staff, November 04, 2023*



*An interview with one of beneficiaries in his farm, Al Qabaitah district, Lahj governorate, captured by MEAL Center field staff, November 04, 2023*



*An interview with one of female beneficiaries in her farm, Al Qabaitah district, Lahj governorate, captured by MEAL Center field staff, November 04, 2023*



*An interview with one of male beneficiaries, Al Qabaitah district, Lahj governorate, captured by MEAL Center field staff, November 04, 2023*





### **Doc.1 - JPF1\_EASLA1\_project proposal**

Under JPF Yemen Humanitarian Crisis Response Assistance Program, JPF funded the “Agriculture Emergency Rehabilitation Project in Lahj and Abyan” (JPF1) project with 266,573 USD and implemented it through ADRA Japan and ADRA Yemen. The project's duration is 228 days, starting from September 15, 2022, and ending on May 14, 2023.

The purpose of the project is to enhance resilience of the conflict-affected communities in Lahj & Abyan governorates of Yemen. The outcomes of the project include is to Improve access to agriculture livelihoods opportunities for conflict affected communities through providing agriculture kits/tools to the targeted households/farmers in Lahj & Abyan, in addition to conducting agricultural training for the targeted HHs. It targeted 88 beneficiary households (HHs).

The project's activities include conducting assessments, coordinating with local authorities and community leaders, verifying beneficiaries, assessing vendors, providing tools and kits, and delivering training on good agricultural practices (GAPs) to the beneficiaries. The training will cover topics such as water requirements for crops, disease and pest control, and drip irrigation. The project will prioritize households hosting internally displaced persons (IDPs), female-headed households, households with disabled members, malnourished children or pregnant/lactating women, households with children under 5 years old, large families, and households with no regular income.

The project details focus on supporting 88 households in Lahj and Abyan governorates who have lost their livelihoods due to the conflict. It aims to help them resume farming activities by providing equipment and materials for irrigation system restoration and offering adaptive agriculture training. The project includes baseline assessments, coordination with local government and community leaders, beneficiary verification, vendor assessment, provision of tools and kits, adaptive agriculture training, and monitoring and evaluation.

### **Doc.2 - JPF2\_EASLA2\_project proposal**

EASLA II aims to support 45 households (315 residents) in Abyan governorate, Yemen, who have lost their livelihoods due to conflict and need assistance to restart their farming activities. The project will provide agriculture equipment (the same as in EASLA II) to restore the irrigation systems that farmers rely on for water due to inadequate rainfall. Additionally, Adaptive Agriculture Training will be provided to help farmers break the cycle of declining crop production and improve their farming practices. The training topics includes also training on Market Chain.

### **Doc.3 - JPF1 Project Narrative Final Report**

The following summarizes the project's key points:

#### **1. Achievements and Effects:**

- 88 beneficiary households received agriculture training, gaining necessary skills and management knowledge for agricultural activities and market understanding.
- The project provided materials and equipment to rehabilitate the irrigation systems of the beneficiaries.
- All 88 households developed plans to resume farming by the end of the project.
- Post-project follow-up confirmed that all beneficiaries had successfully resumed their farming activities.
- Cooperation with neighboring farmers and local government improved.

- The restored irrigation systems will contribute to stabilizing agricultural production and increasing beneficiaries' income.
- The project has the potential to create local employment as agricultural production expands in the future.

## **2. Changes to Project Plans (JPF Approval):**

- Project period extension: The initial project period was extended twice, from September 15, 2022, to April 14, 2023, and then to May 14, 2023.

## **3. Achievement of Outputs and Lessons Learned:**

- The project successfully provided agriculture materials and equipment to 88 beneficiary households, and their irrigation systems were restored.
- Agriculture training was delivered to the targeted households, equipping them with knowledge for agricultural and social adaptability.
- The project achieved more than planned due to an increase in the number of beneficiaries from 80 to 88.
- The project demonstrated that conflict-affected communities have the will and capability to restore their livelihoods with the necessary support.
- There is a high demand for initiatives like this project, emphasizing its significance.

## **4. Internal Evaluation of the Project:**

- Relevance/Appropriateness: The project was deemed highly relevant and appropriate based on the pre-project assessment, which identified potential beneficiaries willing to resume agriculture and their specific needs regarding irrigation system repairs.
- Connectedness or Sustainability: The project's intervention framework aimed to restore beneficiaries' livelihoods until they could sustain them independently. The project successfully demonstrated the beneficiaries' self-reliance and the sustainability of their resumed farming activities.
- Immediate, Medium, and Longer-Term Outcomes: The project purpose was rephrased to express immediate, medium-term, and longer-term outcomes, aligning with JPF's suggestion.

## **5. Efficiency:**

- The cost of materials and equipment for irrigation restoration per beneficiary household was about \$2,150 USD.
- Beneficiaries reported earning \$1,500 to \$2,000 per month after project completion, suggesting that the value generated from agricultural product sales could cover the project cost in one to two months.
- The irrigation system's expected service life is more than 10 years, potentially generating significant value compared to the initial investment.

## **6. Effectiveness/Timeliness:**

- Beneficiaries were willing and capable of resuming agriculture, and the project selected vulnerable individuals for assistance.
- The project was implemented in a low-risk situation, minimizing the chances of irrigation destruction or loss due to conflict.
- Beneficiaries could procure necessary inputs on their own or with assistance from neighbors.

- Access to markets was not disrupted, allowing beneficiaries to sell their harvests at reasonable prices.
- Cooperative relationships were fostered, improving social relations at the community level.

## 7. Coordination:

- ADRA had established trust and relationships with local governments and communities in the target area, enabling effective operations.

## 8. Impact:

- Training had a significant impact on beneficiaries' farming and livelihood restoration, enhancing their resilience.
- The project's long-term production and employment opportunities were expected to create positive impacts and improve relationships with neighboring communities and government officials.
- Monitoring spillover effects beyond agriculture and generating more efficient outcomes were identified as future challenges.

## 10. Relevance to CHS/Sphere Standard:

- The project aligned with the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) by providing appropriate and relevant assistance to crisis-affected communities.
- Assistance was timely and met beneficiaries' needs, increasing their resilience and knowledge of their rights and entitlements.
- Safe and responsive mechanisms, including a complaint hotline, were established.
- Coordinated assistance was provided, and the project sought to improve future assistance based on experience and reflection.
- Competent and well-managed staff ensured effective resource management and ethical practices.

## Doc.4 - **ADRA\_Japan and Yemen\_Progress\_Report EASLA II August\_2023**

The report provides an overview of the performance and activities of the Japanese project in Yemen's agricultural sector until August 2023. The project aims to restore livelihoods for families affected by the conflict and achieve several objectives, including providing means of living for poor families, cultivating abandoned lands, meeting local market needs, and creating employment opportunities. The number of people targeted in EASLA II is (45) families affected by the conflict. The project serves the poor and conflict-affected sector, addressing the needs of individuals, men, women, and children.

The activities carried out according to the plan include opening bids for irrigation equipment, selecting a vendor, submitting documents for approval, and inspecting the equipment's specifications and quality. As follows below, the progress report also lists the equipment required from farmers, including diesel engines, pipes, pumps, water fans, filters, plastics, and connectors. The total cost of the equipment is provided.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Description (Quality and Details, Power)</i>	<i>Model, measurement</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Price of unit</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	<b>Diesel Engine</b> 33 Ph	DJ	1	1380	1380
2	<b>Diesel Engine</b> 24 PH	DJ	44	800	35.200

3	<b>Pipes Full Pump</b>	Cobrare	4 inch	220	92	20.240
4	<b>Head pump</b>	Cobrare	4 inch	45	370	16.650
5	<b>Water Fan</b>	Cobrare	Blades B8 * 6	45	330	14.850
6	<b>filter</b>	cobrare	4 inch	45	50	2.250
7	<b>Fan Blades</b>	cobrare	4 inch	89	12	1068
<b>Plastics network</b>						
8	<b>plastics plasco equivalent - Meddium-density</b>	4 - inch	Plastic pipes	176	29	5104
9	<b>plastics plasco equivalent - Meddium-density</b>	4 inch	Connector	1	4	4
10	<b>plastics plasco equivalent - Meddium-density</b>	3 inch	Triangle	1	4	4
Sub Total						96750

Risk management is reported to be without any encountered problems, and coordination is done with the local authority, Agriculture Office, and regional sheikh (Community leader). Planned interventions include preparing vouchers for irrigation equipment and distributing them to beneficiaries in specific areas.

#### **Doc.5 - ADRA Japan's Suggestions to Evaluation Plan**

The document provides recommendations for the evaluation framework of a project called "Emergency Agriculture Support in Lahj and Abyan (EASLA)" in Yemen. The suggested evaluation framework is based on Lossi's "evaluation hierarchy," which includes assessing the need for the program, program design and theory, program process and implementation, program outcome/impact, and program cost and efficiency.

The document outlines the assessment points for program process and implementation, which include coordination with the community and local authority, beneficiaries' selection process, project implementation, and considering the conflict situation as a contextual factor. The assessment of program outcome/impact is divided into immediate, medium-term, and longer-term outcomes, which were clarified during the project screening process. The document provides an outcome chart that specifies the conditions for each outcome level as follows below:

<b>Longer-term outcome</b> Agricultural livelihood activity is maintained sustainably.	<b>Conditions for medium-term and longer-term outcomes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Each beneficiary got necessary inputs (such as seed, fertilizer) to re-start agriculture.</li> <li>➤ There is no risk that would seize and/or destroy the rehabilitated irrigation</li> </ul>
<b>Medium-term outcome</b> Agricultural livelihood activity is re-started/enhanced and the livelihood level improved to the level before the conflict.	

	<p>system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The market is functioning and the beneficiaries can sell their products at appropriate price without any risks.</li> <li>➤ Access to the market is not disrupted.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Project outcome (Immediate outcome)</b></p> <p>Improved access to agriculture livelihoods opportunities for conflict affected communities.: % of supported households have resumed/enhanced agriculture activities.</p>	<p><b>Conditions for the immediate outcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The project outputs are attained.</li> <li>➤ Each beneficiary has clear plan to re-start his/her agricultural livelihood activity.</li> <li>➤ Each beneficiary has way(s) to get necessary inputs (such as seed, fertilizer) to re-start agriculture.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Project outputs</b></p> <p>1-1 Agriculture kits/tools are provided to the targeted households/farmers in Lahj &amp; Abyan. Indicator: ✓ Number of households provided with irrigation tools</p> <p>1-2 Agricultural training is provided to the targeted households/farmers in Lahj &amp; Abyan. Indicator: ✓ Number of households provided with agricultural training ✓ % of supported households have a clear plan to resume their agriculture activities utilizing rehabilitated irrigation and resources</p>	

The document also discusses the intervention logic and emergency livelihood assistance framework of the project. It explains that the project aims to provide equipment and materials for repairing irrigation systems and offer agricultural training to conflict-affected communities, enabling them to regain access to agriculture livelihood opportunities.

The project's scope is set up to the point where the livelihood level reaches the threshold for resuming livelihood activities. However, the document suggests that it would be desirable to extend the project to cover the period until income stabilizes and increases, based on ADRA's past project experiences. The budget limitation restricts the project's scope to a certain extent.



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