

Resilience and Growth

Resonate! Yemen Annual Report 2024

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We are proud to present Resilience and Growth: Annual Report 2024, a comprehensive reflection of Resonate Yemen's work over the past year. This report not only highlights our key achievements but also underscores our unwavering commitment to fostering sustainable local development through resilience and strategic purpose.
The year 2024 has posed significant challenges. Yet, it is through our steadfast resilience, the invaluable support of our partners, and the relentless dedication of our team that we have navigated these difficulties and achieved meaningful growth. This report captures the story of perseverance and progress in the face of adversity, demonstrating our capacity to adapt and thrive amid complex conditions.

We invite you to engage with our journey by sharing your feedback, questions, and suggestions. Please feel free to reach out to us at the following email address:
Info@resonateyemen.org

Resonate.ye

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Resilience and Growth: Our 2024 Reflection

Message from the Board of Trustees

Evolving global and regional dynamics, including rising tensions, economic pressures, and environmental challenges, are increasingly shaping realities in Yemen. These external shifts compound existing challenges such as conflict, weak institutions, and economic decline, placing significant strain on communities and limiting access to basic services and representation. In this context, resilience means not just enduring hardship but adapting, responding, and advancing local solutions amid ongoing instability.

Within this complex environment, local civil society has emerged as a key force in sustaining resilience and promoting inclusive development. While public institutions continue to face significant pressure and resource constraints, civil society actors are often at the forefront of efforts to maintain essential services, foster social cohesion, and respond to evolving community needs. Far from playing a peripheral role, they are integral to building locally rooted responses and advancing long-term stability.

Civil society in Yemen continues to operate under significant pressure, navigating an environment marked by shrinking civic space, increasing restrictions, and persistent risks to those who speak out or engage in independent public work, especially in areas controlled by the Houthis where we've seen high escalation against civil society actors. These challenges are not abstract; several of our civil society colleagues remain unjustly detained as a

Within this broader context, the year 2024 was a defining one for Resonate Yemen! Foundation. It tested not only our ability to deliver but also our institutional resilience. Our team faced personal attacks aimed at silencing the very values we stand for: civic participation, transparency, and accountability. The organization was also subjected to pressures and narratives that challenged its credibility and questioned its independence. These experiences, while difficult, did not deter us. They reinforced our purpose and our commitment to remain a principled, independent actor in Yemen's civic space.

We value constructive engagement and honest dialogue. At the same time, we've seen how public accusations and shaming - when not grounded in good faith- can distort our work and contribute to harmful narratives about civil society.

Despite the obstacles, Resonate reached more than 16,800 individuals through direct engagement in 2024, with thousands more impacted indirectly through our media, advocacy, and community-driven programming. This year's work spanned diverse geographies and themes, from the valleys of Marib to the coastlines of Hadramawt. Through our **Governance of CSOs Working on Human Rights project,** we helped strengthen the institutional systems of rights-based organizations in Marib and Shabwa, equipping them to better engage with local policy environments and advocate for their communities.

In parallel, **the Impact Maker** initiative fostered youth leadership and civic participation, enabling young people to spearhead development campaigns and make their voices heard. The **Community Resurgence** project focused on supporting youth at risk of marginalization or violence, offering them psychosocial and economic pathways toward reintegration and empowerment. Across Aden, Taiz, Marib, and Hadramawt, we held a series of **Community Outreach Dialogues** we captured and amplified lived experiences and contributed to inclusive peace narratives. Complementing these efforts, Resonate produced a rich collection of policy papers and studies addressing urgent issues such as environmental protection, the intersection of law and custom, justice for women, and legal safeguards for human rights, contributing valuable knowledge to the broader civic ecosystem.

These achievements are the result of a collective effort. We extend our deep appreciation to our dedicated team, whose commitment and professionalism remained unwavering throughout the year. We are especially grateful to our donors for their trust, flexibility, and continued support, which enabled us to sustain and grow our work. We also thank our local partners, whose collaboration and shared purpose were essential to reaching communities and ensuring that our efforts remained relevant and responsive. Above all, we acknowledge the communities themselves, who welcomed our presence and actively shaped the direction of our initiatives. In every sense, resilience was not only a guiding theme this year but a lived experience that defined our daily work.

We believe that real change does not come from top-down interventions or empty slogans, but from sustained, participatory efforts grounded in a deep understanding of local realities. We reaffirm our commitment to supporting the Foundation, strengthening its partnerships, and ensuring the sustainability of its impact so that Resonate Yemen remains an independent, innovative, and effective platform contributing to a future that reflects the aspirations of all Yemenis.

Best Regards,
Resonate's Board of Trustees



About Resonate!

Mission
Empowering youth, civil society organizations, local communities, and public authorities to achieve sustainable development in innovative ways through learning and active participation in developing, implementing, and evaluating public policies.

Vision
Local communities in Yemen able to realize their own sustainable development through institutional and community partnerships in public policy.

Core Values

- Transparency & Accountability.
- Partnership.
- Creativity & Innovation.
- Attention to Quality & Self-Development.

Resonate! Yemen Foundation

Development Strategy 2021-2025



Overall Goal
Local communities in Yemen able to realize their own sustainable development through institutional and community partnerships in public policy

Institutional Development

Improving the institutional environment and policy frameworks, and building capacities of local authorities and organizations to achieve sustainable local development

- GoCSOs "Governance of CSOs Working on Human "Rights including Women's Rights

Community Empowerment

Building the skills of targeted groups and raising their awareness to ensure effective community participation in the policy development and implementation processes

- Impact Maker II
- Impact Maker III
- Community Resurgence: Fostering Resilience in Yemeni Communities
- Community Outreach on the Promotion of Peace and Peace Building in Yemen

Resonate! Partners

In a year of challenges, your trust and collaboration made progress possible.
None of what we achieved in 2024 would have been possible without the unwavering support, shared vision, and enduring partnership that defined our journey of Resilience and Growth.
Thank you for walking this path with us.

International Partners

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

SAFERWORLD
PREVENTING VIOLENT CONFLICT. BUILDING SAFER LIVES

PAX

UNOPS

ICNL
INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT LAW

Funded by the European Union

GCERF
Preventing Violent Extremism and Terrorism

كلنا مواطنون

FREEDOM NOW

Local Partners





























Overview of the year 2024

Total Number of

Direct Individuals Beneficiaries

16896



Indirect Beneficiaries

37280
Reach

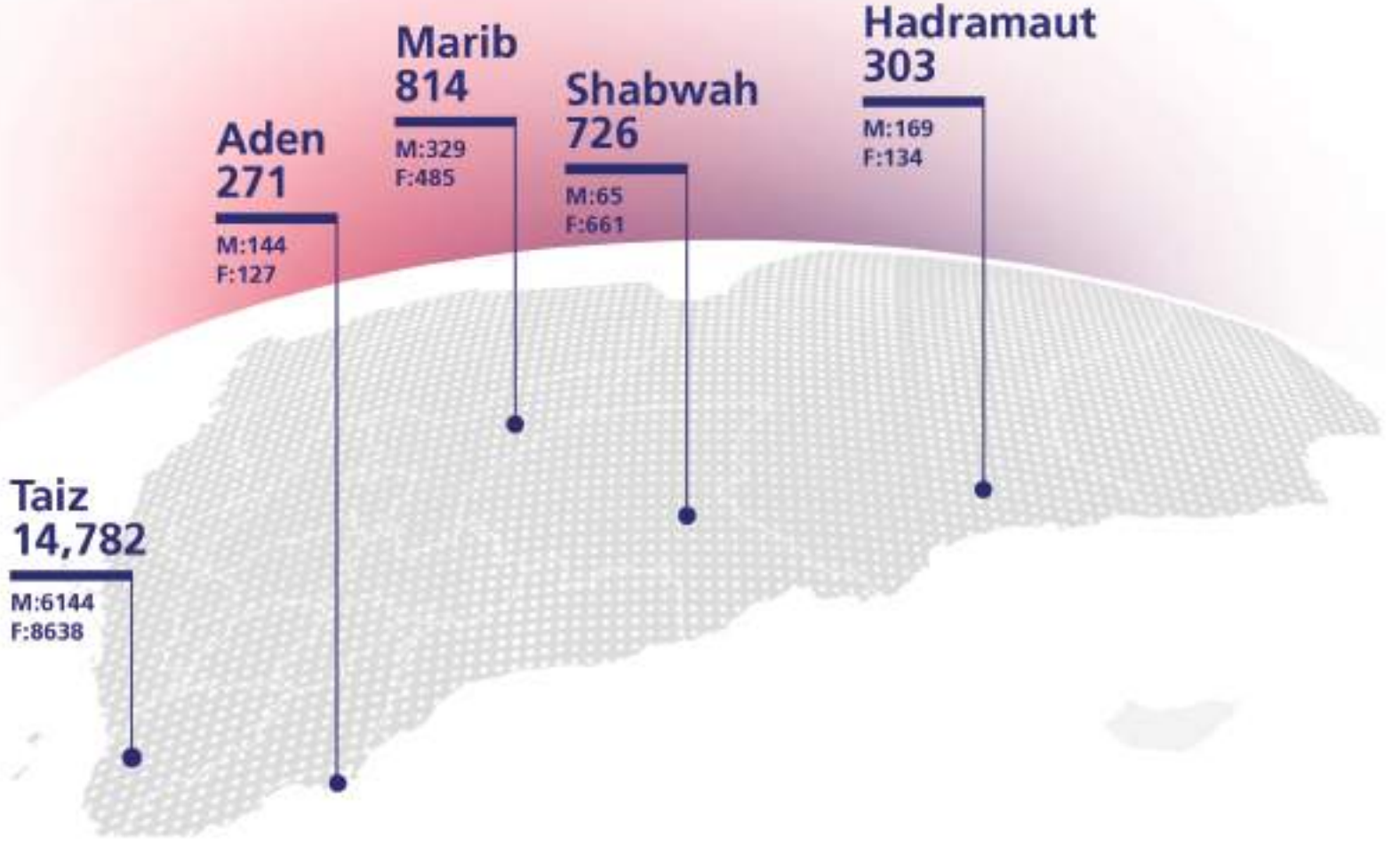
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Reactions

270
Comments

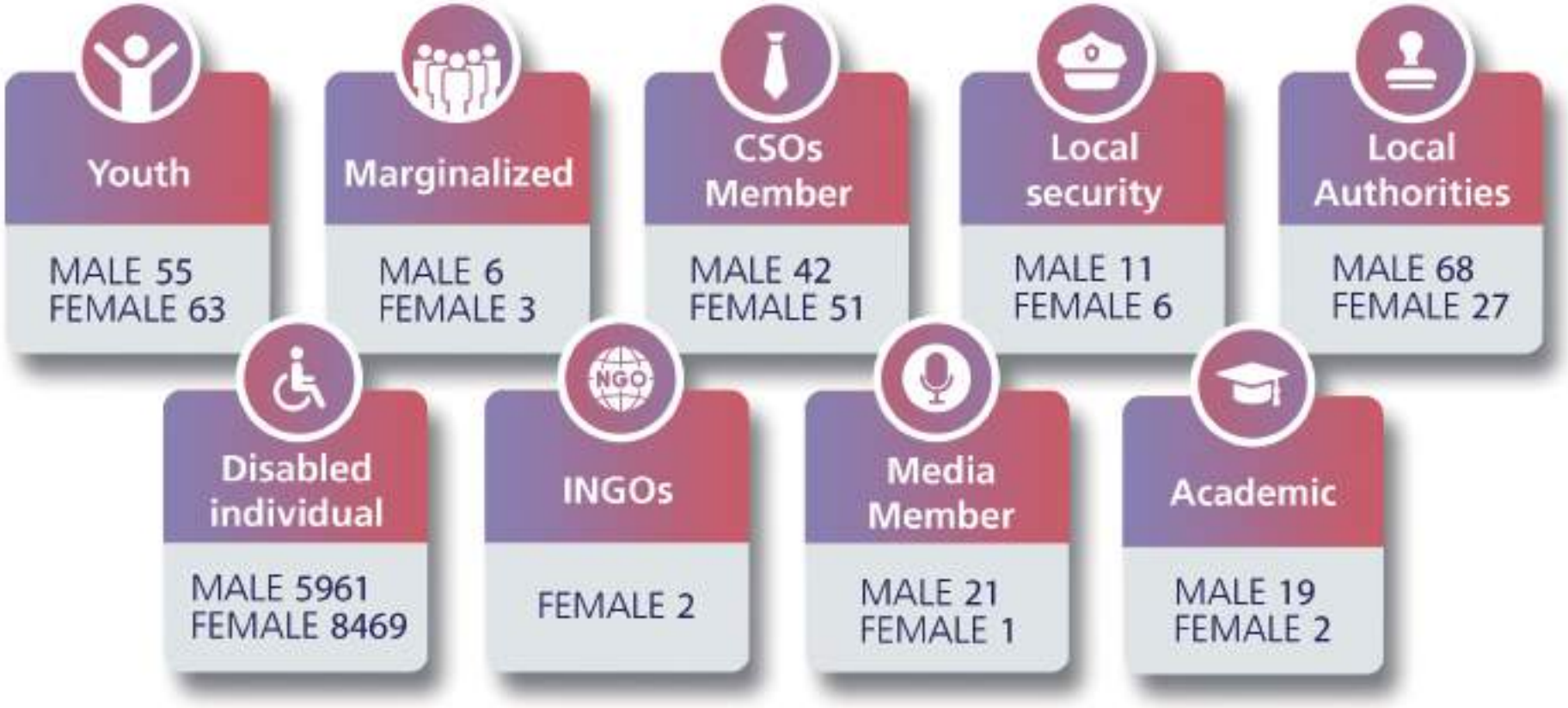
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Benefited Institutions

Categorized by **Beneficiary location**



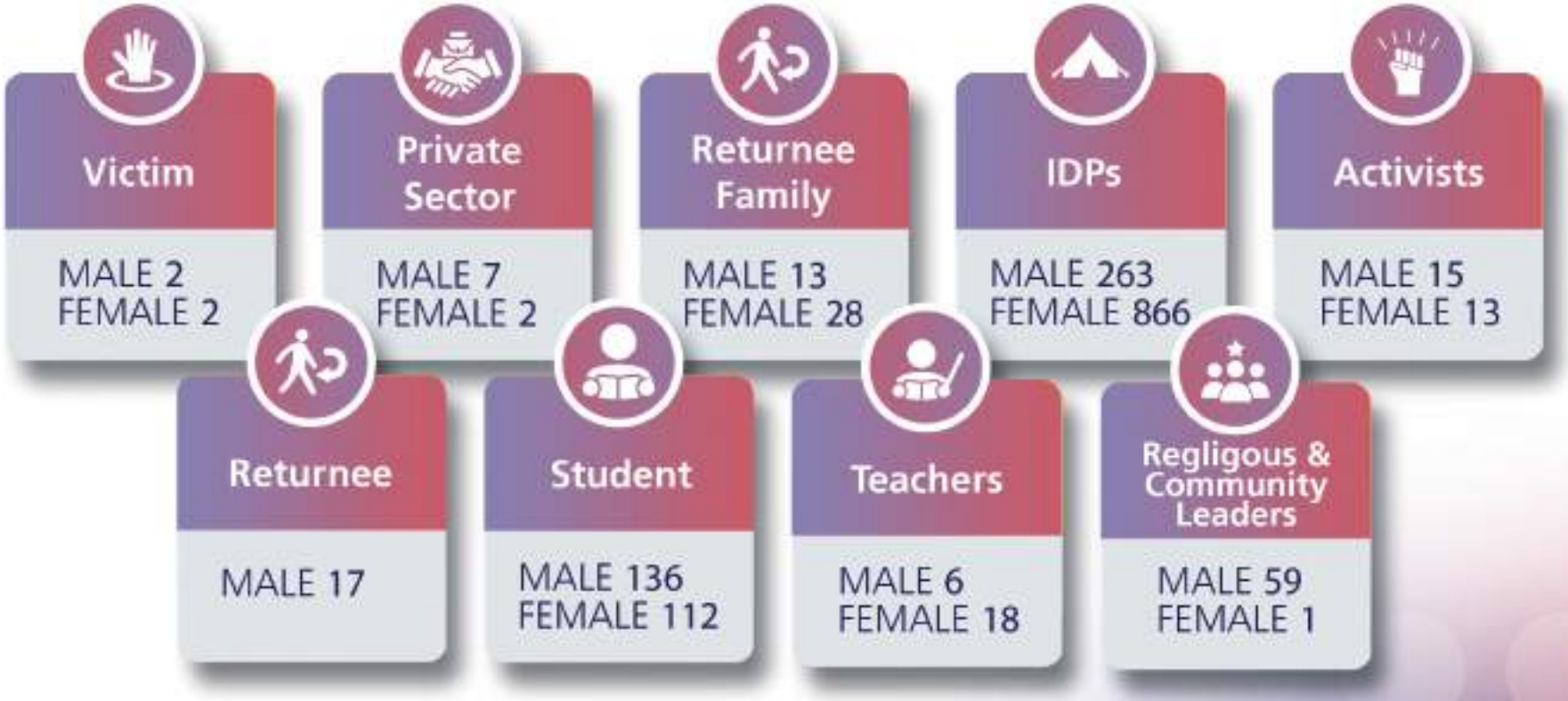
Categorized by **Beneficiary Type**



Categorized by **Beneficiary Type**



Categorized by **Beneficiary Type**



Categorized by **Beneficiary Activity**



83 Training	51 Males - 32 Females
325 Community Dialogues	174 Males - 151 Females
318 Awareness Campaigns/Sessions	178 Males - 140 Females
16065 Grants Activities	6406 Males - 9659 Females
105 Focus Group Discussion	42 Males - 63 Females

Services Summary

8 Training and Capacity Building

2 Workshops

4 Advocacy Campaigns

18 Awareness Campaigns

10 Providing Support Opportunities

2 Developing New Internal Systems

1 Network Establishment

1 Theater Play

9 Grants Providing

Institutional Development





1. "Governance of CSOs Working on Human Rights including Women's Rights" (GoCSOs)

Project Goal

The project aims to improve governance of CSOs Working on Human Rights and including Women's Rights in Shabwa and Marib governorates.

International Partners

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Location

Marib - Shabwa



Project Duration

Nov. 1st, 2022 — 2023 — 2024 — **May. 31st, 2025**

Direct Individuals Beneficiaries



Indirect Beneficiaries

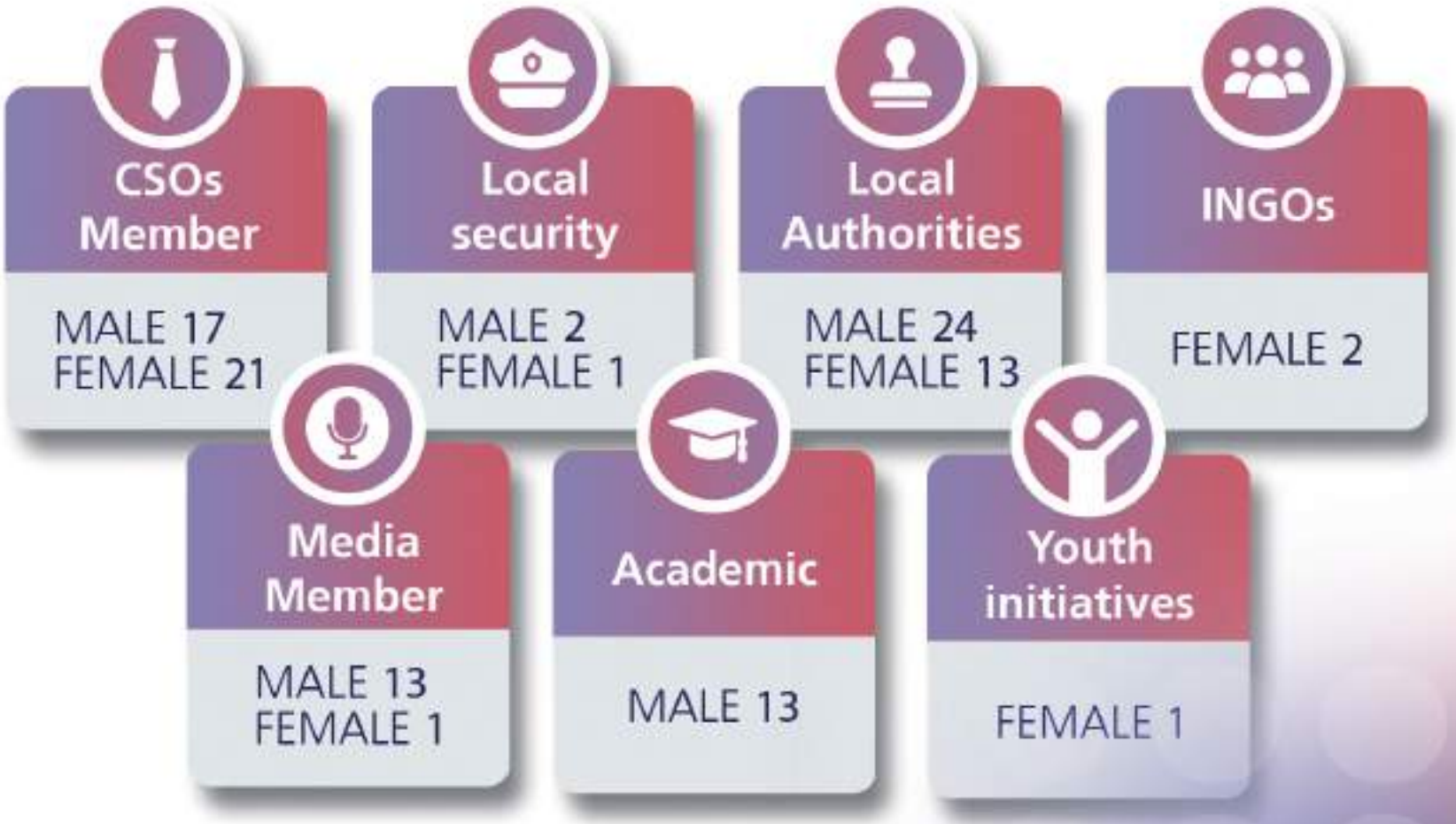
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Reach

1971
Reactions

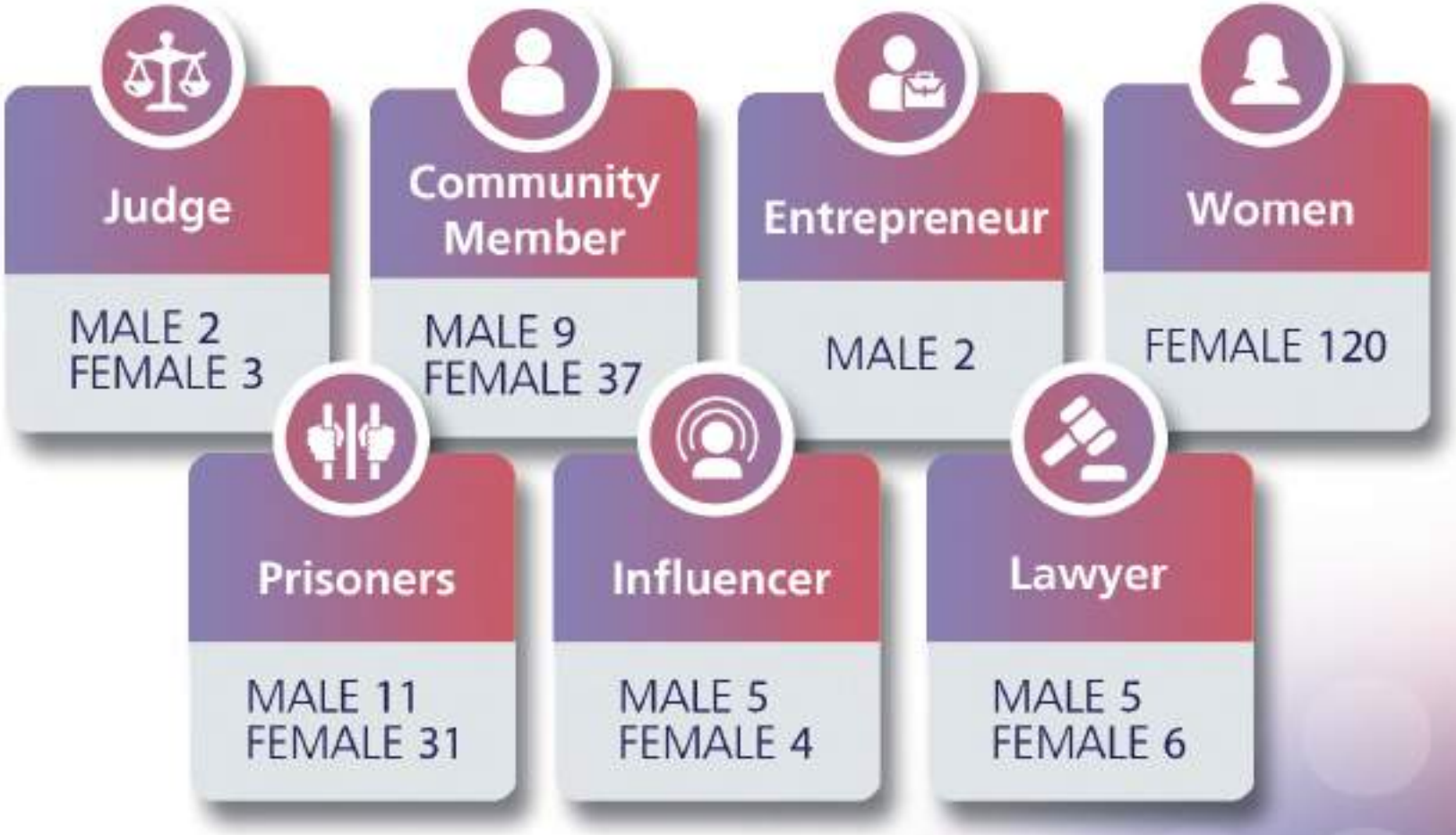
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Comments

12 Benefited Institutions

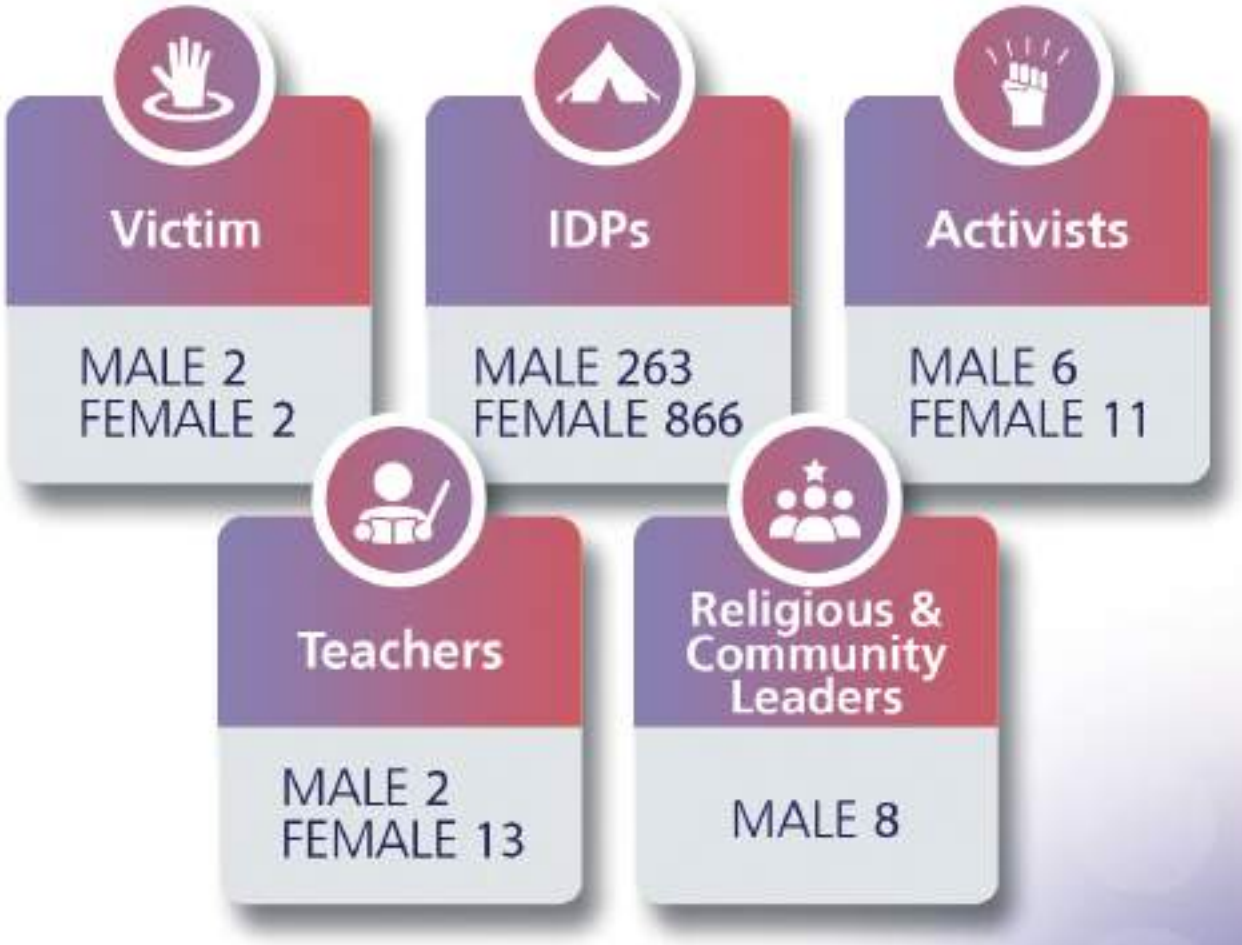
Categorized by **Beneficiary Type**



Categorized by **Beneficiary Type**



Categorized by **Beneficiary Type**



About the proj

Funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Resonate Yemen is implementing the GoCSOs project that focuses on promoting civic space as this project will try to enhance the capacity of the CSOs that their main working area is human rights and women's rights. Through this project, the targeted CSOs will be empowered to raise their voices and address the issues and obstacles they face within their communities concerning civic space. The project incorporates a conflict sensitivity approach to ensure that the project will improve the situation and not worsen it as civic space issues are always subjected to the community targeted especially in such conservative communities as the Marib and Shabwah governorates.

Coordination with the respective stakeholders is conducted to guarantee their acceptance and support of the project goal and objectives.





The overall goal of this project is to improve the governance of CSOs working on Human Rights and including Women's Rights in Shabwah and Marib governorates. This will be pursued by achieving two specific objectives:

(1) Enhance organizational capacity, technical expertise, and financial sustainability in a strategic manner for human rights CSOs;

(2) Increase the contribution of human rights organizations including women's rights CSOs to gender transformative governance, and social accountability.

Community Empowerment





1. Community Resurgence: Fostering Resilience in Yemeni Communities

Project Goal

The program primary focus is on empowering, protecting, integrating, and reintegrating young individuals by offering opportunities and mentorship for personal and professional growth, and active participation in the community.

International Partners

GCERF
Preventing Violent Extremism and Terrorism

Location

Aden-Taiz-Hadhramout



Project Duration

Jan. 1st, 2024 — 2025 — **Dec. 31st, 2026**

Direct Individuals Beneficiaries

Categorized by

Beneficiary Type

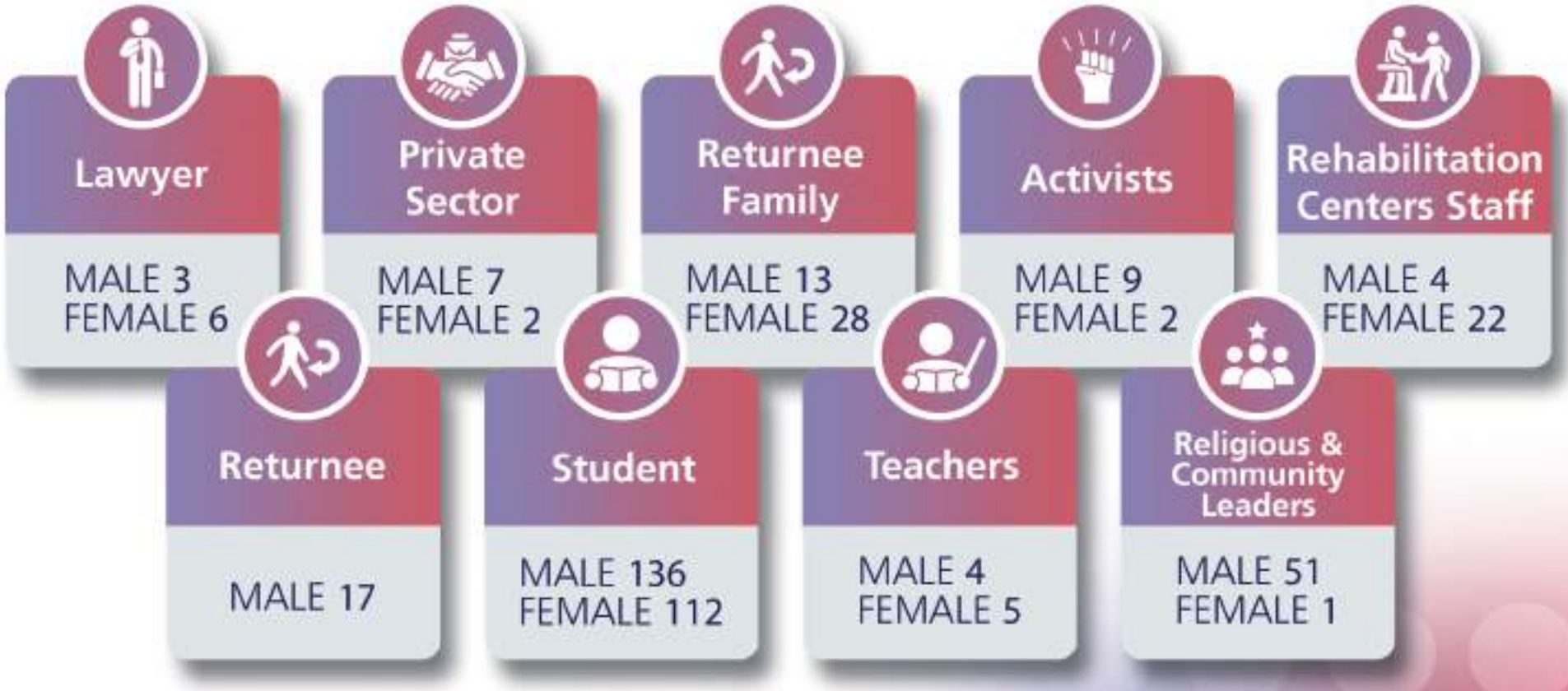
678



Youth	CSOs Member	Local Security Forces	Local Authorities
MALE 46 FEMALE 54	MALE 25 FEMALE 29	MALE 7 FEMALE 3	MALE 32 FEMALE 2

Media Member	Academic	Judge	Community Member
MALE 8	MALE 6 FEMALE 2	FEMALE 2	MALE 7 FEMALE 33

Categorized by **Beneficiary Type**



About the Project

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting peace and stability in Yemen, Resonate! Yemen, with the support and funding from the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), is implementing the program Community Resurgence: Fostering Resilience in Yemeni Communities. This initiative focuses on strengthening the resilience of youth and their communities—psychologically, socially, and economically—while reinforcing the capacity of local institutions to respond effectively to the challenges posed by violence and social fragmentation.

The program aims to create an enabling environment where youth are empowered, communities are engaged, and institutions are better equipped to support inclusive recovery and reintegration efforts. Central to this approach is the promotion of strong community relationships, trust-building, and meaningful participation—particularly among young people who are most vulnerable to marginalization and recruitment by unlawful groups..



Through a locally driven approach, the program is working to achieve the following:

- **Empowering youth** with technical skills and tools to become proactive, engaged members of society.
- **Delivering integrated psychosocial, social, and economic support** to vulnerable youth, promoting their reintegration and positive engagement in community life.
- **Facilitating community dialogue** among youth, local authorities, and stakeholders to foster social cohesion and strengthen local networks.
- **Led community awareness campaigns** focusing on countering violence and promoting peaceful alternatives.
- **Enhancing institutional capacities** of relevant governmental and civil society organizations to deliver more effective, inclusive services.

In coordination with local authorities, community stakeholders, and relevant institutions, **Community Resurgence** is designed to focus on long-term resilience rather than short-term responses, the program seeks to contribute to sustainable peacebuilding and greater social cohesion across targeted areas in Yemen.



2. Impact Maker

Project Goal

The project aims to help Yemeni civil society activists, particularly women and youth contribute to expanding the civic space in Yemen with safe and inclusive initiatives fostering creativity, gender equity, and dialogue.

International Partners

PAX

Location

Aden-Taiz



Project Duration

Jan. 1st, 2024 — Dec. 31st, 2024

Direct Individuals Beneficiaries

Categorized by
Beneficiary Type

14597



Youth	CSOs Member	Local Security Forces	Local Authorities
MALE 9 FEMALE 9	FEMALE 1	MALE 2 FEMALE 2	MALE 12 FEMALE 12

Disabled Individual	Community Member	Youth Activists
MALE 5961 FEMALE 8469	MALE 65 FEMALE 54	MALE 1

About the Project

Impact Maker, implemented by Resonate! Yemen with the support and funding of PAX, is a youth-led peacebuilding and civic engagement initiative that seeks to empower young women and youth activists to become active agents of change within their communities. The program focuses on strengthening the capacities of youth in peacebuilding, conflict resolution, gender inclusion, advocacy, and community initiative management, while also fostering stronger collaboration with local governance structures. In Taiz, the program carried out detailed field assessments to identify community needs, followed by the implementation and support of three local youth-led initiatives through grant funding and technical assistance which has a wide reach to different target groups in Three districts in Taiz. In Aden, Three formal agreements were signed between targeted local councils and youth for better engagement of the selected youth and facilitate cooperation, transparency, and joint ownership with local authorities. Capacity-building workshops were conducted for youth and local council members on topics such as peacebuilding, advocacy, and community needs assessment, while dedicated dialogue sessions were held to improve coordination between youth and local authorities. By bridging the gap between young activists and decision-makers, Impact Maker is helping to lay the foundation for a more inclusive, responsive, and peaceful local governance environment in Yemen.

3. Community Outreach on the Promotion of Peace and Peace Building in Yemen

Project Goal

This project aims to assess the priorities and interests of frequently overlooked segments of the Yemeni societies as a contribution to bridging the gap between the Yemeni public and the Yemeni political elite, and to increase buy-in for UN peace efforts through direct community engagement and storytelling that is relatable to a wider Yemeni audience.

International Partners

UNOPS

Location

Aden-Taiz-Hadhramout
(Al Mukalla, Seiyun) -Marib



Project Duration

Apr. 26th, 2024 — Aug. 30th, 2024

Direct Individuals Beneficiaries

105



Categorized by

Beneficiary Type

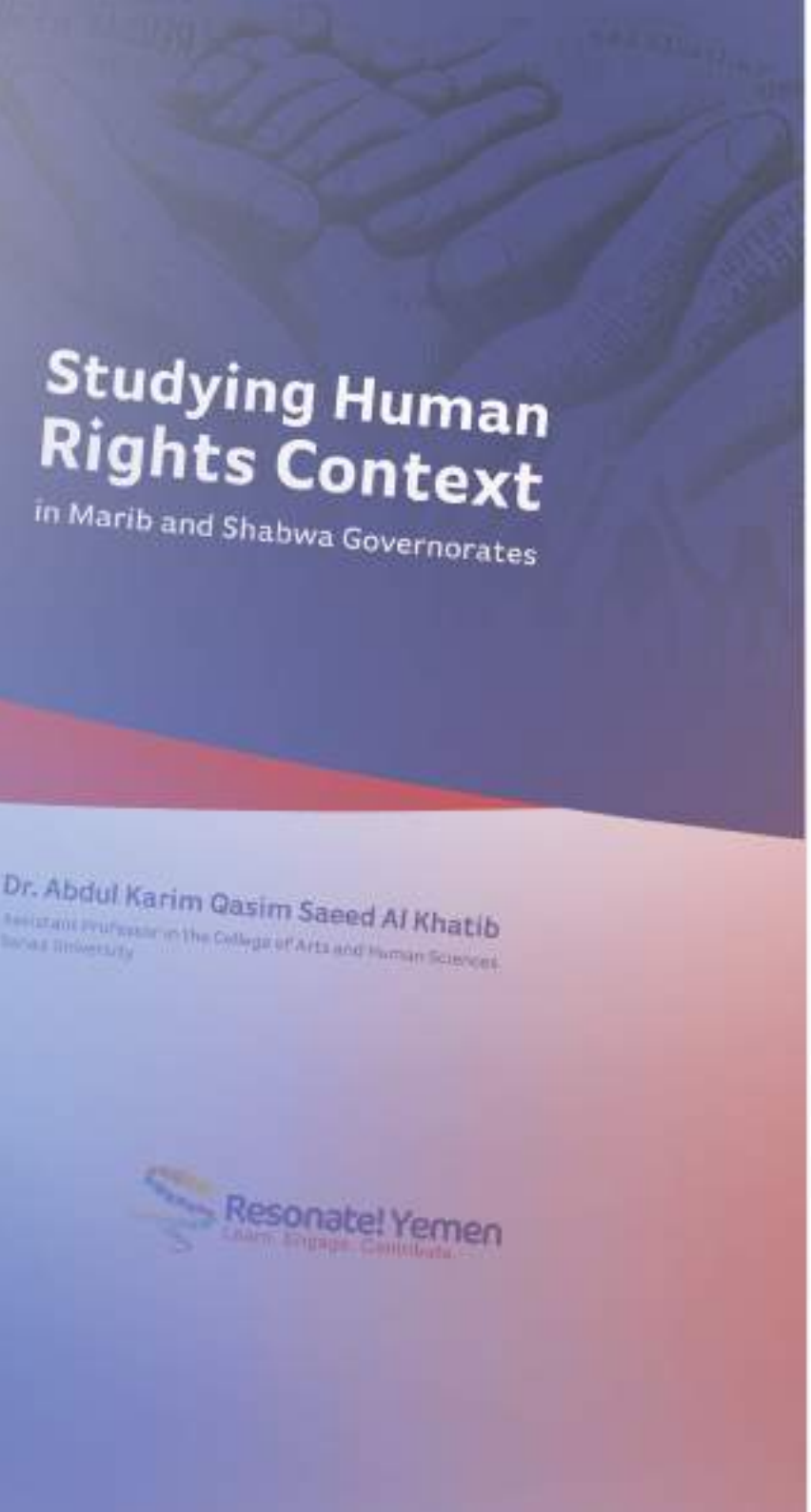
Community Member	Marginalized
MALE 36 FEMALE 60	MALE 6 FEMALE 3

About the project

The Community Outreach project was implemented to promote messages of peace and highlight the priorities and needs of local communities affected by conflict. The project involved 13 focus group discussions held across the governorates of Taiz, Aden, Marib, and Hadramawt (both the Coast and Desert regions), with the participation of 105 individuals from diverse backgrounds, including women, youth, and marginalized groups. These sessions provided a platform for exchanging perspectives on the impact of war on daily life. Additionally, seven videos and six short reels were produced, capturing powerful human stories that conveyed the depth of suffering and the changing nature of basic needs caused by the conflict. The project culminated in a comprehensive report documenting the key themes and messages shared by participants, alongside compelling visual and human-centered content that will support a broad advocacy campaign at both local and international levels. This initiative reflects the organization's commitment to amplifying community voices and supporting efforts toward sustainable and inclusive peace.



Studies and Policy Papers



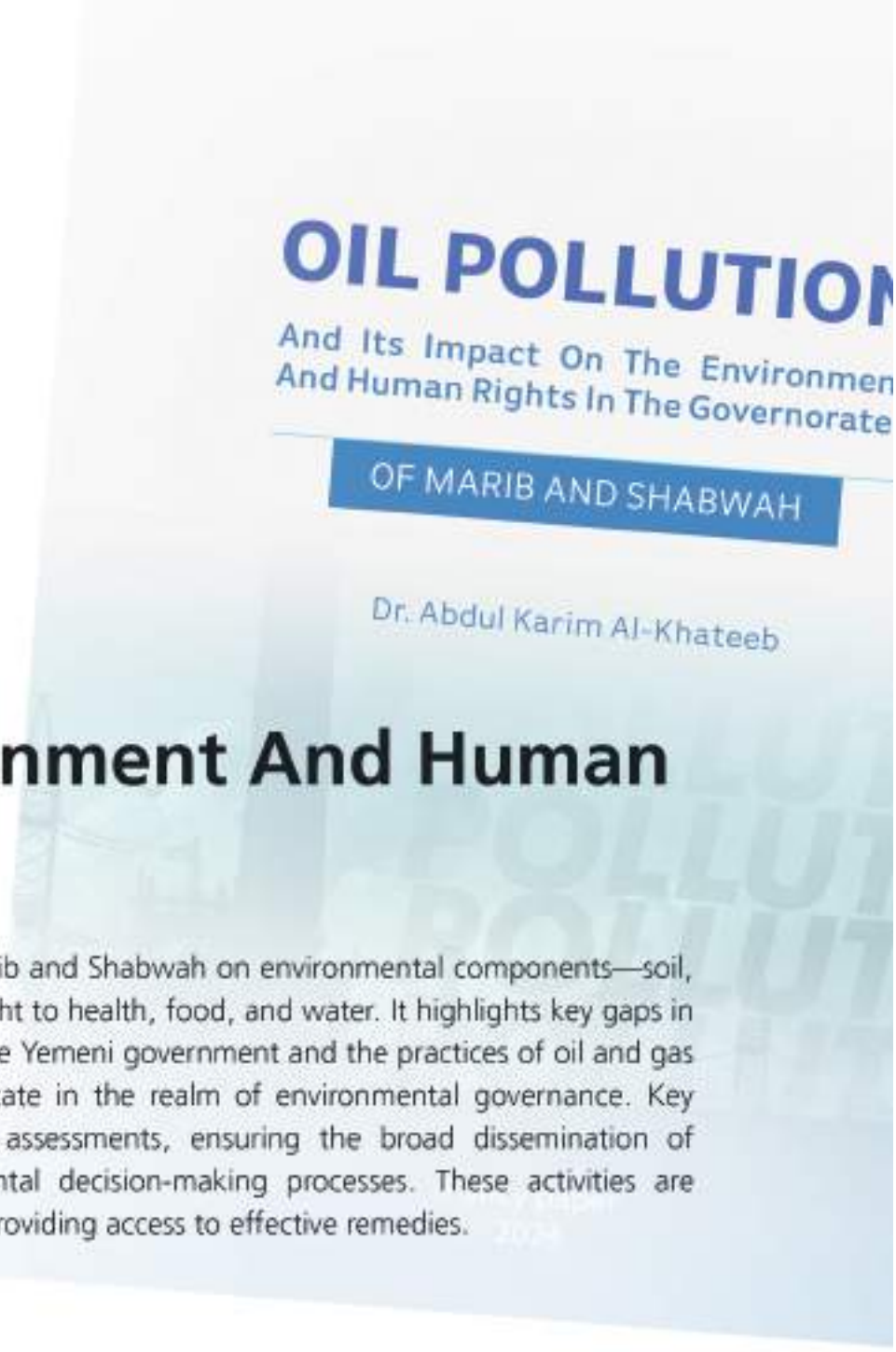
Resonate! Yemen is committed to implementing projects that have a sustainable impact, based on research and studies analyzing the needs of local communities. Each year, Resonate! Yemen publishes several studies, policy papers, and reports addressing critical and pressing issues. These publications aim to contribute to solutions through various programs and activities, while also advocating for these issues and bringing them to the attention of both local and international communities.

In the past year, Resonate! Yemen conducted an in-depth study focusing on the human rights context in Yemen. This study led to the design of interventions and activities for a project aimed at enhancing the governance of civil society organizations operating in the field of human rights within Yemen. Consequently, the project advocated for several human rights issues, which were explored in six policy papers. Four of these papers were published in 2024 and served as a foundational basis for the Human Rights Conference organized by the organization. Additionally, these policy papers will utilize as primary resources for an advocacy campaign launch by Resonate! Yemen concerning human rights in Yemen, which include discussion sessions and webinars.

The Impact of Customary Law ON THE RULE OF LAW:

The main objective of this policy paper is to analyze the nature of the customary justice system in the governorates of Marib and Shabwah, assessing its compatibility with the requirements of the rule of law, enhancing the positive impacts it might have on the rule of law, and mitigating its negative effects. This policy paper explores three policy alternatives concerning the rule of law in tribal areas. The first alternative discussed here is to maintain the customary justice system as the sole and exclusive justice system in these areas; the second is to impose the official justice system to replace the customary one; and the third is to achieve integration between the formal and informal justice systems, allowing both to coexist, enabling citizens to choose their preferred system.



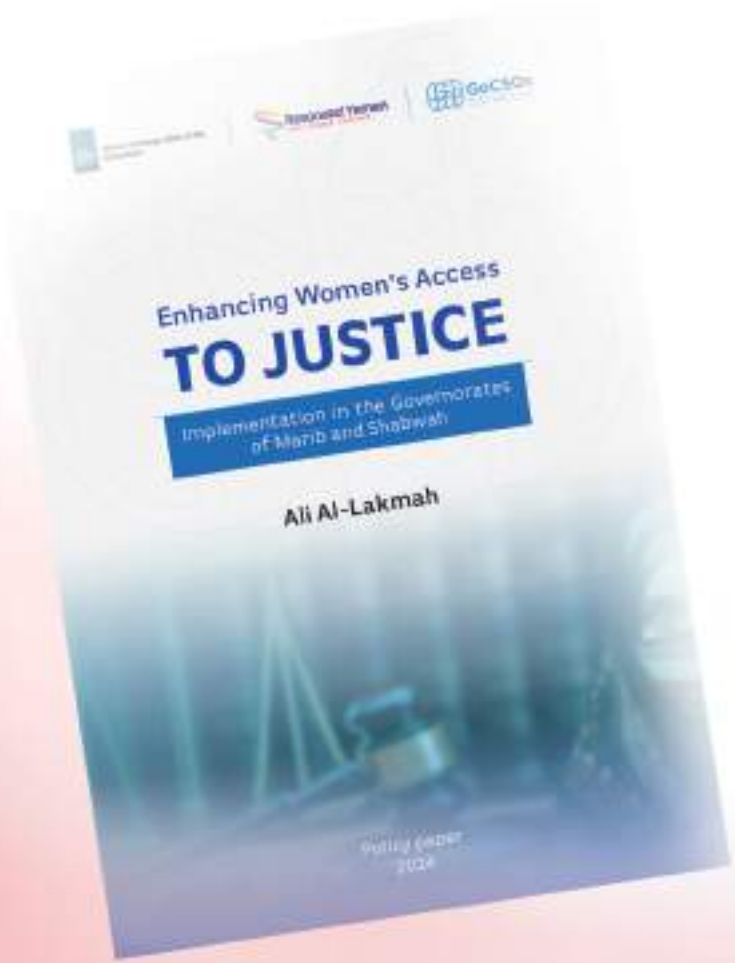


OIL POLLUTION
And Its Impact On The Environment And Human Rights In The Governorates:

This policy paper examines the impact of oil pollution in the governorates of Marib and Shabwah on environmental components—soil, water, and air—and the consequent erosion of fundamental human rights: the right to health, food, and water. It highlights key gaps in the human rights and environmental protection commitments in the policies of the Yemeni government and the practices of oil and gas companies. This policy paper examines the procedural responsibilities of the state in the realm of environmental governance. Key obligations of the state include conducting thorough environmental impact assessments, ensuring the broad dissemination of environmental information, and facilitating public participation in environmental decision-making processes. These activities are fundamental to safeguarding the rights to expression and association, as well as providing access to effective remedies.

Enhancing Women's Access TO JUSTICE:

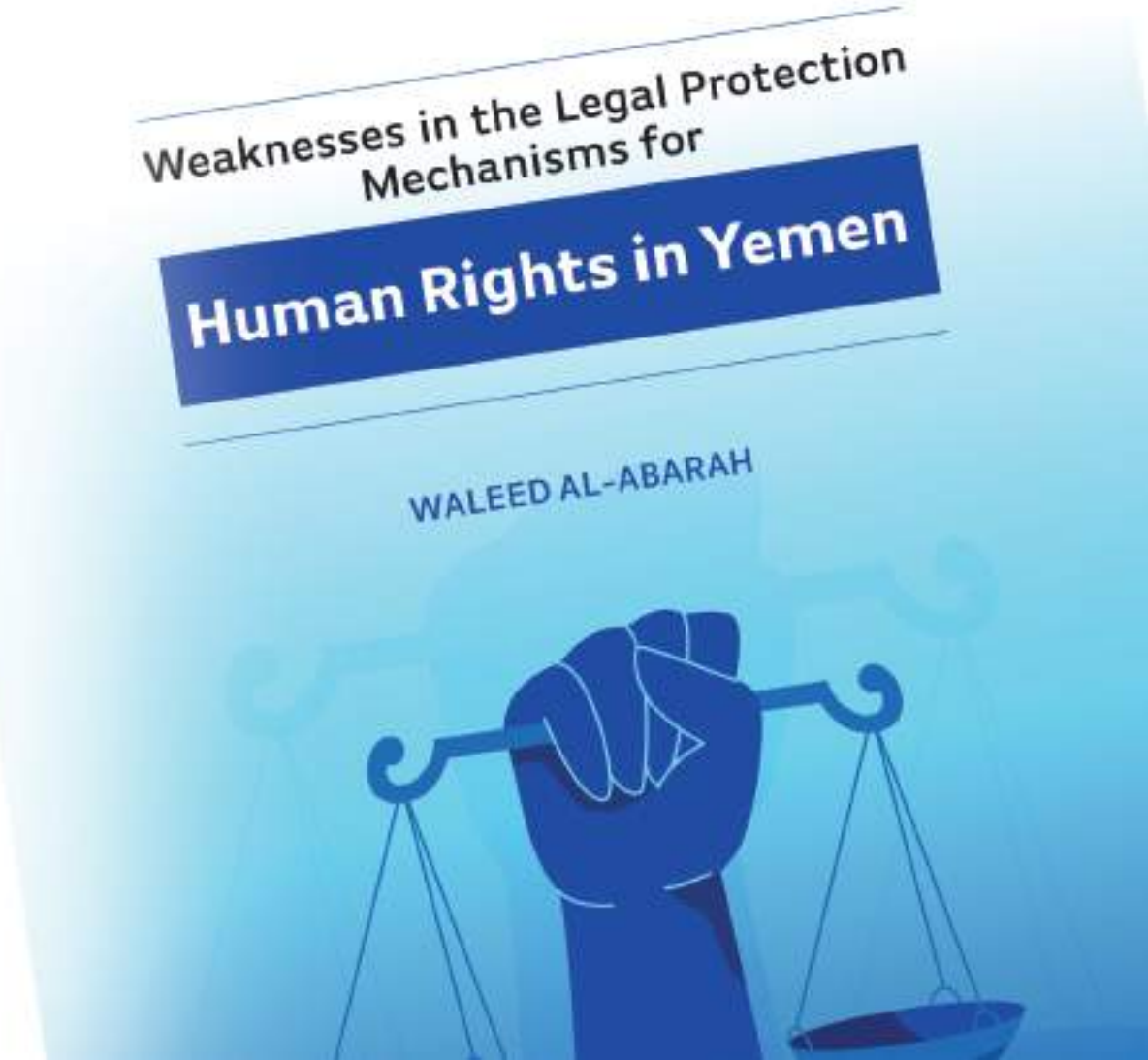
This policy paper seeks to address the main question: How can women's access to justice be enhanced in the governorates of Marib and Shabwah?



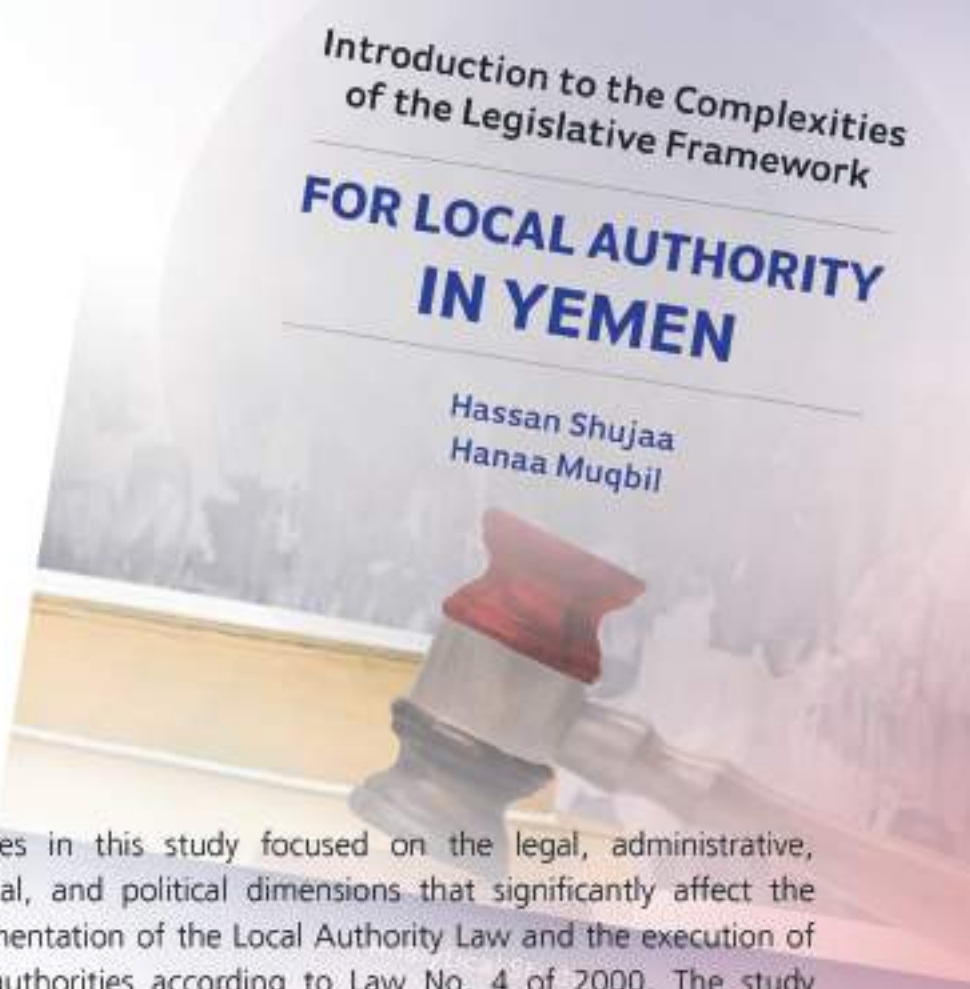
This paper highlights the multitude of obstacles faced by women in Marib and Shabwah in their pursuit of justice. These include social and cultural factors such as pervasive discriminatory norms, limited legal awareness, and deeply entrenched traditional customs. Furthermore, they confront economic, institutional, and legal barriers, compounded by the adverse effects of conflict and displacement, which have exacerbated these challenges and rendered access to legal services increasingly difficult. In response to these pressing issues, the paper advocates for the implementation of comprehensive interventions across multiple levels. Key recommendations include transforming social norms, bolstering legal awareness, providing essential legal and psychological support for women, enhancing the judicial system, promoting women's participation in decision-making processes, and strengthening collaboration with civil society partners and international organizations. By embracing these strategies, we can foster a more equitable and accessible justice system for women and girls in Yemen.

Weaknesses in the Legal Protection Mechanisms for Human Rights in Yemen:

This paper aims to shed light on the general context of legal protection for human rights in Yemen and the extent to which national laws and legislation align with international conventions and treaties. The paper also addresses the reasons for the deterioration of legal protection for human rights in Yemen and analyzes how the ongoing conflict since 2014 has undermined both protection and rights. It highlights the challenges citizens face in obtaining legal protection in the governorates of Marib and Shabwah.



Introduction to the Complexities of the Legislative Framework for Local Authority in Yemen:



This study was developed based on the outcomes of the "My Contribution is Development" project, implemented by Resonate! Yemen during 2020–2021. The project focused on enhancing local governance in Yemen and building the capacities of local authorities, following the recommendations of a needs assessment study. This assessment also highlighted the necessity of examining the challenges related to the legislative and legal framework governing local authorities.

Moreover, it sought to examine the effectiveness of the Local Authority Law in addressing both the present and future needs in Yemen, particularly given the country's ongoing political and military changes. It also attempted to assess the potential contribution of this law to the strengthening and advancement of the legislative framework pertaining to local governance within Yemen.

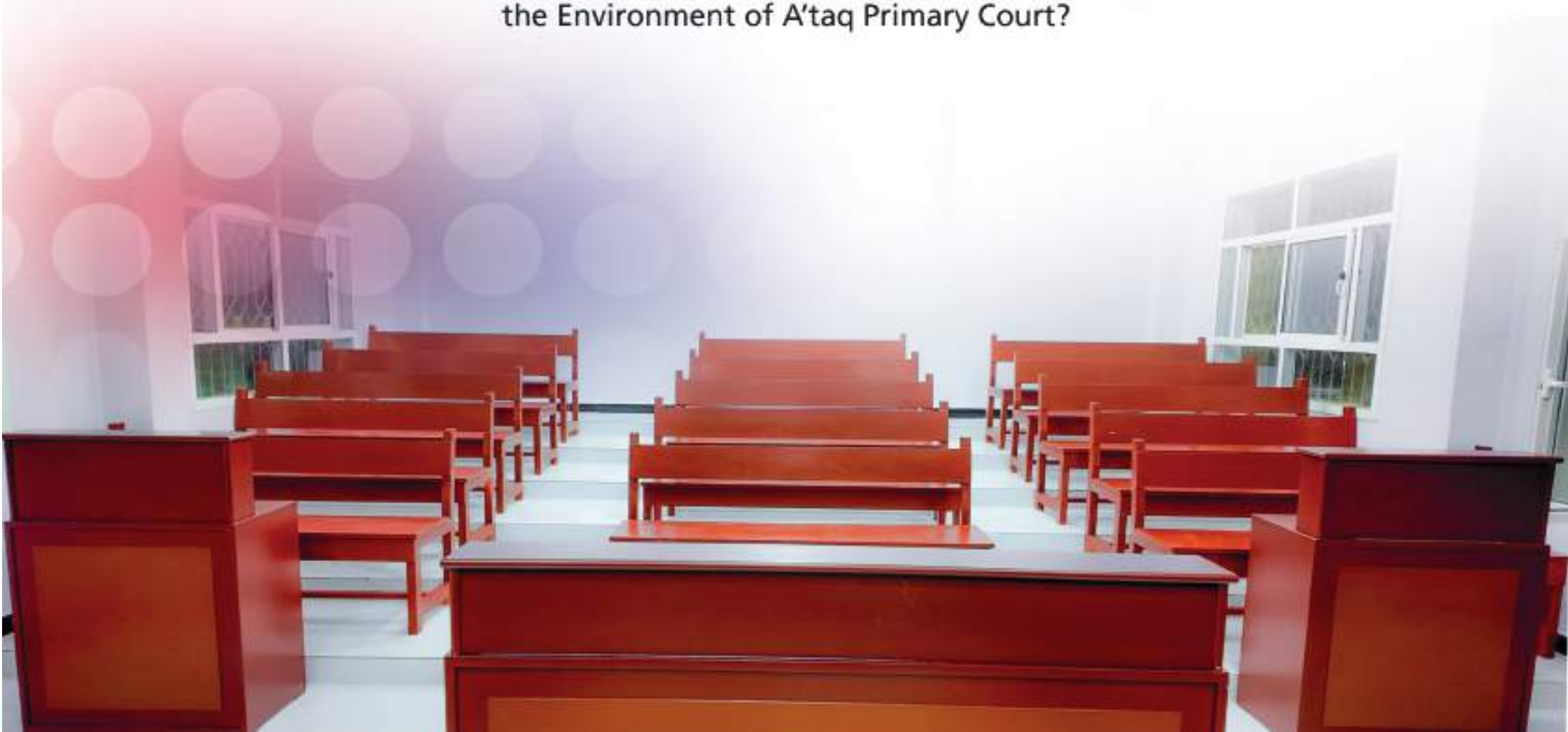
Analyses in this study focused on the legal, administrative, financial, and political dimensions that significantly affect the implementation of the Local Authority Law and the execution of local authorities according to Law No. 4 of 2000. The study revealed that financial constraints are among the most significant barriers impeding the implementation of the Local Authority Law. Building upon this, Resonate! Yemen seeks to strengthen the resources of local authorities through its ongoing project titled "strengthening institutional and economic resilience in Yemen" This initiative encompasses capacity-building activities and an in-depth study addressing the challenges and imbalances in revenue collection faced by local authorities in Yemen.



Voices of Resilience

A Space Worthy of Justice

How Did Steps Foundation Contribute to Improving the Environment of A'taq Primary Court?



"The judge's voice echoed in the hall, but it was swallowed in cracked corners and old seats that barely kept the litigants seated. No ventilation, no adequate lighting. The place began as ordinary." With this scene stuck in the memory of many, the story began.

In the city of A'taq, the capital of Shabwa Governorate, the primary court stands as a legal landmark witnessing moments of social transformation, where development challenges intersect with people's aspirations, whether in its stability or its setbacks. For years, the courtroom has lacked several elements that make it a suitable place to welcome people and instill a sense of comfort.



However, just as the decline of institutions does not happen suddenly, their recovery begins with a step. This step was initiated by the Steps Foundation (Khotwat)for Development, as part of the "Governance of CSOs Working on Human Rights including Women's Rigths" project, supported by Resonate! Yemen and funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, where a project aimed at improving the court's environment was implemented by rehabilitating its hall, contributing to creating a more comfortable environment for citizens and those working in the judicial system.



The Initial Scene: A Simple Observation Led to a Qualitative Intervention

The story began with a field observation; Naif Ba Qafaa, the program director at Steps Foundation, says, "Due to my work in the field, I was aware of the reality of judicial institutions, and the image of the unsuitable A'taq courtroom never left my mind."

He adds:

"Our first visit was not official, but driven by curiosity and responsibility. The hall was exhausting, the furniture needed renewal, the listening platform was almost dilapidated, and the bars were in poor condition. The hall lacked much to be a refuge for justice."

This description was not only emotional but also was based on a precise field examination conducted by the institution to identify the main weaknesses in the court's infrastructure. Restoration needs were observed in three main areas: structural safety, creating a judicial work environment, and improving the relationship between citizens and the judicial institution. This analysis led to participatory meetings with judges, lawyers, and stakeholders, where it was clear that justice could not be improved without enhancing its environment.

With the support of Resonate! Yemen and funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, a comprehensive intervention plan was formulated, which included: fully rehabilitating the courtroom, furnishing it in a manner befitting the dignity of the judiciary, and improving the lighting and ventilation in the courtroom.



Scene Two: Between the Hammer and the Initiative

"What we were looking for was not just a new courtroom. We wanted to create a new feeling upon entering it, that this place deserves respect and is designed to serve both citizens and employees alike. This is what made us pay attention to the small details, from the lighting to the arrangement of the seats," adds Ba Qafaa.



Between the hammer – as a symbol of justice – and the initiative – as a catalyst for change, the team succeeded in turning the idea into reality within a period not exceeding ninety days. The rehabilitation work included improving lighting and ventilation, replacing old furniture with more suitable alternatives, and providing a space that makes litigants feel comfortable, both in terms of organization and privacy.

Turning Point: From Restoration to Trust

Following the completion of the project, changes began to be felt on multiple levels, whether in the nature of citizens' interaction with the court or in the performance of the judiciary staff itself, as the number of lawyers eager to plead in court increased, and the performance of employees improved due to the motivating environment.

"The A'taq Court no longer only handles cases from the A'taq District; it has become a judicial refuge for other districts like Habban and Jardan. Now, judges, lawyers, and citizens come carrying their cases and hopes to the A'taq Court," says Judge Yasser Sylan, head of the A'taq Court.

He adds, "We did not expect that the physical change would have such a profound psychological effect."

The change was not only tangible in the overall appearance of the hall, but was also felt by judges, lawyers, and citizens who deal daily with the court environment and fully understand its impact on the course of justice.



Institutional Impact: How is Justice Measured?

Improving the judicial work environment is a strategic investment that enhances judges' efficiency, reduces delays, and increases attendance at sessions, especially in a Yemeni context facing security, financial, and administrative challenges.

Judge Yasser Sylan, President of the A'taq Primary Court, says:

"Improving the court environment has reflected on our attendance and our handling of cases. The courtroom has become more suitable for sessions, and there is a feeling that we are working in a space that respects our work and values our role. This simple change has provided us with a better psychological and professional space."

The experience of the Steps Foundation (Khotwat) has proven that improving access to justice does not always require major changes, but can start with small details. However, when these details are managed within a comprehensive vision, they produce a profound institutional impact.

Through the support provided by Resonate! Yemen. The project was not just a local intervention, but a model experience in linking institutional empowerment to social justice, and integrating gender principles into judicial policies.

Naif Ba Qafaa explains:

"The project has demonstrated that the simplest material details, when managed carefully, can make a significant difference in the quality of judicial services."

He adds:

"Justice begins with details. When the courtroom is organized, well-ventilated, and equipped in a manner befitting the judiciary, it reflects on everyone's performance – from the judge to the lawyer to the citizen. This initiative was not just about rehabilitating a place, but about restoring the spirit of justice."

For his part, one citizen expresses his experience, saying:

"I recently went to attend a session related to a family case, and I found the courtroom in a completely new state. There was order, respect, and I did not feel that I was in a psychologically exhausting place as before."

Conclusion: Steps That Made a Difference

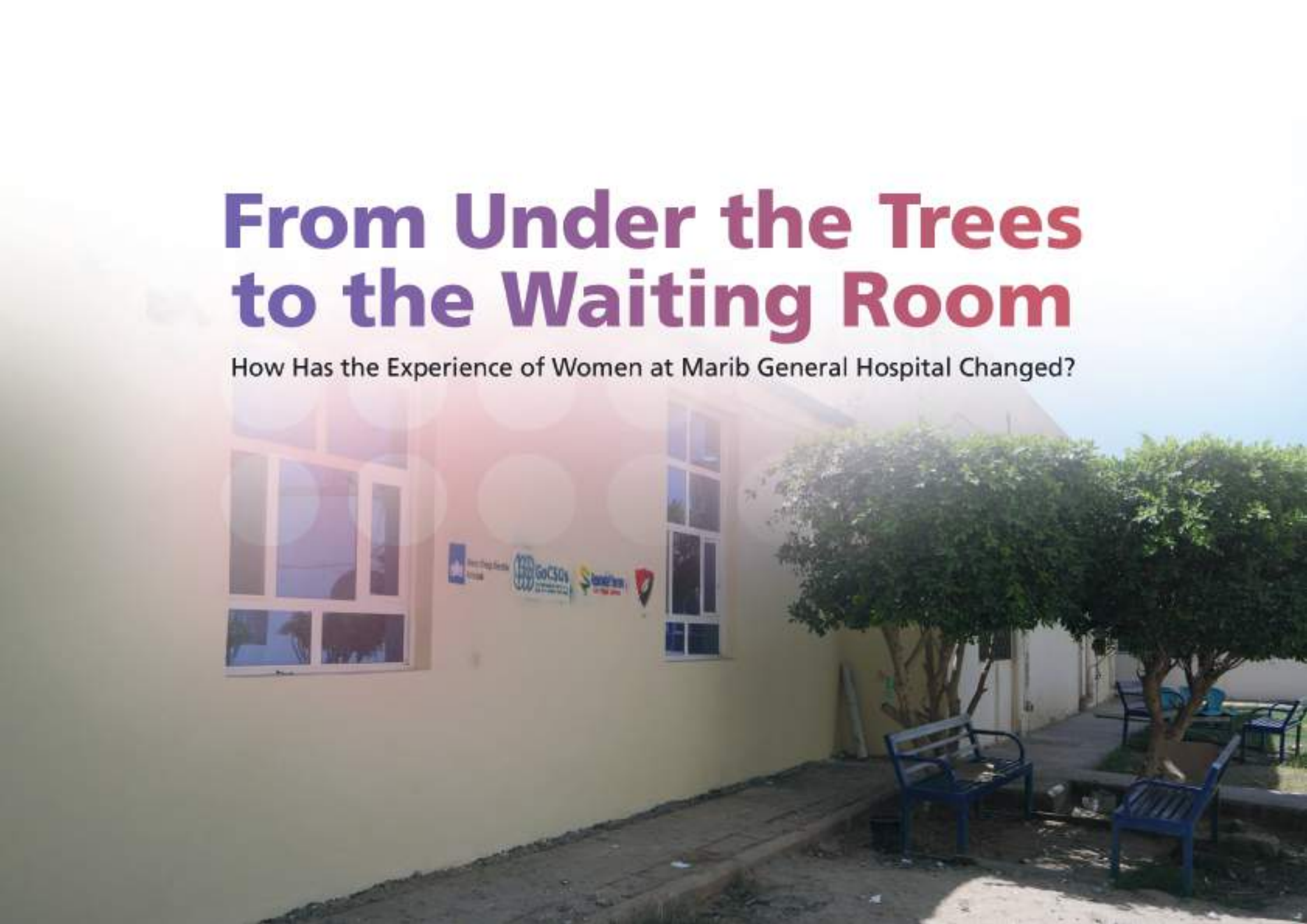
From a modest hall to an environment worthy of justice, and from a civil society institution to an active partner in the community. The intervention of the Steps Foundation (Khotwat) has proven that improving access to justice does not require major interventions, but rather starts with understanding reality and paying attention to details.

This project is a living example that change is possible when there is faith, partnership, and a genuine understanding of people's needs. Today, as the foundation attempts to replicate the experience in other courts within the governorate, the hall of the A'taq Primary Court remains a testament that justice is not only born in laws, but is made on the ground.



From Under the Trees to the Waiting Room

How Has the Experience of Women at Marib General Hospital Changed?



The tree was not just a shadow... it was a roof and an umbrella. In the courtyard of Marib General Hospital, where people's needs meet limited resources, the sight of women waiting under the trees was painfully familiar. Each one spread out on the ground, cradling her child, or leaning against a faded wall , waiting for a call from inside. There were no seats, no place that respects women's privacy or makes them feel they are in a safe space.

The scene was part of the daily life of the place, etched in the details of dust and the faces of the silent waiters. From here, the question arose: why is there no space worthy of women inside the hospital?

This question was not raised in an official meeting, but in a listening session organized by the Protection Foundation for Civil Orientation, as part of the "Governance of Civil Society Organizations Working in the Field of Human Rights (GoCSOs)" project, supported by Resonate! Yemen and funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands which was sufficient to move a scene that had been stagnant for years.



From Internal Structure to Social Change: How Did It All Begin?

The question:

Why don't women have a safe place to wait?

It was not just an inquiry, but a moment of collective awareness that opened the door to a different project that responds to people's needs. However, turning it into a real initiative was only possible after the Protection Foundation overcame its internal challenges in management, structure, and organization.

Ali Al-Tam, the executive director, says:
"We did not have a clear system or tools for planning and implementation; we were working with more enthusiasm than methodology. We had passion and a desire for change, but we lacked the tools to turn that passion into impact."



Here, the intervention came with support from Resonate! Yemen and funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, where the Protection Foundation received specialized training that redefined its role in the community and provided it with new tools. From this transformation, a project was born that responded to a community need highlighted during listening and accountability sessions with the administration of Marib General Hospital and its visitors. The project emerged from the realities and experiences of women and turned into a tangible response to people's needs.

A project built on the voice of the people

This is how the project was born, and this is how its idea was realized on the ground. The Protection Foundation for Civil Orientation rehabilitated and equipped a waiting area dedicated to women inside Marib General Hospital, accommodating nearly fifty women daily. It was furnished with eight double chairs (equivalent to twenty-four single seats), suitable bedding, and good lighting. "It was not just a place. It was a restoration of privacy, comfort, and appreciation," says Ali Al-Tam, expressing his feelings of success with his initiative.

"Before the waiting area, women used to wait outdoors in unsuitable conditions, but today it has become a destination for them and a landmark within the hospital reflecting attention to their needs," adds the executive director.

The Protection Foundation's initiative did not stop at rehabilitating the waiting area; it also included the "Aafitak" application, which allows patients, especially women, to book appointments and inquire before their arrival, thus reducing congestion in front of clinics and booking counters. The application recorded nearly five hundred bookings and inquiries during its first month of launch.



Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Shaddadi, Director of Marib General Hospital, expresses his appreciation for the initiative by saying:
"The lounge is a qualitative leap in serving patients, especially women, as it has improved the healing environment and waiting conditions. Today, I look at the faces of women, and the worry of waiting has been lifted from them, and I feel that the burden has also been lifted from me."



Amina, one of the hospital visitors, says, "Today, I feel that we have a place that respects us and meets our needs, as mothers and sisters. Now we are counted and present, and we have a place and status." Her experience reflects a deep humanitarian impact of a simple change, demonstrating how community participation can transform into a real and sustainable project. The Protection Foundation has proven that building institutional capacities is the cornerstone of community change; when an institution becomes professional and capable of planning and responding, small initiatives can have an impact that exceeds expectations.

Recommendations and Continuity

The Protection Foundation emphasizes the importance of support that is not limited to implementing activities but focuses on building the capacities of institutions to understand their surroundings and respond to people's priorities. The experience of the lounge has shown that impactful change does not need to be massive; it needs to be genuine and rooted in the community, based on actual listening to the voices of women that are often overlooked in service planning. Therefore, the foundation recommends generalizing the experience in health facilities, especially in remote areas where the need for safe spaces and privacy for women is more urgent.

"These small initiatives make a big difference, especially when they come from the heart of the community and the voices of its members," says the Executive Director of the Protection Foundation for Civil Direction.

The foundation also emphasizes that sustainability does not only mean implementing similar projects, but also creating long-term partnerships that believe in the ability of communities to express and plan, and invest in empowering local institutions and transforming them into pioneering models for real and sustainable change.



Strong roots... and branches reaching out to the people

The experience of the Protection Foundation shows that building institutional capacities is not a luxury, but a prerequisite for creating a sustainable impact. The support it received was not a fleeting training, but an investment in its structure and collective mind, enabling it to understand its surroundings, listen to the voices of the people, and turn needs into real responses. The foundation has changed, but more importantly, this change has come to light: into the hospital corridors, and to the women who have long been marginalized by services, so that today they find a place that befits them and resembles them. Thus, the Protection Foundation is now seen as a reliable partner that listens well and knows where to start and where to head.

Despite the simplicity of the project – a waiting area and seats – its impact was profound, as it not only changed the place for women but also redefined the relationship between the citizen and the institution, between civil society and its needs, and between waiting and the feeling of comfort. Dr. Abdul Aziz adds, saying:

"This kind of simple interventions in form, yet deep in impact, is what we need to improve the relationship between the citizen and the health institution."

Here lies the true value of everything that has happened: that a single institution, with thoughtful training, purposeful funding, and community awareness, was able to change a scene that had remained stagnant for years. Also waiting – with all its weight – has taken on a new meaning.

Moving Forward, Rooted in Resilience

This year reminded us that resilience is not a fixed trait, it is a choice we make every day, often in the face of uncertainty. Growth, in turn, is not always loud or visible; sometimes it's quiet, deliberate, and grounded in hard-earned trust.

At Resonate! Yemen, we remain deeply committed to advancing community empowerment and institutional development, even when the path is difficult. What we've built in 2024, we've built together: with courage, clarity, and shared purpose.

As we approach 2025, the final year of our 2025–2021 strategic framework, our focus remains clear: to support local communities and institutions as drivers of sustainable, inclusive progress.

The journey of Resilience and Growth continues, and we are grateful to have you with us as we shape what comes next.



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