

Providing inclusive basic services open new perspectives

The rehabilitation of infrastructure and improved services supports internally displaced persons as well as their host communities

The challenge

Famous for its rich history and cultural heritage dating back thousands of years and significant for precious natural resources, also well known as the land of coffee, the Republic of Yemen is strategically located on the Bab al-Mandab strait that connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea. Over the course of centuries, unfortunately, it has also been rattled by armed conflicts and humanitarian crises.

The latest and deadliest conflict is the civil war which started in 2014 and is still ongoing. The consequences for the civil society are dramatic. Over four million people, more than 13 percent of the population, had to leave their homes and all their belongings behind, fleeing to other more peaceful regions of the country. This makes Yemen rank 4th worldwide in displacement caused by a violent conflict. 79 percent of the affected persons are women and children.

Moreover, large parts of the infrastructure, especially schools, health facilities, water wells, sanitary facilities and administrative buildings, were damaged or destroyed all over Yemen. Often, basic services collapsed. Meanwhile, 24 out of 30 million inhabitants are dependent on humanitarian aid and protection. Particularly, vulnerable groups like women and children, people with disabilities and psychological problems, as well as marginalized social groups like the Muhamasheen are suffering.

Scarcity of resources is another stress factor that weakens the social cohesion of the nation and in some cases leads to conflicts within communities, but also between displaced persons and their host communities.

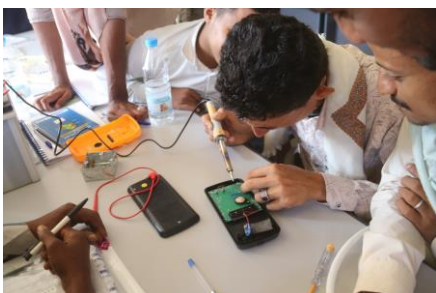
All in all, the United Nations speak of the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

Our objective

As part of the BMZ special initiative "Displaced Persons and Host Countries" our project supports internally displaced persons and their host communities by improving access to health facilities and services as well as to drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and psycho-social services. We especially focus on alleviating the suffering of those who are most vulnerable to strengthen the social fabric.

Project name	Improving access to basic social services for IDPs and local population (IDP Yemen)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Aden, Hajjah, Al-Hudaidah, Ibb, Tai'z, Hadramout
Lead executing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Duration	08/2016–03/2026

Geographically, we work in Al-Hudaidah, Hajjah, Ibb, and in Tai'z governorate as well as Aden and its surrounding governorates, since they are sheltering the highest number of displaced persons.



L. to r.:

Capacity building in the field of installation and maintenance of Solar Energy in Al-Shamaytayn – Taiz Governorate

Prioritising Inclusion: Building a Ramp at the Health Center

Our approach

Defying crisis and hardship, displaced persons and their host communities, local authorities, and non-governmental organisations join hands and support those in need, making use of whatever is available to provide services and rebuild. Working as partners, we support them. We train health personnel and work with social workers on psychological first aid. We contribute by providing badly needed infrastructure, like medical equipment, solar water pumps, furniture for offices and child friendly spaces, and enhancing skills when needed.

We are listening to voices of the community and especially of the most vulnerable groups including displaced persons. Their active participation in design, decision making and implementation from beginning to end is in the core interest of what we do.

Economically and socially empowered women benefit as do their entire families. Communities, women, and children amount to 79 percent of all displaced persons. We pay special attention to the skills for example of nurses, social workers, and midwives. We also include them in local decision-making structures and processes like local water committees. Strong women create strong societies.

For a better inclusion of persons with disabilities, we cooperate with organisations led by people with disabilities to ensure that their needs are incorporated, and voices are heard in the society.

What we have achieved so far

What we achieved over the last seven years, together with our partners from civil society, local authorities, and communities, is:

54 health facilities were able to resume their work or improve their services after being renovated or rebuilt barrier-free. The special needs of vulnerable groups were respected. Women and people with disabilities are now comfortable in using those health facilities. Altogether, this improved medical care for 531,600 people, of whom 62 percent are women and children.

Fighting COVID19 and cholera, selected isolation units were equipped. Health personnel were trained in controlling infections and case management.



In addition, the project succeeded in improving the drinking water supply and sanitation for about 530,000 people. Wells and latrines were renewed and - where necessary - equipped with water filters and solar systems. In some cases, these facilities were renovated considering the special needs of women and persons with disabilities. Community representatives have an improved knowledge and skillset on how to maintain and manage the renovated infrastructure permanently.



In the field of psycho-social support a tailored skill set of first responders helped 73,000 people in time of need. Teachers working in a school for children with a hearing-impairment were sensitised and received further training. Staff of three centers - one for epilepsy, one for physiotherapy and one for children with disabilities - received training and support through the purchase of badly needed equipment.



Insight – How Tayseer Atef overcame her agony and found her profession

When the civil war reached the town of Taiz, Tayseer Amin Hassan Muthanna Atef had to flee, leaving her home and all her possessions behind. She was taken in with her family and father in the town of Mawiyah, 50 kilometres from Taiz.

The loss of her home and the flight left deep scars. She shied away from contacting people. She withdrew and struggled from the feeling of not being accepted. Her father suffered a severe stroke after the escape. She herself had to stop her school education to enable her five younger sisters to finish school.

Today, Tayseer Atef looks back on her history with distance. She was supported by our partner organisation Al-Fares Developmental Association (FDA), which trains women and promotes their economic independence. There, Tayseer Atef discovered henna painting and took part in a training course. Sharing experiences with the women in the course encouraged her to go forward. "The henna design training made me feel like I had a purpose again. It made me feel confident," she says today.

Gradually, words of Tayseer's skills spread through the community. Her hobby has become her new profession. Today, she feels accepted in her neighbourhood. With her earnings she can cover her family's living expenses.

Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany
Improving access to basic social services for IDPs and local population (IDP Yemen)
Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn, Germany
Phone +49 (0) 6196 79-0
Fax +49 (0) 6196 79-1115
giz-jemen@giz.de

As at January 2024

Design GIZ, Eschborn

Photo credits © GIZ/IDP Project Team

Text Maïke van Ueuem (Head of Project)

Julia Kirner

Helle Dertz

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)