

**Project Evaluation Series**

# **Evaluation of the project “Water for Peace in Yemen: Strengthening the role of women in water conflict resolution”**

**Project code: UNJP/YEM/039/PBF**

**Management response**

Management response to the Evaluation of the project “Water for Peace in Yemen: Strengthening the role of women in water conflict resolution”					11/2022
Evaluation recommendation	Management response <b>Accepted,</b> <b>Partially</b> <b>accepted or</b> <b>Rejected</b>	Management plan			
		Actions to be taken, and/or comments about partial acceptance or rejection	Responsible unit	Time frame	Further funding required (Y or N)
<p><b>Recommendation 1.</b></p> <p>There is a need for further integration of lessons learned from previous evaluations to inform programme design and implementation and continue with the good practice of exploring existing proposals if available in the local context.</p> <p>FAO and IOM Yemen as well as headquarters should continue to take into account the findings and recommendations from previous PBF project evaluations into integrate in the design and implementation of future projects. The findings and recommendations from the overarching evaluation including the evaluation of PBF projects in other countries should also provide valuable insights for future projects in Yemen.</p> <p>FAO and IOM Yemen should document the project’s good practice of exploring an existing proposal by young engineers in Wadi Hadramout and building on that for the design of the project. This promotes local ownership and highlights in this case the contribution by youth.</p>	<b>Accepted</b>	<p>The FAO developed three projects on the upstream areas addressing the conflict management through which they integrated the recent tools and methodologies developed by FAO on high-quality conflict analysis, the theory of change, and gender analysis for the design and implementation. The same team of young engineers have been employed. Furthermore, through numerous meetings with the newly created WUAs in the three projects, the WUAs created under the PBF project have shared their knowledge and experience.</p> <p>FAO documented and presented the outcomes of the project in the form of success stories and presented these in many conferences the latest was presented at Cairo Water Week in Cairo from 16-19 of Oct. 2022</p>	FAO WNR team	2021-2024	No
<p><b>Recommendation 2.</b></p> <p>Promoting local ownership through a coordinated partnership approach is a good practice to be applied in future programme design and implementation.</p> <p>FAO and IOM Yemen should aim at a cascading programming, i.e. two to three projects to be designed and implemented sequentially, so that they may allow a sustained support towards alerting to the importance of local ownership and women’s participation in conflict resolution and elevate these good practices to the national level peacebuilding efforts.</p>	<b>Accepted</b>	<p>On the same area, no action was taken. In contrast, three projects are being implemented in the upstream areas. While the proposal will be drafted in close collaboration with WUAs to address the needs that are not covered by this project, FAO will continue to follow up with the WUAs in the location targeted by the PBF. This will allow a sustained effort to be made to highlight the value of local ownership and women’s participation in conflict resolution and elevate these effective strategies to the level of national peacebuilding efforts.</p>	FAO WNR team	2023-2027	Yes

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<p>FAO and IOM Yemen should continue aligning PBF projects with other interventions and approaches at local and national levels in Yemen, as well as at the global level.</p> <p>PBF should continue to include a strong component on local ownership in its criteria for peacebuilding projects. The success of this project despite the short duration shows that local ownership is key, and FAO and IOM Yemen should promote a more coordinated approach with local organizations and authorities in future projects.</p> <p>FAO and IOM Yemen also need to have a 'Plan B' for a potential change of location, so that the change can be accommodated and implemented faster and such a significant reduction in the duration of the project avoided.</p>					
<p><b>Recommendation 3.</b></p> <p>There is a need for a targeted approach to secure a catalytic effect.</p> <p>FAO and IOM Yemen with the support of PBF should reinforce the project's role as a catalyst: i.e. to continue improving the understanding of priority needs and vulnerabilities through better assessments and communication of findings to attract the attention of other national and international humanitarian actors. It is recommended to undertake an analysis of how this approach can be scaled up to other NRM areas (apart from water) and how documentation of the experience can be captured for lesson-learning elsewhere.</p> <p>FAO, IOM and other humanitarian actors in Yemen should continue to support the positive role and effective work of WUA in conflict resolution.</p> <p>Local authorities and partners provide more support and harness the available capabilities to implement additional such projects in more than one area in the Valley of Hadramout.</p>	<b>Accepted</b>	The success of this project and the innovative strategy of community engagement through WUAs has caught the attention of three Donors (Kuwait, German, and Dutch) in the upstream areas of Wadi Hadramout. Additionally, the measures taken to address the water resource conflict, which prioritize preventing young people from taking part in armed conflict	FAO WNR team	2021-2024	No

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<p><b>Recommendation 4.</b></p> <p>There is a need for tailoring the meaning of women’s empowerment in terms of what is realistically achievable in the local cultural context; and youth engagement should be designed and measured as a separate intervention domain.</p> <p>FAO and IOM Yemen should develop better M&amp;E and reporting mechanisms including the collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data, the use of both quantitative and qualitative indicators and the development and use of specific indicators for results on social cohesion, women’s participation and youth engagement in local conflict resolution. The evaluation team is aware that at time of writing this final report the FAO M&amp;E team has been strengthened with additional human resources.</p> <p>FAO and IOM Yemen should ensure they have women in their project teams in order to be effective in implementing the WUAs component of the project, as well as community mobilizers and not only engineers – rather than relying on partners to do so.</p> <p>FAO and IOM Yemen should ensure that the institutionalization of women’s roles in WUAs is included in other donor proposals in Yemen and globally, with necessary adaptations according to the different contexts.</p> <p>Implementing partners should develop a business case for the role of WUAs in future programmes and demonstrate the success of their engagement as well as fundraise to continue the support and capacity building of WUAs. This could be the role of the implementing partners as a means to enhancing sustainability and catalytic effects.</p>	<b>Accepted</b>	<p>In new projects, FAO Yemen have developed M&amp;E and reporting mechanisms including the collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data, the use of both quantitative and qualitative indicators, and the development/use of specific indicators and perception surveys for results on social cohesion, women’s participation, and youth engagement in local conflict resolution.</p> <p>Through the FAO Yemen Beneficiary Feedback Mechanism (BFM) communication channels which include Complaint Hotline toll-free number: 8001919, SMS: 2222, What's App # 776013030, and email: yemen-feedback@fao.org should be publicized in the awareness creation and sensitization meetings with elders, local representatives, and community members and communicated to the beneficiaries at the time of registration, works, and payment including by reminding them of the number displayed on the back of the vouchers. The SP should use the opportunity of the direct physical access of beneficiaries to encourage their direct feedback or complaints to FAO regarding the implementation of the activities. The SP is also required to document and report to FAO any complaints received from beneficiaries during the implementation.</p>	FAO WNR team	2021-2024	No

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<p><b>Recommendation 5.</b></p> <p>The project's most significant change of enabling families to return to their abandoned farmland can play an important role in fostering stability and social cohesion.</p> <p>FAO and IOM Yemen should further assess the project impact of men and women returning to their farmland as a result of the renewed water infrastructure and study the role this can play in promoting stability and social cohesion.</p>	<b>Accepted</b>	The FAO will facilitate communication between the WUAs created under PBF project and other WUAs in other districts before establishing a Water User Alliance for the entire Wadi of Hadramout. There will be more support provided to both men and women through other projects. To ensure sustainability and the raising of community needs through official communication, the Water User Alliance women membership will be presented to the Basin committee by 30%.	FAO WNR team	2021-2024	No

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