



## Livelihoods Needs Assessment

In Al-Jawf Governorate



The following bullet points were extracted from the focus groups discussions:

- Returnees, IDPs and HC are in need of income-generating activities, Vocational Trainings and technical education. Specific requests for types of vocational trainings varied from district to district, although requests typically were for one of the following: Sheep raising, poultry, handicrafts, productive home gardening, sewing, incense and perfume making and electrical work, mechanical training, mobile repairs and plumbing.
- Returnees, IDPs and HC would welcome a cash grants program, only if there is an interest in it.
- Returnees, IDPs and HC are in need of a mental health and psychosocial service program.
- Returnees, IDPs and HC in the assessed sites have a very low income (e.g. between \$30-50 a month), which has further dropped due to insecurity.
- Due to a lack of salary (exact percent of people who are unemployed was not identified), Returnees, IDPs and HC' food intake is low and there are cases where children have dropped out of school and are now engaged in child labor.
- Women and girls are mostly engaged in household chores, while men are responsible for income.
- Almost the authority in all districts welcome job opportunities for males and females.



**YARD** is one of the leading organizations who first implemented the protection project including the gender-based violence (GBV) in Al-Jawf Gov. In addition to CCCM in 51 sites and shelter/ NFIs and RRM project since 2018.

The projects in 2018 in the returnees, IDPs and HC sites of all districts, which has continued until recently. **YARD** continued with social activities and within the protection project to hold training courses in sewing and embroidery. In order to effectively respond to the community's current needs, **YARD** initiated a focus group discussion and the participation of communities **and** local authorities and to refine those ideas and direct to implement them on reality in a group of activities (incense and perfume industry, productive home gardening, knitting and embroidery and sheep breeding) in some of districts (Al-Marashi, Al-Humaidat and Al-Hazm).The activities was carried out until December 2022.



The focus groups were designed to ensure that each area of the community was covered, via a representative, in the discussion.

**YARD** also aimed to observe the market, stocks, savings and females'

access to the market. In this regard, specific market interventions were made by asking frequent question regarding the market and community.



- ✔ Identify the livelihood needs of the targeted Returnees, IDPs and HC in Al-Jawf Gov.
- ✔ Use the findings to prepare effective and relevant interventions to respond to the identified needs of the Returnees, IDPs and HC population.

### Method

Data collection in the field was carried out through focus group discussions (FGDs). Four separate focus group discussions were conducted in each Returnee, IDPs and HC by the social works team in the IDPs Community Center or IMTs for women, men, girls and boys. Each group comprised of 10-12 individuals including social leaders, teachers, religious scholars, vocational trainers, household representatives, young girls, women, mothers and young boys, both educated and uneducated.

In addition to the comprehensive assessment methodology using the INAT assessment tool, which we use to collect data at the level of each household. Also, we should not forget or ignore the role of the community centers that receive the displaced, returnees, and host communities through community activities and psychological and legal counseling within five years, as well as the mobile teams. There is certainly community participation and knowledge of needs.

### Team Selection

**YARD** selected psychosocial counselors and social workers to conduct focus group discussion in the targeted Returnees, IDPs and HC settlements. A team of 6 was comprised, made up of male and female psychosocial counselors the majority of these GBV psychosocial counselors are from the same community, are wellknown and have respect among the community. The **YARD** team helped with the assessment and supervised the focus group discussions in the field.

### Team Orientation

A comprehensive one-day orientation/workshop session was conducted for team members prior to starting the assessment in the field. During the orientation, the leaders of each team:

- ✔ Reviewed the processes and procedures by which the focus group discussion would be conducted.
- ✔ Divided the tasks between male and female, with specific roles and responsibilities in effort to facilitate an efficient and comprehensive assessment.
- ✔ Determined mechanisms to facilitate coordination meetings with key stakeholders, with a particular focus on the engagement of community elders including male and female, teachers, religious scholar, vocational trainers and youth (boys and girls).
- ✔ Discussed inclusion criteria with team members and agreed upon a timeline to complete the assessment plan.



### ◆ Sample Size

The sample size was made up of four group discussions per each site (3 sites total). There were 6 FGDs (with 15-20 participants per a FGD), in which approximately 120 participants took part.



### ◆ Data Analysis

Data was entered from the assessment forms into an excel sheet and a statistical analysis was performed. The statistical analysis included descriptive statistics checking data and summarizing it, measuring characteristics of location and dispersal, checking variables for normal distribution, frequencies and regression and correlation analyses.

### ◆ Results

The participants in the focus group discussion in all targeted sites noted that displacement From the impact of conflicts and wars returnee sites have critically affected their income.

During several discussions, the participants noted that they could work for income-generating activities, including business, carpentry, mechanical work, agriculture, livestock, and daily wages.

Regarding family needs with current income, only one focus group out of six reported that they could meet their needs. The rest of the five sites reported that they could not meet their needs

With their current income of no more than \$30 per month. FGD participants Returnees, IDPs and HC settlements reported that only 20% of their needs are fulfilled. The others persist in a very difficult situation.

In terms of coping strategies for income and food, almost all locations reported no daily wages for males. In addition, conditions in some neighborhoods are getting worse, with daily wages so non-existent that many students report leaving school to support their families.

### ◆ Limitations

Despite the security concerns of returnees, IDPs and the HC, **YARD** is able to conduct a needs assessment due to its strong relationship with the community in the targeted districts and its trust among the community. Communities actively support and facilitate the **YARD** team in conducting the assessment, particularly in the reaching out to women and girls. However, due to cultural limitations, the focus group Discussions for males and females should be conducted separately.

### ◆ Access to Inputs



Almost all people in the districts reported significant negative effects of displacement, particularly in regards to livelihoods and food intake. Many returnees, IDPs and HC indicated that when they were had good occupations. For example, a man reported that he was a very successful carpenter. He had all machines and equipment necessary in his district. due to lack of physical power and resources, he is jobless. All of his equipment was left when he and his family were displaced. During the focus group discussion not a single group at any site reported any positive aspects of returning back to their districts, primarily because they had not more job opportunities and were also receiving aid.

### ● **Access to Land**

It was reported that some of these districts are in areas where agricultural land is scarce. There is also scarcity of water. Barat Al-Anan and Rajuzah have no access to agricultural land. They need to build Earthen barriers and dams to hold the water and feed the shallow wells there. While the districts remained rich in agricultural lands and groundwater, and they need solar systems, seeds, and land reclamation.

### ● **Roles of Women**

Division of Labor within Household, the division of work in the household is primarily considered a woman's responsibility. Respondents also indicated that men are so engaged in generating earnings to support their families that they cannot find time to support women.

During the focus group discussion, participants were asked questions such as: What responsibilities do the women and girls in your household have? How much time do they spend on these responsibilities? Does it affect their ability to go to school or work outside of the household?

- Participants reported that women and girls are responsible for maintaining the household, including all housework and chores. In some sites it was reported that young schoolgirls only do chores for two to three hours a day. However, other sites reported that young girls are more affected in households where there are less women.

### ● **Livelihood and Income Generations Activities Traditionally Accepted**

During the focus group discussion, it was reported that in most of these districts the livelihoods and income generation activities accepted for women include tailoring, embroidery, poultry, wool weaving, carpet weaving, Home gardening and raising cows and goats.

### ● **Allowance for Women to Work**

During the focus group discussion, it was reported that very few women are allowed to work in public sites. The remainder of the sites allowed women to work within or at very close sites as teachers, physicians, midwives, vocational nurse training teachers, counselors; But it has been reported that these jobs must be close to their location.

As for the majority of women and girls in Al-Jawf Governorate, illiteracy is concentrated in a large way in society, and like these people, they preferred work in sheep breeding, agriculture, and some handicrafts.

### ● **Community Concern Regarding Different Jobs for Women**



Many sites reported that some women, especially widows, worked in homes for some crafts, some in the fields with farmers, and in some cases, as beggars like the Muhamasheen. Societies have mixed views regarding women working in these types of jobs. Some consider it an obligation while others consider it bad practice.

### ● **Widows or Other Women Living Alone with Children**

It was reported that in almost all the sites there were widows (women) who headed households. Some were reported to have worked very hard in the fields with farmers. Some are totally dependent on their relatives and neighbors. It was also reported that few of these women are beggars as Muhamasheen. They face the problems of low food intake, insecurity, and deprivation from basic human needs.

### ● **Access to Services among Men and Women**

During the focus group discussion, it was noted that women have less access to services in comparison to men, due to the fact that access was not viewed as a priority. It is because most of these women are vulnerable to services.

### ● **Financial Decisions Made by Women**

All female groups reported that they are unable to make decisions without consulting men. Some male focus groups reported that they consult their wives regarding the purchase of select items, including food and non-food items and loans or other things that are borrowed.

### ● **Perceptions on What Skills Women Should Learn**

It was reported during the focus group discussion that families welcome skills such as tailoring, embroidery, poultry, animals raising, home gardening, incense and perfume industry. Breeding sheep was considered the best during the focus group discussion. Skills that make the lives of women a threat should be disapproved. These were reported as taking women into the city and teaching them skills such as applying makeup.

### ● **Economic Programs Best Meet Needs**

It was reported during the focus group discussion that there should be equal opportunities for both males and females. Participants also indicated that in many locations there are young people in dire need of technical education and vocational training, accounting, computers and English. Women specifically were reported to be in need of poultry, animal husbandry, incense and perfume making, needlework, and productive home gardening. The community also recommended a vocational training program for uneducated youth, such as carpentry, plumbing and construction work required by the labor market.



## Income Sources

Most of the respondents indicated that some of the districts in which the population is most concentrated depend on skilled labor, such as the districts of Al-Hazm, Al-Matoun and Barat Al-Anan. People also work in some districts by collecting firewood, farming and grazing. Very few people work on a regular basis and some do informal teaching as well.

## Groups Who Reported Reasons for Decreased Income.

**Farmers:** Farmers' income has decreased to almost zero in some districts due to water scarcity, such as the districts of Bart Al-Anan and Rajuzah, with the exception of some districts that have groundwater, but agriculture has decreased due to the lack of oil derivatives or the inability of farmers to purchase solar systems, while in Al-Ghayl district they have been displaced. Approximately 85% of the population moved to other regions.

**Cattle owners:** The income of cattle owners has also decreased. It was reported that the cattle owners moved to the daily stakes, due to the lack of green fodder and land.

**Agricultural Workers:** In many locations, women are reported to fetch water from remote locations. There are very suitable opportunities for agricultural workers if agricultural support is available.

## Greatest Challenges to Livelihoods in the Next Four Months

FGD participants reported that general conditions are worsening due to instability and salary disbursement. The conflicts have also affected the daily wages and the rise in prices in the market. Some groups reported that as Ramadan and the holidays approach, many people will need to buy food and clothes, especially widows.

## Coping Strategies and Responses

Several respondents indicated that in response to lower incomes, people reduced their food intake and in some cases pulled their children out of school. Some people who used to make very good professions in Al Jawf have now resorted to selling some of their possessions and savings. Few people work on the neighboring farms and many people are in debt. Participants also indicated that, in addition to their stable income in Al-Jawf, they were able to receive humanitarian aid from various organizations. However, there are not many sources of help in Al Jawf.

## Populations and Assistance

During the focus group it became clear that most returnees, IDPs and the HC had received some form of assistance and not all. However, for those who were working in agriculture when they were displaced outside their areas, their homes were destroyed and their farms and water projects were damaged, especially in the Al-Ghayl district, but there are interventions in the rehabilitation of homes partially damaged by the war, funded by UNHCR and through its partner **YARD**, and there is a large percentage of returnees in that directorate, but they lack job opportunities and the ability of the local authorities is limited to solve this problem.





## ● Main Difficulties and Priorities

The main shocks and difficulties faced by the districts/neighborhoods were reported as:

- lack of electricity
- Lack of health facilities
- Unemployment
- Severe heat in some of districts while other are very cold
- High food and fuel prices
- Lack of daily wages due to insecurity
- Salary interruption

Priorities for the village/neighborhoods inhabitants to prevent future crises were described as:

- Employment opportunities
- Vocational Trainings, income generation activities
- Food tokens
- Credit access on easily installments with no interest rate
- Technical education for educated youth.

## ● Livestock

Community members who participated in the focus group indicated that almost all households in Al Jawf have livestock - either a cow, a goat or a sheep. However, due to conflicts, wars, displacement and lack of land, fodder, water and animal husbandry facilities, people are forced to sell their livestock. There are very few goats, sheep and cows. Not only do these animals face a shortage of feed and water in some districts, but they also face a lack of shelter when they are forced to flee. For returnees, they do not own livestock. FGD participants also reported that water is a problem as well. For example, in the districts of Barat Al-Anan and Rajuzah, there are only a few surface wells that are not even sufficient for drinking, so accessing water for animals is still a huge challenge.

## ● Market Conditions and Food Basket Prices

- **Market study**

During the assessments, it was known that the markets are not centralized and have the ability to recover and restock in case of emergency especially agricultural products. While the difficulty of transportation also constitutes a difficult factor in the costs of the arrival of foodstuffs, especially with the high central transportation fares to the governorate, not to mention the sub-transportation within villages and valleys, while facing the challenge of the high cost of oil derivatives, the rugged roads, and others.

- **Women's Access to the Market**

During the FGD it was reported that women can only access the market when men or boys are unavailable. When women do go to the market, they are accompanied by a boy or mahram, if a boy is unavailable. Regarding the selling of products, the communities reported that there should be a logical mechanism for such sales.



Additionally, reports stated that women do not need to travel, as many of the products they sell are within the community. If travel does prove necessary, reports stated that the community would assign a male individual who could take the female-made products to the market and then sell them.

- **Business Owners View Regarding Women’s Share in Market**

Business owners reported that they would always have a positive outlook if women sold their homemade products in the markets. Business owners also reported that they would be happy to partner with women to supply goods to the market. Business owners in the city also reported that some products such as embroidery, incense, perfumes and some handicrafts are good products that women can sell. The results show that the markets can be reached in almost all locations, at varying distances, each within the same district or sent to other relatives in other districts.

- **Types of Services Community Needed**

During the FGDs, the communities requested technical education for educated youth as well as literacy education. He demanded income-generating activities for men, such as vocational training, such as construction, carpentry, painting, plumbing, and electric cars and homes, in addition to women such as raising poultry, productive home gardening, sheep breeding, sewing, and making incense and perfumes.

- **The Other Methodology**

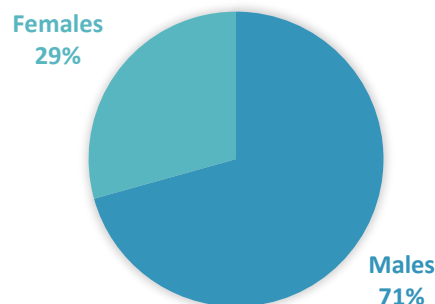
Comprehensive assessment methodology using the INAT assessment tool, which we use to collect data at the level of each household. Also, we should not forget or ignore the role of the community centers that receive the displaced, returnees, and host communities through community activities and psychological and legal counseling within five years, as well as the mobile teams. There is certainly community participation and knowledge of needs.

However, the assessments at the household level through 2022 using the INAT assessment Tool, where YARD conducted assessments for 14,205 families, 10,081 males and 4,124 females in 12 district:

While the Comprehensive survey data confirmed that among 14,205 families, 13,873 families are males, 9,804, and females, 4,069 who do not have sources of income or whose sources of income are less than 50,000 Yemeni riyals as the table below:

Male	Female	Total
9804	4069	13873

**NO INCOME OR LESS THAN 50,000 YER**





## Conclusion

Through this assessment, **YARD** was able to identify livelihoods needs among Returnees, IDPs and HC in Al-Jawf Gov. The assessment was also able to provide insight into the market, stocks, savings and females' access to the market, and how such factors affect the livelihoods of Returnees, IDPs and HC in Al-Jawf Gov.

In general, income-generating activities decreased due to conflicts and crises in the various districts of Al-Jawf Governorate. While special needs and requests differ from one district to another, all families need livelihood projects.

## Recommendations

- During the focus group discussions, it was reported that almost all districts want their educated youth to have technical education such as accounting, finance, computer or English language, and in the vocational aspect for the uneducated such as plumbing, construction, mobile maintenance, solar systems, and electricity for cars and homes.
- Skills such as sewing, embroidery, poultry and sheep rearing, productive home gardening, incense and perfume making, and embroidery are among the most valuable skills for women.