

Humanitarian- Development-Peace (HDP) Coherence

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YEMEN



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ABOUT IDEAL

IDEAL is an activity funded by the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) that works to support the United States Government's goal of improving food and nutrition security among the world's most vulnerable households and communities. IDEAL addresses knowledge and capacity gaps expressed by the food and nutrition security implementing community to support them in the design and implementation of effective emergency and non-emergency food security activities.

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COVER PHOTO

Sarah Alabsie for CARE Yemen (2023). Trained by CARE Yemen, Nada, a community committee leader, and her female group members raised awareness about the importance of paving a road in Taiz governorate and began cleaning debris to make the ancient road more possible to navigate.

DISCLAIMER

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ABBREVIATIONS

BHA	Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance	OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
FSL	Food Security and Livelihoods	UN	United Nations
GARWSP	General Authority for Rural Water Supply Project	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
HDP	Humanitarian-Development-Peace	VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan	WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
IDEAL	Implementer-Led Design, Evidence, Analysis and Learning Activity	WMC	Water Management Committee
KII	Key Informant Interview		

Executive Summary

Since 2014, Yemen has faced a severe humanitarian crisis characterized by conflict, economic shocks, and widespread displacement. By early 2023, more than half of the population was in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, despite Yemen being home to one of the largest aid operations in the world. Dwindling resources pose significant challenges to the response effort in a complex operational landscape characterized by active frontlines and bureaucratic constraints, resulting in a fragmented environment.

This practice note highlights key strategies and lessons learned from CARE Yemen's efforts to promote humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) coherence. Emphasizing two core principles—strengthening communication, coordination, and learning platforms across aid modalities and prioritizing local partnerships and systems—this practice note underscores CARE Yemen's evolution from primarily delivering humanitarian responses in 2014 to incorporating longer-term interventions where possible. Despite the challenges posed by Yemen's complex humanitarian environment, CARE Yemen has consistently integrated HDP principles into its operations, focusing on early recovery, resilience, and community engagement in sectors such as food security, livelihoods, reproductive health, governance, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), while ensuring sensitivity to conflict dynamics.

Drawing on insights from CARE Yemen staff, this practice note highlights the organization's decentralized structure, with autonomous area offices and sub-offices managing operations and staffing across 14 governorates. It outlines CARE Yemen's shift towards development programming alongside humanitarian assistance while maintaining a conflict-sensitive approach. In particular, the organization emphasizes the importance of community engagement, empowering community committees to manage humanitarian, development, and peace initiatives, and supporting local staff to improve communication and coordination among aid initiatives.

CARE Yemen's integrated approach provides a model for implementing HDP principles in a rapidly changing security environment. Its emphasis on community-led responses and gender equality underscores its resilience and effectiveness in promoting HDP coherence in complex humanitarian contexts.

Introduction

USAID's Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Coherence Principles

In January 2022, following extensive internal and partner consultations, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) published its working document *Programming Considerations for Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Coherence: A Note for USAID's Implementing Partners*. The document identifies seven core principles, one cross-cutting commitment, and programming examples to improve HDP coherence and achieve common objectives. The principles are:

- 1 Uphold and respect humanitarian principles to ensure humanitarian assistance remains unhindered and effective.
- 2 Plan jointly and seek a common agenda.
- 3 Create and strengthen communication, coordination, and learning platforms across different kinds of assistance.
- 4 Strategically sequence, layer, and integrate humanitarian, development, and peace assistance where appropriate.
- 5 Promote shock-responsive programming and data-driven adaptive management.
- 6 Champion conflict integration and opportunities for enabling or building peace where possible.
- 7 Ensure programming is with, by, and through local partners and systems.

Underpinning each of these key principles is USAID's cross-cutting commitment to gender equality and inclusive development. Diversity, equity, inclusion, and access are at the heart of USAID's mission.

About this Series

IDEAL's HDP Coherence Practice Note Series responds to a demand among food and nutrition security practitioners for clear examples of HDP coherence in practice. The series aims to increase knowledge and capacity and create inspiration among USAID implementing partners and other organizations by providing practical examples of how USAID's HDP coherence principles are being operationalized to maximize food and nutrition security outcomes. Rather than comprehensive case studies, each practice note presents a concise and operationally focused example of one or more of the HDP coherence principles "in action" and draws out lessons learned that may be applicable in other contexts. Examples include HDP coherence approaches within a single activity (intra-activity), between separate humanitarian and development activities (inter-activity), or within a single organization (intra-organization).

About this Practice Note

This practice note outlines key HDP coherence practices within a single organization (intra-organization), focusing on CARE Yemen. It highlights lessons related to two HDP coherence principles: create and strengthen communication, coordination, and learning platforms across different kinds of assistance (Principle 3), and ensure programming is with, by, and through local partners and systems (Principle 7). This qualitative learning review draws on the interconnected approaches applied by CARE Yemen in strategizing, conceptualizing, and providing aid to support locally driven HDP coherence. CARE Yemen's HDP coherence initiatives have progressively evolved, starting with humanitarian endeavors in 2014, followed by responses to subsequent shocks, and then pivoting to development as areas of stability emerged after 2021–2022, presenting new entry points for nexus planning, design, and partnerships.

Methodology

IDEAL collected the content for this practice note through a series of qualitative and in-depth interviews with staff from CARE Yemen. Based on the interviews and a related desk review, IDEAL explored practical examples of CARE Yemen capitalizing on shifts in both operating environments and donor funding that are conducive to HDP coherence.

From May–July 2023, IDEAL conducted 16 remote key informant interviews (KIIs) with staff in the Yemen country and area offices. Each interview lasted approximately 60 to 90 minutes. All interviews were conducted in English via Microsoft Teams, recorded with consent, and transcribed for accuracy. IDEAL analyzed the interview responses to derive key findings and lessons, which were then validated with key informants in a virtual workshop.¹ The views and opinions expressed in this document reflect the recollections and perspectives of the respondents.

¹ Two KIIs were conducted after the validation workshop. Although the findings from the last two interviews were not validated by the entire group, many themes from the preceding KIIs were repeated in the last two interviews.

Context & Background

Background, Recent Context, & Aid Architecture

Since late 2014, Yemen has faced a significant humanitarian crisis characterized by waves of armed conflict, economic shocks, and displacement. Widespread destruction of infrastructure, public services, and livelihoods has devastated the population, while climate-related shocks, including heavy seasonal rains and flooding, have exacerbated displacement and food insecurity. As of early 2024, 18.2 million people were in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, including more than 17.6 million who were severely food insecure.² Yet, humanitarian aid to Yemen has been declining: Only 58% of the response was funded in 2022, a steep drop from pre-pandemic commitments.³

The response in Yemen is one of the largest humanitarian aid operations in the world. However, the humanitarian operating environment is incredibly fragmented due to active frontlines and numerous restrictions imposed by local and national parties to the conflict. Bureaucratic restrictions, particularly in the north, are the most commonly reported barriers to humanitarian access.⁴ They range from extensive permit requirements and mandatory review and approval of program designs and tools, to strict oversight and control of staff contracts and movement plans, particularly for female staff.⁵ However, CARE Yemen's leadership insists that humanitarian coordination is strong: "There is a natural appetite for [national and international agencies] to work together because there are a lot of demands from the local authorities."

From April to October 2022, a United Nations (UN)-brokered truce reduced civilian casualties, improved access to basic commodities, and alleviated food insecurity. Although the national truce was not renewed, the post-truce period has remained relatively stable.⁶ Subsequent local ceasefires have further secured some operating environments since November 2022.

In 2020, humanitarian agencies and donors began to move beyond a purely humanitarian response to focus on medium- and long-term solutions. As a result, the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) included Strategic Objective 2: Preventing famine, malnutrition and restoring livelihoods. In 2022, the UN introduced the Yemen Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), while the 2022 and 2023 HRPs continued to focus on resilience and livelihood restoration at the strategic objective level.⁷ These humanitarian and development frameworks guide funding, planning, and coordination, and support implementing agencies to leverage new entry points for a more coherent approach, where peace plays a central role in each intervention, alongside humanitarian and development efforts.

² OCHA. (2022). *Yemen Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023*.

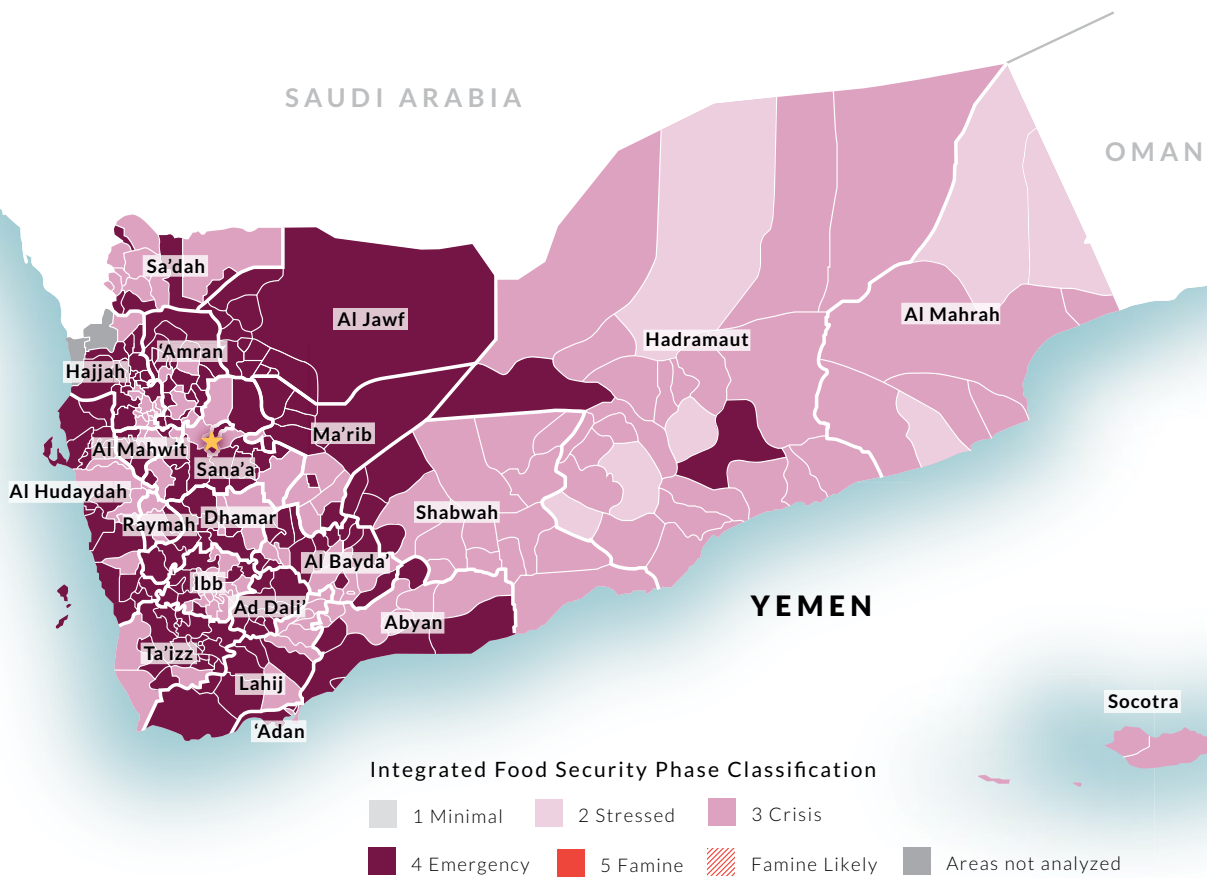
³ OCHA Financial Tracking Service. *Country Snapshot for 2022* [online image]. OCHA.

⁴ OCHA. (2022). *Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2022*.

⁵ World Food Programme. (2023). *Yemen: Annual Country Report 2022*.

⁶ *Yemen Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023*.

⁷ *Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2022*; OCHA Financial Tracking Service. (2023). *Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2023*. OCHA.



Adapted from: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. (2022). Yemen: Acute Food Insecurity October 2022 (Projected: Oct. 2022–Dec. 2022). [Map]. [IPCInfo.org](https://www.ipcinfo.org).

CARE Yemen

CARE Yemen focuses on key thematic areas including food security and livelihoods (FSL), water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), reproductive health, women’s protection and economic empowerment, and inclusive governance. With a dual mandate and extensive experience in humanitarian response and development, CARE Yemen provides valuable insights on how to integrate HDP coherence into every phase of intervention.⁸ Operating in 14 governorates across the country, the organization has a highly decentralized structure, with five autonomous area offices and seven sub-offices managing operations and staffing.⁹

With the outbreak of armed conflict in 2014, the focus of CARE Yemen’s portfolio shifted from primarily development to humanitarian. CARE Yemen maintained this humanitarian focus through spikes in conflict and displacement until around 2021, when the agency began to shift its strategy and portfolio to include approximately 20% development funding. In 2017, CARE Yemen underwent a major transformation, pivoting from primarily country-level program design to a decentralized model that prioritized area-led planning and design. This strategic shift, driven by the military escalation, aimed to promote programming agility at the local level. The objective was to support Yemeni staff at the area and district levels to ensure more nuanced alignment of activities with community needs and to facilitate rapid responses to evolving operating environments. CARE Yemen’s current strategy and many of its operating areas emphasize early recovery and resilience, with an increased focus on livelihood integration and active community engagement.

CARE Yemen’s operational methods demonstrate emerging practices that support HDP coherence, with locally led knowledge and practices extensively connected through a community-based approach. A more stable operating environment and access to multi-year funding have furthered the agency’s progress in HDP coherence practices.

8 CARE International. (2019). [Capacity Statement | Nexus](#).

9 CARE International. (2023). [CARE Yemen Annual Report 2022](#).

INSIGHTS & LESSONS FOR HDP PRINCIPLE 7:

Ensure programming is with, by, & through local partners & systems

This section explores a key practice and corresponding lessons that demonstrate how CARE Yemen works with community structures, local authorities, and partner organizations in both northern and southern Yemen, strengthening the assets and leadership of community committees to seamlessly engage in humanitarian, development, and peace initiatives.

Key Practice:

Promote locally led, gender-inclusive, & conflict-sensitive community committees

Across Yemen's governorates, CARE Yemen focuses on cultivating a wide range of technical and productive community assets, including the establishment of community committees and water management committees (WMCs). These community committees and WMCs operate in all phases of a response, from the acute onset of emergencies to early recovery and development initiatives. On the one hand, community committees are formed to ensure that assistance reaches the most vulnerable households, which is particularly challenging in diverse settlements of displaced people living within host communities. However, close collaboration between committee members and leaders makes it easier to identify those most in need and to promote gender inclusivity and conflict sensitivity. Without such advocacy, marginalized groups risk being excluded from humanitarian aid. On the other hand, WMCs, typically composed of six to nine members, oversee daily operation, maintenance, and tariff collection at water points. Linked to the General Authority for Rural Water Supply Projects (GARWSP), they receive additional support and technical guidance.

Abdullah Bora for CARE Yemen (2022)



CARE Yemen staff conduct a field visit to form community committees in Deer Alharid village, Al Qanawis district, Al Hodeidah governorate.

Operating in districts with varying levels of stability and security, and at different stages of the humanitarian and development response, CARE Yemen-supported community committees and WMCs play a central role in anchoring locally led responses, linking to and informing rapid response mechanisms, mitigating community conflict, and ensuring sustainable program impact after CARE Yemen’s direct involvement ends.

DISCUSSION

CARE Yemen establishes community committees and specialized WMCs for WASH projects through a thorough process that includes outreach, member selection, signing of a memorandum of understanding, and extensive training. Documentation is meticulously recorded and signed by both CARE Yemen and committee members, and CARE Yemen supports committees in implementing community feedback mechanisms to ensure inclusivity.

While acknowledging the time-consuming nature of these steps, field staff emphasize the need for transparent and accountable project operations. The process not only promotes the principles of community governance,¹⁰ but also integrates a collaborative and inclusive approach with local leaders and authorities to anticipate potential conflicts, mediate existing ones, and ultimately seek peaceful breakthroughs.

Locally Led Water Management Committees

The impact of armed conflict has left nearly 80% of the population without access to safe drinking water, leading to heightened social tensions over water scarcity. WMCs actively contribute to needs assessments and water security studies, which significantly influence humanitarian and development planning. CARE Yemen responds to the critical need to rehabilitate, manage, and expand WASH infrastructure in the country by supporting, mobilizing, and training specialized WMCs to address Yemen’s water and sanitation challenges through transparent documentation and signed agreements with committee members.

WMCs can play a critical role in HDP coherence by maintaining the link between acute humanitarian response and longer-term development efforts, while mitigating conflict over water resources. WMCs receive specialized training and operational kits from both CARE Yemen and GARWSP to maintain water and sewage networks. This training aims to ensure seamless communication that is dependent on the activities of the WMCs and collaborative support from GARWSP. It is critical that the collaboration between WMCs and GARWSP is built on a solid foundation of trust to avoid communication breakdowns and WMC isolation, which can lead to delays in early warning systems and GARWSP support. In addition, WMCs are responsible for long-term WASH governance coordination with local authorities. CARE Yemen works with GARWSP to train WMCs in water tariff collection and to provide disaster preparedness training to both WMCs and local authorities.

“WMCs are our backbone in the field. They are vital groups and we must work with them throughout the program lifecycle, and also when we exit ... they continue the activities.”

— KII respondent

¹⁰ Institute For Local Government. (2015). [Principle of Local Government Public Engagement](#).



Abdulrahman Alhobishi for CARE Yemen (2023)

CARE Yemen staff monitor the progress of water tank construction in Alhaimah district, Sana'a governorate.

Promoting Gender Inclusion, Equity, and Conflict Sensitivity in Committees

In both community committees and WMCs, CARE Yemen requires at least 30% female representation and the inclusion of displaced persons, Muhamasheen minorities, and households managing disabilities and special needs. Rooted in the principles of HDP coherence, these standards emphasize the importance of meaningful participation and leadership while addressing the diverse needs of marginalized populations.¹¹

Addressing gender inequalities presents challenges that require safeguards. For example, the CARE Yemen team promoted women's representation by using female staff to reassure participating women of their ability to fulfill their elected roles within the WMCs. During training, facilitators were instructed to emphasize the critical role women play in the

In 2023, CARE Yemen conducted joint site visits with GARWSP to completed water schemes in Hajjah and Al Mahwit governorates—areas with active frontlines. In each location, WMCs, which consist of 30% or more female members and oversee multiple water schemes, were actively maintaining and improving WASH infrastructure using tariffs for maintenance and expansion. In active frontline areas, WMCs often struggle to collect tariffs, and when they do, the process lacks structure. Working to improve water infrastructure in frontline areas is always challenging, with the risk of military control over improved systems. Without a clear consensus among stakeholders, including the military groups that control these locations, maintenance and expansion efforts are hampered. CARE Yemen-supported WMCs in areas far enough away from active conflict have increased community ownership, achieved cost savings, and ensured an uninterrupted supply of safe, affordable water to more than 26,000 residents in the two governorates and thousands more in other CARE Yemen areas of operation.

CARE Yemen staff conduct a field visit to form community committees in Afsar, Kuhlun Ash Sharaf district, Hajjah governorate.



Jamilah Shotop for CARE Yemen (2022)

¹¹ Resilience Leadership Council and Technical Working Group. (2022). *Programming Considerations for Humanitarian-Development-Peace Coherence: A Note for USAID's Implementing Partners*. USAID, p. 6.

WMC and the balance they bring to the overall water governance structure. Despite resistance to including women in WMCs, CARE Yemen remains committed to its gender equality requirements. Strategies to overcome resistance include intensifying community awareness initiatives, such as community hygiene volunteers disseminating messages that include educating men about the importance of women's participation in project activities in their community or conducting dialogue sessions, and conducting gender-specific committee trainings as needed. In rural Taiz, CARE Yemen staff emphasized women's leadership as part of a broader effort to gradually shift gender norms and promote gender and HDP coherence. As part of a WASH intervention, CARE used the Wash'Em¹² approach to conduct rapid assessments for hygiene and sanitation interventions. During these sessions, community hygiene volunteers encouraged women to participate in various community activities, including joining the WMC. As part of the process, the women's husbands are first informed and asked for their consent to put their wives on the WMC voting list. Although some men are initially reluctant and getting their consent can take some time, it is often the women who are active in Wash'Em events and are eventually elected.

Community committees and WMCs in Yemen also receive extensive training in conflict sensitivity and social cohesion, positioning them as effective leaders in local community conflict resolution. Respondents in both northern and southern governorates emphasized the critical role of community committees in identifying and resolving land ownership disputes that could potentially disrupt infrastructure projects. For example, the committees play an important role in resolving disputes between local leaders over the registration of program participants. WMCs consistently handle customer conflicts related to water distribution and collection.



Educating communities in Lahj governorate about feedback and complaints mechanisms.

Bassam Saleh for CARE Yemen (2018)

12 Learn more about the Wash'Em Approach [here](#).

INSIGHTS & LESSONS FOR HDP PRINCIPLE 3:

Create & strengthen communication, coordination, & learning platforms across different kinds of assistance

This section explores a key practice and lessons learned that demonstrate how CARE Yemen supports local staff to bring together humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding expertise and strengthen communication and coordination across different assistance initiatives.

Key Practice:

Support local staff to strengthen communication & coordination across different assistance initiatives

CARE Yemen's area offices have become focal points for applying and refining the implementation of HDP coherence to address immediate needs (humanitarian) while empowering people to build capacity to address new challenges (development) in ways that take into account existing and potential tensions within the local context (peace), particularly in regions where the operating environment has stabilized, allowing for more sustainable and comprehensive programming. CARE Yemen's local staff, with extensive humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding experience, are empowered to play an important role in co-leading planning and design efforts and fostering robust communication and coordination in the implementation of interventions that are responsive to the evolving needs of the communities they serve.



Kawkab (left), a midwife, and Dalia (right), CARE Yemen's reproductive health field officer, at the health center in Al-Sardah village in Lahj governorate.

DISCUSSION

CARE Yemen's collaborative design process is a coordinated initiative led by area office teams working with community committees, WMCs, local authorities, and local partner organizations. This collective approach emphasizes the creation of a comprehensive and context-specific strategy and is characterized by decentralized processes and physical co-location of staff. These collaborative efforts result in notable instances of establishing and strengthening communication and coordination across different types of assistance—a critical element that contributes to adherence to HDP principles.

“If you want sustainable water projects, you have to give WMCs all of the information and you have to get information from them. You need to choose the right needs with them, otherwise the intervention will not be sustainable.”

— KII respondent

Co-Leading Planning and Design: Specialized Teams and Local Leadership

As an organization committed to humanitarian, development, and peace objectives, CARE Yemen follows a nuanced strategy that prioritizes specialized teams at all organizational levels. Local staff play a key role in co-leading the planning and design processes. They are instrumental in identifying areas that need support, using general assessments provided by the clusters. They serve as a critical source of confirmation by triangulating information, often liaising with local leaders to assess security, access levels, and sensitivities. Their active involvement ensures communication and coordination of interventions across clusters, relevant authorities, and organizations, facilitating information sharing and improving coordination in areas of intervention.

With funding from USAID/BHA, CARE Yemen conducted hygiene promotion sessions in schools in Lahj governorate to educate students and school staff on best practices for personal safety and school cleanliness.



Bassam Saleh for CARE Yemen (2019)

Coordination

CARE Yemen engages with national partners in various capacities, either as consortium members or as subcontractors. A number of strategies have been implemented to improve coordination among CARE Yemen's implementing partners. These include creating platforms for dialogue to foster collaboration and adopting a more integrated approach to streamline the organization's efforts across humanitarian, development, and peace assistance.¹³ CARE Yemen's Sana'a office in Yemen is a notable example of this integrated approach, providing leadership in critical areas such as WASH, FSL, health, education, governance, protection, and gender and inclusion. These sectors are systematically replicated with designated leaders and teams in various area offices in the governorates of Aden, Hajjah, Marib, Amran, and Taiz. In addition, experienced humanitarian response teams are strategically positioned to oversee large-scale distributions and operational planning. In anticipation of emerging development opportunities, CARE Yemen proactively establishes sub-specialized teams to focus on specific areas, such as WASH in schools, women's empowerment and leadership, and livelihood restoration. This approach is particularly emphasized in the southern area offices, where activities extend to livestock management, farming practices, and fisheries.



Bassam Saleh for CARE Yemen (n.d.)

A VSLA in Lahj governorate. CARE Yemen has established 22 VSLAs through several projects, integrating cash assistance from cash transfers and cash-for-work activities with the VSLA model to promote families' access to resources and ability to respond to crises. These groups consist of 10 to 25 individuals from the same community who work together to pool their savings.

¹³ Resilience Leadership Council and Technical Working Group. (2022). *Programming Considerations for Humanitarian-Development-Peace Coherence: A Note for USAID's Implementing Partners*. USAID.

Importance of Women in Improving Coordination: CARE Yemen's Strategy in the Southern Region

In the southern region, a distinctive aspect of CARE Yemen's approach is the inclusion of women in every team and the focus on actively engaging women to facilitate collaboration across various forms of assistance. This ranges from fostering internal dialogue across teams and units, to engaging stakeholders at the activity level, to using internal and external coordination structures for better HDP coherence. Particularly in the Taiz districts, CARE Yemen actively promotes women's voices and leadership in both humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts, working with community partners such as Generations Without Qat. This approach is exemplified by the integration of the Dutch-funded Women, Peace, and Security program with ongoing humanitarian and development projects, demonstrating a holistic approach to promoting women's leadership through communication and coordination. Assessments underscored positive shifts in attitudes towards women's leadership, highlighting CARE Yemen's unwavering commitment to prioritizing women's roles within the framework of HDP coherence.

For example, to strengthen the capacity of its local staff to implement HDP nexus strategies, CARE Yemen invests in comprehensive training programs that focus on intervention approaches that enable or are integral to HDP coherence. Since 2017, Yemeni staff have received specialized training in the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) model, which has been adapted to the nuances of Yemeni communities.¹⁴ VSLAs are integrated into various projects in agriculture, education, and nutrition, promoting savings to build resilience to emergencies and loans to support resilient development.

A key aspect of CARE Yemen's strategy is a strong focus on cultivating strategic partnerships for integrated multi-sectoral assistance. In Taiz governorate, CARE Yemen's Addressing WASH Services in Yemen (H2O) program integrates locally led development activities with disaster preparedness, water safety planning, and mediation of community water disputes. WMCs play a critical role in spearheading the maintenance and repair of water and sewage networks. WMCs are carefully trained in cost recovery, which includes the collection of tariffs to establish long-term funds for infrastructure maintenance and to cope with potential infrastructure shocks.

¹⁴ Learn more about CARE's VSLA in emergencies pilot in Yemen here.



Bassam Saleh for CARE Yemen (2018)

CARE Yemen staff member conducts verification activities for displaced households in Al-Borihah district, Aden governorate.

Conclusion

Since late 2014, Yemen has been grappling with a severe humanitarian crisis amid armed conflict, economic instability, and displacement. By early 2024, millions of people were in dire need of assistance and facing severe food insecurity. Despite significant challenges, including dwindling funding and active frontlines, CARE Yemen has remained committed to providing assistance. Operating in 14 governorates, CARE Yemen focuses on critical areas such as food security, WASH, reproductive health, protection, women's economic empowerment, and governance. Originally focused on development, CARE Yemen shifted entirely to humanitarian aid in response to the conflict. However, since around 2021, it has begun to integrate development funding with a focus on early recovery and resilience. In 2017, CARE Yemen shifted to a decentralized model, empowering locally led planning and design to better meet community needs. By emphasizing locally led knowledge and practices, CARE Yemen promotes coherence in humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts through community-based approaches. CARE Yemen also advocates for locally led, gender-inclusive, and conflict-sensitive community committees and WMCs in all Yemeni governorates. Community committees identify and support vulnerable participants and promote gender inclusivity and conflict sensitivity through collaboration. WMCs oversee water operations, maintenance, and tariff collection, maintaining the link between acute humanitarian response and longer-term development efforts while mitigating conflict over water resources. CARE Yemen ensures women's representation and the inclusion of marginalized populations in both community committees and WMCs and implements safeguards to address gender inequalities. Comprehensive training empowers these committees to effectively resolve local conflicts and sustain program impact. By supporting local staff and fostering cross-sectoral collaboration, CARE Yemen is navigating Yemen's complex humanitarian landscape and demonstrating the importance of community-driven approaches to effectively address multifaceted challenges.



Ebrahim Mohammed for CARE Yemen (n.d.)

A group of children run down a road in Lahj governorate that was paved through a cash-for-work program.