BMZ FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

December 12th, 2024

Sa'ada governorate

Strengthening resilience and livelihoods for improved food and nutrition security in Sa'ada Governorate, Yemen"

Final evaluation

December 12th, 2024 - Yemen

Save the Children

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Acronyms

BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development from the German "Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit"
BNFs	Beneficiaries
CHS	Core Humanitarian Standard
CU5	Children Under 5
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
EBF	Exclusive Breast-Feeding
EWOH	One World – No Hunger from the German "Eine Welt ohne Hunger"
FCS	Food consumption Score
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
HH	Household
HNO	Humanitarian Need Overview
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
KII	Key Informant Interview
MDD	Minimum Dietary Diversity
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning
MtMSGs	Mother to mother supporting groups
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PDM	Post- Distribution Monitoring
PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
rCSI	Reduced Coping Strategy Index
SC	Save the Children
TOR	Term of Reference

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1. Executive summary

Background: According to the 2020 IPC analysis issued in December 2020, 45% of the population in Sa'ada were in IPC Phase 4 (emergency) and on the brink of famine. In response, Save the Children (SC) conducted livelihoods interventions to improve and sustain food security and nutritional status of vulnerable children, women, and elderly people in five districts of Sa'ada Governorate: Razeh, Assafra, Haydan, Saqain, and Majz. The Humanitarian Need Overview (HNO, 2024) published in January 2024, estimated that 18.2 million people—over 55% of the population—were in need of humanitarian assistance and protection services.

In 2014, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) launched its "One World – No Hunger" Initiative, aiming to address some of the greatest challenges facing humankind. This initiative is one of five strategic themes BMZ has chosen to focus on until 2026. The core statements of this strategy are:

- A world without hunger is possible within the constraints of our planet.
- Everyone has the right to secure, sufficient, and balanced nutrition.
- Nutritional systems must be more sustainable, effective, efficient, and resilient to all kinds of shocks.

SC is dedicated to protecting and enhancing children's lives through high-impact programs in vital areas such as food security and livelihoods, health and nutrition, education, child protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene. SC addresses both immediate humanitarian needs and their underlying root causes and chronic underdevelopment.

This project utilized restricted unconditional cash transfers to respond to the urgent needs of vulnerable target groups while ensuring that assistance contributes to the intended objectives and improves the resilience of beneficiaries.

Main Activities and Target Groups:

- **Smallholder Farmers:** Supported with cash grants to restore land and purchase seeds and agricultural production tools.
- **Youth and Women:** Engaged in income-generating activities (IGA) such as phone maintenance, mechanics, and tiling for men, and sewing, food processing, soap and perfume making, and ornament decoration and painting for women after vocational skills training and on-the-job training.
- **Livestock Purchases:** Cash grants for purchasing livestock for families in suitable sub-districts that are predominantly pastoralist areas.

Project Outcomes:

- **Resilience Strengthening:** The resilience of targeted families is strengthened through sustainable livelihoods activities.
- **Nutrition Security Improvement:** The nutrition security of children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) is improved through:
- Livelihoods support
- Improved access to nutrition services and diversified food
- Improved malnutrition detection and prevention
- Improved nutrition practices for children aged 0-23 months and PLW

Evaluation Objectives:

1. Assess the extent to which the resilience of targeted families has been strengthened through sustainable livelihood activities, as indicated by the increase in agricultural production, income from IGAs, and income from livestock.
2. Evaluate the improvement in the nutrition security of children under 5 and PLW through livelihood support, improved access to nutrition services and diversified food, improved malnutrition detection and prevention, and improved nutrition practices.

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Evaluation Methodology: The evaluation was conducted in four sequenced phases: design and planning, data collection, analysis, and finalization. Each phase resulted in related deliverables, including the inception report and evaluation tools, raw data materials, preliminary findings, and the draft and final report. The OECD/DAC Evaluation Criteria and the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) were used to assess the performance and quality of the interventions.

Key Findings:

- ✓ **Food Consumption Score (FCS):** Acceptable thresholds (FCS > 42) were achieved by 81% of smallholder farmers, 81% of livestock-restocking families, and 85% of IGA families.
- ✓ **Cultivation Area:** 100% of respondents increased their cultivation area after receiving cash grants, with increases ranging from 0.17% to 23.45%.
- ✓ **Income Generation:** Up to 25% of IGA trainees now have their own service points and improved incomes.
- ✓ **Livestock Income:** Between 16% and 23% of beneficiaries targeted with livestock funds increased their income by the end of the project.
- ✓ **Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD):** Achieved by 84% of children aged 6-23 months in smallholder farmer families, 68% in livestock-restocking families, and 91% in IGA families.
- ✓ **Exclusive Breastfeeding (EBF):** Achieved by 81% of children aged 6-23 months in smallholder farmer families, 79% in livestock-restocking families, and 93% in IGA families.
- ✓ **Dietary Diversity for PLWs:** Achieved by 65% of smallholder farmers, 62% of livestock-restocking families, and 72% of IGA families.

Recommendations:

- ➢ Share the log frame with local authorities at the beginning of the project and sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to establish criteria for baseline, endline, and final evaluation.
- ➢ Involve local communities and offices of the Ministries in the governorate in designing work plans.
- ➢ Run capacity-building programs for farmers on water productivity and complexities, especially regarding different water sources.
- ➢ Invest in modern irrigation systems to increase land and water productivity.
- ➢ Coordinate between various agencies involved in agricultural and rural infrastructure development.
- ➢ Support farmers who lost crops and pastures due to pests and climate shocks.
- ➢ Strengthen and ensure women's access, control, and ownership of resources such as credit, information, training, and culturally appropriate technology.

Lessons Learned:

- The project enabled communities to rely on themselves and improve their livelihoods through better access to food by empowering farmers, livestock keepers, and vocational trainees.
- Communities are stronger when they can look after their common productive assets such as farms and livestock.
- New jobs were created using acquired vocational knowledge and tools.
- Awareness activities on maintaining farms, livestock, and IGAs are crucial to ensure the maximum value of cash grants.
- The project focused on both emergency and development needs, which are urgent in Yemen, and should be continued and expanded.

2. Introduction

After ten years of conflict, millions of people in Yemen are suffering from the compounded effects of armed violence, ongoing economic crisis and collapsed public services. In 2024, an estimated 18.2 million people—over 55 per cent of the population were in need for humanitarian assistance and protection services[1]. The main factors behind these figures are food insecurity, malnutrition, health, water and sanitation, and protection needs. This includes some 17.6 million people -half of the total population- who are estimated to need food and agriculture assistance [2]. The agriculture sector, both components plant and animal production, is the main instrument to ensure the food security and to keep the people away from hunger.

In 2014, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) launched its "One World – No Hunger" Initiative, which aims to address some of the greatest challenges facing humankind[3]. Hunger and poor nutrition kill around 8,000 children each day and are thus the cause of around 50 per cent of all child deaths worldwide.[4]. Although food insecurity is primarily a structural problem affecting rural regions, it is exacerbated by natural disasters, epidemics, and political crises and conflicts[5] In October 2021 the BMZ updated and officially launched the core strategy "One World – No Hunger" (EWOH). This is one of five strategic themes BMZ has chosen as focus for its portfolio until 2026[6]. Main strategy's key core statements are[7]:

- A world without hunger is possible within the constraints of our planet.
- Everyone has the right to secure, sufficient and balanced nutrition.
- Nutritional systems must be more sustainable, effective and efficient, as well as resilient in the face of all kinds of shocks.

For over six decades, since 1963, Save the Children (SC) has been a proactive humanitarian presence in Yemen[8] SC commitment in Yemen is to protect and enhance children's lives through high-impact programmes in vital areas such as food security and livelihoods, health and nutrition, education, child protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene. SC is working to address both immediate humanitarian needs as well as their underlying root causes and chronic underdevelopment[9].

SC conducted livelihoods interventions to improve and sustain food security and nutritional status of vulnerable children, women and elderly people in affected communities of Sa'ada Governorate. The project activities focused on strengthening the resilience of 2,400 food-insecure HHs with 16,800 individuals including (3,864 men, 4,368 boys, 4,032 women, 4,536 girls) in five districts of Sa`ada Governorate, where vulnerable groups supposed to withstand and recover from shocks and stresses, as well as improve their livelihoods and social development. Households with Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW), and children aged 0-23 months who are food insecure and have limited/no livelihood options have been prioritized for support. Some of 1,200 farmers with small farms have been provide with cash grant to restore and improve their farms to increase agricultural production. SC supported 600 HHs with vocational training and cash grants to run their own business and generate income to cover their food and nutritional needs of children, PLWs, and to create linkage with local markets. In addition, 600 HHs of livestock keepers have been provided with cash for restocking their preferred livestock and raise their awareness on good practice through livestock breeding experts and veterinarians to care for their livestock and improve their production of meat and milk to cover the food and nutrition needs.

[1] Yemen, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024 (January 2024),
[2] Ibid
[3] "One World – No Hunger" A look at the German Development Ministry's Initiative https://www.rural21.com/fileadmin/downloads/2015/en-01/rural2015_01-S22-25.pdf
[4] Ibid
[5] Ibid
[6] https://www.rural21.com/english/from-our-partners/detail/article/bmz-core-strategy-one-world-no-hunger-in-effect.html
[7] Ibid
[8] Ibid
[9] https://yemen.savethechildren.net/what-we-do

3. Project background

By preparing the project proposal and according to the 2020 IPC analysis issued in December 2020, 45% of the population - in Sa'ada were in IPC Phase 4 (emergency) and on the brink of famine.

In this project, SC conducted livelihoods interventions to improve and sustain food security and nutritional status of vulnerable children, women and elderly people in affected communities in five districts of Sa'ada Governorate namely, Razih, Al Safra, Haydan, Saqain, and Majz.

The project planned to target vulnerable families. These included 2,400 HHs - an estimated 16,800 individuals (3,864 men, 4,368 boys, 4,032 women, 4,536 girls). The target group are men, women, PLW, young people, elderly people, people with disabilities, marginalized people, and returnees. There were no exclusion or discrimination based on race, religion, tribe, or party affiliation. SC prioritized the most vulnerable families with under 5 children and PLW.

The cash transfers supposed to be used to enabled poor and vulnerable households to restart their disrupted livelihoods by investing and engaging in income-generating, agricultural, and livestock production activities in order to improve their household food security and the nutritional status of children under-five. The project also supported small farm holder farmers to restore their lands for agricultural and livestock production. The funds have been used to purchase agricultural inputs including seeds, tools, and livestock. The cash grants that have been provided to the targeted HHs helped in improving their food security and nutrition status and make them self-sufficient with access to their foods and nutrition needs through the gained income from their livelihoods or invest in through the cash they received[10].

In this project, SC used restricted unconditional cash transfers in order to respond to the urgent needs of the vulnerable target groups while ensuring that assistance is contributing to the intended objectives and improves the resilience of beneficiaries[11].

Main activities and targeted groups of the project were:

a. Smallholder farmers supported with cash grants to restore land and purchase seeds and agricultural production tools,
b. Youth and women for income-generating activities (IGA) such as phone maintenance, mechanics, and tiling for men, and sewing, food processing, soap and perfume making, and ornament decoration and painting for women after vocational skills training and on job training,
c. Cash grants for purchase livestock for families in suitable sub-districts among the proposed districts that are dominantly pastoralist areas.

Nutrition security of under 5 children and Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) through[12]:

a. Livelihoods support through supporting farmers through a combination of cash grants and assistance to foster their self-reliance and strengthen their resilience.
b. Improved access to nutrition services and diversified food through the agricultural interventions by providing grants for seed and gardening tools, grants for livestock keeping and income generation.
c. Improved detection and referrals of malnourished cases through increasing the diversity and the complimentary numbers of meals for children aged 0-23 months and PLW.
d. Improved nutrition practices for children aged 0-23 months and PLW through community sensitization by establishing of Mother to mother supporting groups (MtMSGs), counselling on essential nutrition actions.

[10] Application for new transitional development assistance projects, SC project application and offer to BMZ, 2021
[11] Ibid
[12] Ibid

3.1. Overall objective

To improve household food security and the nutritional status of children under 5 in vulnerable households in target districts in Sa'ada Governorate.

The indicators for measuring fulfilling the overall objective[13]:

1. '70% of target households attain an acceptable level of food security measured by food consumption score index (FCS> 42) by the end of the project.
2. Five percentage points reduction from baseline of "stunting rate" among infants and younger children aged 6-23 months from the supported HHs by the end of the project.

3.2. The project main activities

1. The project activities have been focused on strengthening the resilience of 2,400 food-insecure HHs with 16,800 individuals including (3,864 men, 4,368 boys, 4,032 women, 4,536 girls) in the five districts of Sa`ada Governorate.
2. 1,200 farmers have been supported with cash grant to restore and improve their farms to increase agricultural production.
3. 600 HHs have been provided with on-job training and cash grants to run their own business and generate income to cover their food and nutritional needs of children, PLWs, and create linkage with local markets.
4. 600 HHs of livestock keepers with cash to purchase their preferred animals and raise their awareness on good practice through specialized persons to care for their livestock and improve their production of meat and milk to cover their food and nutrition needs.

3.3. Outcome indicators

Outcome 1 Resilience of targeted families is strengthened through sustainable livelihoods activities

a. Smallholder farmers to restore land and purchase seeds and tools.
b. Develop income-generating activities (IGA) through vocational and on-the-job training such as:
    - Sewing
    - Solar energy system
    - Incense and perfume processing
    - Mobile Phone maintenance,
    - Car repair and maintenance
    - Motorcycle repair and maintenance
c. Purchase livestock for families in suitable areas

<u>Indicators associated with outcome 1:</u>

- 70 % of households attain acceptable level of food security measured by food consumption score index (FCS> 42) by the end of the project, and 70 % of smallholder farmers' land cultivated
- 80% of farmers targeted with agricultural funds have increased agricultural production from baseline.
- 80% of beneficiaries supported with IGA grants have increased income from baseline.
- 80% of beneficiaries targeted with funds for livestock (goats, sheep) have increased income from baseline.

Outcome 2: The nutrition security of children under 5 and PLW is improved through:

a. livelihoods support,
b. improved access to nutrition services and diversified food,
c. improved malnutrition detection and prevention, and
d. improved nutrition practices for children aged 0-23 months and PLW.

[13] TOR BMZ Consultant advertisement 21 April 2024

Indicators associated with outcome 2:

- 2.1. 20 percentage points increase from baseline value in the proportion of children aged 6-23 months who consume foods from 4 or more food groups among the supported HHs by the end of the project.
- 2.2. 20 percentage points increase from baseline value in the proportion of infants aged <6 months in supported HHs who are exclusively breastfed by the end of the project.
- 2.3. 20 percentage points increase from baseline value in the proportion of children aged 6-23 months consuming the recommended minimum number of meals per day by the end of the project.
- 2.4. 20 percentage points increase from baseline value in the proportion of targeted PLWs consuming more than 5 food groups according to individual dietary diversity scores by the end of the project.

3.4. Objective the final evaluation

Objectives of the finale evaluation relevant to the project outcomes are:

1. Assess the extent to which the resilience of targeted families has been strengthened through sustainable livelihood activities, as indicated by the increase in agricultural production, income from IGAs, and income from livestock.
2. Evaluate the improvement in the nutrition security of children under 5 and PLW through livelihood support, improved access to nutrition services and diversified food, improved malnutrition detection and prevention, and improved nutrition practices.

In details the finale evaluation will assess the following subobjectives:

1. **Assess Achievement of Outcomes**: Evaluate the extent to which the project has achieved its stated outcomes. This includes strengthening the resilience of targeted families through sustainable livelihood activities and improving the nutrition security of children under 5 and PLW.
2. **Identify Strengths and Weaknesses**: Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the project's approach and implementation. This can provide valuable insights for future projects.
3. **Provide Recommendations**: Based on the evaluation findings, provide recommendations for improving future programming. This could include suggestions for enhancing the technical approach, strengthening partnerships, improving monitoring and evaluation processes, and so on.
4. **Develop Lessons Learned**: Develop a set of lessons learned from the project that can be used to inform future initiatives. This could include insights about what worked well, what didn't, and why.
5. **Strategy for Use or Communication of Lessons**: Develop a strategy for using or communicating these lessons both within the organization and to partners. This will ensure that the knowledge gained from the project is effectively utilized and shared.

3.5. Overall Evaluation Criteria

Using the OECD/DAC Evaluation Criteria to assess the performance of the project as well as use Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) to evaluate the quality of the interventions and the aspects of the accountability.

3.5.1. Relevance

Check if the intervention conducted in line with local needs and priorities of the key stakeholders and the beneficiaries in the one hand and the conformity of the interventions with donor and SC policies in the other hand.

Key questions:

a. To what extent were the project interventions relevant to the needs of key stakeholders (local authorities/ rural peoples and affected communities)?
b. To what extent did the project take into account the needs of different vulnerable segment of the society (girls, boys, women, men, people with disabilities, Muhamasheen etc.)?

c. How satisfied are girls, boys, women and men with the project and activities of SC?
d. Did the program lead to a statistically significant improvement in dietary diversity scores (e.g., HDDS) among targeted households compared to the baseline?

3.5.2. Effectiveness

Check the extent to which the current intervention has achieved its purpose, or whether this can be expected to happen on the basis of the outputs.

Key questions:

a. To what extent were targets met as set in the log frame?
b. Were activities delivered according to the implementation plan? If not, what caused delays/changes in the implementation plan? In addition, how did the team address them?
c. What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of set objectives?
d. What major factors are contributing to achievement or non-achievement of objectives?
e. To what extent were interventions integrated with other projects/ programs?

3.5.3. Efficiency

To check the qualitative and quantitative outputs achieved as a result of inputs

Key questions:

a. Were project activities carried out in the most cost-efficient manner?
b. Were inputs utilized as planned and could there be an alternative way of using the inputs to maximize the benefits to the intended beneficiaries?
c. Is the relationship between inputs and results achieved appropriate and justifiable?

3.5.4. Sustainability

Ensure that activities of a short-term emergency nature are carried out in a context that takes longer-term and interconnected problems into account

a. Does an exit strategy exist including schedule and guidelines for the transfer of responsibility and activities to government departments and/or other stakeholders? Is there a budget scenario for the time after the assistance?
b. What influence did already existing networks have (e.g. national and international non-governmental organizations) on the implemented interventions? **Which lessons learnt could be relevant for others?**
c. What could have been done differently so the project becomes more sustainable in the future?
d. To what extent were local capacities developed or strengthened through the humanitarian interventions?
e. Are beneficiaries likely to maintain their improved livelihood activities (farming practices, IGAs, livestock management) beyond the project duration?

3.5.5. Accountability

The following questions will be asked to reflect the accountability:

- Do you know how people were chosen to receive assistance?
- If you wanted to contact the organization for example, to ask a question or to make a complaint – do you know what to do/who to contact?
- Do you have any general suggestions or comments?
- If we have further questions or a follow up, could we contact your household via phone?

4. Methodology and approach

4.1. Steps of the methodological approach

The study commenced with an approach to the MEAL department in SC to enhance understanding of the project's Terms of Reference (TOR). This ensured that the consultant was provided with the relevant information and reports to better fulfill the study's objectives and build a common understanding of the activities conducted in the selected districts. The consultant developed and delivered all relevant forms, tools, and procedures necessary for the evaluation to SC for feedback, improvements, and final approval. Table 1 summarizes the four steps of the methodological approach used during the final evaluation of the project.

The evaluation activities were conducted in four sequenced phases: design and planning, data collection, analysis, and finalization. Each phase resulted in related deliverables, namely the inception report and evaluation tools, the raw data materials, the preliminary findings, and the draft and final reports.

Table1 : The Methodological Sequence of the Study

Work phases	Design and plan	Data Collection	Analyzing	Finalization
Activities	- Desk review - Preliminary communication between SC and the Consultant to clarify and approve terms of study. - Designing data collection tools in collaboration with SC.	- Field data collections have been begun with KIIs of the project partners, the trainers of crop and livestock production and the vocational training institutions. - Training Enumerators. - Pilot testing and refining data collection tools. - Data collection and HHs interviews	- Analysis and triangulation of collected data. - Assessing preliminary findings and considering key strengths and weaknesses - Summarizing key findings and recommendations	- Formulation of findings and conclusions. - Draft of evaluation report - Processing comments and feedback from SC. - Submitting amended evaluation report based on feedback and comments from SC.
Deliverables	**Inception report and tools**	**Raw Data Materials**	**Preliminary Findings**	**Draft and final report**

The work commenced with an intensive review of available documents related to the project design and activities. The consultant used a mixed-methods approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative data.

4.2. Stakeholder Engagement

It is crucial to cooperate with stakeholders throughout the evaluation process. This includes regular updates, meetings, or workshops to discuss findings and recommendations and exchange views with local communities and authorities.

Ethical Considerations

Following the "Do No Harm" approach, any research or evaluation involving human subjects should include a discussion of ethical considerations. In this evaluation, we ensured informed consent, protected the privacy and confidentiality of participants, and mitigated any potential harm.

Limitations

Working in unstable situations with political and economic tensions posed major challenges. The consultant faced significant delays in obtaining clearance from SCMCHA (two months in Sana'a and one month in Sa'ada). Additionally, access to face-to-face interviews in the targeted districts was delayed several times in Sa'ada, almost halting the evaluation process. An alternative modality was discussed with SCI representatives, focusing more on evaluating project reports, KIIs, and comparing baseline and endline results. In late November, we were allowed to train enumerators and send them to the field for HHs

interviews, despite significant deletions by SCMCHA of relevant evaluation questions. We overcame this limitation by researching data and information reported in various documents during the project life, such as: The annual reports (2021, 2022, 2023 and end report in June 2024);

- Annual reports (2021, 2022, 2023, and the end report in June 2024)
- Semi-annual reports
- Monthly reports
- PDM reports

Reports from individual trainers of agricultural crops and livestock activities:

- Training in agricultural crop production and agriculture services
- Training in livestock production and animal health
- Training in crop production and pest and disease control

4.3. Quality Assurance

The consultant took the following measures to ensure the quality and reliability of collected data:

- Provided enumerators with clear instructions and guidelines during training on data collection methods
- Ensured that local community leaders or other actors on the ground were prepared to receive the data collection team
- Conducted debriefing sessions after field research completion
- Performed daily data entry
- Reviewed and assessed the data as soon as analysis allowed

4.4. Indicators traced

The following indicators have been checked:

1. % of targeted households attain acceptable level of food security measured by food consumption score index (FCS> 42) is improved by the end the project period.
2. % of farmers whose agricultural production is increased by the end of project period.
3. % of beneficiaries supported with IGA grants and their income is increased by the end of project life.
4. % of beneficiaries targeted with funds for livestock (goats, sheep) have their income increased by the end of project life.
5. % of the children aged 6-23 months who consume foods from 4 or more food groups is increased among the supported HHs by the end of the project.
6. % of the infants who are exclusively breastfed is increased among in supported HHs by the end of the project.
7. % of the children aged 6-23 months consuming the recommended minimum number of meals per day is increased by the end of the project period.
8. % targeted PLWs consuming more than 5 food groups according to individual dietary diversity scores is increased by the end of the project period.
9. % of the targeted small farmers have their cultivated land increased.

4.5. Design the questionnaires and evaluation tools

The following three groups of questionnaires have been utilised:

a. Smallholder farmers questionnaires to get data and information of restoring land and purchase seeds and agricultural tools.
b. Questionnaires related to livestock restocking.
c. Questionnaires related to develop income-generating activities (IGA) through vocational and on-the-job training such as:

- Sewing
- Solar energy system
- Incense and perfume processing
- Mobile Phone maintenance,
- Car repair and maintenance
- Motorcycle repair and maintenance

4.6. Assess the Food Security and Livelihood indicators

Questions are formulated to cover the following indicators:

1. Food Consumption Score (FCS).
2. Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS).
3. Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI).

The table categorizes various food items into specific food groups and assigns a weight to each group. These weights are used in calculating the Food Consumption Score (FCS), which measures diet diversity and frequency of food consumption. Here's a breakdown:

1. Food Consumption Score (FCS)

The FCS is calculated by multiplying the number of days each food group is consumed by its assigned weight, then summing these values. The score ranges from 0 to 112, with higher scores indicating better food consumption. The scores are categorized as follows:

Table 2: Food Groups and current standard weights used in analyses for Food Consumption Score[14]

Food items	Food groups (definitive)	Food Group Weight (definitive)
Rice, sorghum, millet, bread and other cereals	Main staples	2
potatoes and sweet potatoes		
Beans. Peas, groundnuts	Pulses	3
Vegetables, leaves	Vegetables	1
Fruits	Fruit	1
Meat, poultry, eggs and fish	Meat and fish	4
Milk yogurt and other diary	Milk	4
Sugar and sugar products, honey	Sugar	0.5
Oils, fats and butter	Oil	0.5
Spices, tea, coffee, salt, fish powder, small amounts of milk for tea.	Condiments	0

These weights reflect the nutritional value and importance of each food group in the diet. The higher the weight, the more significant the food group is considered in contributing to a balanced diet. For example, meat and fish, and milk have the highest weights (4), indicating their high nutritional value, while condiments have a weight of 0, indicating they do not significantly contribute to the nutritional value of the diet.

Table 3: Food Consumption Score profiles

FCS	Profile
0 - 28	Poor
28.5 - 42	Borderline

[14] Ibid

> 42	Acceptable

2. Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)

The HDDS reflects a household's economic ability to access a variety of foods. It is calculated by summing the number of different food groups consumed over a 24-hour period. The 12 standard food groups are: A. Cereals B. Roots and tubers C. Vegetables D. Fruits E. Meat, poultry F. Eggs G. Fish and seafood H. Pulses/legumes/nuts I. Milk and milk products J. Oils/fats K. Sugar/honey L. Miscellaneous

The HDDS ranges from 0 to 12, with the following thresholds:

A. Cereals
B. Root and tubers
C. Vegetables
D. Fruits
E. Meat, poultry,
F. Eggs
G. Fish and seafood
H. Pulses/legumes/nuts
I. Milk and milk products
J. Oil/fats
K. Sugar/honey
L. Miscellaneous

Table 4: Household Dietary Diversity Score profile

HDDS	Profile
> 6	good dietary diversity
4.5-6	medium dietary diversity
<4.5	low dietary diversity

Both FCS and HDDS assist in identifying food access and consumption problems at the population level.

3. Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI)

The rCSI measures the frequency and severity of coping strategies households use due to food shortages in the 7 days prior to the survey. It combines both the frequency and severity of these strategies, allowing for comparison across different contexts. The rCSI can be used as a continuous scale or as a categorical indicator to estimate prevalence.

Both the FCS and HDDS help identify food access and consumption issues at the population level, while the rCSI provides insight into the coping mechanisms households employ during food shortages.

4.7. Assess the nutrition indicators for infant and young child feeding (IYCF)

Questions are formulated to cover the following indicators:

4.8. Exclusive breastfeeding (EBF)

The indicator to assess the practice of exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) among children 0-5.9 months of age tends to overestimate the actual proportion of infants who are exclusively breastfed until 6 months. It is calculated using the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Infants 0-5 months of age received only breast milk during the previous day}}{\text{\# Infants 0-5 months}}$$

4.9. Minimum dietary diversity (MDD)

Minimum dietary diversity is the proportion of children 6-23.9 months of age who receive foods from four or more food groups. It is calculated as follows:

Children 6-23 months of age received food from ≥ 4 food groups during the previous day

Children 6-23 months of age

The foods groups used for tabulation of this indicator are: - grains, roots and tubers - legumes and nuts - dairy products (milk, yogurt, cheese) - flesh foods (meat, fish, poultry and liver/organ meats) - eggs - vitamin-A rich fruits and vegetables - other fruits and vegetables

Key informant Interviews (KIIs)

The KIIs focused on interviews with local authorities, representatives of the agricultural departments of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MAI), and representatives of the field activities specialists of the SC office in Sa'ada.

Success stories

Success stories resulting from the intervention activities were tracked and documented during field visits and household (HH) interviews.

4.10. Sampling

The methodology for determining the community sample size was based on statistical calculation methods, using a 95% confidence interval and a 5% margin of error for the targeted population[15]). Accordingly, the following samples will be fixed (see table 6). Table 7 reflects, roughly, the sample size in each district.

Table 5: Sample size by confidence 95% and 5% margin of margin error

Intervention Type	Targeted BFs			Sample size by confidence 95% and 5% margin of error		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Farmers with small farms and provide a cash grant	585	12	597	233	12	**245**
HHs of livestock keepers with cash	67	296	363	58	168	**226**
Job training and cash grants	223	15	238	142	15	**157**
Total	**875**	**323**	**1198**	433	195	**628**

Table 6: Sample size in the 5 districts

The composition of HHs to be interviewed per gender per district in all intervention types (farmers, livestock and IGA)	Al-safra		Hydan		Majz		Razih		Saqeen		Grand Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Farmers with small farms and provide a cash grant	45	1	47	6	47		47	1	47	4	**245**

[15] http://www.raosoft.com/samplesize.html

HHs of livestock keepers with cash	2	33	36	35		40	2	37		41	**226**
Job training and cash grants	34	1		**14**	28	14	33		47		**171**

4.11 Training of enumerators

The selection of enumerators is a crucial step in the evaluation study, as all subsequent steps depend on the raw data they collect from the field. Therefore, the consultant has placed significant emphasis on instructing and training the enumerators. Since the enumerators are from the SC MEAL department and already have experience in data collection, particularly for food and nutrition security, a one-day training session is planned. This training will cover how to conduct interviews and fill out the questionnaires.

4.12 Data entry and data analysis

Excel forms have been prepared for raw data entry. The KOBO and Excel programs have been used for analysing the collected data.

4.13 Data management

The collected data and information have been entered into prepared data entry forms and KOBO files. Raw data have been stored in a separate folder to allow for error checking during data analysis.

5. Finding

Despite the ongoing complicated situation in Yemen, particularly in the targeted Governorate of Sa'ada, the project has achieved its objectives to a good extent. Major delays impacted the implementation of the Final Evaluation, especially the field research, resulting in missed opportunities for obtaining optimal reliable figures. Additionally, significant reductions in the initial questionnaires and the deletion of important questions by SCMCHA negatively affected the final evaluation. To address this, the consultant, together with the SCI team in Sana'a and Sa'ada, mitigated these limitations by using available data from project reports.

The food security scores

5.1.1. Analyses the Food Consumption Scores (FCS)

Figure 1 reflects the FCS for smallholders of crop production, families involved in livestock restocking, and families of youths and women engaged in income-generating activities (IGA). The calculated acceptable thresholds of FCS for the three groups were 81%, 81%, and 85%, respectively. These improvements in FCS have exceeded the baseline calculations, which were below 50% of acceptable FCS.

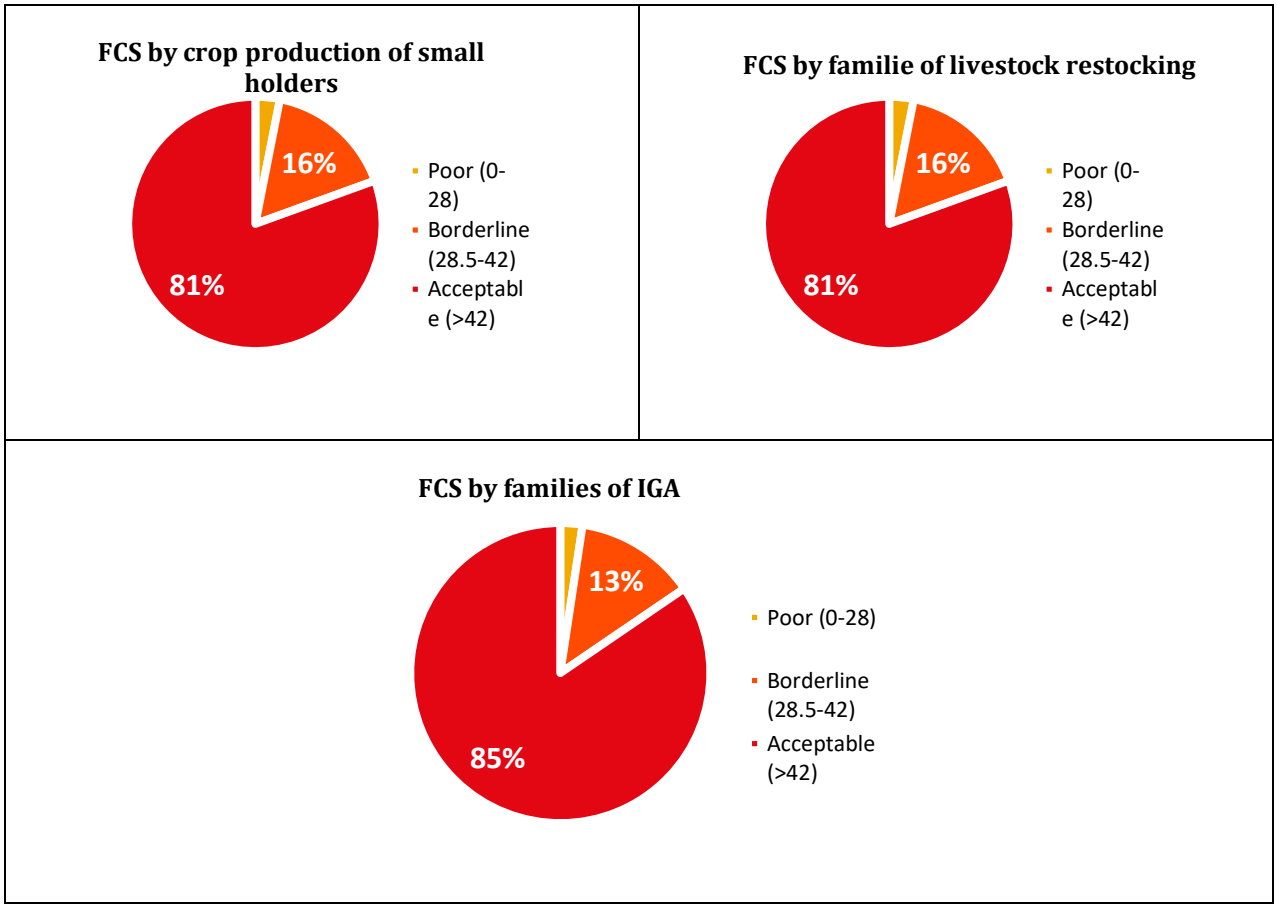

Figure 1: FCS by small holders, livestock restocking and IGA

5.1.2. Analyses the reduced Copping Strategy index (rCSI)

Figure 2 and Table 8 show the reduced coping strategy indices for smallholders, livestock restocking families, and families engaged in income-generating activities (IGA). Figure 2 clearly indicates that families rely more on less expensive food and borrow food during difficult situations. Table 8 highlights the crises and stress levels of households (HHs) among smallholders, livestock restocking families, and IGA families. The crises percentages for the three groups are 30%, 17%, and 20%, respectively.

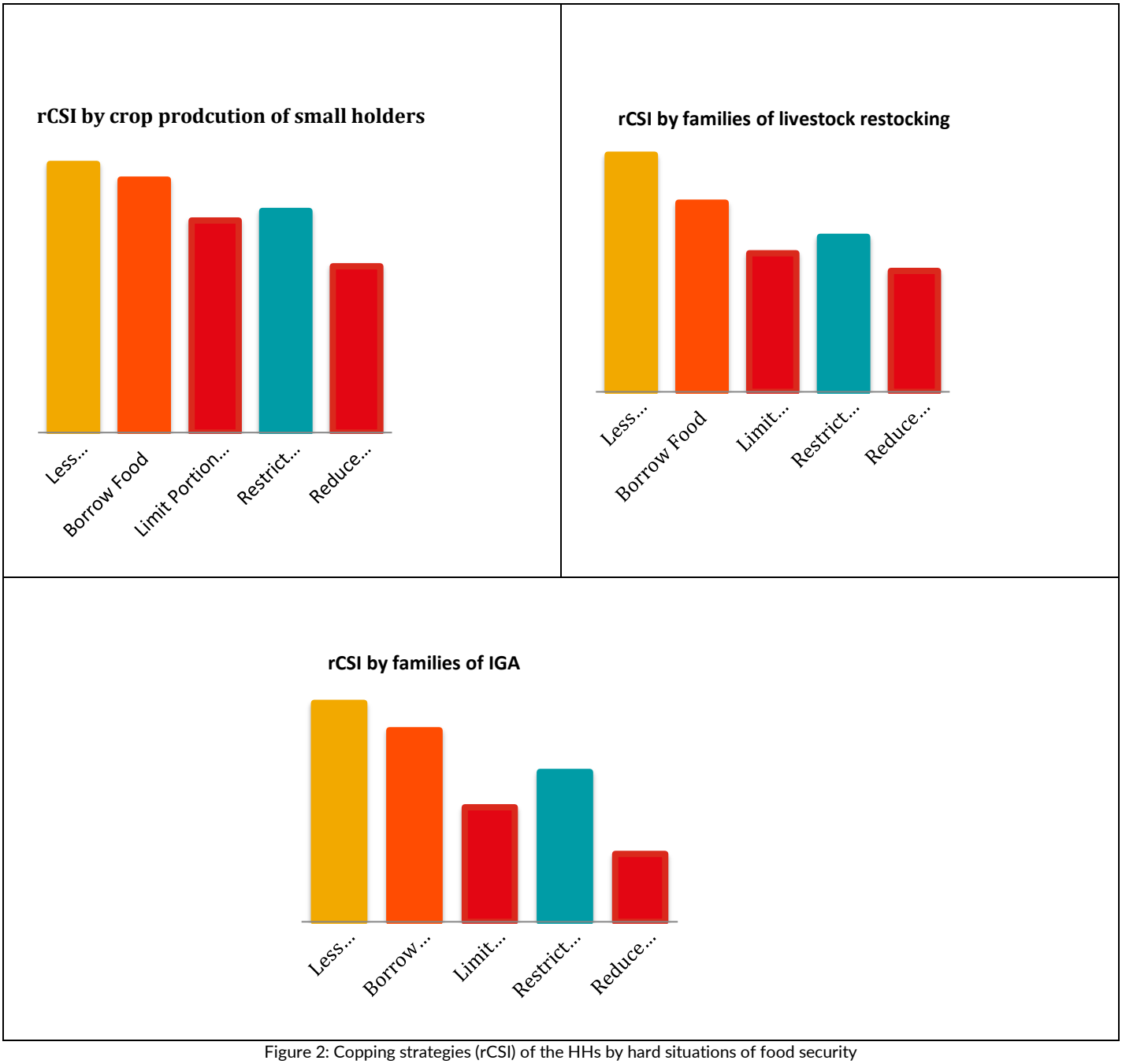

Figure 2: Copping strategies (rCSI) of the HHs by hard situations of food security

Table 7: Families under crises and stress, rCSI by small holders, livestock restocking and IGA

Crop production	%
Crisis	30
Minimal Stress	21
Under Stress	49

Livestock restocking	%
Crisis	17
Minimal Stress	1
Under Stress	82

Income Generating Activities	%
Crisis	20
Minimal Stress	5
Under Stress	75

5.1.3. Analyses the Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)

Table 9 shows the profile of the calculated HDDS for smallholders, livestock restocking families, and families engaged in income-generating activities (IGA). The percentages of households with good dietary diversity are 56% for smallholders, 62% for livestock restocking families, and 72% for IGA families.

Table 8: Dietary Diversity Score profile %

Profile	Crop production	Livestock restocking	Income generating activities
Good dietary diversity	65 %	62 %	72 %
Medium dietary diversity	32 %	34 %	27 %
Low dietary diversity	3 %	4 %	1 %

5.2. Nutrition and health situation of Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF)

5.2.1. Exclusive Breast Feeding (EBF)

Table 10 shows the percentage of exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) among infants 0-5 months of age in households of smallholders, livestock restocking families, and families engaged in income-generating activities (IGA). The calculated EBF percentages are 81% for smallholder households, 79% for livestock restocking households, and 93% for IGA families.

Table9 : Calculation of the Exclusive breast feeding

	# Infants 0-5 months	Infants 0-5 months of age received only breast milk	**EBF %**
Small farmers	97	79	81%
Livestock restocking	44	35	79%
IGA	44	41	93%

5.2.2. Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD)

Table 11 shows the percentage of Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD) among children 6-23 months of age in households of smallholders, livestock restocking families, and families engaged in income-generating activities (IGA). The calculated MDD percentages are 84% for smallholder households, 68% for livestock restocking households, and 91% for IGA families.

Table10 Calculation of Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD)

	# Children 6-23 months of age	Children 6-23 months of age received food from ≥ 4 food groups during the previous day	**Minimum dietary diversity (MDD) %**
Small farmers	205	173	84%
Livestock restocking	210	142	68%
IGA	116	105	91%

5.2.3. Starting with complementary feeding

Table 12 and Figure 3 reflect the calculated numbers and percentages of households (HHs) responding to the question of when they started complementary feeding. Although very few families started complementary feeding before the 6th

month of the infant's age, the majority (94% of respondents) indicated that they started complementary feeding by the 6th month of the infant's age.

Table 11: Starting the complementary feeding

Responding of the HHs	Months 0-6				Grand Total
	0	4	5	6	
Small farmers	6	4	8	284	302
Livestock restocking	0	7	7	240	254
IGA	0	7	10	143	160
Total	6	22	30	673	716
%	0.84	3.0	4.0	94.0	100

5.2.4. Micronutrient

Figure 4 reflects whether children received relevant micronutrients as complementary to their food, such as vitamin A, iron, and zinc. More than 50% of the respondents answered "No."

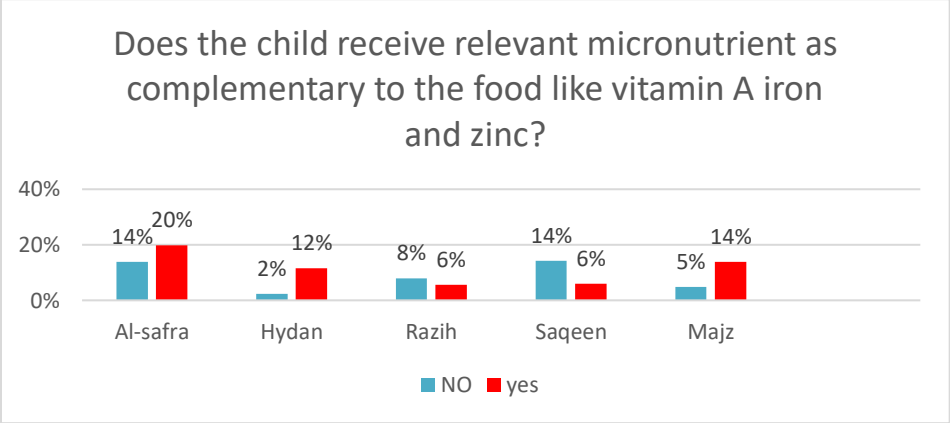

Figure 3: Micronutrient as complementary to the food received by IYC

5.2.5. Child health and diseases

It was important to check the prevalence of common diseases among infants and young children (IYC), namely diarrhea and pneumonia. Figures 5 and 6 reflect the percentages of respondents mentioning these diseases. The figures show that an average of 90% of IYC suffer from diarrhea, and 54% suffer from pneumonia.

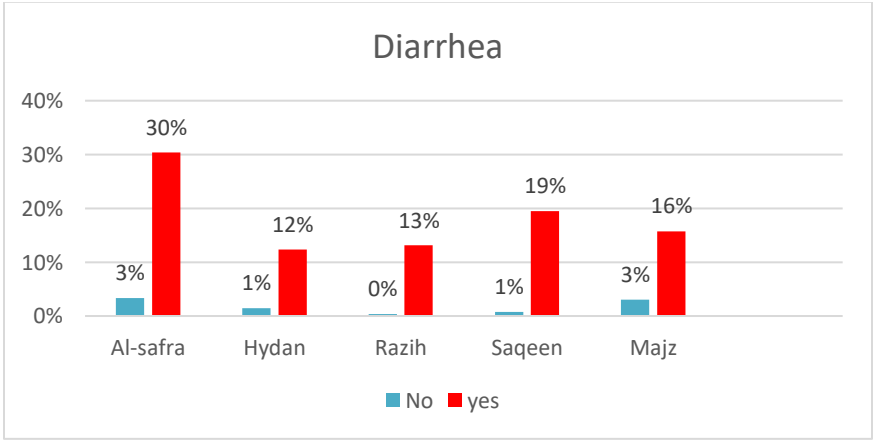

Figure 4: The percentage respondents of the HHs to Diarrhea among IYC

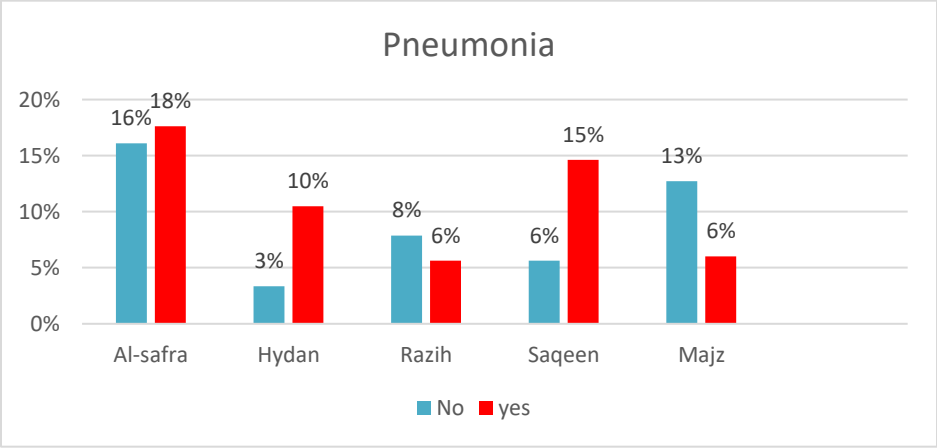

Figure 5: The percentage respondents of the HHs to pneumonia among IYC

5.3. Check the indicators by the three individual interventions

5.3.1. Small farmers

Problems associated with crop production as indicated by small farmers are mainly related to water scarcity and irrigation. Around one third of the respondents have mentioned that the production factor water for irrigation and drought season was the main hindrance of cultivation followed by outbreak of pest and diseases, lack of financing, and the marketing of harvested crops (table 13)

Table 12: Problems associated with crop production as indicated by small farmers

What problems did you face by seed cultivation	Percentage	Answers
Lack of water for irrigation and dominant of long drought seasons	33%	264
Outbreak of pest and disease	29%	229
Lack of fencing the cultivation area and make the plants subject for attack by animals	17%	133
Problem by marketing the surplus since the distance to the next market is very far	21%	168

From the endline survey conducted by the SC Sa'ada team we can observe in Table 14 that there were increasing in areas of land cultivation varied between 0.17% and 23.45%. All small farmers (100%) have mentioned that they have increased the cultivation area after receiving the cash grant. Table 15 reflects the details of small farmers instalments.

Table 13: Iincreasing the cultivation land in Habla after the receiving of the cash grant

Baseline			Endline		
How big land the HHs own (In Habla)	#	%	How big land the HHs own (In habla)	#	%
8	1	0.17%	10	23	3.85%

10	27	4.52%	12	101	16.92%
12	98	16.42%	13	20	3.35%
13	22	3.69%	14	9	1.51%
14	9	1.51%	15	64	10.72%
15	64	10.72%	17	1	0.17%
17	1	0.17%	18	7	1.17%
18	7	1.17%	19	7	1.17%
19	7	1.17%	20	87	14.57%
20	88	14.74%	25	27	4.52%
25	25	4.19%	28	1	0.17%
30	30	5.03%	30	35	5.86%
37	5	0.84%	35	1	0.17%
40	33	5.53%	37	5	0.84%
43	25	4.19%	40	31	5.19%
45	16	2.68%	42	1	0.17%
50	139	23.28%	43	22	3.69%

Table 14: details of small farmers installment

Small holder farmers	#HHs	Amount in USD	Amount in EUR	Amount in YER
First instalment (February 2022)	1,200	313	281	190,208
Second instalment (May - June 2022)	1,200	559	526	317,500
Third instalment (March 2023)	1,200	132	123	73,300

5.3.2. Livestock restocking

Table 16 reflects the sheep and goats bought by households (HHs) using the cash grants. A total of 1,305 animals were purchased, with sheep making up 94% of the first livestock restocking conducted by the HHs. The average number of animals purchased in the first instalment is shown in the table below. The second and third instalments were also used for fodder, concentrates, and veterinary services.

,

Table 15: Sheep and goats bought by the HHs using the cash grants

Districts	Sheep	Goat	Total and %
Al-safra	313	0	313
Hydan	231	36	267
Razih	220	24	244
Saqeen	261	0	261
Majz	208	12	220

A contradictory result was found by the SC team in the Livestock Monitoring Report (LMR) of 2023, where only around 31% of the livestock-targeted households (HHs) used the money for purchasing and restocking animals. Respondents mentioned that, in addition to purchasing small ruminants, HHs used part of the cash grants to buy fodder and concentrates to feed their animals. Figure 7 reflects the reactions of HHs to the question of whether they bought fodder and feed concentrate in the five districts. The quantities of green fodder and feed concentrate (in kg) purchased by the HHs are shown in Figure 8.

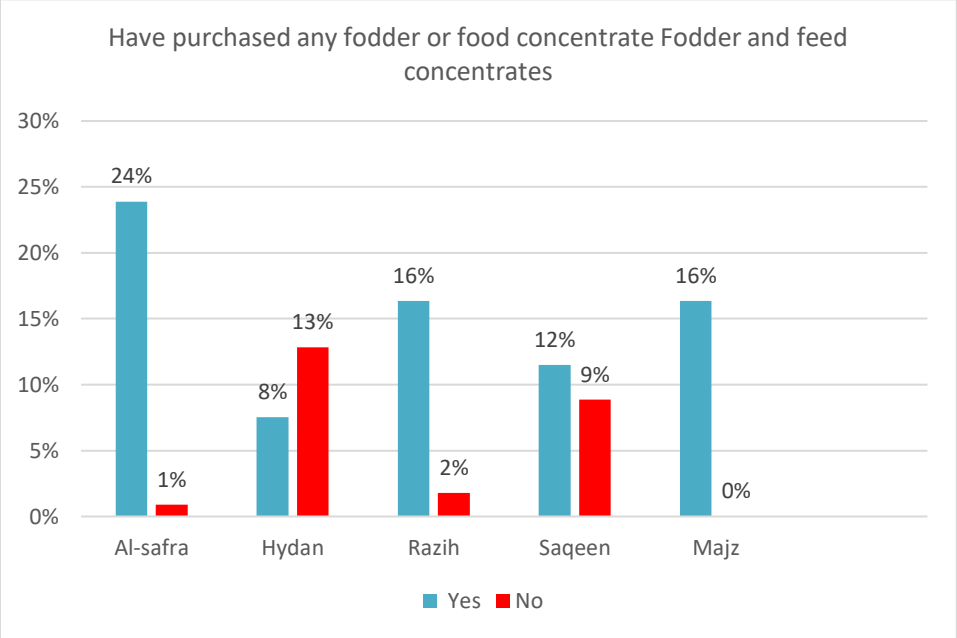

Figure 6: Percentage reaction of the HHs on buying fodder and feed concentrate in the five districts

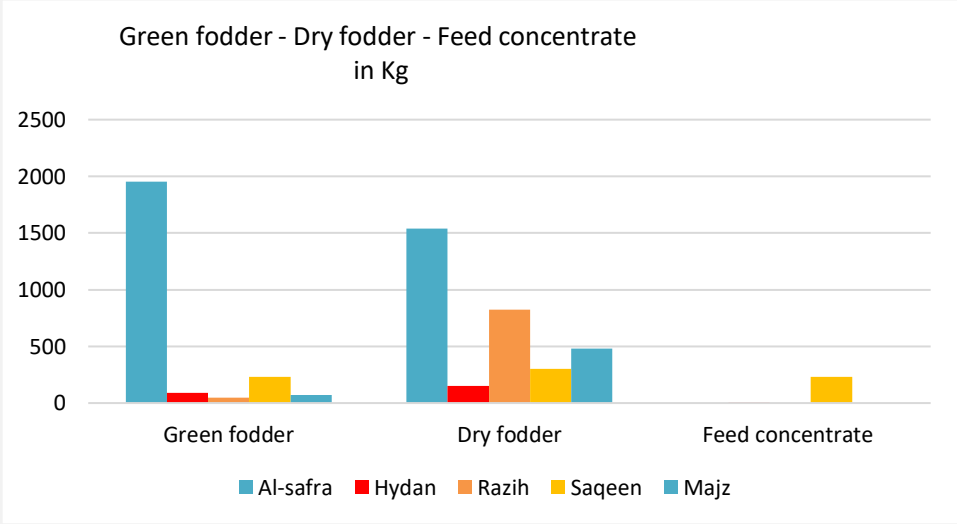

Figure 7: Green fodder, dry fodder and feed concentrate bought by the HHs in the five districts

Households (HHs) that restocked livestock reported an increase in the number of purchased animals through breeding (Figure 8). Figure 9 shows how these increased numbers of animals are utilized. The majority of HHs reported keeping the animals in the herd to improve family nutrition, while other HHs reported selling some of the animals to improve family income (Figure 10). Table 17 indicates that the dairy products from the received livestock do not fully cover the family's needs.

Table 16: Utilization of grants received to purchase livestock assets (%)

Was all the money used to purchase the small ruminant, feed, medicines etc.?	Results
No	68.75% (143)
Yes	31.25% (65)

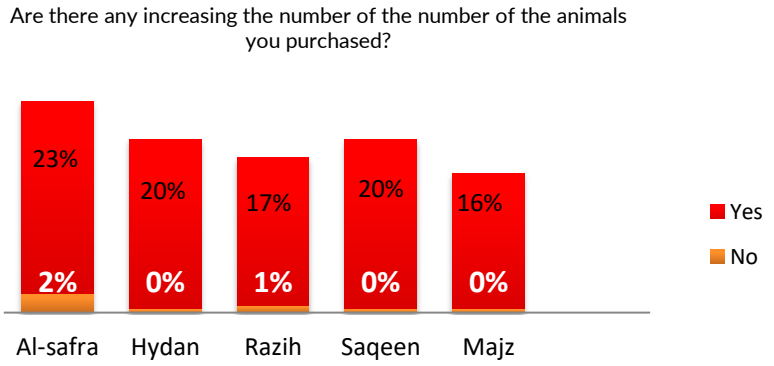

Figure 8: Percentage reaction of increasing the number of the animals HHs initially purchased in the five districts

Table 17: Details of installment for livestock BFS

Livestock BNFs	#HHs	Amoun in USD	Amount in EUR	Amoun in YER
First installments (August - September 2022)	600	428	424	245,000.00
Second installments (March 2023)	600	215	201	115,000.00
Third installments (February 2024)	600	67	61	36,000.00
Total received amount		**710**	**686**	**396,000**

Table 18: Respondent reaction to the dairy products coming from the received livestock

Are the dairy products coming from the received livestock cover the family need or you have surplus?		
Districts	**Cover family need**	
	No	**Yes**
Al-safra	25%	0.0%
Hydan	20%	0.0%
Razih	18%	0.4%
Saqeen	20%	0.4%
Majz	16%	0.0%

Traditional dairy processing is deeply rooted in rural households (HHs) in Yemen. The processing of milk into products such as Leben, buttermilk, and fate is widely known. However, Figure 11 indicates that 57% of respondents have no experience in traditional dairy processing of milk.

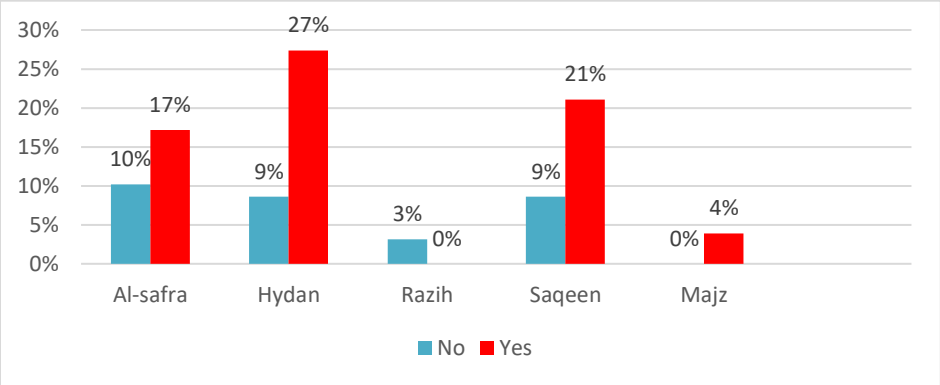

Figure 9: Experience the HHs in traditional dairy processing of milk

Interestingly, as shown in Figure 12, when HHs were asked if they would be willing to enroll in training courses on dairy processing, the majority of respondents indicated they were not ready to establish their own dairy processing activities.

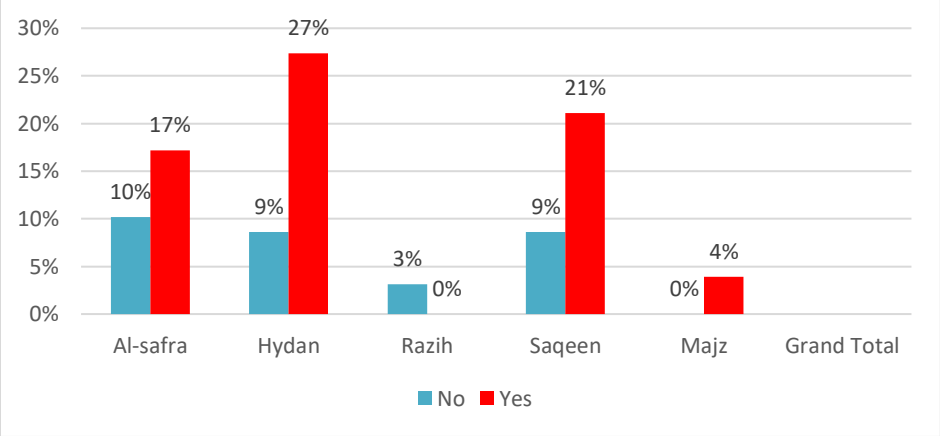

Figure 10: Readiness the HHs starting own dairy processing activity

Interestingly, Figure 13 indicates that between 14% and 20% of respondents reported that the livestock activities supported by the project have inspired other non-targeted families to start similar activities.

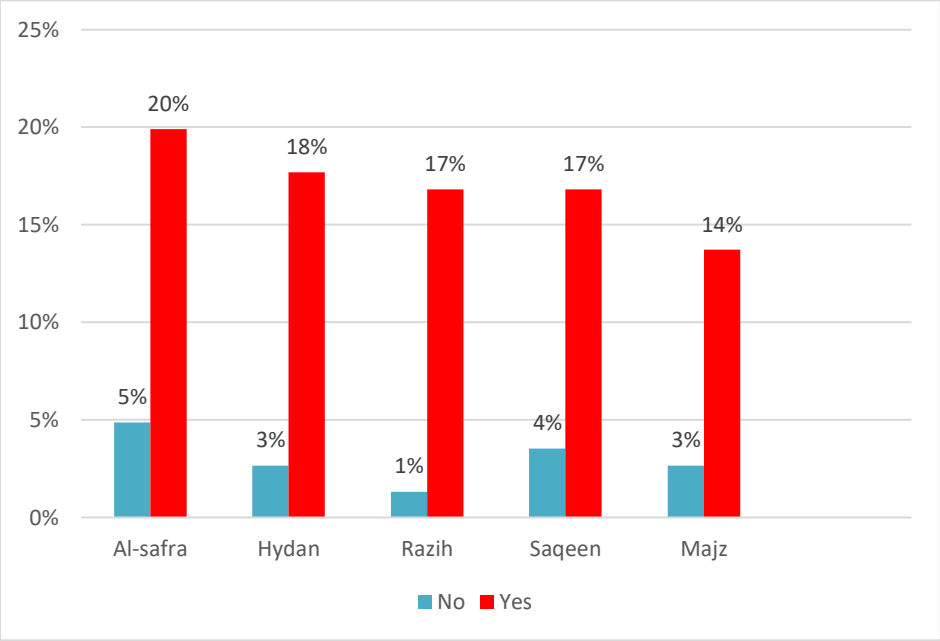

Figure 11: Livestock restocking sensitize neighbors to start similar activity

Finally, the problems associated with livestock restocking are mainly the lack of availability and the high prices of drugs, veterinary services, vaccinations, and food concentrates (Table 18).

Table 19: Pproblems associated with livestock restocking

Lack of availability of inputs for livestock	%
drugs and veterinary services	52
vaccination campaigns	34
food concentrates	14

High prices of the inputs for livestock	%
drugs and veterinary	52
vaccination campaigns	36
food concentrates	12

5.3.3. Income generating Activities

Table 19 provides details on the types of training courses conducted, the duration of each course in days, and the number of participants enrolled. Table 15 offers a detailed overview of the livestock instalments provided during the project's lifespan, with two instalments given.

Table 20: Details of installment for IGA BFS

IGAs BNFs	#HHs	Amoun in USD	Amount in EUR	Amoun in YER
First installment (March – April 2023)	600	516	493	290,455
Second installment (December 2023)	600	140	129	74,500

Table 21: Kind of training courses, the duration and the number of participants enrolled in the courses

Training Course	Duration Days of the training	Number of Participants Male	Number of Participants Female	Total number of participants
Phone Maintenance	30	108	0	**108**
Solar system installation and	30	111	0	**111**
Car Mechanic	40	29	0	**29**
Motorcycle Maintenance	30	149	0	**149**
Sewing	20	0	143	**143**
Incense and perfume Making	15	0	60	**60**
Total	**165**	**397**	**203**	**600**

The training period ranges from 15 days (**Incense and perfume Making) and up to 40 days (Car Mechanic). By asking the sample of the trainees enrolled in the courses if the training period was enough table 23, more than 98% have reacted with "Yes"**

Table 22: Respondents' reaction to satisfactory to duration of the training courses

Was the training period enough			
District	**No**	**yes**	**Grand Total**
Al-safra	0.00%	23.81%	**23.81%**
Hydan	0.00%	9.52%	**9.52%**
Razih	0.00%	25.60%	**25.60%**
Saqeen	0.00%	24.40%	**24.40%**
Majz	1.79%	14.88%	**16.67%**

All trainees (100% figure 14) have been provided with tool kit bags to give them good opportunities to start their own business using the knowledge acquired from the training courses of IGA.

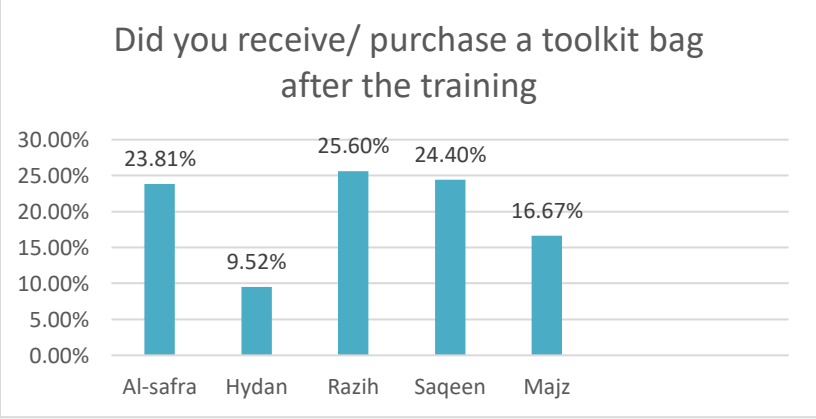

Figure 12: All trainees of IGA received tool kit bags

Among the youths and women who graduated from these short vocational training courses, up to 25% (one in four) have successfully established their own businesses (see Figure 15).

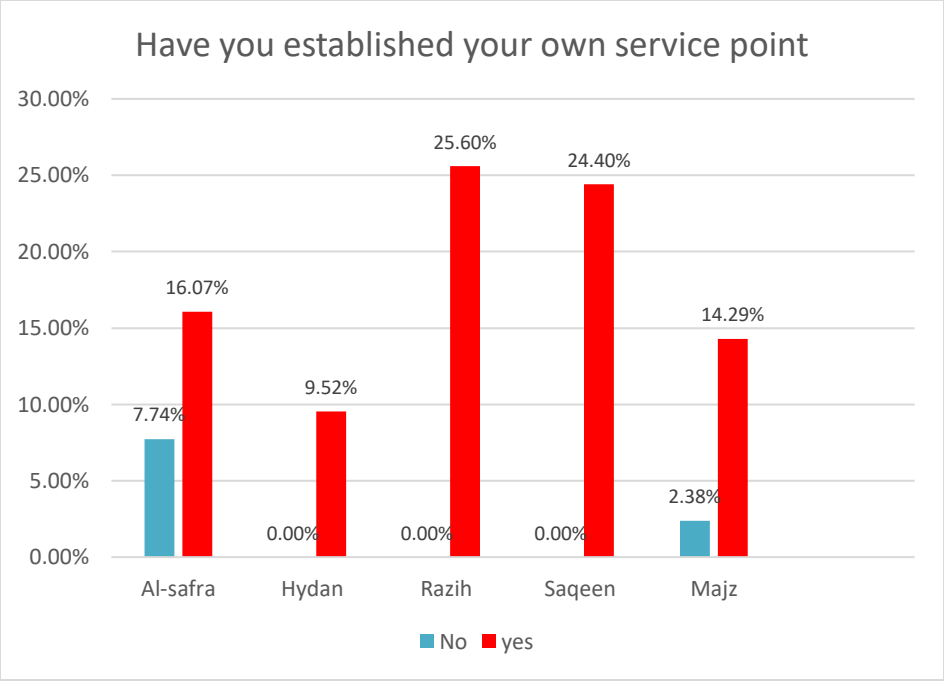

Figure 13: One out of four, of IGA trainees has now his/ her own service point

5.4. Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

It was essential to conduct interviews with the implementers from the SC departments, project partners, training centers, and trainers to gain insights into the strengths and weaknesses of the project design, activities, targeted beneficiaries, and sites. The following key points were highlighted by the Key Informant Interviews (KIIs):

- The project objectives align with the community's needs.
- The activities conducted using the grants are consistent with the resources available in the governorate (agriculture, livestock).
- Local communities and key agricultural experts noted that they were not involved in the project design.
- It was recommended that the project target more vulnerable individuals, as the need for such assistance is significant.
- Training institutions and centers were reactivated during the project period, and the training materials and instruments provided will support the continuation of training services after the project's conclusion.

6. Conclusion and recommendations and lesson learned

SC implemented livelihoods interventions to enhance and sustain food security and nutritional status for vulnerable children, women, and elderly individuals in the affected communities of Sa'ada Governorate. Priority was given to pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children aged 0-23 months who are food insecure and have limited or no livelihood options. The project aimed to strengthen the resilience of 2,400 food-insecure households (HHs), encompassing 16,800 individuals (3,864 men, 4,368 boys, 4,032 women, and 4,536 girls) across five districts. These efforts were designed to help vulnerable groups withstand and recover from shocks and stresses, while also improving their livelihoods and social development.

Key project activities included:

- Providing cash grants to 1,200 smallholder farmers to restore and enhance their farms, thereby increasing agricultural production.
- Supporting 600 HHs with vocational training and cash grants to establish their own businesses, generate income, and meet the food and nutritional needs of children and PLWs, while also creating links with local markets.
- Providing cash for restocking to 600 HHs of livestock keepers, along with raising awareness on best practices through livestock breeding experts and veterinarians to improve meat and milk production.

Overall, the project successfully achieved its main objectives, as evidenced by the following indicators:

1. The acceptable thresholds of Food Consumption Score (FCS > 42) were met by 81% of smallholder crop producers, 81% of livestock-restocking families, and 85% of income-generating activity (IGA) groups.
2. All respondents reported an increase in cultivation area after receiving cash grants, with actual increases ranging from 0.17% to 23.45%.
3. Up to 25% of IGA grant trainees have established their own service points and improved their incomes.
4. Between 16% and 23% of beneficiaries targeted with livestock funds (goats, sheep) experienced income increases by the end of the project. These activities also influenced non-targeted beneficiaries to start similar initiatives, suggesting continued income growth post-project. The number of purchased animals increased through breeding, with most HHs retaining animals to improve family nutrition, while others sold some animals to boost family income.
5. The Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD) for children aged 6-23 months was 84% for small farmers, 68% for livestock-restocking families, and 91% for IGA families.
6. Exclusive Breastfeeding (EBF) coverage for children aged 6-23 months was 81% for small farmers, 79% for livestock-restocking families, and 93% for IGA families.
7. Dietary diversity among PLWs was 65% for smallholders, 62% for livestock-restocking families, and 72% for IGA families.

6.1. Evaluation against OECD/DAC Criteria

The evaluation adhered to the OECD/DAC Evaluation Criteria and the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) to assess project performance and intervention quality.

Relevance

Sa'ada Governorate is among the most food-insecure areas in Yemen. During the project's implementation in 2022, 45% to 50% of the population in the five targeted districts were classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). Given Yemen's agrarian nature, the project focused on supporting the agricultural sector (smallholders, livestock), with 72% of cash grants allocated to rural farmers and livestock keepers, and 28% to IGAs. Activities were conducted based on the needs and requests of local communities and authorities, targeting various vulnerable groups (girls, boys, women, men, people with disabilities, marginalized individuals). High satisfaction was reported by HHs in the final evaluation. However, expanding the targeted villages to reach more people in need is recommended. Improvements in FCS and HDDS were evident in the final evaluation

compared to the baseline. Respondents agreed that the project objectives and design aligned with governmental policies, local traditions, and community culture.

Effectiveness

To assess the extent to which the current intervention has achieved its purpose, the following key questions and targets were evaluated against the log frame:

1. **Acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS > 42):** Achieved by more than 80% of the targeted population.
2. **Increase in Cultivation Areas:** Small farmers have expanded their cultivation areas.
3. **Improvement in Family Income:** Up to 25% of trainees receiving IGA grants and up to 23% of beneficiaries receiving livestock funds have reported increased incomes.
4. **Improvement in Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD) for Children (6-23 months):** Achieved improvements of 84% for small farmers, 68% for livestock-restocking families, and 91% for IGA families.
5. **Improvement EBF for Children (6-23 months):** Achieved improvements of 81% for small farmers, 79% for livestock-restocking families, and 93% for IGA families.
6. **Good Dietary Diversity among Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLWs):** Reached 65% for smallholders, 62% for livestock-restocking families, and 72% for IGA families.

Additionally, all activities were conducted according to the implementation plan.

6.1.1. Efficiency

The project activities were executed in a highly efficient manner. SC employed a restricted unconditional cash transfer modality to address the urgent and basic needs of the vulnerable target groups. This approach ensured that the assistance contributed to the intended objectives and enhanced the beneficiaries' resilience. The selected beneficiaries (BNFs) were actively involved in identifying their basic livelihood needs, ensuring that local markets were functional and accessible. The inputs were utilized as planned, with smallholder farmers and livestock keepers receiving three instalments, and beneficiaries of income-generating activities (IGAs) receiving two instalments (see Table 24).

Table 23: Utilization the instillments for targeted groups of smallholders, Livestock keepers and IGAs

Installments	Small holder farmers		livestock		IGAS	
	#HHs	Amount in EUR	#HHs	Amount in EUR	#HHs	Amount in EUR
First installment (	1,200	281	600	424	600	493
Second installment		526		201		129
Third installment		123		61		
	Total amount	**930**	**Total amount**	**686**	**Total amount**	**622**

6.1.2. Sustainability

The project successfully mobilized local communities, authorities, trainers, and training centres to provide training courses and awareness campaigns, ensuring the sustainability of the interventions. Additionally, the training materials used during the long-term IG training courses were handed over to the training centres for future similar activities. The project also built

the capacity of three local authority institutions and two cooperative associations within local communities to manage similar services in the future.

Accountability

Accountability questions were removed from the questionnaires by SCMCHA. As a result, we relied on indirect questions to gather information regarding accountability. Most beneficiaries (BFs) understood why they were selected as target groups for interventions. However, the complaint mechanism for BFs was not traced during this evaluation and may not have been established due to restrictions imposed by SCMCHA.

6.2. Recommendations

The following recommendations should be considered for future similar activities:

1. Share the log frame with local authorities at the project's inception and sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to establish criteria for baseline, endline, and final evaluations, along with related core questions.
2. Involve local communities and relevant offices of the Ministries in the governorate in designing the work plans.
3. Implement capacity-building programs for farmers on water productivity and management, focusing on various sources to meet water demand (surface water, groundwater, rainfall).
4. Invest in modern irrigation systems, such as localized irrigation technologies, to enhance land and water productivity.
5. Coordinate efforts among various agencies involved in agricultural development and rural infrastructure development.
6. Provide support to farmers who have lost crops and pastures due to pests and climate shocks.
7. Strengthen and ensure women's access, control, and ownership of resources such as credit, information, training, outreach, and culturally appropriate, labor-saving technology, recognizing their crucial role in agriculture and livestock production.

3.1 Lesson learned

The project has provided several valuable lessons, highlighting the need to replicate the distribution of seeds, livestock, and income-generating activities (IGA) in more areas of Sa'ada and Yemen as a whole. Additionally, the following points were learned from the project:

8. The project empowered communities to become self-reliant and improve their livelihoods through better access to food by enabling farmers, livestock keepers, and vocational trainees to use cash grants for food security, nutrition, and enhancing family income.
9. Communities are stronger when they can manage their common productive assets, such as farms and livestock.
10. New jobs were created through the acquisition of vocational knowledge and tools.
11. Awareness activities on maintaining farms, livestock, and IGAs are crucial to ensure that cash grants are utilized to their maximum value.
12. The project addressed both emergency and development needs, which are urgent in Yemen, and therefore, it should be continued and expanded.