

# Yemen Programme Summary 2011

Save the Children fights for children's rights. We deliver immediate and lasting improvements to children's lives worldwide.



**Save the Children**

## Yemen

### Introduction

Save the Children was the first international NGO to register in Yemen in 1963 and has since then had a consistent presence in the country. Initially involved mainly in health work such as vaccination campaigns and building hospitals, in the early 90's Save the Children took on emergency work in response to both the arrival of refugees from Somalia and the short Southern Secessionist war. Now, we work with in a wide range of fields, having programmes to support child rights governance, education, protection, health, nutrition and food security. Our dual mandate allows us to work with these issues both in emergency situations and with a developmental approach for more long-term impact.



*Child Protection activities in a school in Sana'a*

The country programme has seen a large growth over the last three years from a relatively small rights-based programme of around 17 staff to a large scale rights- and community-based programme of 130 staff. In budget terms Save the Children Yemen has grown from around USD one million turnover per year to USD 5.2 million in 2010 and is expected to be USD 8-10 million in 2011. In 2010, almost 190,000 persons in Yemen – of which more than 105,000 are children – benefitted directly from our programmes in Yemen. The indirect beneficiaries of our programmes were close to 700,000 persons.

Save the Children has over the years, with its core donor SIDA, advocated for the rights of the child with some success. Yemen is a signature to the Child Rights Convention of 1991, has a Children's Parliament that is supported by Save the Children since 2002 has taken many other positive steps in realizing children's rights. There is still some way to go with a number of issues including the legal age for marriage, the health situation of children, child recruitment in conflict and child trafficking. Save the Children works closely with the Government of Yemen to improve this situation.

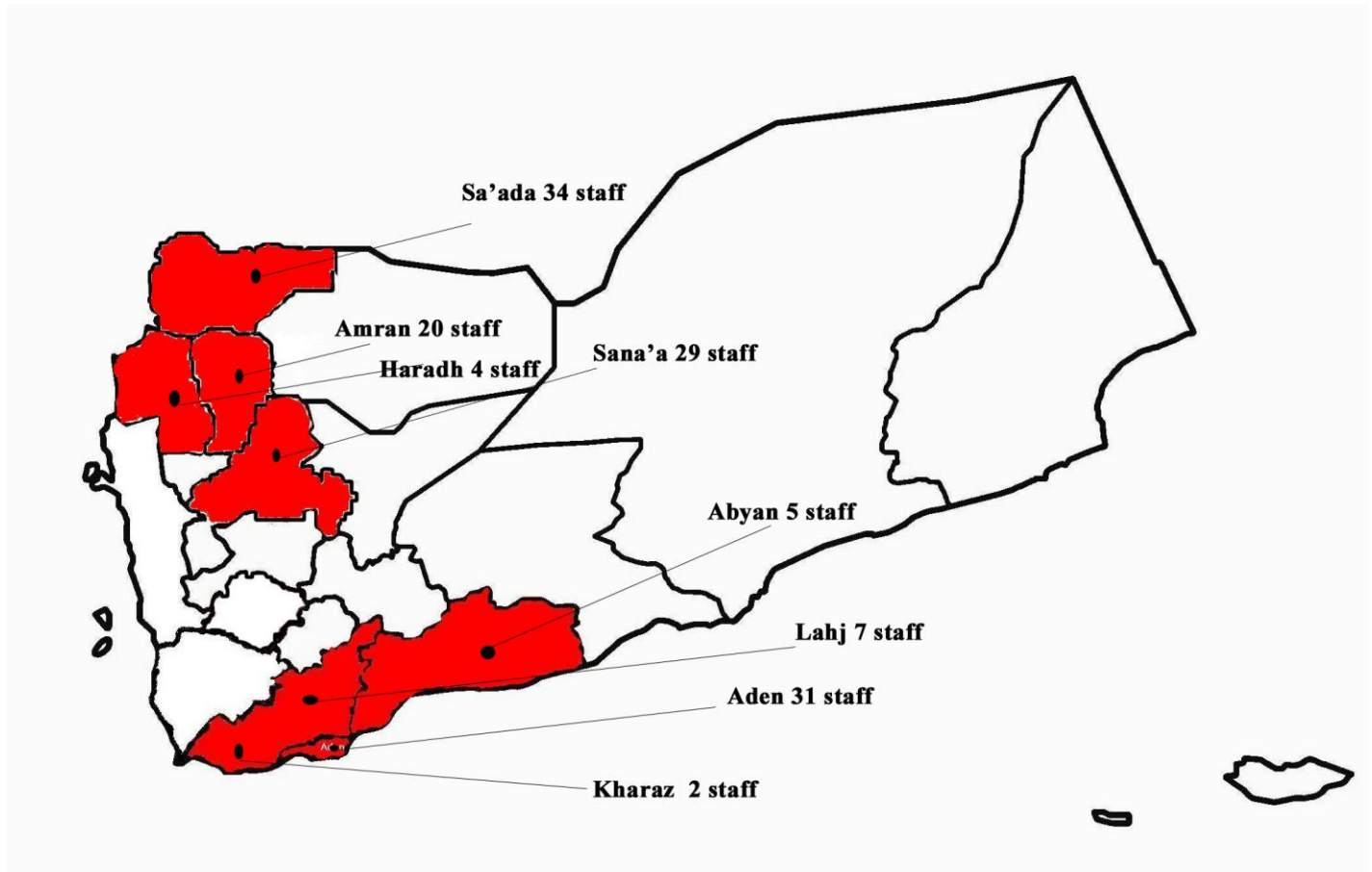
### Core Thematic Areas

Save the Children Yemen works in the following **five** key thematic areas in accordance with out 2009 – 2012 Strategic Plan:

- Child Rights and Civil Society
- Child Right to Protection
- Child Right to Education
- Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Response
- Child Survival



## Current Programme Operations



**Map highlighting the governorates in which Save the Children has programmes and staff in Yemen**

Save the Children has a variety of donors, including SIDA, Dubai Care, Ford Foundation, EU, GlaxoSmithKline, Royal Netherlands Government, UKAID, UNHCR and USAID. We implement both emergency work and development work based in three geographical concentrations:

- In the south of the country (Abyan, Aden, Lahj) our programme includes education for refugees funded by UNHCR, Inclusive Education programming with funding from Dubai Cares and an EU funded Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights project. Since June 2011 we are also responding to the recent displacement with health, protection and humanitarian assistance with support from UKAID, UNICEF, Save the Children Denmark, WFP and IOM. The southern programmes and operations are managed by an Impact Area Manager.
- The country office is located in Sana'a and has some programme activities. This includes refugee protection and education funded by UNHCR and our SIDA funded core programmes with partners working on child rights, education and protection.
- In the north (Sa'ada, Hajja and Amran) we have emergency programming in response to the 2004 - 2010 conflict that displaced over 370,000 people. This is lead by an Impact Area Manager. Our programmes include Child Protection, Emergency Education, Health and Nutrition and Food Security funded by GSK, SIDA, UKAID, UN-OCHA, USAID/FFP and WFP.

We work closely with the relevant government ministries in the areas of education, health, social affairs, and planning, both at a central government and governorate level. The excellent support we get from the ministries enables our work.

## Our working methods

Save the Children follows four working methods to achieve sustainable improvements in children's lives and encourage societies to respect, protect and realize children's rights:

- **Research and analysis:** Save the Children work is based on active monitoring and analysis of developments, in addition to current research on practical experience.
- **Direct support:** Save the Children implements projects for children at risk in order to increase awareness and knowledge of certain issues, or in connection with disasters
- **Knowledge dissemination and capacity-building:** Save the Children supports key players through capacity building in areas related to children's rights, development, legislation, policy, methods and approaches to work.
- **Advocacy and awareness raising:** Save the Children's role is to influence attitudes and perceptions in society in addition to economic and political decisions as regards children's rights.

## Save the Children's theory of change

Save the Children's over-arching governing documents, primarily the Compass, provide a basis for describing Save the Children's theory of change of occurrences:

Save the Children contributes financial resources and competence so that ...	... local civil society, other actors and children themselves are empowered and strengthened in their ability to ...	... influence public opinion, policy and laws; contribute in developing knowledge and influencing attitudes that will lead to change in behaviour and eventually full respect for children's rights that ...	... leads to real, positive change in children's lives!
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Save the Children aims to ensure that child rights Civil Society Organizations effectively monitor the respect, protection and fulfillment of the rights of children in the region and hold governments accountable for realizing the rights of children. We work through national partners to achieve this.

Save the Children has been supporting the Children's Parliament over the years through capacity building activities and nation-wide awareness raising campaigns. The Children's Parliament is the national venue for children to raise their views on issues that are important to children and one of the few opportunities for children's voices to be heard. Through this, we strengthen children's capacity to effectively advocate for their rights with a focus on child participation, which is one of the basic principles of United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Children (UNCRC).

### Child participation through Animate It

Save the Children believes in children's right to participation. Every child has the right to participate in a meaningful way in decisions that affect their lives. Children participate by having opportunities to have their voices heard.

Save the Children continuously seeks adapted methods and techniques to empower children and make their voices heard. "Animate it" is a technique focused on children who tell stories about their lives and learn to understand their rights. Using simple tools of animation it is possible for children to create animation films on their own to be used as an educational tool but also as a tool to advocate for issues and concern. To see some short animations made by children, visit <http://www.youtube.com/user/SavethechildrenY#p/u>





## Child Right to Protection

Children in Yemen face many protection issues at home, in the communities, and even in school. Early marriage, in particular of girl children, is widespread, and child labour is common in the country, where there is also a large amount of children living in the streets in the big cities. Physical and humiliating punishments are common both at home and in school.

Our main protection activities are part of our emergency responses – we have volunteers working with children to provide psychosocial support to children who fled because of armed conflict both in the north and the

south of Yemen. Save the Children is working closely with the Government of Yemen and other stakeholders to set up responsive national child protection networks. In Sana'a, we run two drop-in centres where refugee children can meet and participate in activities together with their Yemeni peers, and through which we can provide additional support to children identified as particularly vulnerable. The Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights programme that is part of a regional initiative and implemented in Lahj governorate in the south of Yemen is also part of our efforts to ensure child protection.

The overall goal of our child protection work is to ensure that all children in Yemen have the right to protection through formal and non-formal networks. Children affected by armed conflict are particularly vulnerable, which is why we focus our protection initiatives on areas where there are large displaced populations.

### Raufa'a Qanam, advocates for Adolescents Rights to Reproductive Health in her neighborhood

Since she participated in the base line survey of the “Adolescents Rights to Reproductive Health” project, she decided to play a role in raising awareness of her community in the right of every child and adolescent to know about the reproductive health and the sensitive issues related to Adolescents. Raufa'a Qanam, 14 years old from Al-Basateen district in Aden governorate.



## Child Right to Education

Despite recent gains in enrolment, school statistics in Yemen remain among the lowest in the Arab world, especially for girls and particularly in rural areas. In Yemen, a key factor affecting the risk of being poor is the lack of education. About 87 per cent of the poor did not complete primary education, or are illiterate.

The overall goal for the Save the Children education programmes is that all children have access to quality education in schools or in non-formal settings. To achieve this Save the Children Yemen carry out immediate and long term support to children's education in both development and emergency situations.

**Our focus:** Basic, inclusive education. To prepare children for school, to ensure that they enroll and stay in school, and to prepare the school for the children. Save the Children supports the Ministry of Education to develop a model for Inclusive Education, and build capacity of teachers to ensure they have knowledge and skills required to use active learning methods and use alternatives to physical and humiliating punishment. We work with children, parents, teachers and communities to engage in the right to quality education for all children, and advocate for policy change.

### We have a number of education projects funded by different agencies:

- Inclusive education (through our strategic partners YLDF) - SIDA
- Education for Refugee Children (Kharaz camp) – UNHCR
- Higher education – a scholarship programme for young refugees – UNHCR
- Inclusive education with a focus on girls' education in the south of Yemen – Dubai Cares Foundation.
- Education in emergency for children affected by the Sa'ada conflict – DFID/ UKAID



The Abase School for boys in Aden is one of the Save the Children target schools for the Inclusive Education project in three southern governorates of Yemen. The project is funded by Dubai Cares Foundation and aims at increasing access and quality of schooling for Yemeni children in 35 schools in Aden, Abyan and Lahj.

### Mutaiz gets better access to school

It used to be an everyday view to see students carry Mutaiz in his wheelchair to the second floor of the school. Now, Mutaiz' school is included in Save the Children's project funded by Dubai Cares, and one of the activities is construction of ramps and resource rooms to make it easier for students with disabilities to fulfill their dreams for future.

Save the Children's education team has also encouraged the school management to change the classroom location of Mutaiz to the first floor. Mutaiz' school is far from home and it's hard for him to reach school but this does not stop him: "I believe I will overcome these difficulties, and after school I want to continue my studies and become a doctor" he says.



## Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Response



Save the Children has an international mandate to respond to emergency situations and a core of trained national staff ready to respond to emergencies in Yemen. Several new emergency programmes have kicked off recently in response to the increased violent conflict in the south of Yemen, and to protect children from violence related to the civil unrest that have marred the country during the first half of 2011. In the south, we focus on protection of children that have fled from

the governorate of Abyan, where heavy fighting have been going on since late May. Save the Children is also providing humanitarian assistance such as non-food items and drinking water to displaced families, and we have recently launched a new health programme to assist those that have fled from the fighting and those affected by the civil unrest. Save the Children has also taken lead on inter-agency advocacy efforts to ensure that children's right to education and protection from violence is guaranteed also in times of unrest.

During the sixth war in Sa'ada in 2009, Save the Children was the first International NGO operational in Amran and Haradh and one of only two INGOs that was able to maintain operations in Sa'ada city during the war. We are responding to the Sa'ada emergency with Child Protection, Emergency Education, Health and Nutrition and since May 2011 also Food for Peace programming. The emerging civil unrest in Yemen during the spring and summer of 2011 has perhaps taken focus away from the conflict in the North, but the humanitarian situation none the less needs the attention of the international community as the government lacks capacity to fulfill the rights of the affected population.



### Taif, 13, arranges play sessions for neighborhood children

Taif Mohammed Saeed, a thirteen-year-old girl, lives with her parents in Al-Hawta district in Lahj governorate. For more than two weeks, she has been using her bedroom as a playground for more than 30 girls in her neighborhood. Every day at 5pm, she welcomes them to take part in activities in her house. "We cannot play in the street because it is very narrow. Especially these days it is also not safe, so I decided to call all girls to my house. It is very small but we feel safer", Taif explained. Because of the civil unrest in Yemen, Save the Children is implementing recreational activities in communities to alleviate children's distress. "It was supposed to be a 1-1.5 hour session every day but because the girls like the activities, we spend more than four hours every day playing and singing. We have lots of fun together until night." Taif said. "I plan to continue the activities during the summer holiday until school starts again because I want to make my friends happy."



## Every One campaign – Child Right to Survival

Every child has the right to survive and thrive. The under-5 child mortality rate in Yemen is 73 children per 1000 live births, which is symptomatic of the humanitarian and developmental problems facing children in the country. Rates of severe and moderate acute malnourishment are high across the country, and children affected by conflict have increased vulnerability to negative impacts.

Save the Children's global **Every One** campaign is boosting the international community's effort to save the lives of millions of children that die from basic illnesses every year. The Yemen country programme has developed a strategy for Child Survival, working with authorities and local communities to improve health and nutrition across the area where we work.

Most of our health and nutrition work is based around our emergency interventions. In 2011 we plan to expand these activities across the country into more development programmes and to raise the profile of the issue through advocacy. GlaxoSmithKline, a pharmaceutical company, is supporting Save the Children financially for initiating our health and nutrition project in Lahj and Amran governorates.



*Save the Children's launch of Everyone campaign in Yemen*

### Reem Najah gained normal weight after joining the nutrition program

Reem Najah, an eight-months-old baby girl, suffered from acute malnutrition after she fled with her family from Razah district to Sada'a city due to the conflict in the north of Yemen. Reem was diagnosed with acute malnutrition and she joined Save the Children's nutrition program which treats children under five. Save the Children operates in 26 clinics in Amran and Sa'ada governorates in the north of Yemen. The project aims to reduce morbidity and mortality among children under five and pregnant and lactating women among the conflict-affected populations. The estimated beneficiary number of our OFDA funded health and nutrition programme is 54,600, including 25,200 displaced persons.



*Reem used to visit the Mobile Health Clinic with her mother in the Jabana camp. Now she feels much better and she has a normal weight.*

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