

RESULTS SUMMARY

Fostering Social Cohesion in Yemen Through the HDP Nexus

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|---------|-----------------|---|
| PROJECT | <i>Title:</i> | Enhanced Life Conditions (ELC) for the most vulnerable communities in Basateen area of Aden governorate |
| | <i>Partner:</i> | ADRA Yemen |
| | <i>Country:</i> | Yemen |
| | <i>Period:</i> | January 2022 - ongoing |

CHANGE


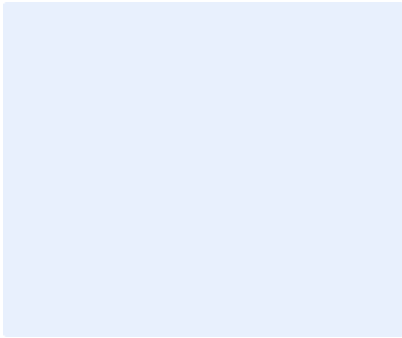
ADRA and local communities in Basateen near Aden in Yemen, experience enhanced social cohesion between ethnic and religious groups across IDPs, refugees, migrants and host-communities residing in the targeted areas, due to the integrated Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus approach applied by ADRA. The focus on igniting positive interaction between the groups across all activities, including sharing responsibilities for waste management, inter-religious dialogue, community-led advocacy campaigns and joint business development between IDPs, refugees and host-communities, have built trust and fostered social cohesion in an otherwise highly complex crisis context.

CONTEXT

After eight years of conflict, the population of Yemen continues to suffer from the devastating consequences of armed conflict, economic crisis, and hunger. With climate change aggravating existing challenges and vulnerabilities, 21.6 million people remain in need of humanitarian assistance. On top of this, Yemen sees an influx of refugees, migrants and IDPs seeking refuge in slum-like areas. Competition over scarce resources and prejudice between different ethnic and religious groups create harmful and discriminatory practices as well as exacerbate inter-communal tensions. This aggravates the existing risks, while further complicating processes of change.

CONTRIBUTION

ADRA addresses immediate needs and protection issues, while also seeking to improve the livelihood and social cohesion among IDPs, refugees, migrants and host communities. This approach has included various integrated interventions, including Cash for Work (CfW), waste management, hygiene and protection awareness raising, referrals activities, community-led events and campaigns as well as livelihood activities through support to small-scale entrepreneurship. As a cross-cutting component, ADRA integrates social cohesion activities that builds trust and brings competing groups together in mutual care for the wider community.

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|--------|---|--|
| IMAGES |  |  |
| | Photo: ADRA-archive | Insert photo credit |

See next page for more details →

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

To respond to the local complexities that crisis-affected communities are facing in Yemen, operating across the HDP nexus is a necessity. Hence, ADRA provides lifesaving assistance and protection, while creating pathways towards more sustainable sources of livelihood and enhanced social cohesion. For each component in the intervention, various initiatives aiming at fostering social cohesion are actively integrated into the activities. Firstly, as lifesaving intervention, ADRA conducts CfW through which IDPs, refugees, migrants and host-communities are undertaking waste management alongside each other. As a result, a sense of shared responsibility and mutual care for the wider community is reported to emerge from this collaboration. Secondly, protection activities, social events and inter-religious dialogue are organised between the groups. The communities are also encouraged to propose and lead events that bring communities together and promotes protection. Finally, in 2022 ADRA piloted an new eligibility criterion for receiving livelihood grants: to be considered for a grant, a business should be run by people from at least two different social groups. The process of collectively developing a business proposal and plan is reported to build trust, positive interaction and cooperation between the engaged individuals.

LESSONS

Working across the HDP nexus has been beneficial to the project and thus, ADRA will continue to develop the approach based on the lessons learned from 2022. ADRA found indications that there is momentum to strengthen developmental activities, while the success of engaging crisis-affected people through local community structures reveals a potential to enable and support transformative and empowering processes through community-led action. The piloted eligibility criteria requiring IDPs, refugees, migrants, and host-community members to work together in small business development showed to foster social cohesion among the competing community groups. ADRA found that the inclusivity, close mentoring as well as the facilitation of dialogue, conflict prevention and resolution before, during and after the activities, was key to the success of the approach. As tensions and marginalising dynamics between the various community-groups are easily spurred, ADRA consider this finding highly valuable. Thus, ADRA will continue to observe, explore, and integrate HDP modalities with the potential to foster social cohesion, peaceful co-existence and local leadership, as well as to developing frameworks that can capture the outcomes emerging from working across the HDP nexus.

EVIDENCE

The HDP nexus approach applied by ADRA Yemen in Basateen led to enhanced social cohesion in the targeted communities, because activities with a specific focus on building trust, igniting positive interaction, communication and cooperation across communities and differences, was actively integrated into more traditional humanitarian and developmental interventions. Hence, the approach enabled a platform from which mutual care, solidarity and a sense of shared responsibility can unfold. These processes of change have been noted through project monitoring e.g. observation as well as through qualitative interviews and feedback from community-members participating in the activities.

DOMAINS

| <i>Development strategy priorities:</i> | <i>Insert strategy priority</i> |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <i>Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i> | x |
| <i>Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights</i> | - |
| <i>Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights</i> | - |
| <i>Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights</i> | - |
| <i>Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i> | x |
| <i>Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work</i> | x |