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Youth Leadership Development Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT

2017



Youth Leadership Development Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

CONTENT

1.	INTRODUCTION	8
2.	2017 AT GLANCE	12
3.	YLDF DEVELOPMENT AND EMERGENCY PROJECTS DURING 2017	15
	TADHAFUR	16
	YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM	18
	WOMEN IN POLITICS	20
	STEP OF PEACE	22
	A WAY FORWARD	24
	WOMEN LEADERSHIP FOR PEACE IN YEMEN	26
	EMERGENCY LIFE-SAVING FOOD ASSISTANCE	28
	VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM	30
	OUR PARTNERS	33
4.	STORIES OF INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN	35
	MYSAM TAHA	36
	MS. ASMA MOHAMMED	38
	AWARENESS & LET'S SHARE INITIATIVES	40

LIST OF ABBREVIATION

AWAM	Awam Foundation for Cultural Development
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CSC	Community Score Card
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
ELSFA	Emergency Life-Saving Food Assistance
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, GmbH (German: German Society for International Cooperation, Ltd.)
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (United Nations)
OXFM	Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNSCR 1325	United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325
YLP	Youth Leadership Program
YLDF	Youth Leadership Development Foundation

ABOUT

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION**



Youth Leadership Development Foundation (YLDF) is a non-governmental non-profit organization, located in Sana'a capital city of Yemen. YLDF was founded to support youth in voicing their opinions and needs, and participating in Yemen's development, especially underprivileged and female youth. Youth represents a wide base in the demographic pyramid of Yemen, yet they play a small role in decision making processes and have a minor contribution to the economy.

YLDF strategy aims to achieve the following strategic objectives:

1. Enhancing access to gain primary, secondary and higher education qualifications, skills and experiences, facilitating livelihood opportunities, empowerment, and inclusion.
2. Enhancing access to gain a livelihood and be able to earn enough income to lead dignified lives and contribute economically to their families and communities.
3. Enhancing Youth leadership roles and responsibilities in the national and local communities.
4. Empower CSOs organization and youth initiatives to play a leadership role in their communities.

However, due to the different type of conflict that Yemen is facing since long time ago especially the crisis that is happening since March 2015, which result to about 85% of Yemeni population become in need for a type of humanitarian assistant. YLDF decided to respond to the need of the population in such humanitarian crises. YLDF hopes to contribute to alleviating the burden on the poorer people in one of the poorest countries in the world through different approaches and strategies. Since, most vulnerability is among children and women who suffer the most due to the consequences of war. YLDF had developed its emergency strategy with focusing only on three themes on Emergency Life-Saving Food Assistance and Protection with more focus on Child Protection and GBV.



YLDF VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

Our vision is a “Yemen in which skilled, well qualified and active young women and men play leadership roles in all domains of society and enable Yemenis to contribute to a better world”.

Our mission is “to increase male and female youth participation in development of their communities through high standards of quality education and participatory and action oriented training and youth NGOs and initiatives capacity building overall Yemeni governorates in response to development and labor market needs”.

YLDF works in light of the following values:

- » Quality Assurance
- » Non- Discrimination
- » Gender Equity
- » Respect of Human Rights
- » Fostering Creativity
- » Participation
- » Continuous Improvement
- » Volunteerism
- » Sustainability

2017 *at* GLANCE

TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES

TOTAL
64,050
MALE 26,726 **FEMALE** 37,324

CATEGORIZED BY BENEFICIARY TYPE

			TOTAL
Youth	14461	22500	36,595
Government Officials	55	60	115
Community Members	12273	14898	27,171
Political Members	229	196	425
CSOs Members	41	42	83
Trainers	7	8	15

CATEGORIZED BY ACTIVITY

			TOTAL
Trainings	353	1722	2,075
Awareness Campaigns	15198	21520	36,718
Multi Sectoral Support	2884		2,884
YLDF Internship Opportunity	10	7	17
Small Business Grants	62		62
Food Basket Distribution	11275	11373	22,648

TOTAL NUMBER OF INSTITUTION BENEFICIARIES

- 8 Youth Initiatives
- 44 Civil Society Organizations
- 7 Political Parties

TOTAL
59

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS /SESSIONS

1,520

AWARENESS SESSION

19

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

19

INTERACTIVE THEATER

11

RADIO SESSIONS

4

RADIO FLASHES

5

PUPPET THEATERS

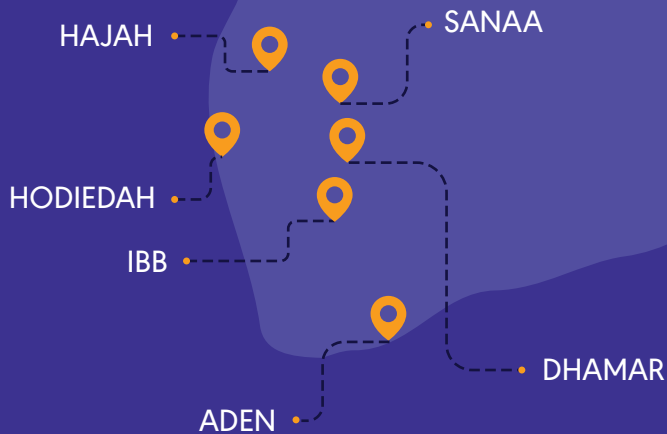
10

FILM SESSIONS

10

FILMS PRODUCED
ON ROLE OF
WOMEN IN PEACE

GOVERNORATES



36
DISTRICTS

THEMES

PEACE BUILDING

HUMAN RIGHTS

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

GENDER EQUALITY

EDUCATION

TRAINING COURSES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
ENTREPRENEURSHIP SKILLS
ACADEMIC GUIDANCE
LEADERSHIP
CONFLICT SENSITIVITY
FILM PRODUCTION
UN RESOLUTIONS ON GENDER (1325+CEDAW)
WOMEN PARTICIPATION
PRESENTATION SKILLS
INTERNATIONAL COMPUTER DRIVING LICENSE
LIFE SKILLS
TRAINING OF TRAINERS
STRATEGIC PLANNING
SMALL BUSINESS
PEACE BUILDING
GOOD GOVERNANCE
GENDER EQUALITY
COMMUNITY SCORE CARD
ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING
SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY
POLITICAL SYSTEMS
GENDER SENSITIVITY
PERSONAL COMMUNICATION
SELF-EMPOWERMENT (SPRING BOARD)

YLDF

**DEVELOPMENT &
EMERGENCY PROJECTS
DURING 2017**

TADHAFUR

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

WOMEN IN POLITICS

STEP OF PEACE

A WAY FORWARD

WOMEN LEADERSHIP FOR PEACE IN YEMEN

EMERGENCY LIFE-SAVING FOOD ASSISTANCE

VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM



TADHAFUR

40,387 **TOTAL**
Number of beneficiaries

Youth

7692 MALE

16219 FEMALE

**Community
Members**

7240 MALE

9236 FEMALE

INSTITUTIONS

2 INITIATIVES

Tadhafur is a one-year project implemented in partnership with UNICEF for the period July 2016 to July 2017 . Project primarily targeted mentors and peer educators aged 18 – 25 years, but also worked with adolescents (14-18 years), parents, religious leaders and other community leaders.

Tadhafur objectives were to: 1) Strengthen the process of identification of child marriage cases, and support a multi-sectorial response 2) Increase awareness and knowledge of adolescents, young men, parents, religious and community leaders as well as communities on the adverse effects of early/child marriage and benefits of girls education, and 3) Empowering adolescents girls through capacity building and social/ economic support and access to services.

Tadhafur was implemented in partnership with YLDF local partners; Abs Development Organization and Altawasl Organization for Humanitarian Development in Hajaa and Hodiedah governorates respectively. YLDF included an on-job training component targeting its partner organizations and established mechanisms to transfer its accumulated expertise in child protection, gender based violence and peer education programming.

Project's kick-off activity was a field assessment of child marriage which took place in 30

districts in 6 governorates, Sana'a, Aden, Al-Hodidah, Ibb, Dhamar, Hajjah to inform project planning and targeting. Other activities included peer education sessions conducted by 95 well trained mentors. Sessions not only targeted youth, but also parents, community members and community leaders including religious leaders.

During the course of the project, mentors trained more than 950 adolescent girls on life skills, and held more than 1587 awareness sessions in which 36,086 community members were reached. Awareness sessions focused on benefits of keeping girls in school during adolescence, where peer educators used innovative approaches to community outreach such as puppet theaters, radio sessions, informative media flashes, and interactive theaters.

Tadhafur also supported 2,884 already married young girls through multi-sectorial response to access health, psychosocial, education and capacity building services. Activities succeeded in improving young mothers' knowledge and access to maternal and reproductive health care services. In addition, the project supported 158 married girls with small business training after which around 62 girls were granted seed funds to start their own enterprises.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

40 **TOTAL**
Number of beneficiaries

17 MALE

23 FEMALE

Youth Leadership Program continues to be the iconic program of YLDF since 2002. The one year program continued to engage fresh high school graduates in their gap¹ year in the city of Sanaa aiming at a more effective role for male and female youth in the Yemeni society.

Project's specific objectives were to: 1) Train youth on basic skills matching market needs, 2) Improve access of underprivileged youth to capacity building programs, and 3) Increase the participation of young women in labor market.

The intensive capacity building program offers five core modules namely; English Language, Computer Skills, Leadership, Research Methodology and Academic Guidance. By the end of the project, trainees would have passed English tests required for university admission successfully and acquired the International Computer Driving License. The program qualified students in research methodology, and equipped them with basic presentation skills. It also provided them with sufficient guidance on potential and relevant majors they could pursue academically.

The program offers annual full scholarships and half scholarships for youth coming from low income families.

ASMA SHUAIB TESTIMONY ON YLP

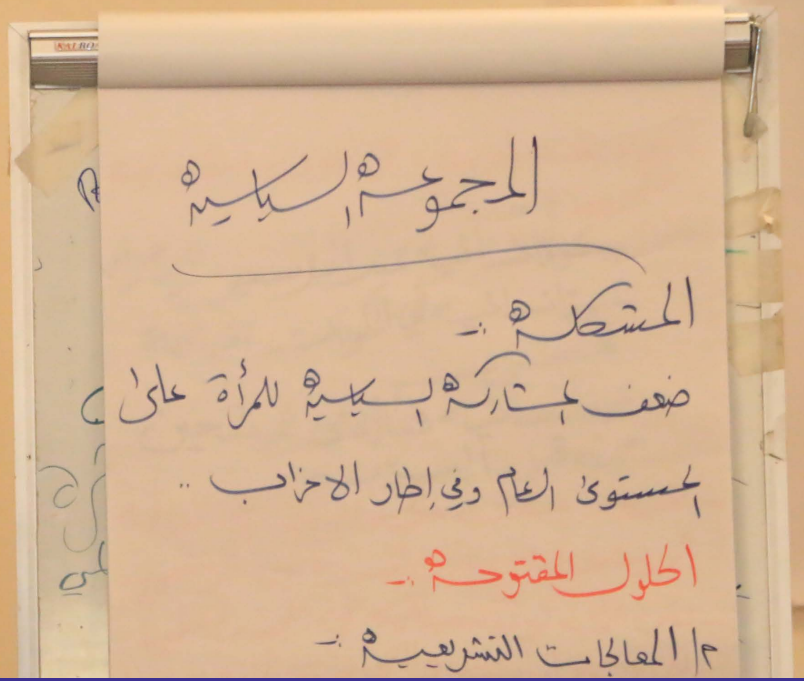
I am Asma Shuaib. I am one of four siblings. I graduated from high school feeling overwhelmed, and challenged by a new world fettered with limitations. One whole year passed while I was hopeless and clueless about what to do with my future. I learned about many institutions in the city who require high tuitions from high school graduates but delivering poor quality programs and I was discouraged to enroll until my sister joined Youth Leadership program of YLDF. I had to choose either to attend university or join YLP. I chose the latter.

I never regretted that decision.

YLP equipped me with a wide array of new skills – I learned English and earned a diplomat in computer. I also earned leadership skills, university counseling. It was exactly what I was in the lookout for!



¹ Gap year is a one year compulsory waiting year for high school before they are allowed to join public universities. Reason behind the 1 year is historical. The gap year was a substitute for the service year that used to be obligatory on fresh high school graduates. The obligatory service then stopped in mid of 90s but then university was never able to admit the graduates of 2 years in a row so the gap year continued but without any services and scarce opportunities for youth especially those have financial limitations and cant join private universities or institutions.



WOMEN IN POLITICS

425 **TOTAL**
Number of beneficiaries

**Political
Members**

229 MALE

196 FEMALE

INSTITUTIONS

7 POLITICAL PARTIES

Women in Politics project is a two-year project implemented through the time period of March 2016 - Feb 2018 in partnership with UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality. The project worked with seven political parties based in Sana'a governorate together towards strengthening Yemeni Women leaders in political engagement.

Project was launched in October with a national conference in partnership with political parties to discuss challenges and recommendations of women participation in political processes. The conference came up with priority focus areas for the project including areas for capacity building, review of party internal bylaws and regulations, awareness raising and finally establishment of networks and formation of alliances. Project targeted 31 members of political parties with training on various topics including but not limited to gender equality, political systems and advocacy. Trainings were concluded

with drafting of action plans by political party members. In addition, more than 21 awareness session were conducted targeting 382 political members and leaders promoting gender-responsive leadership.

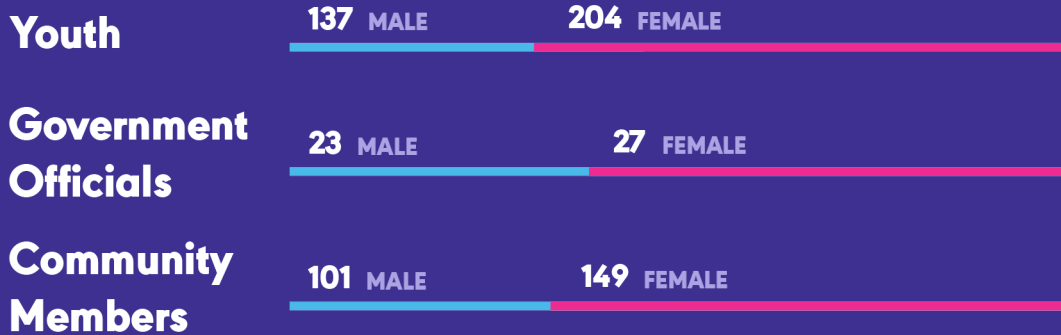
As part of project activities, participants analyzed and modified their own party bylaws from gender and legal perspectives so that these documents become more supportive of women leadership. Three out of the seven political parties adopted recommended changes to their bylaws and regulations also, Six out of seven political parties became signatories to the project recommendations document and committed themselves to change.

A network was established towards the end of the project to facilitate communication and coordination amongst political party members focusing on gender issues.



STEP OF PEACE

641 **TOTAL**
Number of beneficiaries



INSTITUTIONS

8 INITIATIVES

4 NGOS

Step of Peace is a two-year project implemented in partnership with CARE International office in Yemen during the period Jun 2016 - Dec 2018 . The main target group of the project was youth. Project also targeted CSOs, government officials and community leaders.

The overall aim of the project was to enhance Yemeni women participation in peace processes. Main activities included: 1) Capacity building of women and men towards meaningful participation of women in sustainable conflict transformation, 2) Capacity building of CSOs on ways to influence local policies and practices, promotion of gender equality and the inclusion of women in political processes, 3) Capacity building and sensitization of local decision makers for better responsiveness to women and girls' peacebuilding agenda, 4) Create a common platform for female activists that fosters exchange of knowledge and lesson learning. Step of Peace implemented in 3 districts in Sana'a governorate.

Step of Peace trained young males and females in several topics relevant to gender and conflict sensitivity, peacebuilding, and film making. Training graduates produced 10 films on how women are affected by war and what critical role women can play in peacebuilding. These films were viewed by more than 200 local communities including teachers during public viewing sessions. Step of Peace provided eight civil society initiatives with seed grants to implement projects in peace building. Trainings also provided to members of 25 Civil Society Organizations on peace building and media standards. Also, 50 government officials trained in gender, conflict sensitivity, and peacebuilding.

Step of Peace also focused on grassroots women in Sanaa who received the international course Springboard.





A WAY FORWARD

49 **TOTAL**
Number of beneficiaries

**Government
Officials**

20 MALE

5 FEMALE

**Community
Members**

12 MALE

12 FEMALE

INSTITUTIONS

8 NGOS

A Way Forward is a six months project implemented in partnership with GIZ during the period December 2017 to May 2018 . The project partnered with 24 CSO representatives and 25 local councils members in 5 districts in Sanaa.

YLDF worked on the promotion and application of the community score card (CSC) technique of social accountability. This technique was selected to increase public participation in monitoring performance of local government. CSC based activities brought community members, CSOs and local councils together to identify public service utilization and provision. The collective effort of participants

led to identification of gaps and potential ways for improvement. Project fostered a sustainable partnership to implement and track the effectiveness of solutions identified.

YLDF developed training modules in good governance, social accountability, Community Score Cards and gender mainstreaming on which CSOs and Local council members were trained. A joint action plan on monitoring pre-selected public services.

A Way Forward was implemented in 5 districts (Old city of Sana'a, Sho'ab, Al-Tahreer, Alsabaien, Bani Alharth) in Sanaa governorate.





WOMEN LEADERSHIP FOR PEACE IN YEMEN

114 **TOTAL**
Number of beneficiaries

Trainers

7 MALE

8 FEMALE

Government Officials

12 MALE

28 FEMALE

CSO Members

29 MALE

30 FEMALE

INSTITUTIONS

30 NGOS

Women Leadership for Peace is a two-year project in partnership with OXFAM, AWAM and Dutch Foreign Ministry. Project interventions were designed to ensure inclusive and gender sensitive peace building through strengthening of civil society and community initiatives.

Project had three specific objectives; 1) Engage Women meaningfully in peace building policies and processes; 2) Increase Women's CSOs formal and informal influence on the peace agenda so that voices of local women affected by conflict and fragility are amplified 3) Support stronger and wider alliances towards strong and sustainable role of women in peacebuilding.

Project included a wide range of activities including the submission of evidence based policy papers, building the capacity of CSOs and government officials, building district level platforms. During 2017, 74 members of 30 CSOs and 40 government officials were trained on CEDAW/UNSCR 1325, conflict and gender analysis, conflict management, conflict resolutions and reconciliation. Training also included modules on UN resolutions and women, peace and security.



EMERGENCY LIFE-SAVING FOOD ASSISTANCE

22648 **TOTAL**
Number of beneficiaries

Host
Communities

6343 BOYS

5860 GIRLS

4932 MEN

5513 WOMEN

ELSFA was implemented in partnership with Resilience Community Organization and funded by OCHA. The 8-month project aimed at improving access to emergency food aid in conflict affected Hamdan district of Sana'a governorate reaching the most vulnerable men, women, boys and girls. Its specific objectives is to improve availability of and access to food for the most vulnerable hosting or displaced and displaced families to sufficient food in conformance with FSAC/ Sphere international standards. The project

also aimed at strengthening capacity of local partners and targeted community male and female members in emergency preparedness and early response to humanitarian crisis. The project ensured that target community members were informed of international humanitarian principles, law and standards.

Project involved the distribution of 8,625 life-saving food baskets to 1626 households (22648 men, women and young girls and boys).





VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM

100 **TOTAL**
Number of beneficiaries

Youth

42 MALE

58 FEMALE

YLDF is proud of its growing pool of volunteers who have contributed positively to YLDF programs and outreach throughout the years. YLDF continues to support young males and females to join its mandate as volunteers and interns in order to acquire knowledge, attitudes, and skills needed to join development work and livelihood in Yemen.

During 2017, 82 volunteers (32 males and 51 females) aged between 18-30 years were trained on topics such as community participation, fundamentals of volunteerism, fundamentals of customer service, teamwork, fundamentals of human rights, fundamentals of gender, basics skills for job interviews and resume writing. YLDF selected 17 graduates (10 males and 7 females) to rotate on YLDF's units in internship to gain practical experience.

To motivate volunteers, YLDF selects volunteer of the month according to specific set of

criteria that is advertised on YLDF website. Also, volunteers attend all meetings of the YLDF, besides they monthly have their own to follow up on their progress.

This program has proven successful in up-scaling skills of female and male youth in coordinating and managing small development projects and activities. It engages them at very early stages of their professional life in non-profit organizational work. Volunteers graduate with considerable hands-on experience in coordination, project management, planning, budgeting, writing project proposals, report writing and archiving. Volunteers are given priority to attend training courses offered by YLDF. By the end of the training period volunteers receive certificates of experience required for seeking jobs, self-employment and other youth internship and apprenticeship opportunities.



OUR PARTNERS

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS



LOCAL PARTNER



Awam Foundation for Cultural Development

Resilience Community Organization



SOS Center for Youth Capacities Development



Social Development Hodeida Girls Foundation

STORIES OF INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN

MYSAM TAHA

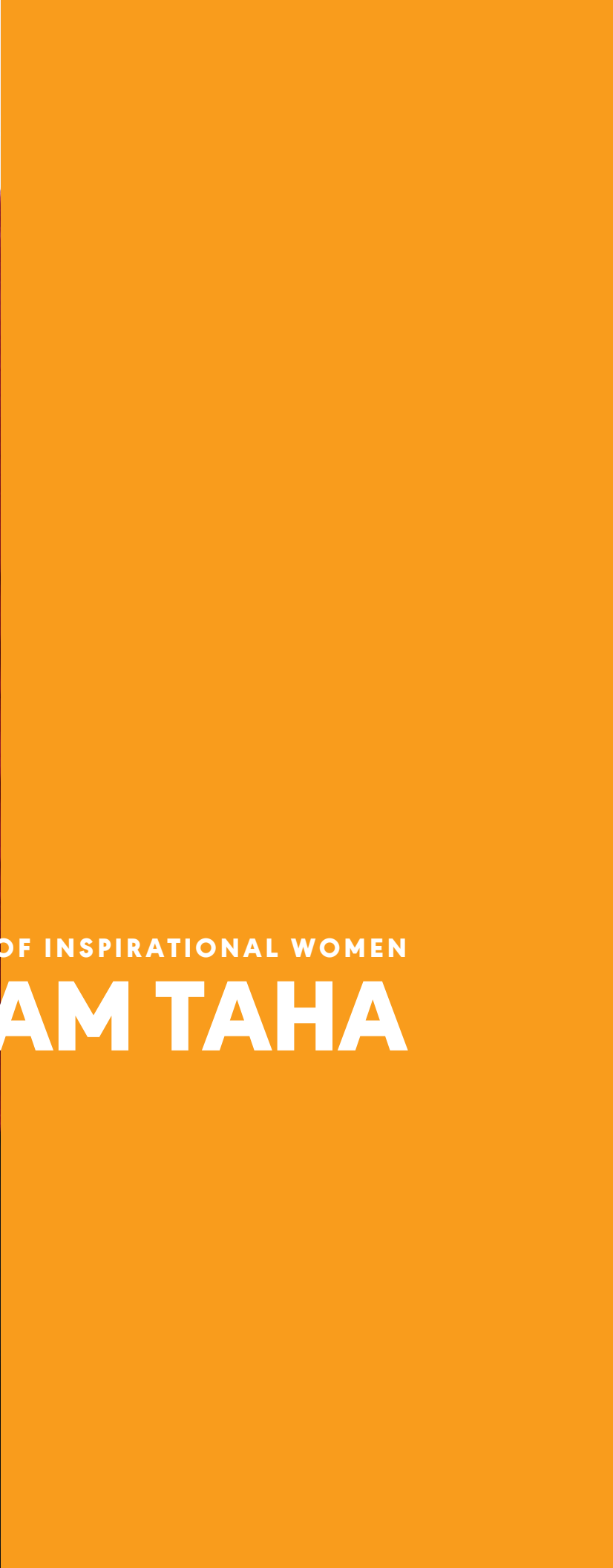
MS. ASMA MOHAMMED

AWARENESS & LET'S SHARE INITIATIVES



STORIES OF INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN

MYSAM TAHA



I am Mysam Saleem Taha. I used to live in fear and hesitation; trapped and besieged; and unable to realize my goals.

I turned 18, feeling that my days are flying but not efficiently used. Distracted with so many directions that I can follow in the horizon, I was perplexed and unsure of what I want to pursue.

My mother had previously joined the same program and I felt the great improvement in my mother's way of living and how she has become more independent, confident and even determined when she completed this program. I, therefore, decided to join the same program with so much eager to reach my mother's level of personality and way of thinking.

It was only through the Youth Leadership Program that I was able to turn from a girl that was afraid to face anything new in her life to a strong woman who is sociable and capable to learn more in life. Hesitation can never hinder us to make our dreams come true. There have to be decisions that we have to take in our life in order to succeed and fulfil a sense of satisfaction. The Youth Leadership Program was therefore my best choice to achieve what I exactly wanted and dreamed of.



STORIES OF INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN

ASMA MOHAMMED

Ms. Asma Mohammed never imagined that one day she would be an orphan, divorced and mother of a five-year-old and also responsible for the livelihood of her family also consisting of her mother and sister at the age of 19 !!

Thrown into this path of extreme hardship, Asma never gave up. She started to learn sewing and made her way up to tailoring women's clothes and selling their accessories in every gathering she could meet women. She was not happy to see that some women looking down at her as a woman selling stuff of less quality and yet she was doing her best to market her products.

On a lucky day, She got to know from her brother and neighbor that Tadhafur for Safe Age of Marriage Program was seeking young girls who were victims of early marriage or divorced at an early age. Asma hoped this opportunity will develop her sewing skills and help her learn how to use new and sophisticated sewing equipment. She

was hoping this would allow her make more attractive designs served to a wider customer base.

Ms. Asma's benefited from the program at financial, personal and social levels. She advanced from sewing mediocre women robes to sewing dresses. The number of dresses she made sometimes mounted to 30 per month?. With increased income she was able to better her life standard, for example Asma bought a solar panel that she dedicated to provide energy for sewing machine. She was also able to e sew school uniform in big quantities and also make customs and graduation gowns? Asma managed to secure a sustained income not only for herself but also for her daughter.

Ms. Asma turned into a girl full of strength, skill and capabilities who changed the course of her and her family's lives.

STORIES OF INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN

AWARENESS & LET'S SHARE INITIATIVES





Israa joined the “Step of Peace” program and came to know and grasp the concept of gender equality and gender roles and many other important concepts to her relevant to her role in community.

To implement what she learnt, Israa along with her initiative called “Awareness” based in decided to customize the direction of their initiative towards peace building . She approached YLDF to seek the support for her new project: Culture of Peace. The project consists of four activities three of which are dedicated to train youth on gender, UN Resolutions 1325 and 2250 in addition to the role the youth in building

communities of peace. The project also involved production of a short film that addresses social challenges women face.

Hanan established the “Let’s Share” initiative with colleagues from the program. She and her team produced a film which places great emphasis on community participation. Their project “Peace Feather” trained talented youth to reflect what they have learnt about peace through art.

Today, Israa and Hanan along with their teams are now active in their communities and are confidently taking theirs steps of success towards peacebuilding.

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