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Voices for Justice: Inspiring Pathways for Change

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PARTNERSYEMEN

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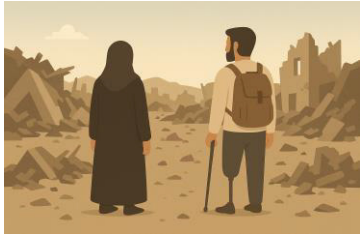
PART I. Introduction

1.1 Target Audience for the Survivor Framework



This framework is designed for advocates of survivors who wish to conduct awareness-raising and advocacy activities to support Forced Displaced People (FDPs), whether they are located in various governorates of the IRG (Internationally Recognized Government) or have migrated outside Yemen. Yemenis FDPs leave their homes to escape torture , persecution, and intimidation by controlling authorities. These authorities often target individuals or communities based on political affiliation, religious beliefs, or social identity, creating an environment of fear and insecurity. Forcibly displaced people (FDPs) are frequently compelled to leave in order to protect themselves and their families from violence, arbitrary detention, and other serious human rights abuses. This framework is intended for individuals already working to help FDPs secure their rights. These rights promoters have a foundational understanding of advocacy, including strategies, target audiences, and effective messaging. While this framework provides a brief overview of essential considerations for advocating on issues related to justice, improved survivor support, and increased recognition of survivor needs, deeper insights can be obtained by consulting additional resources that cover the fundamental principles of advocacy. Advocates who would benefit from this include local communities that assist Yemenis FDPs, as well as local and national authorities responsible for implementing relevant policies. Community leaders may also find this framework instrumental as they play a crucial role in advocating for survivors' needs within their areas. This framework also targets secondary audiences, including local and international NGOs that provide vital humanitarian assistance, as well as UN agencies and donors that offer financial and technical support to survivors.

1.2 Rationale for Developing the Survivor Framework

The survivor framework provides survivor-advocates with a tool to understand the larger survivor advocacy landscape, offering both background information and tips on implementing innovative strategies into their advocacy work. This framework has also been developed to effectively communicate the needs of survivor activists. Divided into key sections, this framework starts with an introduction and methodology to lay a foundation for comprehending the challenges faced by FDPs in Yemen. It includes definitions, community-led dialogue, and research incorporating survivor perspectives. This framework addresses current challenges faced by FDPs, the necessity for representative frameworks in FDP support mechanisms, and critical mediation issues. This framework outlines truth, justice, and accountability mechanisms, emphasizing local community actions, advocating for legal enhancements, rehabilitation programs, and urgent medical and psychological services. This framework concludes with advocacy strategy recommendations and a robust monitoring framework to ensure ongoing support and empowerment for FDPs.

The survivor framework consolidates survivors' demands for justice and accountability, both in the immediate future and in the post-conflict period, in Yemen. This framework outlines an approach to survivor engagement, utilizing participatory action research, facilitated community dialogues, and the support of an Accompaniment Committee of Yemeni experts.

1.3 Strengths and Opportunities for Further Developmen

The strength of this framework lies in its survivor-centered approach, prioritizing the needs and perspectives of survivors through their active participation in the development and implementation of this framework. this framework employs a participatory methodology that involves survivors at every stage, utilizing initiatives such as community dialogues and inclusive research to gather relevant data and insights directly from those affected. The comprehensive approach of this framework is catered to address survivors' needs, including justice, accountability, and healing, while fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders such as local authorities, civil society, and community members. Moreover, this framework ensures long-term sustainability by building on existing initiatives and partnerships, incorporating trauma-informed practices to acknowledge and support survivors' experiences, and emphasizes accountability by holding perpetrators responsible for their actions—essential for achieving justice and reparations following major regional conflicts.

Opportunities for further development have been identified in the Action Plan, the inclusion of a Monitoring and Evaluation plan (M&E), and enhancements within the development of a theory of change. These 3 tools Support in improving the practicality of this framework itself.

Lessons learned from the implementation of such tools include the following:

1. Expanding stakeholder inclusion to incorporate a wider range of participants, such as international organizations and donors, would enhance collaboration and resource sharing. This would also support survivors who encounter barriers to essential services, including healthcare, legal aid, and psychological support, which need to be addressed.

2. Augment advocacy efforts within local educational outlets to effectively enhance survivors awareness of individual rights and available resources.

1.4 Key Components of This Framework

This framework highlights five key areas for addressing truth, justice, and accountability:

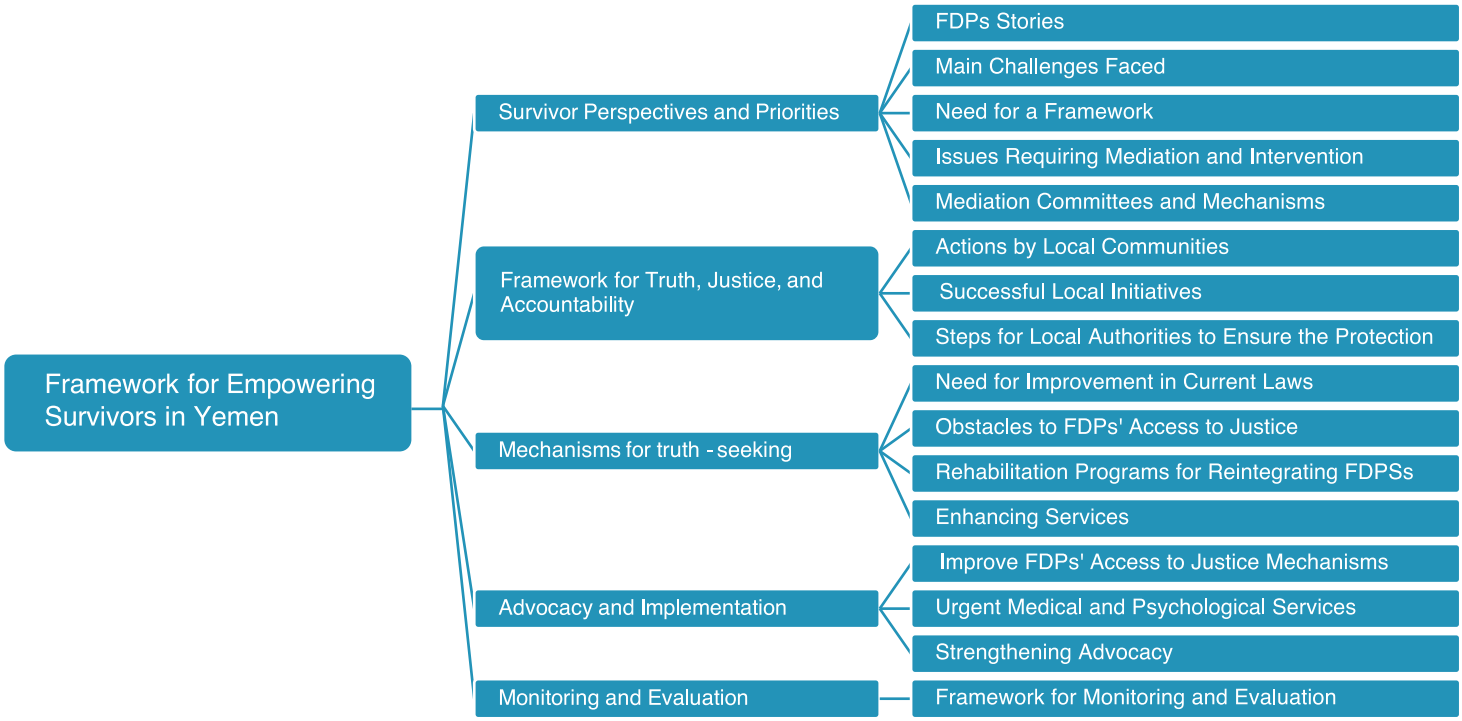
Survivor Perspectives and Priorities: Documenting human rights violations and ensuring that survivors have access to information about their rights and available legal processes.

Framework for Truth, Justice, and Accountability: Advocating for fair trials, reparations, and other forms of redress for survivors.

Mechanism for truth-seeking: Holding perpetrators accountable through various measures.
Advocacy and Implementation: Providing survivors with mental health services, psychosocial support, and economic opportunities.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Analysis of findings discovered throughout implementation and the integration of lessons learned within future projects

The below figure illustrates the five key areas discussed above in addition to more specific implementation practices..



Research Study

A study[1] (details below) was conducted as background for this framework. The study engaged relevant Yemeni stakeholders in the co-creation of this the survivor-centered framework for as well as build both awareness of and support for this framework among local and international stakeholders. The research centers on survivors' experiences, non-identifiable demographic information, violations experienced, perpetrators, timeline, as well as priorities for justice, accountability, reparations, reform, truth, memory, and inclusion.

A mixed-method research approach was utilized in the study, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative analyses, including document reviews, individual interviews, and focus group discussions (FGDs),as shown in the table below.

Governorate	District	Female Individual interviews	Male Individual interviews	FGDs
Abyan	Khanfar	7	7	1 (Males 10 participants)
	Zinjubar	7	7	1(females from 10 participants)
Taiz	Salah	7	7	1 (Males 8 participants)
	Sabr Al- Mawadim	7	6	1 (females from 8 participants)
Total		**28**	**27**	**4 FGDs (36 participants)**

Survivors' inputs were collected through surveys,using tablets and the Kobo Toolbox electronic data platform, ensuring data security through access controls and remote server storage. Quality control features such as field restrictions and automated skip patterns were also implemented.

The research was conducted as part of the Survivor-led Accountability in Yemen project (Sharaka) and aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the experiences, priorities, and perspectives of survivors. It was conducted in Khanfar and Zinjubar districts in Abyan Governorate, as well as Salah and Saber Al-Mawadem districts in Taiz Governorate.

Key Findings:

- **Violations Experienced:** Almost half of survivors who participated in the research study reported experiencing a range of violations, including forced displacement, physical damage to homes, injuries, loss of life, and destruction of livelihoods. These experiences resulted in significant emotional and psychological distress.

- **Perpetrators:** The majority of respondents identified armed clashes between Yemeni Government Forces and Al-Qaida militia as the main cause of violations in Khanfar and Zinjubar districts. In Salah and Saber Al-Mawadem districts, the war between Sana'a-based authorities (SBA) and forces of the IRG with support from the Saudi-based coalition was identified as the primary cause.

[1] Participatory research - the first activity within the project

- **Support Services and Areas for Improvement:**
  The majority of respondents identified armed clashes between Yemeni Government Forces and Al-Qaida militia as the main cause of violations in Khanfar and Zinjubar districts. In Salah and Saber Al-Mawadem districts, the war between Sana'a-based authorities (SBA) and forces of the IRG with support from the Saudi-based coalition was identified as the primary cause.

- **Survivors' Priorities and Mechanisms for Justice:**
  Survivors identified rehabilitation and support services, including mental health care and livelihood assistance, as their top priorities for achieving justice. They also emphasized the importance of access to legal aid. When considering mechanisms to realize these priorities, survivors viewed reparations programs as the most effective means, alongside truth commissions and community-based reconciliation processes. Together, these mechanisms were seen as essential pathways to address harm, restore dignity, and promote long-term healing.

- The majority of survivors identified reparations programs as the most effective mechanism for achieving justice. Truth commissions and community-based reconciliation processes were also considered effective mechanisms.

- **Accountability:** The majority participants emphasized the importance of holding those responsible for violations accountable.

- **Reparations:** Survivors identified meaningful forms of reparations, including financial compensation, psychosocial support services, access to healthcare, community development projects, repairing damaged homes, providing employment opportunities, ensuring safety and security, meeting basic needs, rehabilitation and empowerment programs, and psychological and social support.

- **Reform:** Survivors identified improving access to justice, increasing community awareness about rights and violations, and encouraging active citizen participation as essential reforms to prevent future violations.

- **Truth and Memory:** Survivors emphasized the importance of acknowledging and documenting the truth about violations, with a focus on providing psychological support during truth-seeking processes, involving civil society organizations, and establishing a national archive or documentation center.

- **Inclusion:** Survivors expressed dissatisfaction with their representation and inclusion in processes related to justice and recovery.

The research concludes with several recommendations to improve the situation of survivors. For the government, it is important to implement support programs, prioritize reparations, ensure accountability, and support truth-seeking initiatives. International non-governmental organizations (INGOs) should provide holistic support to survivors, coordinate with local authorities to address specific needs, and adopt a comprehensive approach that considers both immediate requirements and long-term accountability measures.

Local authorities are urged to offer thorough support, implement measures that address specific survivor needs, and prioritize actions that integrate and empower survivors within their communities. Lastly, political settlements should establish inclusive mechanisms to empower survivors, ensuring their meaningful participation in decision-making processes while also addressing the current lack of representation and inclusion.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice in Yemen is necessary to address the widespread human rights violations resulting from the ongoing conflict[2].

1. National Commission to Investigate Alleged Violations of Human Rights (NCIAVHR)

- Established in 2012, the NCIAVHR is the primary accountability mechanism in Yemen. It is tasked with investigating violations of human rights and international humanitarian law since 2011.
- The commission has documented over 23,000 human rights abuses and referred more than 2,000 cases to the Public Prosecutor for further investigation, although no verdicts have been issued to date[3].

2. Specialized Courts

- In July 2017, the NCIAVHR recommended the establishment of specialized courts and a prosecutor's office to handle cases of human rights violations. This initiative aims to create a judicial framework capable of addressing the complexities of these cases effectively.

3. Truth-Seeking Initiatives

- There have been discussions about establishing truth commissions to uncover the facts surrounding human rights violations and promote reconciliation among affected communities. Such initiatives are essential for acknowledging victims' suffering and fostering a culture of accountability[4].

4. International Support

- Local and international civil society organizations continue to advocate for transitional justice measures, emphasizing the need for comprehensive approaches that include both judicial and non-judicial mechanisms. This includes calls for reparations for victims and institutional reforms to rebuild trust in the judiciary.

5. Capacity Building and Workshops

- Organizations like the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) have conducted workshops to enhance the capacity of the NCIAVHR and other stakeholders in understanding and implementing transitional justice principles. These workshops focus on special jurisdictions and the necessary procedures for prosecuting human rights violations in accordance with international norms.

While transitional justice mechanisms in Yemen face significant challenges due to the ongoing conflict and a weakened judicial system, initiatives like the NCIAVHR and the push for specialized courts represent important steps toward accountability and reconciliation.

[2] Yemen I International Center for Transitional Justice
[3] Accountability in Yemen Requires a Comprehensive Transitional Justice Process I International Center for Transitional Justice
[4] The Role of the Judiciary in Achieving Transitional Justice and Reconciliation in Yemen - Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies

1.5 Methodology

This framework for empowering survivors in Yemen employs a multi-pronged approach, engaging with government officials, policymakers, civil society, and the international community to promote its implementation. This strategy leverages participatory action research conducted by the MEAL Center, involving survivors, researchers, and community members in all stages of the process. Facilitated community dialogues in Taiz and Abyan gathered input from survivors on their needs and priorities, while an Accompaniment Committee of Yemeni experts provides guidance and support throughout the development and implementation of this framework.

This framework emphasizes the importance of community dialogues as a key component for empowering survivors. These dialogues, organized in safe and inclusive spaces, provide a platform for survivors to share their stories, perspectives, and needs. By inviting relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, local authorities, and religious/tribal leaders, the dialogues foster open discussions on justice, accountability, and survivor needs, capturing key outcomes and recommendations to inform the implementation of this framework.

The workshops employed under this framework, utilized a participatory methodology to actively engage participants in the development of this framework. This included presentations by experts and stakeholders on relevant topics, panel discussions with policymakers and experts to explore challenges and solutions, group work sessions to analyze strategic options and develop action plans, and individual voting to prioritize the top three options for addressing the needs of FDPs. This participatory approach ensured that this framework was informed by the collective knowledge, perspectives, and priorities of the participants.

To gather participant input on a range of strategies, the workshop employed a multi-colored card system. Participants were presented with strategies and asked to indicate their preferences using gold, silver, and bronze cards corresponding to the discussed options. A diamond card represented issues not yet addressed, allowing for the identification of emerging themes. This structured yet flexible approach ensured that a diverse range of perspectives and preferences were captured, fostering a dynamic and inclusive discussion.

Thus this framework prioritizes a robust monitoring approach to ensure its effectiveness and responsiveness. This includes establishing clear timelines and responsibilities for implementation, developing a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan to track progress and impact, and regularly reviewing and updating this framework based on feedback from survivors, the Accompaniment Committee, and other stakeholders. This iterative approach ensured that this framework remained relevant, adaptable, and accountable to the needs of survivors.

1.6 Survivor Framework Workshops

To support this framework, a series of community dialogues were conducted with the primary objective of facilitating a formal and inclusive consultative process that engaged relevant stakeholders, including forcibly displaced individuals (FDPs). These dialogues aimed to develop participatory empowerment policies and programs that would address the specific needs and challenges faced by FDPs while mitigating their associated health, psychological, and social impacts. Participants were equipped with knowledge about survivors and FDPs, explored strategic options and interventions to meet their needs, and received guidance in selecting prioritized strategies for a comprehensive framework.

The dialogues also provided a platform for FDPs to engage with policymakers, raised awareness of the challenges faced by FDPs, and facilitated communication among FDPs, policymakers, and local organizations. This collaborative effort contributed to the development of effective participatory empowerment policies and programs. As a result, the survivor framework consolidated survivors' demands for justice and accountability, both in the immediate future and during the post-conflict period in Yemen.

Community dialogues in Taiz and Abyan

Community dialogues in Taiz and Abyan were conducted. The workshops were held in the districts of Khanfar and Zunjbar in Abyan Governorate, as well as in the districts of Salah and Sabr Al-Mawādam in Taiz Governorate.

In Taiz, the **Yemen Without Conflict** Foundation conducted a workshop in collaboration with Partners Yemen from June 4-11, 2024, in Taiz Governorate. A MEAL Center team member conducted key informant interviews with 10 participants, including representatives from the governorate, security, judiciary, FDPs, local initiatives, and civil society. The interviews captured the stories, challenges, and pressing issues faced by FDPs, along with existing mediation mechanisms and the need for a representative framework. The insights gathered provide a holistic understanding of the experiences, needs, and potential solutions related to supporting forced displacement survivors in Yemen.

In Abyan, Masnad for Training and Consultancy conducted a workshop in collaboration with Yemen from July 9 to July 14, 2024, in Abyan Governorate. A MEAL Center team member conducted key informant interviews with 11 participants, including representatives from the local authority, government entities, survivors, community activists, civil society, and the mediation committee. The interviews captured the stories, challenges, and pressing issues faced by forced displacement survivors, alongside existing mediation mechanisms and the need for a representative framework. They also explored ways to unite the voices of survivors, the role of local communities and authorities in supporting and protecting them, ensuring access to justice, and the contribution of organizations in providing specialized services, advocacy, and rehabilitation programs. The insights gathered provide a holistic understanding of the experiences, needs, and potential solutions related to supporting forced displacement survivors in Yemen.

FLEXIBILITY OF THE SURVIVOR ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

This framework remains relevant and effective in meeting the evolving needs of survivors as long as it is regularly being reviewed, adapted, and implemented. Flexibility is crucial for ensuring this framework's effectiveness and relevance over time.

Ways this framework Can Be Reviewed and Adapted:

Regular Reviews:

- This framework should be reviewed regularly, at least annually, to assess its progress and impact.
- These reviews should involve survivors, local communities, authorities, and other stakeholders.
- Based on the findings of the reviews, this framework can be adjusted to address new challenges and opportunities.

Data Collection and Analysis:

- Ongoing data collection and analysis are essential for understanding the changing needs of survivors.
- This data can be used to inform the review and adaptation process.
- Data collection methods can include surveys, focus group discussions, and interviews with survivors.

Community Engagement:

- Regular community engagement activities are crucial for keeping stakeholders informed and involved in this framework.
- These activities can include workshops, town hall meetings, and social media campaigns.
- Community engagement can help to identify emerging needs and ensure that this framework is responsive to the local context.

Flexibility in Implementation:

- This framework should be implemented in a flexible manner, allowing for adaptations based on local needs and resources.
- This flexibility can help to ensure that this framework is effective in different parts of Yemen.
- Local communities and authorities should be empowered to make decisions about how this framework is implemented in their area.

Examples of Adaptation:

- This framework could be adapted to address the specific needs of women and children who have been displaced by the war.
- This framework could be adjusted to reflect changes in the political or security situation in Yemen.

Abyan Workshop

This report covers the workshop implemented by Partners Yemen titled “Official and Community-Based Dialogue Framework for War Survivors”, in Abyan. The workshop was held from Tuesday, 9/7/2024, and lasted for five days, concluding on 7/14/2024. The venue was the Musnad Training and Consulting Hall, Khanfar District, Abyan Governorate.

The “Official and Community-Based Dialogue Framework for War Survivors” workshop aimed to support forcibly displaced survivors FDPs by addressing the challenges they face and developing a comprehensive framework for their support and empowerment. This report provides a detailed account of the workshop, including its objectives, participants, methodology, key findings, recommendations, and participant feedback. The total number of participants was 100, including 10 participants representing the local authority, 20 representing government agencies, 13, 20 community activists, 32 civil society members, and 5 members of a mediation committee. Participants in this workshop also included local authorities, representatives of survivors, civil society activists, women, human rights defenders, youth, and influential social figures.

The workshop focused on the official and community-based dialogue framework or plan with representatives of survivors, local authorities, and the private sector in the districts of Khanfar and Zunjbar, Abyan Governorate. The goal was to support forcibly displaced survivors FDPs and address the challenges they face. The workshop was held under the slogan “Frustration and isolation pursue FDPs.” It involved conducting a series of dialogues with a wide range of stakeholders, including government authorities, civil society organizations, the FDPs themselves, relevant institutions, the judiciary, and lawyers, aiming to ensure diverse perspectives and inclusive participation from all segments of the community.

Thisconsultative process brings together representatives of the survivors, the local authority, and the private sector to develop a comprehensive framework for supporting and empowering the forcibly displaced population. The goal is to create participatory policies and programs that can positively impact the health, psychological, and moral issues faced by the survivors, empowering them to advocate for themselves and their families. This community-level dialogue represents a formal, coordinated effort to find solutions for this vulnerable group amidst the ongoing challenges of frustration and isolation.

Local media in Abyan reported on a community dialogue for war survivors in Abyan Governorate, implemented by Partners for Community Leadership. The event was attended by representatives of the local authority, survivors, the private sector, and civil society. Held under the slogan “Despair and Isolation Haunt the Survivors of the War,” the dialogue focused on developing policies and programs to support war survivors and address their health and psychological needs, exploring local strategies and interventions to meet their needs. Key figures from the local government attended, including the Secretary-General of the Local Council, the Director General of the Office of the Governor, and representatives from the Office of Social Affairs and Labor and the Office of Media[5].

[5] Source: ضمن مشروع شراكة"سلسلة حوارات اطار الناجين من الحرب"منظمة شركاء اليمن تنفذ (sahaafa.com)

Taiz Workshop

In Taiz, the “Official and Community-Based Dialogue Framework for War Survivors” workshop, organized by Partners Yemen and held at the Balqis Hall in Cooperation Park, Taiz, from June 4 to 11, 2024, aimed to support FDPs by addressing the challenges they face and developing a comprehensive framework for their support and empowerment. This report provides a detailed account of the workshop, including its objectives, participants, methodology, key findings, recommendations, and participant feedback. The workshop brought together 95 participants, including local authorities, survivors’ representatives, civil society activists, women, human rights defenders, youth, and influential social figures.

The event was attended by the director of planning in Taiz (Mr Gamel) who reported that the displaced have been fully integrated into the governorate’s general development plans from 2024-2026. The plans have incorporated flexibility to address the needs of the displaced and FDPs, focusing on security, peace, recovery, and reconstruction. The director explained that they worked closely with relevant authorities to fully identify the needs of the affected segments of society. They then engaged private sector, civil society, and international organization representatives to help market these needs and secure funding. Gamel assured that the Planning Office would incorporate the strategies and outputs from the workshop into their ongoing efforts.

Consultative Meeting for Developing Participatory Empowerment Policies and Programs

This framework was reviewed a group of experts in “First Consultative Meeting for Developing Participatory Empowerment Policies and Programs to Positively Impact the Needs of Forced Displaced Persons” held in Aden, October 3, 2024, at the Royal Inn Hotel in Khormaksar. It is by PY.

- **Objective of the Workshop:** To review the draft framework for empowering war survivors and to formulate actionable recommendations that can be included in this framework being developed by the organization as part of the project.

- **Participants in the Workshop:** 22 participants from the implementing organizations and the executive units for displaced persons in the targeted districts within the project’s geographical scope, as well as representatives from the Ministries of Information and Human Rights, the Transitional Council, the Planning Office in Aden, the Director General of Social Affairs in Lawdar District, and members of civil society.

- **Key Topics Discussed in the Workshop. Review of this framework’s components:** development and practical steps needed to implement This framework.

The workshop group work suggested Strategies for Supporting FDPs

1. **Resource Allocation and Service Provision**
   To effectively support FDPs, it is vital to prioritize equitable resource distribution that ensures fair access for both host communities and IDPs, fostering social cohesion. Essential services such as education, healthcare, and mental health support should be accessible to all affected populations. Enhancing educational facilities in host communities is crucial for accommodating displaced students. Launching development initiatives that promote sustainable growth in safe displacement areas, with active community involvement, is essential. Implementing conditional support projects can incentivize sustainable development, focusing on long-term benefits. Ultimately, fostering supportive community structures through equitable service distribution will strengthen community bonds.

2. **Compensation and Mental Health Support**

   Compensation and mental health support are critical for building resilience in affected communities. Establishing transparent mechanisms for compensating damages sustained by both displaced and host communities is essential. Raising public awareness about transitional justice and available redress mechanisms empowers individuals to seek justice effectively. Dedicated mental health support centers should be established to cater to all age groups, addressing trauma and displacement-related issues. Comprehensive psychological support services are necessary to mitigate the psychological impacts of conflict and displacement.

3. **Awareness, Advocacy, and Institutional Strengthening**

   Awareness, advocacy, and institutional strengthening are vital for empowering survivors and fostering social cohesion. Conducting rights awareness campaigns will educate survivors about their rights and available support services. Promoting positive interactions between displaced individuals and host communities can enhance understanding and unity. Public awareness initiatives are necessary to raise comprehension of transitional justice and its significance in the recovery process. Strengthening institutions with clear policies will effectively address the needs of survivors and displaced individuals. Implementing capacity-building programs will equip survivors with knowledge of their rights, transitional justice principles, and accountability mechanisms, enabling them to advocate for themselves and their communities.

4. **Collaboration, Economic Empowerment, and Return Facilitation**

   Collaboration, economic empowerment, and return facilitation are essential for addressing the needs of displaced populations. Engaging local authorities fosters collaboration among local entities, international organizations, and government bodies to effectively meet these needs. Ongoing dialogue and partnerships among stakeholders are crucial for mobilizing resources and support. Actively engaging relevant authorities and donors can secure essential resources for affected communities. Creating safe return conditions is vital to ensure the dignity and safety of displaced individuals, supported by necessary documentation to facilitate their return. Moreover, developing economic empowerment programs and livelihood opportunities tailored for displaced individuals and survivors promote self-sufficiency. A national strategy could be formulated to effectively address the diverse needs of these populations. Establishing a one-stop service window linked to the Prime Minister's office can enhance and streamline service delivery for displaced individuals and survivors.

1.7 Definition of terms

Definition of terms used in the workshop "Official and Community-Based Dialogue framework for War Survivors". The common terms used are 1) internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and 2) Forced Displaced Survivors in this framework.

Definition of common terms in this framework

Aspect	Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	Forced Displaced Survivors
Definition	Individuals forced to flee their homes due to conflict or violence but remain within Yemen. They can return to their homes and villages.	Forced Displaced Survivors are individuals who are compelled to leave their residential areas. They can be ordinary people or those with backgrounds in politics or finance. These individuals are forced to leave their homes due to wars, armed conflicts, racial or religious discrimination, or political and social upheaval. Their displacement is often involuntary and occurs under threat, leading them to relocate to safer areas within Yemen or travel to other countries like Egypt, Jordan, or Saudi Arabia as immigrants. These survivors face significant challenges in rebuilding their lives, requiring targeted support and resources to address their unique vulnerabilities and needs. They cannot return to their homes as they could be exposed to threats.
Status	Remain under the jurisdiction of the Yemeni government, often in temporary shelters or camps. Some can work and support their families. They become a kind of resident with low income and some social discrimination.	May have gained residential permits, including refugee status, or live as immigrants in other countries, or are living in safer governorates within Yemen, with varying degrees of access to resources. Some work and support their families. They settle with part of their families but cannot return to their properties or their communities.
Focus	Primarily concerned with issues of displacement, shelter, and immediate humanitarian support.	Focus on healing from trauma, seeking justice for past violations, and reintegrating into society.
Challenges	Face loss of property, lack of access to essential services, and ongoing protection from violence.	Encounter difficulties related to trauma recovery, navigating legal processes for migration or asylum, and reintegration into their original communities.

2.1 Survivor Perspectives and Priorities

Survivor perspectives and priorities were captured to develop a framework that is both relevant to the Yemeni communities and developed from a bottom-up approach, considering the views and opinions of all stakeholders such as local authority, government entities, survivors, community activists, civil society, and the Mediation Committee. Survivor Perspectives and Priorities were also captured to better understand pressing issues related to forced displacement in Yemen as reported by survivors, including the human cost of conflict, the main challenges faced by survivors, the need for a representative body, and the crucial role of mediation committees in resolving disputes and facilitating a path towards lasting peace and recovery.

The perspectives shared highlight the multifaceted challenges faced by FDPs and survivors in Taiz and Abyan, and the need for a comprehensive, participatory, and collaborative approach to address their immediate and long-term needs effectively.

FDPs in Taiz, Yemen, face a range of significant challenges, such as physical and mental health issues, lack of access to essential services, economic hardship, social stigma, and difficulty reintegrating into their communities. To address these multifaceted needs and ensure the long-term well-being of FDPs, a survivor framework is needed.

Participatory approaches that involve FDPs in decision-making and program development, as well as collaboration between FDPs, policymakers, local authorities, civil society organizations, and the broader community, are crucial. Key proposed strategies include effective national dialogue, accelerated implementation of discussed proposals, active participation and advocacy for FDPs causes, pressure on conflicting parties to end the war, and the provision of comprehensive services, including physical and mental health support, access to essential services, economic assistance, and social reintegration.

In Abyan, Yemen, survivors have faced a range of violations, including forced displacement, material damages, injuries, and loss of loved ones, leading to significant emotional, psychological, economic, and social consequences. Survivors strongly focus on rehabilitation, support, legal assistance, and awareness campaigns, but express dissatisfaction with the limited and inadequate support services available. Key needs include housing rehabilitation, livelihood opportunities, psychological and medical support, fair compensation, effective community engagement, and comprehensive approaches. Survivors emphasize the need for reforms to prevent similar violations in the future, such as improving access to justice, increasing societal awareness, encouraging active citizen participation, ensuring transparency and accountability, resolving conflicts, and promoting reconciliation.

The results indicate a significant gap in the representation and integration of survivors in justice and recovery processes. Survivors suggest creating dedicated spaces to hear and evaluate survivors' voices, ensuring peaceful participation in decision-making processes. It also highlights the establishment of organizations or platforms led by survivors, targeted campaigns, capacity building, and resource allocation as crucial measures.

2.2 Main Challenges Faced by FDPs

FDPs grapple with a myriad of challenges, including housing and shelter insecurity, loss of livelihoods leading to economic instability, disruption of education, and the profound psychological trauma that accompanies displacement. These obstacles not only threaten the basic necessities of survival but also erode the foundations of stability, security, and well-being—elements essential for individuals and families to rebuild their lives in the wake of forced displacement.

Basic Needs and Survival

Displaced individuals and families face a multitude of challenges in their daily lives. Securing safe and adequate housing remains a persistent struggle, with high rent costs, overcrowded conditions, and exploitation by landlords compounding their difficulties. Many are unable to return to previous employment or find new work, resulting in increased reliance on aid and charity to meet basic needs. This lack of income further undermines food and water security, as many struggle to access enough food or clean drinking water.

Healthcare access is another major concern. Adequate facilities and treatment options are limited, and affording essential medication and long-term care for chronic conditions poses significant challenges. Additionally, adapting to new job markets and meeting unfamiliar skill requirements in their new locations adds another layer of hardship. The psychological burden of trauma, loss, and uncertainty also takes a toll on mental health, compounding physical and economic struggles.

Workshop participants continue to highlight significant challenges in securing suitable and safe housing. Many live in overcrowded and inadequate conditions, with the high cost of rent and landlord exploitation pushing some to relocate to unsafe areas. Loss of livelihoods is a key issue, with participants reporting ongoing difficulties in finding work or continuing their previous employment. This leaves many unable to meet their basic needs such as food, water, and healthcare, deepening dependence on external support and reducing opportunities to integrate into new labor markets.

Psychological and Social Impact

The psychological and social impacts of displacement remain severe. Many experience trauma and anxiety due to the loss of loved ones and the upheaval of their lives. Adjusting to unfamiliar environments and cultures is challenging, especially when compounded by feelings of isolation, loneliness, and uncertainty about the future. Discrimination based on displacement status further intensifies these feelings.

Building new social networks and integrating into host communities prove to be continuous struggles. Many face marginalization from both social and economic opportunities, which creates additional barriers to achieving a sense of belonging, stability, and purpose in their new settings.

Education and Future Prospects

The disruption to children's education continues to be a major concern for displaced families. Limited access to schools often results in prolonged gaps in learning. Children face difficulties integrating into unfamiliar education systems, and catching up on missed lessons becomes overwhelming. These challenges are further compounded by the scarcity of educational resources and support services.

In addition to educational disruptions, displaced individuals and families grapple with deep uncertainty about their future. Many are unable or afraid to return to their original homes due to ongoing conflict or insecurity. This prolonged state of limbo makes it extremely difficult to plan ahead or rebuild lives, often leading to hopelessness and a loss of direction.

Security and Legal Challenges

Security and legal issues remain a pressing concern for displaced individuals and families, even in areas of refuge. Threats of violence and exploitation persist, leaving them vulnerable to abuse from authorities or armed groups. Accessing legal protection and justice remains an uphill battle.

Displaced populations face complex legal and administrative hurdles in securing essential documentation, such as IDs and residency permits. These processes are often lengthy and bureaucratic, with limited access to legal aid or support services, leaving many overwhelmed and uncertain about their rights.

The loss of homes, possessions, and personal documents creates lasting hardship. Rebuilding lives and livelihoods from scratch is an ongoing challenge. Emotional attachment to lost belongings and the memories associated with them adds to the psychological burden of displacement.

Specific Challenges Faced by Survivors in Aden Governorate:

The displaced individuals and families in Aden Governorate faced a unique set of challenges in their pursuit of stability and recovery. Finding stable and affordable housing was a constant struggle, with many being displaced from government buildings and searching for safe places to stay. The high cost of living, exacerbated by damaged infrastructure and limited job opportunities, made it extremely difficult for them to afford basic necessities. Restricted movement due to military checkpoints and poor transportation further hindered their access to essential services and support. The lack of sufficient humanitarian aid and essential supplies added to the burden on the displaced population, leaving them without the necessary resources to meet their basic needs. Survivors also faced social challenges, such as discrimination and insults from local residents, which compounded the trauma of their displacement. Ultimately, the lack of financial resources proved to be a major obstacle, as the limited means available to these families made it arduous to cover even the most fundamental costs, particularly when it came to securing suitable housing.

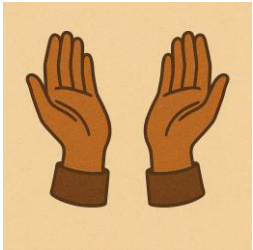
These challenges highlight the complex and multifaceted nature of forced displacement and the urgent need for comprehensive support and assistance for those affected. Tackling the diverse needs of FDPs requires coordinated efforts from government, civil society, and the broader community to deliver holistic and sustainable solutions that empower this vulnerable population and enable their long-term well-being and reintegration.

2.3 The Need for a Framework

Community dialogues show there is a need to establish a framework that represents survivors. This framework should involve official institutions, such as, the Social Affairs Office and engage the Executive Unit to ensure the provision of accurate and sufficient data, establishing Reconstruction Fund, introducing relief programs including moral and psychological support, conducting a clear and comprehensive census of all displaced individuals, ensuring equal distribution of assistance within the community, addressing issues between the FDPs and host communities, empowering survivors to voice their concerns, providing necessary support—whether psychological or material, facilitating interactions with psychologists and medical professionals, and promoting awareness and understanding between different groups to foster a supportive environment for survivors.

Arguments for Establishing a Representative Body:

There is a strong consensus among workshop participants on the need for a framework that represents FDPs and advocates for their rights and needs. This framework should consider the role of the Executive Unit in supporting IDPs and the local authorities that regularly interact with IDP issues. International agencies like IOM and UNHCR, which provide support to survivors and IDPs, also need to be considered. The collective effort should focus on utilizing collaboration rather than eliminating the roles of existing entities, as this will utilize the strengths of all existing efforts.



Such a body would grant FDPs a unified voice, enabling them to advocate for their rights and needs effectively with government entities, international bodies, and other stakeholders, ensuring their perspectives are considered in decision-making processes. Moreover, a representative body could enhance service delivery by tailoring assistance programs to the specific challenges faced by FDPs, fostering more impactful interventions and addressing the root causes of displacement. Moreover, through monitoring human rights violations, advocating for protection, and empowering FDPs in decision-making, this body could prevent further exploitation and abuse, thus promoting their well-being. Collaborating with governments for durable solutions, including safe return, local integration, or resettlement, a representative body could offer FDPs avenues to rebuild their lives with dignity and hope. Lastly, by fostering community building and reconciliation between FDPs and host communities, such a body could promote social cohesion and inclusivity, fostering a more harmonious environment for all involved.

Arguments against a Representative Body:

While the idea of a representative body for FDPs may seem like a constructive solution, there are also arguments made against its establishment. Some argue that existing organizations and government agencies are already addressing the needs of the FDPs, and that creating a new body would lead to a duplication of efforts and a fragmentation of resources, ultimately hindering the efficiency of the support system. Moreover, there is a concern that a representative body could inadvertently create divisions within the displaced community, as different groups may have varying priorities and interests, potentially undermining the unity and collective voice that such a body aims to achieve. Moreover, ensuring the long-term sustainability and adequate funding of a representative body could be a significant challenge, particularly in contexts of limited resources and ongoing conflict, which are often the realities faced by the FDPs. These arguments highlight the need for a careful and nuanced approach when considering the establishment of a representative body, one that takes into account the existing landscape of support and the potential pitfalls that may arise.

Tasks of a Representative Body:

If a representative body for FDPs were to be established, it should focus on a range of critical tasks to effectively address the multifaceted challenges faced by this population. Firstly, the body should serve as a powerful advocate, amplifying the voices and concerns of the FDPs and representing their interests at the highest levels of decision-making. Secondly, it should conduct thorough needs assessments to identify the unique requirements of different displaced communities and then work to ensure the delivery of essential services and support. Protecting the rights and safety of the FDPs, while also empowering them to rebuild their lives, should be another key priority. Exploring and facilitating durable solutions, such as safe and dignified returns, local integration, or resettlement, should also be a central focus. Moreover, the representative body should play a crucial role in fostering community-building and reconciliation efforts, helping to bridge divides and promote social cohesion. Capacity-building and training initiatives could further equip the FDPs with the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate their new environments. The body should facilitate the sharing of information and resources, while also establishing robust monitoring and evaluation systems to track progress and ensure the effectiveness of its interventions. By concentrating on these multifaceted tasks, a representative body could become a powerful force in addressing the complex challenges faced by FDPs.

Forced Displacement in Yemen

Yemen is enduring one of the most severe humanitarian crises globally, primarily due to ongoing conflict that has resulted in extensive forced displacement.

- Since the onset of conflict in 2015, **over 4.5 million people** have been forcibly displaced from their homes, with many enduring multiple displacements due to persistent instability. This crisis disproportionately affects vulnerable groups, particularly **women and children**, who face heightened risks during such turmoil[6].
- Displaced individuals often find themselves in **overcrowded and inadequate living conditions**, typically residing in makeshift camps or informal settlements. For instance, Marib city alone has seen an influx of over **750,000 displaced persons**, which has severely strained local resources and services[7].
- **Challenges Faced by Survivors[8].** Survivors of forced displacement encounter numerous challenges:
  - Many struggle to secure essential needs such as food, clean water, healthcare, and sanitation facilities
  - The chaotic environment exacerbates the risk of GBV, particularly among women and children
  - The trauma associated with displacement and ongoing conflict can lead to significant mental health issues among survivors
- Organizations such as the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** and the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** are actively working to address the needs of forcibly displaced individuals. Their initiatives include:
  - Implementing measures to mitigate GBV risks among displaced populations
  - Ensuring access to healthcare and psychosocial support for survivors
  - Informing displaced communities about available resources and support systems
- **Future Goals.** By 2025, humanitarian efforts aim to enhance living conditions for vulnerable populations through expanded basic services and support for self-reliance. This includes ensuring that forcibly displaced individuals are better informed about GBV risks and have access to quality services.

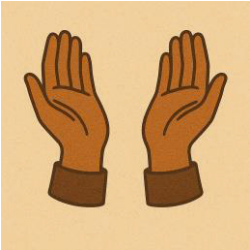
The situation remains dire, with ongoing needs for humanitarian assistance as millions continue to suffer from the effects of conflict and displacement.

[6] UNHCR: Displaced Yemenis Struggle Amidst Growing Needs in Prolonged Crisis
[7] Displacement in Yemen: An Overview [EN/AR]
[8] Yemen Fact Sheet, April - June 2023

2.4 FDPs Pressing Issues

In examining the interviews, it becomes evident that numerous critical challenges necessitate mediation and intervention for effective resolution among FDPs.

Housing and Shelter:



Within this realm, individuals face the looming risk of displacement from their current shelters due to factors such as escalating rents, evictions, or demolitions. The lack of access to secure and suitable housing further compounds these issues, resulting in overcrowding and unhealthy living conditions. The provision of compensation and appropriate housing is paramount, ensuring that families who have lost their homes and property are supported in rebuilding their lives. Simultaneously, issues within displacement camps must be carefully examined and resolved through effective mediation and intervention strategies. Restoring livelihoods is equally essential, with efforts needed to reconstruct homes and reestablish sources of income that were disrupted or destroyed during displacement. By focusing on these aspects, individuals can find stability and security in their living conditions and means of sustenance.

Livelihood and Financial Stability:

Securing employment opportunities proves to be a daunting task for many, primarily due to skill shortages, language barriers, or discriminatory practices. To address this, there is a pressing need for vocational training, job placement assistance, and microfinance initiatives aimed at bolstering income generation. The insufficient access to financial resources and social safety nets only exacerbates the situation, leading to increased vulnerability to poverty.

Education and Skill Enhancement:

Displacement and lack of access to educational facilities disrupt children's education, creating further barriers to progress. To ensure educational continuity, interventions such as catch-up programs, language support, and scholarships are crucial. Moreover, the limited access to vocational training and skill development programs for adults underscores the need for comprehensive support in this domain.

Healthcare and Mental Well-being Support:

Access to quality healthcare, including chronic disease management and mental health services, remains a significant challenge. Affordable healthcare options, medication assistance, and specialized trauma care are essential to address these gaps effectively. The scarcity of mental health professionals and psychosocial support programs further highlights the pressing need to cater to trauma, anxiety, and depression among displaced individuals.

Legal and Administrative Assistance:

Navigating legal documentation and residency permits proves to be a formidable challenge, leaving individuals vulnerable to exploitation. Legal aid and guidance are imperative in assisting individuals through the bureaucratic procedures related to housing, employment, and healthcare. The lack of access to justice and legal safeguards exacerbates vulnerabilities against discrimination and abuse, emphasizing the critical need for support in legal and administrative matters.

Liberation and Justice
Ensuring the liberation of areas under unjust occupation is a fundamental aspect of promoting justice and facilitating the safe return of displaced individuals to their lands. Through mediation efforts, the obstacles preventing the return to these areas can be addressed, allowing for the restoration of rights and the reintegration of displaced populations. Upholding principles of justice and accountability in this process is essential to guarantee a secure and dignified transition back to their original homes. By advocating for liberation and justice, communities can work towards creating a supportive environment that enables displaced individuals to rebuild their lives with confidence and stability.

Social Integration and Community Backing:
Community integration and participation are crucial elements in the holistic support of displaced populations. Improved coordination with host communities is vital to ensure that housing support is provided equitably to both homeowners and renters, fostering a sense of fairness and collaboration. Social integration initiatives play a pivotal role in promoting justice and inclusivity, offering displaced persons opportunities for involvement in decision-making processes and access to essential services. By establishing emergency centers, providing support for social integration, and ensuring accountability, communities can thrive through the active participation of all members, including those who have been displaced.

Protection and Security:
Displacement areas pose persistent risks of violence, exploitation, and abuse, necessitating robust protection mechanisms and safe spaces. Legal assistance is crucial to ensure the safety and security of displaced individuals, along with avenues for justice and accountability for human rights violations endured during displacement.

Psychological Support and Trauma Recovery:
Returning to original homes is fraught with challenges stemming from ongoing conflict, destruction, or lack of resources. Support in rebuilding homes, accessing land, and reintegrating into original communities is essential. Limited opportunities for resettlement in safe and sustainable environments further compound the difficulties faced by displaced individuals seeking durable solutions.

Advocacy and Empowerment:
Advocacy efforts are vital in raising awareness about the plight of displaced persons and advocating for their rights. Improved access to information, participation in decision-making processes, and representation in governmental and humanitarian bodies are essential. Empowerment opportunities play a pivotal role in enabling individuals to rebuild their lives with dignity and self-sufficiency.

[6] UNHCR: Displaced Yemenis Struggle Amidst Growing Needs in Prolonged Crisis
[7] Displacement in Yemen: An Overview [EN/AR]
[8] Yemen Fact Sheet, April - June 2023

2.5 Mediation Committees

There are districts where mediation committees exist. In some districts, there are internal mediators who resolve problems for both host communities and IDPs. There are committees in IDP sites managed by the Executive Unit for IDPs, whose key role is to mediate disputes.

Areas with Established Mediation Committees:

In areas where mediation committees have been established, various entities actively work towards resolving conflicts and addressing issues within displaced communities. The IDPs Site/Executive Unit for the Displaced functions as a crucial mediator, intervening in disputes and facilitating resolutions within the displaced populace. Moreover, youth initiatives such as the Take My Hand Youth Initiative, Qarada Community Center, Zahrat al-Jabal Initiative for Peace and Development, and Sabar Women's Council have emerged to tackle displacement-related challenges, including mediation and conflict resolution. Community committees, organized by entities like Yemen Without Conflict and local authorities, focus on resolving communal issues that impact both displaced individuals and host communities. Notably, the Community Center in the Harazia site for the displaced, established by the displaced individuals themselves, has effectively addressed social concerns, particularly fostering integration between the host community and displaced persons.

Need for Mediation Mechanisms

The lack of established mediation committees in some areas leaves FDPs vulnerable, hindering dispute resolution and escalating tensions. While informal interventions by community leaders and committees exist. Mediation committees are important to address the complex challenges faced by displaced individuals. These committees play a vital role in resolving disputes, mediating conflicts (both among displaced individuals and between them and the host community or authorities), and facilitating access to essential resources like housing, healthcare, education, and employment opportunities, ensuring their availability and advocating for their equitable distribution.

Fortunately, in some areas, such as Al-Koud region and across the Abyan governorate, community committees and mediation mechanisms are established to address displacement-related issues. These committees, often comprised of neighborhood elders and integrated volunteer teams, work to mediate disputes and build social cohesion. They foster connections between displaced individuals and the host community, promoting mutual understanding and acceptance. Importantly, they play a crucial role in protecting the rights of displaced persons, safeguarding them against discrimination and abuse, and ensuring their rights are respected and upheld within the community.

Enhancing Mediation for Displacement Challenges:

To enhance the effectiveness of mediation efforts in addressing displacement-related challenges, several key strategies can be implemented. Firstly, it is crucial to establish or reinforce mediation committees in areas where such structures are absent, ensuring comprehensive coverage. Providing adequate training and resources for committee members is essential to equip them with the skills and tools necessary for successful mediation. Promoting collaboration among mediation committees, local authorities, and humanitarian organizations fosters a more cohesive and coordinated approach to conflict resolution. Increasing awareness about the significance of mediation in addressing displacement issues is vital, emphasizing its role in fostering sustainable solutions. Encouraging the active participation of displaced individuals in mediation processes is essential to ensure their perspectives are heard and their specific needs are effectively addressed, ultimately promoting more inclusive and tailored resolutions.

PART III: Support Initiatives for FDPs

Various grassroots initiatives have emerged within local communities, showcasing effective ways to support and empower survivors of displacement. This includes the contribution of local authorities in providing protection and ensuring the safety of FDPs, as well as their role in facilitating access to formal and informal justice mechanisms.

Community committees

Establishing community committees at various levels, from local to provincial, ensures representation and amplifies survivor voices. These committees, whether dedicated to specific needs or include a broader range of issues, provide a platform for advocacy and support. Involving administrators and the host community in these committees fosters collaboration and understanding. Utilizing social figures, especially when government support is lacking, empowers survivors to have their voices heard. Creating representative bodies, such as delegate committees, and organizing groups with designated representatives further strengthens collective advocacy. Implementing a communication mechanism in the committee is important for coordination and dissemination of survivor voices. Communication is important to enable survivor-led committees to utilize media channels to amplify their reach and impact. These could include specialized committees comprising psychological survivors assured them their unique experiences and needs are addressed and understood.

Impact of the Survivor Framework

The Survivor framework has the potential to make a significant positive impact on the lives of war survivors in Yemen by empowering them, advocating for their rights, and mobilizing community support. This framework can help ensure that survivors receive the justice, accountability, and support they deserve. Key areas where This framework may impact survivor outcomes include:

Well-being:

This framework enhances survivors' well-being by providing access to mental health services, psychosocial support, and economic opportunities, empowering them to advocate for themselves and their families, which helps reduce the stigma associated with being a war survivor. Moreover, it fosters social cohesion and reconciliation by bringing together survivors, local communities, and authorities. Evaluating this framework 's effectiveness includes assessing its delivery of mental health services and psychosocial support, addressing the physical health needs of survivors, and measuring its impact on enhancing their resilience and coping strategies.

Access to Resources:

This framework facilitates survivors' access to essential resources such as food, water, shelter, and healthcare while advocating for their rights to ensure they receive fair compensation and reparations for the harm they have endured. It connects survivors with legal aid and other vital support services, improving their access to legal assistance and information. Moreover, This framework aims to provide economic opportunities and livelihood support through reintegration programs and plays a crucial role in enhancing survivors' access to healthcare services.

Local/National Authorities and Community Support:

This framework encourages local and national authorities to actively address the needs of survivors while raising awareness of the challenges they face, thereby mobilizing community support. It promotes collaboration among local authorities, civil society organizations, and survivors to develop effective support programs. This framework has successfully engaged with authorities to advocate for survivors' rights and has empowered communities to support survivors in meeting their needs. Moreover, it assesses the level of collaboration between this framework and various stakeholders to ensure comprehensive support for survivors.

Challenges and Opportunities:

A significant challenge facing this framework is ensuring its effective implementation and that survivors have access to the necessary resources, while another key challenge is maintaining the long-term sustainability of this framework. However, there is an opportunity to expand its reach and advocate for policy changes that will benefit all war survivors in Yemen, thereby enhancing support and resources available to them.

3.1 Local Communities Support to FDPs

Local communities are important to support survivors by creating a welcoming and supportive environment. This includes facilitating access to safe and stable housing, promoting a culture of mutual assistance, and providing psychological and material services to address diverse needs. Ensuring access to basic necessities like clean water is essential, and selecting suitable locations, especially in northern regions, can prevent potential issues and ensure the well-being of survivors. Offering moral support, incentives, and recognition from authorities and organizations can boost morale and confidence. Protecting displaced individuals and raising awareness within the community about their challenges and needs fosters empathy and support. Ultimately, promoting the integration of survivors into the community helps them rebuild their lives and feel included, fostering a sense of belonging and hope for the future.

Welcoming and Inclusion

Creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for FDPs is the foundation for their successful integration into a new community. This involves more than just providing basic necessities; it requires a genuine effort to build relationships and foster a sense of belonging. Organizing community events where FDPs and local residents can interact, share stories, and learn from one another can break down barriers and build trust. Encouraging local residents to engage in dialogue with FDPs, to ask questions, and to listen to their experiences helps to dispel misconceptions and foster understanding. FDPs need to be involved in participating in community activities, events, and decision-making processes.

Practical Support and Empowerment

Meeting the immediate and long-term needs of FDPs is found to be vital for their well-being and their ability to rebuild their lives. Providing practical support, such as food, shelter, clothing, and medical assistance, ensures that their basic needs are met. It is also important to help FDPs access essential services like healthcare, education, and legal aid. This empowers them to navigate their new environment, access opportunities, and advocate for their rights. Helping FDPs find employment or income-generating opportunities is crucial for their financial independence and self-sufficiency. This allows them to regain control over their lives and build a sense of hope for the future. Advocating for their rights and supporting them in participating in decision-making processes has an effect on their lives and empowers them to become active members of the community and to shape their own destinies.

Education, Awareness, and Collaboration

Building understanding, promoting empathy, and fostering collaboration are crucial for creating a sustainable and supportive environment for FDPs. Educating the community about the experiences and challenges faced by FDPs through workshops, seminars, or cultural events helps to dispel myths, foster empathy, and promote tolerance. Including displacement issues in school curricula can educate younger generations about the importance of human rights, diversity, and social responsibility, creating a foundation for a more inclusive and compassionate society. Collaboration between local organizations, NGOs, and government agencies is essential for providing comprehensive support to FDPs. Sharing resources, expertise, and best practices with these entities will maximize the effectiveness of support initiatives and advocate for policies and programs that promote the rights and well-being of FDPs at the local, regional, and national levels.

3.2 Successful Local Initiatives to Support FDPs

There are several successful examples of local initiatives that have made a positive impact on the lives of FDPs. These initiatives demonstrate the power of community-led action in addressing the challenges faced by displaced individuals and fostering their well-being.

Local communities have demonstrated remarkable initiative in supporting survivors, showcasing a range of successful efforts. These initiatives have included marches to reunite families, community committees established to provide aid and support, and awareness campaigns conducted to foster understanding and empathy. Youth-led initiatives have also proven impactful, with young individuals effectively utilizing donations to assist families in need. While specific details about these initiatives are not readily available, their success highlights the power of community-driven action in providing vital support to survivors.

Community-Based Coexistence Initiatives:
Many successful initiatives focus on promoting understanding, tolerance, and social cohesion between FDPs and the host community. These initiatives often involve joint activities, cultural exchanges, and dialogue sessions to break down barriers and build relationships. For example, in one neighborhood, a community initiative was established to address the issue of water scarcity. This initiative involved repairing the water network and ensuring equitable access to water for both FDPs and the host community. This not only addressed a practical need but also fostered cooperation and a sense of shared responsibility, demonstrating how to address practical challenges can contribute to building stronger community bonds.

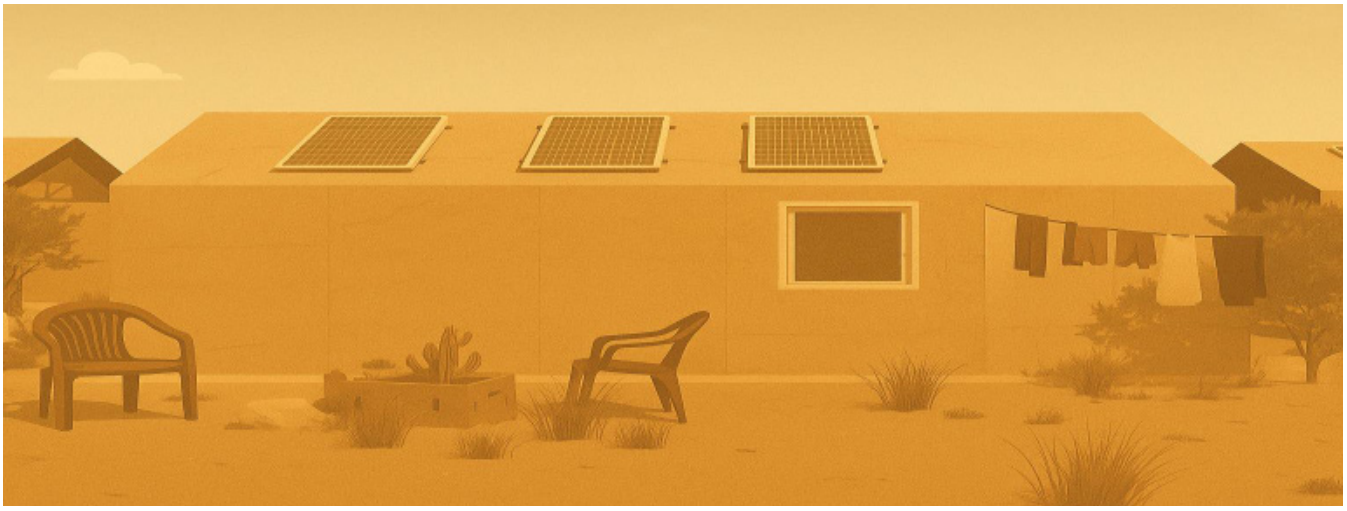
Local Organizations Providing Essential Services:
Local organizations are crucial in providing essential services to FDPs, such as food, shelter, healthcare, and education. These organizations often work closely with the community to identify needs and develop tailored interventions. For example, the organization “Yemen Without Conflict” has been actively involved in providing humanitarian assistance to displaced individuals, including food, water, and shelter. They have also worked to advocate for the rights of FDPs and promote their inclusion in the community, demonstrating the vital role that local organizations play in supporting and empowering displaced individuals.

Advocacy and Rights-Based Initiatives:
Some local initiatives focus on advocating for the rights of FDPs and demanding accountability for human rights violations. These initiatives often involve protests, petitions, and campaigns to raise awareness and pressure authorities to take action. For example, in the Bazraa neighborhood, a local initiative was formed to demand the rights of displaced individuals. This initiative organized protests, raised awareness about the challenges faced by FDPs, and engaged with local authorities to address their concerns, demonstrating the power of community-led advocacy in demanding justice and protection for displaced individuals.

Youth-Led Initiatives:
Young people often play a vital role in supporting displaced individuals and promoting social inclusion. They bring energy, creativity, and a willingness to challenge traditional norms, making them powerful agents of change. For example, in one village, a youth initiative was established to support a displaced family. They provided housing, job opportunities, and assistance with healthcare, demonstrating the power of youth to make a positive impact on the lives of others and foster a more inclusive community.

Community-Based Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Projects:
Some local initiatives focus on rebuilding infrastructure, restoring livelihoods, and providing opportunities for displaced individuals to reintegrate into their communities. These projects often involve collaboration between FDPs, the host community, and local authorities. For example, in the Al-Haraziya area, a community center was established for displaced individuals. This center provided a space for social interaction, activities, and assistance. It also worked to involve FDPs in community development projects, promoting their participation and empowerment, demonstrating how community-based initiatives can contribute to rebuilding lives and fostering a sense of belonging for displaced individuals.

These examples highlight the diverse range of local initiatives that can effectively support FDPs. There is a need to focus on coexistence, providing essential services, advocating for rights, engaging youth, and promoting rehabilitation and reconstruction. Local communities can make a significant difference in the lives of displaced individuals. The success of these initiatives often depends on factors such as community leadership, collaboration, resource availability, and the willingness of local authorities to support their efforts. Local communities can inspire and empower each other to create more inclusive and supportive environments for FDPs by sharing best practices and lessons learned.



3.3 Local Authorities & FDPs Protection

Local authorities have an important role in ensuring the protection of survivors. This requires proactive measures beyond simply providing basic security. Committing to submitting lists of survivors to local authorities and security entities ensures their needs are recognized and addressed. Activating the Reconstruction Fund to refurbish infrastructure, such as schools, creates safe environments for survivors. Local authorities should proactively seek ways to protect survivors based on their specific needs and vulnerabilities, listening to reports from displaced individuals about incidents and establishing clear boundaries to address conflicts effectively. Providing secure housing and ensuring the safety of survivors in their residences offers a secure living environment. Encouraging and incentivizing community committees to actively protect survivors ensures their safety within the community. Addressing the lack of protection provided to survivors by implementing comprehensive security measures and support systems is crucial. Recognizing that simply providing protection may not be enough, additional support and resources may be necessary to address the diverse needs of survivors effectively. The key steps that the local authorities have to take in ensuring the protection and safety of FDPs include:

Immediate Needs and Safety

Local authorities can ensure the immediate safety and well-being of FDPs. This includes establishing emergency shelters and providing basic necessities like food, water, and sanitation. These shelters must be safe, secure, and accessible to all, regardless of individual needs. Authorities must also collaborate with humanitarian organizations and local communities to provide additional support, such as clothing, blankets, and hygiene kits. Furthermore, guaranteeing the physical safety and security of FDPs is paramount. This involves taking all necessary measures to protect them from violence, exploitation, and abuse, and collaborating with law enforcement agencies to prevent and respond to threats or incidents. Establishing mechanisms for reporting and addressing violations of FDPs' rights is also essential.

Access to Services and Social Integration

Beyond immediate needs, local authorities must ensure FDPs have access to essential services, including healthcare, education, legal aid, and psychosocial support. Working with service providers to remove barriers such as language barriers, transportation difficulties, or financial constraints is crucial. Advocating for policies that guarantee the inclusion of FDPs in national health and education systems is also essential. Promoting social integration and cohesion between FDPs and the host community is vital for long-term success. This involves implementing programs and initiatives that encourage interaction, dialogue, and understanding. Facilitating the participation of FDPs in community activities and decision-making processes helps them feel valued and integrated.

Livelihoods, Durable Solutions, and Human Rights

Supporting FDPs in rebuilding their lives requires a focus on livelihoods and economic empowerment. Local authorities can provide opportunities for FDPs to access employment, income-generating activities, and skills training. Collaborating with businesses and organizations to create job opportunities and promote economic independence is crucial. Supporting initiatives that empower FDPs to become self-reliant and contribute to their communities is essential for long-term integration. Furthermore, local authorities must work with national and international partners to develop and implement durable solutions for displacement, such as safe and dignified return, local integration, or resettlement in a third country. Respecting the right of FDPs to choose their preferred solution and providing them with the necessary information and support to make informed decisions is essential. Advocating for policies that promote durable solutions and ensure that FDPs are not forced to return to situations of danger or insecurity is crucial. Finally, upholding the human rights of all FDPs, regardless of their origin, ethnicity, religion, gender, or any other status, is fundamental. All policies and programs related to displacement must be non-discriminatory and promote equality and inclusion. Holding accountable any individuals or groups that violate the rights of FDPs is essential for ensuring justice and accountability.

PART IV: Mechanisms for Justice and Rehabilitation

Achieving truth, justice, and accountability for FDPs requires an approach that includes examining existing laws and identifying areas for improvement to better protect FDPs rights. Addressing obstacles that hinder FDPs access to formal and informal justice mechanisms is crucial. This requires proposing concrete solutions and advocating for reforms that ensure fair and equitable access to justice for all displaced individuals.

4.1 Concepts of Transitional Justice

Transitional justice refers to the measures implemented to address the legacy of large-scale human rights abuses, particularly in post-conflict societies. In the context of Yemen, where forced displacement and conflict have severely impacted the population, transitional justice plays a crucial role in addressing the needs and rights of war survivors and displaced persons. Here are key concepts related to transitional justice:

Truth-Seeking

- *Establishing Truth Commissions:* Creating independent bodies to investigate human rights violations during the conflict, allowing survivors to share their experiences and document abuses.

- *Public Acknowledgment:* Ensuring that the suffering of displaced persons and survivors is recognized publicly, fostering a collective memory that honors their experiences.

Accountability

- *Legal Prosecution:* Holding perpetrators of war crimes accountable through national or international courts. This includes individuals responsible for forced displacement, violence, and other human rights abuses

- *Reparations*: Providing compensation to victims, which may include financial restitution, access to healthcare, or educational opportunities.

Restoration of Rights

- *Return and Resettlement:* Facilitating the safe return of displaced persons to their homes or providing alternative housing solutions for those unable to return.

- *Property Rights:* Addressing issues related to land and property ownership for displaced individuals, ensuring they can reclaim or receive compensation for lost assets.

Reconciliation

- *Community Engagement:* Promoting dialogue among affected communities to foster understanding and healing. This can involve community-based programs that bring together survivors and former combatants.

- *Cultural Programs:* Supporting initiatives that celebrate cultural heritage and promote social cohesion among diverse groups affected by the conflict.

Psychosocial Support

- *Mental Health Services:* Providing psychological support for survivors dealing with trauma from displacement and violence. This includes counseling services tailored to their specific needs.

- *Community Support Networks:* Establishing support groups where survivors can share their experiences and receive emotional support from peers.

Participation and Empowerment

- *Involvement in Decision-Making:* Ensuring that displaced persons and survivors have a voice in decisions affecting their lives, including policies related to humanitarian assistance and reconstruction efforts.

- *Capacity Building:* Offering training programs that empower survivors with skills necessary for rebuilding their lives, enhancing self-reliance.

International Support

- *Collaboration with NGOs:* Partnering with non-governmental organizations to provide humanitarian aid and implement transitional justice measures effectively.

- *Funding and Resources:* Securing international funding to support transitional justice initiatives, ensuring sustainability and effectiveness in addressing the needs of war survivors.

4.1 FGDs & Human Rights

War survivors or FDPs face significant challenges in accessing basic survival needs. As of 2024, approximately 4.5 million people have been internally displaced in Yemen, many living in precarious conditions that threaten their safety and well-being. The human rights element in this framework presented some aspects. The right to life and security is not achieved without access to basic services and rehabilitation opportunities, the fundamental rights of these individuals remain unfulfilled.

The right to life and security is a fundamental principle that must be upheld for all war survivors and displaced persons. This right encompasses protection from violence and exploitation, as well as access to essential services such as food, healthcare, and shelter. Displaced individuals require adequate support to meet these basic needs, which are critical for their survival and dignity. Survivors moreover need to have opportunities for rehabilitation and reintegration into society, including access to education and vocational training programs. These initiatives are vital for rebuilding their lives and promoting self-sufficiency.

Many FDPs live in makeshift camps or informal settlements, where they lack basic amenities. Families often share cramped living spaces, increasing their vulnerability to health issues and exploitation. Alarmingly, 85% of displaced families struggle to meet their daily food needs, often reducing meal sizes or skipping meals altogether. This food scarcity exacerbates the suffering of families already traumatized by conflict.

The FDPs families report having at least one child without a birth certificate, which hinders access to essential services like education and healthcare. The absence of national identity cards further complicates their situation. The psychological impact of war on survivors is profound; many experiences mental health issues due to the violence they have witnessed or endured. This highlights the urgent need for comprehensive support systems that address both physical needs and psychological challenges.

International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

IHL mandates the protection of civilians during armed conflict, explicitly prohibiting indiscriminate attacks against non-combatants. In Yemen, ongoing violence frequently violates these principles, resulting in forced displacement of vulnerable populations. IHL also prohibits the arbitrary displacement of civilians, requiring all parties involved in the conflict to ensure that civilians are not forcibly removed from their homes without just cause. The application of IHL principles in Yemen is severely undermined by the ongoing conflict, where civilians often bear the brunt of hostilities. The destruction of civilian infrastructure, including hospitals and schools, further exacerbates the humanitarian crisis. Violations of IHL not only lead to immediate harm but also contribute to long-term instability and suffering among affected populations.

4.2 Obstacles to FDPs' Access to Justice

The responses regarding whether survivors have sufficient access to justice were mixed. On one hand, it was noted that survivors currently lack sufficient access to justice due to the state's inactivity in compensating families and reconstructing demolished homes, and that during wartime circumstances, justice is typically absent both during and after the conflict, though the activation of the courts can help establish justice and equality. However, significant obstacles to survivors' access to justice were also identified, such as racism, tribalism acting as a barrier for certain groups, and the influence of political parties. Some KIIs indicated that certain survivors do have adequate access to justice, while others reported that racism and tribalism collectively obstruct justice for many survivors. The KII findings suggest that while there are instances where survivors do possess satisfactory access to justice mechanisms, there are also significant impediments that prevent many survivors from accessing justice.

While some individuals may have been able to access courts and authorities to demand their rights, many others face substantial obstacles.

Obstacles to Accessing Justice:

1. *Lack of Awareness and Information:* Many FDPs are unaware of their rights, the available justice mechanisms, and the procedures for accessing them. This lack of information can prevent them from seeking help or pursuing legal action when their rights are violated.

2. *Procedural Barriers and Costs:* The legal system can be complex and difficult to navigate, especially for individuals with limited education or language skills. FDPs may face bureaucratic hurdles, procedural delays, and high legal costs that make it challenging to pursue justice.

3. *Discrimination and Bias:* FDPs may experience discrimination or bias from authorities, legal professionals, or community members based on their displacement status, ethnicity, gender, or other factors. This can discourage them from seeking justice or result in unfair treatment within the justice system.

4. *Lack of Effective Enforcement:* Even when laws exist to protect FDPs' rights, enforcement mechanisms may be weak or ineffective. This can create a culture of impunity and discourage FDPs from reporting violations or pursuing legal remedies.

5. *Corruption:* In some contexts, corruption within the justice system can undermine the fair and impartial administration of justice. FDPs may be unable to access justice due to bribery, favoritism, or political interference.

6. *Fear of Retaliation:* FDPs may fear retaliation or further harm if they report violations or seek justice. This can deter them from pursuing legal action, especially in situations where they are vulnerable or dependent on the perpetrators.

7. *Psychological and Social Barriers:* The trauma and displacement experienced by FDPs can create psychological and social barriers to accessing justice. They may face mental health challenges, social stigma, or lack of support networks that make it difficult to pursue legal claims.

8. *Lack of Specialized Support:* FDPs may lack access to specialized legal aid, psychosocial support, or other services that can help them navigate the justice system and overcome the challenges they face.

Recommendations for Improvement:

- *Simplify Procedures and Reduce Costs:* Streamline legal procedures, reduce administrative burdens, and explore alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to make justice more accessible and affordable for FDPs.

- *Address Discrimination and Bias:* Train legal professionals, authorities, and community members on diversity, inclusion, and non-discrimination to ensure that FDPs are treated fairly and with respect within the justice system.

- *Strengthen Enforcement Mechanisms:* Invest in strengthening law enforcement agencies, judicial systems, and oversight bodies to ensure effective implementation of laws and accountability for violations.

- *Combat Corruption:* Implement anti-corruption measures, promote transparency and accountability within the justice system, and provide mechanisms for reporting and addressing misconduct.

- *Create Safe and Accessible Reporting Channels:* Establish safe and accessible reporting channels for FDPs to report violations without fear of retaliation or further harm.

- *Provide Specialized Support Services:* Provide FDPs with access to legal aid, psychosocial support, interpretation services, and other specialized services that can help them navigate the justice system and overcome the challenges they face.

- *Monitor and Evaluate Progress:* Regularly monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of measures taken to improve access to justice for FDPs and make adjustments as needed.

4.2 Need for Improvement in Current Laws for FDPs

The findings of the study show there is a consensus among the KIIs and FGDs participants on the need to improve current laws to better protect the rights and ensure the safety of FDPs. While there may be existing national policies and laws, there are concerns about their implementation, clarity, and effectiveness in addressing the specific challenges faced by FDPs.

There is a clear need to improve current laws and regulations based on KIIs. The consensus is that the existing laws are inadequate and require amendments to ensure fairness for the host community to receive the designated quota of 30%. Establishing robust rental regulations is also called for to address the current shortcomings. The focus should be on combating corruption within the legal framework to enhance the effectiveness and integrity of the laws, as well as improving cultural integrity and credibility within the legal system to maintain a transparent and impartial database for better governance. Combating corruption should be a key priority in any legal reforms to uphold the rule of law and ensure justice for all. Implementing strategies to gather displaced individuals in centralized locations can help prevent the proliferation of issues and streamline support efforts. Advocating necessary changes to rectify injustices and address corruption within the legal system is crucial for societal progress, and these efforts must be steadfast and comprehensive to uphold the principles of justice and equality. Proposed amendments to certain sections of criminal law penalties can also enhance the efficacy of legal enforcement and deterrence.

The workshop participants agree on the need to improve current laws and regulations to better protect the rights and ensure the safety of FDPs (FDPs). While there may be existing national policies and laws in place, there are concerns about their implementation, clarity, and effectiveness in addressing the specific challenges faced by FDPs. The primary issues identified include the existing laws being deemed inadequate and requiring amendments to ensure fairness for the host community to receive the designated quota of 30%, a call for establishing robust rental regulations to address the current shortcomings, a need to focus on combating corruption within the legal framework to enhance the effectiveness and integrity of the laws, improving cultural integrity and credibility within the legal system to maintain a transparent and impartial database for better governance, making combating corruption a key priority in any legal reforms to uphold the rule of law and ensure justice for all, implementing strategies to gather displaced individuals in centralized locations to prevent the proliferation of issues and streamline support efforts, advocating for necessary changes to rectify injustices and address corruption within the legal system as crucial for societal progress with steadfast and comprehensive efforts to uphold the principles of justice and equality, and proposed amendments to certain sections of criminal law penalties to enhance the efficacy of legal enforcement and deterrence. In summary, comprehensive legal reforms are deemed essential to address the current inadequacies, combat corruption, and ensure the fair and effective protection of FDPs' rights and safety.

Arguments for Improving Current Laws:

Arguments for improving current laws center around the lack of clarity and specificity regarding the rights and entitlements of FDPs, leading to confusion and inconsistent application. Concerns exist about insufficient protection against discrimination, exploitation, and abuse, hindering FDPs access to essential services, housing, and employment. Existing laws may not adequately address durable solutions for displacement, leaving FDPs in precarious situations without clear pathways to safe return, local integration, or resettlement. Furthermore, a lack of accountability mechanisms can create a culture of impunity, discouraging FDPs from seeking justice.

Recommendations for Improvement:

- *Strengthen Legal Framework:* Strengthen the legal framework by enacting specific laws that clearly define the rights and entitlements of FDPs. These laws should be comprehensive, addressing all aspects of their lives, including access to essential services, housing, education, healthcare, employment, and durable solutions.

- *Improve Clarity and Specificity:* Ensure that laws are clear, specific, and unambiguous to avoid misinterpretation and inconsistent application. This includes defining key terms, outlining eligibility criteria, and establishing clear procedures for accessing rights and entitlements.

- *Enhance Enforcement Mechanisms:* Strengthen enforcement mechanisms to ensure that laws are implemented effectively and that violations are addressed promptly and fairly. This may involve establishing specialized units within law enforcement agencies, providing adequate training to officials, and creating accessible complaint mechanisms for FDPs.

- *Promote Durable Solutions:* Develop clear and comprehensive policies and legal frameworks that promote durable solutions for displacement. This should include outlining criteria for safe and dignified return, establishing pathways for local integration, and facilitating resettlement opportunities in third countries when return is not feasible.

- *Ensure Accountability:* Establish effective accountability mechanisms to hold individuals or entities responsible for violating the rights of FDPs. This may involve strengthening judicial systems, providing legal aid to FDPs, and pursuing criminal or civil actions against perpetrators.

- *Align with International Standards:* Ensure that national laws and policies are aligned with international human rights standards and best practices in addressing displacement. This includes incorporating principles of non-discrimination, protection, participation, and durable solutions.

Strengthening the legal framework is a vital step that local authorities can take to create a more just and equitable environment for all individuals, regardless of their displacement status. This involves enhancing enforcement mechanisms, promoting durable solutions, ensuring accountability, and aligning with international standards. Through these concerted efforts, local authorities can foster an environment that is inclusive and supportive for all, including those who have been forcibly displaced.

4.3 Reintegrating FDPs

Several programs have been effective in rehabilitating FDPs and facilitating their reintegration into society. These programs address various aspects of FDPs' needs, including psychological support, economic empowerment, education, healthcare, and social integration.

Effective Rehabilitation Programs. Psychological support programs for FDPs should include trauma-informed therapy and counseling to address mental health challenges and develop coping mechanisms. Psychosocial support groups provide a safe space for connection, sharing stories, and emotional support. Mindfulness and relaxation techniques, such as meditation and yoga, can help manage stress and anxiety. Creative arts therapy, utilizing art, music, and drama, can offer an outlet for self-expression, emotional release, and healing.

Economic Empowerment Programs. Economic empowerment programs for FDPs should focus on providing vocational training and skills development to enable them to find employment and achieve financial independence. Microfinance and small business loans can empower FDPs to start or expand their own businesses, generating income and contributing to the local economy. Cash-for-work programs offer temporary employment opportunities, allowing FDPs to earn income while rebuilding their lives. Finally, savings and financial literacy programs can equip FDPs with the knowledge and skills to make informed financial decisions and build a secure future.

Education Programs. Education programs for FDPs should include accelerated learning programs to help them catch up on missed education and acquire the necessary skills and knowledge for success in school or the workforce. Language classes are essential for integration into new communities and accessing essential services. Higher education scholarships and financial aid can enable FDPs to pursue advanced studies and career advancement. Literacy programs, teaching basic literacy skills, empower FDPs to access information, communicate effectively, and participate fully in society.

Healthcare Programs. Healthcare programs for FDPs should prioritize access to primary healthcare services, including vaccinations, chronic disease management, and reproductive health care, to ensure their physical and mental well-being. Continued access to mental health services is crucial to address the long-term effects of trauma and build resilience. Rehabilitation services, such as physical therapy and occupational therapy, are needed for FDPs who have sustained physical injuries to regain mobility and independence. Lastly, specialized medical care, including surgery, cancer treatment, or dialysis, should be available for FDPs with complex medical needs.

Social Integration Programs. Social integration programs for FDPs should focus on community outreach and engagement to help them build social networks, find support, and feel a sense of belonging. Cultural preservation and identity support programs can help FDPs maintain their heritage and connect with their roots. Participation in sports and recreational activities provides opportunities for physical activity, social interaction, and stress relief. Finally, volunteer opportunities allow FDPs to give back to their communities, build new skills, and gain a sense of purpose.

4.4 Enhancing FDPs Services

To further improve the conditions of forcibly displaced survivors, a multifaceted approach can be implemented. Providing financial aid and emotional support, and establishing specialized centers for refugees, can offer essential assistance. Accelerating the release of funds to facilitate home reconstruction and create employment opportunities can also make a significant impact. Offering compensation and conducting psychological sessions to address trauma and mental well-being are crucial steps in supporting the overall well-being of survivors. Recommending that displaced individuals whose areas have been cleared for return do so through organized channels and encouraging them to settle in nearby areas instead of migrating to distant regions, can promote smoother integration and safer returns. Establishing a single unified camp can help mitigate issues arising from interactions with the host community, while providing aid to both displaced individuals and host community families, particularly those lacking essentials due to displacement, can foster a more equitable and inclusive approach. Ensuring fair and adequate legal processes for all groups, including displaced persons, returnees, and the host community, and enhancing living standards for impoverished families within the forcibly displaced population, with a focus on meeting their basic needs, such as shelter, clean water, clothing, and housing, are also essential components in improving the overall conditions of forcibly displaced survivors.

4.5 FDPs and Climate change

Climate change significantly impacts war survivors, FDPs, the elderly, women and children and individuals with disabilities. These groups face unique challenges that are exacerbated by environmental changes, leading to increased vulnerability and hardship.:

Increased Vulnerability

- Many war survivors already live in precarious conditions due to conflict, and climate change can further destabilize these situations. In areas like Marib, survivors face annual floods that damage their tents and living conditions. They reside in remote, desert-like environments and some have been there for over a decade, adapting to the continuous challenges that make life difficult. These communities endure extreme weather events, such as floods and droughts, which force them to relocate in search of water, as many depend on livestock for their livelihoods. This cycle of displacement leads to repeated evacuations from their homes.

- War survivors in Yemen, particularly women, children, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities, face heightened health risks due to climate change. The extreme heat in regions like Marib and Aden exacerbates existing health conditions, leading to increased mortality rates among these vulnerable populations. Yemen ranks as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change and is ill-prepared to address its impacts, with significant implications for public health.

Access to Resources

The war survivors, or FDPs, need basic necessities. These war survivors in Yemen often struggle to access clean water, food, and healthcare, which are further strained by climate-related disasters, as noted in the analysis of the workshops above. The destruction of infrastructure due to war and floods in Marib limits access to essential services required for FDPs, making it difficult for them to survive and access education, health services, and water and sanitation. It also disrupts agriculture, which is a primary source of income for many FDPs living in remote areas. This disruption leads to increased poverty and food insecurity among displaced populations, including the elderly and disabled. The combination of war trauma and the stress of climate-related disasters can result in severe mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and those with disabilities, may find it particularly challenging to cope with these compounded stresses.

Social Cohesion and Conflict

Resource Scarcity: Climate change often exacerbates competition for scarce resources, such as water and arable land, overcrowding in schools, and strain on healthcare facilities. This leads to tensions between displaced populations and host communities, particularly in areas like Marib, Lahj, Aden, and the western coast, where there are large numbers of IDPs. This situation can further complicate the integration of war survivors and increase the risk of conflict. Community support plays a crucial role in assisting FGDs by fostering a culture of mutual assistance and providing psychological and material support. However, climate change can strain these community resources, making it harder for them to assist those in need.

PART V: Advocacy and Implementation

Advocacy and Empowerment
Advocacy efforts are vital in raising awareness about the plight of the displaced persons and advocating for their rights. Improved access to information, participation in decision-making processes, and representation in governmental and humanitarian bodies are essential. Empowerment opportunities play a pivotal role in enabling individuals to rebuild their lives with dignity and self-sufficiency.

Participants proposed a set of strategies to enhance advocacy and support for survivors, as well as improve the conditions of FDPs. Key strategies include securing official support from state and governmental bodies, developing an objective roadmap, utilizing programs and initiatives from local and international NGOs to empower survivors economically and amplify their voices, establishing mediation mechanisms and community reconciliation processes, creating a framework for survivor compensation and holding perpetrators accountable, launching awareness campaigns and informative/advocacy initiatives, designing support programs with a focus on gender equality, embracing climate justice efforts, and formulating reconstruction strategies and plans. These multi-faceted approaches aim to address the immediate and long-term needs of survivors, foster reconciliation and accountability within communities, and promote sustainable development.

Advocacy could include proposals to improve FDPs' access to formal and informal justice mechanisms, urgent medical and psychological services needed by FDPs, strengthening advocacy and empowerment campaigns for FDPs.

5.1 Proposals to Improve FDPs' Access to Justice

There is a clear need for concrete proposals to improve FDPs' access to both formal and informal justice mechanisms. These proposals should address the various obstacles identified and aim to create a more just and equitable system for all individuals, regardless of their displacement status. To enhance survivors' access to formal and informal justice, the KIIs proposed several key measures. These include establishing a committee comprising displaced individuals to take on this responsibility under the supervision of the executive unit and local authorities, engaging in collaborations with various stakeholders to enhance access, including the facilitation of remote access, organizing meetings and appointing representatives with the consent of the survivors to ensure their voices are heard, creating a dedicated committee for displaced individuals to actively work towards achieving justice with relevant entities, conducting regular meetings to address concerns and ensure effective communication channels, utilizing community committees to raise awareness, enhance security measures, and promote safety among survivors, arranging selection meetings for committees to ensure representation and inclusivity in decision-making processes, implementing a system where national identification numbers are assigned for communication purposes to facilitate efficient and secure exchanges of information, and ultimately improving access to services by establishing a national identification number system that simplifies communication and interactions for survivors seeking justice and support.

Proposals for Formal Justice Mechanisms:

- *Strengthen Legal Aid and Representation:* Provide FDPs with access to free or low-cost legal aid services, including lawyers, paralegals, and legal advisors who can assist them in navigating the legal system and pursuing their rights.

- *Establish Specialized Courts:* Consider establishing specialized courts dedicated to handling cases involving forced displacement. These courts could have judges and staff with expertise in displacement issues and ensure a more sensitive and responsive approach to FDPs' needs.

- *Simplify Procedures and Reduce Costs:* Streamline legal procedures, reduce administrative burdens, and explore alternative dispute resolution mechanisms such as mediation or arbitration to make justice more accessible and affordable for FDPs.

- *Train Legal Professionals and Authorities:* Provide training to judges, prosecutors, lawyers, and law enforcement officials on displacement issues, human rights law, and cultural sensitivity to ensure that FDPs are treated fairly and with respect within the justice system.

- *Enhance Witness Protection:* Implement effective witness protection programs to ensure the safety and security of FDPs who come forward to report violations or testify in court.

- *Improve Data Collection and Monitoring:* Establish mechanisms for collecting data on cases involving forced displacement, including the types of violations, outcomes of legal proceedings, and access to justice barriers. This data can be used to identify trends, inform policy changes, and monitor progress.

Proposals for Informal Justice Mechanisms:

- *Establish Community-Based Mediation and Reconciliation Programs:* Develop community-based mediation and reconciliation programs that can help resolve disputes between FDPs and host communities or address minor offenses without resorting to formal legal proceedings.

- *Train Community Mediators:* Train community members, including FDPs, on mediation and conflict resolution skills to facilitate dialogue and find peaceful solutions to conflicts.

- *Promote Restorative Justice Practices:* Encourage the use of restorative justice practices, which focus on repairing harm, restoring relationships, and empowering victims to participate in the resolution process.

- *Strengthen Traditional Justice Systems:* Where appropriate, work with traditional justice systems to ensure that they are fair, impartial, and respectful of the rights of FDPs.

- *Provide Access to Legal Information and Resources:* Establish community resource centers or hotlines where FDPs can access information about their rights, legal options, and available support services.

General Proposals:

- *Raise Awareness and Provide Information:* Conduct awareness campaigns and provide clear, accessible information to FDPs about their rights, available justice mechanisms, and procedures for accessing them. This information should be available in multiple languages and formats to reach diverse populations.

- *Address Discrimination and Bias:* Implement anti-discrimination measures and promote diversity and inclusion within the justice system to ensure that all individuals, regardless of their displacement status, are treated equally and with respect.

- *Strengthen Enforcement Mechanisms:* Invest in strengthening law enforcement agencies, judicial systems, and oversight bodies to ensure effective implementation of laws and accountability for violations.

- *Combat Corruption and Nepotism:* Implement anti-corruption measures, promote transparency and accountability within the justice system, and provide mechanisms for reporting and addressing misconduct.

- *Create Safe and Accessible Reporting Channels:* Establish safe and accessible reporting channels for FDPs to report violations without fear of retaliation or further harm. These channels should be confidential, culturally sensitive, and available in multiple languages.

- *Provide Specialized Support Services:* Provide FDPs with access to legal aid, psychosocial support, interpretation services, and other specialized services that can help them navigate the justice system and overcome the challenges they face.

- *Monitor and Evaluate Progress:* Regularly monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of measures taken to improve access to justice for FDPs and make adjustments as needed. This includes collecting data, conducting research, and engaging with stakeholders to identify the best practices and areas for improvement.

5.2 Urgent Medical and Psychological Services Needed by FDPs

Survivors of displacement crises have urgent medical and psychological needs that require comprehensive and coordinated response. Immediate access to emergency healthcare and first aid is essential, along with the provision of essential medications and ongoing specialized medical treatment and rehabilitation as needed. From a psychological perspective, trauma-informed counselling and psychotherapy, both for children and adults, are critical. Support groups and peer-to-peer programs, mental health assessments and referrals to psychiatric care when required, as well as stress management techniques and coping strategies, can all contribute to the holistic care of survivors. The establishment of safe and comfortable emergency shelters and facilities, the coordination of social services, legal aid, and other community resources, outreach and service delivery directly within camps or displacement settings, and long-term case management and follow-up care are all important aspects of the support system that should be put in place to address the multifaceted needs of those affected by displacement.

Urgent Medical Services

- *Primary Healthcare:* FDPs require access to basic primary healthcare services, including routine check-ups, vaccinations, treatment for common illnesses and injuries, and management of chronic conditions. This includes ensuring access to essential medications and medical supplies.

- *Mental Health Services:* Mental health services are crucial for FDPs who have experienced trauma, displacement, and loss. These services should include individual and group therapy, medication management, and psychosocial support to help FDPs cope with anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and other mental health challenges.

- *Specialized Medical Care:* Some FDPs may require specialized medical care for injuries sustained during conflict, displacement, or due to pre-existing conditions. This may include surgery, rehabilitation services, physical therapy, and access to specialized medical equipment.

- *Reproductive Health Services:* Women and girls who have been displaced face unique challenges related to reproductive health. They need access to family planning services, prenatal care, safe delivery services, and post-partum care.

- *Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Services:* FDPs of SGBV require specialized medical care, including emergency contraception, treatment for sexually transmitted infections, and mental health support. They should also have access to legal and social services to help them access justice and rebuild their lives.

Urgent Psychological Services:

- *Trauma-Informed Care:* All services provided to FDPs should be trauma-informed, meaning that they are delivered in a way that recognizes and responds to the impact of trauma on individuals and communities. This includes creating safe and supportive environments, using language that is sensitive to the experiences of FDPs, and avoiding re-traumatization.

- *Individual and Group Therapy:* Individual therapy can help FDPs process their experiences, develop coping mechanisms, and address the emotional and psychological consequences of trauma. Group therapy can provide a sense of community and support, allowing FDPs to connect with others who have shared similar experiences.

- *Psychosocial Support:* Psychosocial support includes a range of services that can help FDPs meet their basic needs, access essential resources, and rebuild their social connections. This may include providing food, clothing, shelter, education, and vocational training.

- *Cultural Sensitivity:* It is essential that all services are delivered in a culturally sensitive manner. This means understanding the cultural beliefs, values, and practices of FDPs and tailoring services to meet their specific needs.

- *Community-Based Services:* Involving community members in the delivery of services can help ensure that they are culturally appropriate and accessible to FDPs. This can also help to build trust and promote social cohesion within communities.

5.3 Strengthening Advocacy for FDPs

To enhance advocacy and empowerment campaigns in support of survivors, a multifaceted approach can be implemented. Increasing visibility through coverage in local media outlets, fostering government endorsement and collaboration with institutions and civil society organizations, and effectively utilizing various media channels, including social media platforms, can raise awareness about the critical challenges faced by displaced and resident individuals, prompting action in alignment with organizational directives. Campaigns that amplify diverse voices across all segments of society emphasize safety and demonstrate solidarity with displaced individuals through media promotion and expand media coverage to reach a wider audience can be particularly impactful. Moreover, providing essential financial, legal, and educational support to empower survivors, offering legal awareness and assistance to ensure they understand their rights and avenues for redress, and facilitating sessions, establishing support groups, and bolstering their efforts through targeted media campaigns can further strengthen advocacy and empowerment initiatives.

There is a strong consensus on the need to strengthen advocacy and empowerment campaigns to support the rights and well-being of FDPs. These campaigns can play a crucial role in raising awareness, mobilizing resources, influencing policy changes, and empowering FDPs to become active agents in their own recovery and rebuilding.

Strengthening Advocacy Campaigns:

- *Collaboration and Coordination:* Foster collaboration and coordination among local and international organizations, government agencies, community groups, and FDPs themselves to ensure a unified and effective advocacy strategy. This includes establishing clear roles and responsibilities, sharing information and resources, and developing joint advocacy plans.

- *Evidence-Based Advocacy:* Collect and analyze data on the needs and experiences of FDPs to inform advocacy efforts. This data can be used to document human rights violations, highlight the impact of displacement on FDPs' lives, and advocate for specific policy changes.

- *Targeted Advocacy:* Identify specific audiences and decision-makers who can influence policy changes and allocate resources to support FDPs. Develop targeted messages and strategies to engage with these audiences, such as policymakers, donors, media outlets, and the general public.

- *Storytelling and Humanization:* Use storytelling and personal narratives to humanize the experiences of FDPs and connect with audiences on an emotional level. This can help to raise awareness, build empathy, and generate support for advocacy efforts.

- *Media Engagement:* Work with media outlets to ensure accurate and sensitive reporting on displacement issues and survivor experiences. Develop media strategies to reach a wider audience and influence public opinion.

- *Social Media Advocacy:* Utilize social media platforms to raise awareness, share information, mobilize supporters, and engage in online advocacy campaigns. Encourage FDPs to share their stories and participate in online discussions.

- *International Advocacy:* Collaborate with international organizations and networks to advocate for international support and protection for displaced populations. This includes engaging with United Nations agencies, regional organizations, and human rights bodies.

Empowering FDPs:

- *Capacity Building:* Provide FDPs with training, skills development, and leadership opportunities to enable them to participate effectively in advocacy efforts and represent their own interests.

- *Community Mobilization:* Facilitate community mobilization and empower FDPs to advocate for their own rights and needs. This includes forming survivor-led organizations, supporting community-based advocacy initiatives, and providing platforms for FDPs to share their experiences and demands.

- *Economic Empowerment:* Create opportunities for FDPs to access employment, income-generating activities, and financial resources to improve their livelihoods and achieve self-sufficiency. This can help to reduce their vulnerability and empower them to participate more fully in society.

- *Legal Empowerment:* Provide FDPs with legal aid, education, and support to understand their rights and access justice. This includes assisting FDPs in navigating legal systems, pursuing claims for compensation or restitution, and holding perpetrators accountable for human rights violations.

- *Psychosocial Support:* Provide FDPs with access to psychosocial support services to help them cope with the trauma and challenges they have faced. This can include individual and group therapy, counseling, and mental health care.

- *Cultural Preservation:* Support FDPs in preserving their cultural identity and traditions, which can provide a sense of belonging, community, and resilience. This includes promoting cultural expression, language preservation, and traditional practices.

PART VI: Monitoring and Evaluation

The Required Monitoring and Evaluation for implementing this framework need to lay out the monitoring and evaluation to include the below:

Framework for Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Purpose:** To track progress, assess impact, identify areas for improvement, and ensure accountability in implementing this framework for empowering survivors in Yemen.
- **Scope:** The monitoring and evaluation framework should cover all aspects of this framework, including:
- **Survivor Needs and Priorities:** Are the needs and priorities identified by survivors being addressed effectively?
- **Challenges Faced:** Are the challenges faced by survivors being mitigated?
- **Representative Body:** Is the representative body functioning effectively and advocating for survivor needs?
- **Mediation Committees:** Are mediation committees effectively resolving disputes and addressing issues within displaced communities?
- **Truth, Justice, and Accountability:** Are mechanisms for truth-telling, justice, and accountability being implemented effectively?
- **Service Delivery:** Are services being delivered efficiently and effectively to meet survivor needs?
- **Resource Allocation:** Are resources being allocated fairly and effectively?

Key Indicators to Measure Progress and Impact

- **Survivor Wellbeing:**
  - **Housing:** Number of survivors with access to safe and adequate housing.
  - **Livelihoods:** Number of survivors with access to employment or income-generating opportunities.
  - **Education:** Number of children enrolled in school and receiving education.
  - **Healthcare:** Number of survivors accessing healthcare services, including mental health services.
  - **Safety and Security:** Number of incidents of violence or exploitation against survivors.
  - **Social Integration:** Number of survivors participating in community activities and feeling integrated into host communities.

- **Representative Body:**
  - **Representative Body:** Level of participation of survivors in the representative body and its influence on decision-making.
  - **Mediation Committees:** Number of disputes resolved by mediation committees and level of satisfaction with their outcomes.
  - **Truth, Justice, and Accountability:** Number of cases of human rights violations investigated and prosecuted.
  - **Service Delivery:** Number of survivors receiving services and their satisfaction with the quality of services.
  - **Resource Allocation:** Proportion of resources allocated to survivor-focused programs and their effectiveness.

Mechanisms for Reporting and Feedback

- **Regular Reporting:** Develop a system for regular reporting on progress and impact, including:
  - **Quantitative Data:** Collect and analyze data on key indicators.
  - **Qualitative Data:** Conduct interviews with survivors, community members, and stakeholders to gather feedback on this framework 's effectiveness.
  - **Periodic Reviews:** Conduct periodic reviews of this framework and its implementation, identifying areas for improvement.

- **Feedback Mechanisms:** Establish mechanisms for receiving feedback from survivors, community members, and stakeholders, including:
  - **Surveys:** Conduct regular surveys to gather feedback on this framework 's effectiveness.
  - **Focus Groups:** Organize focus groups to discuss this framework 's strengths and weaknesses. **Surveys:** Conduct regular surveys to gather feedback on this framework 's effectiveness.
  - **Community Meetings:** Hold regular community meetings to discuss this framework 's implementation and gather feedback.

- **Transparency and Accountability:** Ensure transparency and accountability in the monitoring and evaluation process by:
  - **Publicly Sharing Reports:** Publish regular reports on this framework 's implementation and progress.
  - **Sharing Data:** Make data on key indicators publicly available.
  - **Responding to Feedback:** Address feedback from survivors, community members, and stakeholders.

Appendix E: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Theory of Change for This Framework for Empowering Survivors in Yemen

Overall Goal: To empower survivors in Yemen and ensure their access to justice, safety, and well-being. Survivor Wellbeing:

Assumptions:

- Survivors have the right to access justice, safety, and well-being.
- Survivors are capable of rebuilding their lives and achieving their goals.
- There is a political will to support the implementation of this framework.
- There are sufficient resources available to implement this framework.

Inputs:

- Financial resources
- Human resources
- Technical expertise
- Political support

Activities:

- Provide survivors with access to services and assistance, such as food, shelter, healthcare, legal aid, and psychosocial support.
- Advocate for the rights of survivors and promote their participation in decision-making processes.
- Build the capacity of survivors to rebuild their lives and achieve their goals.
- Create a safe and supportive environment for survivors to return to their homes or resettle in a safe and dignified manner.

Outputs:

- Increased access to services and assistance for survivors
- Increased participation of survivors in decision-making processes
- Increased capacity of survivors to rebuild their lives and achieve their goals
- Increased accountability for perpetrators of human rights violations
- Increased number of survivors who have been able to return to their homes or resettle in a safe and dignified manner

Outcomes:

- Improved well-being of survivors
- Increased access to justice for survivors
- Reduced risk of violence, exploitation, and abuse for survivors
- Increased social integration of survivors
- Increased sustainability and durable solutions for survivors

Impact:

- Empowered survivors who are able to rebuild their lives and achieve their goals
- A more just and equitable society for all Yemenis

Assumptions:

- This framework will be implemented effectively and efficiently.
- This framework will be well-coordinated and collaborative.
- This framework will be sustainable.

IF we provide survivors with access to services, advocate for their rights, build their capacity, hold perpetrators accountable, and create a safe environment for return or resettlement, THEN survivors will have increased access to services, participation in decision-making, capacity to rebuild their lives, and access to justice, leading to improved well-being, reduced risk of violence, increased social integration, and ultimately, empowered survivors and a more just and equitable society for all Yemenis.

Action Plan

ACTION PLAN

Objective	Strategies	Activities	Indicators	Timeline	Responsible Parties
1. Improve access to essential services and support for FDPs and survivors	1.1 Conduct comprehensive needs assessment	- Develop assessment tools - Collect data in Taiz and Abyan - Analyze findings and prioritize needs	- Needs assessment report - Identification of priority needs	Q1-Q2 2024	- Local authorities - NGOs - Community representatives
	1.2 Establish/expand mobile health clinics	- Recruit and train medical personnel - Procure mobile clinic equipment and supplies - Develop referral mechanisms to specialized care	- Number of FDPs and survivors accessing healthcare	Q1-Q4 2024	- Ministry of Health - Local health authorities - NGOs
	1.3 Increase access to basic necessities	- Collaborate with local authorities and NGOs - Distribute food, water, and other essential items - Support rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure in return areas	- Quantity of aid distributed - Number of households with improved access to basic services	Q1-Q4 2024	- Local authorities - NGOs - Community-based organizations
2. Facilitate social reintegration and economic empowerment	2.1 Implement livelihood programs	- Conduct market assessment and skills mapping - Provide vocational training and entrepreneurship support - Facilitate job placement and small business development	- Number of FDPs and survivors employed or self-employed - Increase in household income	Q2-Q4 2024	- NGOs - Private sector partners - Vocational training institutes
	2.2 Organize community dialogues and cultural events	- Facilitate discussions on social cohesion and integration - Organize cultural events to promote exchange and understanding - Engage local media to challenge negative stereotypes	- Number of community dialogues and events held - Perceived reduction in social stigma	Q2-Q4 2024	- Local authorities - Community-based organizations - Cultural institutions
	2.3 Provide cash assistance and in-kind support	- Develop targeting criteria and beneficiary selection process - Distribute cash transfers and in-kind aid - Monitor the use of assistance and its impact	- Number of households receiving cash/in-kind assistance - Reported improvements in household well-being	Q2-Q4 2024	- NGOs - Local authorities - Financial service providers
3. Strengthen mechanisms for survivor participation and advocacy	3.1 Create dedicated platforms for survivor voices	- Establish survivor-led organizations and networks	- Number of survivor-led organizations established	Q2-Q3 2024	- Survivor-led organizations - NGOs - Community representatives

		- Facilitate regular consultations between survivors, policymakers, and authorities - Provide capacity-building training on advocacy and community mobilization	- Frequency of survivor consultations with decision-makers		
	3.2 Amplify survivor advocacy and awareness	- Support survivor-led campaigns and advocacy initiatives - Engage local and national media to feature survivor stories - Organize public events and dialogues to raise awareness	- Number of survivor-led advocacy initiatives - Media coverage of survivor issues	Q2-Q4 2024	- Survivor-led organizations - Media outlets - Civil society organizations
4. Promote justice, accountability, and conflict resolution	4.1 Advocate for the implementation of proposed measures	- Engage with policymakers and local authorities - Organize public events and dialogues to build support - Monitor progress and hold stakeholders accountable	- Number of proposed measures implemented - Perceived progress in addressing FDPs and survivor needs	Q3-Q4 2024	- Survivor-led organizations - NGOs - Community representatives
	4.2 Support the establishment of an independent investigation mechanism	- Collaborate with human rights organizations - Advocate for the creation of an investigative body - Ensure survivor participation in the process	- Establishment of the investigative mechanism - Number of violations documented and addressed	Q3-Q4 2024	- Human rights organizations - International bodies - Local authorities
	4.3 Organize community-level reconciliation and peace-building activities	- Facilitate dialogues between conflicting parties - Support community-led initiatives to address root causes - Promote transitional justice and conflict resolution measures	- Number of reconciliation and peace-building activities - Perceived improvements in community relations	Q3-Q4 2024	- Local authorities - Community-based organizations - Faith-based leaders