

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

CHANGING LIVES

ANNUAL REPORT
2023

ITDC INTERNATIONAL
Training & Development Center



"We thank ITDC for not differentiating between rich and poor, powerful and marginalized. ITDC made us equal, strengthened our confidence in ourselves, and let us see that there is good in the world."

Content

E FROM THE DIRECTOR 1

COMMUNITY RESTORATION 2

FOOD SECURITY 3

PROTECTION 4

EDUCATION 5

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE 6

SOLAR 7–8

LIVELIHOODS 9–10

PEACEBUILDING 11

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 12



Dear Friends and Partners,

Thank you for caring about the people of Yemen and the strategic work of ITDC. We believe the Yemeni people have a purpose and can positively impact their region, but obstacles remain that must be overcome to reach that future.

While diminishing news coverage and dwindling international funding might convey the inaccurate impression that peace and stability have been restored in Yemen, the harsh reality is that the world's attention has simply shifted to other crises and conflicts often fueled by radicalization and extremism, leaving Yemen's plight largely unaddressed.

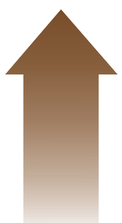
Yemenis need to be challenged to act on their longing for peace and stability and take active steps toward it. ITDC has a wide engagement reaching more than 78,000 people in four governorates across Yemen with projects promoting restoration, recovery and livelihoods. The essence of ITDC's ongoing engagement in Yemen is to support individuals and communities change their perspectives from talking about the problems and instead identify actionable steps they can take to bring about change in their community.

Thank you for partnering to take action with us in this unique country.

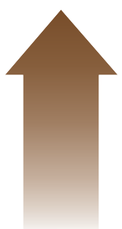
WALDEMAR BRAUN
Country Director

RESTORATION JOURNEY

Civic Engagement
Community Dialogues
Infrastructure Projects



PSS/Trauma Coping
Leadership Skills
Conflict Resolution



Local Committees Formation
Food Distribution
School Renovations

"Thank you for the food baskets that helped us save money and pay off debts. We thank you for all of the projects, including the psychological support program, which created love among our people, teaching us to love others and to love ourselves."



2 ZERO HUNGER

16,000 people fed every month on average by ITDC

"Because of your food baskets, our kitchen became warm and full. We were able to pay off our debts and return our children to school."

More than half of Yemen's population (17.6 million people) is battling severe food insecurity, while Taiz governorate where ITDC works has some of the highest malnutrition rates ever recorded.

ITDC responds to this need through emergency food assistance to vulnerable households. 51,000 unique individuals in the South and North of Yemen received monthly food baskets that contain a month's supply of flour, beans, oil, sugar, and salt. The food assistance not only reduces rates of hunger and malnutrition, it provides an opportunity for families to save money and use it for medical treatment or education.

Especially for the most vulnerable segments of society, such as IDPs, persons with disabilities, or the marginalized population, the food support creates a renewed sense of dignity and hope. Saleh, who is a member of the community committee in his area, expressed it this way:

"It is as if the food basket arrived at the perfect time, during a difficult period, to provide us with relief and to revive hope within our souls. Our condition resembled that of a barren, arid land that received rainfall after a prolonged drought, transforming it into a green landscape. We express our gratitude to ITDC and all donors who contributed to this generous endeavour."

"Our women used to beg in the street, but now they can eat again with dignity."

“If you only knew how dark my life was. No one held my hand, no one loved or comforted me.

But you treated me well, loved me, and truly showed me compassion that changed me.
You opened my eyes to things I was blind to. ”

In a country with prolonged fighting, a severe humanitarian crisis, and deep divisions within society, many Yemenis are suffering from trauma, anxiety, and depression. ITDC strives to empower communities affected by conflict with psychosocial health and practical tools to apply in their lives. 109 community facilitators were trained in 2023.

558 adult participants graduated from the full 10-week PSS program, which uses a support group model to assist community members struggling with anxiety or depression.

"Thank you for helping me out of the rubble of sadness and bringing back the smile, hope, and joy to my life."

Children in particular carry psychological scars from years of violence and displacement. ITDC’s ‘I Will Be Fine’ program is a 5-day course for children suffering from trauma, regular nightmares, or panic attacks. It provides practical coping tools on how to find their ‘safe place’ which helps them to distance themselves from their traumatic past and re-engage with their families and friends. 1,113 children and 323 parents have benefited from this course this year.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

2,762 beneficiaries in the psychosocial support program and the trauma coping courses



Protection Video



“The course instilled hope in my soul. It boosted my morale and passion for studying."

“I did not want to continue studying because of my age, and I felt I could not understand the lessons. However after the subject of multiple intelligences, I realized that no one is stupid including me”. This is Eftikhar’s story, a 16 year old student in our Classroom Dynamics course.

4.5 million Yemeni children are out of school and the quality of education is negatively affected by teachers not receiving salaries, overcrowded classrooms, lack of teacher training, lack of learning materials, and attacks on education institutions. In response, ITDC is providing textbooks and school supplies, renovating facilities, supplying teacher salaries, training teachers and volunteers, and facilitating national exams at seven schools. ITDC repaired and restored two damaged schools by repairing leaking roofs, installing bathrooms, replacing windows, resurfacing corroded walls and equipping the classrooms with desk/chairs and whiteboards.

“My father said, “If I had known that training would make you such a cheerful person, I would have taken you to ITDC myself.”

ITDC strives to transform schools into places of engaging student-centric classrooms where learning is for everyone. Workshops were held with 70 parents to awaken them to their child’s learning needs and was followed by training for 745 students in learning styles, multiple intelligences, and helped them to plan for their future.

“Water is now available continuously in our village! “

Due to the severe water shortage in Yemen, ITDC conducted several new WASH-related activities. The first was to establish communal and individual rainwater harvesting sites, providing 815 families with an additional sources of water.

One out of three people in Yemen do not have access to safe water, so ITDC started to tackle the problem of contaminated drinking water. Vulnerable families were supplied with a low-cost ceramic filter that provides them a source of safe drinking water, reducing the impact of water-borne diseases. Beneficiary households reported a significant decrease in the occurrence of diarrhoea cases, and 92% of project households reported improvements in their health after using the water filter.

“Now, we can drink clean water, and I no longer fear getting sick as I used to before."

ITDC seeks to improve hygienic conditions and behaviours in the communities. A total of 4,150 hygiene kits were delivered alongside food distributions to supply vulnerable households with basic hygienic necessities such as soap, detergent, and clean water containers.

ITDC reached more than 9,800 people with hygiene awareness campaigns, which focused on handwashing, cholera prevention, and safe water use.





‘Praise be to God; we are now able to meet most of our needs with solar energy’

ITDC’s equips both men women to design, install and maintain solar PV systems within 9 days. To graduate, each participant must build an AC and DC solar system in front of their instructors. The 358 graduates from this year repaired 1,385 existing solar PV systems and installed 31.7 kW of new solar power (228 systems) - all self-funded!

Reem, one of our female graduates remarked, “Before the course, we did not even know how to connect wires. I suffered from many problems with my solar PV system and I always had to wait and call an engineer. Now I have learned how to install a solar system without any fear.”

ITDC incorporates solar cooking into humanitarian food distributions, so that beneficiaries have a no-cost way of cooking the food they received.

The reduced firewood consumption thru ITDC’s solar cookers saves 46 trees each day.

These solar cookers use a 60cm satellite dish, or cardboard/aluminum foil reflectors. 95% of the solar cooker trained this year are women. Routine users have reported saving 20,000 YER/month on cooking fuel after they started using their solar cooker.

Solar Program Video

“The high cost of transport prevents us from traveling outside of the village”

Yemeni villagers suffer from the petrol scarcity and high cost, which makes it harder for them to access food, education or medical care. ITDC has piloted a solution to this problem by converting existing petrol vehicles to electric and charging them using solar power.

Off road electric vehicles are very costly, so ITDC has created a pre-fabricated kit to convert existing village vehicles into electric for only 40% of the cost of a new EV truck. This innovative approach empowers rural villages to break the chain of fuel dependency, reduce their CO2 emissions, and harness their existing resources. After extensive research, a Toyota Hilux was chosen and our first converted EV started road testing in UAE in Nov.

A second conversion kit has been built for field testing in Yemen, which will start in 2024.

This year ITDC has retrofitted four village wells with solar PV fields and electric pumps in the place of their diesel pumps. These retrofitted wells are providing reliable, sustainable water access to 2,285 Yemeni households and leading to significant cost savings.

ITDC’s wells displace 217 MT/year of CO2 using clean solar energy

ITDC adds value by training the well operators to be solar technicians, evaluating system designs, conducting advanced shading analysis and operational testing to ensure each community has the most cost-effective well system.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

12,610 Yemenis access water daily through solar powered well pumps



Solar Pump Video

Solar EV Video



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

3,360 paid workdays to unemployed day laborers

“You provided me and my family with a source of income. Through that, I was able to save money and buy a battery to illuminate my house. Now, I do not need to live in darkness as in the past.”

IITDC provides project management training to community leaders and empowers them to direct small rehabilitation projects in their community. Through Cash-for-Work (CFW) activities, 112 unemployed laborers were hired for three months in order to complete strategic rehabilitation projects, chosen and led by the communities themselves. Ten early recovery projects were completed, including road repairs, renovations of schools and health units, and construction of a women’s sewing center, a meeting hall for persons with disabilities, and two Child Friendly Spaces. In addition to the positive community impact, CFW initiatives provide those workers with encouragement to find other employment or enable them to save money to start their own business.”

One CFW beneficiary, named Fadi, had been an unemployed motorbike driver before the project. However, his experience in ITDC’s CFW initiative was a turning point in his life. A community leader commented on the change saying:
"Fadi surprised us with his transformation from a simple worker to a professional builder, and now he is the one who is building homes and teaching workers.”

“After the CFW project, Fadi has become an expert in construction, whether in stones or tiles."

“I have benefited from the agricultural kit. I planted land that I could not cultivate because of the high input prices. I now hope it will be a bountiful crop!”

ITDC conducted basic agricultural and livestock trainings to help restore farming operations and provided training participants with kits of materials needed to support rural food production and sustainable livelihoods. 400 farmers received agricultural kits, and 400 herders received livestock kits.

Musa, a farmer in Taiz, shared, "ITDC intervened in our difficult situation by providing us with seeds, fertilizers and specialized training courses on farming techniques and how to make natural fertilizers and pesticides. This has improved our yields of grain and feed for sale, so we could save money for medical and other household expenses."

During this year, ITDC moved into new territory by introducing innovative farming and herding techniques, which have not been introduced to Yemen before.

In partnership with a Kenyan organization, ITDC facilitated trainings for local staff members and agricultural specialists from the Yemeni government, who will be training Yemeni farmers and herders. Newly trained farmers are setting aside a portion of their farming land to trial these new methods, so they can compare these yields with the land they farm using traditional methods.

“As leaders in our community, we must spread this conservation agriculture course to all our brothers.”



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

800 farmers and herders supplied with agriculture or livestock kits and trained in drought-resistant approaches



“I used to rebel and not listen to my parents and they would hit me. But when I returned home after this course, I listened to them."

ITDC engages with Yemenis from age 15 to 45 years old, but we often find that children are more willing to demonstrate understanding and changing their approach to others. ITDC trained 745 junior peacebuilders, who advocate and demonstrate the importance of peace in their homes. Yasra shared, “I didn't like my brother's wife, and I would not help her with household chores. After the topic of peace building, I started helping her in cooking and began sharing the topics I learned with my family. My brother's wife was so surprised by my calmness and assistance.”

ITDC conducted two large scale projects during this year with entire districts (12,400 people) that incorporated personal development, leadership, civic engagement and community dialogues.

The overall goal is helping the entire community build trust, tolerance, and belonging as well as encouraging people to be more willing to participate. New groups of leaders were formed during this process that could advocate, build understanding with the opposition, and move the community forward.

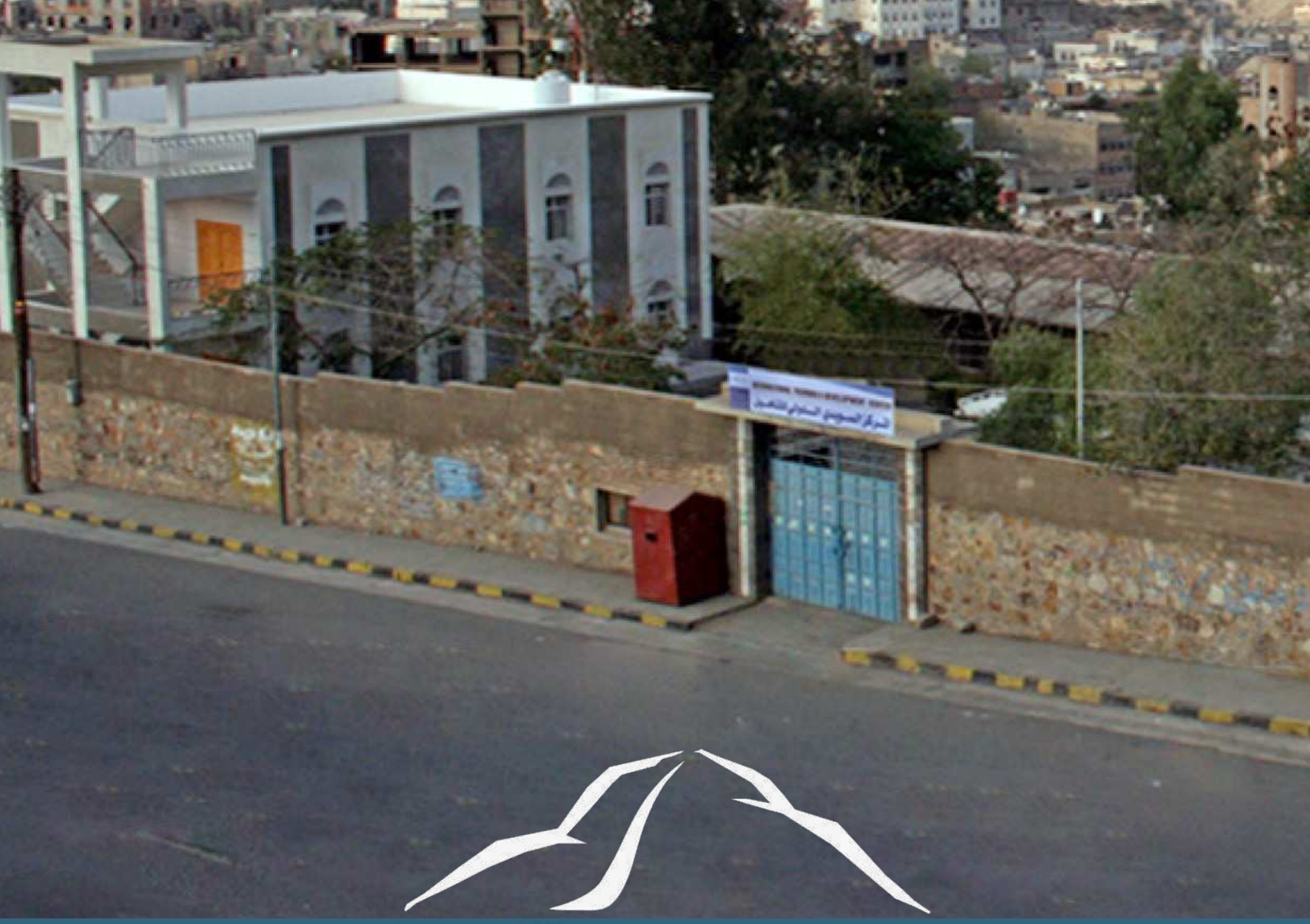
”I had been in a fight with my friend for two years, but because of this peace building course, I ended the feud and reconciled with my friend”



Consolidated Financial Statements	***2022***	***2023***
Integrated Peacebuilding Projects	$1,079,039	$408,048
Humanitarian Projects	$2,412,278	$3,123,547
Development Projects	$561,546	$630,265
Total (USD)	**$4,052,863**	**$4,161,860**

MAJOR PROJECT DONORS

- **Canadian Foodgrains Bank**
- **United Kingdom Foundation**
- **Dutch Relief Alliance Netherlands**
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs Finland**
- **Mid Sweden Aid (MSwA)**
- **LM International**
- **Sida (PMU Sweden)**
- **RadioAid Sweden**



ITDC INTERNATIONAL
Training & Development Center
المركز السويدي الدولي للتأهيل

International Training & Development Center (ITDC)

Sanaa Office:
Heil Seyasee
Sanaa, Republic of Yemen
+967 772 576 378

Taiz Office:
P.O Box 295, AL Moroor St,
Taiz, Republic of Yemen
+967 4 280 080

Aden Office
Business Park, Khormakser
Aden, Republic of Yemen
+967 04 283 993

office@itdcenter.org www.itdcenter.org