



RESILIENT WOMEN UNBROKEN SPIRITS



Field Stories from
UNMHA'S QUICK IMPACT PROJECTS

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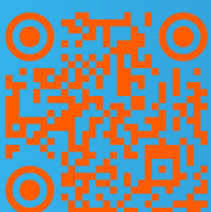
Yemen is blessed with talented and resilient people. It is the strength and creativity already present across communities that enable UNMHA to support and amplify local initiatives through its modest Quick Impact Projects. Women and young people in Hudaydah have long been building solutions for their communities, and QIPs help enhance these efforts—adding technical, material, and organizational support that allows local initiatives to grow and endure. By enabling local organizations to expand their work, QIPs reinforce dignity, open opportunities, and strengthen resilience despite years of hardship.

This collection of stories highlights the strength and determination of the women and young people at the heart of these efforts, as well as the dedication of the field coordinators who work alongside them. Their experiences show the true impact of QIPs: not only personal transformation, but the power of partnership between UNMHA and local actors committed to building stability, hope, and a better future for their communities.

We are honored to share their voices.

“Yemen is blessed with amazingly talented women and young people who have achieved so much with so little. UNMHA is committed to building on that strength — enabling communities to expand what they are already doing, and supporting local actors who are driving meaningful change every day.”

— **Mari Yamashita**, Officer-in-Charge of UNMHA



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PARTNER STORIES



WHEN WILLPOWER RISES FROM THE RUBBLE

In a fragile shack made of tin and wood in a remote area of Hays district, Dhekra, an 18-year-old girl, lives with her parents and seven siblings. Her family was displaced more than six years ago, fleeing the devastation of war. But displacement brought its own hardship—extreme poverty, unstable shelter, and daily struggles just to survive.

While walking near her home, Dhekra stepped on a landmine. The explosion left her with both legs amputated above the knee, along with injuries to one hand. Her world collapsed in an instant. Yet despite the overwhelming pain and uncertainty, she refused to give up.

Supported by Humanity & Inclusion (Handicap International), she began a long journey of recovery, receiving physical therapy, psychological support, and eventually prosthetic limbs. With dignity and mobility restored, she slowly began rebuilding her life.



Through UNMHA-supported livelihood programs, Dhekra received entrepreneurship training and later enrolled in a beauty and hairdressing vocational course—the field she loved. She excelled quickly, finding confidence, purpose, and a renewed dream of opening her own salon.



PARTNER STORIES



FROM PAIN TO POSSIBILITY

Khadija, a mother of three, never imagined how drastically her life would change. In early 2025, airstrike targeted the port of Hudaydah, forcing her family to flee. After a grueling 24-hour journey, they reached Hays district and settled in a small rented house barely strong enough to shield them from the cold.

Her husband, a fisherman, could only find work sporadically, placing heavy pressure on Khadija, who had only completed middle school. The burden of survival, displacement, and emotional distress pushed her to the edge.

Everything changed when a friend guided her to the Safe Space operated by For Human with support from UNMHA. There, she received psychological first aid, individual counseling, and group support, as well as referrals for urgent basic assistance.

After a full assessment, she was referred for training and economic empowerment.



Khadija joined the UNMHA-supported leather crafts program, learning to make bags and belts. Despite having no prior experience, she showed strong determination and enrolled in additional life-skills training. Her transformation was remarkable.

She grew more confident, developed new skills, and began selling handmade bags from home — contributing to her family's income.

Today, Khadija stands tall not as a displaced woman seeking help, but as a woman building her own future. Her story reflects resilience, empowerment, and a new beginning she proudly calls: "I Am Capable."



Image: Three Tracks Organizations

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

What UNMHA Hears



A LIFE DEDICATED TO EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY



Image: Three Tracks Organizations

Born in Mokha, Nadhima grew up with a deep belief in the power of education. After navigating personal hardship including marital separation, she became the sole provider for her three children. Despite the challenges facing Mokha—particularly the decline in its educational system following the conflict—Nadhima committed herself to creating change.

She established a private school offering classes from grade one through nine, not for profit, but to restore educational access. She later founded a charitable organization supporting vulnerable groups and opened an institute teaching English and computer skills.

During the conflict, her school was damaged, and she faced the loss of several family members. But Nadhima rebuilt once again. She expanded classrooms and began offering support to local and international organizations as a consultant in protection and livelihoods.

Through a UNMHA-funded project implemented in Hays, she joined the *Three Tracks Organization* as a field coordinator for a plastic recycling initiative—providing job opportunities for women and men while tackling a major environmental challenge. Nadhima's leadership, resilience, and commitment to her community make her a powerful example of women driving change in conflict-affected areas.

Despite the loss, instability, and enormous pressure she carried as a single mother, Nadhima turned every setback into determination. She built new opportunities not only for herself but for hundreds of others. Her journey shows how resilience can transform personal hardship into a lasting legacy of education, service, and hope.



EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH PROTECTION & SKILLS

Every morning in Hays, women begin walking toward the training space where Faten works. Some come from remote villages, arriving tired from the long journey yet still carrying the determination that has brought them this far. Faten recognises that determination. She sees it in the way they focus during sessions and in the creativity they bring to their work, especially when some use scraps of fabric or plastic to make bags. Their persistence is a reminder of why she chose this path.

Faten's own journey has shaped the compassion she brings to her work. When the conflict forced her to flee, she resettled in Hays and had to rebuild her life in unfamiliar circumstances. Instead of stepping back, she stepped toward the needs around her. For her, peace is not only a political horizon but something personal: the feeling of safety, dignity, and belonging that she wants every woman in her sessions to rediscover. She often speaks of the strength she sees in women who attend despite insecurity, family responsibilities, or long travel. Their determination, she says, motivates her to keep going.

Today, Faten coordinates activities for the For Human Development Foundation (FHDF) while pursuing a PhD in Educational Planning. Before the conflict, she taught in private schools and at the University of Science and Technology. These experiences continue to shape her belief that education is a foundation for dignity and independence. Balancing her doctoral studies with fieldwork is demanding, but she often says that continuing her education helps her stay motivated as she supports the women in her community.

Through displacement, uncertainty, and the challenge of rebuilding, Faten has held onto purpose. Her journey reflects a woman who rebuilt her life through learning and service, and who now helps others rebuild theirs with the same steady courage she brings to her own path.



A LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO RURAL WOMEN



Safiya has dedicated most of her life years to raising community awareness in agricultural and health fields. With a diploma in Rural Development and Home Economics, she worked extensively with government institutions and NGOs on literacy, savings programs, and agricultural extension.

During the conflict, she remained in her village in Hays despite intense fighting, committed to supporting vulnerable families.

Today, Safiya serves as an agricultural trainer with For Human Development Foundation (FHDF) on a UNMHA-funded project that promotes home gardening among rural women. Although many come from farming backgrounds, vegetable cultivation is not traditionally practiced in their areas. Safiya helps expand their skills, encouraging crop diversification to improve family nutrition and economic resilience.

Her long-standing service, conflict endurance, and dedication to marginalized groups make her a cornerstone of support in her community.

Through years of conflict, limited resources, and immense pressure on rural families, Safiya persevered. She turned decades of hardship into a lifetime mission of service. Her journey stands as proof that commitment and compassion can grow even in the most difficult environments — creating change that endures.



INTERVIEWS WITH PARTNER STAFF

RESTORING HOPE THROUGH PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT & LIVELIHOOD EMPOWERMENT



Haifa, a dedicated staff member with *Humanity & Inclusion (Handicap International)* in Mokha, is a wife and mother of two, and a mental-health professional whose compassion has shaped countless lives. With a degree in psychology and years of experience across several governorates, Haifa has become a trusted figure in psychosocial support and protection.

She has worked closely with vulnerable groups — women facing hardship, persons with disabilities, and survivors of landmine incidents — many bearing the visible and invisible wounds of war. Her path was not easy; she struggled to complete her education and faced resistance from her family before they accepted her work in the humanitarian field.

Today, Haifa leads the “Protection and Livelihoods” project funded by UNMHA, a programme dedicated to restoring dignity and independence to landmine survivors by equipping them with essential skills such as time management and basic administration, providing vocational training in tailoring, hairdressing, and mobile phone repair, and offering small business grants that enable participants to launch their own income-generating projects.

Haifa describes the project as a rare source of hope in an area overwhelmed by poverty. She was deeply inspired by participants who, despite disabilities, low literacy, and difficult living conditions, demonstrated extraordinary commitment to learning and rebuilding their futures.

One of the greatest challenges she faced was selecting only a limited number of recipients for small grants — a painful decision given that every participant was deserving. She is now actively seeking partners to support the remaining trainees.

Haifa’s journey is one of determination and heart. From overcoming social barriers to supporting trauma survivors, she transformed her challenges into purpose. She built not just a career but a path of healing for herself and others — showing how strength and empathy can turn struggle into meaningful change.



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