



Quick Facts

► The Countering the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers in Yemen (CRUCSY) project aimed to both prevent recruitment of children in armed conflict and achieve socio-economic integration of Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups (CAAFAG) and Children at Risk (CARs).

► Evaluation Objectives and Design:

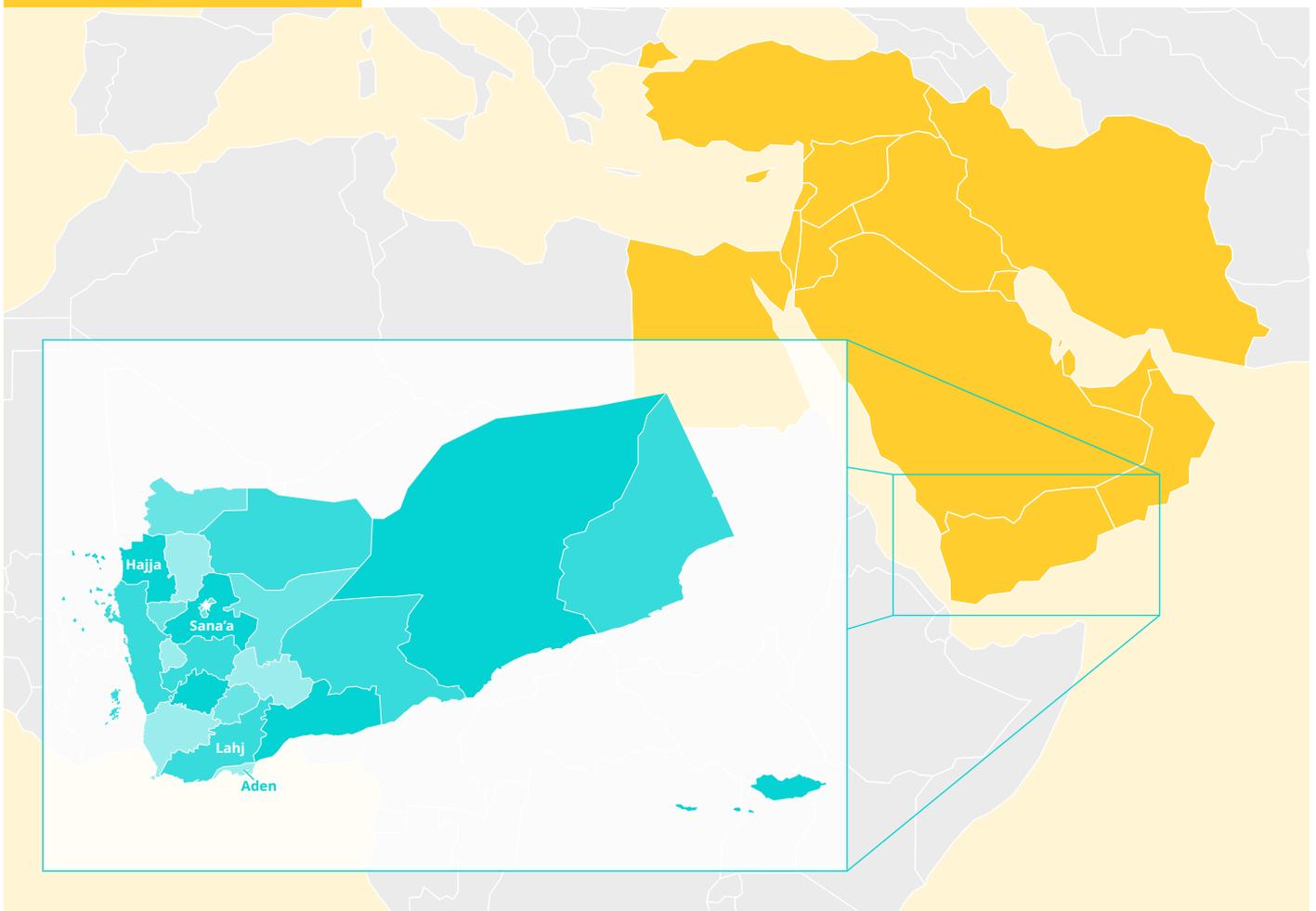
The final evaluation assessed the overall achievements of the project against its planned outcomes and outputs to generate lessons learned and best practices and recommendations for future programming.

The evaluation was guided by OECD-DAC criteria i.e relevance, design, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the project and the project Theory of Change (ToC).

Evaluation Methods:

-  Desk Review of secondary data, documents and reports
-  Key informant interviews with 30+ key informants sampled from a cross-section of stakeholders
-  Focus group discussions with beneficiaries in the target governorates
-  Contribution analysis on the evaluation questions /sub questions as well as on the project ToC
-  Periodic briefing and debriefing with the project team and the IPs for validating the assessment

PROVINCES OF YEMEN



KEY FINDINGS

1. The ILO CRUCSY project is highly relevant with the situation, needs and priorities of CAR and CAAFAG.
2. The project is unique with twin outcomes of 'prevention' and 're-integration' of CAR and CAAFAG.
3. The design in theory was logical and coherent, however, its translation on the ground suffered many setbacks.
4. The project ensured girls inclusion with (~14%) increase than planned.
5. The project applied efficient strategies to maximize the value for money i.e relied on existing infrastructure, existing experienced trainers and did not create a parallel system.
6. Most of the activities were completed with delay.
7. Inadequate allocation of training kits.
8. While internal communication was well-designed, the project could have learned better from other approaches of working with child soldiers in other countries.

LESSONS LEARNED

The CRUCSY project has demonstrated that a project focusing on both 'livelihoods' and 'protection' is both unique and urgent in Yemen and that it should be continued and expanded.

The project predominantly focused on 'prevention', and 're-integration' would require a different set of working modalities:

- A very few of the beneficiaries of the CRUCSY project were those who were 'returnees' as is acknowledged by several stakeholders interviewed. The project reached out successfully to vulnerable

groups to potentially 'prevent' some of them joining the armed forces. Therefore, the project model worked well for 'prevention'.

- 'Reintegration' is a distinct agenda requiring different strategies and approaches.

Effective co-ordination and collaboration with the local authorities is a key to success in a conflict zone.

- In a conflict zone, basing the project interventions on the local support is even more essential, even though seeking and getting it is all the more difficult.



GOOD PRACTICES



Apprenticeship model implemented was a good practice by the project.

- The project did adaptation of the ILO-International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour- Supporting Children's Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media (ILO-IPEC-SCREAM) methodology to the country context and to the specific situation of CAR and CAAFAG.
- The apprenticeship started with a market assessment and need assessment of youth (18-25 years) and identified priorities.
- The apprenticeship implementation was monitored technically by IP supervisors recommended by the Ministry of Technical Education and vocational Training, and by IP project coordinator.
- The apprenticeship was supported by the Chamber of Commerce in Aden.
- The local authority was on-board in these activities as was the case with Technical Education and Vocational Training and Social Affairs and Labour Offices in Lahj Governorate



Training guide suggested approach to identify, select and support CAAFAG was another good practice used by the project.

- It provided operational guidance to the key programmatic areas of: prevention of recruitment; preparedness of response; negotiation of release; interim/transitory care following release; identification/verification; family tracing; reunification; reintegration; monitoring of recruitment and re-recruitment; follow-up and advocacy.
- It proposed a sequence of steps for effective planning and implementation of project interventions i.e a) context /gap analysis, b) community-based approach for prevention of recruitment, c) parental support, d) profiling of CAAFAGs, e) social and economic re-integration of CAAFAGs.



RECOMMENDATIONS



While the Support Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security in Yemen (ERRY II) project which is currently implemented by the ILO in collaboration with UNDP, WFP and FAO, can continue to contribute to the 'prevention' part, a new distinct project should be designed, focusing on the 're-integration' related outcomes.



Improve knowledge management function.



Improve the CRUCSY theory of change, with clear identification of strategies for ensuring result-transitions and risk management.



Improve effectiveness of vocational training by providing post-training finance and market linkage support to the trainees.



Develop result-oriented M&E systems that capture beneficiary feedback and improve the communication of the project results.

QUOTES

► A beneficiary from Lahj

"We were asked on what we are interested in, when were selected. Girls attended sewing and coiffure and the boys attended mobile maintenance training. The training programs started with theory trainings and then practice in relevant workshops. After completion of apprenticeship training, we have started working as self-employed".

► A trainer in Sana'a

"I provided psycho-social support sessions for 30 girls and the boys. They were all drop-out students suffering depression, schizophrenia, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of difficult living conditions at home and due to the ongoing conflict. They were also referred to specialized psychiatrist for the right treatment and medication free of charge. I had regular sessions with them and their families and was able to establish understanding to share their concerns. Over time, these boys and girls reported improvement".