

# Capacity Building in Conflict Mitigation for Communities and Local Authorities in Yemen



 **PDCI** Partners  
for Democratic  
Change International

 **PARTNERS-YEMEN**



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

YEMEN, JUNE 2013 - MAY 2015

## YEMEN

Similar to other countries in the region, Yemen faces considerable challenges in terms of resolving social, judicial and economic issues. The shortage of resources and the weak state institutions lead to potential conflicts.

The majority of the population, about 70%, lives in rural areas where such problems are most palpable and it is largely up to the communities themselves to set aside differences and work together towards improving their common future.

The preferred conflict resolution method in Yemen is tribal arbitration and mediation (traditionally about 80% of Yemenis employ it) and there is the potential for strong, lasting community-based mechanisms for conflict prevention and mitigation. However, limited capacity and lack of enforcement often hamper its development. PDCI and Partners Yemen's goal is to combine local expertise with international best practices to achieve sustainable, positive impact in the communities of Abyan, Lahij, Adan and Ta'izz, Shabwa, Mareb and Al-Baidgha.

## THE PROJECT

Already successful in their endeavor in other areas of the country, PDCI and Partners Yemen aim to build on the proven model by establishing additional local conflict resolution committees to arbitrate use and development of natural resources in the four new governorates. Focus will be on analyzing current conflicts, security, law enforcement and efficiency and other relevant factors. Expected results include raising the skill level of community trainees and local government officials to manage conflicts in their respective areas.

Conflict Mitigation Committees created during the first phase of the project (Shabwa, Mareb and Al-Baidha' areas) will continue to be supported and their

experience so far - over 30 conflict cases addressed - will be invaluable when establishing new committees in Taiz, Lahij, Adan, and Abyan. Communities and Committees will engage in joint cooperation to raise awareness, influence policies and improve response time at local level. Newly forged bonds will help strengthen the overall community, thus preventing or reducing potential conflicts' intensity.

### TARGET GROUP

The project targets local council members, tribal leaders, security and judiciary representatives, leaders from Civil Society Organisation, women and youth.



## Participatory Needs Assessment for More Ownership and Sustainability

### METHODOLOGY

**Participatory assessments:** key in gathering valuable information, tackling existing problems and strengthening communities.

**Value of preparation:** acquiring essential information about existing local capacities, resources and strategies in overcoming difficulties is crucial for the project.

**Value of cooperation:** jointly analyzing key concerns and challenges by the population of the communities to share an understanding of what is at stake.

**Value of foresight:** through cooperation and capacity building activities, communities take ownership, share the responsibility and ultimately build a better, more sustainable future for themselves and the generations to come.

## ACTIVITIES

### 1 Inception Phase

The project will assess the current situation in the target communities and identify local community representatives. A one-day workshop in each community will introduce the project to local leaders. The meeting will also serve as a platform for electing community facilitators (CF) and members of the conflict mitigation committees (CMC).

### 2 Capacity Building Workshops for Community Facilitators (CFs)

The 33 elected CFs will attend two seminars to share and strengthen their knowledge on conflict management and improve their mediation skills.

### 3 Training Workshops for Conflict Mitigation Committee Members (CMCs)

On governorate level, the 90 elected CMC members will meet with previously trained CMCs to discuss ideas and learn from past experience. The workshop will also emphasize the value of sensitivity in managing conflicts.

### 4 Community outreach

After returning to their respective communities, CFs and CMCs will engage with family, acquaintances, and members of the community to identify areas which require attention. Meetings will be on-going in order to build a community-wide support and achieve consensus on key issues.

### 5 Facilitation

CFs and CMCs will receive mentoring support to help them fully realise their potential to become respected and skilled community facilitators.

### 6 Implementation of community projects

The 11 most outstanding peace building/dialogue initiatives will receive financial support to build their public credibility and succeed in their respective endeavour. Additionally, CMCs (2 per project) will benefit from training in small grant management.

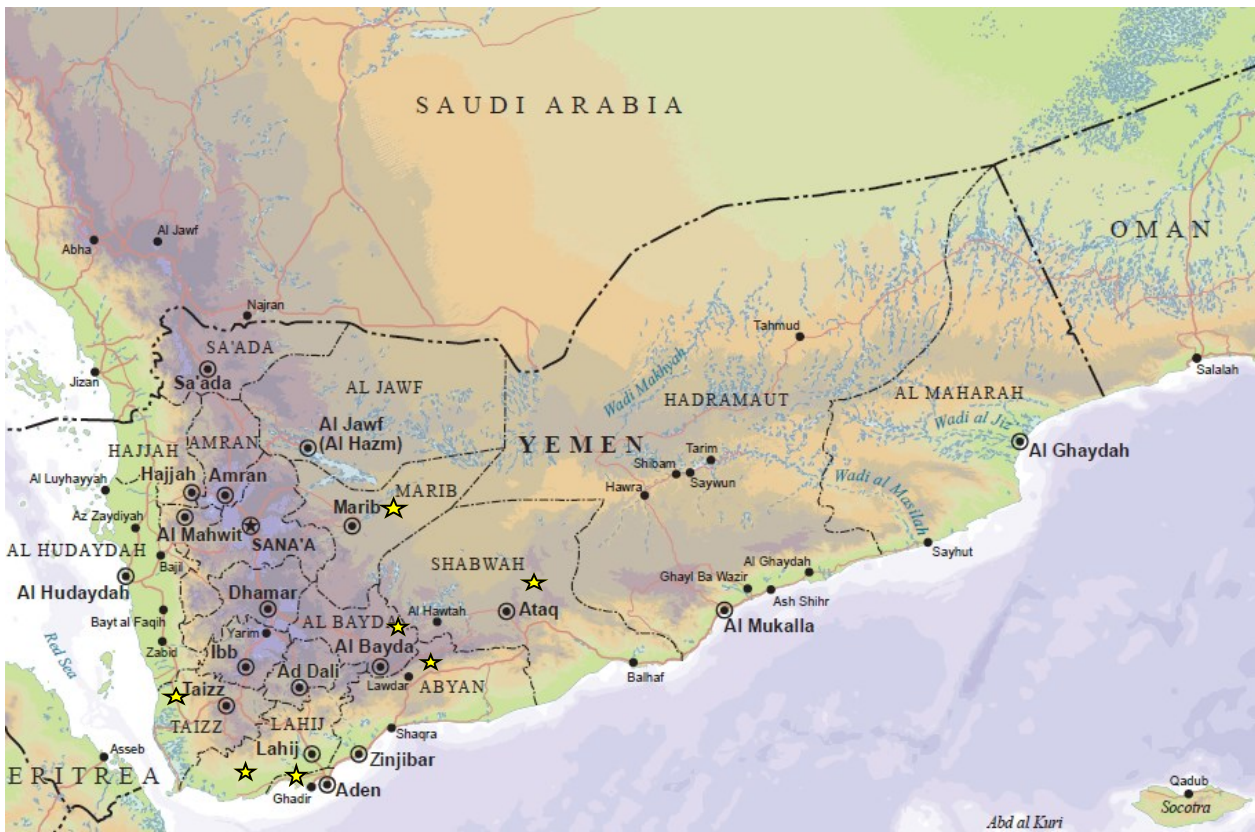
### 7 Knowledge Sharing Conference

A conference will be organized inviting all FCs, beneficiaries, representatives of the Yemenite government, CMCs and the media to exchange experiences and share success stories.

## ESTIMATED RESULTS

- 1) Increased trust among influential stakeholders including tribal and community leaders, government actors such as security sector representatives (police, military and judiciary), and local councils of authorities.
- 2) Built capacity of community actors to mitigate conflict including the local authority, security sector and civil society representatives including women and youth.
- 3) Established sustainable local structures and networks that can address conflict regarding land ownership and use, natural resources and development services through communication enhanced collaboration and constructive negotiation activities.
- 4) A culture of peaceful conflict prevention and resolution will be evident through the increased number of initiatives to prevent and resolve conflicts.





## MISSION

The project seeks to facilitate conflict mitigation mechanism in tribal communities in order to prevent escalations and support the building of a peaceful society. Four key areas will form the base of the project:

*Strategy-building through wide consultation.* In all stages of the project we engage with various actors.

*Capacity building.* Various different models training and workshop settings will equip local participants with peace building skills.

*Funding for targeted conflict mediation activities.* Small funds will be dedicated to the implementation of local initiatives establishing conflict mitigation mechanisms.

*Establishing, credible local conflict mediation mechanism.* Local peace building efforts will be monitored, ensuring the project's sustainability.



Partners for Democratic Change International is an international non-governmental association, based in Belgium. It is a global partnership of nineteen independent, local organisations in Europe, the Americas and the Middle East that work to advance civil society, good governance and a culture of change and conflict management worldwide .



Partners Yemen - opened in early 2009, to promote peace building, culture of change and conflict management in Yemen, and empower ordinary people to participate in decision-making. PY launched its programs to build sustainable capacity and upgrade civil society, providing training, establishing an anti-corruption coalition and empowering women leaders.

For further information contact: Dr. Daniela Kolarova, Director, PDCI (Belgium):

[daniela@pdc-network.org](mailto:daniela@pdc-network.org)

PDCI - Partners for Democratic Change International, AISBL

205 Rue Belliard, 3rd Floor, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

Tel:+32 (0)2/230 7110 Fax:+32 (0)2/231 1108

[www.pdc-network.org](http://www.pdc-network.org)



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office