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Sheba Youth Foundation for Development

Research Study

Gender Dynamics and Women's Participation in Taiz Governorate- Yemen

December 2023

Research Study

"Gender Dynamics and Women's Participation in Taiz Governorate - Yemen"

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Cover photo
A Yemeni- young women presents her efforts on conflicts transformation and peace building in front of her colleagues in Taiz Governorate, Yemen on November 10, 2023.
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Executive Summary

Between June and August 2023, Sheba Youth Foundation conducted a study on Gender Power Dynamic Relation and Women's Participation with funding from Oxfam. The purpose of the study was generating contextual information on the specific needs and risks faced by women and girls and finding results and practical recommendations that are applicable in providing a base for more gender-sensitive programming, developing interventions that enhance the resilience of vulnerable displaced persons and host communities affected by the internal conflicts and disasters in the targeted areas, as well as improving the level of their participation in decision-making for peace and security. The study targeted rural and urban areas in five districts from Taiz governorate: Ash-Shamaytein, Al Ma'afer, Al-Mudhaffar, Al-Qahera and Salah. The thematic scope of the study included studying gender roles and relations and gender dynamics, capacities and vulnerabilities, protection, community governance, conflict resolution, participation, and access to services and assistance. The sampling framework of the study addressed a diversity of stakeholders affected by the conflicts / disasters, especially the most vulnerable. A sample of 250 persons was taken from the target population: the marginalized and host communities living in rural, semi-urban and urban areas of Taiz. A total of 196 interviews were conducted to collect data. This included 85 in-depth interviews with men and women from vulnerable IDP households, host communities and marginalized groups, as well as households having persons with disabilities, 105 key informant interviews with community leaders (both men and women) and local authorities, and 6 focus group discussions targeting 20 men and 40 women.

The main findings of the study were as follows:

Gender roles and relations and gender dynamics

Gender Roles and Relations within Families: The main change in the role of men was the drop in the percentage of men chewing qat, engaging in social gatherings and engaging in livelihoods. Men also spent lesser time on all the three aspects. There was a significant drop in the percentage of men buying food and a slight drop in the percentage of men engaged in giving care to children and elderly persons. At the same time, there was a significant increase in the percentage of men engaged in fetching water. There was also a slight increase in the percentage of men engaged in cleaning the house and cooking. Regarding women, overall, the burden of women increased because of the conflict. Women had to take up roles that were traditionally played by men in addition to the traditional roles played by women. Before the conflict, the duties of most women included housecleaning, cooking, childcare, caring of sick / elderly / injured persons and buying food. Some women were also engaged in livelihoods, agriculture, caring for animals and fetching water. The majority of women used to participate in social gatherings and nearly half of them used to chew qat. After the conflict, there was an increase in the percentage of women engaged in livelihoods, fetching water, purchasing food and caring for sick / elderly and injured persons. Women managed the additional work by spending less time cleaning the house, cooking, participating in social gatherings and chewing qat.

Gender Dynamics within Families: The conflict has changed the gender dynamics within families. While some changes have had positive effects, others have had negative effects on the family unit. According to the majority of the community leaders, the war caused a lot of pain and suffering to women. Since the war started, the responsibility of the household fell on the shoulders of women, who emerged as a strong support for their husbands and families and started going outside to earn a living.

Men also started accepting the situation and supporting the role of women. In some cases, the war proved to be a great equaliser as men and women in the families started doing the same roles and sharing the same responsibilities. Relationships improved, becoming more transparent and open, men and women began to think together about how to improve their living conditions, and men began to accept the opinions of women. In others, the burden on women has increased drastically. But, overall, this situation has made women stronger, as women have started playing bigger roles in their families, and their decision-making power has also increased. On the other hand, the war shifted male traditional roles. It forced them to play the roles that used to be of women in the past, and vice versa. Also, the economic conditions of the families have deteriorated sharply leading to a lot of instability. Accordingly, these changes have led to more conflicts and domestic violence within families. Moreover, the delicate balance of mutual respect that should exist between couples has been damaged, leading to an increase in divorce and the breaking of families.

Capacities and Vulnerabilities

Capacities: The conflict has had a deeper impact on the education of boys compared to women, with more men dropping out of education than girls. Regarding skills, the main skill sets of women included cooking, teaching, sewing, secretarial work, coiffure, and baking, in addition to IT skills, photography, knitting, henna, handicrafts, income generation, animal rearing and agriculture. Skill sets of men included: trading, secretarial work, teaching, agriculture, animal rearing, driving, electrical works, solar power systems installation and maintenance, repairing works, plumbing, mobile maintenance, leadership, handicrafts, graphics, computer maintenance, IT skills, carpentry, and bee keeping.

Income and Livelihoods: Overall, 73% of the population was unemployed. While there was not much



0-1Photo: A group of women in a bazaar promoting women's products in Al-Maafer District / Photography: Muhammad Youssef

difference in the situation of livelihoods in general, the proportion of unemployment was slightly higher in urban areas compared to rural areas and semi-urban areas. 74% of the men and 27% of the women who were unemployed at the time of this study had been working before indicating that the conflict had

affected the livelihood activities of men more severely than of women. While the main difficulties faced by women were: the time taken for household responsibilities and caring for sick / elderly persons, loss of jobs and lack of job opportunities for women and lack of skills, health problems, and safety and security concerns. The main reasons given by men for being unemployed included: having disabilities, lack of job opportunities, lack / loss of productive assets, lack of job opportunities for IDPs. The family income of IDP families and returnees (families who returned to their homes after a period of displacement) was the most affected compared to host communities. Out of the total employed people, 40% were working on daily wages (20% in the governmental sector, 11% in small private businesses and 11% in the private sector). While a few from semi-urban areas were working as freelancers, few from urban areas were providing services to households, in the fields of real estate and teaching. A few people from rural and urban areas were working in agriculture, 4% of them were begging for survival.

Assets: A majority of men and women had mobile phones, houses, cattle and livestock. Few women and men had shops and a few men had vehicles. The main asset of IDP women was their mobile phones, a majority of returnee women had livestock, and a majority of women from host communities had houses. Regarding men, a majority of the IDP men had livestock, 100% returnee men had houses, the majority of them had cattle and a few had land. 78% men from host communities had houses and 28% of them had lands. Regarding productive assets, while women commonly had cooking tools, blenders, refrigerators, ovens, coiffure kits and computers, men had vehicles, construction tools, agriculture tools, and solar power systems maintenance kits, in addition to cooking tools, refrigerators and computers. Few men and women had sewing machines and cameras.

Vulnerabilities

Impact of the conflict: The conflict has severely and indiscriminately affected lives. According to community leaders, many families displaced when the war intensified. They had left their homes and fled to save their lives. Before the war, these families had stable lives and jobs. The war has devastated their lives. Most of the families have lost their jobs, had no money to pay house rents and had gone into debt. Some were forced to do hard physical work for low wages and they suffered financially, mentally and health wise. The conflict has severely affected women in general, and young women in particular. The number of unemployed female graduates has increased. Many women had lost job opportunities and many were forced to work on low wages. Some women were unable to complete their education, and some were forced to leave education and work and support their families alongside men or because of the loss of their breadwinners. Many women used whatever skills they had: coiffure, henna, incense making, etc. to meet the family expenses and had to assume more responsibilities in their families. Many families were separated as well. Women also experienced a heightened risk of gender-based violence. Regarding men, many young men have stopped education and taken up jobs so as to support their families. Some joined the war to earn a living and lost their lives or were badly injured. Many had to leave their families behind and travel to other governorates or outside the country to earn a living. Many others were forced to work on low wages. Men's both health and psychological states have affected. There are examples in which men could not stand up again and others in which men have shown great resilience, have not given up and have started their lives from scratch again.

Least respected groups: Mmarginalised communities, Muhamsheen, were the least respected groups followed by unemployed men, persons with disabilities, divorced women, widows, poor communities, IDPs, in addition to returnees, working women, army men and women in general.

Early Marriage: According to the community leaders, girls used to get married soon after completing high school. Customs & traditions, poverty, family living conditions and the lack of family awareness of the negative effects of early marriage were the main factors of its continuation. Economic

considerations were another factor sustaining early marriages for girls. On one side, families got their girls married for the amounts of "dowery" or because the fathers did not have the capacity to take care of his children. On the other side, the families into which the girls married looked at them as additional labour which could contribute to the family income. Some other families looked at girls as additional help with the family chores and taking care of the family members. Early marriages had a negative impact on the education, health and psychological wellbeing of girls. In some cases, the girls were not ready to take up the responsibilities of marriage life, which often led to quarrels. There were also cases in which young girls got abused by the in-laws. Regarding boys, after the conflict, boys started getting married late. The age of marriage for boys has increased because they had to wait until they finished accumulating the "dowery" amounts needed to get married. But in all cases, whether boys or girls, children lost their childhood and had to shoulder responsibilities which were much beyond their age and understanding. Multiple pregnancies and bigger families were of the important issues in all early marriages, in addition to the impact on education, self-development and acquiring the skills needed to sustain in the market and earn a decent living.

Living Conditions of IDPs: IDPs have been living in the areas for more than 3 years. Nearly half of the IDPs were living in rented places mostly in urban and semi-urban areas and to a very small extent in rural areas. IDPs from urban areas were also living in temporary shelters, abandoned houses, IDP sites and warehouses. IDPs from rural areas were living in IDP sites, with relatives, in the open and in public buildings.

Freedom of movement: There were many restrictions on the movement of women. Though women were able to move freely when going to work, going to visit friends / relatives / family, and going to collect humanitarian aids, there were more restrictions on their travelling to near cities or to other governorates. Women also faced restrictions when going to markets, for treatment and to collect humanitarian aids. In a few families, women were even not allowed to move alone for any purpose.

Protection, Community Governance, Conflict Resolution and Participation

Protection: In most cases, women and men went to friends / relatives in case of violence / threat to safety, followed by the local authorities, sheikhs, and protection centers / local organisations.

Community governance: The conflict has changed the power dynamics in communities. Before the conflict, the local authorities were the primary decision makers followed by tribal leaders. This has changed after the conflict with armed groups, powerful figures emerging as decision makers.

Participation

- **Participation:** Participation of men and women in community committees and social gatherings has reduced since the start of the conflict.
- **Participation of women in the public sphere:** According to the male community leaders, after the conflict, many families were left with no option but to accept women going out to earn a living and support her. As a result, there was more acceptance for economic participation of women, social taboo for working women reduced, and the proportion of women running businesses grew and that of men running small businesses reduced. Emergence of women as economic actors also strengthened their voice and presence in the public sphere. Societal relations became shared between men and women and women became more influential socially and developmentally. Also, respect for women and recognition of the potential of public participation of women increased. According to the female community leaders, since the start

0-2Picture 2: A community leader directs a dialogue session on women's rights and societal customs / Photo by Osama Al-Bashiri

of the conflict, a majority of the informal sectors were women. Acceptance for working women, their participation and respect for their opinions has increased. Women have become more active in the society, have started playing a bigger role, were engaged in community service and have become more aware of their rights and duties as a constituent of the society. Voices of women have become stronger in the society.



- **Engagement of women and youth in conflict resolution:** Disputes occurred over conflict of interests / resources (water, gas, etc.) /power / lack of services. There were land disputes, family disputes / domestic violence, disputes between IDPs and host communities and disputes over humanitarian assistance. Few disputes were related to taxes / levies, marginalization / non-acceptance, and disputes within armed groups. There were also armed conflicts in some areas and disputes between landlords and tenants, community disputes, personal disputes between individuals, disputes over wells, youth problems, as well as human rights issues. According to the respondents, disputes within families were caused by the difficult circumstances in which families were living, stress and psychological impact of the situation. Disputes between landlords and tenants were caused by rising prices and reducing affordability of households. A majority of the other conflicts were caused by absence of the state, lack of community awareness, unfair distribution of resources, weak enforcement of law, presence of large number of militants and culture of carrying arms. Acts of exploitation and bulling of the weaker sections were caused by the increase in elements drawing power from weapons. Regarding engaging women in conflict resolution, overall, there was more acceptance for the role of women. Community leaders agreed that women constituted a large section of the society, they were an integral part of the society and that it was very important to engage them in conflict resolution. The common tone was that women were able to influence men and were more

flexible because of which they had more leverage in finding a solution. It was also felt that it is important to give women opportunities to develop their leadership skills even further. Regarding engagement of youth, respondents agreed that youth were the future of the country, they were full of new ideas and they had positive energy and capacities that needed to be developed. Also, youth were energetic, had the continuation needed and, most importantly, they enjoyed participating in various activities. Engaging youth in conflict resolution would provide them with the needed experience and give them an opportunity to develop their skills.

Despite the emphasis of the UNSCR 2250 and 1325 on meaningful participation of youth and women in peacebuilding, some respondents had the view that women should not be involved in conflict resolution, because it was more the role of the State. Some women leaders were also skeptical about whether women's role in peacebuilding will be acceptable in the patriarchal society of Yemen. There were also some men leaders who felt that conflict resolution was more the role of wise men from the society and women did not have a role in it. Some representatives of local authorities felt that though women were involved in resolving conflicts within their families, conflict resolution in the public sphere was not the role of women. According to some others, women's participation in conflict resolution was very limited and not representative and that women did not have any real decision-making powers. Some respondents also said that youth should not be engaged in conflict resolution because it needed wisdom which was commonly associated with elders from the communities, wise men and women. It was felt that youth may be lacking this wisdom, which may lead to escalation of the conflict.

Priority needs of communities and access to humanitarian services

Access: Over half of the HHs did not have access to health care mainly because the health facilities were far away, some did not have access to protection services, hygiene materials, a quarter did not have access to food, a significant proportion did not have access to safe sanitation and water. A majority of the HHs from rural areas and a significant proportion from the urban areas did not have access to health care, reproductive health and protection services. Vulnerable HHs such as marginalised HHs and HHs with sick / injured persons faced severe access issues.

Marginalisation of groups / communities, lack of access to organisations providing assistance, lack of information, lack of documentation, lack of transportation costs were the main difficulties faced by women and men in getting access to humanitarian services in addition to health and mobilities issues and injuries. Women were affected more by marginalisation of groups / communities followed by lack of documentation, lack of information and lack of transportation and to some extent lack of access to organisations providing humanitarian assistance and mobility issues. Men were affected more by lack of access to organisations providing humanitarian assistance followed by marginalisation of groups / communities. Men also faced difficulties because of lack of information, lack of documentation, lack of transportation and mobility issues, but to a lesser extent than women. However, the proportion of men facing difficulties in getting access to humanitarian services because of health issues was more as compared to women. Men also faced difficulties in access because of injuries.

Regarding access of children to education, a majority of the school-age boys and girls were going to school. However, few were dropping out of schools because of family circumstances in order to earn a living, to help in household chores, or to take care of family members. Stories shared by community leaders showed that girls and boys had also dropped out of school because of loss of parents, ill treatment by teachers, fear and stress experienced during the conflict and bullying. Boys and girls from the marginalised groups, Muhamsheen, were facing discrimination on basis of race and colour, harassment and bullying, even before the conflict. Though there is an increase in awareness about the

rights of marginalised groups after the conflict, exploitation of boys continues and girls are afraid to go to school because of their fear of harassment and bullying.

Priority needs of communities and urgent interventions to improve resilience: The top priorities of communities were water, shelter / shelter rehabilitation, food and safe sanitation. A majority of the community leaders identified livelihoods / economic empowerment programmes, including skills training, as a priority intervention for improving community resilience in addition to material and moral support.

Recommendations

Recommendations for developing interventions that enhance the resilience of vulnerable IDPs and host communities:

Economic Empowerment

- Most of the families have lost their jobs, having no money to pay house rents and have gone into debt. Comprehensive economic empowerment programs, including business and vocational skill development are recommended based on the urgent interventions identified by the community leaders. Since there are very few job opportunities in the market, the recommendation is to focus on self-employment and providing mentoring support to develop business plans, establish and operationalize businesses. Since the majority of the men and women do not have productive assets, it is recommended to provide them with livelihood kits. It is recommended to conduct a detailed market assessment in order to work out the details of the economic empowerment programmes.

- The conflict has affected both young men and women. The number of unemployed female graduates has increased because of the war. Also, some women were unable to complete their education, and some were forced to leave education and work and support their families alongside men or because of loss of their breadwinners. Many women were using whatever skills they had: coiffure, henna, incense making, etc. to cover the family expenses and had to assume more responsibilities in their families. Regarding men, the conflict had a deeper impact on their education and employment as compared to women, with more men dropping out of education than women and more men losing jobs. Young men had joined the war to earn a living and had lost their lives or were maimed. The assessment also showed that unemployed men were one of the least respected groups. In addition, the war forced male to take on the roles that were traditionally the domain of women, which was leading to domestic violence and separation of families. It is recommended to raise community awareness on the impact of the war on men and women. It is also recommended to study this further and provide policy recommendations to the donor community for livelihood programmes for men, psychosocial support, scholarships to continue education and counseling for families, men and women as one of the ways to reduce domestic violence and build the resilience of families.

- There was a lack of job opportunities for IDPs. Family income of returnee and IDP families was the most affected as compared to host communities. It is therefore recommended to focus more on IDPs and returnees in livelihood programmes.

- One of the main reasons given by men for being unemployed was being suffering from disabilities. It is therefore recommended to have livelihood programmes with special focus on persons with disabilities.

Improving access to humanitarian Services

- Marginalization of groups / communities, lack of access to organizations providing assistance, lack of information, lack of documentation, and lack of transportation costs were the main difficulties faced by women and men in getting access to humanitarian services in addition to health and mobilities issues and injuries. It is recommended to ensure that the most vulnerable groups, especially the marginalized groups, Muhamsheen, and those living in remote and hard to reach areas, persons with disabilities and injured persons, are identified and targeted and that budgets should include providing beneficiaries with transportation costs. It is also recommended to build the capacity of community leaders, local authorities and local humanitarian organizations on humanitarian principals, accountability and identifying and targeting vulnerable groups to ensure that they have access to humanitarian assistance. Since lack of documentation and information was a common problem faced, it is recommended to address the problems through projects and ensure raising the awareness of communities regarding the humanitarian services available in their locality and how to access them.

- IDPs had been living in the areas for more than 3 years. Some IDPs from urban areas were living in temporary shelters, abandoned houses, IDP sites and shops. Some IDPs from rural areas were living in IDP sites, in the open and in public buildings. It is recommended to have a component of CCM / Shelter in the projects or coordinate with other organisations working in CCCM / Shelter and establish a referral mechanism for improving IDP sites and rehabilitation of shelters.

- Over half of the HHs did not have access to health care mainly because the health facilities were far away, some did not have access to protection services and hygiene materials, a quarter did not have access food, and a significant proportion did not have access to safe sanitation and water. A majority of the HHs from rural areas and a significant proportion from the urban areas did not have access to health care, reproductive health and protection services. The top priorities of communities were water, shelter / shelter rehabilitation, food and safe sanitation. It is recommended to have projects addressing these specific needs, establish referral mechanisms within the projects, and coordinate with other humanitarian actors to address the needs jointly.

- Regarding access of children to education, a majority of the school-age boys and girls were going to school. However, few were dropping out of schools, because of family circumstances, in order to earn a living, help in household chores, or take care of family members. It is recommended to develop projects focusing on improving access to education. It is also recommended to conduct a study on the impact of the conflict on children and come up with policy recommendations to the donor community to address this issue and allocate budgets for improving access of children to education and prioritize humanitarian – development nexus.

Recommendations for transforming harmful social and gender norms, increase the voice and leadership of women, women activists, Women-led Organizations/WROs and youth

The assessment showed that some entrenched and unchallenged cultural norms and practices were prevalent in Taiz governorate. Marginalised communities were the least respected groups followed by unemployed men, PWDs, divorced women, widows, poor communities, and IDPs, in addition to

returnees and working women. Customs and traditions in addition to poverty, family circumstances and lack of family awareness about the negative effects of early marriage, economic considerations were the main factors sustaining the practice of early marriages. In a few families, women did not move alone for any purposes and had to be always accompanied by a mahram. Although women were forced to earn livelihoods for their families because of their circumstances, they were unable to find work because there were very few job opportunities for them.

The main reservations regarding the participation of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding were related to the perception that this was the role of the State and wise men, women did not have a role in the public sphere and that they should only be engaged in conflict resolution within their families. Regarding participation of youth in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, some views were that youth did not have the experience and wisdom needed, which may lead to the escalation of the conflict.

These norms / practices are harmful for women and girls and were affecting participation of women / women led organisations and youth. The following is recommended for transforming harmful social and gender norms and increasing the voice and leadership of women, women activists, Women-led Organizations/WROs and youth:

- In all cases of early marriage, whether for boys or girls, children lost their childhood and had to shoulder responsibilities which were much beyond their age and understanding. Multiple pregnancies and bigger families were of the important issues in all early marriages, in addition to the impact on education, self-development and acquiring the skills needed to sustain in the labour market and earn a decent living. Raising awareness on the negative effects of early marriage and focusing on the aspects of health and development of an individual is recommended.

- Educating communities on inclusivity and harmful effects of marginalization and segmentation, drawing upon case studies from Yemen and across the world.

- Raising awareness on the impact of the conflict on women and the importance of the participation of women in economic activities, holding discussions / dialogues on economic empowerment of women.

- Supporting intergenerational dialogues / discussions on challenges faced by women regarding movement and solutions.

- Based on the responses of community leaders and local authorities, the following measures are recommended to improve the participation of women and youth in peacebuilding processes: conducting outreach activities, awareness raising and mobilizing women and youth in peacebuilding processes, building the capacities of men and women in peacebuilding and conducting inclusive community dialogues, seminars and discussions.

Introduction

Purpose and scope

The purpose of the study was finding results and practical recommendations that are applicable in developing interventions that enhance the resilience of vulnerable IDPs and host communities affected by internal conflicts and disasters in the targeted areas, as well as improving the level of their participation in decision-making for peace and security. The overall objective of the study was to generate participatory research evidence on needs and priorities for building resilience of vulnerable IDPs and host communities affected by the internal conflicts and disasters and improving their participation in decision making for peace and security. The study had two specific objectives: (i) to provide contextual information on the specific needs and risks faced by women and girls, which will provide a base for more gender-sensitive programming; and (ii) To derive evidence based practical recommendations for developing interventions that enhance resilience of the affected people and improve the level of their participation in decision making for peace and security. The study targeted rural and urban areas in five districts from Taiz governorate: Ash-Shamaytein, Al-Ma'afer, Al-Mudhaffar, Al-Qahera and Salah. The thematic scope of the study included studying: gender roles and relations and gender dynamics, capacities and vulnerabilities, protection, community governance, conflict resolution, participation, and access to services and assistance.

Methodology

The sampling framework of the study addressed the diversity of stakeholders affected by conflicts / disasters, especially the most vulnerable. A sample of 250 persons was taken from the target population from marginalized and host community members living in rural, semi-urban and urban areas of Taiz. 54% of the sample were women and 46% were men. Separate data collection tools were developed for each group. A total of 196 interviews were conducted to collect data. This included: 85 in depth interviews with men and women from vulnerable IDPs households, host communities and marginalized groups as well as households having members with disabilities; 105 key informant interviews with community leaders (both men and women) and local authorities; and 6 focus group discussions targeting 20 men and 40 women. The study employed triangulation and cross-validation to ensure consistency, accuracy and credibility. The study was supplemented by quotes and stories collected from the participants.

Report Structure

The Executive Summary presents an overview of the findings followed by the introduction which talks about the purpose and scope of the study and the methodology. This is followed by the key findings in four thematic areas: gender roles and relations, capacities and vulnerabilities, participation in decision making (at community and intra-household levels), and access to services and assistance. Each of these sections looks at the pre and post conflict situations and the impact of the conflict on men, women, boys and girls. Finally, the section of recommendations presents practical recommendations to enhance the resilience of vulnerable IDPs and host communities in the targeted areas as well as recommendations to improve the level of their participation in decision-making for peace and security.

Context

Demographic context of the study

Household Heads: In 73% of the households (62 households), interviews were conducted with the heads of the households. Out of these households, 42% were headed by women and 58% were headed by men. Out of the total female-headed households, 4% were headed by women between 19-25 years old, 42% by women between 26-35 years old and 54% by women between 36-50 years old. Out of the total male-headed households, 11% were headed by men between 19-25 years old, 25% by men between 26-35 years old, 44% by men between 36-50 years old and 19% by men above 50.

Women-headed Households: 42% of the households were headed by women. Out of the total women heading the households, 27% were widows, 4% were abandoned, 19% were divorced, and 4% were single.

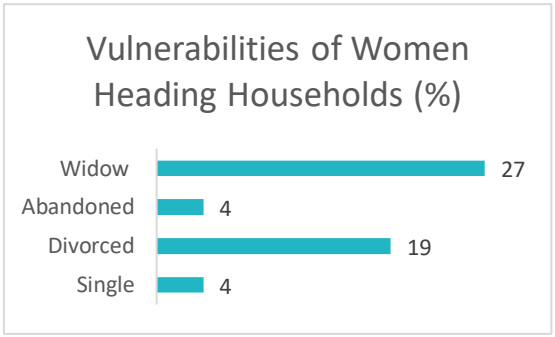


Figure 1: Vulnerabilities of women headed households

Family Size and Population Structure

44% of the households had 5-7 members; 33% had less than 5 members; 14% had 8-10 members and 9% had more than 10 members. The average family size was 6.

16% of the population (9% males and 7% females) was between 0 to 5 years old; 18% (8% males and 10% females) was between 6 to 12 years old; 15% (8% males and 7% females) was between 13 to 18 years old; 31% (14% males and 17% females) was between 19-35 years old; 16% of the population (7% males and 9% females) was between 36 to 60 years old; and 4% of the population (2% males and 2% females) was 60+.

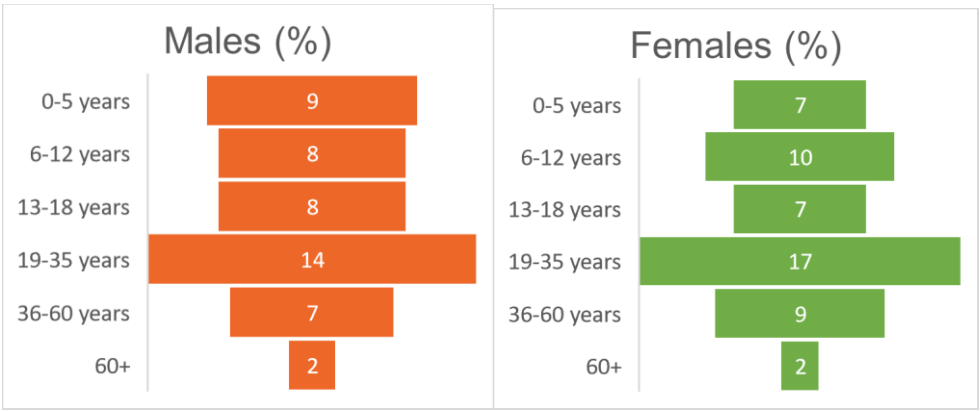


Figure 2: Population Structure

Vulnerabilities of Households: 79% of the households interviewed (67 households) reported having persons with vulnerabilities. A majority (66%) of the households had sick persons; 19% had elderly persons; 4% had persons with disabilities (PWDs); 6% had pregnant and lactating women (PLWs); and 4% had persons with chronic diseases.

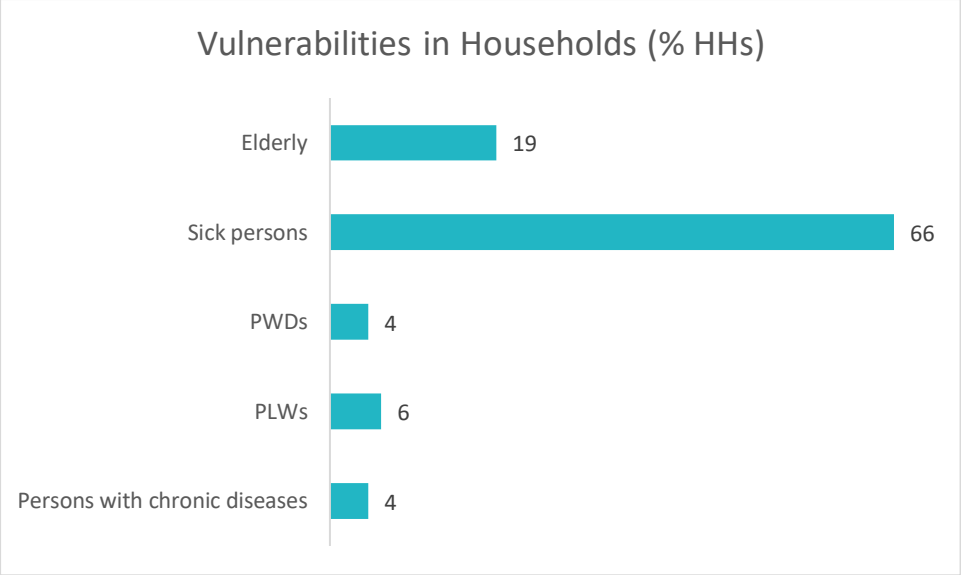
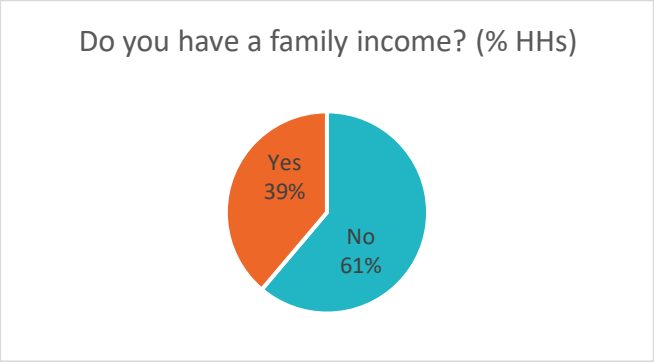


Figure 3: Vulnerabilities of Households

Income and Livelihoods: 61% of the households did not have sources of income, while only 39% did. Out of the total households having incomes, a majority of them (81%) had monthly family incomes, below 100,000 YER. 10% of these households had monthly incomes between 51,000 – 100,000 YER, 33% had between 31,000 – 50,000 YER, 15% had between 21,000 – 30,000 YER, 15% had between 11,000 -20,000 YER, and 8% of them earned less than 10,000 YER. 15% HHs earned between 100,000 -200,000 YER monthly, and 5% earned above 200,000 YER.



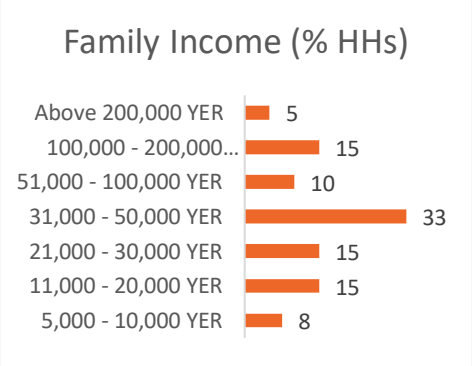


Figure 4: Family Income

Gender Roles and Relations and Dynamics

Gender Roles, Relations and Dynamics in the Family Sphere

Roles and Responsibilities of Men Pre and Post the Conflict

The main change in the role of men was that there was a drop in the percentage of men chewing qat and social gatherings and in the percentage of men engaged in livelihoods. Men were also spending lesser time on these things. There was a significant drop in the percentage of men buying food and slight drop in the percentage of men engaged in giving care to children and elderly persons. At the same time, there

was a significant increase in the percentage of men engaged in fetching water as well as a slight increase in the percentage of men engaged in cleaning the house and cooking.

The chart below shows that 88% men were chewing qat and 84 % used to attend social gatherings before the conflict. The percentage of men chewing qat had reduced by 13% at the time of the assessment and that of attending social gatherings has reduced by 6%. Also, the amount of time spent chewing qat had reduced. Before the conflict 50% of the men used to spend 4 hours and more chewing qat, 38% used to spend 2 -3 hours daily and 1% used to spend 1 hour daily. As compared to this, at the time of the assessment, 34% were spending 4 hours or more chewing qat daily, 33% were spending between 2 – 3 hours daily, and 9% were spending 1 hour daily.

Regarding livelihoods, 75% men used to spend time on livelihoods before the conflict. The percentage of men spending time on livelihoods had reduced by 8% at the time of the assessment and the amount of time spent on livelihoods had also reduced. Before the conflict, 52% men used to spend 5 hours or more daily, 11% used to spend 3-4 hours daily, and 13% used to spend 1-2 hours daily. At the time of the assessment, only 44% men were spending 5 hours or more on livelihoods.

A majority of the respondents did not have cattle or land. Before the conflict, 26% men used to be engaged in agriculture and 20% used to be engaged in taking care of animals. At the time of the assessment this had reduced by 6 and 5% respectively and could be attributed to loss of assets.

Before the conflict, 33% men used to help in fetching water. The engagement of men in fetching water had increased after the conflict and at the time of the assessment, 54% men were helping in fetching water daily. Regarding the time spent fetching water, there was no change and a majority of the men were spending 1 – 2 hours daily fetching water.

Regarding food purchase, before the conflict, 87% men used to be engaged in buying food. This had reduced by 14% at the time of the assessment.

Even before the conflict, 39% men had been engaged in childcare, and 26% of them used to be involved in caring for the elderly / sick / injured. This had reduced only marginally by 3 and 2% respectively at the time of the assessment.

Regarding house cleaning and cooking, 7% men used to help in cleaning the house before the conflict and 6% used to cook. At the time of the assessment, this percentage had increased by 1% and 7% respectively.

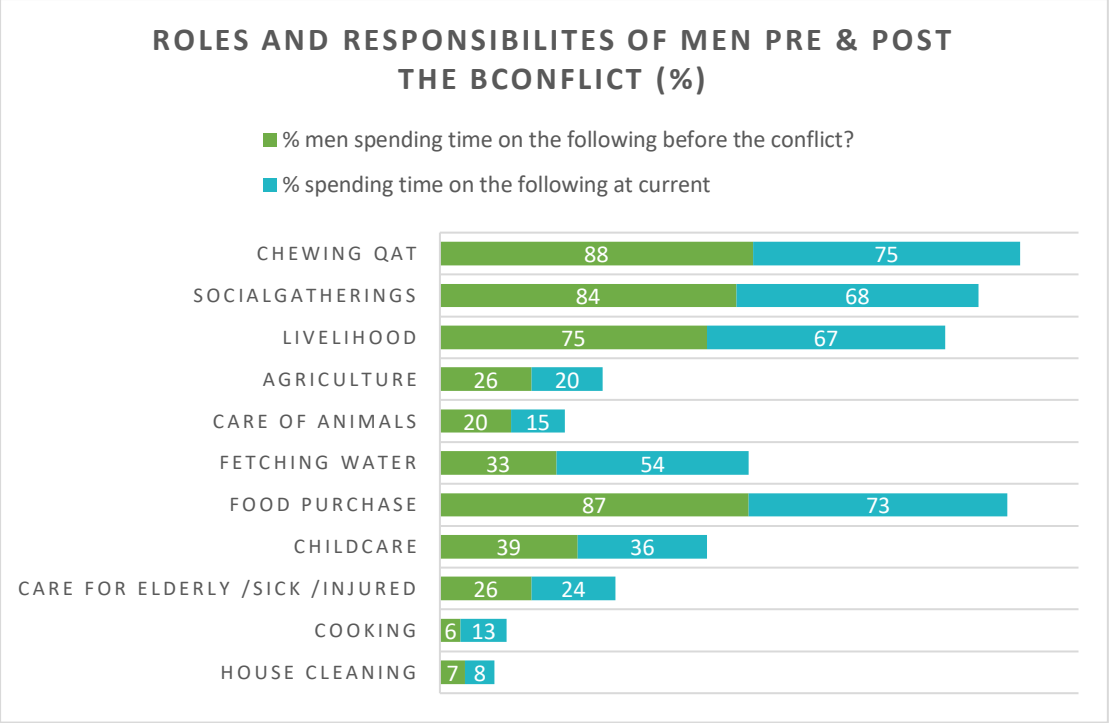
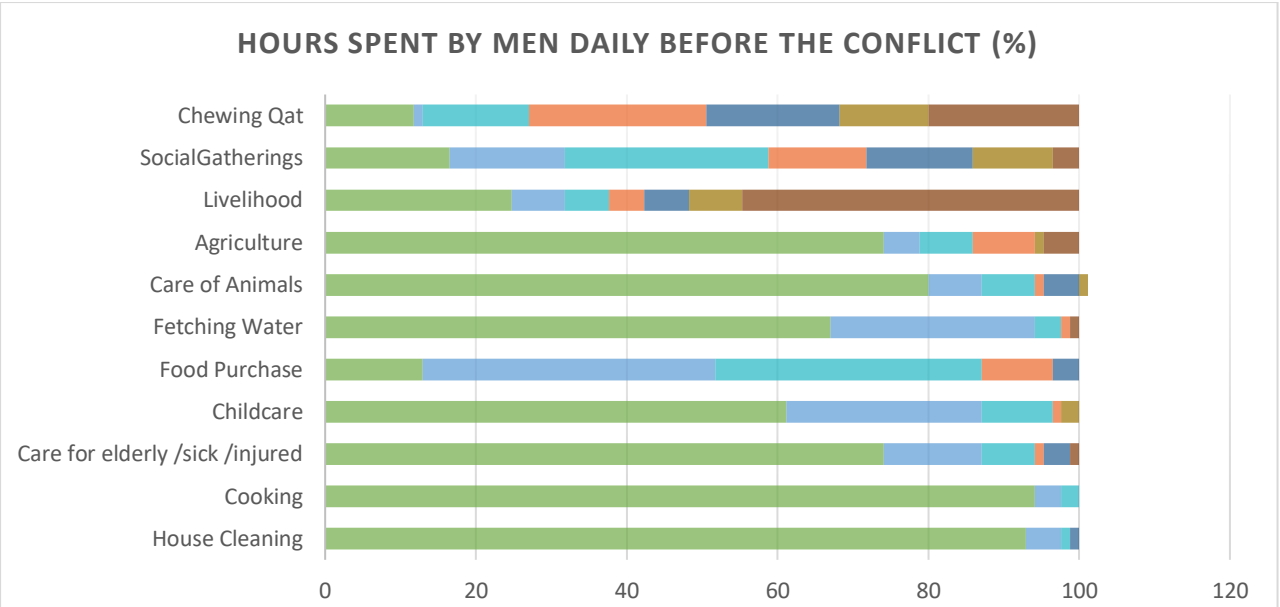
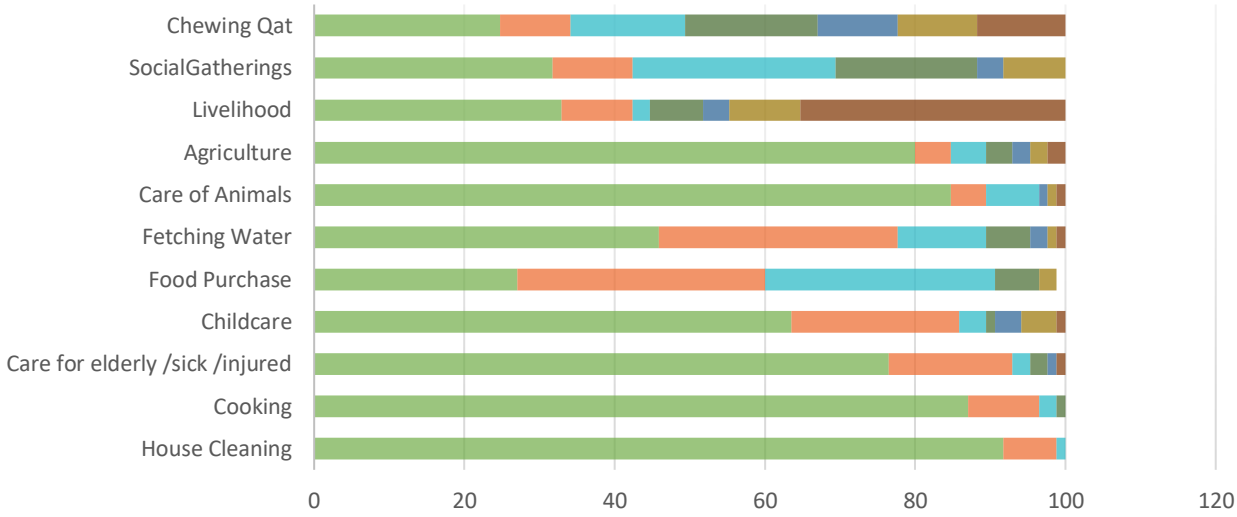


Figure 5: Family Roles and responsibilities of men pre & post the conflict (total exceeds 100 since this was a multiple-choice question)



	House Cleaning	Cooking	Care for elderly /sick /injured	Childcare	Food Purchase	Fetching Water	Care of Animals	Agriculture	Livelihood	SocialGatherings	Chewing Qat
Hours: 0	93	94	74	61	13	67	80	74	25	16	12
Hours: 1	5	4	13	26	39	27	7	5	7	15	1
Hours: 2	1	2	7	9	35	4	7	7	6	27	14
Hours: 3	0	0	1	1	9	1	1	8	5	13	24
Hours: 4	1	0	4	0	4	0	5	0	6	14	18
Hours: 5	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	7	11	12
Hours: >5	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	5	45	4	20

Figure 6: Daily time spent by men before the conflict



	House Cleaning	Cooking	Care for elderly /sick /injured	Childcare	Food Purchase	Fetching Water	Care of Animals	Agriculture	Livelihood	SocialGatherings	Chewing Qat
Hours: 0	92	87	76	64	27	46	85	80	33	32	25
Hours: 1	7	9	16	22	33	32	5	5	9	11	9
Hours: 2	1	2	2	4	31	12	7	5	2	27	15
Hours: 3	0	1	2	1	6	6	0	4	7	19	18
Hours: 4	0	0	1	4	0	2	1	2	4	4	11
Hours: 5	0	0	0	5	2	1	1	2	9	8	11
Hours: >5	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	35	0	12

Figure 7: Daily time spent by men after the conflict

Roles and Responsibilities of Women Pre and Post the Conflict

Overall, the burden of women increased because of the conflict. Women had to take up roles that were traditionally played by men in addition to their traditional roles. Before the conflict, the duties of most women included housecleaning, cooking, childcare, caring for sick / elderly / injured persons and buying food. Some women were also engaged in livelihoods, agriculture, caring for animals and fetching water. A majority of women used to participate in social gatherings and nearly half of the women used to chew qat. After the conflict there was an 11% increase in the percentage of women engaged in livelihoods, 27% increase in the percentage of women engaged in fetching water, 13% increase in the percentage of women going to purchase food and 4% increase in the percentage of women engaged in caring for sick / elderly and injured persons. Women managed the additional work by spending less time on house cleaning, cooking, participating in social gatherings and chewing qat.

The chart below shows that 47% women used to chew qat and 89% used to attend social gatherings before the conflict. The percentage of women chewing qat had reduced by 6% and that of attending social gatherings had reduced by 66% at the time of the assessment. Also, the amount of time spent chewing qat had reduced. Before the conflict 7% of the women used to spend 4 hours or more chewing qat. At the time of the assessment, a majority of the women were spending 1 – 2 hours daily.

Regarding livelihoods, 27% women used to spend time on livelihoods before the conflict. This percentage had increased by 11% at the time of the assessment. Before the conflict, 5% women used to spend 5 hours or more daily, 7% used to spend 3-4 hours daily and 15% used to spend 1-2 hours daily. At the time of the assessment, 9% women were spending 5 hours or more on livelihoods, 14% were spending 3-4 hours and 15% were spending 1-2 hours daily.

A majority of the respondents did not have cattle or land. Before the conflict, 29% women were engaged in agriculture and 26% were engaged in taking care of animals. At the time of the assessment, this had reduced by 7% and 6% respectively and could be attributed to loss of assets.

Before the conflict, 27% women used to fetch water. At the time of the assessment, 54% women were responsible for fetching water daily. Regarding the time spent, it had increased significantly. Before the conflict, 16% women used to spend 1 hour fetching water daily, 11% used to spend 2 hours and 2% used to spend 3 hours. At the time of the assessment, 27% of the women were spending 1 hour daily in fetching water, 20% were spending 2 hours, 11% were spending 3 hours, 5% were spending 4 hours and 1% were spending more than 5 hours.

Regarding food purchase, before the conflict, 40% women were engaged in buying food. This had increased by 13% at the time of assessment. In terms of time spent buying food, before the conflict, 31% women used to spend 1 hour buying food and 9% used to spend 2 hours. At the time of the assessment, 27% women were spending 1 hour buying food, 20% were spending 2 hours, 4% were spending 3 hours and 2% were spending 4 hours. The increase in the time spent buying food can be attributed to difficulties in accessing markets including lack of transportation, damaged roads, presence of multiple checkpoints and distance of the market from the place of living.

There was only a slight change in the role of women as the primary care givers to children and other family members. Before the conflict, 86% women were engaged in childcare and 51% in caring for the elderly / sick / injured. At the time of the assessment, the percentage of women engaged in childcare had reduced by 2% while of those engaged in caring for the elderly / sick / injured had increased by 4%. In terms of the time spent, there was no major change. Before the conflict, 41% women used to spend 5 hours or more on child care, 18% used to spend 3-4 hours and 27% used to spend 1-2 hours. At the time of the assessment, 45% women were spending 5 hours or more, 18% were spending 3-4 hours and 22% were spending 1-2 hours.

Regarding house cleaning and cooking, 100% women used to clean the house before the conflict and 99% used to cook. At the time of the assessment, the percentage of women engaged in house cleaning and cooking had dropped marginally by 5% and 4% respectively. Regarding the time spent by women on house cleaning, it had reduced. Before the conflict, 23% women used to spend 5 hours or more on house cleaning, 24% used to spend 3-4 hours and 54% used to spend 1 hour daily. At the time of the assessment, 18% women were spending 5 hours or more on house cleaning daily, 26% were spending 3-4 hours, 51% were spending 1-2 hours and 5% did not spend time on house cleaning. In terms of the time spent on cooking, in some houses, women were spending more time on cooking, and in some others, they were spending less. Before the conflict, 14% women used to spend more than 5 hours cooking, 26% used to spend 3-4 hours, and 59% used to spend 1-2 hours daily. At the time of the assessment, 18% were spending 5 hours or more cooking, 20% were spending 3-4 hours, and 61% were spending 1-2 hours.

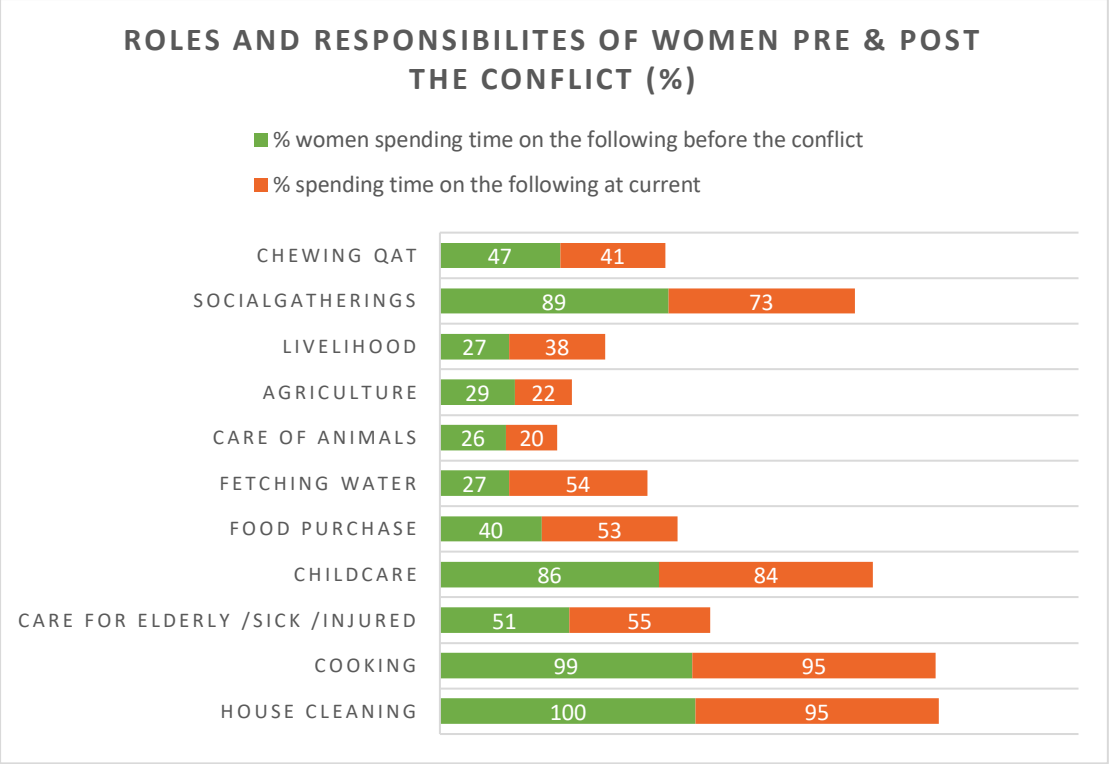
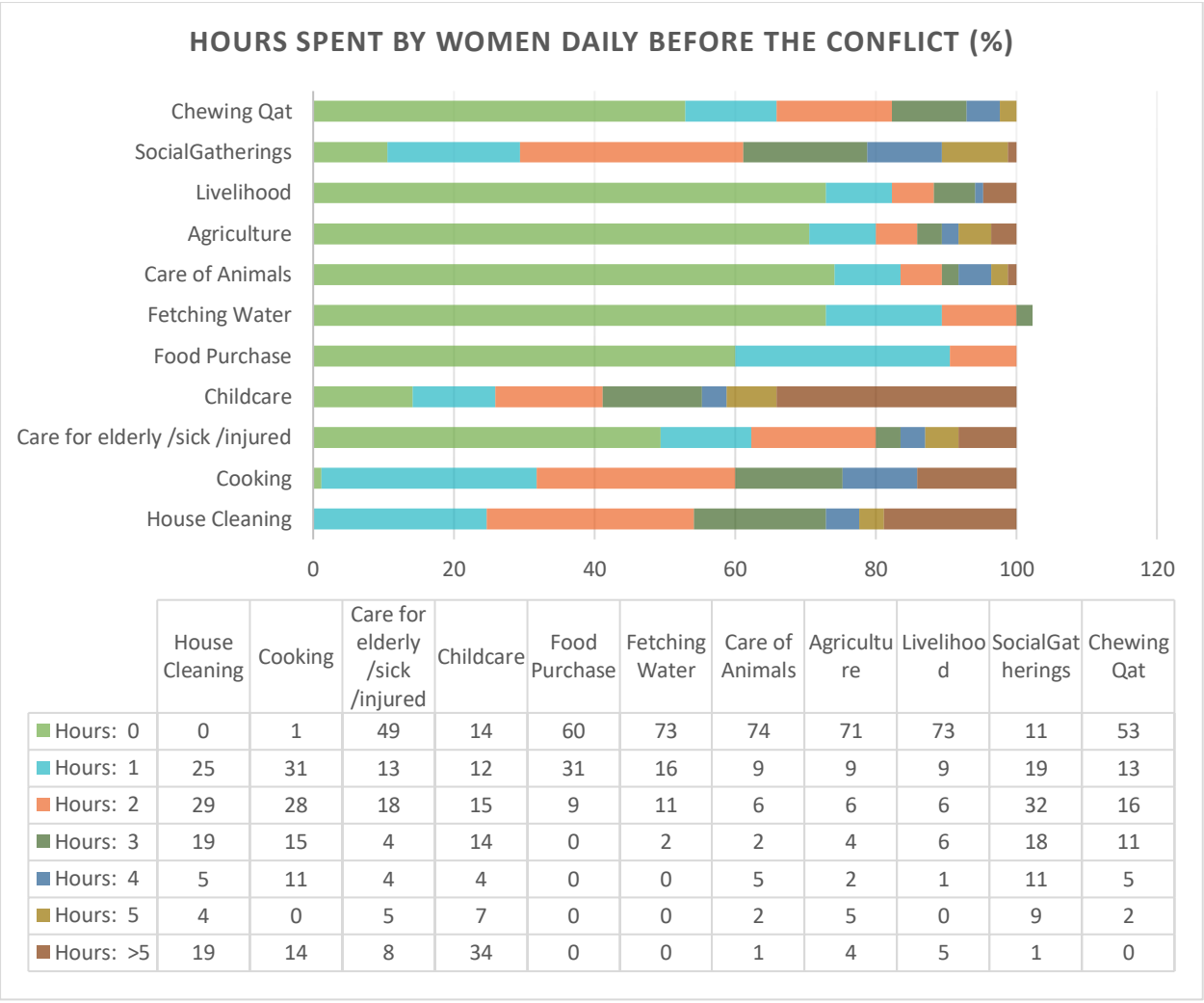
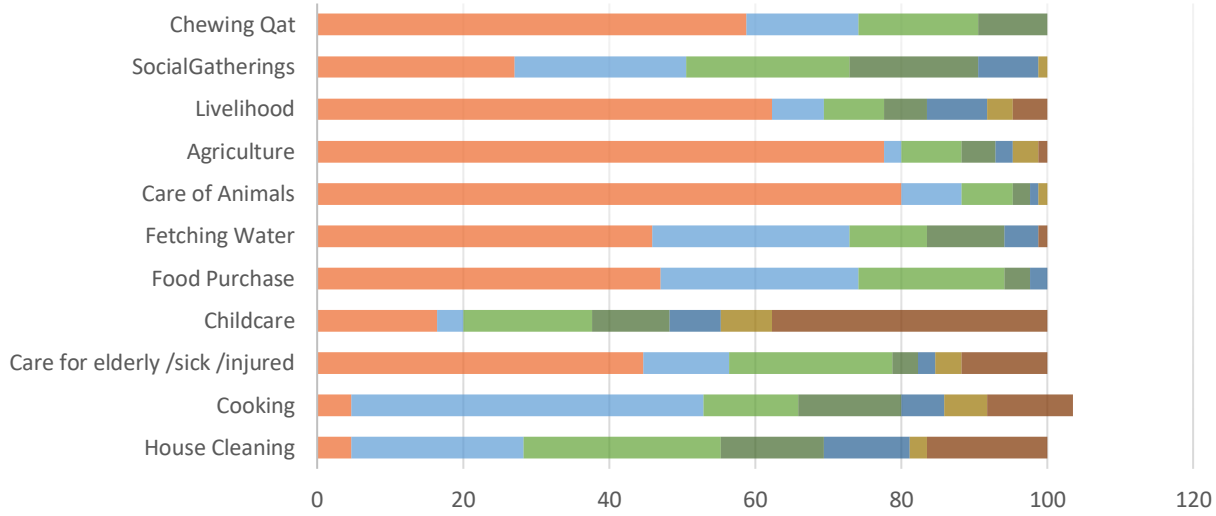


Figure 8: Family roles and responsibilities of women pre & post the conflict (total exceeds 100 since this was a multiple-choice question)



	House Cleaning	Cooking	Care for elderly /sick /injured	Childcare	Food Purchase	Fetching Water	Care of Animals	Agriculture	Livelihood	SocialGatherings	Chewing Qat
Hours: 0	0	1	49	14	60	73	74	71	73	11	53
Hours: 1	25	31	13	12	31	16	9	9	9	19	13
Hours: 2	29	28	18	15	9	11	6	6	6	32	16
Hours: 3	19	15	4	14	0	2	2	4	6	18	11
Hours: 4	5	11	4	4	0	0	5	2	1	11	5
Hours: 5	4	0	5	7	0	0	2	5	0	9	2
Hours: >5	19	14	8	34	0	0	1	4	5	1	0

Figure 9: Time spent by women before the conflict



	House Cleaning	Cooking	Care for elderly /sick /injured	Childcare	Food Purchase	Fetching Water	Care of Animals	Agriculture	Livelihood	SocialGatherings	Chewing Qat
Hours: 0	5	5	45	16	47	46	80	78	62	27	59
Hours: 1	24	48	12	4	27	27	8	2	7	24	15
Hours: 2	27	13	22	18	20	11	7	8	8	22	16
Hours: 3	14	14	4	11	4	11	2	5	6	18	9
Hours: 4	12	6	2	7	2	5	1	2	8	8	0
Hours: 5	2	6	4	7	0	0	1	4	4	1	0
Hours: >5	16	12	12	38	0	1	0	1	5	0	0

Figure 10: Time spent by women after the conflict

Gender Dynamics at the Level of Families

The conflict has changed the gender dynamics within families. While some changes had positive effects, others had negative ones on the family unit. According to the majority of the community leaders, the war caused a lot of pain and suffering for women. Since the war started, the responsibility of the households fell on the shoulders of women, who emerged as a strong support for their husbands and families and started accessing the labour markets to earn a living. Men also started accepting the situation and supporting the role of women. In some cases, the war proved to be a great equaliser as men and women in the families started doing the same roles and sharing the same responsibilities. Relationships improved, became more transparent and open, men and women began to think together about how to improve their conditions, and men began to accept the opinions of women. In others cases, the burden on women increased drastically. But overall, this situation has made women stronger, as women started playing a bigger role in their families, and their decision-making power has increased. But at the same time, the war shifted in male traditional roles. It forced them to do the roles done by women in the past and vice versa. Also, the economic conditions of families have deteriorated sharply leading to a lot of instability. Both these changes have led to increased conflicts and domestic violence within families. Moreover, the delicate balance of mutual respect that should exist between couples, was damaged leading to an increase in divorce cases and breaking of families.

A majority of the community leaders (79% total, 76% women and 81% men) said that gender dynamics had changed because of the conflict, less than a quarter (18% total, 24% women and 12% men) said that they had not changed and 4% (7% men) said that they did not know.

The conflict has changed the power dynamics within families. Overall, there was an increase in HHs in which decision was taken jointly by family members, including female members (wives, daughters and mothers), on matters related to spending money, food management, buying assets, teaching children, education, taking jobs, health and marriage. Most significantly, there was a decline in the decision-making power of males in decisions related to spending money, buying assets, health, job and marriage.

Before the conflict, in 64% HHs, decisions regarding spending money were made by male members of the family (fathers, sons, husbands), in 19% HHs, decisions were made jointly, and in 17% HHs, the female members made the decisions. After the conflict, in 38% HHs decisions regarding spending money were made by men, in 38% HHs, they were made by women and in 24% HHs, they were made jointly. Thus, post conflict there was a 5% increase in the HHs in which families made decisions jointly and 21% increase in the HHs in which decisions were made by the female members.

Regarding managing food for the family, before the conflict, in 25% HHs, decisions were made jointly by the family members, in 37% HHs, males made the decisions, and in 38% HHs, females made the decisions. After the conflict, the percentage of HHs in which the family made decisions jointly has increased by 2%; that is, the HHs in which male members made decisions decreased by 14% and the percentage of the HHs in which female members made decisions increased by 11%.

Before the conflict, decisions regarding buying assets were male-dominated. In 74% HHs, decisions were made by males, 11% HHs made decisions jointly, and in 15% HHs, decisions were made by female members. After the conflict, the percentage of HHs in which decisions were made jointly has increased by 11%, the HHs in which male members made the decisions has reduced by 24% and the percentage of the HHs in which female members made decisions has increased by 13%.

Regarding education, before the conflict, in 14% HHs, decisions related to education were made jointly, in 56% HHs, decisions were made by male members, and in 30% HHs, decisions were made by female members. After the conflict, the HHs in which family members made decisions jointly have increased by 2%, those in which male members made decisions have reduced by 6%, and the HHs in which female members made decisions have increased by 8%.

Prior to the conflict, in 58% HHs, decisions regarding jobs were made by males, in 21% HHs, decisions were made jointly, and in 21% HHs, decisions were made by females. After the conflict, the HHs in which decisions were made jointly have increased by 5%, the HHs in which decisions were made by males have reduced by 11% and the HHs in which decisions were made by females have increased by 6%.

Regarding health, the practice was to make decisions jointly and there was an increase in the percentage of the HHs practicing this (from 48% before the conflict to 52% after it). When it came to the health of children, there was an increase in the percentage of the HHs in which female members made decisions (from 32% to 38), as well as in HHs making decisions jointly (from 37% to 42%).

The decision-making power of males regarding marriage of children has reduced. Before the conflict, 52% HHs used to make decisions jointly, in 32% HHs, decisions were made by males and in 16% HHs, decisions were made by females. After the conflict, the percentage of the HHs making decisions jointly on this matter has increased by 6%, the HHs in which men made decisions has decreased by 12%, and of those in which women made decisions has increased by 6%. Another change was that, before the

conflict, in 63% HHs, males used to make decisions regarding their own marriage, in 20% HHs, females used to decide about their own marriages, and in 17% HHs, decisions were made jointly. After the conflict, there was a decrease by 14% in the percentage of the HHs in which males made decisions about their own marriages, an increase by 11% in the percentage of the HHs in which females could decide about their own marriages, and an increase by 3% in the percentage of the HHs making decisions jointly.

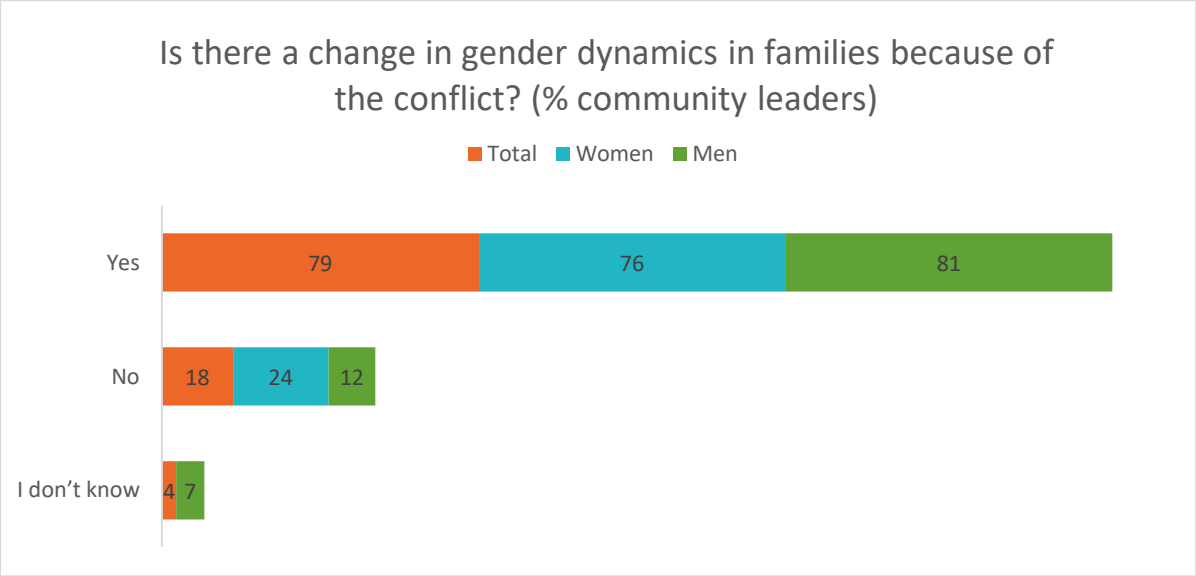


Figure 11: Change in gender dynamics in families because of the conflict

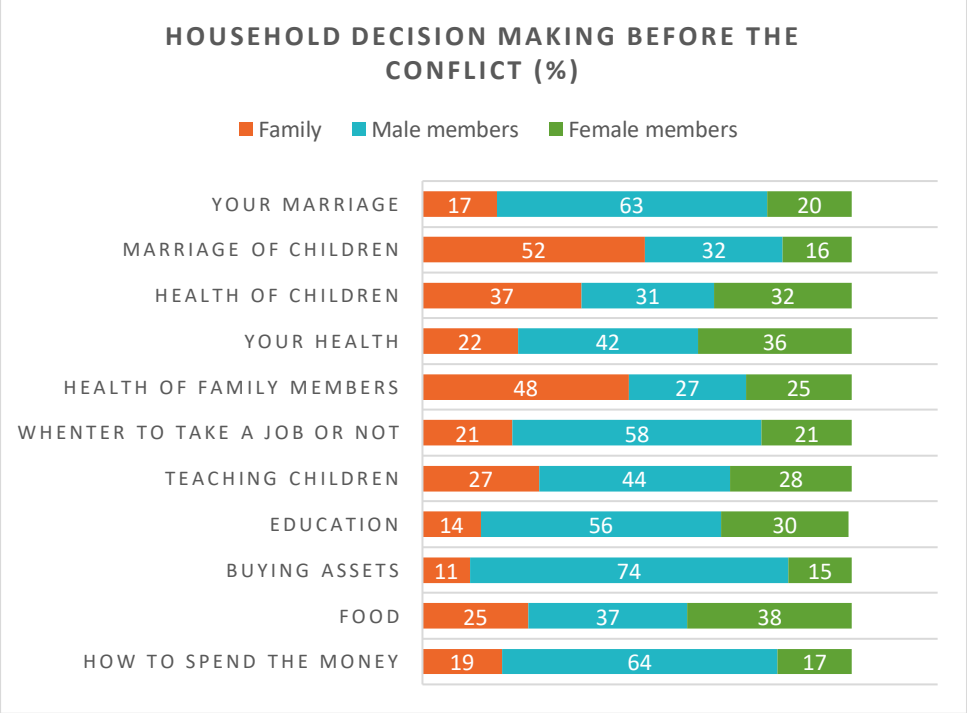


Figure 12: Household decision making before the conflict

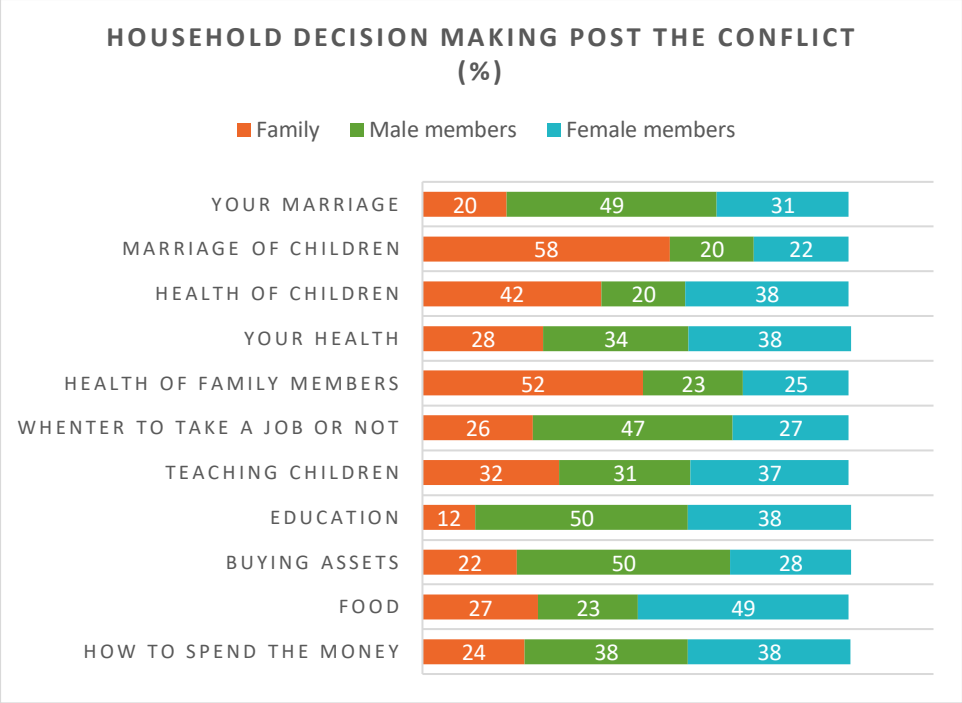


Figure 13: Household decision making post conflict

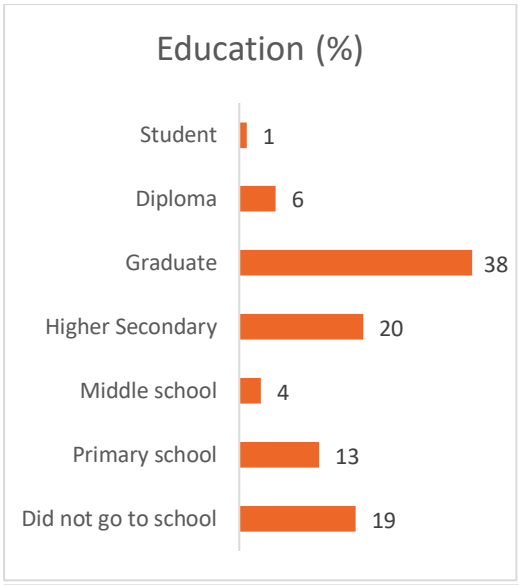
Capacities and Vulnerabilities

Capacities and Resources

Education of Men and Women

38% of the population were graduates, 6% were diploma holders and 1% were still studying. 37% of the population had dropped out of school with 20% dropping out at the level of secondary school, 4% at the level of middle school and 13% at the level of primary school. 19% of the population had never gone to school.

The conflict has had a deeper impact on the education of men as compared to women. While 46% women had completed or were pursuing higher education (40% were graduates, 4% were diploma holders and 2% were still studying), 43% men had completed higher studies (35% were graduates and 8% were diploma holders). Moreover, where 28% women had dropped out of education (13% had dropped out at the level of secondary school, 4% at middle school, and 11% at primary school), 46% men had dropped out of education (28% at the level of secondary school, 3% at middle school and 15% at primary school). However, there were more women (24%) who had never gone to school than men (13%).



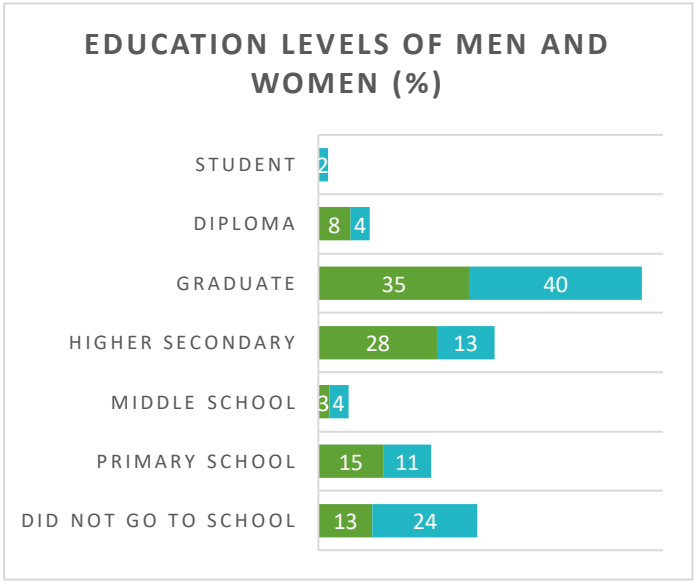


Figure 14: Education of men and women

Skill Sets of Men and Women

Skills sets which women had included: cooking (18%), teaching (12%), sewing (12%), secretarial work (8%), coiffure (8%), baking (8%) and computer skills (8%), in addition to photography, knitting, henna, handicrafts, driving, trading, animal rearing and agriculture. Skill sets of men included: trading (15%), secretarial work (11%), teaching (9%), agriculture (8%), animal rearing (8%), driving (7%), electrical works (7%) solar power systems installation and maintenance, repair works, plumbing, mobile maintenance, leadership, handicrafts, graphics, computer maintenance, computer skills, carpentry, and bee keeping.

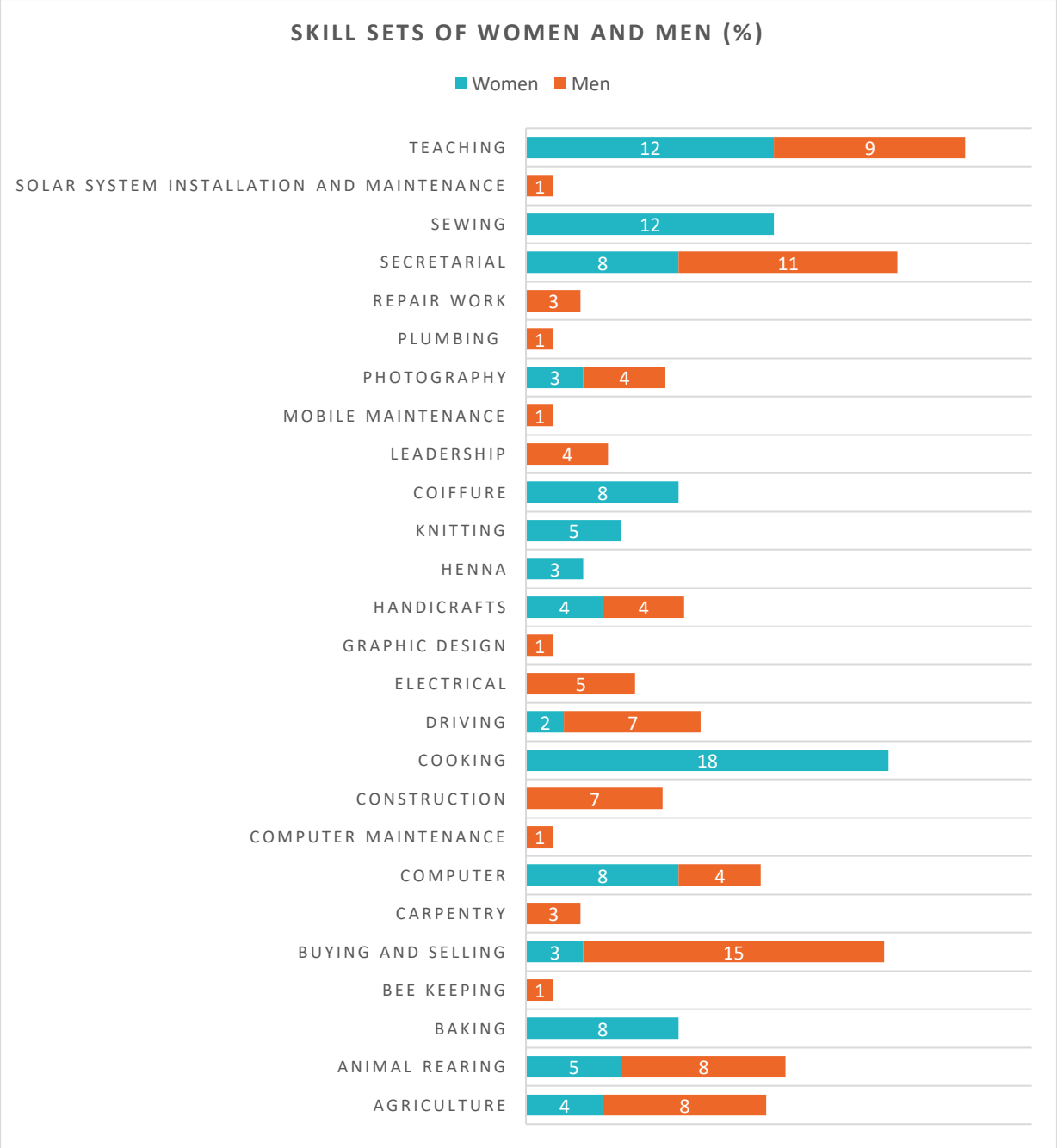


Figure 15: Skill sets of women and men (total exceeds 100 since this was a multiple-choice question)

Livelihoods, Income, and Assets

Income and Livelihoods

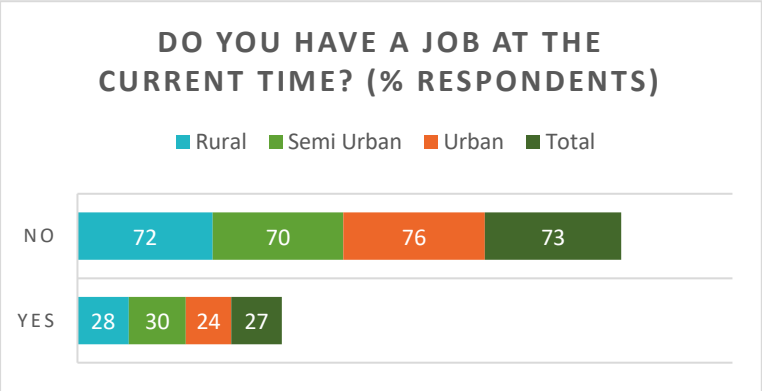


Figure 16: Urban-rural divide in livelihoods

Urban-Rural Divide: Overall, 73% of the population was unemployed. While there was not much difference in the situation of livelihoods in general, the percentage of unemployment was slightly higher in urban areas (76%) compared to rural areas (72%) and semi-urban areas (70%).

Family Income of IDPs, Host Communities and Returnees: Returnee and IDP families were the most affected. 71% of returnee families, 67% of IDP families and 52% of host community families did not have sources of income at the time of the assessment. 86% returnee families had lost their incomes completely and 14% had lost it partially; 60% of the IDP families had lost their incomes completely and 18% had lost it partially.

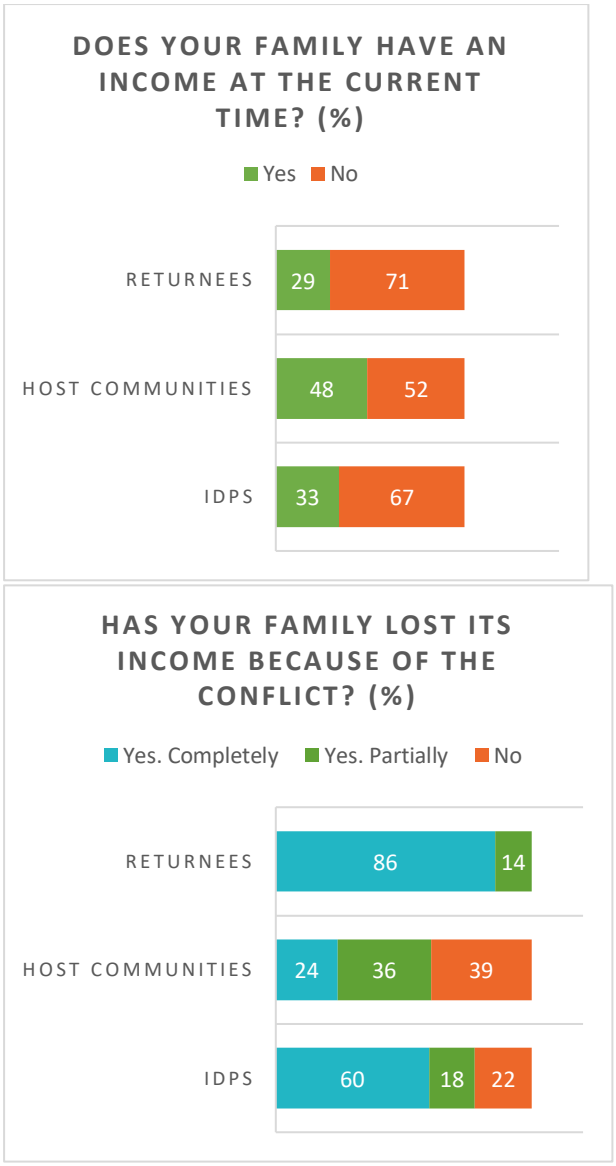


Figure 17: Family income of IDPs, host communities & returnees

Economic Activities of Men and Women in Rural, Semi-urban and Urban Areas: Out of the total employed people, 40% were working on daily wage (16% from rural areas, 11% from semi-urban areas and 13% from urban areas), followed by 20% who were working in the governmental sector (4% from rural areas, 7% from semi-urban areas and 9% from urban areas). 11% (2% rural, 7% semi-urban, 2% urban) were engaged in small / private businesses and 11% (2% rural and 9% semi urban) were working for the private sector. While a few from semi-urban areas were working as freelancers, few from urban areas were providing services to households, in the fields of real estate sector and teaching. A few from rural areas and urban areas were working in agriculture and 4% were begging for survival.

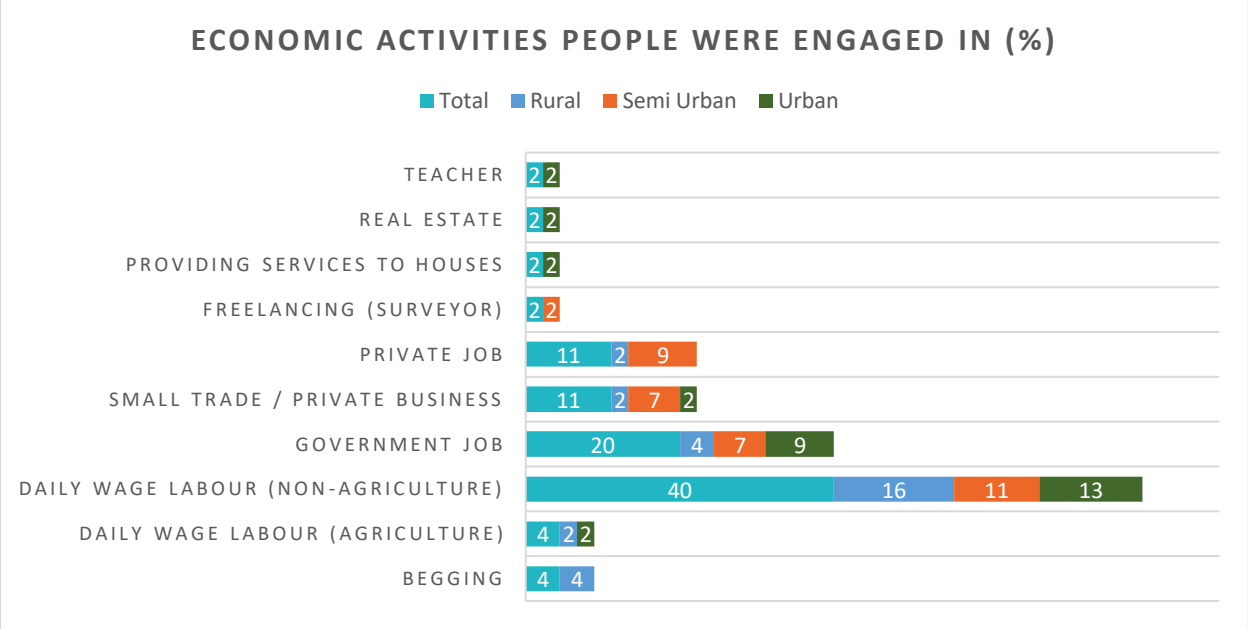
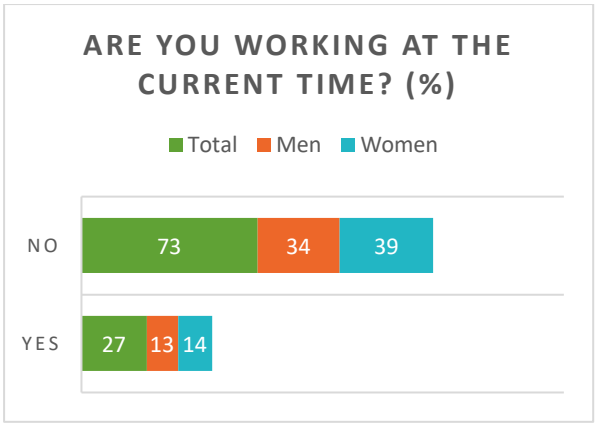


Figure 18: Economic activities in rural, semi-urban and urban areas

Employment and Livelihoods of Women and Men Pre and Post the Conflict: At the time of the assessment, only 27% of the population was working, while 73% was not. The unemployed population comprised of 34% men and 39% women. 93% of the women leaders said that the conflict had affected women economically. According to 55% women leaders who were interviewed during this assessment, women who were working at the time of the assessment were commonly working in non-agricultural fields or were engaged in the private sector, according to 45%, there were holders of governmental jobs, according to 38%, they were engaged in animal rearing, according to 31%, they were engaged in small business, according to 21%, they were engaged in agricultural works, 12% said they were working in family farms and 2% said women were working in family businesses.

Regarding men, 98% men leaders said that the conflict had affected men economically. According to 88% men leaders who were interviewed during this assessment, men who were working at the time of the assessment were commonly working in non-agricultural fields, according to 60%, they were working in the private sector, according to 49%, they were working in the governmental sector, 42% said men were engaged in small businesses, 33% said men were engaged in animal rearing, according to 30%, they were working in agriculture, and according to a few, men were working in family businesses, family farms and in fisheries.

Out of the total unemployed population, 51% had worked before the conflict and 49% had not. Moreover, 74% of the men who were not working at the time of the assessment had worked before the conflict and 26% had not. Regarding women, only 27% of the women who were not working at the time of the assessment had worked before the conflict, while 73% of them had not. This indicates that the conflict has affected the livelihoods of men more severely.



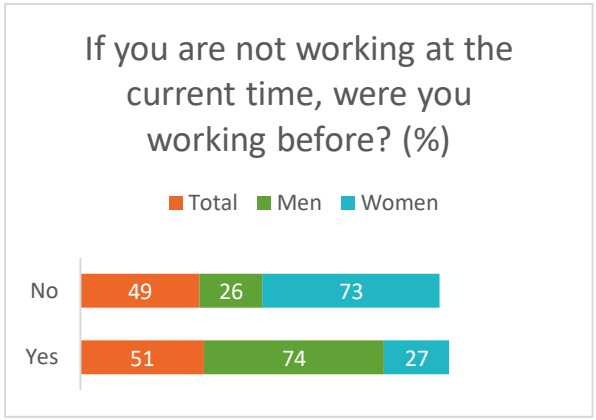
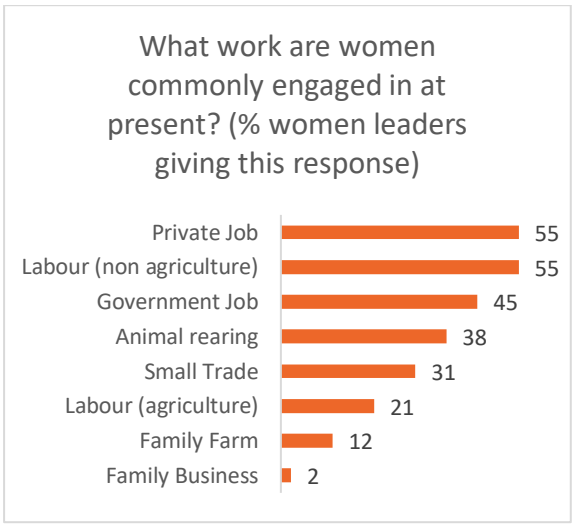


Figure 19: Employment status of women & men pre & post conflict



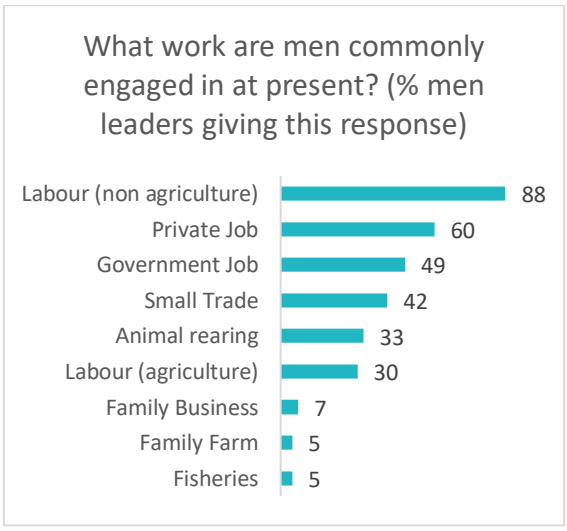


Figure 20: Economic activities of women & men pre & post the conflict (total exceeds 100 since this was a multiple-choice question)

The following reasons were mentioned by men and women for not working at the current time: disabilities (18%), lack of job opportunities (15%), loss / lack of productive assets (12%), lack / limited job opportunities for IDPs, no job opportunities for women (9%), household responsibilities / caring for sick / elderly people (9%), lack / limited skills (7%), loss of jobs (7%), health problems (5%), safety and security concerns (3%), in addition to spouses losing their jobs, living in a remote rural area and lack / less education. While the main difficulties faced by women were: the time taken by household responsibilities, caring for sick / elderly persons and lack of job opportunities for women followed by lack of skills, health problems, loss of jobs and safety and security concerns. The main reasons given by men for being unemployed were: having disabilities, lack of job opportunities, lack / loss of productive assets and lack of job opportunities for IDPs.

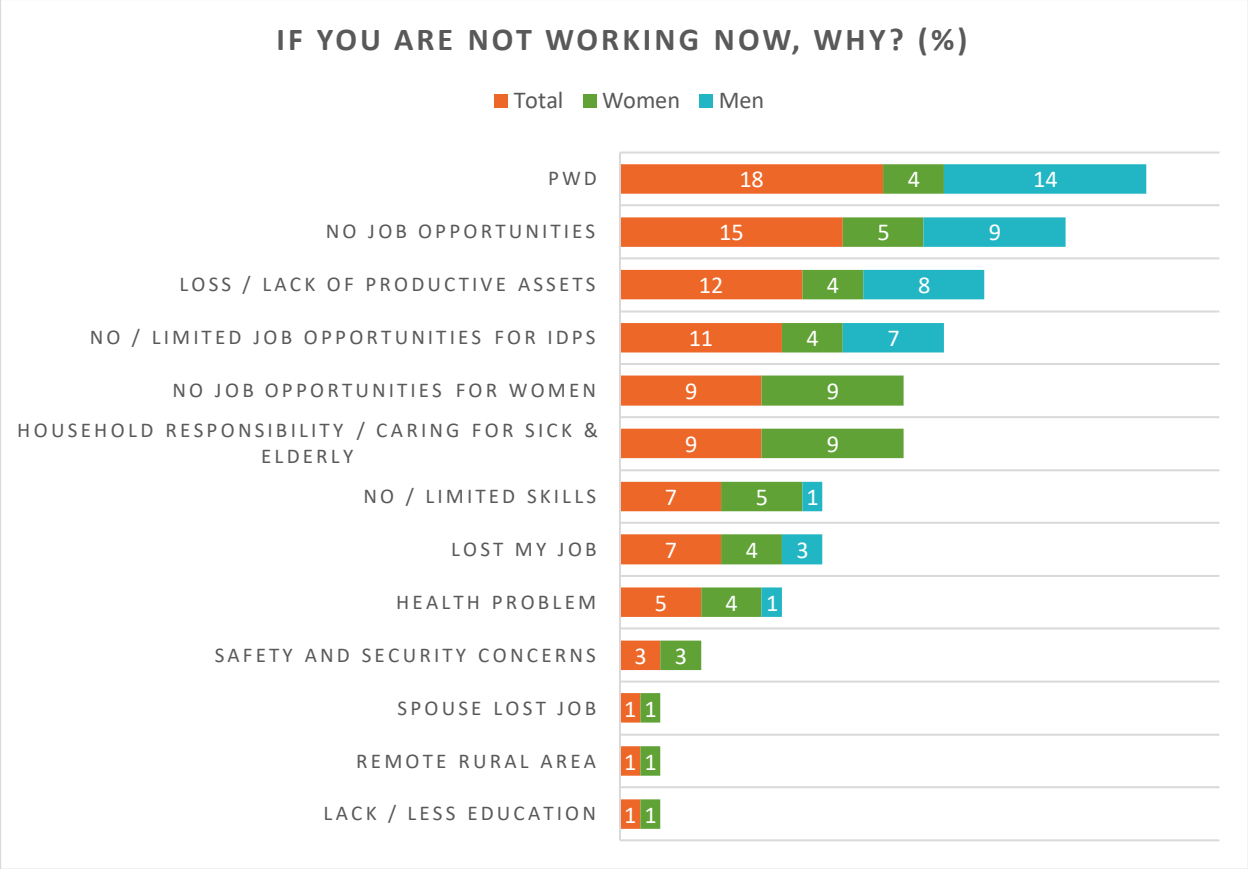


Figure 21: Factors affecting employment of women & men

Assets

Assets of Men & Women: a majority (55% including 36% women and 19% men) of the respondents had mobile phones; 39% (16% men and 22% women) had houses; 26% (20% women and 6% men) had cattle; 25% (7% women and 18% men) had livestock; Few women and men had shops; and a few men had vehicles.

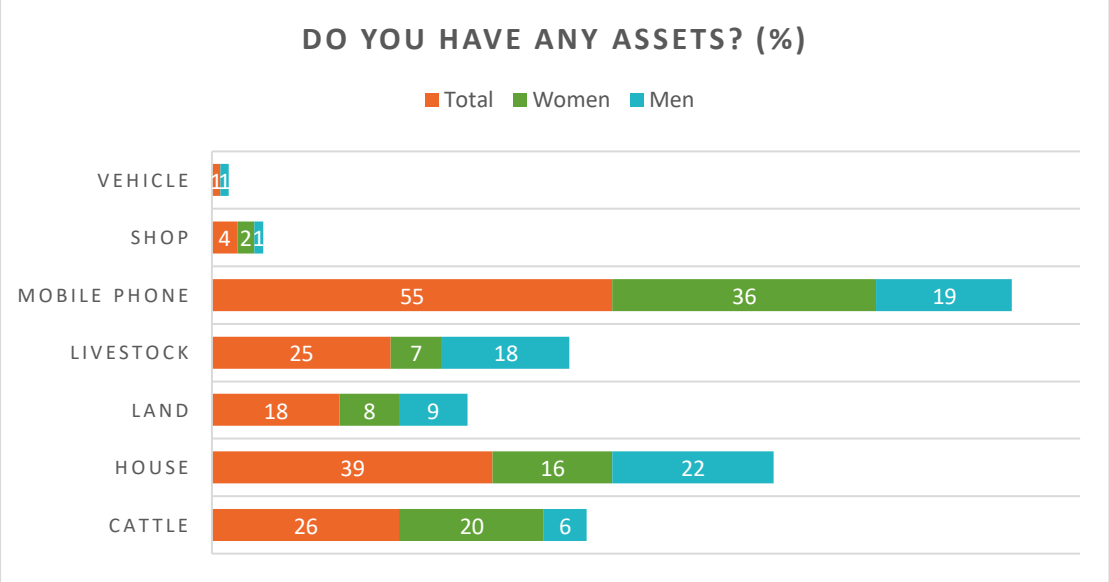


Figure 22: Assets possessed by men and women

Assets of IDP women and women from the host communities and returnees: a majority of the IDP women (77%) had mobile phones, 12% had cattle, 12% had lands, 8% had houses, few had livestock and a few had shops. A majority of the women from the returnees (75%) had livestock and cattle and 25% had cattle and lands. A majority of the women from the host communities (73%) had houses and mobile phones, 13% had livestock and a few had shops and cattle.

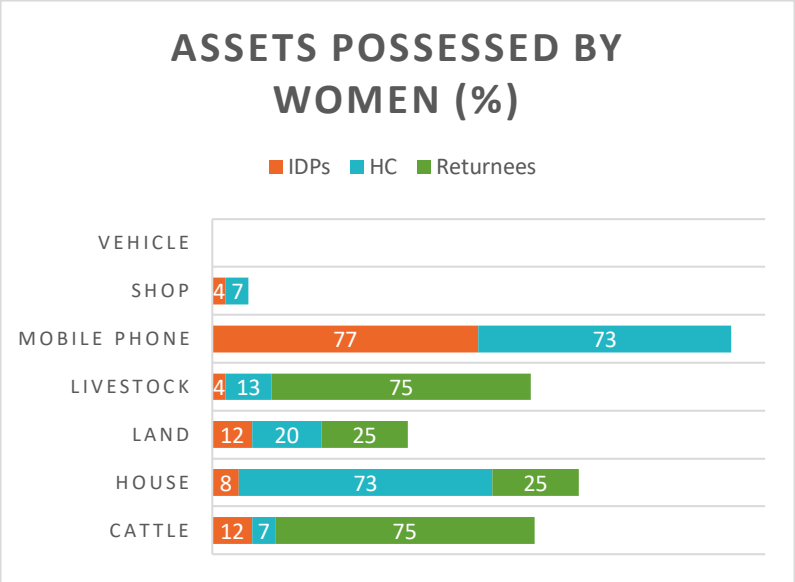


Figure 23: Assets of women (IDPs, returnees, host communities) (total may exceed 100 since this was a multiple-choice question

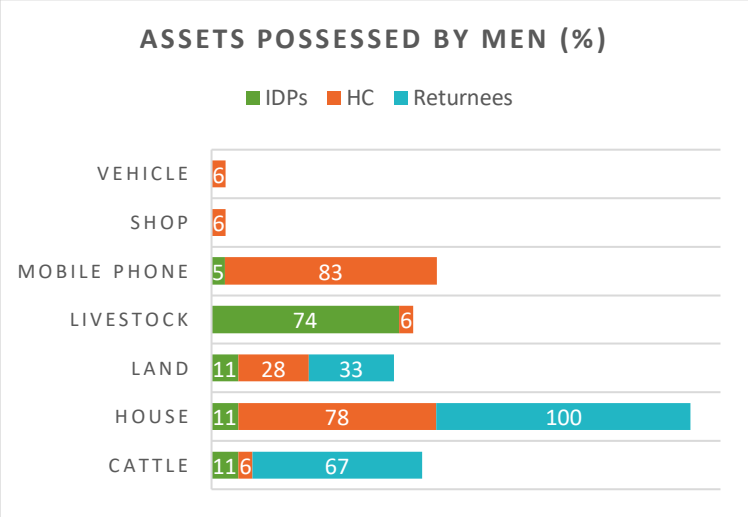


Figure 24: Assets of men (IDPs, host communities, returnees) (total may exceed 100 since this was a multiple-choice question

Assets of IDP men, and men from the host communities and returnees: A majority of the IDP men (74%) had livestock and a few had cattle. Some IDPs also said that they had houses and lands in their places of origin. 100% returnees had houses, 33% of whom had lands and 67% had cattle. Regarding men from host communities, 83% had mobile phones, 78% had houses, 28% had lands and few had cattle, livestock, shops and vehicles.

Productive assets possessed by women and men: 27% of the women had cooking tools, 22% had blenders, 18% had ovens, 13% had refrigerators, 11% had coiffure kits and 9% had computers. Few women also had agriculture tools, sewing machines and cameras. Regarding men, 18% had vehicles, 13% had construction tools, agriculture tools, refrigerators, and cooking tools, 10% had solar power systems maintenance kits, 8% had blenders and computers and few had ovens, repair kits, art tools, cameras and sewing machines.

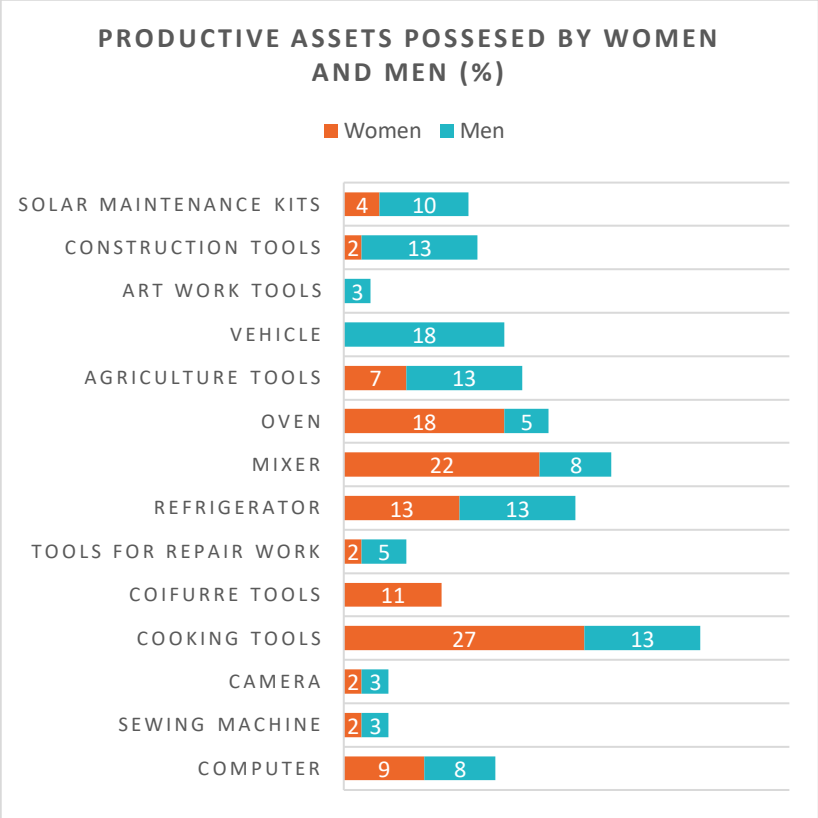


Figure 25: Productive assets of men & women

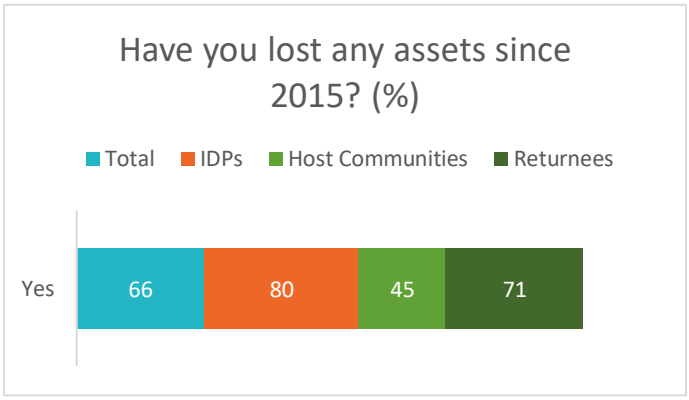


Figure 26: Loss of assets because of the conflict

Loss of Assets: The percentage of IDPs and returnees losing their assets was bigger than of host communities. 66% of the respondents said that they had lost assets since 2015. 80% of the IDPs, 71% of the returnees and 45% of the host communities had lost their assets.

Effect of the conflict on household economy: The conflict has affected the household incomes of IDPs, host communities and returnees. 99% respondents said that their family incomes had been affected.

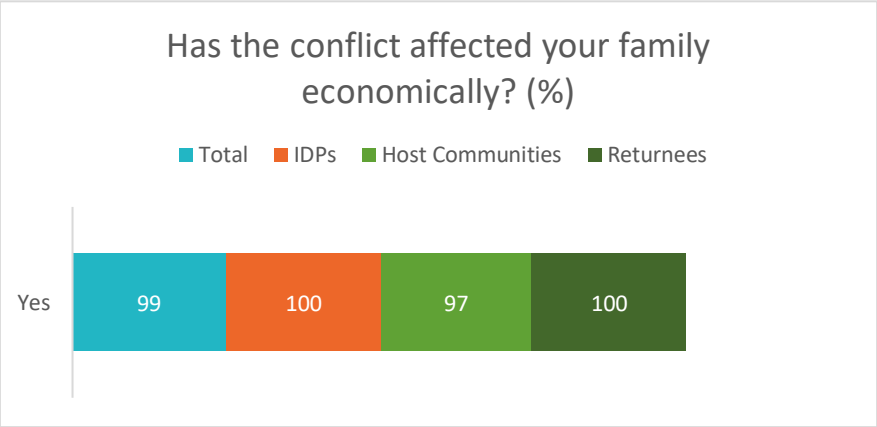


Figure 27: Effect of the conflict on household economy

Impact of the Conflict on Households: The conflict has severely and indiscriminately affected lives. According to community leaders (both men and women), many families displaced when the war had intensified. They left their homes and fled to save their lives. Before the war, these families had jobs and stable lives. The war has devastated their lives. Most of the families have lost their jobs, had no money to pay house rents and have gone into debt. Some were forced to do hard physical work for low wages, and they were suffering financially, mentally and health wise.

42% respondents said their families had lost their incomes. This included 86% returnees, followed by IDPs (42%) and HHS from host communities (33%). 36% respondents said their incomes had reduced. Host communities were the most affected, as 52% host communities had lost their incomes followed by 29% IDPs and 14% returnees. A quarter of the respondents said their families had lost their sources of income. 33% IDPs, 29% returnees and 12% host communities had lost their sources of income. 18% respondents said their productive assets were lost. 22% IDPs, 14% returnees and 12% host communities had lost their productive assets. 21% respondents had lost their family houses. 36% of the IDPs and 6% host communities had experienced such a loss. In addition, 9% respondents (13% IDPs, 14% returnees and 3% host communities) had lost their lands; 1% respondents (3% host communities) had sold their gold; 8% respondents (11% IDPs and 6% host communities) had lost the heads of their families; and 2% respondents (6% host communities) had lost other family members. In addition, households having persons with disabilities, life-threatening conditions such as tumours and persons with chronic diseases such as diabetes and arthritis, were facing difficulties in getting treatment and medicines.

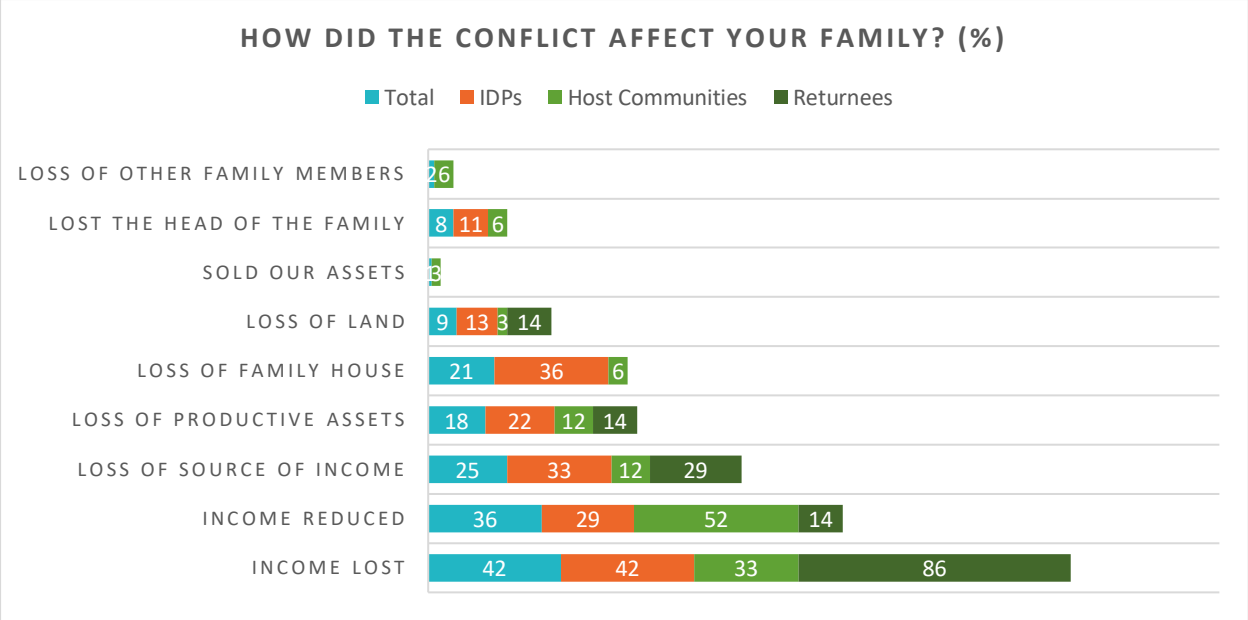


Figure 28: How did the conflict affect your family? (Total exceeds 100 since this was a multiple-choice question)

"My brothers who are in Sanaa and Aden have lost their jobs and no longer send us any money." Sana Al-Soruri, a h*ost community member*

"We lost my father and husband on whom we depended for the income." Maryam Ghaleb, a h*ost community member*

"We lost our productive assets, our taxi and my brother-in-law, and we fled to the village." Safa Hassan, a h*ost community member*

"We lost some of our assets that were in our village, and my husband cannot go to the village because of the poor security situation. My oldest son was killed in the war which caused me great grief and depression." Arwa Sultan, a h*ost community member*

"We live in a damaged house. My sister was killed in the war." *Fawzia Hassan, a widow from the marginalized community, IDP*

"My husband has left me without a divorce or any maintenance. I live with my mother and son. My brother who was our breadwinner was killed in the war." *Thuwaiba Ahmed, an IDP woman*

"We are living in very a difficult situation. Our circumstances are causing tensions in the family. My older son wants to quit studying and join the army because we don't have enough money. We are afraid that our children will get attracted to the army or armed gangs due to poverty." *Mohammed Al Hajj, an IDP man*

"I know an IDP who left his source of income and house and fled because of the conflict. He used to work for daily wages in a shop. He and his family are living in very difficult circumstances at present." *a community leader, Mardia Rahman*

"I know an IDP family that lived in the frontline where they had to go through daily suffering and fear of shells and bullets. The area also lacked the basic services. They had to leave their large furnished house with all the furniture and all their belongings behind and fled. They, first, lived in a small shop and started building their life from scratch. They were a large family that continued to grow bigger. The husband worked for the military and his salary was their only means of livelihood." *Iqbal Othman, a community leader*

"I knew a person who had left his place of origin because of irregularities in his income and the security situation and moved to Al-Asabeh. He then joined the army and could build a house for him and his family. But later he was taken as a prisoner and has not been released till now. His family are left now without any source of income and live in a very difficult situation. They rely only on the help they receive from their relatives and the aid from organizations and other people." *Haifa Al Hakimi, a community leader*.

"I know a woman who has displaced to Al-Turbah. Before displacement, she had a house and a job and was well settled. After the displacement, she was unable to get a job or afford the house rent and has gone into debt." *Amal Mohammed, a community leader*.

"There is an IDP family which displaced from Sana'a to Al-Shamayatein. It was a part of a joint family, in which there used to be frequent disputes among its members. The economic situation of this family deteriorated, the husband lost his job and they had to leave the family house. The family is now living in a shop. The husband could not find work. The young daughters have dropped out of school and are helping their family by selling henna. The husband himself keeps travelling between Aden and Taiz looking for work." *Hayam Ibrahim, a community leader*.

"There is a woman who has two children with cerebral palsy. They used to have their own house, and the children used to receive treatment. However, the family had to displace to Al-Hawban because of the war." *Hisham Mahyoub, a community leader*.

"I know a person who was a merchant but had to displace due to the conflict. He left his house and trade and moved to a safe area, where he lives now in a rented house with his family." *Abdulaziz Mukred, a community leader*

"There is a person who displaced from the Hodeida to Taiz because of the war. He was very poor and had a shop that sold juice and snacks in Al Hodeida. He now lives in a school classroom with his family and his mother. He is unemployed and lives in a very difficult situation and takes care of his children." *Waleed Al Sharabi, a community leader*

"This is a story of a person from Saber, who had to displace to Al-Dairi neighbourhood, in Taiz City because his house had been shelled. Two of his children had been killed and the house had been destroyed." *Abdullah, a community leader*.

Impact of the Conflict on Women: The conflict has severely affected women in general, and young women in particular. The number of unemployed female graduates has increased. Many women have lost job opportunities and many were forced to work on low wages. Some women were unable to

complete their education, and some were forced to leave education and work and support their families alongside men or because of the loss of their breadwinners. Many women were using whatever skills they had: coiffure, henna, incense making, etc. to cover the family expenses and had to assume more responsibilities in their families. Many families have separated as well. Women have also experienced a heightened risk of gender-based violence. 69% women leaders said women had lost their incomes; 55% said the incomes of women had reduced; 48% said women had to take up multiple jobs; 45% said they had lost their productive assets; and 33% said women were forced to earn livings, in addition to dropping out of education, getting divorced, facing mental problems, and experiencing multiple pregnancies.

A majority (57%) of women leaders said that the most important issue facing women at the time of the assessment was difficulties in finding work; 40% said domestic violence; 33% said fear for family safety; 31% said inability to pay rent; 29% said safety concerns in the public sphere; 24% said women were forced to take up jobs because of their circumstances; 21% said early marriage; 19% said risk of GBV; and 17% said fear for personal safety.

In Hajar Sanwani area in Al-Ma'afer District, before the conflict, girls from marginalised communities, Muhamsheen, had transportation to go to university and were able to continue their education. They were also able to move without 'Mahram' and there were no safety issues. School dropout rate for girls was, low and households were able to afford education. After the conflict, there was a rise in the phenomenon of girls dropping out of schools and begging among girls from marginalised communities. Also, there were cases of rape at checkpoints, in addition to sexual exploitation. Early marriage, which was prevailing even before the conflict, has continued because of poverty.

In Al-Azaez area, Ash-Shamaytein District, women had to cope with the situation by begging, working in farms in return of corn and millets, and working in animal rearing. They received some support from organisations such as Oxfam and cash assistance from community philanthropists. In addition, women worked in cleaning poultries and removing waste of animals such as cows and sheep. Young girls stayed at home and did house chores.

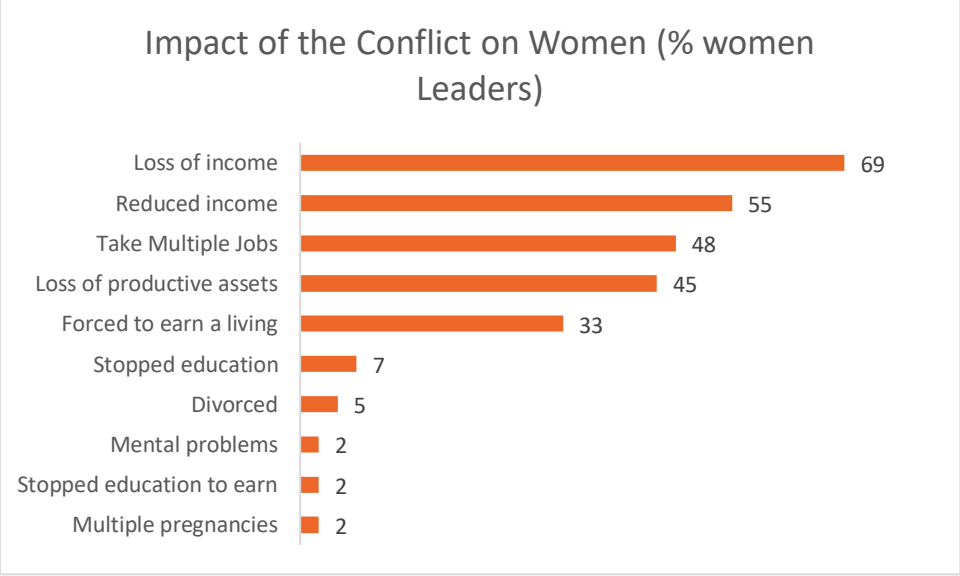


Figure 29: Impact of conflict on women (total does not add to 100 since this was a multiple-choice question)

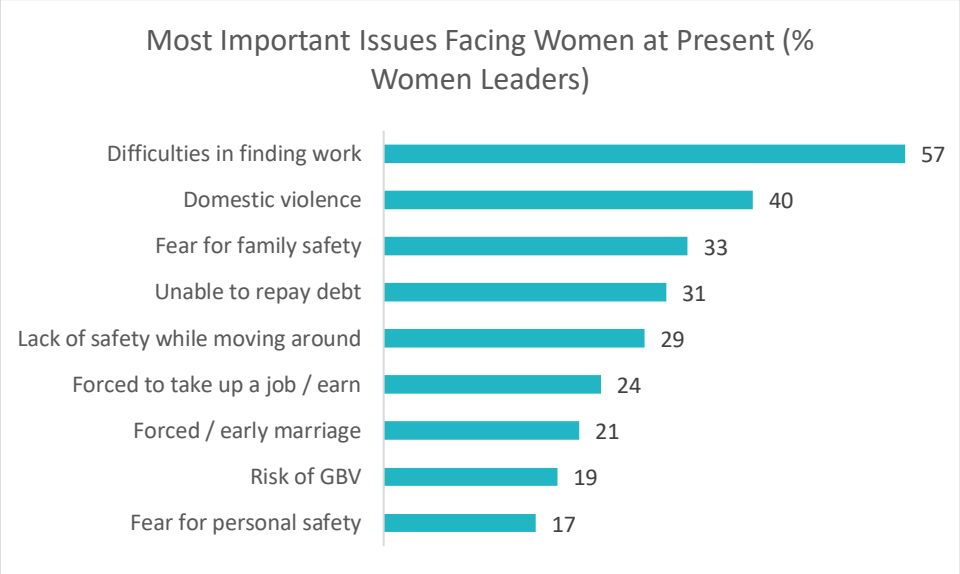


Figure 30: Important issues facing women at present (total does not add to 100 since this was a multiple-choice question)

"A young woman lost the head of the family and had to work in order to support her younger sisters. She worked as a saleswoman in a store to improve the conditions of her family, help her younger sisters to complete their education and cover the costs of treatment for her mother." Hayam Ibrahim, a community leader

"There was this young woman who could not complete her education because of her circumstances and was forced to get married." Amira Yusufi, a community leader.

"In some way, the conflict has had a positive on women. They are now able to participate in the public sphere." Amani Al-Jubani, a community leader.

"There was a woman who used to live with her family in a rented house, but the war changed the course of her life. The rent of the house increased to an amount equivalent to her husband's monthly salary. After deep thinking, the family moved to a small shop. She did not have any qualifications or skills. The family income was very small and that woman did not know how to improve it. She was left with no choice but to start knocking the doors of organisations and begging in the streets to make the ends meet." Iqbal Othman, a community leader.

"There was a woman who had lost her husband. After the husband's death, the family had been left without any income, and the responsibility of providing for herself and her children fell on her shoulders. Once, there was a building construction that was going on in front of their home. That woman approached the contractor to ask for any kind of work, even fetching water for the construction or other physical work so that she could feed her children." Fathia Hazbar, a community leader.

"An IDP woman in Al-Shamaytein faced some violence. She was targeted for a livelihoods programme to help her." Hayam Ibrahim.

"I know a woman who has two young children. A problem arose between her and her husband, and he divorced her, kicked her out of the house, and he did not allow her to take the children. She tried more than once to get her children and alimony, but she did not succeed." Mardia Rahman, a community leader.

"There was a woman whose husband had been suffering from cancer and she did not have money for the treatment. She spoke to some philanthropists who helped her. But, unfortunately, the husband did not survive." A community leader.

Impact of the Conflict on Men: Responses showed that there were many young men who had left their studies and taken up jobs to provide for their families. Some joined the war to earn but lost their lives or got maimed. Many had to leave their families behind and travel to other governorates or outside the country to earn a living. Many others were forced to work on low wages. Men have lost their health. They were also psychologically affected. There were examples in which men could not stand up again and there were examples in which men had shown great resilience, had not given up and had started building their lives from scratch again. According to 84% men leaders, men have lost their income fully because of the conflict, according to 70%, they have lost part of their incomes; 58% said men have lost their productive assets; 26% said men have become unemployed; 23% said men have joined the war. According to 19%, men have taken up multiple jobs to make ends meet; 14% said men had to leave their families to earn a living. According to a few, men leaders, young men have dropped out of education, lost their lives, been forced to play roles done by women in the past, got divorced, and faced mental problems and sickness.

According to 18% men leaders, the most important issue faced by men at the time of the assessment was the difficulty in finding work; 72% men leaders said it was the inability to repay debts; 72% said the inability to meet the basic HH needs; 33% said fear for family; 21% said fear for personal safety; 19% said lack of safety in the public sphere; 16% said risk of arrest / detention; 14% said risk of being stopped at checkpoints; and 14% said harassment.

In Hajar Sanwani area in Al-Ma'afer District, young boys from marginalised communities, Muhamsheen, were forced to drop out of school and take up jobs to help their families and do very hard physical work. These boys were paid very low wages, and they were exploited. There was also spread of diseases among them because of eating unclean food, working in garbage collection and sitting near garbage barrels. Regarding youth, the main issue facing youth was unemployment leading to them getting involved with armed groups and drug addiction. Before the conflict, young boys from marginalised communities used to aspire to get good education. The conflict had destroyed all hopes and youth were dropping out of education because of their circumstances.

In Azaez area in Ash-Shamaytein, men were engaged in daily-wage works, agriculture, and in the armed conflict to earn a living. They were also working as porters, sanitary workers and street cleaners. Young boys worked as motorcyclists, as well as engaging in trading and begging.



Figure 31: Impact of conflict on men (Total exceeds 100 since this was a multiple-choice question)



Figure 32: Issues faced by men at present (total exceeds 100 since this was a multiple-choice question)

"There is a young man who lived near the frontlines. Everything he owned was destroyed in the conflict and he also lost his source of income. He was forced to flee to a safer place where he lives now with his family and works as a bus driver." Nasser Mukred, a community leader.

"There is an electrician who was forced, because of the war, to live in a small room with a toilet. He sold his wife's gold and bought a motorcycle, and now he works as a motorcyclist." Hisham Mahyoub, a community leader.

“I know a young man who was psychologically affected because of his bad economic condition, and because he was not getting a job, he literally destroyed his father’s house.” Fayez Nezari, a community leader.

“The conflict has affected a lot of youth. I know a young man who stopped his education and went to work because he was not able to afford the expenses of education. I also know some men who travelled between governorates or outside the country to earn livings. Some also work for low wages” Omar Fare, a community leader.

“One young man, a high school student, dropped out of education because of his family situation and under the influence of some of his friends, who persuaded him to leave school and travel with them to the Al-Buq' area and fight on the frontline. After about a year, he returned and his life had improved. Later, he went back to the frontline. About seven months later, he was shot and lost one arm and a kidney. All he had left was a lot of regret and remorse.” Waleed Al Sharabi, a community leader.

“One young IDP who lost his job and his source of income after having to displace. However, he did not give up and kept on struggling to make ends meet. First, he started selling petrol to motorcyclists. Then he made a small kiosk for himself at the entrance to the neighbourhood and started selling qat next to the petrol station. After a while, he bought a motorbike and hired people to help him in the qat and petrol business, while he worked on the motorcycle. His living conditions have improved a little. He is an example of how to adapt to the situation.” Waleed Al Sharabi, a community leader.

“I know a person who, after the outbreak of the war, was not able to get a job. This had a deep psychological impact on him, which led him to commit suicide.” Louay Abdullah.

“There is a teacher who lives in a rented house. Before the conflict, his salary was enough for him and his family to lead an average life. But now his salary is not even enough to pay the house rent. He now works in multiple jobs to be able to sustain himself and his family.” Abu Bakr Mohammed.

“There is an IDP orphan who lost all his possessions and his source of income as a result of his displacement. He took land for cultivation in the place of displacement and gave a share of the harvest to the land owner. Now his economic situation has stabilised.” Mahfoudh Ahmed.

Least Respected Groups

According to 86% of the respondents, marginalised communities, Muhamsheen, were the least respected groups followed by unemployed men (58%), PWDs (45%), divorced women (40%), widows (25%), poor communities (19%), and IDPs (11%), in addition to returnees, working women, army men and women in general.



Figure 33: Least respected groups (total exceeeds 100 since this was a multiple-choice question)

Early Marriage

According to 45% community leaders, girls got married before the age of 18, according to 42% they got married after 30; and according to 13% they got married between 21-25. According to the community leaders, the common practice was to get the girls married after completing high school. Customs and traditions, poverty, family circumstances and lack of family awareness about the negative effects of early marriage, were the main factors sustaining the practice of early marriages. Economic considerations were another factor sustaining early marriages for girls. On one side, families got girls married for the 'dowry' amounts or because the fathers did not have the capacities to take care of their children. On the other side, families the girls married into, looked at them as additional support which could contribute to the family income. Some other families looked at girls as additional help with the family chores and taking care of the family members. Early marriages have had a negative impact on the education, health and psychological wellbeing of the girls. In some cases, the girls were not ready to take the responsibilities of marriage life, which was often leading to quarrels. There were also cases in which young girls got abused by the in-laws.

According to community leaders, after the conflict, boys had started getting married late. The age of marriage had increased for boys because they had to wait until they finished accumulating the 'dowry' amounts. According to 27% community leaders (both men and women), boys got married between 18-20 years old; according to 28% they got married between 26-30; according to 25%, they got married between 21-25; 8% said the common age of marriage was above 30; and 2% said boys got married before 18. According to the community leaders, some families preferred to get their boys married after completing their education, getting jobs, and when they were ready to take responsibility. In some cases, if the boy was not interested in education, the practice was to get him married. Fear for the boys was another reason behind getting them married. In some cases, the family needed help in the house and got the boy married to bring home a girl who could ease their difficulties. There are also cases in which boys got married at a young age, went to fight on the frontlines and got killed there, leaving their families behind without any support.

But in all cases, whether boys or girls, children lost their childhood and had to shoulder responsibilities which were much beyond their ages and understanding. Multiple pregnancies and bigger families were of the important issues in all early marriages, in addition to the impact on education, self-development and acquiring the skills needed to sustain in the labour market and earn decent livings.

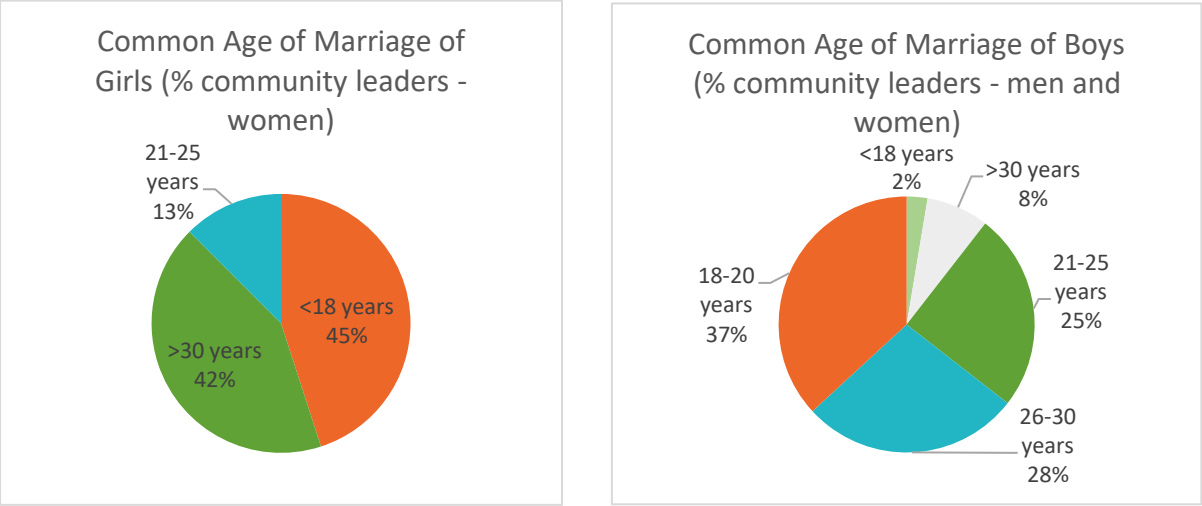


Figure 34: Common age of marriage of girls and boys

"A father removed his daughter from the school to take care of the household chores. Then one day he got her married. The girl could not complete her studies." Rania Mohammed, a community leader.

"There was an 18-year-old girl who agreed to get married at first, but refused later on because of some problems. Her father got her married by force because of the word he had given to the groom's family. The girl became mentally ill later on and could not even recognise her family." Rabab Ahmed, a community leader.

"I know a girl who got married at the age of 14 because the family was convinced that it is better for a woman to marry rather than to be called a spinster." Manal Ahmed, a community leader.

"In rural areas, where families depend on agriculture for their subsistence, it is common for girls to get married early. Girls become the additional agriculture labour for the families they marry into. Other factors leading to early marriage are poverty, hunger, traditions and customs and lack of education. Some boys and girls who get married early come from unstable families who live in very difficult circumstances." Manal Ahmed, a community leader.

"A father got his daughter married because a young man asked for the daughter's hand and paid the 'dowry'." A community leader.

"There was a case in which the father, the breadwinner for the family which consisted of three daughters and two sons, was not able to provide for the family. The sons were very young and could not help him in his work. So, he got one of his daughters married to a rich neighbour. But the girl was very young and immature and could not adjust to her new life. She often got angry and went to her father's house. Later on, she and her husband reconciled and moved to Hawban." Ahlam Sharjabi, a community leader.

"I know a boy who had to get married because of family circumstances and because the family needed extra help in farming." Fayez Nezari, a community leader.

"In the present situation, many boys get married at a young age, go to fight on the frontlines and get killed there, leaving their families behind without any support." Akram Al-Mashreqi, a community leader.

"There was a boy who got married early because of family circumstances. He had a lot of responsibilities and had to travel frequently to Sana'a to earn a living. Early marriage had a very deep impact on his life. He was forced to leave education and he did not get any time to develop himself and acquire the required skill sets. He also had several children and his main concern in life remained earning a living to provide for them." Abdullah, a community leader.

Living conditions of IDPs

Interviews with women and men leaders revealed that most of the IDPs had been staying in their areas for more than 3 years. 53% of the households (45 households) targeted for individual interviews were IDP households. 51% out of them were living in difficult living conditions with host families (15%), in IDP sites (12%), temporary shelters (12%) and abandoned houses, shops, hangars, with relatives, in the open and in public buildings. 49% of IDPs were living in rented places mostly in urban and semi-urban areas and to a very small extent in rural areas. IDPs from urban areas were also living in temporary shelter, abandoned houses, IDP sites and shops. IDPs from rural areas were living in IDP sites, with relatives, in the open and in public buildings.

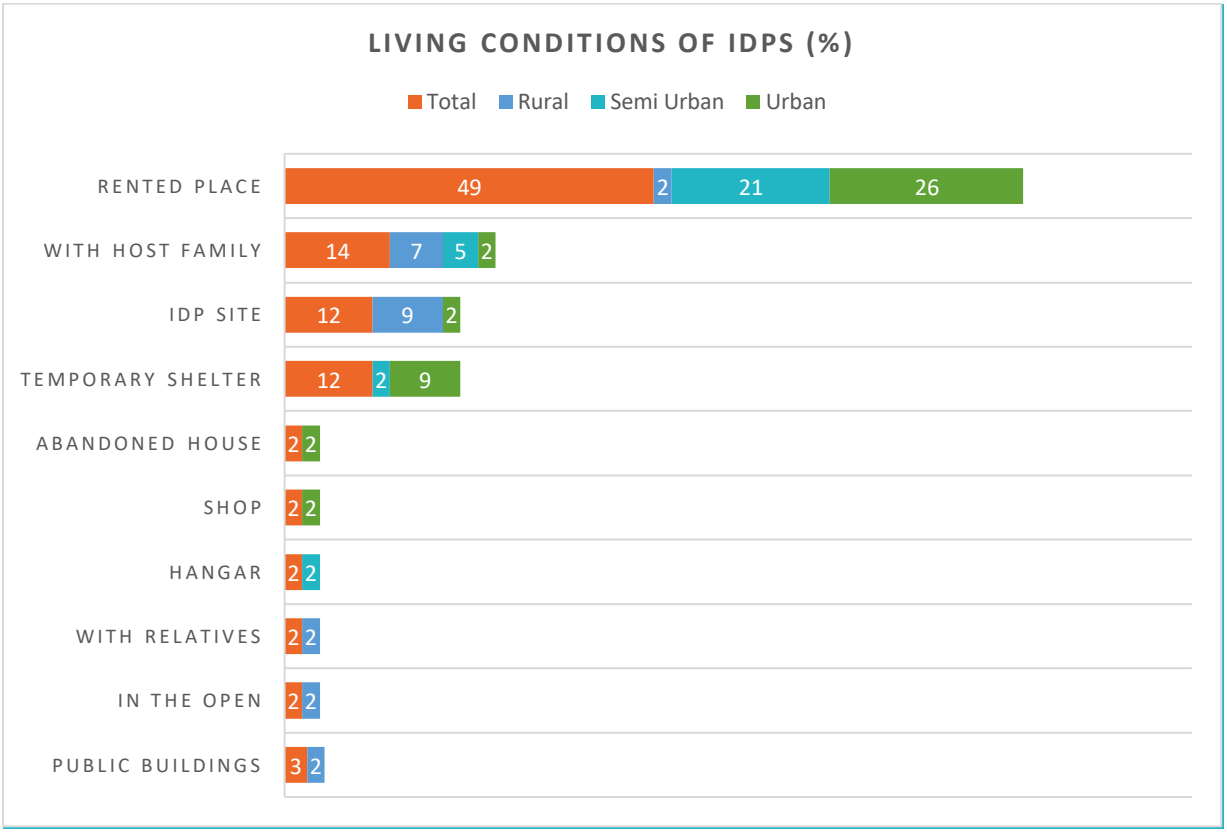


Figure 35: Living conditions of IDPs

Freedom of Movement

There were many restrictions on the movement of women. Though women were able to move freely when going to work, going to visit friends / relatives / family, going to collect humanitarian aid, there were more restrictions on travelling to near cities and governorates. Women also faced restrictions while going to markets, for treatment and to collect aid.

According to the community leaders from Al-Mudhaffar and Al Qahera, there were a large number of checkpoints because of the increased number of road accidents. Women traveling from one governorate to another alone without a 'Mahram' or with a child under 10, were questioned at checkpoints and the money they carried was checked. If new currency, even if it was a small amount, was found with a woman, she was searched and a reported, and the woman had to prove that she owned the money, and the amount was confiscated. If the security at the checkpoints became suspicious about women, they were detained until members of their families came to take them back home. As a result, women were afraid for themselves and for their family members when travelling.

In Ash-Shamaytein, women moved alone if they had to go to nearby places, to visit their families or friends, to go to the market or to go to work. However, family circumstances, culture and customs defined the norms regarding the movement of women. For example, if a woman was the breadwinner of a family, she made her own decisions regarding going out and went alone to health centers, public institutions, etc. In some families, women had to obtain permission from male members (father, husband) for going out. In a small percentage of families, women did not go out alone for any purposes or were always accompanied by 'Mahram'. Regarding going to far places, in most cases women did not move unless they were accompanied by 'Mahram'. In exceptional cases, they went alone and that was a family decision. As for moving outside the governorate and long-distance travel, in most cases, women did move without 'Mahram'. However, due to the war, women have themselves become afraid of moving alone because of the many risks involved.

According to the community leaders from Al-Ma'afer, freedom of movement of women differed from one family to another. Usually, women travelled with a bus driver who is known and trusted if they had to go to another district. If the bus driver was not available, they travelled in groups. Girls went to school in groups as well. Working women travelled alone by bus if required. According to the respondents, travelling from one governorate to another was very difficult because of the war, there were multiple checkpoints, and travel was not safe and could take the whole day. Many times, unforeseen difficulties were faced during the travel. As a result, families were afraid to let women travel alone and women were usually accompanied by 'Mahram' or male members from their families. In addition, there was a stigma associated with women travelling alone.

45% women leaders interviewed during this assessment said that women can go to collect humanitarian aid but with restrictions, 45% women can move only when accompanied by other women / children, 5% said women can move only when accompanied by male relatives / family members and 5% said it is not acceptable to the community.

Regarding going to work, 86% women leaders said that women could move but with restrictions and 14% said they could move only when accompanied by male relatives / family members.

While 19% women leaders said women could move for treatment but with restrictions, 50% said they could move only when accompanied by males, 26% said they could move only when accompanied by male guardians, few said that women could not move and that it is not acceptable in the society.

Regarding going to the market, 31% women leaders said women could go to the market but with restrictions, 50% said they could move only when accompanied by males, 14% said they could move only when accompanied by male guardians, few said that women could not move and that it is not acceptable in the society.

Travel to near city and governorates was heavily restricted. 88% women leaders said women could travel to other cities only when accompanied by male guardians. 69% said that women could go to other governorates only when accompanied by male guardians and 14% said that women cannot move and that such movement was not acceptable in the society.

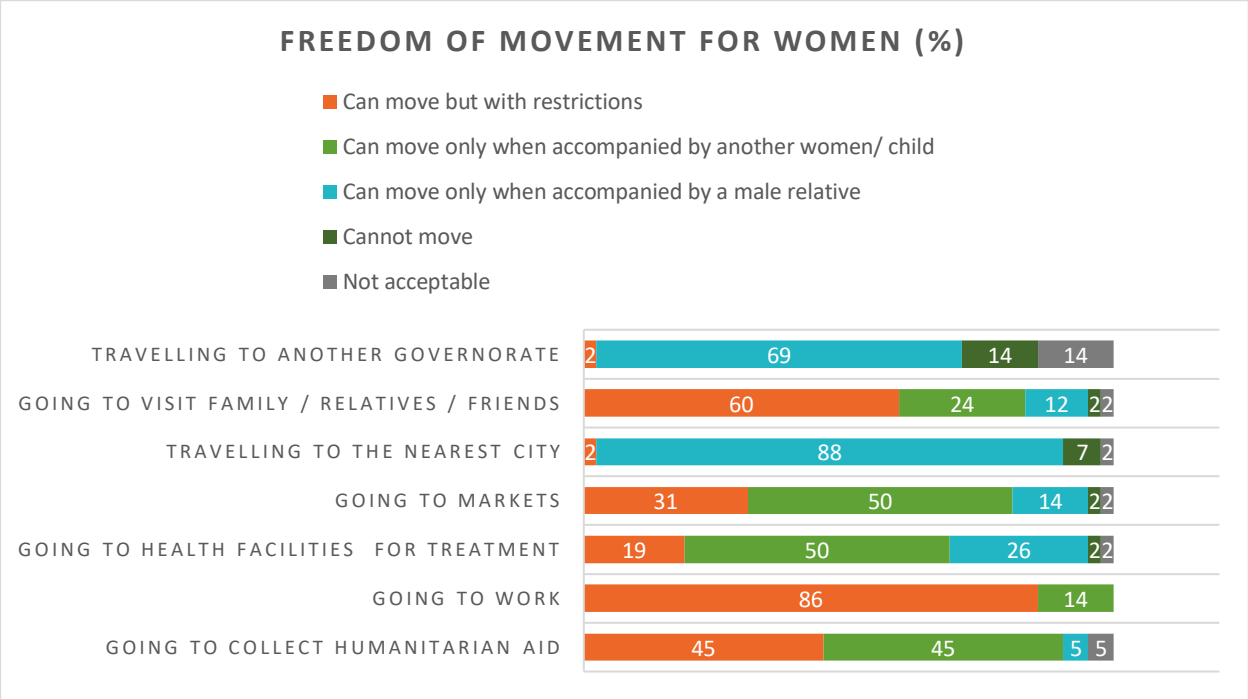


Figure 36: Freedom of movement of women

Sense of Safety

In Hajar Sanwani area in Al-Ma'afer District, men, women, boys and girls from the marginalized communities, Muhamsheen, face harassment, rape, forcing to use drugs, and assassinations at night or while travelling. Women, men, girls and boys from marginalised communities feel insecure to go out at night, to fetch water in the evenings, and to go to markets because of the fear of harassment. They feel insecure in IDP hosting sites because of the large number of people there. Women feel insecure to go to work in qat farms because of the fear of rape. Men feel insecure to travel for work because roads are cut and because of the escalating rate of assassination. Youth feel insecure in places of gathering of wrong crowds. Young girls are afraid of travelling to far universities. According to the respondents, one of the main reasons for the spread of the feeling of insecurity among people is that the security mechanisms are barely functioning. A safe environment can be created through activating the role of the local authorities, sheikhs, neighbourhood heads, and community councils, in addition to improving access to protection, training and rehabilitation programmes for youth, and raising awareness on human rights and co-existence.

Discrimination

Findings of focus group discussions in Al-Azaez area in Ash-Shamaytein revealed that marginalised communities, Muhamsheen, were the most vulnerable groups. These groups were not accepted socially. Men, women, boys and girls from this group were also facing discrimination on basis of race and colour and severe deprivation of their rights to education, job opportunities, equal wages and decent living conditions. They were not allowed to own lands in areas of the host communities and were confined to certain villages where they lived under unhygienic conditions and their needs were largely neglected. A majority of the members of the marginalised groups did not have civic documents or access to protection services. They were unemployed, living in extreme poverty and many of them earned a living by begging. These groups also did not have community leaders who could represent them. Boys from the marginalised groups were exploited and made to do hard work for low wages, even before the conflict. Exploitation of boys increased after the conflict and young boys from the marginalised communities were engaged in the armed conflict and deployed on the frontlines as human shields. A marginalized woman working as an agricultural labour along with other women from the mainstream community has to sit separately for lunch. Women from marginalised communities are also paid lesser wages than other women. Some communities do not allow marginalized groups to participate in decision-making, which has a negative impact on the self-esteem of people from this group. Confining marginalised groups to jobs as street cleaners, waste pickers, sanitation workers is one of the factors demotivating youth from continuing education.

Protection, Community Governance, Conflict Resolution, and Participation

Protection

According to 90% women leaders, women went to friends / relatives in case of violence / threat to safety; according to 74% they went to the authorities; according to 69% they went to sheikhs; and according to 31%, they went to protection centers / local organisations. Regarding men, according to 86% men leaders, men went to friends / relatives for help in case of violence / threat to safety; according to 81% they went to the authorities; according to 65% they went to sheikhs, and according to 40% they went to protection centers / local organisations.

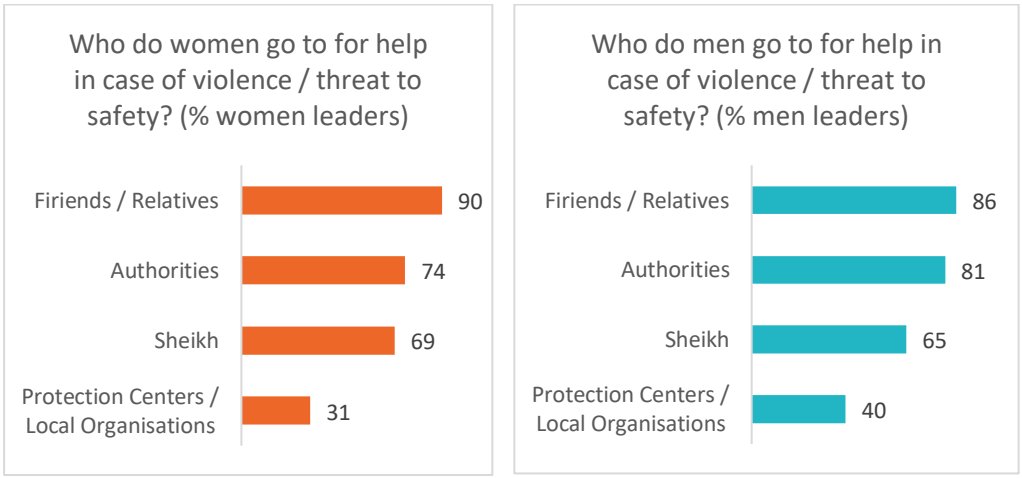


Figure 37: Where do men & women go for help? (total exceeds 100 since this is a multiple-choice question)

“There was an orphan young man who used drugs. His mother was not aware of this. When she came to know that her son was using drugs, she went to the head of the neighbourhood.” Rania Mohammed, a community leader.

“There was a girl who was engaged. Some problems occurred in the family because of which her mother-in-law beat her. The problem was resolved with the intervention of the family and the head of the neighbourhood. But the girl said she did not want to marry, and the engagement was dissolved.” Rabab Ahmed, community leader

“There was a woman who had a slight hearing disability. The husband used to abuse her because of her disability and used to take away all the assistance that she and her four children were getting, leaving them to starve. After severe suffering, the wife was left with no option but to turn to the wise and elderly people from the neighbourhood for help. With their intervention, she was able to get a divorce and relief from violence and hunger that she and her children had endured.” Iqbal Othman, a community leader.

“There was a girl who was subjected to domestic violence, because of which she had to flee from home. She was referred to a protection center.” Hayam Ibrahim.

“One of the women working in one of the government institutions faced insults and harassment from one of the employees. She filed an official complaint and got help and support from everyone, and the problem was resolved after that amicably.” Hanan Al-Ghaithi.

“A woman faced a problem because she could not pay the house rent. She received help from the neighbourhood.” A community leader.

“Some people wanted to evict an IDP from his house and he refused. This led to a conflict. The head of neighbourhood intervened and the people who were troubling the IDP went away allowing the IDP to continue living in the house.” Nasser Mukred, a community leader.

“There was a person who was assaulted. The concerned authorities intervened and looked into the details of the case. The act was done by people affiliated with an influential individual. The perpetrators were identified and brought to justice.” Helmy Mohammed, a community leader.

“Some influential people took away the land of a person. He went to the authority to claim his right.” Fayez Nezari, a community leader.

“One returnee was facing a problem because a person affiliated with the south resistance was accusing him of being a convert. The returnee contacted one of his former friends from the neighbourhood who were also affiliated with the south resistance. They came and stood by him emphasising that he was not Houthi and that no one can touch him.” Maher Khawlani, a community leader.

"There was a person whose land was attacked by some influential individuals. The problem was resolved by the sheikh and his land was recovered." Ahmed Al-Maqrami, a community leader.

"There was a man who faced a serious problem with his family, and their income was lost as a result. The man was even imprisoned. Then his wife went to local organisations and local authorities for help. Later, the man was released and the family was supported by some organisations." Abdullah, a community leader.

"A driver was sent to prison because he caused an accident. His friends and relatives intervened and got him out of the problem." Yusuf Ali, a community leader.

Community Governance

The conflict has changed the power dynamics in communities. Before the conflict, the local authorities were the primary decision makers followed by tribal leaders. This has changed after the conflict with armed groups, powerful figures emerging as decision makers.

According to 93% community leaders (both, men and women) who were interviewed during this assessment, local authorities were the main decision makers, 58% said tribal leaders were the main decision maker, 45% said community leaders / powerful figures, 34% said CSOs and 25% said community committees. 67% community leaders said local authorities were the main decision makers after the conflict, 40% said tribal leaders, 68% said community leaders / powerful figures, 40% said CSOs, 28% said community committees. Interestingly, only 9% of the community leaders said that armed groups were the main decision makers before the conflict, 48% said that armed groups were the main decision makers after the conflict.

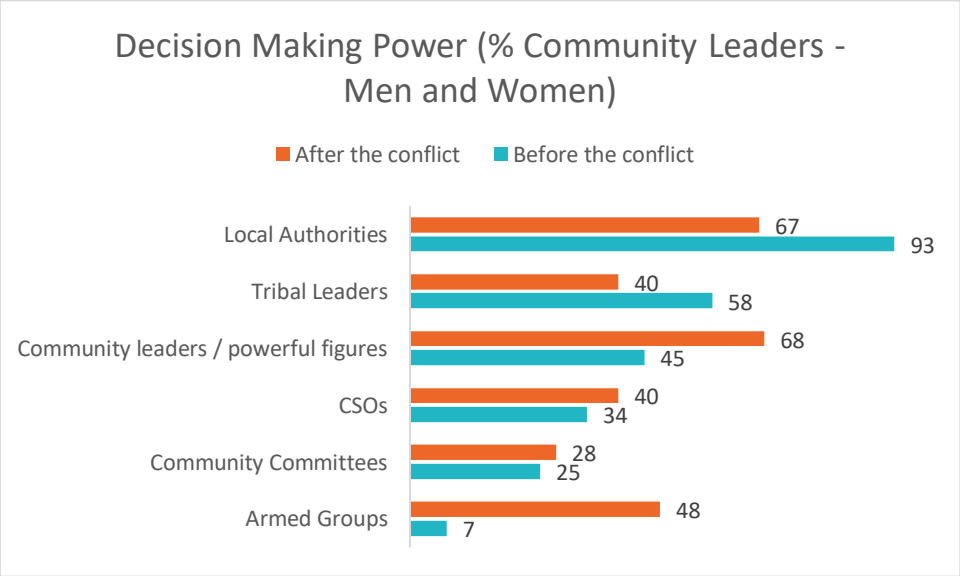


Figure 38: Decision making power in communities

Participation

Participation in Community Decision making

Only 33% women and 45% men said that they participated in community committees and social gatherings, while the majority said they did not. Participation of women in social gatherings had increased by 7% and that of men has reduced by 8%. 44% women said they were participating in social gatherings at the current time while only 37% used to participate before the conflict. 47% men said they participated in social gatherings at the current time compared to 55% who used to participate before the conflict.

In Al-Azaez area in Ash-Shamaytein, host communities did not accept the idea of co-existing with the marginalised communities, Muhamsheen, who are not allowed to participate in public decision making and were not given any leadership roles in the community. Social prejudices that promoted the image of women from marginalised communities as beggars in market places and in front of mosques and restaurants, hindered their participation in the society as well as their advancement in life. Women from the marginalised groups who participated in the focus group discussions emphasised the need to challenge such stereotypes, promoting social inclusion of marginalised women and cultivating a sense of co-existence.

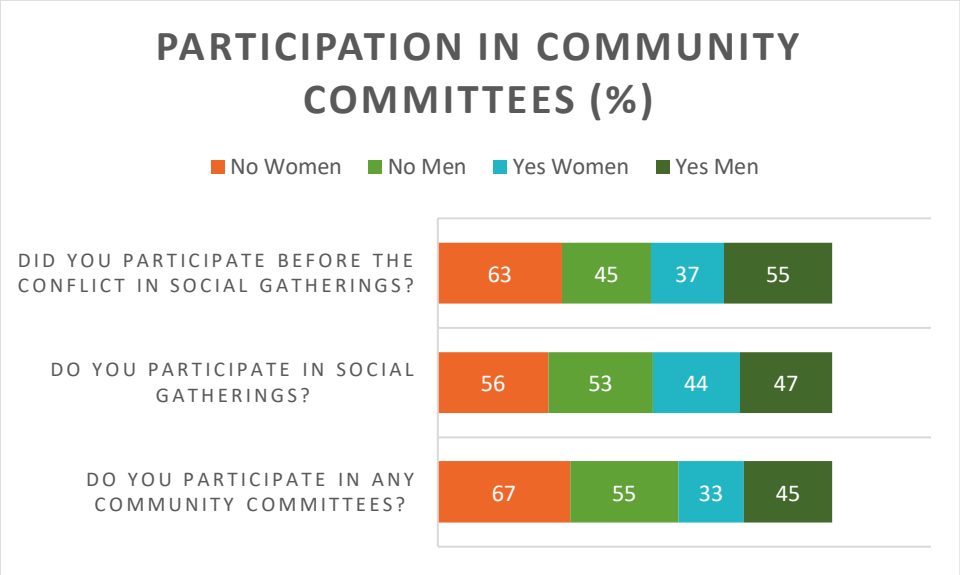


Figure 39: Participation of women and men in Community Committees pre & post the conflict

Participation of Women in the Public Sphere

A majority of the community leaders (71% total, 71% women and 70% men) who were interviewed during the assessment said that the conflict had changed the gender dynamics at the level of communities, a quarter (25% total, 29% women and 21% men) said there was no change, and 4% said that they did not know.

According to the male community leaders, after the conflict, many families were left with no option but to accept women going out to earn and support their families. As a result, there was more acceptance for economic participation of women, social taboo for working women has reduced, and the percentage of women running businesses has grown and that of men running businesses has reduced. Emergence

of women as economic actors has also strengthened their voice and presence in the public sphere. Social relations are now shared between men and women, and women became more influential socially and developmentally. Also, respect for women and recognition of the potential of public participation of women have increased.

According to female community leaders, since the conflict, a majority of the market labour force were women. Acceptance for working women, participation of women and respect for their opinion has increased in the society. Women have become more active in the community, have started playing a wider role, have been engaged in community service and have become more aware of their rights and duties as a constituent of the society. Voices of women have become stronger in the society, and respect for women and their opinion has increased. Women have also started expressing their opinions and become more influential. The number of women working in offices has increased. Women have made a unique space for themselves and earned respect because of their commitment and interest in work. They have also reached decision-making and management positions in private institutions and organizations on the basis of their capacity, and their presence in some governmental departments has increased. Some women leaders have also felt that targeting women by organisations for women empowerment programmes is causing tensions among men.

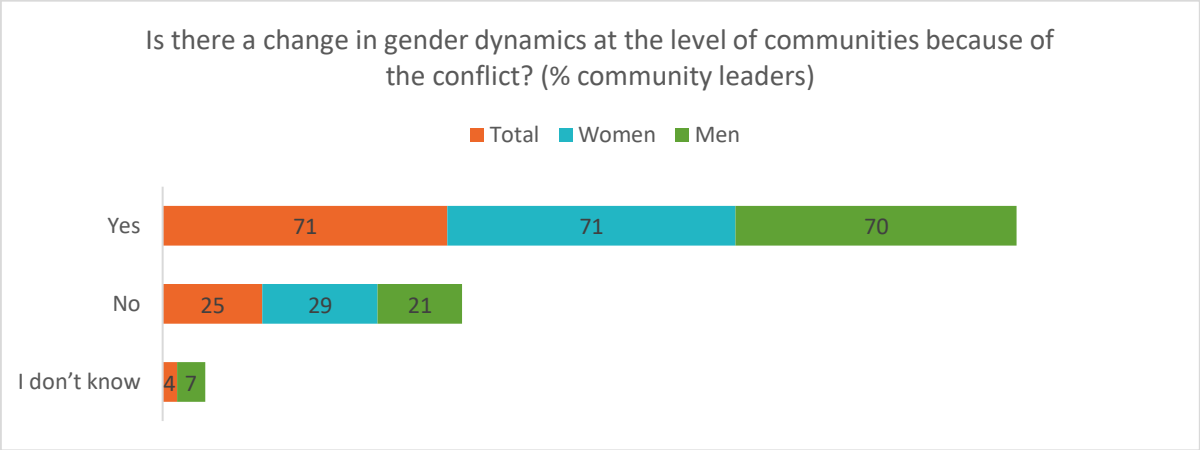


Figure 40: Change in gender dynamics at community level because of the conflict

Engagement of Women and Youth in Conflict Resolution

71% respondents (including women and men leaders and local authorities) said that there were conflicts in their communities, 22% said they did not know and 7% said there were no conflicts.

37% of the community leaders and local authorities who said there were conflicts, said that disputes occurred over conflicts of interests / resources (water, gas, etc.) /power / lack of services; 32% said conflicts occurred over land; 32% said they occurred family disputes / domestic violence; 11% said they occurred over IDPs and host communities; 8% said they occurred over humanitarian assistance; 5% said they occurred over taxes / levies; 5% said they occurred due to marginalisation / non-acceptance (e.g. non-acceptance of IDPs and their children); 3% said they occurred within armed groups over personal problems; 3% said there were armed conflicts, disputes between landlords and tenants, community disputes, personal disputes among individuals, disputes over wells, youth problems, as well as human rights issues.

According to respondents, disputes within families were caused by the families' difficult living circumstances, stress and psychological impact of the situation. Disputes between landlords and tenants occurred because of the rising rents and reducing affordability of households. A majority of the other

conflicts occurred due to the absence of the state, lack of community awareness, unfair distribution of resources, weak enforcement of law, presence of large numbers of militants and the culture of holding guns. Acts of exploitation and bullying the weaker sections occurred due to the increase in elements drawing power from weapons.

A majority (87%) of the respondents said that it was possible to resolve the conflicts. According to 72% respondents from local authorities and community leaders (men and women), it was the role of the local authorities to resolve them; according to 52% it was the role of community leaders / influential figures; according to 32%, it was the role of tribal leaders; 31% said it was the role of men and women from the community; 25% said it was the role of local organisations; 26% said it was the role of men from communities; 14% it was the role of development / humanitarian organisation,12% said it was the role of INGOs / UN agencies; and a few said it was the role of the judiciary, police and the collective role of all entities.

A majority of the respondents (77% total, 71% women leaders, 81% men leaders and 80% local authorities agreed that women should be engaged in conflict resolution; less than a quarter (16% total, 19% women leaders, 12% men leaders and 20% local authorities said no; and a few (7% total) said they didn't know. All respondents (men and women leaders and local authorities) said that nearly 50% of the population are females and women were an integral and important part of the society. From the perspective of women leaders, since women were one of the groups that was most severely affected by the conflict, they should also be a part of finding a solution to the conflict. There were women in all families. Women were able to influence their family members, and by the virtue of this, they also had the power to influence the society. Society also trusted women more. Moreover, women had demonstrated problem solving skills which they applied to everyday situations within their families, and these skills could be easily extended to the societal sphere. According to men leaders, women played an active role in the society, were leaders, had a strong influence over men and a positive influence on the society. Women were also more patient and more flexible as compared to men who were more rigid. As a result, women had more leverage to reach a solution than men. According to local authorities, women feared a lot about the future of their family members, children and their wellbeing. There were also many women-related issues that needed to be addressed. In addition, women were partners of men, they had become more aware than before, they had influence over the society and there was a growing acceptance for their voices in the society. Respondents also felt that engaging women in conflict resolution would give them first hand experience and hone their leadership and conflict resolution skills. Regarding the respondents who had said that women should not be involved in conflict resolution, the perspective of women was that conflict resolution was more the role of the State. Some women leaders were also skeptical about whether women's role in peacebuilding will be acceptable in the Yemeni patriarchal society. There were also some men leaders who felt that conflict resolution was more the role of wise men from the society and women did not have a role in it. Some representatives of local authorities felt that though women were involved in resolving conflicts within their families, conflict resolution in the public sphere was not the role of women. According to some others, women's participation in conflict resolution was very limited and not representative and that women did not have any real decision-making powers.

In Hajar Sanwani area in Al-Ma'afer District and Al-Azaez area in Ash-Shamaytein District, violence was driven by customs, racial discrimination, lack of awareness of co-existence and exclusion. Women and youth from marginalised communities, Muhamsheen, who were trained in peacebuilding, social activists, and community leaders were champions of peacebuilding and had a positive influence on the community. Community initiatives for peacebuilding among marginalised groups were successful; however, there was a lack of funding support.

"A majority of the staff and management in most local NGOs are women, and they have achieved many successes for a long time. Women are very active; they have many ideas and a keen interest in working for the wellbeing of the society." Mardia Rahman, a community leader.

"There are many examples of women involved in conflict resolution through their leadership in advocacy, protection and peacebuilding programmes." Heyam Ibrahim, a community leader.

"I know many women who have taken initiatives and provided assistance to the poor, orphans, and the displaced by implementing some campaigns through initiatives, associations, etc. Women's knowledge of society, poor families, orphans and the displaced helps them to achieve success." Nora Hujaira, a community leader.

"There a is story of a water network that had stopped functioning because there was a problem with the water pump. Water supply to households stopped causing a problem. Women from the community intervened and identified repairing the pump as a solution. They also collected money and repaired the pump." Nashwan Abdullah, a local authority representative.

"There is a success story of women who contributed to resolving a dispute in the Kalaba Water project. The conflict had been ongoing for years and the women contributed as community mediators in partnership with the local authority in the area with support from Search for Common Ground Organization. The conflict was resolved and the water project has been functioning for 5 years now." Mohammed Fare, a local authority representative.

Regarding engagement of youth, a majority of the respondents (84% total, 83% women leaders, 79% men leaders and 95% local authorities) agreed that youth should be engaged in conflict resolution; some (11% total, 1% women leaders, 19% men leaders and 5% local authorities) said they should not be engaged; and a few (5% total) said they did not know.

All respondents agreed that youth were the future of the country, they were full of new ideas and they had positive energy and capacities that needed to be developed. Also, youth were energetic, had the stamina needed, and most importantly, they enjoyed participating in various activities. It was felt that engaging youth in conflict resolution would provide them the needed experience and give them an opportunity to develop their skills. According to women leaders, it is the youth's responsibility to build the future and to create a safe society. Youth had the capacity to change the reality and play a role in easing the problems in societies. They were also the most severely affected group of the society and had been facing deprivation, lack of opportunities and living in a situation of lack of basic services. That's why it was believed they needed to be engaged. According to men leaders, youth were the strongest section of the society. Engaging youth in conflict resolution would create positive role models for others to follow. Also, youth had become more aware and had developed a sense of responsibility. Society also needed a new vision for the future and the fresh perspectives of youth provided a new angle to everything, including conflicts. In addition, youth had the power to influence the parties to the conflict and were flexible. According to local authorities, youth should be engaged because they needed, more

than anyone else, to build peace and end the conflict for their own future. Youth also had logical thinking which was important. In some cases, youth were themselves the cause of conflicts, and engaging other young people from the same generation who could understand them, was important in order to reach solutions. Regarding the respondents who said that youth should not be engaged, the view point of some women leaders was that conflict resolution needed wisdom which was commonly associated with elders, wise men and women. Youth may not have that wisdom, which could lead to the escalation of the conflict. It was also felt that conflict resolution was more the role of the State.

"There are many stories of the engagement of young men and women in resolving conflicts. In one example, young women trained in conflict resolution within the "Women and Peace" project were engaged in resolving a dispute over a crowded market place. Many conflicts were taking place in the market which was affecting women who were not getting access to the market goods and services. A group of young women conducted community dialogues and the conflict was resolved; the market was re-located. Also, the road leading to the market was paved." Hayam Ibrahim, a community leader.

"I know one youth initiative which involved carrying out a cleaning campaign for the alleys. The street cleaners had gone on strike and the garbage in the area had piled up. A group of youth mobilised other youth and cleaned the alleys. As a result of the youth initiative, the authority took steps to work out a solution for the street cleaners and the strike ended." Nora Hujairi, a community leader.

"A conflict occurred over distribution of water. Young women and men from the community committee gathered the two parties to the conflict and worked to find a solution to the problem. As a result of the intervention, a solution was reached, and they managed to divide the water equally in the neighbourhood. The positive interaction facilitated by the young men and women led to a water distribution plan signed by both parties to the conflict and the head of the neighbourhood." A community leader.

"Distribution of gas cylinders was done through designated representatives. There was no clear mechanism for their distribution, causing conflicts that escalated reaching shooting bullets. A youth came up with an idea for the distribution mechanism, which was welcomed by the community and he succeeded in resolving the conflict." Najeeb Al-Odaini, a local authority representative.

"Youth contributed to resolving a dispute among IDPs camps and the owners of the agricultural lands adjacent to the camps. The lands were getting affected by the accumulated garbage from the camps. The youth, with support of the Yemen Media Center and in partnership with the local authority and the cleaning fund, purchased a garbage truck with a compactor to transport the garbage daily to the garbage dump in Al-Saleh Gardens in Taiz, which resolved the conflict." Mohammed Fare, a local authority representative.

Community leaders and local authorities recommended the following measures to improve community participation in peace processes: conducting outreach activities, awareness raising and educating communities on the importance of participating in peace building processes, building the capacity of men and women in peacebuilding and conducting inclusive community dialogues, seminars and discussions.

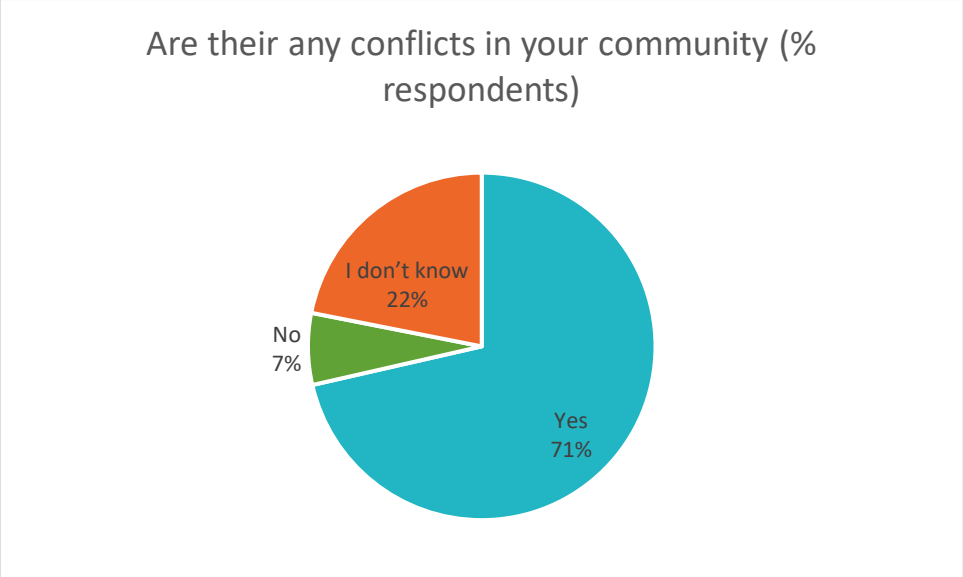


Figure 41: Are there conflicts in your communities?

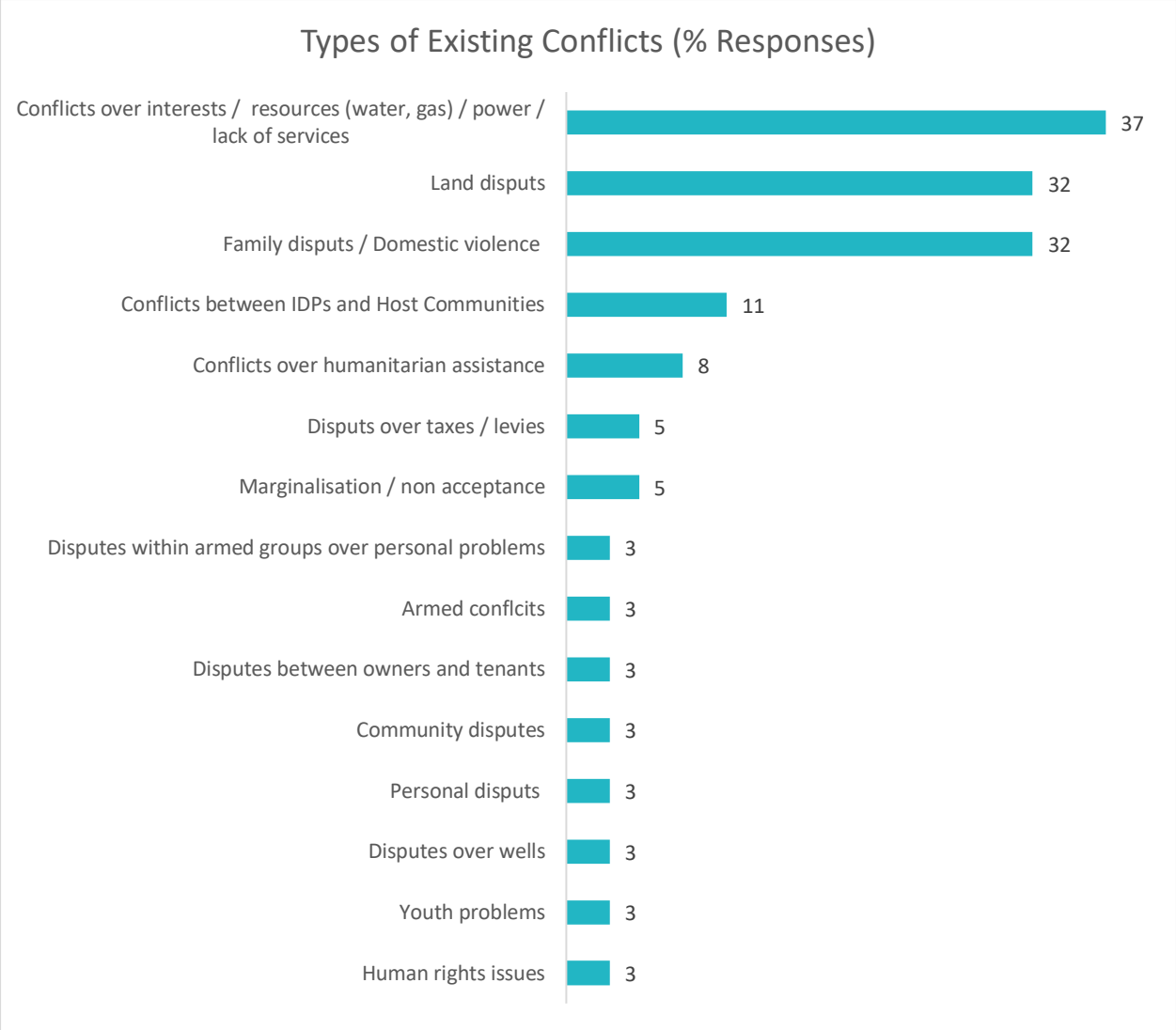


Figure 42: Types of conflicts existing in communities

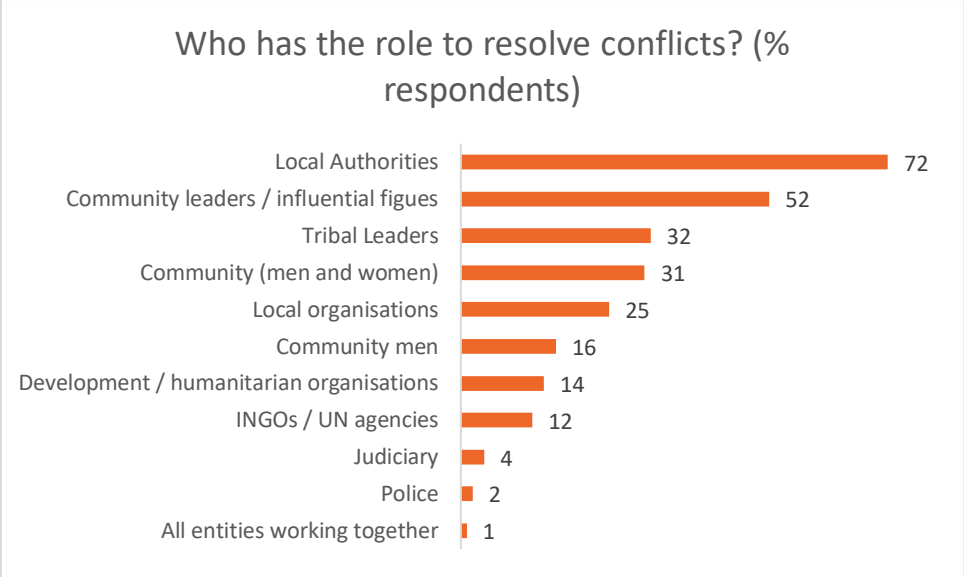


Figure 43: Who is responsible for conflict resolution?



Figure 44: Community perspectives on the engagement of women in conflict resolution

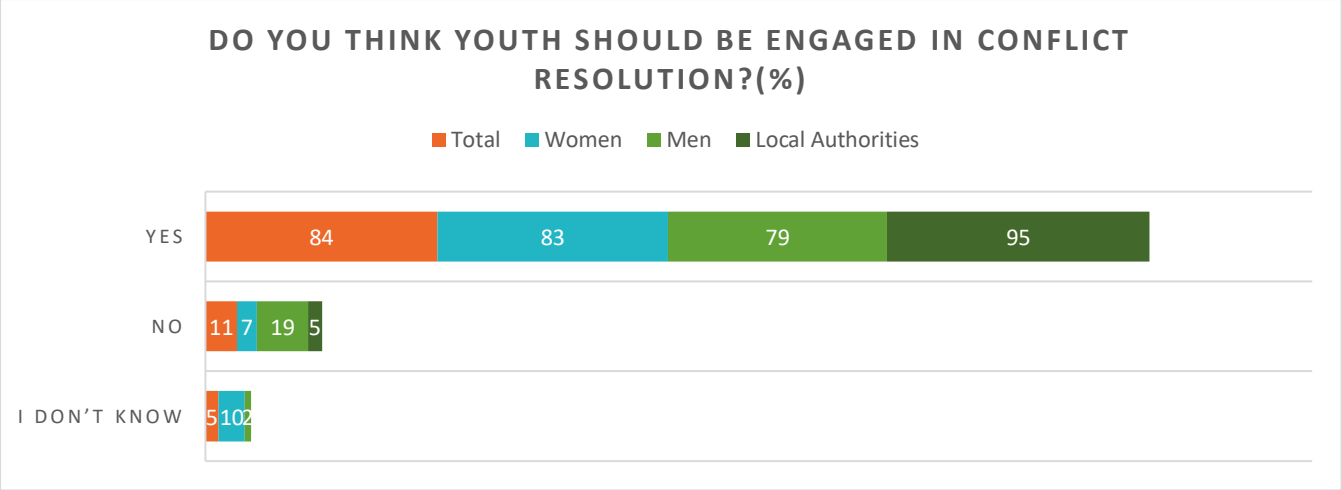


Figure 45: Community perspectives on the engagement of youth in conflict resolution

Priority needs of communities and access to humanitarian services

Access to Humanitarian Services

Overall access to Basic Services

While a majority of the HHs had access to water, safe sanitation, food, reproductive health, and hygiene materials, 51% HHs did not have access to health care mainly because the health facilities were far away, 51% did not have access to protection services, 46% did not have access to hygiene materials, 26% did not have access to food, 16% did not have access to safe sanitation and 15% did not have access to water. Regarding reproductive health, 33% did not have access to it prior the conflict. After the conflict, there was an increase in HHs not having access to these services by 10%.

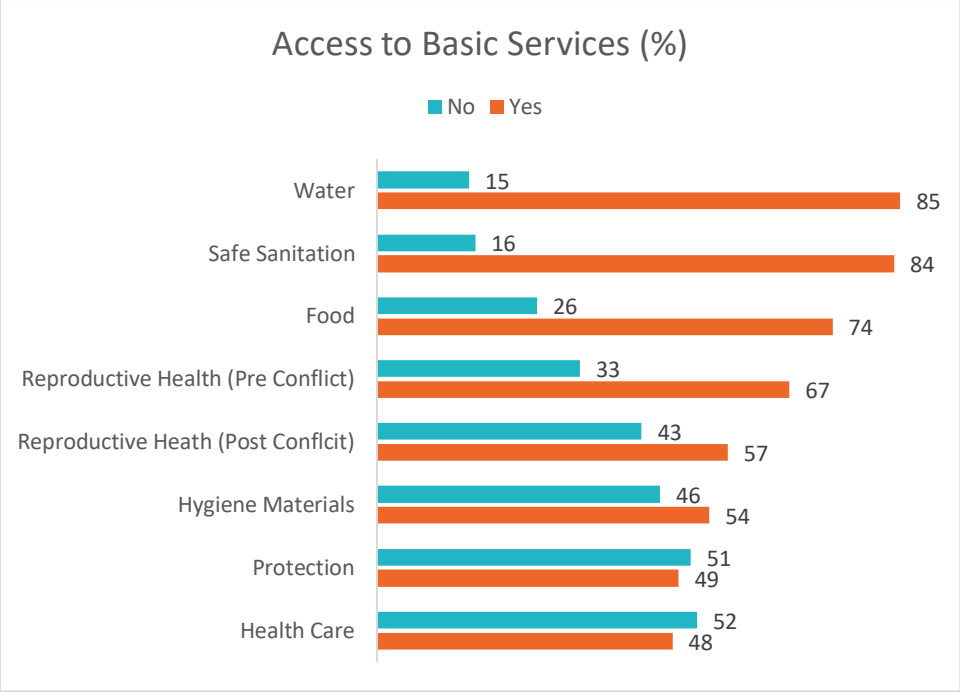


Figure 46: Access of communities to basic services

Difficulties faced by Women and Men in Getting Access to Humanitarian Services

According to community leaders, the main difficulties faced by women and men in getting access to humanitarian services included marginalisation of groups / communities (66% total, 71% women, 60% men), lack of access to organisations providing assistance (58% total, 45% women, 70% men), lack of information (54% total, 55% women, 53% men), lack of documentation (54%, 57% women, 51% men) and lack of transportation (51% total, 52% women, 49% men). In addition, 42% leaders (45% women, 40% men) said mobility issues affected access of women and men to humanitarian services, 19% (14% women, 23% men) identified health issues as a constraint and 7% (14% men) identified injuries as a constraint.

Responses of community leaders showed that the main difficulties faced by women in getting access to humanitarian services were marginalisation of groups / communities followed by lack of documentation, lack of information and lack of transportation, as well as, to some extent, lack of access to organisations providing humanitarian assistance and mobility issues. The main issues faced by men were lack of access to organisations providing humanitarian assistance followed by marginalisation of groups / communities. Men also faced difficulties because of lack of information, lack of documentation, lack of transportation and mobility issues, but to a lesser extent than women. However, the percentage of men facing difficulties in getting access to humanitarian services because of health issues was more as compared to women. Men also faced difficulties in access because of injuries.

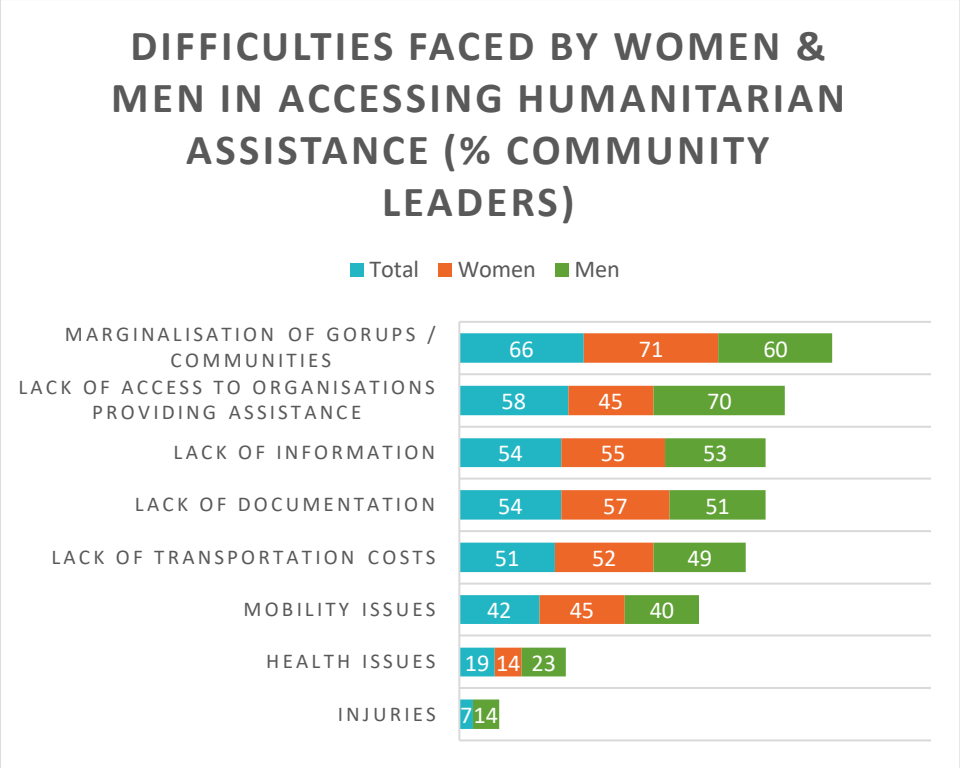


Figure 47: Difficulties faced by women and men in accessing humanitarian services (total does not add to 100 since this was a multiple-choice question)

Rural–urban Disparity in Access

A majority of the households from rural areas did not have access to protection services (71%) and 64% did not have access to health care. 61% HHs did not have access to reproductive health care and the majority felt women did not need these services. A significant number did not have access to hygiene materials (43%) and food (39%). A significant percentage of HHs from semi-urban areas did not have access to reproductive health care (48%), health care (43%), protection services (33%) and hygiene materials (33%). A majority of the HHs from urban areas (59%) did not have access to hygiene materials, 47% of the HHs did not have access to health care and 44% did not have access to protection services.

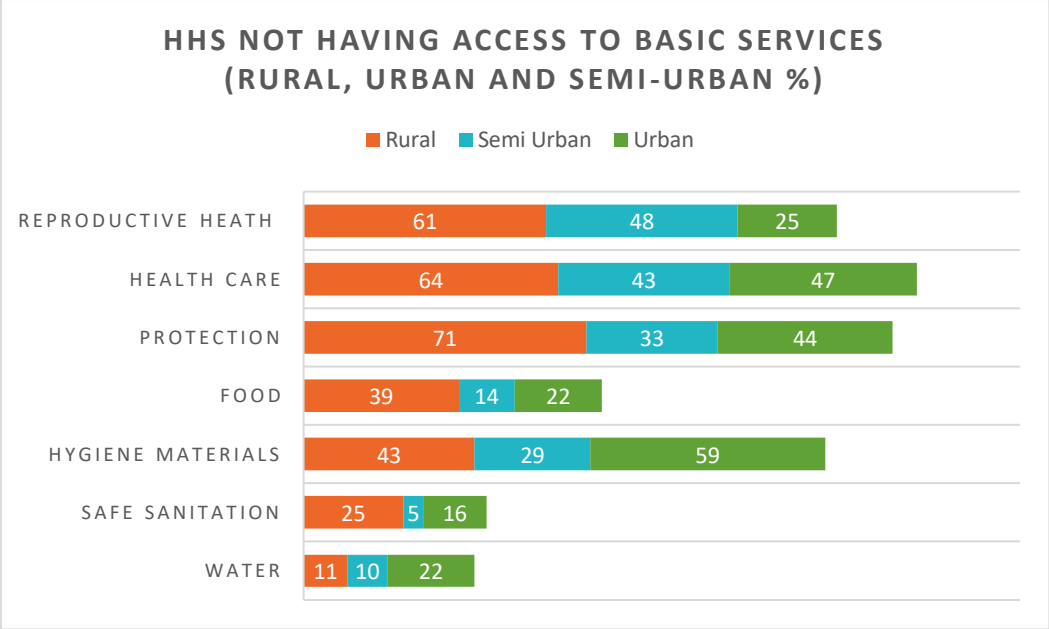


Figure 48: Rural-Urban disparity in access

Access of Vulnerable Groups to Basic Services

15% of the population were poor households, 13% had sick / injured persons, 38% were from marginalised communities and 34% were persons with disabilities. IDPs were another vulnerable group.

HHs having sick persons and poor HHs were the most vulnerable and were facing severe access issues. 92% did not have access to hygiene materials, protection and health care and 69% did not have access to reproductive health care. HHs from marginalised communities were the next most vulnerable. 78% of these HHs did not have access to health care, 72% did not have access to reproductive health care, 61% did not have access to protection and 56% did not have access to hygiene materials. Regarding HHs with PWDs, 53% did not have access to protection, 47% did not have access to hygiene materials and health care, 41% did not have access to food and 36% did not have access to reproductive health care. IDP HHs had better access than other vulnerable groups. 38% of the poor HHs and those with sick persons and 44% marginalised HHs did not have access to food.

In Hajar Sanwani area in Al-Ma'afer District, access to financial resources is very limited because of the war in Yemen. Poor incomes and increasing food costs have affected the access to food, and families are resorting to working as agriculture labour for cultivating land and growing vegetables in return of a small percentage of the yield. Access to services is also very limited, especial access to health services due to lack of health facilities in the vicinity. Regarding access to information, it sometimes reaches community leaders, men and women.
There are a few networks and organisations working for the marginalised groups. But overall, these groups have very limited access to information and support. There is a need to rehabilitate and support networks working for marginalised groups, training and rehabilitating women and providing them with small grants and conducting studies on the needs of the marginalised groups and planning interventions to improve their situation. There are many examples of women from the marginalised groups who started their own micro enterprises in incense making, making accessories and other small businesses, and they succeeded in their life and became community leaders. Such examples can give hope and confidence to others from the community.

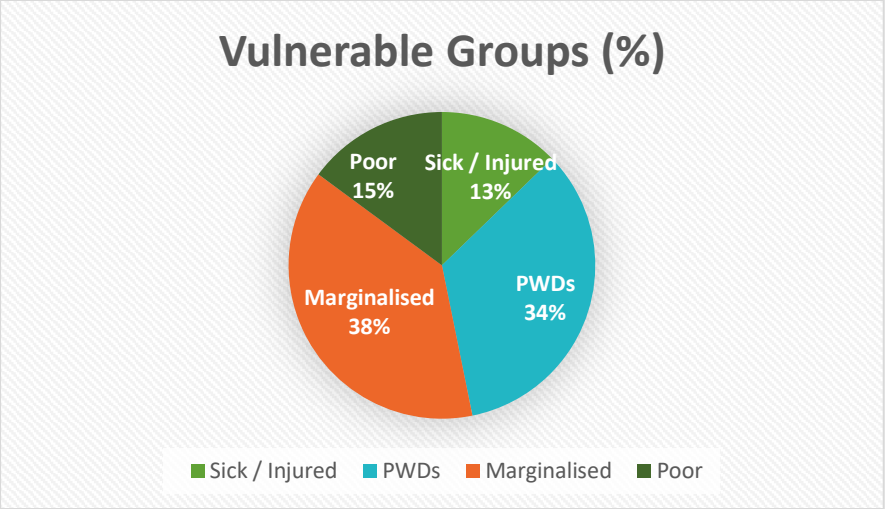


Figure 49: Types of vulnerable groups

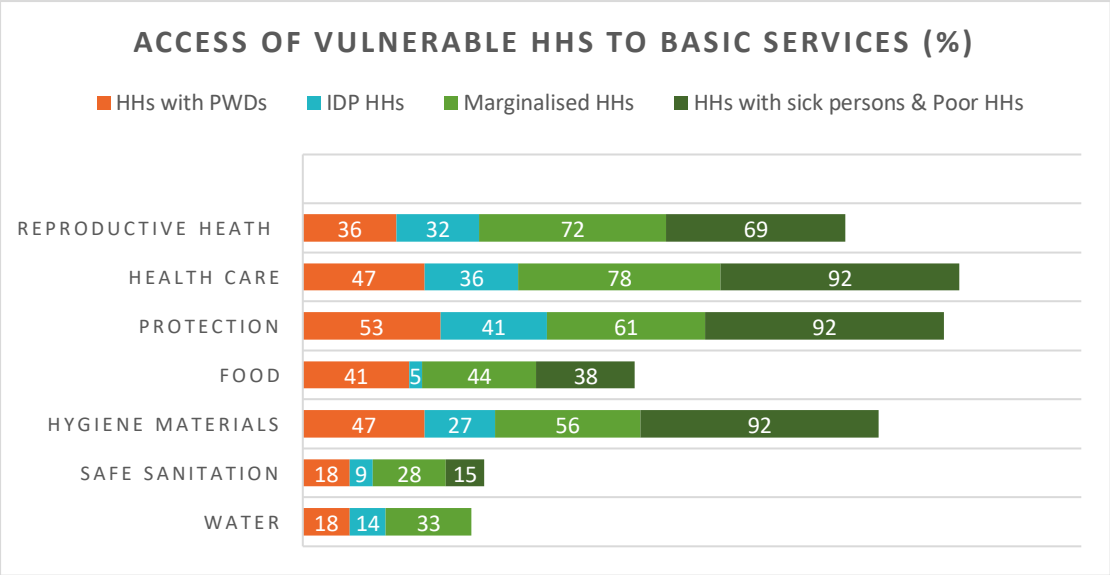


Figure 50: Access of vulnerable groups to basic services

Access to Education

33% of the population were school-age children: between 6 and 18 (16% were boys and 17% were girls). 88% households said boys were going to school, while 12 % said they were not. Regarding girls, 93% households said girls were going to school and 7% said they were not. In most cases boys had stopped going to school to help the family to earn a living, and in some cases, they had dropped out of school to help in fetching water. Regarding girls, they had stopped going to school to help the family to earn a living and because the schools were far away and the families did not have the affordability for transportation.

According to 40% women leaders, girls were dropping out of schools to help their families to earn a living; according to 36%, they dropped out because of household chores; according to 29%, they dropped out to get married; according to 24%, they had to stop school to take care of their siblings / /elders, because the school was far away or because the schools were damaged; 19% said because there

were no teachers;14% said girls dropped out of school because there were no separate toilets; 12% women leaders said girls could not continue their education because they had to fetch water for their families; and 10% said that there were many risks on the way to school and back.

According to 91% men leaders, boys were dropping out of school to help their families in earning a living; according to 51% they dropped out because schools were far away; according to 49% boys stopped going to school because the roads were not safe; 35% men leaders said there were no teachers in the schools; according to 21% the main reason was that schools were damaged; 14% said boys stopped their education to fetch water for their families; 12% said IDPs were not accepted in school; and 9% said boys dropped out of school to get married.

Stories shared by community leaders showed that girls and boys had also dropped out of school because of loss of parents, ill treatment by teachers, fear, stress experienced during the conflict and bullying.

In Al-Azaez area in Ash-Shamaytein District, even before the war, enrollment of boys and girls from the marginalised groups in schools was low. Discrimination on the basis of colour and race was common and boys and girls from the marginalised groups were harassed and bullied. After the war, there has been increased understanding regarding the rights of the marginalized groups because of the awareness raising carried out by various organisations, including Oxfam and the situation of marginalised groups and their confidence has improved. However, exploitation of boys from this group continues. Also, girls refuse to go to schools because of fear of bullying and harassment.

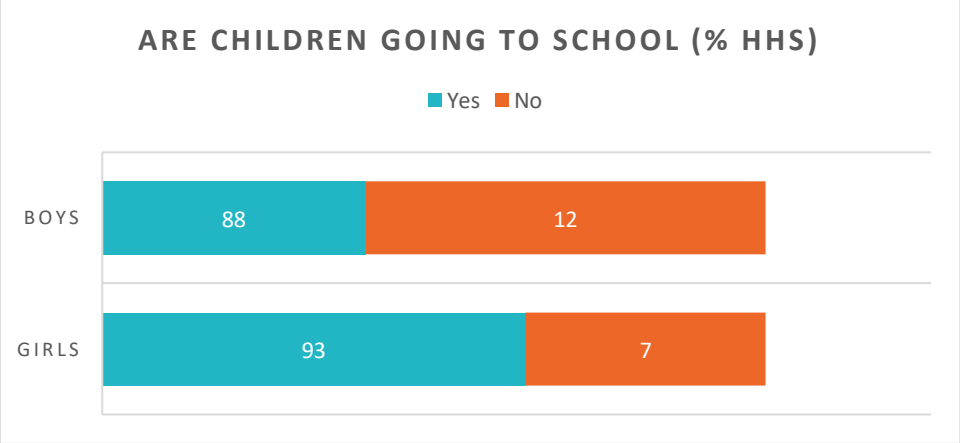


Figure 51: Are children going to school?

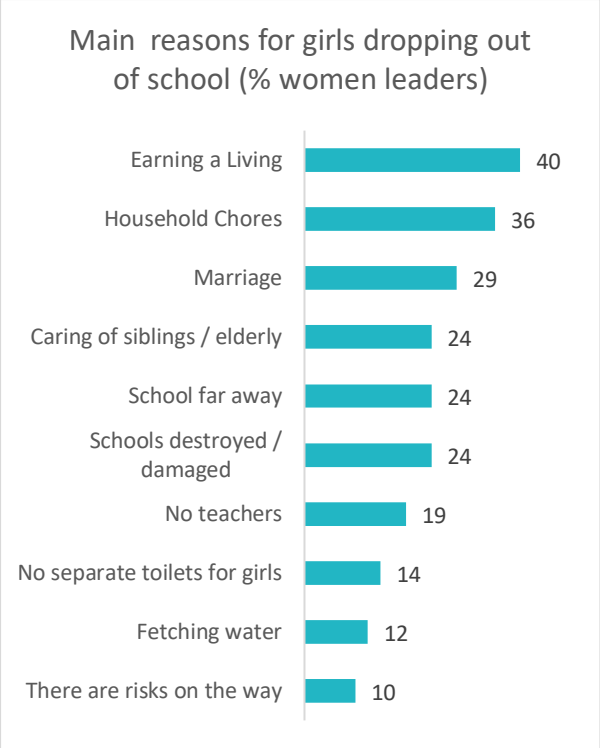




Figure 52: Reasons for girls and boys dropping out of school

"A girl from the marginalized group who was studying in the school had a conflict with one student. The teacher stood with the other girl and hit the marginalised girl. As a result, the girl dropped out of school." Rabab Ahmed, a community leader.

"Some boys dropped out of school because their seniors who had completed school were unemployed." A community leader.

"There was a 12-year-old girl who was in the third grade, older than the other children in the class. One of those children always bullied her. As a result, she dropped out of school." Fathia Hazbar, a community leader.

"There was a case in which the father removed his daughter from the school because he could not afford it." Lubna Naji, a community leader.

"There is a story of a girl who dropped out of school because of the family's economic situation. She took a skills training course with an organization to be able to contribute to the family income." Hayam Ibrahim, a community leader.

"Most of the girls who drop out of school to get married, do so because this is usually a condition by the husband." Huda Mahyoub, a community leader.

"There is a girl who dropped out of school at the age of 13 to get married." Nabila Mohammed, a community leader.

"There was a case in which a girl was killed by a sniper. Her friend was severely affected by the incident and the father had to remove her from school." A community leader.

"There was a 12-year-old boy who had to drop out of school because his mother passed away. He works in a bakery to support his family." Nasser Mukred, a community leader.

"A father removed his son, who was in the fifth grade, from school because he could not afford the costs of registration, stationery and transportation. He now helps his father in his work." Hisham Mahyoub, a community leader.

"There is an eight-year-old boy who dropped out of school because his father passed away and his brother who was in the army was unable to afford the expenses of the family and the school." Maher Khawlani, a community leader.

"There was a case in which a boy left school and his house because of family problems and went to earn a living on his own." Abdullah, a community leader.

"There was a student who did not complete high school. He went to work for daily wages to support his family, collected some money, bought a bus, and now he works as a bus driver." Yusuf Ali, a community leader.

Access of Women to Reproductive Health Care

According to 31% women leaders, women always had access to reproductive health care before the conflict, according to 64% they sometime had access, according 2% they did not have access and 2% said they did not know. Regarding access to reproductive health care after the conflict, the majority (81%) of the women leaders said women sometimes had access, 14% said they always had access and 5% said they did not know. Lack of community awareness of the importance of reproductive health, poor capacity of health staff, bad roads, distance of health facilities from communities, lack of health facilities, lack of medical equipment, high costs, lack of transportation, corruption, poor conditions in health facilities, deteriorate economic conditions of families were the main factors affecting access.

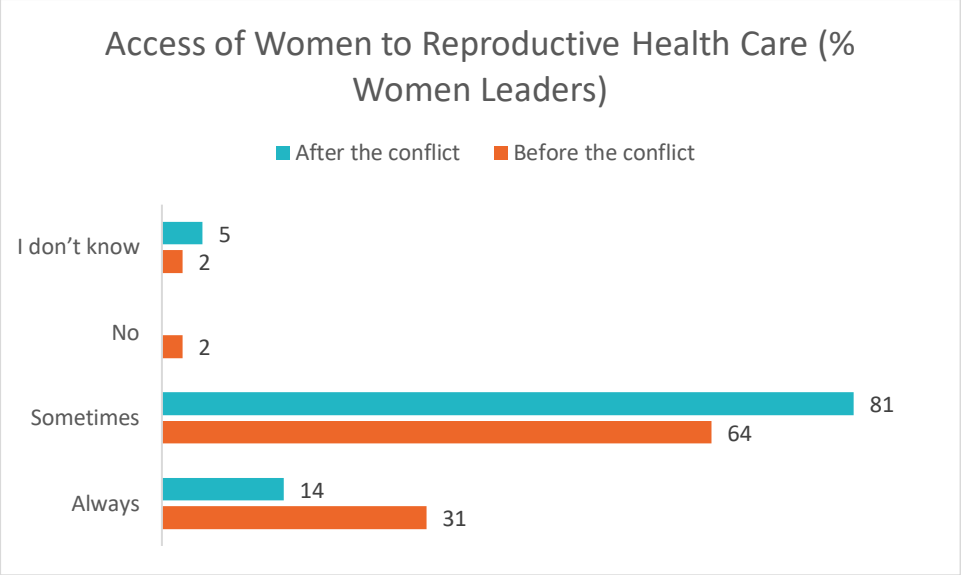


Figure 53: Access of women to reproductive health care

Priority Needs of Communities

According to a majority of the community leaders (89% total, 95% women and 86% men), water was the highest priority followed by shelter (78% total, 67% women and 90% men), food (64% total, 52% women and 76% men), safe sanitation (39% total, 55% women and 24% men), livelihoods (36% total, 33% women and 40% men). Education, productive assets, cooking fuel, electricity and vocational training were identified as priorities by 15 to 25% of the community leaders. A few leaders also identified rehabilitation of community assets, access to hygiene materials, fuel, protection services and non-food items as priorities. While the percentage of men leaders identifying access to shelter, food, livelihoods, productive assets, vocational training, rehabilitation of community assets as priorities was more than that of women. The percentage of women leaders identifying water, safe sanitation and cooking fuel was more than that of men.

In Al-Azaez area in Ash-Shamaytein, men from marginalised groups need jobs, cash for work, small grants, food and cash assistance and roads. Women need financial and psychological support, skills training, shelters, and food security. Young girls are in need of health education, civil documents, study materials, and training in computer and English. Young boys are in need of psychological support, raising awareness on the dangers of weapons and drugs, study materials and support for sport activities. There is also a need to rehabilitate sewage networks.

In Hajar Sanwani area, there is a need for economic empowerment of men and women and supporting them to start initiatives to serve their communities in addition to training them in peacebuilding. There is also a need to support youth in completing their education.

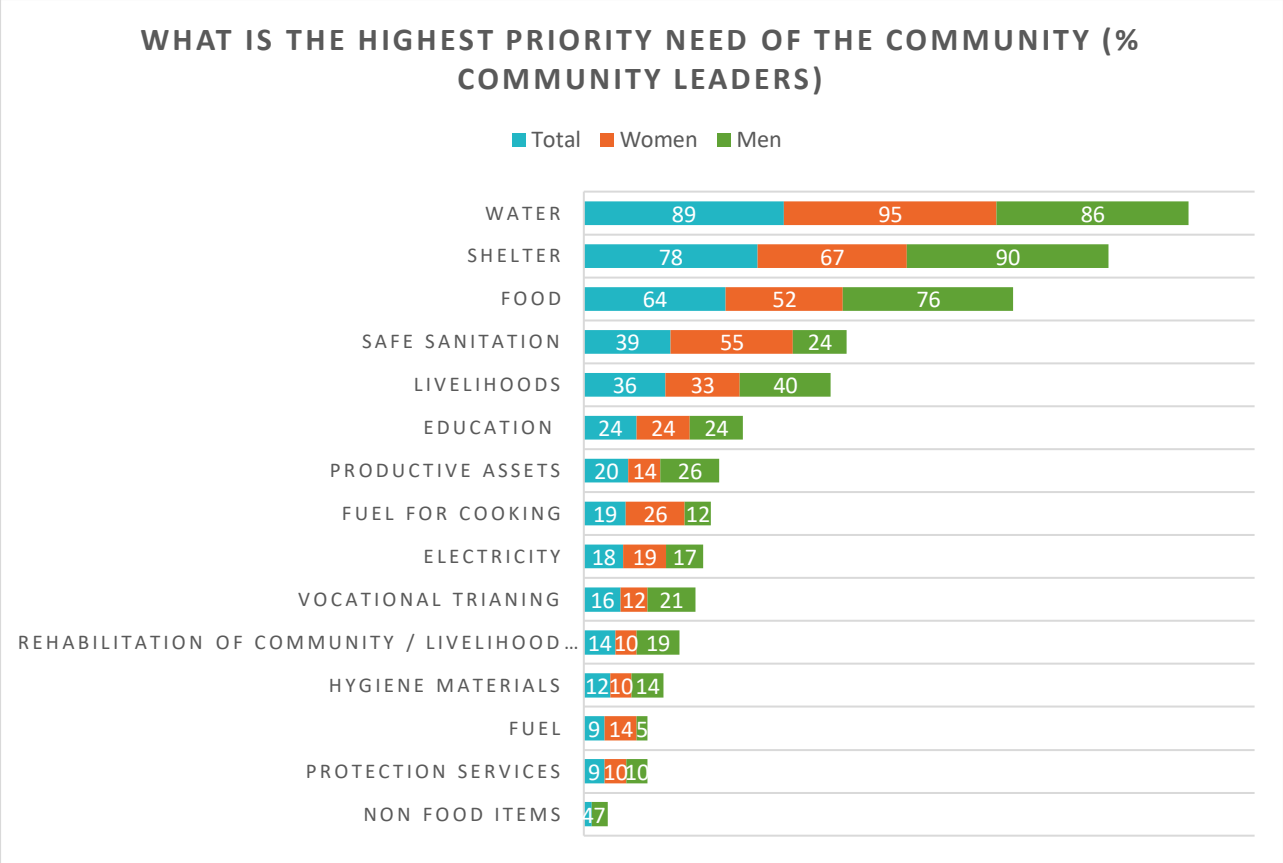


Figure 54: Highest priority needs of communities

Community Recommendations for Improving Resilience

According to the majority of the community leaders (52% total, 45% women leaders, 58% men leaders) livelihoods / economic empowerment programmes , including skills training were needed to improve community resilience, according to 24% (19% women leader and 28% men leaders) material and moral support were needed, according to 11% (10% women leaders and 12% men leaders) shelter / shelter rehabilitation interventions were needed, according to 6% basic services, education and interventions to end the war and restore peace is needed, and according to 1% banning carrying weapons, protection services, opening closed roads, development and activating the state agencies is needed

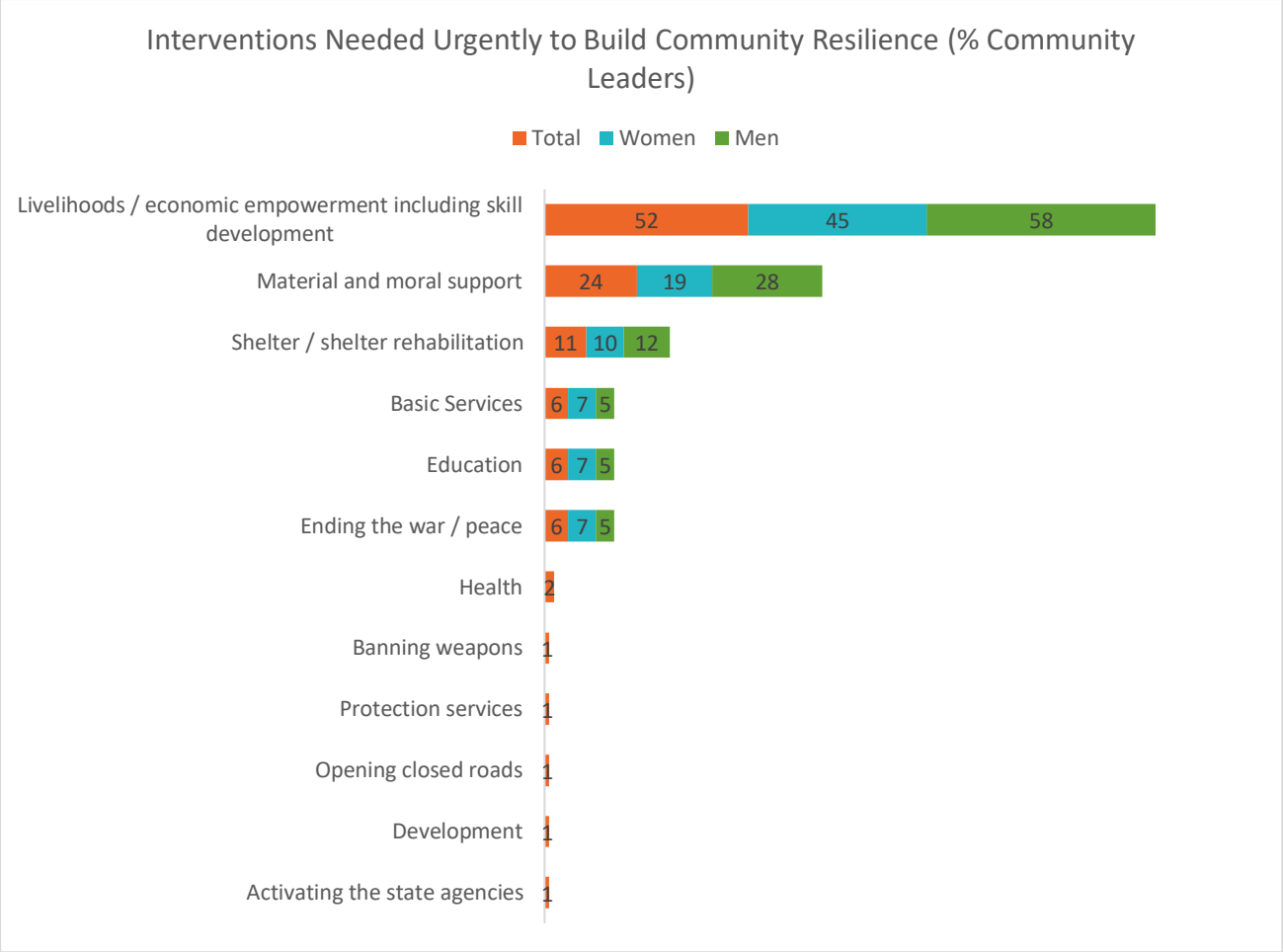


Figure 55: Interventions needed to build community resilience

Recommendations

Recommendations for developing interventions that enhance the resilience of vulnerable IDPs and host communities:

Economic Empowerment

- Most of the families have lost their jobs, had no money to pay house rents and have gone into debt. Comprehensive economic empowerment programs, including business and vocational skill development are recommended based on the urgent interventions identified by the community leaders. Since there are very few job opportunities in the labour market, the recommendation is to focus on self-employment and providing mentoring support to develop business plans, establish and operationalize businesses. Since a majority of the men and women do not have productive assets, it is recommended to provide them with livelihood kits. It is also recommended to conduct a detailed market assessment in order to work out the details of the economic empowerment programmes.

- The conflict has affected both young men and women. The number of unemployed female graduates has increased because of the war. Also, some women were unable to complete their education, and some were forced to leave education and work so as to support their families

alongside men or because of loss of their breadwinners. Many women were using whatever skills they had: coiffure, henna, incense making, etc. to cover the family expenses and had to assume more responsibilities in their families. Regarding men, the conflict has a deeper impact on the education and employment of men as compared to women, with more men dropping out of education than women and more men losing jobs. Young men have joined the war to earn a living and had lost their lives or were maimed. The assessment also showed that unemployed men were of the least respected groups. In addition, the war forced male to do the roles that were traditionally the domain of women, leading to domestic violence and separation of families. It is recommended to raise community awareness of the impact of the war on men and women. It is also recommended to study this further and provide policy recommendations to the donor community for livelihood programmes for men, psychosocial support, scholarships to continue education and counseling for families, men and women as one of the ways to reduce domestic violence and build resilience of families.

- There was a lack of job opportunities for IDPs. Family income of returnee and IDP families was the most affected as compared to host communities. It is therefore recommended to focus more on IDPs and returnees in livelihood programmes.

- One of the main reasons given by men for being unemployed was having disabilities. It is therefore recommended to have livelihood programmes with special focus on persons with disabilities.

Improving access to humanitarian Services

- Marginalization of groups / communities, lack of access to organizations providing assistance, lack of information, lack of documentation, lack of transportation costs were the main difficulties faced by women and men in getting access to humanitarian services, in addition to health and mobility issues and injuries. It is recommended to ensure that the most vulnerable groups, especially the marginalized groups and those living in remote and hard to reach areas, persons with disabilities, and injured persons are identified and targeted and that budgets should include providing beneficiaries with transportation costs. It is also recommended to build the capacities of community leaders, local authorities and local humanitarian organizations on humanitarian principals, accountability and identifying and targeting vulnerable groups to ensure that vulnerable groups have access to humanitarian assistance. Since lack of documentation and information was a common problem faced, it is recommended to address the problems through projects and ensure raising the awareness of communities regarding the humanitarian services available in their locality and how to access them.

- IDPs had been living in the areas for more than 3 years. Some IDPs from urban areas were living in temporary shelters, abandoned houses, IDP sites and shops. Some IDPs from rural areas were living in IDP sites, in the open and in public buildings. It is recommended to have a component of CCM / Shelter in the projects or coordinate with other organisations working in CCCM / Shelter and establish a referral mechanism for improving IDP sites and rehabilitating shelters.

- Over half of the HHs did not have access to health care mainly because the health facilities were far away, some did not have access to protection services and hygiene materials. A quarter did not have access to food, a significant percentage did not have access to safe sanitation and

water. A majority of the HHs from rural areas and a significant percentage from the urban areas did not have access to health care, reproductive health and protection services. The top priorities of communities were water, shelter / shelter rehabilitation, food and safe sanitation. It is recommended to have projects addressing these specific needs as well as to establish referral mechanisms withing the projects and coordinate with other humanitarian actors to address these needs jointly.

- Regarding access of children to education, a majority school-age boys and girls were going to school. However, few were dropping out of school because of family circumstances in order to earn a living, help in household chores, or take care of family members. It is recommended to develop projects focusing on improving access to education. It is also recommended to conduct a study on the impact of the conflict on children and come up with policy recommendations to the donor community to address this issue and allocate budgets for improving access of children to education and prioritize humanitarian – development nexus.

Recommendations for transforming harmful social and gender norms, increase the voice and leadership of women, women activists, Women-led Organizations/WROs and youth

The assessment showed that some entrenched and unchallenged cultural norms and practices were prevalent in Taiz governorate. Marginalised communities, Muhamsheen, were the least respected groups followed by unemployed men, PWDs, divorced women, widows, poor communities and IDPs, in addition to returnees and working women. Customs and traditions in addition to poverty, family circumstances and lack of family awareness of the negative effects of early marriage, economic considerations were the main factors sustaining the practice of early marriages. In a few families, women did not move alone for any purposes and had to be always accompanied by 'Mahram'. Though women were forced to earn livelihoods for their families because of their harsh circumstances, they were unable to find work because there were very few job opportunities for women.

The main reservations regarding the participation of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding were related to the perception that this was the role of the State and wise men, and that women did not have a role in the public sphere and they should only be engaged in conflict resolution within their families. Regarding participation of youth in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, some views were that youth did not have the needed experience or wisdom, which may lead to the escalation of the conflict.

These norms / practices are harmful for women and girls and were affecting the participation of women / women led organisations and youth. The following is recommended for transforming harmful social and gender norms and increasing the voice and leadership of women, women activists, Women-led Organizations/WROs and youth:

- In all cases of early marriage, whether for boys or girls, children lost their childhood and had to shoulder responsibilities, which were much beyond their age and understanding. Multiple pregnancies and bigger families were of the important issues in all early marriages, in addition to the impact on education, self-development and acquiring the skills needed to sustain in the labour market and earn a decent living. Raising awareness of the negative effects of early marriage focusing on the aspects of health and development of an individual is recommended.
- Educating communities on inclusivity and harmful effects of marginalization and segmentation, drawing upon case studies from Yemen and across the world.

- Raising awareness of the impact of the conflict on women and the importance of their participation in economic activities, holding discussions / dialogues on economic empowerment of women.
- Supporting intergenerational dialogues / discussions on challenges faced by women in movement and solutions.
- Based on the responses of the community leaders and local authorities, the following measures are recommended to improve the participation of women and youth in peace processes: conducting outreach activities, awareness raising and mobilizing women and youth in peace building processes, building the capacities of men and women in peacebuilding and conducting inclusive community dialogues, seminars and discussions.

Sheba Youth Foundation for Development

Sheba Youth Foundation for Development is a civil society organization led by youth and women who work in a team spirit to empower youth and women to actively participate in development and peace building in Yemen, with a real vision of a stable society in which youth and women enjoy peace, development, and sustainable coexistence.

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