# The Impact of Climate Change on Women Peace and Security Agenda in Yemen: Mapping of the Environmental Policies and Actors









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#### Introduction

Today, the world is witnessing one of the worst humanitarian and developmental crises, as climate change has become a central issue affecting all aspects of life and placing the security of human communities at risk. The impacts of climate change are multifaceted and threaten the sustainability of life on the planet. As these challenges intensify, the most vulnerable groups, particularly women and girls, are the hardest hit. Climate change exacerbates the discrimination and exclusion faced by these groups, depriving them of their basic rights and further marginalizing them socially and economically.

In Yemen, one of the countries most exposed to the consequences of climate change globally, recurrent natural disasters such as floods, torrents, and cyclones are worsening the country's ongoing crises. In addition to water scarcity, which is one of the most significant developmental challenges in Yemen, climate change is contributing to the instability in the country, which has been in conflict for more than a decade. According to the 2023 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report, climate change scenarios could lead to massive economic losses, potentially reaching \$93 billion in GDP by 2060, which would increase poverty rates and push an additional 8.1 million people into poverty, particularly women and girls, who represent the most vulnerable groups.

Projections also indicate that climate change will negatively affect health and nutrition, with an estimated 3.8 million more people expected to suffer from malnutrition and 121,000 additional deaths projected by 2060. These impacts underscore the urgent need to enhance resilience to climate change and work towards achieving sustainable and inclusive development.

#### **Executive Summary**

This report, entitled "The Impact of Climate Change on Women and the Women and Security Agenda in Yemen: Mapping on The Environmental Policies and Climate Actors", was prepared within the project to integrate the impacts of climate change on the social aspects of women at Peace Track Initiative Foundation within the three targeted governorates (Aden, Hadhramout, Almahra).

Since the war started eight years ago, Yemen has been suffering a humanitarian crises that has had major impacts and threats on various fields such as economy and social development, and most importantly the development in the environmental field where the war has caused large scale deterioration in the environment, which has exacerbated the scarcity of resources which in result raised the number of challenges facing Yemen. In addition, Yemen is one of the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change and the negative effects that it carries on food and water security. This requires analyzing the current trends, assessing the environmental degradation, and identifying the risks and impacts according to these trends.

This mapping aims to highlight the environmental policies in general and to clarify the extent of their integration in the work agendas of civil society organizations. It offers a comprehensive mapping of initiatives, foundations, organizations, and coalitions that are most active in the climate change field. It analyzes the effects of these policies and initiatives on women and marginalized groups within the framework of Women Peace, and Security (WPS) in Yemen, in addition to evaluating the effectiveness of these interventions in the field of climate change and environmental protection. The adopted research methods were the desk research method and the descriptive analytical method, in addition to conducting a few special interviews with stakeholders and representatives of working groups in this field.

## **Chapter 1**

Climate Change and its Impact on Women and Security

#### Introduction to Climate Change

It is without any doubt that climate change is considered to be a very serious global problem, which consists of complex interactions between environmental factors political, economic, social technological factors. The climate change phenomenon is considered to be the ultimate issue in our day and age for the serious threat it represents to humanity. The global effects of climate change are in large scale and unlike anything else, from the changing weather patterns that threaten food production, to rising sea levels that increase the risk of catastrophic torrential floods on one hand, and drought and desertification on the other. This makes adaptation even harder and more expensive in the future if serious measures are not taken immediately.

#### **Climate Change Definition**

It is the change in climatic characteristics of the earth due to the increase in the concentration of gases generated from combustion processes into the atmosphere, this is as a result of human activities that raise the temperature. These gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxides, and chlorofluorocarbons. One of the most important climate changes are the changes in the amount and timing of rainfalls, and the subsequent change in the water cycle and its various processes, in addition to the increase in temperature.

#### **Climate Security**

Climate Security is the state of stability for the ecological, economic and social systems which are highly affected by climate change. In order to maintain climate security, it necessarily requires reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change.

#### Climate Justice

Climate justice represents a vision and a solution to alleviating the unfair burdens resulted from climate change. Climate iustice is an environmental and social justice, that the historical responsibility for the major portion of gas emissions lies with industrialized countries in the global capitalist center, and therefore they hold the responsibility to stop the rising temperature of the earth by reducing emissions, in addition to helping other countries with adapting to climate change and support their economic development with non-polluting technologies according to the Paris Agreement. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change explains that the production and of consumption habits industrialized countries like the United States continues to threaten the survival of humanity and biodiversity. The term Climate Justice has been used to study climate change as a political and ethical case that focuses on equality and human rights.

#### Climate Change, Peace and Security

Climate change issues have become in direct connection to international peace and security issues, for they affect and impact global stability; where extreme weather phenomena leads to direct threats to food and water security as well as energy safety and political security, reaching all aspects that may affect countries' economies.

Yemen is considered to be a developing country due to its weak economic and social development, therefore it is more vulnerable and affected by climate changes and its negative impacts. This is due to the environmental degradation and weak infrastructure, in addition to its inability to respond to the impacts of climate change and adaptive procedures.

The of climate change impacts environmental degradation in Yemen often frustrates hard efforts to support peace and stability, where the impacts such as floods torrents resulted in the destruction of agriculture lands, dams, water barriers, and roads, which resulted in the destruction of the livelihoods of local communities and forced them to migrate into other areas which as a result leads to the escalation of tensions and conflicts between them. The international policies national and programs that work to achieve "Climate Justice" and "building environmental peace" seeks to understand these dynamics and intervene to mitigate their impacts.

As awareness in the relationship between climate change and security increases, it has become important that everyone recognize that women and men are often affected differently by climate changes, that gender inequality societies' ability to adapt to these changes and their ability to withstand climate challenges environmental damages. United The Nation Human Rights Council, the Parties United Nation Framework the Climate Change, Convention on the Elimination Committee on  $\blacksquare$ Discrimination against Women, and others highlighted the importance of women contributions and resilience to climate change, and their valuable local knowledge and their important leadership role in climate policy.

#### **Climate Change and Women**

Women in Yemen are significantly affected by climate change, whether through direct or slow and less-defined impacts.

The direct impacts of climate change include displacement and crop destruction, which pose particular challenges for women who rely on agriculture and rural livelihoods to support their families. When natural disasters, such as droughts or floods, lead to crop failure or resource depletion, women bear the greatest burden in providing food and water. Climate-induced displacement exacerbates their struggles, as many are forced to relocate to new areas that lack basic resources, increasing health and security risks for them and their families.

The slow and less-defined impacts of climate change include land degradation, desertification, and the scarcity of natural resources such as water. These challenges affect the sustainability of livelihoods, especially in rural areas. Women often play a key role in managing household resources, such as water and food. As these resources become scarcer due to climate change, the burden on women increases, requiring them to spend more time searching for water or securing food, which negatively impacts their opportunities for education and employment.

Climate change affects the roles of men and women differently, depending on cultural, economic, and political contexts. This shift can lead to a redistribution of roles, responsibilities, and resources within society. Due to gender inequality, poverty, and limited access to resources and services in areas like health, education, food security, and livelihoods. women are often excluded and marginalized from resource management and decision-making processes, increasing their vulnerability to violence. women, domestic Marginalized vulnerable groups, and minorities are doubly affected by climate change due to social, economic, and political marginalization, which worsens gender inequality and reduces their capacity to adapt and recover.

Given that Yemen ranks 155th out of 156 countries in terms of gender equality, according to the 2021 Global Gender Gap Report, women in Yemen face growing challenges in confronting the impacts of climate change. Among the most pressing challenges are:

### Poverty, Illiteracy, discrimination and violence:

Women form the majority of the world's poor, and they have less access to education. health. riahts opportunities, which makes them more vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change such as malnutrition, effects on health and reproductive health and dropping out of education to collect water from distant places due to the lack of resource and natural disasters. Women and girls face different forms of genderbased violence, whether it was inside or outside the family, during disasters and conflicts associated with climate change.

#### Impacts on Health:

Environmental pollution, whether it was air or water, affects children and women, especially those whom are pregnant. In addition to climate changes that negatively effects the general health of women and their reproduction health significantly.

### Exclusion from Decision Making and Resource Management:

Women participate significantly in the usage and management of natural resources, such as water, land and forests that are affected by climate change. However, they withstand the barriers to obtain ownership rights and to access and manage these resources especially in countries that heavily rely on agriculture and livestock. They also represent a small percentage of decision makers and participants in planning, negotiating and

executing climate change policies and programs locally, nationally and internationally.

#### Lack of Empowerment and Innovation:

Women lack the skills, knowledge, technology and funding that enables them to effectively adapt with climate change. They also have less chances to benefit from new opportunities to innovate, learn and change that climate change can provide. This limits women's ability to contribute in sustainable solutions to face climate change challenges.

# Chapter 2

**Environmental Policy** 

#### **Environmental Policies**

Environmental policy is linked to the general definition of the public policy of the state, as it is an element of the public policy represented in the general directives to a certain environmental organization that are dictated by the highest level of management.

#### Definition of "Environmental Policy"

The collection of the necessary measures required to preserve the environment and improve its quality in order to prevent current damages and working on eliminating it effectively. The general attempt to counter the damages to humans and the environment to reduce the dangers that threatens the survival of humans and other living organisms to the lowest level in order to make room for a better life for future generations and improve natural life.

It can also be defined as the set of rules and procedures that determine the method of implementing the environmental strategy while selecting the specified duties of the various foundations, entities, and different units participating and responsible for the results of the environmental strategy, under the binding legislative orders for all these trends.

#### **Global Environmental Policies**

The global environmental policies are a set of procedures and decisions that are taken at the international level to preserve the environment and natural resources. These policies aim to limit pollution, preserve biodiversity, and promote sustainability when using resources. An example of that is: the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (which includes the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris agreement) and others.

# National Climate Change Policy Framework in Yemen:

Yemen is considered a party in the United Nation Framed Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) since 1996, and to the Kyoto's Protocol since 2008 as a non-Annex Party.

Environmental Protection As the Authority is the national focal point to implement the United Nation Framed Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. To commit to its obligations according to the convention, Yemen has initiated the process of developing legislation and institutional and policy frameworks to fulfill the requirements of the convention and through protocol support from developing international partners including the United Nation Development Program, the Global Environmental Facility, World Bank, and The Kingdom of the Netherlands.

For Example, environmental regulatory frameworks and policies have been developed in Yemen as follows:

Determining the environmental policy through The National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) and the National Sustainable Environmental Strategy (NSES) identifies key environmental concerns and highlights the constraints that includes building institutional capacity to effectively implement climate protection policies and commit to its obligations and international agreements such as the United Nation Framed Convention on Climate Change. In addition to institutionalizing The Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol.

Yemen has also established Inter-Ministerial Committee on Climate Change in 2009 to enhance institutional coordination capacity and promote the political leadership on climate change in the country. The IMCC is supported through a technical group consisting of representatives with relevant agencies to offer technical support to empower decision-making regarding the climate change agenda in Yemen.

Yemen has also developed short and long term frameworks and policies to reduce and adapt to the impacts of climate change for its commitment to the United Nation Framed Convention of Climate Change, and develop the Initial National Communication in Yemen (INC 2001), and The National Adaption Programme for Action (NAPA 2008) and the Second National Communication (SNC 2011) which provides

national communication submitted to the United Nation Framed Convention of Climate Change to provide an update on the national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory lists, and mapping emission landscapes and propose long-term national mitigation frameworks adaptation strategies. On the other hand, short-term adaptation strategies were developed within The National Programme for Adaption Action framework that highlights the scale of climate change impact on Yemen. Three main sectors were identified to being the most vulnerable to risk for this danger including water resources, agriculture and coastal areas.

Currently, The National Adaption Programme for Action is considered the national framework for the climate change policy in Yemen that determines the priorities and urgent adaption needs to climate change.

## The Impact of Environmental Policies on Women:

There is a general lack in coordination and detail within the current environmental and climate legislation in Yemen. Furthermore, these legislations ignore the needs of women and the impacts of climate change on them in particular.

In the absence of environmental policies that consider women, these climate changes deepen gender disparities which multiplies the burdens on women and making them less able to adapt with climate challenges due to traditional social roles and lack of resources. Therefore, governmental institutions in Yemen must work on developing environmental policies that consider the special needs of women, and include gender aspects to ensure an inclusive and more equitable response to environmental challenges.

#### The Climate Action Charter for Arab Civil Society Organizations

The Climate Action Charter for Arab Civil Society Organizations is considered a prominent example in the current climate change context, as it reflects clear commitment to enhancing women's role in facing environmental challenges and ensures to consider their needs at every stage of the climate action.

First: Recognize the disproportionate impact of climate change on women. Recognizing the disproportionate impacts of climate change on women and marginalized groups is considered one of the foundations on which the charter is based.

Second: Empowering the participation of women in decision-making. The charter emphasizes on the importance of enhancing women's participation in decision-making processes related to climate policies.

Third: Enabling women to access resources and services. One of the fundamental principles the charter promotes is enabling women to access the resources and services that helps them in adapting with the effects of climate change.

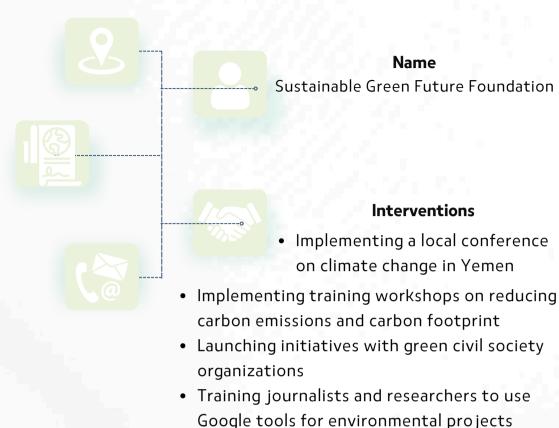
Fourth: Awareness and education. Awareness and education are two vital components in the Climate Action Charter, for it aims to enhance women's understanding to climate change issues and methods of adaption.

Fifth: Inclusiveness and social justice. The charter stresses on the importance of inclusiveness and social justice in addressing climate challenges.

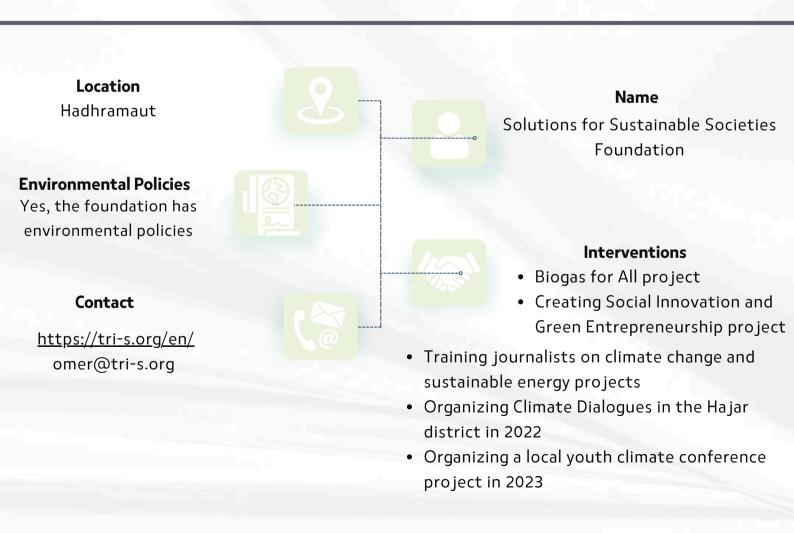
# **Chapter 3**

Specialized Climate and Environmental Action Groups

# Location Hadhramaut Environmental Policies Yes, the organization has environmental policies Contact https://sgfyemen.org/info@sgfyemen.org



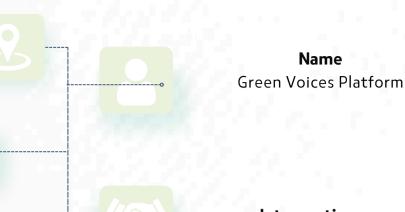
Advocating for sustainable water security



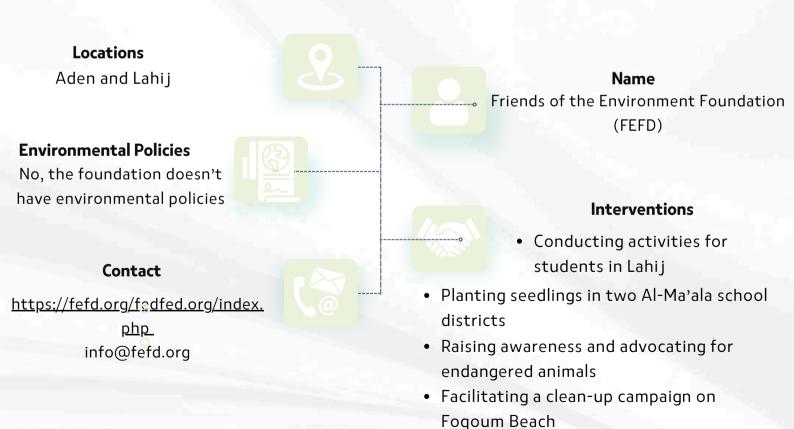


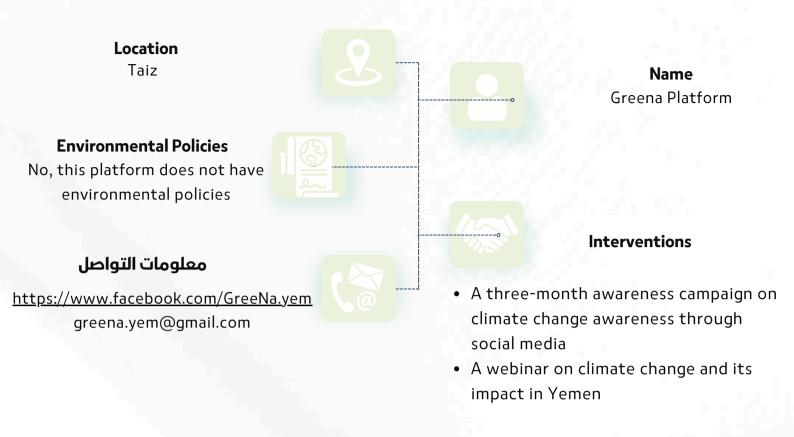
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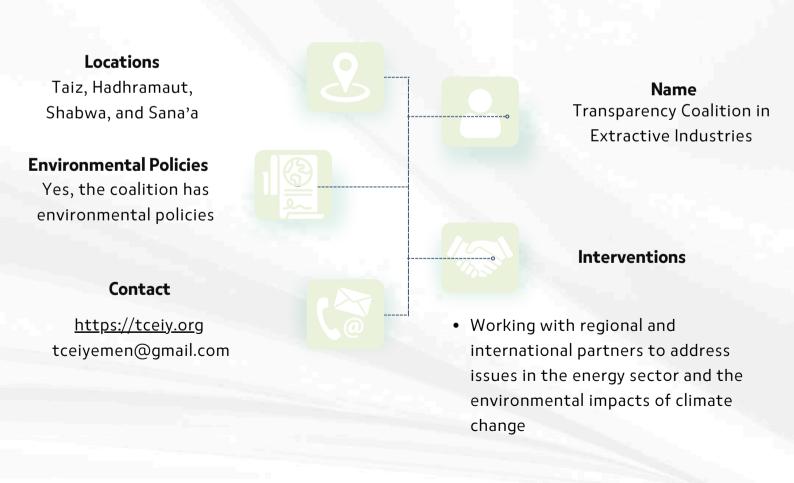
https://www.greenvoicesmedia.com info@greenvoicesmedia.com



- Implementing five scientific seminars in 2023
- Participating in COP28
- Published more than 70 reports and stories related to climate change
- Implemented a workshop to enhance journalist's skills reporting on climate change and awareness









#### Name

Earth Experts Center for Environmental protection

#### **Interventions**

 Multiple contributions and initiatives in the field of climate change and environment

#### Location

Sana'a - covers all governorates

#### **Environmental Policies**

Yes, the platform has environmental policies

#### Contact

https://holmakhdar.org info@holmakhdar.org



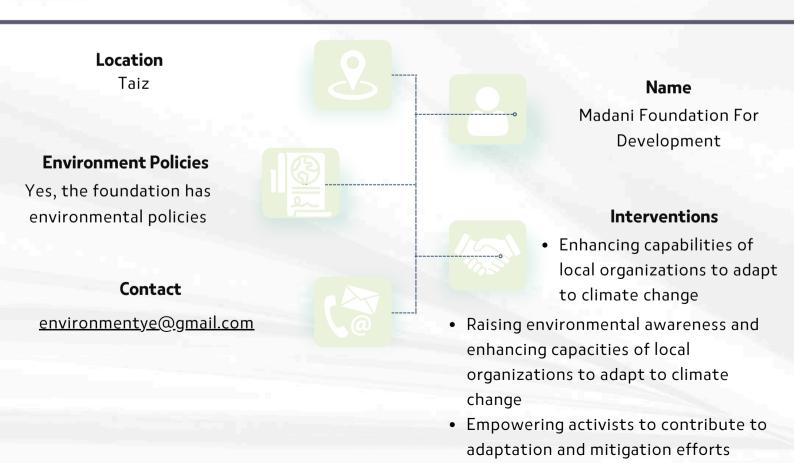
and journalism

Sharing environmental studies, research,

#### **Developmental Groups**

Most active in climate change and the environment

#### Location Name Almahra Fyna Khair Foundation for Development and Humanitarian Works **Environmental Policies** Yes, the foundation has environmental policies **Interventions** • Implementing clean-up campaigns Contact in Al-Ghaydh and Al-Hawd. Finakhayr2019@gmail.com • Distributing seedlings through the Bathrat Khair Project • Spraying rainfall-caused swamps through the Himmatna Project and Le Sehatna **Projects**



# Location Aden Environmental Policies Yes, the foundation has environmental policies Contact https://en.hjfyemen.org/ info@hjfyemen.org/

# Name Humanitarian Journalism Foundation (HJF) Interventions Implementing awareness and advocacy campaigns, workshops, and discussion seminars Launching electronic petitions, training courses multi-faceted journalistic investigations and reports



(17)

#### Location

Aden

#### **Environmental Policies**

No, the foundation does not have any environmental policies

#### Contact

https://iol15ye.wordpress.com info@imprintlife.org



#### Name

Imprint of Life
Foundation for
Humanitarian Works

#### Interventions

 recycling car leather into women's and school bags.

#### Location Name Taiz Joodn Organization for Development and Peace **Environmental Policies** No, this organization does not have any environmental Interventions policies • Introducing new crops through contract Contact farming projects info@jodp.org • Empowering farmers through natural fertilizer production programs • Implementing smart irrigation network projects to mitigate the

use of resources

#### Location

Taiz

#### **Environmental Policies**

No, the organization does not have any environmental policies

#### Contact

Ophir Organization FB page ophir.org.yemen@gmail.com



#### Name

Ophir Organization for Environment and Development

- Enhancing community participation in environmental protection and climate change
- Raising awareness about the risks of climate change on archaeological sites
- Capacity-building in rural Taiz to withstand the effects of climate change
- Building the resilience of women in Taiz to climate impacts
- Enhancing the capabilities of young farmers to adapt to climate change



# Locations Aden and Taiz Environmental Policies No, this organization does not have any environmental policies Contact

#### Name

Youth Without Borders
Organization

#### **Interventions**

- Implementing trainings on climate change and environmental peace
- Training youth on climate change initiatives and funding them to implement small green projects

#### Location

Taiz

info@ywbod.org

#### **Environmental Policies**

No, this organization does not have any environmental policies

#### Contact

https://eyo-ye.org info@eyo-ye.org



#### Name

Empowerment Youth
Organization

#### Interventions

- Enhancing adaptation to climate change through pumping water using solar energy
- Enhancing climate change adaptation through drinking water distribution

#### Location

Aden

#### **Environmental Policies**

Yes, this organization has environmental policies



https://selah-ye.org info@selah-ye.org



(21)

#### Name

CARE International -Germany

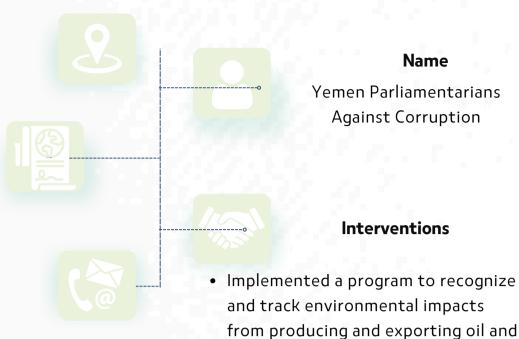
- Providing grants to foundations and initiatives
- Working on climate change projects

# Locations Sana'a and Hadhramaut Environmental Policies (es. this organization has

# Yes, this organization has environmental policies

#### **Contact**

https://bchr-ye.org info@bchr-ye.org



gas

### **Locations**Aden and Sana'a

#### **Environmental Policies**

Yes, this foundation has environmental policies

#### Contact

http://nahdamakers.org info@nahdamakers.org



#### Name

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung - Germany

#### Interventions

 supporting civil society, Youth activists, political decision-makers, research institutions and guilds to create environmentally sustainable policies

#### Locations

Taiz, Aden, Abyan, Shabwa, and Hadhramaut

#### **Environmental Policies**

No, this foundation does not have any environmental policies

#### Contact

jvdhoymen@gmail.com



#### Name

Selah Foundation for Development

- Implementing drinking water projects in multiple governorates
- Distributing home garden inputs

#### **Locations** Hadhramaut, Almah

Hadhramaut, Almahra, Aljawf, Shabwa, Maareb

#### **Environmental Policies**

Yes, the organization has environmental policies

#### Contact

https://chf-yemen.org chfyemen11@gmail.com



#### Name

Benevolence Coalition for Humanitarian Relief



- Creating early warning centers
- Implementing modern agriculture
- Enhancing the resilience of vulnerable communities.
  - Protecting agricultural assets
  - · Responding to disasters



#### Name

Nahda Makers Organization

- Creating rainwater harvesting tanks
- Implementing water distribution points
- Rehabilitating water resources

#### Location

Hadhramaut

#### **Environmental Policies**

No, the organization does not have environmental policies

#### Contact

rawiasaleh17@gmail.com



#### Name

Alghayth Foundation for Development and Humanitarian Response

#### Interventions

- Facilitated a seminar on climate
- Created home gardening programs for women with low-income.



preservation

media

Raising awareness through social

# Impact on Women and Marginalized Groups

Civil society organizations contribute to raising the awareness and knowledge among women about climate change and how to address it, as they greatly highlight adaptation procedures through trainings and programs that target women individually and in groups. They also seek to integrate gender equality in climate change action within the Women Peace and Security agendas, particularly after the repercussions of climate change escalated gender-based violence especially on women and girls.

Despite these efforts, the support provided in this field remains insufficient, hindering the achievement of the desired goals in protecting and empowering women and marginalized groups to face environmental challenges. Therefore, there is an urgent need to enhance support and increase the resources available to these organizations to ensure a greater and more sustainable impact in promoting climate justice and gender equality in Yemen.

### The Importance of Women's and Girl's needs in Climate Change

Climate change has even more negative impacts on vulnerable individuals that live in countries with fragile conditions, especially vulnerable and marginalized groups of women whom the effects of climate change multiply their exclusion and deprovision of their basic rights. This increases the scale of challenges and difficulties they suffer due to the risks that lead to implications on health, the spread of diseases, in addition to the negative effects on the health of pregnant women and their fetuses. Since Women, girls and marginalized groups are the most affected, it is necessary to consider and include gender equality and

gender-related correlations within the climate action that is concerned with policies and legal regulations that achieve social justice in distributing opportunities and resources, in addition to enhancing women participation in organizing and managing climate action.

#### **Key Results**

After communicating with approximately development groups that varied between foundations. initiatives. organizations and coalitions, it became clear that only 8 groups were specialized and work in the field of climate change while including effective adapting measures and contributed in raising awareness and including youth participations in their activities. 5 groups include environmental policies within their regulations, while on the other hand there are approximately 18 foundations and groups that effectively in the field of climate change contributed to raising cognitive awareness about climate change issues and the most active between development groups. There are 9 groups that include environmental policies within their interior policies and legal regulations, while the remaining foundations aim to include environmental policies within their projects and interventions. It was also found that interventions and projects did not directly target women and girls, and thing that is most noticeable is that the remaining foundations moved towards amending their policies and objectives due the orientation of donors and international organizations, this was noticeable through reviewing previous posts in their platforms and websites. Where it became clear that there is a significant knowledge gap about environmental policies and climate action

#### Recommendations

#### For organizations in Climate

- Supporting women's capacity building in natural resource management and adopting
- sustainable practices.
- Strengthening women role in environmental and climate projects through
- empowerment programs and trainings.
- Conducting more research and studies around climate change issues and highlight its various dimensions.
- Adding pressure to enhance women's participation in negotiations related to climate
- · Change at regional and international levels

# For organizations in Women, Peace, and Security

- Strengthening women's participation in decision making roles related to peace,
- security and climate change.
- Integrating climate change impacts on women in women peace and security
- projects.

#### For the International community

- Increasing financial and technical support to help Yemen in facing climate and humanitarian challenges.
- Strengthening international cooperation to confront climate change and its impacts in Yemen, and emphasizing that the support and cooperation consider gender issues.

#### For the Yemeni Government

- Developing comprehensive national policies for adaptation to climate change that includes enhancing agriculture and water infrastructure
- Strengthening the implementation of laws that protect women's right and providing effective mechanisms to protect them from violence.
- Improving the cooperation with international and national organizations to enhance the response for climate and humanitarian challenges
- Prioritizing gender equality in all procedures related to climate, as well as in national plans concerned with adaptation
- Incorporating gender issues in all environmental policies related with climate work
- Integrating climate change impacts on women in women peace and security policies.
- Strengthening women's participation in negotiations related to climate at regional and international levels

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