



PROMOTING YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Quarterly Report
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PYCE IS...

A platform for inclusive development and a vehicle for social innovation.

Youth in Yemen

Youth are the largest demographic in Yemen and their support and engagement will be critical in a post-conflict Yemen. Yet, academic deficiencies and stoppages, along with high unemployment, have severely limited the ability of youth to earn a living and achieve their dreams of mobility. Yemeni youth have diminishing optimism about the future. Moreover, fuel, power, and water shortages have led to widespread distrust in government overall and a lack of confidence in local officials to deliver vital basic services to Yemeni citizens. Meanwhile, youth-serving institutions and recreational facilities are often in disrepair and there are few opportunities for youth to escape this constant duress. Their environment is saturated with longstanding divisions between tribes and many opposition groups competing for influence in the public sphere. Decision-making happens at the local, regional and national levels, generally among elders, such as government leaders. Youth are not widely recognized as participants in governance or generally represented when decisions which affect them are made. As a result, youth neither feel esteemed by the larger community nor strongly connected to its members. Though youth are eager to contribute to society, there are few targeted mechanisms to engage this group and provide a platform for ‘second-chance’ learning and development opportunities. Moreover, many existing programs supported by international organizations are concentrated either in urban areas and/or operate with small numbers of youth who have already completed secondary school or university. Thus, few youth programs target those without diplomas, marketable skills, or who lack upward mobility. Youth in rural areas and undereducated girls may be especially vulnerable. Organizations also struggle to position youth as role models, whereby they can help their at-risk peers or implement programs which are youth-driven and therefore appear relevant to this demographic. As a result, programs are not widely embraced by local residents or sustained in the long-term and there is little measurable impact. Across the country, youth remain unsupervised, idle, and vulnerable, and because of this vulnerability, the long-term success of Yemen’s transition hangs in the balance.

The vulnerability of Yemen’s youth was recently underscored by tensions that escalated into widespread conflicts among loyalists to the former regime, secessionists, rebel groups and other militias beginning in March 2015. The following content, therefore, illustrates PYCE accomplishments for the quarter from January 1, 2015 to March 31, 2015, as well as outlines

strategies for new activities which can be implemented in a post-conflict setting in support of Yemen’s reconstruction and ongoing political transition. This content is based upon the premise that 1) in order to foster and sustain a recovery for Yemenis, youth must be central to nearly any programming strategy, and 2) this strategy should be, foremost, strengths-based and inclusive, such that youth from a wide, cross-section of the community can be reached. PYCE has embraced this strategy, and as such, conceptualizes its programming in Yemen as both vital to long-term economic development and inextricable from long-term stability.

PYCE

Objectives

The PYCE Project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and is implemented according to the overarching objective to improve Yemen’s stability by (1) improving community-based institutions and mechanisms to ensure active participation in governance and locally-driven solutions are strengthened, and (2) improving access to and delivery of quality services. To accomplish this objective, PYCE has sought to strengthen and increase interaction between youth and influential community actors—including moderate religious actors—and empower youth to positively affect their local communities through sports, recreational programs and other community-based engagement activities.

Cooperation

PYCE works in cooperation with the Ministries of Youth and Sports (MoYS), Endowments and Guidance (MoEG) and Education (MoE), and community leaders such as coaches, educators, referees, athletes, business owners and moderate religious actors. PYCE convenes regular meetings with these stakeholders in order to 1) exchange ideas, 2) promote PYCE throughout the community, 3) identify lessons learned and 4) build upon best practices. Many of these stakeholders join Steering Committees, where they volunteer along with youth center administrators and other community members. As volunteers, Steering Committee Members mentor Peer Network Members—the Project’s direct beneficiaries—and advise PYCE.

Peer Network activities are implemented through cooperation with MoE public schools, as well as MoYS youth clubs and other recreational facilities.

Communities of Practice

Through renovations, community grants and participatory analysis in community action (PACAs), youth galvanize community members to volunteer in order to 1) rehabilitate existing structures and multi-purpose play spaces, 2) install and upgrade equipment, 3) establish libraries, school clinics and recreational areas, and 4) form youth sport and competitive teams. With this foundation, Peer Network Members plan and implement non-formal education workshops, and sport and recreational events. These events also encompass opportunities for participants to make positive contributions to their communities through service projects. Moreover, to role model positive behaviors, Peer Network Members form leadership teams which regularly interface with youth center administrators, to ensure activities are institutionalized and scaled when possible. Teams conduct regular meetings at schools and clubs, where they develop plans to promote their activities and integrate feedback from local residents to ensure activities are responsive and impactful.

Once renovations, grants and PACAs are conducted, PYCE teams continue to search for local business men and women, agencies and youth-serving institutions, which can become their partners via in-kind donations, sponsorships and other forms of support. Thus, through cooperation with youth centers, the participation of youth and community volunteers and private-public partnerships, Peer Network Members form a vital community of practice, which serves as a rare platform for inclusive development.

Leadership

To ensure PYCE direct beneficiaries are prepared to take on this leadership role, PYCE organizes a series of workshops and experiential opportunities including the Community Engagement (CE) Workshop, Sport and Activity Coordinator (SAC) Program, and Peer Facilitation and Project Development (PFPD) Program.

The CE Workshop is a springboard for youth leaders and the first step in this series of PYCE's flagship leadership and development training. Once completed, youth who become Peer Network Members can participate in the SAC and PFPD Programs. These Programs are implemented in cooperation with Peace Players International (PPI) and the National Organization for the Development of Society (NODS). After an introduction to civic engagement in the CE Workshop, the SAC and PFPD Programs help Peer Network Members advance their skills in peer-facilitation; community needs assessment; forming community-based teams and leagues; and planning, developing and sustaining community-based programs. Site visits to community-based organizations and presentations by business leaders in areas such as marketing, positive behavior change and consensus-building, further enhance these offerings with vital life and career skills.

Complementarity

PYCE aims to support activities which complement both national and international development agendas. PYCE is particularly aligned to the standards set forth in the USAID Youth in Development Policy, Education for All Goals (EFAs) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In keeping with these agendas and inputs from Yemeni leaders, the following cross-cutting themes are integrated into the PYCE Project cycle, including but not limited to PYCE strategic planning, expansion, outreach, program implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and

promotion:



Career Readiness
and Youth
Employability

Health, Nutrition
and Well-being

First Aid and Safety

Natural Resource
Conservation
Sustainable
Development

Dropout
Prevention and
Second Chance
Learning

PYCE has also participated in meetings with ministry representatives at the local and national level to ensure the objectives and aspirations of Yemenis drive its interventions. Moreover, in order to promote and enhance ‘youth voice’ ministry representatives have held several discussions with Peer Network Members to provide a youth perspective on community needs and

facilitate youth-centered and locally-driven solutions.

Building Blocks

PYCE activities are based upon the sport-for-development model, which utilizes sport, physical activity and play to achieve development goals in other fields, such as education and health. The sport-for-development model is also widely embraced to help youth develop life and marketable skills. As a process improvement, PYCE has enhanced implementation of activities in such a way as to apply this model toward increasing interest in careers in science, information technology, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), art and health. To help youth develop healthy



lifestyles, PYCE also utilized this model to promote proper nutrition, fitness and positive behaviors and to ensure these activities were available for both females and males.

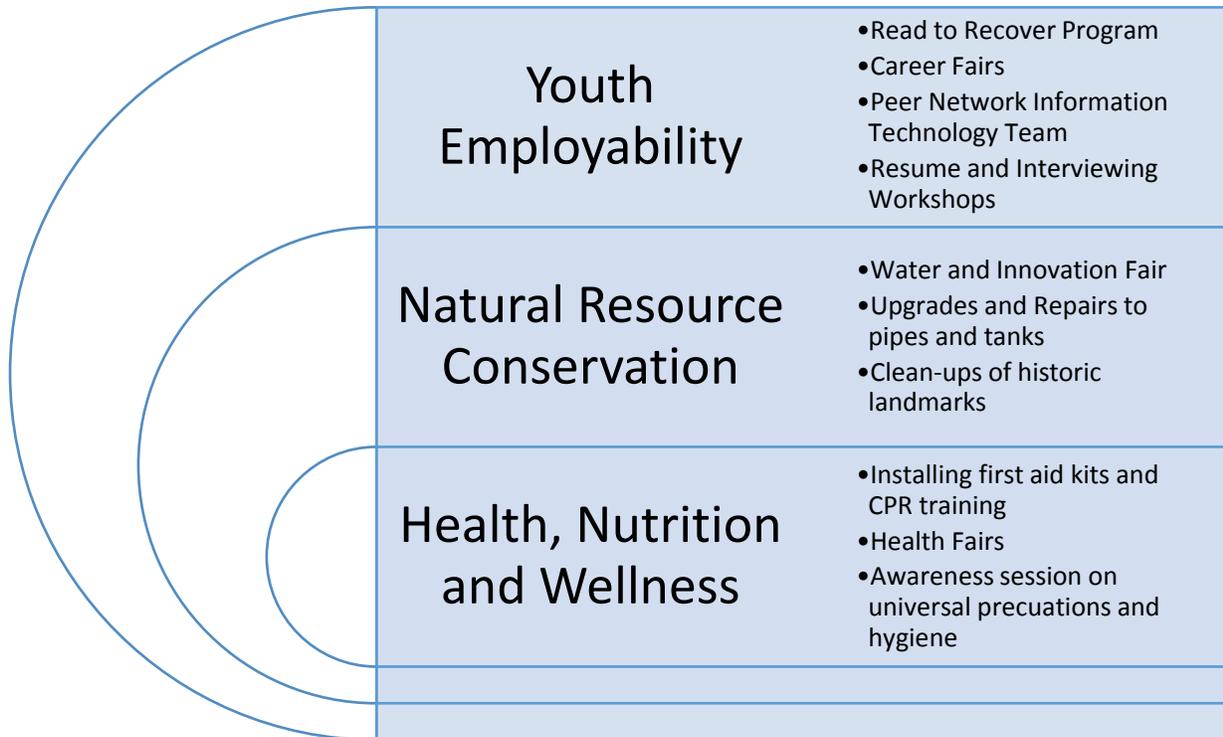
Thus, in late 2014, PYCE supported girls' participation in sport through the rehabilitation of volleyball and basketball courts and the formation of girls' basketball and tennis teams. To ensure youth had access to safe drinking water, Peer Network Members installed water tanks and repaired water pipes in several K-12 schools. To promote lifelong learning and help youth

resolve academic delays, PYCE rehabilitated the National Library and developed a series of reading games and writing competitions at K-12 schools in 4 governorates. PYCE also organized the First Annual Yemeni Youth Health Fair with separate events for females and males. These events served as both pilot exercises and building blocks for new interventions in 2015.

Interventions in 2015

To promote sustainability and foster greater impact, in 2015, PYCE was especially focused on integrating cross-cutting themes such as 1) youth employability, 2) natural resource conservation, and 3) health, nutrition and wellness, while increasing public-private partnerships and expanding the Peer Network and Steering Committee.

To improve youth employability and career readiness, PYCE launched a series of resume and interviewing workshops followed by health and science fairs highlighting career opportunities in those sectors. PYCE also promoted natural resource conservation through the implementation of the First Annual PYCE Water and Innovation Fair. These events were conducted with more than 30 partners including business men and women, coaches, hiring managers, lifeguards, outdoor enthusiasts, technicians, physicians, community-based organizations, and environmental agencies. Further, with strong demand from community members, the reading and writing games from 2014, were scaled into the ‘Read to Recover Program’ which delivered fun, competitive learning exercises to youth in schools. To enhance youth interest and skills in science, PYCE Peer Network Members formed an Information Technology Team, which is currently conducting remote assessments of K-12 schools and clubs that will inform their plans to rehabilitate computer and science labs throughout Yemen. Moreover, Peer Network Members hosted workshops on universal precautions, CPR and first aid, alongside clean-ups of playgrounds and



The table below outlines PYCE progress against project targets and includes overall accomplishments via totals for the entire Project.

Intermediate Result 1: Strengthen and increase interaction between youth and influential community actors, including moderate religious actors

Activities	FY 2015 Target	Milestones for Jan-Mar 2015	Total Milestones for FY 2015	Total for Project
No. of Community actors engaged in governorate level meetings	300	61	180	2,546
No. of Steering Committee Meetings	24	7	14	105
No. of Meetings for PYCE participants at youth centers	24	15	25	102
No. of Community Grants awarded to Peer Network Members	15	7	22	128
No. of Partnerships developed by PN with businesses (1.5.1), CBOs & local initiatives (1.5.2) and government & youth-serving entities (1.5.3)	1.5.1 = 5 1.5.2 = 4 1.5.3 = 5	1.5.1 = 21 1.5.2 = 5 1.5.3 = 17	1.5.1 = 24 1.5.2 = 15 1.5.3 = 37	1.5.1 = 32 1.5.2 = 43 1.5.3 = 69

Intermediate Result 2: Empower youth to positively affect their local communities through sports, recreational programs and other community-based engagement activities

Activities	FY 2015 Target	Milestones for Jan-Mar 2015	Total Milestones for FY 2015	Total for Project
No. of youth centers renovated	2	2	3	18
No. of PACA informed teamwork activities completed	8	29	37	194
No. of youth trained as coaches (SAC Program)	30	44	44	213
No. of service activities (2.4.1) and competitions (2.4.2)	2.4.1 = 80 2.4.2 = 10	2.4.1 = 22 2.4.2 = 0	2.4.1 = 34 2.4.2 = 8	2.4.1 = 34 2.4.2 = 8
No. of youth trained in peer facilitation and project development (PFPD)	28	0	0	139
No. of participants trained by PN	3,000	2,814	3,695	10,391
No. of channels of communication by PN to disseminate info about activities (2.7.1) gather info from youth about their needs (2.7.2) and respond to inputs from community members about youth activities (2.7.3)	2.7.1 = 50 2.7.2 = 10 2.7.3 = 10	2.7.1 = 38 2.7.2 = 24 2.7.3 = 2	2.7.1 = 54 2.7.2 = 33 2.7.3 = 2	2.7.1 = 174 2.7.2 = 33 2.7.3 = 2

Totals are current as of March 25, 2015. However, data collection from field sites is ongoing and totals are subject to change.

As of March 25, 2015, PYCE was on schedule to achieve targets for all indicators, and in some cases, targets were achieved ahead of schedule. PYCE held meetings with 61 stakeholders from Abyan, Lahej, Sana'a and Aden. Steering Committee Members from these governorates participated in 7 meetings and there were 15 meetings of PYCE participants. More than 150 youth formed teams and completed 29 PACA activities with inputs and support from these stakeholders. After successful interviews, they joined the Peer Network and worked alongside established PN Members to conduct 7 Community Grants and other interventions to train 2,814 youth between the ages of 10 to 32. They also performed 22 team-based service activities at K-



12 schools and clubs. These activities were made possible in part, through the support of more than 40 partners, which provided in-kind donations, and, in some instances, co-facilitated events alongside Peer Network Members. PYCE was also encouraged by requests from community members for Project expansion and completed 2 renovations, as well as upgrades to an additional youth club, through the service projects conducted by 44 Peer Network Members in the SAC Program. These accomplishments were widely promoted through the local media, and through posters, flyers, web announcements and other efforts by Steering Committee and Peer Network Members. In particular, Peer Network Members utilized 82 communication channels to promote their events and solicit recommendations from community members. Peer Network Members

were integrating these recommendations into their Community Grant applications and forthcoming team-based activities; however, the security situation became more fragile and Project activities were postponed before they had the opportunity to complete this form of interface. Therefore, the totals for activity 2.7.3 are slightly lower than anticipated. Furthermore, the security situation interrupted the implementation of the PFPD Program. Since Peer Network Members were unable to complete this course, their participation is not reflected in the table of activities above.

Impact and Outcomes

The following table highlights the impact of these activities, as well as medium-term outcomes:

Meetings of Stakeholders

Impact

- Representatives from varied economic, political and social backgrounds, including age and gender, are now participating in critical dialogue and joint problem-solving
- Youth are now more experienced in public speaking and participating in roundtable discussions with decision-makers
- Youth are now recognized by community members as vital to Yemen's transition and invited to participate in decision-making processes

Outcome

- Increased youth optimism about the future
- Increased female participation in community-based development

Meetings of Steering Committee Members

Impact

- Greater regard for diversity of perspectives and gender, with one-third of Membership consisting of females
- More youth centers identified for potential Project expansion
- Community leaders now regularly monitor youth centers, attend and oversee activities

Outcome

- Increased community awareness of youth centers and support for youth-led activities
- Increased number of role models including female role models for youth
- Ideological differences resolved amicably among persons in positions of leadership

Meetings of PYCE Participants

Impact

- Increased youth awareness of labor demands in the national and regional workforce
- Increased interest in science and technology careers, particularly among women and girls which are underrepresented in this sector
- Youth have become competitive job seekers, with contemporary resumes and interviewing skills
- Enhanced communication and marketable skills among youth
- Youth networking with hiring managers for the first time
- Youth equipped with the knowledge and skills to save, purify and deliver water
- Youth can prevent water-borne diseases
- Youth engage in clean-ups and other efforts to limit water pollution

Outcome

- Increased youth resiliency

Community Grants

Impact

- Youth receive recognition for positive behaviors
- Schools and clubs are repaired and can now host youth-centered activities on a regular basis
- Youth and community members have a common ground for non-formal education and recreation
- Youth and community members work in teams to resolve common challenges and look toward the future together
- Females and disadvantaged groups such as rural youth received support
- Youth have the knowledge and skills to prevent and respond to injuries and can provide lifesaving care
- Youth and adults have improved reading and writing skills and can remediate academic delays

Outcome

- Increased youth self-esteem and confidence
- Increased participation of rural youth in local programs
- Structural barriers to girls' participation in sport and recreation mitigated in key sites
- Increased literacy among youth and adults

Partnerships

Impact

- Greater interest in and support for youth-centered activities
- Youth have material support to scale and sustain programs over the long-term
- Schools and youth clubs have become models for public-private partnerships to the larger community
- Youth can now establish and strengthen ties with successful and moderate community members

Outcome

- Youth feel more connected to and embraced by the larger community

Renovations

Impact

- Unsafe structures and play areas are now repaired and vibrant
- Sites with solar power can extend youth-activities into the evening while decreasing utility costs
- Sites with announcement boards can generate income in order to fund and sustain youth activities
- Fire extinguishers and first aid kits installed, and corresponding safety training provided to youth and personnel for the first time

Outcome

- Schools and youth clubs are models of occupational safety to the larger community
- Increased number of youth-safe public spaces

PACAs

Impact

- Peer Network membership expanded to more than 600, including 50% female members
- Potential fire and safety hazards removed
- Increased number of youth role models available and volunteering at schools and youth clubs
- Damaged classrooms, courts and libraries rehabilitated and used for instructional purposes

Outcome

- Type and frequency of youth activities at schools and youth clubs increased

Sport and Activity Program

Impact

- At-risk youth can participate in non-elite sports and recreational activities at youth clubs
- Youth gain knowledge and skills in order to coach, referee and organize sport activities
- Youth receive equipment and materials indicated to implement sport and recreational activities
- Youth introduced to the sport-for-development model
- Youth establish intramural and competitive teams
- Youth life skills such as time management, teamwork and punctuality enhanced

Outcome

- Greater support for and involvement in community-based sport teams and leagues, including girls' teams
- Increased participation in non-formal education and health initiatives among youth and community members

Team-based competitions and service activities

Impact

- Free youth activities held at schools and youth clubs afterschool and year-round, on an ongoing basis
- Youth have increased access to alternatives to delinquency and other negative behaviors
- Youth contribute to the rebuilding of their neighborhoods and preservation of historic landmarks
- Youth clean and regularly maintain facilities, while safeguarding equipment
- Youth upgrade computer and science labs

Outcome

- Greater integration of web-based platforms and instructional tools into both teacher training and student learning
- Increased youth awareness and interface with information technology
- Youth resources expanded and vulnerability decreased

Peer Facilitation and Project Development Program

Impact

- Youth capacity to utilize dialogue and inclusion as methods of problem-solving enhanced
- Youth awareness of and cooperation with business men and women as well as youth-serving community-based organizations and agencies increased
- Youth access to information technology and web-based instructional tools increased

Outcome

- Youth capacity to role model positive behaviors and attract investments increased

Youth Participants Trained

Impact

- Nearly 3,000 youth trained from January to March 2015, including 50% females
- Youth knowledge and skills increased in disease prevention, computer and internet, social entrepreneurship, natural resource conservation and post-secondary education and employment opportunities
- Youth from northern and southern governorates working collaboratively
- Female and male youth enjoying tennis, volleyball, boxing and basketball for the first time
- Youth clubs are hosting activities for females for the first time

Outcome

- Females and rural youth enjoy greater participation in civic life
- Key drivers of delinquency and conflict for thousands of youth were reduced

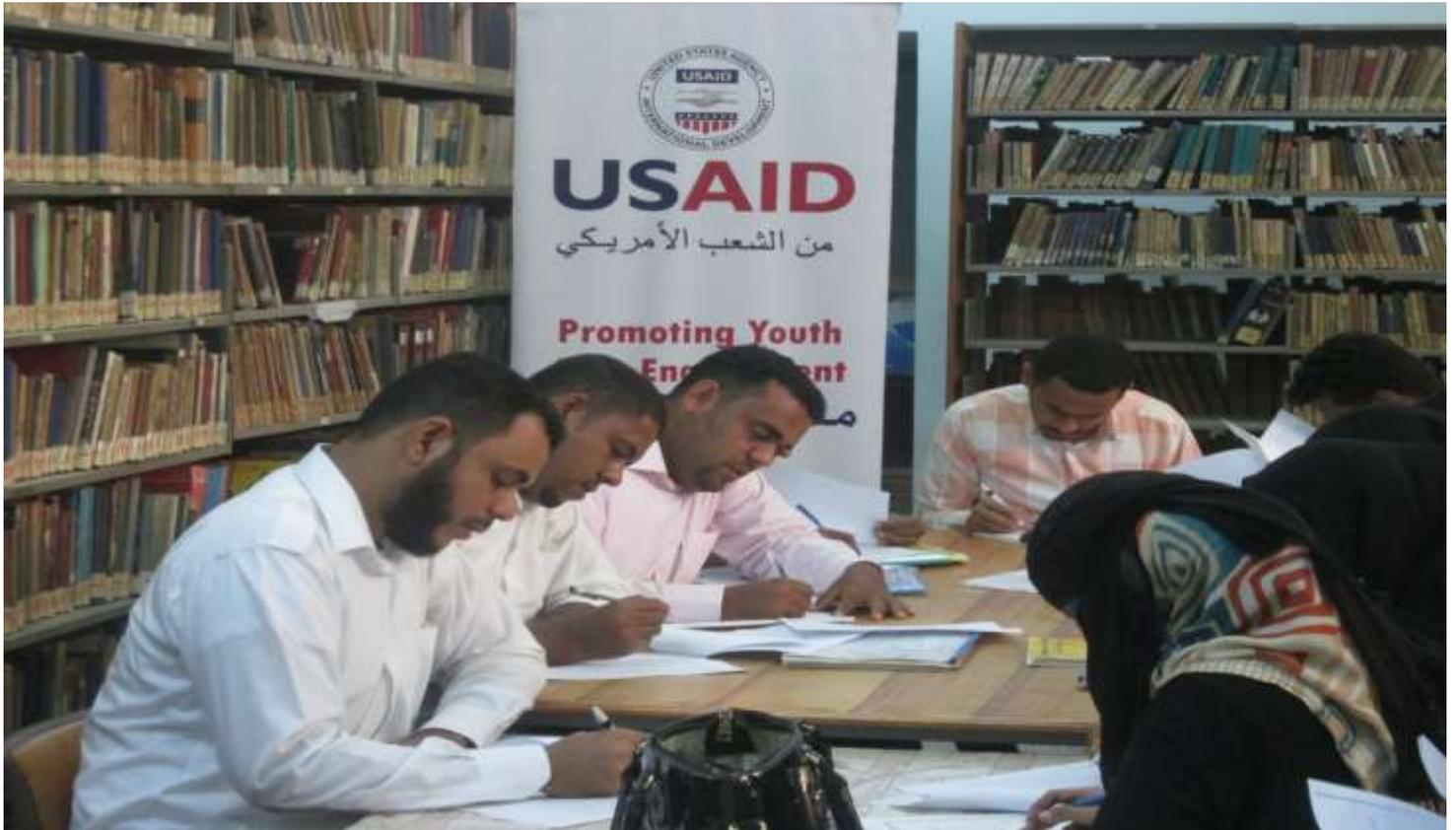
Two-Way Communication Channels

Impact

- At-risk youth have increased access to information about resources, services and events
- Activities are relevant and well-attended, with requests for follow-on events from youth and community members
- Reports on the status and capacity of schools and youth clubs are provided to stakeholders by youth in real time
- Youth utilize mobile and web-based forms of communication

Outcome

- Increased situational awareness for PYCE Team Members and comprehensive reporting to USAID
- Youth communication and interface with community members is more efficient and cost effective, with few resource requirements



Social Safety Nets

Tensions between rival parties escalated into conflicts in many governorates throughout the country and development activities were postponed. As a consequence, PYCE Team Members are currently engaged in administrative and evaluative tasks only. The period after conflicts are reduced may coincide with a large reconstruction effort; thus, PYCE is prepared to focus upon the cross-cutting themes of second chance learning and first aid and safety as post-conflict measures.

To help youth counter learning delays while separated from school, PYCE anticipates the implementation of its flagship Summer Connections Program. The Summer Connections Program is a suite of non-formal education, sport and recreational activities held in the summer months. The Program is particularly impactful for youth considering dropping out of school because they lack supportive mechanisms to remediate academic challenges or lack optimism about future prospects in the labor market. In this Program, youth are provided with school bags and learning tools, along with opportunities to participate in study halls, service projects and awareness sessions. PYCE is prepared to modify the Summer Connections Program with a Back-to-School initiative, which will be centered upon providing additional academic support to

students affected by the current conflict and equipment to schools and clubs that suffered damage. PYCE will also scale the Read to Recover Program, which will focus on using games and competitions to increase students' interest in reading and writing and overall academic progress. PYCE conceptualizes these interventions as vital social safety nets that may not be otherwise available.

PYCE will continue to install fire extinguishers and first aid kits and conduct training in these areas for youth, youth center staff and school personnel. Clean-ups will be expanded to remove



potential fire hazards from classrooms and play areas, such that everyday activities can commence. Moreover, awareness sessions will be conducted to promote universal precautions, hygiene and other healthy behaviors which can mitigate malnutrition and the spread of disease.

Atmospherics

Weekly basketball activities were initiated in December 2014 and were scheduled to resume in February 2015, after the school break and end of the mid-term exam period. The expatriate volunteer trainer was relocated along with other staff and was not in-country in order to facilitate

the training with Peer Network Members. Thus, the basketball training activity is on hold, pending improvements in the security and return of expatriate staff.

Peer Network Member females were accepted into the Sport and Activity Coordinator (SAC) Program, which began on February 15, 2015. However, there were clashes between government-supported security and local popular committees at the military outpost near MoYS Mina Club. Therefore, the SAC Program was relocated to private facilities and extended through February 23, 2015. While no one involved with the SAC Program was either targeted or harmed in any way, PYCE undertook several precautionary measures: 1) PYCE interrupted the Program for 2 days in order to assess the environment and determine the club's suitability to continue to host the Program at that time, 2) PYCE sought advice from its partners in order to promote the club as a youth-friendly zone which can be protected from conflict, and meanwhile, 3) gathered feedback from SAC participants and stakeholders concerning the movement of the Program to a more appropriate site, and 4) integrated this feedback into programming, such that PYCE facilities was deemed the new site for the SAC Program for a few days. With strong community support from Aden, Lahej and Abyan, the SAC Program resumed. Indeed, the perseverance of more than 1,000 youth from these provinces is making a strong statement throughout Yemen, about the importance of girls' participation in sport.

A large number of Peer Network Members in many PYCE areas are not currently enrolled in undergraduate courses and do not encounter the conflicts in schedule which a week-long training may present. However, many Peer Network Members in Sana'a are enrolled in undergraduate courses and encountered difficulty committing to the SAC Program originally planned in Sana'a in March 2015. PYCE will therefore reschedule the SAC Program in Sana'a, in order to accommodate Peer Network Members who wish to enroll in the SAC Program, albeit in the summer and/or between academic semesters in accordance with the security environment. To better accommodate youth in Sana'a, PYCE also planned to conduct a career fair at a time which did not present logistical difficulties.

Project activities were implemented in February through late March 2015. In this period, the security situation remained fragile and there were constant changes in the operating environment. There were scheduled civil disobedience protests occurring each Monday in many southern

governorates. While they were usually uneventful, these protests were facilitated by political factions who expected widespread adherence from the larger community via limited travel, office closings and/or event delays. Many local businesses and government offices were either closed or inactive on civil disobedience days, whether in support of their agenda, or to avoid conflict, or to foster a peaceful co-existence among diverse and often ideologically opposed segments of the community. Given the general absence of public officials and other community members, most PYCE activities were not held on Mondays.

Security fragility presented concerns for districts in Lahej, where extremist and criminal groups attempted to establish strongholds or areas of influence. Also there were sporadic conflicts in the governorates of Lahej and Abyan between government troops and armed factions. These conflicts were often complex, with longstanding political and tribal as well as economic grievances. However, there was also increased security in many districts throughout these governorates and particularly in Aden up to the end of March 2015. At the same time, a growing concern for tolerance in the public arena has cultivated pockets of peaceful and vibrant living particularly in Aden, whereby everyday activities took place at a normal pace and residents express optimism for the future. It is in these pockets where PYCE implemented its activities and received support as a visible, trusted community partner. PYCE was successful at branding and promoting development themes such as gender inclusion and youth voice, while maintaining respect for cultural norms and traditions. Moreover, PYCE activities mitigated many of the drivers of instability such as illiteracy and unemployment/underemployment and enjoys strong alignment to USAID's overarching stabilization objectives.

During the week of March 12-19, 2015, Peer Network Members participated in interviews with Steering Committee Members for the PFPD Program. With their recommendations for attendees, the PFPD Program began on March 24, 2015. However, PYCE closed its offices in Aden on March 25, 2015 and was particularly concerned with reports of a rebel offensive approaching the governorates of Lahej and Aden. This concern was heightened by the launching of an airstrike campaign by the Saudi-led coalition in Sana'a that began on March 26, 2015 and has since spread to other areas of the country including almost all governorates of Yemen. PYCE offices closed on March 26, 2015 and the PFPD Program and other scheduled events were postponed in

all supported governorates. The situation remains fragile, yet hope for a peace agreement is widespread and PYCE is poised to continue its activities once the situation improves.