



ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF WAR IN YEMEN:

Pathways for Recovery

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DISCLAIMER


This report presents the findings of a commissioned study on the impact of war on development in Yemen and recovery pathways, through several scenarios using the Sustainable Development Goals lens. The views expressed in this study are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), or the Member States of the United Nations. Furthermore, the designations employed herein, their completeness and presentation of information are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of UNDP.



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FOREWORD BY KHALIDA BOUZAR

UN ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL, UNDP ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR AND UNDP DIRECTOR OF THE REGIONAL BUREAU FOR THE ARAB STATES

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is proud to present an approach to development that is grounded not only in the expertise of our staff and partners, but also in critical thinking and rigorous, data-driven analyses. In partnership with the Frederick S. Pardee Center for International Futures, UNDP offers a vision to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) once a peace deal is struck. It is possible for Yemen and Yemenis to have a prosperous future.

This report is the final in an *Impact of War in Yemen* trilogy series, which has examined how Yemen's development and future generations have been impacted by the conflict. Our first report in the series found that, in only four years of war, Yemen's development had been thrust back by at least 21 years. The second report examined the country's SDG trajectory and determined that Yemen will not fully achieve them until 2061 – a full 30 years after their agreed upon date.

This third report is based upon Pardee's 'International Futures' modelling system and a thorough literature review. It demonstrates the critical and central connection between long-term investment in development, lasting peace, and an end to humanitarian suffering. It also highlights the critical role women play in the recovery and reconstruction process in Yemen – a country that currently ranks lowest in most of the gender index reports. The case is made that the recovery scenarios presented herein – strengthening human capabilities, empowerment of women, investment in

agriculture, and governance, together with leveraging the private sector – are the building blocks of successful recovery and work more effectively together than alone.

While this report presents an analytical framework, the effectiveness of such a people-centred integrated approach is also borne from UNDP's decades-long work in some of the world's most vulnerable and fragile contexts, including Yemen. This vision is also at the heart of our Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025 to promote green and sustainable transformations, build resilience and ensure no one is left behind.

To achieve this, we at UNDP believe that by working effectively together with partners, stakeholders, and donors across the Arab States Region, we can better address the challenges Yemen and other countries face. Whether supporting Member States in their response to COVID-19, in working toward the fulfilment of the Paris Agreement, or in striving to roll back poverty and attain the SDGs, we work through collaborative partnerships with the region's governments, civil society, private sector, international institutions, and donors. This enables us to support truly sustainable and inclusive development.

Humanitarian and emergency assistance remain of paramount importance in Yemen and, together with our partners, we can bridge the gap between humanitarian and sustainable development responses. From our rich regional and global experience, we know that an inclusive development approach is not only the foundation, but a prerequisite, for lasting peace and that there can be no peace without development.

FOREWORD BY AUKE LOOTSMA

UNDP YEMEN RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

UNDP has been present in Yemen for over 55 years; we know the country and its beautiful people well. We are surrounded by friends, colleagues, and neighbors and live with the hope that someday peace will come; we all strongly believe it will. And once peace prevails over Yemen, we can help build Yemen back better than before the conflict and restore dignity to all Yemenis.

When exploring a topic for the third and final *Impact of War* series, we wanted to begin to look toward that future and to prepare for a Yemen without conflict – to show a positive perspective to the world. We know that despite the tragic setbacks of the conflict, Yemen and Yemenis are resilient – they can recover, and they cannot – they will not – be left behind.

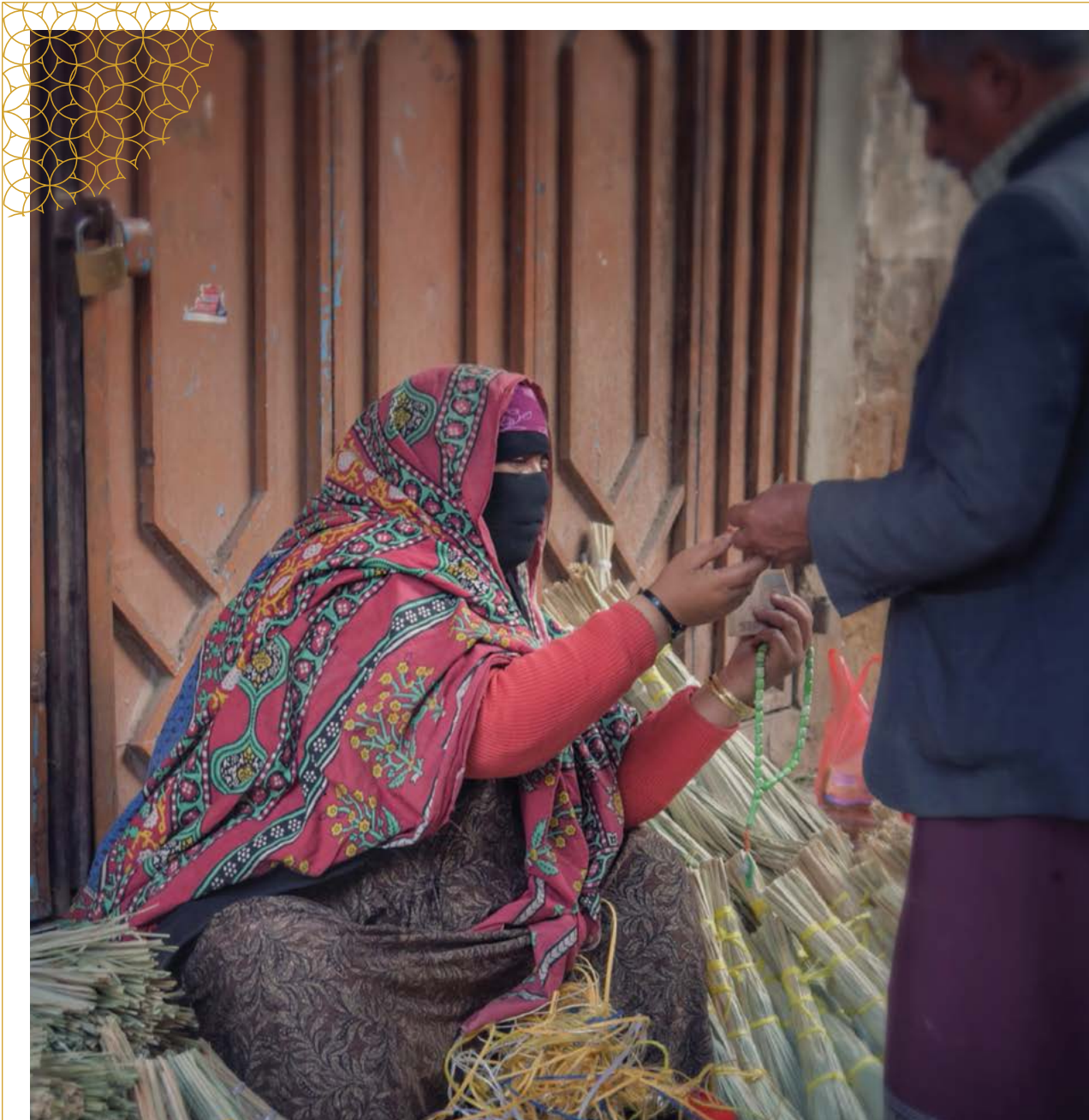
This report represents that hope and the resilient spirit of Yemenis. It should be a reminder to the world that all is not lost, and a dignified future is still possible for Yemen despite being the world's worst humanitarian and development crisis.

Think of this report as a roadmap and an opportunity for Yemenis, decision-makers, stakeholders and the international community to understand how the conflict has impacted Yemen's development. We must know this to understand what needs to be done to reverse the development losses and make progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

In planning for peace, recovery, and reconstruction, we must look at how we can build forward better together. Yemen is rife with innovators – those who have found ways to overcome the crises. Similarly, in recovery and reconstruction, UNDP sees unique windows of opportunity to apply new, efficient and green technologies like renewable energy options found in wind, water and the sun. At the same time, we must also continue to look at Yemen's past – its rich culture and history as a leader in fishing, coffee and honey production – to help prepare the country to achieve greatness once again.

UNDP strives to make these a reality through our critical programmes throughout Yemen. In partnership across the United Nations system, with national and local implementing partners, authorities, donors, stakeholders and beyond, we work to support local institutions to preserve local capacities, mitigate development damage, and preserve human dignity.

UNDP has always been deeply committed to working with Yemenis; we will not wane in our efforts. Our aim is to achieve the most positive of the scenarios outlined in the report – a scenario of peace, prosperity and dignity and a future of sustainable and inclusive development for all in Yemen.



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