

Cash Assistance Can Empower Yemenis

Yemen, one of the most impoverished countries in the Middle East and North Africa, is currently experiencing one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. The country is confronting the world's largest food security emergency, with 20 million people – 66 percent of the country's population - requiring humanitarian aid. Since early 2015, the country has been engulfed in conflict, which has devastated its economy, resulted in severe food insecurity, and destroyed critical infrastructure. The conflict has imposed an economic burden on the country, and the challenges Yemenis face have escalated every day to secure the basic needs of their families.



This is the situation of Yahya from Hajjah Governorate, a father of two daughters and three sons, who states that he is living a story that is like the stories of millions of Yemenis who face the same fate of trying to live and meet the necessities of life. Yahya used to be a taxi driver, taking passengers from Hajjah to Sanaa. He made enough money to sustain his family and give them the basic needs of life.

Yahya's life changed drastically when he had a traffic accident. He suffered injuries in pelvic injury that made him unable to work. He sold his car to afford his medical bills and his family's needs. He lost his income and his security. Yahya tried to get another job, but it was hard. He worked as a daily worker, carrying stones for building. But this work was too heavy for his body, and he got a hernia. He had two surgeries, and he could not work anymore.

"I was overwhelmed by despair and powerlessness, and like many other Yemenis, I lost track of time, as each day was filled with difficulties. These were not difficulties that concerned our aspirations and goals. They were about securing the essential needs of life, such as food, water, education, and health." Yahya said.



Yahya used the money he received to purchase a motorcycle. He said that 'THE cash assistance allowed me to make choices, set priorities, and help me cope with my everyday challenges'.

Yahya, a Yemeni father of five, is among the countless affected by the war in Yemen. He is also among the many beneficiaries of the cash support from YRCS. He is among the few who have managed to enhance their living conditions with cash assistance.