

FROM A SHEPHERD TO AN IDP: HOW MOHMMAD FOUND SHELTER AND HOPE IN MARIB

Mohmmad Almihbashi, a father of five children, was a shepherd who lived a peaceful life with his wife and five children in a rural area in Yemen. He had a comfortable home and a flock of sheep that provided him with income and food. He was proud of his simple but happy life. But everything changed when the conflict erupted in his region. He witnessed the horrors of war, the destruction of his village, and the deaths of his relatives and neighbors. He had no choice but to flee with his family, leaving behind everything he owned and loved. He arrived at Al Sabran IDPs' hosting site in Marib Al-Wadi District, hoping to find safety and shelter. But he soon realized that his ordeal was not over. He and his family had to live in a makeshift tent made of plastic and fabric waste, with no proper furniture, bedding, or kitchenware. He had only one pan to cook for his family and no blankets to keep them warm on the cold winter nights. He felt helpless and hopeless, unable to provide for his family's basic needs. He was not alone in his suffering. Thousands of other IDPs and marginalized people were living in similar conditions, facing the risks of floods, diseases, and insecurity. They desperately needed humanitarian assistance to survive and restore their dignity.



Mohammed while receiving his NFIs.

That's when YFCA, funded by the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF), came to their rescue by distributing non-food items (NFIs) to the most vulnerable groups at risk of being affected by floods and natural hazards in Marib city district of Marib governorate. The NFIs included mattresses, blankets, bed sheets, pillows, dishes, integrated kitchenware, and maintenance kits. The project aimed to improve the living conditions and resilience of IDPs and marginalized people and reduce their exposure to protection threats. Mohammad was one of the beneficiaries of the project. He received the NFIs with gratitude and joy. He said:

"I'm glad and grateful that I have house stuff, thank you YFCA and YHF. Now I can sleep better and cook better for my family. I feel more comfortable and secure in my tent. I hope that one day I can return to my home and my sheep, but until then, I appreciate your help and support."



Mohammed, an IDP benefited from the NFIs project.

The project reached 400 households (1548 individuals), in Marib city district. The project also raised awareness of protection issues, such as gender-based violence and child protection, among the beneficiaries and the host community. The project contributed to the success of the shelter sector at YFCA.