

# YEMEN IMPACT REPORT



## CONTENTS

Yemen	3
READ Foundation Yemen	4
School Rehabilitation	5
Case Study: Muna	9
Breakfast Club	12
Case Study: Amir	16



# YEMEN

**Yemen's humanitarian crisis persists as the most severe globally, propelled by a combination of conflict, disease, economic failure, and the collapse of public services and institutions. Nearly ten years of relentless conflict have left 20.7 million people desperately requiring humanitarian aid. These individuals are battling hunger, disease, and poverty and are extremely vulnerable to the ongoing turmoil.**

Years of conflict, economic downturn, and the impact of COVID-19 have severely obstructed educational access for Yemeni children.

Close to 8.5 million now require educational support, with the country's education system teetering on the brink of collapse. Schools, hospitals, and water and sanitation services have been attacked or occupied by armed groups, and students are at risk of harm or recruitment. 64% of Yemeni teachers have not been regularly paid and schools lack adequate educational supplies such as textbooks.

In 2023 we have completed a wide variety of projects, with a particular focus on education, food security and WASH. Our work is contextualized to the needs of those we serve, based on rigorous needs assessments and developed with the input of the community throughout the process.



# READ FOUNDATION YEMEN

READ Foundation Yemen (RFY) has a well-established field office in the Aden governorate to run our projects, supported by RFY's qualified staff and well-trained community volunteers who have considerable expertise and passion for education.



- We have helped **6,130 students** access quality education.



- We have helped **3,700 people** be more food secure.



- We have supported **534 teachers** and educational staff.



- We have improved WASH facilities for **6,534 students** and teachers.



- We have helped nearly **17,000 people** in Yemen in the past year.



# SCHOOL REHABILITATION



- We have started the rehabilitation of **10 schools** across three governorates in Yemen, ensuring that **6,534 students** and staff members can safely access their school and learning.



- **2,783 schools** across Yemen have been destroyed or damaged either partially or totally. Out of that number, **1,500 schools** have been damaged or destroyed by airstrikes and shelling.



- School rehabilitation projects in Taiz, Abyan, Lahaj and Aden governorates have led to a **12% decrease** in absenteeism among students in the targeted schools.\*

\* This is likely due to a combination of factors, including improved learning conditions, increased access to WASH facilities, and a more supportive school environment.



# SCHOOL REHABILITATION PHOTOS





**Our school rehabilitation initiatives enhance equitable access to secure and nurturing educational environments. This is achieved by refurbishing school infrastructure and supplying essential teaching materials, furniture, and equipment.**

Our efforts include renovating classrooms and shared spaces, installing solar power systems to reduce reliance on inconsistent electricity or costly generator fuel, and upgrading Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) facilities to foster healthy practices and ensure comprehensive school access.

We've initiated the restoration of 10 schools across three Yemeni governorates, with funding for two schools provided by the Overseas Aid and Development Commission. For numerous students, these revitalized schools represent an opportunity to resume their education after prolonged interruptions due to conflict. For others, it offers the chance to study in a clean, safe environment for the first time.







# CASE STUDY

**The conflict in Yemen has dramatically disrupted Muna's life. Her home region of Ta'iz is among the hardest-hit areas, with widespread destruction of buildings and pervasive fear among the residents for their safety.**

Schools have been closed down or destroyed and thousands of students were prevented from completing their studies, including Muna. The closest school was 'like a ruin, the destruction was all that you could see. There was darkness covering the place'. It was miles away from her home and her family feared for her safety every day that she went there.

When READ Foundation began to rehabilitate a school much closer to home, Muna was delighted. The renovations have filled the classrooms with light again and Muna couldn't wait to start school so she could follow her dream of becoming a doctor. The new classrooms and furniture mean that she can sit at a desk to learn, and no longer has to sit on the floor. Muna's parents said that she had lost all will to study, even with her dream of becoming a doctor, and every day was a fight to get her to pay attention to her homework. Now she is an avid student, taking in every lesson willingly and eager to share what she's learnt at home.

\*Name changed for confidentiality.

# CASE STUDY MUNA





# BREAKFAST CLUB



- Our first Breakfast Club provided 709 students and staff with a daily breakfast meal. We have now expanded this to 1,119.



- Our Breakfast Club has contributed to increasing student attendance by 10%.



- Our Breakfast Club has contributed to a 7% improvement in academic attendance.

**READ Foundation's Breakfast Club initiative looks to tackle the interconnected challenges of malnutrition, limited access to education, and economic hardship experienced by many Yemeni families.**

The breakfast club ensures vulnerable children are provided with a daily nutritious meal and drink to support quality learning and school attendance. We rehabilitate WASH facilities within the schools for a holistic approach to students' health. The Breakfast Club improves learners' health and academic performance, reduces absenteeism and increases enrolment rates in the school.

Our first Breakfast Club finished this year, having fed 719 students and staff every school day over the year and we have now started our second Breakfast Club, expanding it to 1,119 staff and students across three schools. With food security such a concern for most families in Yemen, the Breakfast Club provides a sense of security and the relief of a burden that many parents feel. This increases attendance in school and the nutritious meal at the start of the day helps children to concentrate better and focus on their studies to learn.



# BREAKFAST CLUB PHOTOS







# CASE STUDY

**Amir was born with spina bifida, meaning his spinal cord did not fully develop and has left him with the inability to walk and the need for a cerebral shunt to drain excess fluid from his brain.**

Amir's father could not find work and ended up joining the army, where he was paid less than \$50 several months after joining. The family rely on their friends' and neighbours' goodwill and charity and rarely have enough to eat. Amir's mother was constantly worried about Amir's health due to his condition, and life has been very stressful for his parents. Amir is so pleased that READ Foundation came to his school, saying that the project has helped him and his family, improving his health and making him more able to pay attention in class. As Amir's brother also attends the school and his mother comes in as his carer, most of the family receives a daily nutritious meal now, which is a huge help to their financial situation at home.

\*Name changed for confidentiality.





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