

# YEMEN PROFILE



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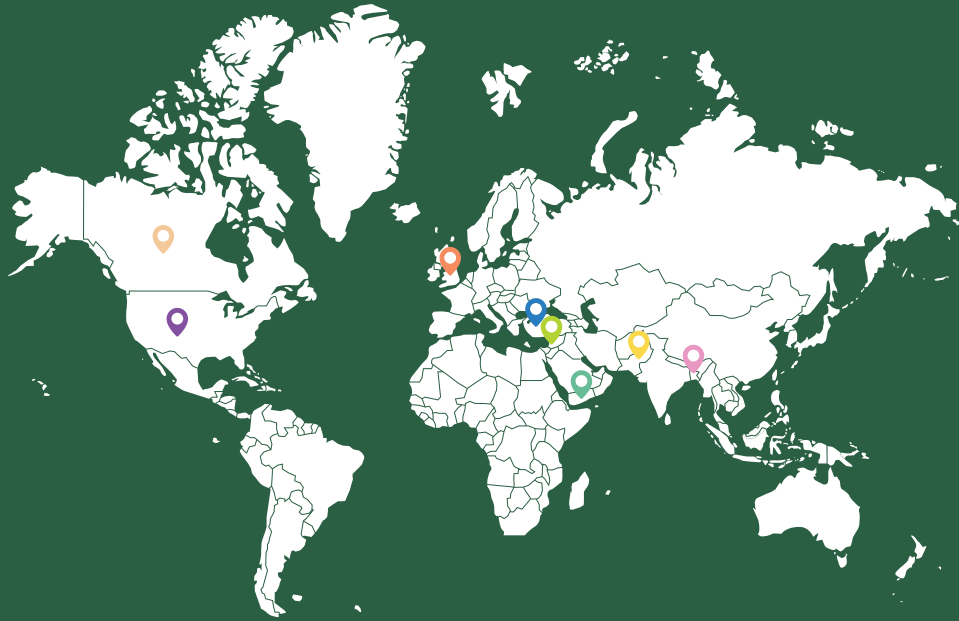
# READ FOUNDATION

READ Foundation was established in 2006, with its first projects implemented in Pakistan including building schools to provide access to quality education in areas of extreme poverty and setting up temporary learning centres in the aftermath of natural disasters.

Since then, we have expanded our programmes and geographical outreach to other countries, including Yemen, Lebanon, Türkiye, and Bangladesh. Our work is contextualised to the needs of those we serve, based on rigorous needs assessments and developed with the input of the community throughout the process.



# WHERE WE WORK



## AREAS OF WORK

-  TÜRKIYE
-  YEMEN
-  LEBANON
-  PAKISTAN
-  BANGLADESH
-  UNITED KINGDOM (OFFICE)
-  CANADA (OFFICE)
-  USA (OFFICE)

READ Foundation operates globally, extending educational support and aid across several countries. Our efforts are concentrated in Lebanon, Yemen, Türkiye, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Additionally, we have offices in the UK, Canada, and the USA.

# VISION, MISSION & VALUES

## VISION

A world empowered through education; we believe an educated community is an empowered community. This creates opportunities for their people and ensures a sustainable transformation in their society.

## MISSION

To provide accessible, inclusive and quality education; we focus on providing quality education to enable the development through generations in order to produce change-makers. We aim to reach the most vulnerable to provide opportunities for all.

## VALUES



### WE STRIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE IMPACT

We make a sustained impact in the lives of children and adults by specialising in education and localising our programme delivery.



### WE TAKE INITIATIVE

We are passionate about what we do. We value innovation and challenge ourselves to think big and be bold.



### WE ACT WITH INTEGRITY

We ensure we are principled in all we do and how we do it. We create an environment of trust and hold ourselves accountable to the people we work with.

# READ FOUNDATION IN YEMEN

**READ Foundation Yemen (RFY) has been operational in Yemen since 2019, originally working through local partners and then establishing our own office in 2020.**

We have a well-established field office in the Aden governorate which is supported by RFY's qualified staff and

well-trained community volunteers. Using our considerable expertise and passion for education, we help to provide quality education and support to access this education to the 2.4 million children who are out of school in Yemen. Our holistic projects also include child protection, health and nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and food security and livelihoods (FSL).



**8.5 million children** are in need of educational assistance, and over **2.4 million school-aged** Yemeni girls and boys are out of school.



**64% of Yemeni teachers** have not been regularly paid, and schools lack adequate educational supplies such as textbooks.



We have helped over **73,000 students** in Yemen access education, including over **8,000 IDPs**. We have done this by rehabilitating schools, providing school meals, and supporting students' needs.



**4.3 million Yemenis** are internally displaced, **76% of whom are women and children**. Frequent displacement increases dropout rates amongst displaced children, depriving them not only of education but also of school feeding, social assistance and psycho-social support.

# THE YEMENI CONTEXT

**The humanitarian crisis in Yemen remains one of the worst in the world, driven by conflict, disease, economic collapse and the breakdown of public institutions and services.**

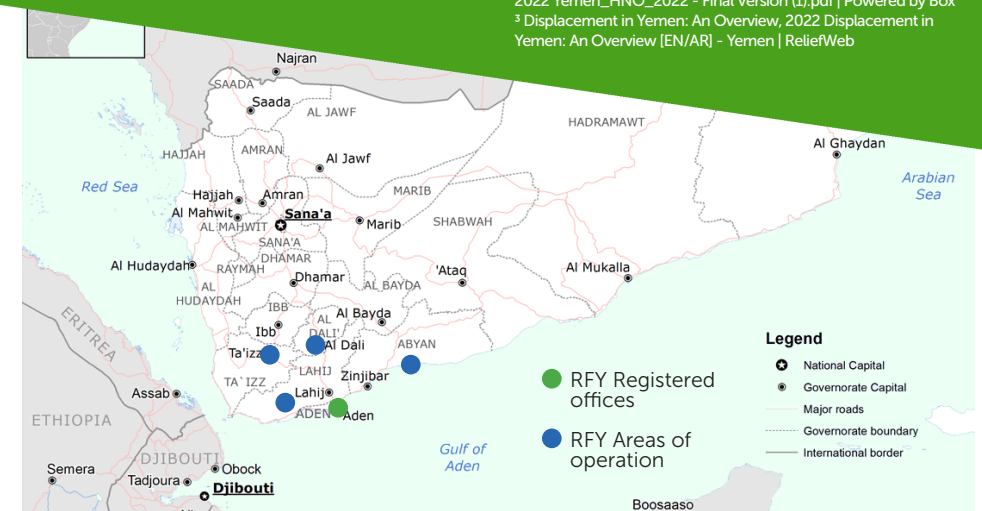
After nine years of continuous war, 20.7 million people need humanitarian assistance; hungry, ill, destitute and acutely vulnerable.<sup>1</sup> The years of conflict, economic decline and COVID-19 have impeded access

to education for Yemeni children, with nearly 8.5 million children needing educational assistance and the education system on the verge 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.<sup>2</sup> 64% of Yemeni teachers have not been regularly paid, and schools lack adequate educational supplies such as textbooks.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, Yemen Annual Report 2021 Yemen\_UNCT Annual Report 2021 | United Nations in Yemen

<sup>2</sup> Global Education Cluster, Yemen Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022 Yemen\_HNO\_2022 - Final Version (1).pdf | Powered by Box

<sup>3</sup> Displacement in Yemen: An Overview, 2022 Displacement in Yemen: An Overview [EN/AR] - Yemen | ReliefWeb



# WHERE WE WORK IN YEMEN

## ADEN

While Aden is now relatively stable economically, the ancient port city has been left on its knees. Water and electricity are intermittent, serving a population that officials say has tripled to **more than 3 million** as people seek safety from the fighting raging elsewhere.

## TAIZ

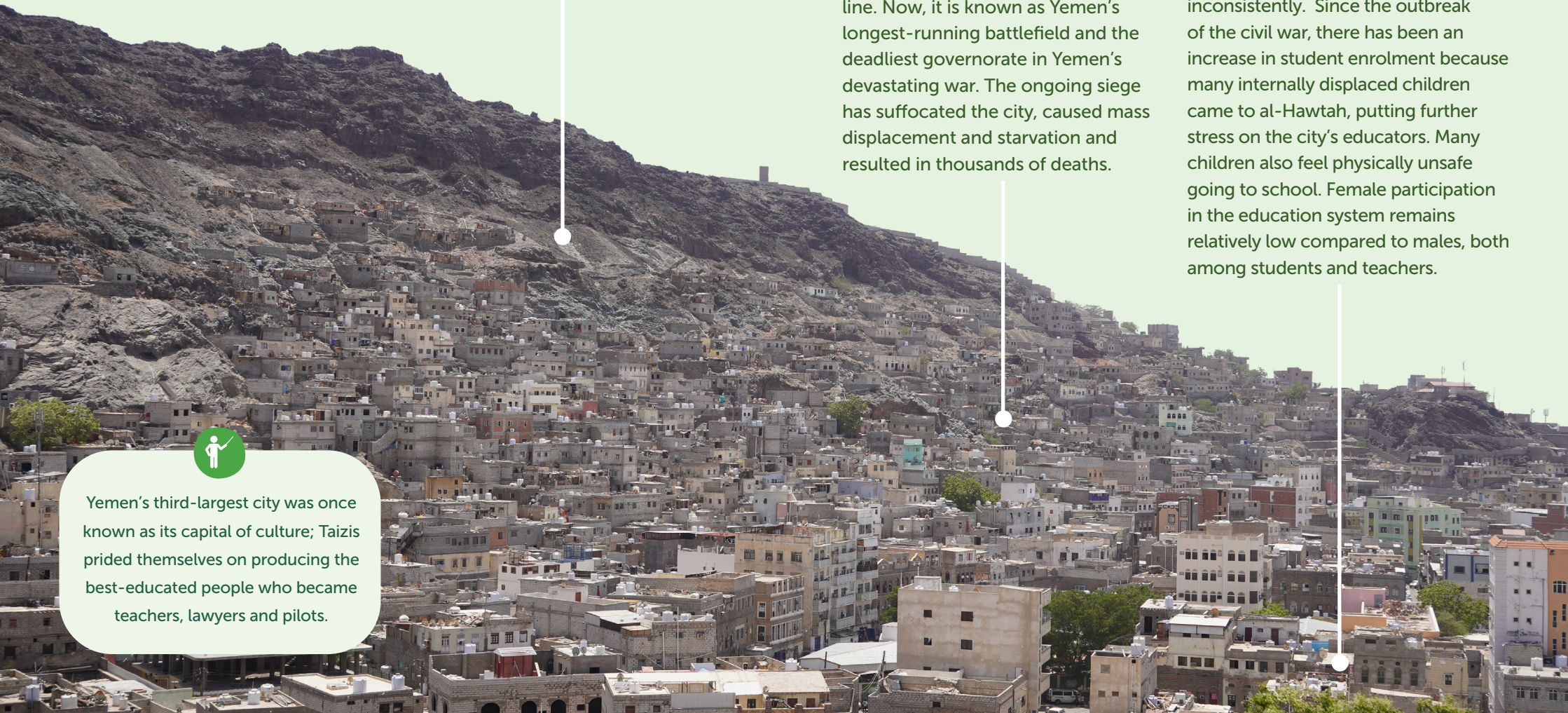
Taiz has been one of the worst hit areas by the fighting in Yemen; the city has become a site of contention between the Houthis and the government-backed forces. Despite ceasefires and prisoner swaps, the battle continues to this day, and the city continues to be a volatile front line. Now, it is known as Yemen's longest-running battlefield and the deadliest governorate in Yemen's devastating war. The ongoing siege has suffocated the city, caused mass displacement and starvation and resulted in thousands of deaths.

## LAHJ

Many of the city's schools are in poor condition due to ongoing conflict and lack of funds for maintenance; some have even been reported as near collapse. They also have poor access to electricity and drinking water. There is a shortage of qualified teachers, often paid insufficiently and inconsistently. Since the outbreak of the civil war, there has been an increase in student enrolment because many internally displaced children came to al-Hawtah, putting further stress on the city's educators. Many children also feel physically unsafe going to school. Female participation in the education system remains relatively low compared to males, both among students and teachers.



Yemen's third-largest city was once known as its capital of culture; Taizis prided themselves on producing the best-educated people who became teachers, lawyers and pilots.





# HIGHLIGHTED PROJECTS IN YEMEN

Our projects in Yemen are informed by the community's needs and the Education Cluster's priorities.

While most are education-focused, many are multi-sectoral and address many pressing issues in Yemen.

## THE BREAKFAST CLUB



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 have a nutritious meal and drink daily 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.

Ensuring the health and well-being of learners is one of the most transformative ways to improve education outcomes, promote inclusion and equity and rebuild the education system.



**17 million people** are food insecure in Yemen.



As of 2024, our Breakfast Club provides over **3,400 students** and staff with a daily essential meal and rehabilitated WASH facilities



School feeding programmes are about investing in learners' education and health, with benefits extending to homes and communities.



**PRICE HANDLE**  
£86,000 (GBP) / \$105,000 (USD) / \$143,000 (CAD)\* can feed over 600 students every day for a school year.

*\*Disclaimer: Any prices listed are not fixed and are subject to change with extenuating circumstances. Prices based on the exchange rate as of December 2023.*

## REBUILDING EDUCATION



According to the 2023 HNO and other UN agencies reports, the protracted crisis in the country has led to 2,783 schools being affected either partially or totally, including 1,500 schools that have been damaged or destroyed by airstrikes and shelling.



Over 2.4 million school-aged children in Yemen are out of school and 8.5 million primary school-aged children are in need of humanitarian assistance.



We have rehabilitated 26 schools, supporting 13,187 students and staff members with safe access to quality education.



### PRICE HANDLE

£51,000 (GBP) / \$62,000 (USD) / \$85,000 (CAD)\* can support 250+ students in accessing a safe space to learn and 250+ students with remedial support.

*\*Disclaimer: Any prices listed are not fixed and are subject to change with extenuating circumstances. Prices based on the exchange rate as of December 2023.*

In addition, many schools continue to be used as shelters for IDPs and armed groups, making it difficult to create safe spaces for learning and having a negative impact on the learning and well-being of children. Teachers are seeking employment elsewhere as they haven't been paid for months and schools that are open are overcrowded, in need of rehabilitation, and lack basic equipment to support quality learning outcomes.

### This project aims to provide equitable access to quality education by:

- improving the quality of teaching and learning through teacher training and remedial classes,
- rehabilitating infrastructure and providing teaching materials, furniture and supplies

- engaging the community to highlight the importance of education.

Our rehabilitation includes classrooms and communal areas, provided solar power so that the school is not so dependent on the irregular electricity supply or the sky-high fuel cost for generators, and improves WASH facilities to promote healthy habits and ensure everyone has access to schools. Our remedial classes are run by volunteer teachers throughout the school day, targeting children with large gaps in their education to support them academically so they can continue to thrive. By rehabilitating schools, raising community awareness, training teachers, and providing remedial classes, we offer a holistic approach to reducing the dropout risk for vulnerable Yemeni students.



## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE



Yemen is one of the world's most **water-scarce** countries.



**8.47 million children** urgently need assistance to access WASH services.



Many of our projects contain **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** activities due to the intersecting nature of health and education. **Absenteeism and low grades are improved if learners are healthy and able to come to school and concentrate.**



For many students, living conditions at home are overcrowded, with no spare money for cleaning supplies; cholera outbreaks are frequent and severe, so ensuring WASH facilities are accessible and usable can help contain diseases.

WASH facilities also ensure girls and disabled children can access quality education without fear for their safety or comfort. In a context where girls and disabled children are disproportionately impacted by absenteeism and low attendance, facilitating their attendance through all means possible is crucial.

By supporting READ Foundation's projects in Yemen, you can make a tangible difference in the lives of Yemeni children. Your contribution will ensure safe access to quality learning spaces and pave the way for a brighter future, ensuring that children can thrive academically. Join us in impacting education, health, and the well-being of Yemen's young generation. Donate today and help us bring positive change to Yemen's education landscape.





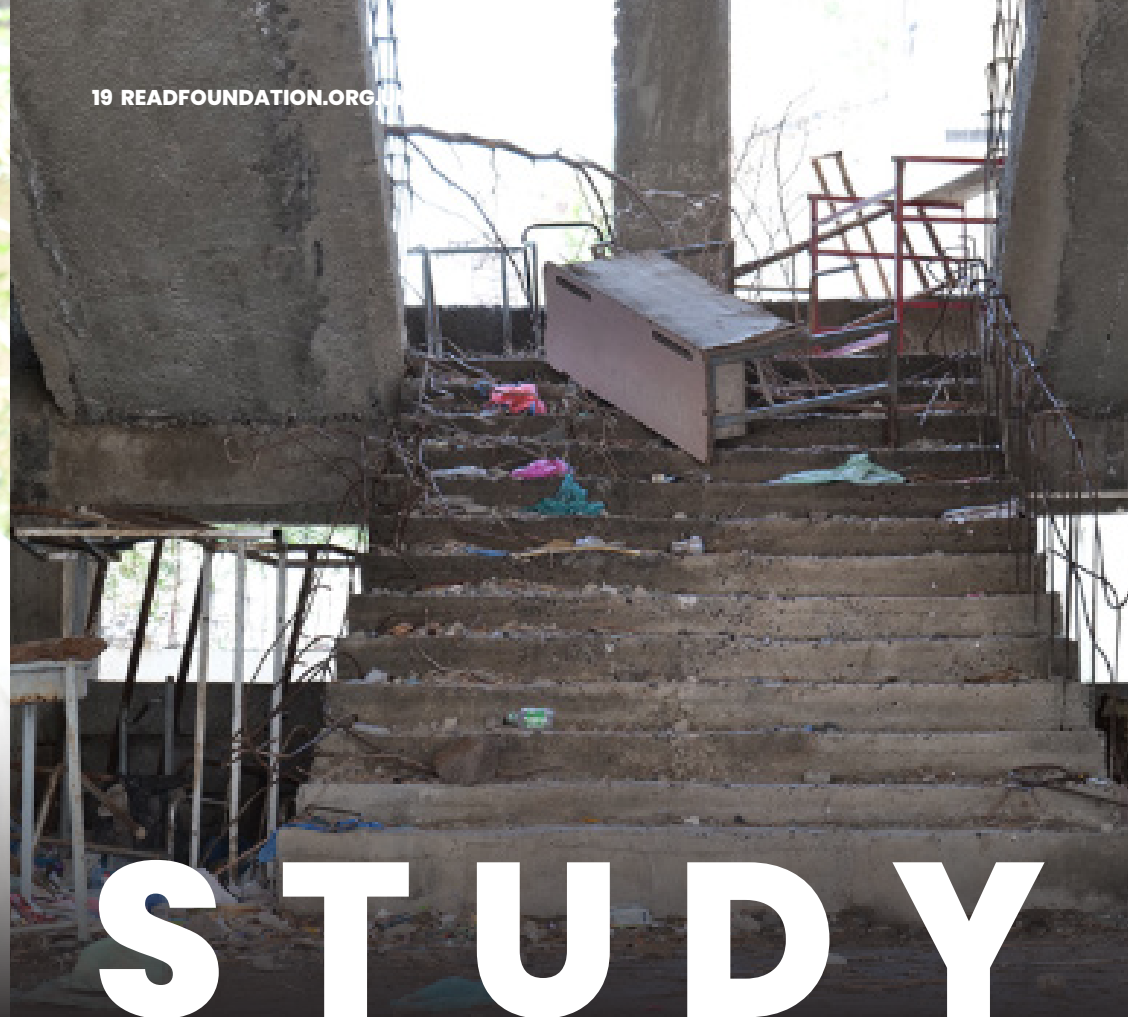
# MOVING FORWARDS

READ Foundation strives to create an educational environment that remains resilient and accessible, even in the face of emergencies. We plan to further advance our work by ensuring we are well-equipped to respond with inclusive and timely interventions. Over the next five years, we will continue implementing integrated projects beyond traditional academic learning.

This includes promoting life skills development, addressing climate-related shocks and responding to the educational needs of crisis-affected communities. Our vocational and livelihoods project will support conflict-affected youths and young adults to develop skills and take qualifications in various vocational skills. They will be supported throughout the process and provided with the tools to succeed post-training.

As with many fragile contexts, Yemen is feeling the impact of climate change hard. Our schools already include solar power as the norm, and we will be exploring how we can further support the climate mitigation needs of the community.





# CASE STUDY

**Muna's life has been turned upside down by the conflict in Yemen. Her governorate, Ta'iz, has been one of the worst hit throughout the conflict, with buildings destroyed and people in fear for their lives.**

Schools have been closed or destroyed, and thousands of students, including Muna, have been prevented from completing their studies. The closest school was 'like a ruin; the destruction was all 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 rehabilitating 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 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 every lesson willingly and eager to share what she learnt at home.



“  
Unlocking the potential of  
all children we support, in the  
classroom, in work and in life.”



# ACHIEVEMENTS TIMELINE





## GET IN TOUCH

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