

From Yemenis, For Yemenis

Jeel Al-Bena Association for Human Development (JAAHD) YEMEN

Background

Jeel Albena (JAAHD) is a Yemeni humanitarian non-governmental organization, established in June 2017 by Ameen Jubran to support communities affected by the conflict in Yemen's Al Hudaydah governorate. JAAHD which started with only fifteen staff, now has over 150 employees with more than 40 per cent of them from the displaced communities.

JAAHD operates in Al Hudaydah, Hajjah, Al Mahwit and Raymah, the four governorates hosting 25 per cent of all internally displaced people (IDPs) in Yemen. The organization provides emergency relief, including shelter and non-food assistance, protection assistance and services to people displaced by the conflict with the aim of enabling them to increase their self-sufficiency and restore their dignity until they find a durable and dignified solution to their displacement.

Partnership with UNHCR

JAAHD first became UNHCR's partner in August 2017 to implement a small-scale project on shelter/non-food items (NFIs) and rental subsidies for IDPs in Al-Hudaydah and Hajjah governorates. In 2021, JAAHD is implementing various UNHCR-funded projects in the areas of protection, shelter/NFIs and camp coordination/management in Al Hudaydah, Hajjah, Almahweet and Raymah governorates.

Local solutions for local problems.

With **"From Yemenis, for Yemenis"** as their slogan, JAADH proactively seeks solutions together with conflict affected people to empower them to be agents of change in their communities.

I. Emergency Shelter:

JAAHD is implementing the Tehama Emergency Shelter Kits (TESK), for which the material is produced locally by displaced and host community Yemenis using mats, woven out of palm leaves, locally known as *Al-Khazaf*.

TESKs are innovative shelters, adapted to the local climate (hot and humid) as the khazaf walls allow circulation of fresh air inside the shelter while the *halfa* (palm leaves from another local tree), used to cover the rooftop, help reduce the heat, during hot summer months.

TESK are successfully built in Hajjah, Hudaydah and in western Taizz. The materials used in TESC are recyclable, environment friendly and produced locally to support the local economy.



A displaced girl poses in front of her newly constructed TESC in Abs, Hajjah. Photo © Hietham Ali/JAAHD

II. Cash for Work:



Weaving Al-khazaf: Production of material for Tehama shelters is commissioned to men and women from the displaced and hosting communities to promote self-reliance and harmonious relationships between communities and also to boost the local economy. [Videolink here](#)



Mask making project: During the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, JAAHD trained more than 80 displaced women to produce reusable masks. More than 25,000 masks were thus distributed to frontline health workers and vulnerable displaced. All women received kits with sewing machine and solar panels to continue their work independently and support their families. Video link [here](#)

III. Reviving traditional cooking stoves: Incidents of fires caused by cooking on open fire or inside shelters in IDP hosting sites are a significant and increasingly common hazard. JAAHD helped revive traditional mud stoves to promote fire safety and reduce emission of toxic smoke caused by burning plastic and trash. Displaced men and women are trained to make mud stoves for domestic as well as commercial use. These stoves are safe, energy efficient, require less fuel/combustible to do more cooking in less time. Ultimately, they are environment friendly, affordable and long lasting. [Video link here](#)

Achievements/activities in 2020/2021



Present in 97 informal settlement hosting IDPs, providing shelter /non-food assistance to some 8,000 displaced families (close to 50,000 Yemenis) across six districts in Al Hudaydah, Al Hudaydah, Hajjah, Al Mahwit and Raymah.



Upgraded water networks, construction of temporary latrines, and implementation of safe and efficient cooking initiative project, benefiting some 5,500 IDP families.



Distribution of 8,000 Tehama Emergency Shelter Kits (TESK) in 2020 and in the process of constructing 8,000 TESKs this year.



Through its community centre in Hudaydah governorate, support to most vulnerable cases, in 14 districts in Hudaydah, two districts in Al Mahwit and two districts in Raymah governorates: single women, older people, persons with disabilities and children through provision of cash assistance, psycho-social first aid and referrals of emergency cases to specialised services. In 2020, JAAHD referred some 11,000 displaced families to receive UNHCR cash assistance.



Assisted more than 20,000 displaced persons with essential core relief items (kitchen sets, blankets, mattresses) in Hudaydah and Hajjah since the beginning of 2020, to date.