Students at the Deaf and Mute School in Amran share a moment of joy. With new hearing aids from UNHCR and YRCS, many can now hear for the first time. © UNHCR/Mysa Khalaf.

Supporting Children with Disabilities: Quick Impact Projects in Amran

In Amran Governorate, Yemen, three UNHCR-led Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), in partnership with the Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS), are creating tangible change for children with disabilities. These projects aim to address the urgent needs in education, mobility, and inclusion, benefiting a population that remains largely underserved - 15% of Yemen's population, approximately 5 million people, live with disabilities.

At the Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Deaf and Mute in Amran, 35 children received hearing aids. Aid that allowed many to hear clearly for the first time. Mona, a 7-year-old in her first year of school, beamed as she heard her teacher's voice. "I can hear now," she said, marking, with the big smile, a new beginning for her education and communication.

Amora, 16, uses her new Braille tablet at the Blind Association in Amran. With this essential tool, she's one step closer to her dream of becoming a lawyer. © UNHCR/Mysa Khalaf.

At Amran's Blind Association, 171 visually impaired children received Braille tablets and medical glasses. These tools are essential for independent learning and engagement with educational materials. Seventeen-year-old Somaiyah, who dreams of studying computer science, shared, "The Braille tablet helps me take notes and study on my own." Amora, 16, aspires to become a lawyer, while Noura, 15, is finding new opportunities after missing years of school. Little Mohammad

received his first Braille tablet, while Omar's new glasses allowed him to see the blackboard for the first time.

A newly installed solar energy system at the Blind Association ensures reliable electricity, supporting classroom activities, computers, and labs. This consistent power source is essential for the students' educational development and access to digital tools.

Hoda smiles as she takes her first steps using her new walker, with her father by her side. © UNHCR/Mysa Khalaf.

Eighty individuals with disabilities received customized mobility aids, offering essential support. For Abdulhamid, receiving his first wheelchair was a turning point. His father, who had always

carried him, expressed relief: “This chair can also turn into a bed, making it much easier to care for him.” Meanwhile, Hoda’s brother watched proudly as she used her new walker to take her first steps without assistance. “This will make a big difference for both of us,” he shared, highlighting the sense of relief and support the aid brings to their daily lives.

Reflecting on the impact of these initiatives, Marin Kajdomcaj, UNHCR Representative in Yemen, said: “It’s inspiring to see how these projects are not only meeting immediate needs but also giving children the chance for a future. It’s about more than just access—it’s about creating a path for these children to grow, thrive, and eventually contribute to their communities. We want to see these interventions come full circle, leading to lasting change through gaining education and skills, finding jobs, providing for independence, and dignity.”

These initiatives in Amran exemplify UNHCR’s commitment to fostering inclusion and improving the lives of children with disabilities. As Yemen’s conflict continues to affect vulnerable populations, these projects represent steps toward a more inclusive and hopeful future for those who need it most.