

50 YEARS

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# SAVE THE CHILDREN

## SWEDEN IN YEMEN

### 1963 – 2012



**Save the Children**  
Sweden



# SAVE THE CHILDREN SWEDEN IN YEMEN 1963 – 2012

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# 50 YEARS



**Save the Children**  
Sweden



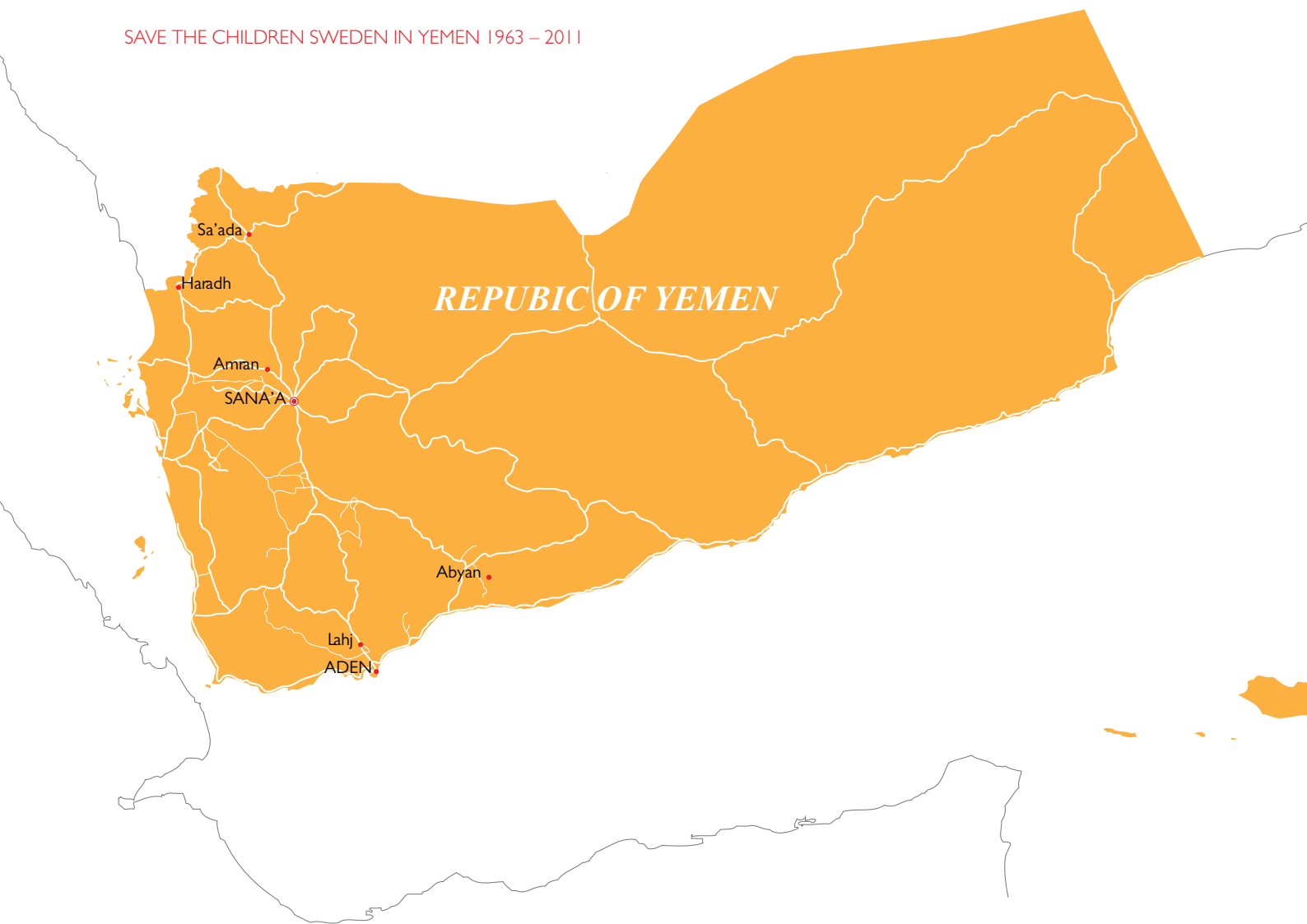


# OUR HISTORY

## 50 YEARS

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## OUR HISTORY

### 1.) **SCS History in Yemen**

Save the Children Sweden was the first international NGO to register in Yemen and has since then had a consistent presence in the country. Initially involved mainly in health work such as vaccination campaigns and building hospitals.

In 1963, SC Northern Yemen, a proposal from Engineer Tage Gustafsson – was working as technical director for the inbound flights of Yemen, seeking SC's assistance in a vaccination campaign against TB for children. On 2 September 1963, 2 Swedish nurses arrived in Taiz to implement the campaign and it was SC's first historical grant was 100,000 SEK.

In April 1964, SCS gave another 250,000 SEK to continue the activity in Yemen for one more year. The activity was going to be extended with the following. First support to the establishment of a child hospital in Taiz with 25 beds, employment of 1 more nurse, creating a Yemen Committee, training of Yemeni staff.

The child hospital was planned to be opened in the first day of December - with the same staff to preventive child health care including vaccinations, health instruction to mothers, and distribution of milk etc. clinical activities, child hospital and training of local medical staff. In 1965, SCS decided to extend the activity in Yemen with medical treatment and supervision of people who have leprosy in Taiz. SC contributed with 100,000 SEK for medicine.

## 2.) Yemen Contextual Analysis

The name of Yemen was known as Arabia Felix.<sup>1</sup> Until the beginning of the 1960s, the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) was ruled by imams, whereas South Yemen was a British colony. North Yemen's revolution took place in September 1962 and South Yemen revolted against the British in October 1963. The Republic of Yemen was established on 22 May 1990, unifying the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen) and the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen). Differences over power sharing and the pace of integration between the north and the south came to a head in 1994, resulting in a short civil war. The north's superior forces quickly defeated separatists from the south in July 1994.<sup>2</sup>

The Republic of Yemen has the highest total fertility rate (5.5 children) per woman in the Middle East and North African (MENA) region.<sup>3</sup> In 2008, the total Yemeni population was 22,917,000, with a 2.9% annual population growth rate.<sup>4</sup> The same year, the life expectancy at birth was 63 years for males and 66 years for females.<sup>5</sup> The percentage of young people in Yemen is escalating because of its high birth rates - 45% of the Yemeni population is under 15 years old<sup>6</sup> and 16% is under the age of five.<sup>7</sup>

The density of Yemen's population is 43.4 persons per square kilometre. In 2007, the urban population is increasing, comprising 30.1% of the total population.<sup>2</sup> Yemen is divided administratively into 21 governorates, including the Capital Secretariat. These governorates are divided into 333 districts. Yemen's population is mainly Arab. The official language is Arabic. Almost all of Yemen's population is Muslim, save a Jewish minority.<sup>8</sup>

Yemen has comparably high poverty rates, which in turn reflects upon indicators for health, education, gender and unemployment.<sup>9</sup> It is a developing country, ranked 153 out of 177 in the Human Development Index. From 1990 to 2007, the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rose annually by 1.6% on average. In 2003, 45.2% of the population was living on less than two US dollars per day.<sup>10</sup>

1 BBC News, "Country Profile Yemen", available online at [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/country\\_profiles/784383.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/784383.stm) (last accessed 6 January 2011)

2 BBC News, "Yemen - Timeline", available online at [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/country\\_profiles/1706450.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/1706450.stm)

3 UNICEF, "The State of the World's Children 2009", pg. 141, 2009, available online at <http://www.unicef.org/sowc09/docs/SOWC09-FullReport-EN.pdf> (last accessed 29 January 2011)

4 UNICEF "At a glance: Yemen", available online at [http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/yemen\\_statistics.html#68](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/yemen_statistics.html#68) (last accessed 22 February 2011)

5 World Health Organisation, "Yemen: Health Profile", pg 1, 2008, available online at <http://www.who.int/countries/yem/en/>

6 World Health Organisation, "Country Profiles: Yemen", available online at <http://www.emro.who.int/emrinfo/index.aspx?Ctry=yem>

7 UNdata, "Yemen", available online at <http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crName=Yemen> (last accessed 29 January 2011)

8 Republic of Yemen, National Information Centre, "Population and Social Affairs", available online at <http://www.yemen-nic.info/contents/Popul/Popul&Social/> (last accessed 29 January 2011)

9 Rima Habasch, "Physical and Humiliating Punishment of Children in Yemen", Save the Children Sweden, 2005, pg. 9

10 Bank Information Centre (BiC), "International Financial Institutions and Yemen: A Country Study", October 2007, available online at <http://www.bicusa.org/ifisandyemen> (last accessed 15 July 2011)



**Northern  
yemen, a  
proposal from  
engineer tage  
gustafsson**



Human rights conditions in Yemen have deteriorated over the last couple of years. Many previous advances in legislation, the Constitution and the penal and criminal procedure codes were walked back by security measures adopted by the Government within the context of its fight against the Houthis in the north of Yemen and social and political conflicts in the south.<sup>11</sup> Since 2004, the Sa'ada governorate has been the site of recurrent fighting between government forces and tribal allies, on one hand, and the rebel Houthis, on the other.<sup>12</sup> The sixth round of fighting that ended in February 2010 even expanded to involve neighbouring Saudi Arabia.<sup>13</sup> The Ministry of Information has almost full control of the media, constraining printing presses, granting newspaper subsidies, and (until recently) owning the country's first and only television and radio stations. Over the last four years, a number of television channels have been launched by various opposition groups.<sup>14</sup> Yemen levies the death penalty for a wide variety of offenses.

In 1994, Yemen amended its Penal Code to reduce sentences for crimes committed by persons under 18.<sup>15</sup> However, implementation of this provision and a similar provision in the Juvenile Act have been hampered by Yemen's very low birth registration rate (45% in 2008)<sup>16</sup>, which make it difficult for many juvenile offenders to prove their age at the time of the offense.<sup>17</sup> Yemen's Personal Status Law sets no minimum age for marriage of girls, stating instead that a girl "is not to be wed until she is ready for sex, even if she exceeds 15 years of age".

The children of Yemen bear the weight of deteriorating socio-economic conditions in the country. They also endure—on a smaller scale—the consequences of the country's political conflicts and military confrontations. This is visible directly (through the injury, death, and displacement of children) or indirect social and economic distress.

According to the Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on Yemen's third State periodic report, local as well as foreign child rights organisations value the State's efforts to integrate child rights issues into the country's legislation, regulations and programming in accordance with the CRC. Yemen speaks openly about the constraints and challenges hampering its full realisation of the CRC and argues that this deficit is due to financial and human shortfalls. This deficit is said to be further aggravated by the country's political conflicts.

In April 2008, the House of Representatives rejected provisions in a proposed

11 Human Rights Watch, World Report 2009, Yemen, pg. 1 and 2, January 2009, available online at <http://www.hrw.org/en/node/79308> (last accessed 15 July 2011)

12 Human Rights Watch, World Report 2009 Yemen, pg. 1 and 2, January 2009, available online at <http://www.hrw.org/en/node/79308> (last accessed 15 July 2011)

13 BBC News, "Yemen - Timeline", available online at [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/country\\_profiles/1706450.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles/1706450.stm) (last accessed 15 July 2011)

14 Library of Congress – Federal Research Division, "Country Profile: Yemen", August 2008, pg. 20, available online at <http://memory.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles/Yemen.pdf> (last accessed 15 July 2011)

15 Human Rights Watch, World Report 2009 Yemen, pg. 1 and 2, January 2009, available online at <http://www.hrw.org/en/node/79308> (last accessed 15 July 2011)

16 World Health Organisation, "Country Profiles: Yemen", available online at <http://www.emro.who.int/emrinfo/index.aspx?Ctry=yem> (last accessed 15 July 2011)

17 Library of Congress – Federal Research Division, "Country Profile: Yemen", August 2008, pg. 25, available online at <http://memory.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles/Yemen.pdf> (last accessed 15 July 2011)



Safe Motherhood Law, introduced in 2005 to raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 years of age.<sup>18</sup> The House of Representatives is still studying a 2007 amendment project that includes a provision to raise the minimum age of marriage to 17 years of age.<sup>19</sup>

## Protection

The Yemeni Constitution contains specific articles that prohibit discrimination. Article 24 stipulates “The state shall guarantee equal opportunities for all citizens in the fields of political, economic, social and cultural activities and shall enact the necessary laws for the realization thereof.” In addition, Article 25 states that “Yemeni society is based on social solidarity, which is based on justice, freedom and equality according to the law.” Article 41 ensures that “Citizens are all equal in rights and duties” and Article 42 continues “Every citizen has the right to participate in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the country. The state shall guarantee freedom of thought and expression of opinion in speech, writing and photography within the limits of the law.”<sup>20</sup> Article 9 of the Rights of the Child Act No. 45 of 2002 states “The provisions of this Act shall not prejudice the right of the child to enjoy all public rights and freedoms, together with such protection and care as is guaranteed by the laws in force to human beings in general and children in particular, without distinction on the basis of race, colour or belief.”<sup>21</sup>

Yemeni children living with disabilities represent 2.09% of the population.<sup>22</sup> The results of the family health survey conducted in 2003 found that medical services for disabled children remained deficient in 2002, and only 22% of all disabled persons had access to health care.<sup>23</sup>

## Education

Unified education system was introduced in the Republic of Yemen in 1994. This system consists of nine years of obligatory basic education and three years of secondary education with two separate tracks of science and literature in the last



<sup>18</sup> Human Rights Watch, World Report 2009 Yemen, pg. 1 and 2, January 2009, available online at <http://www.hrw.org/en/node/79308> (last accessed 15 July 2011)

<sup>19</sup> Meeting with SOUL for Development and the Director of the research and studies unit in the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood, Sana'a, 18 December 2010

<sup>20</sup> UNHCR, “Constitution of Yemen”, pg. 4-5, available online at <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/category/LEGAL,,YEM,3fc4c1e94,0.html> (last accessed on 4 February 2011)

<sup>21</sup> Third periodic reports of States parties due in 2003: Yemen, 3/12/2004, CRC/C/129/Add.2

<sup>22</sup> Yemen National NGOs Coalition For Child Rights Care “Third NGOs Alternative Periodic Report On the Right of the child”, Sana'a 2004, available online at [www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.39/Yemen\\_ngo\\_report\(E\).pdf](http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.39/Yemen_ngo_report(E).pdf) (last accessed 30 December 2010)

<sup>23</sup> Yemen National NGOs Coalition For Child Rights Care “Third NGOs Alternative Periodic Report On the Right of the child”, Sana'a 2004, available online at [www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.39/Yemen\\_ngo\\_report\(E\).pdf](http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.39/Yemen_ngo_report(E).pdf) (last accessed 30 December 2010)



two grades.<sup>24</sup> Education in Yemen is obligatory and free for the first nine years, as mentioned in the Yemeni Constitution, the Rights of the Child Act No. 45 of 2002 and the Yemeni General Education Law No. 45 for the year 1992. Article 87 of the Rights of the Child Act provides that basic education is obligatory.<sup>25</sup> Furthermore, General Article 18 of the Education Act No. 45 of 1992 makes nine years of education compulsory and secures attendance from age six.<sup>26</sup> Still, only two-thirds of girls are enrolled in primary education. At the secondary level, almost half of boys go to school and slightly more than one-fourth of girls are enrolled in school, demonstrating the high dropout rate in Yemen.

The gender gap between female and male enrolment has various causes. Among them are the relatively lower numbers of schools for girls, the distance of schools from their communities, and lack of awareness of the importance of girls' education. Moreover, the quality of education is still very poor. This is reflected clearly in various studies that show that on average 8% of children drop out of school every year and 11% of students fail or repeat a grade annually.<sup>27</sup>

## Civil Society and Child Rights

Yemen signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on 13 February 1990, and ratified it on 1 May 1991. Yemen's initial periodic report on the implementation of the CRC was submitted to the United Nations' Committee on the Rights of the Child in November 1994. The Concluding Observations of this first State periodic report were issued in February 1996. Yemen's second periodic report was submitted in October 1997, and the Concluding Observations were issued in May 1999. The State's third periodic report was submitted in May 2003. Finally, the Concluding Observations to the third report were issued in September 2005. In response to these State reports, two alternative reports were submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child ("the Committee"), one after the State's first periodic report on 11 January 1996, and the other after the State's third periodic report in June 2005. In December 2004, Yemen ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and in March 2007 ratified the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflicts. As of 2010, Yemen had submitted only one report on the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child Prostitution and child pornography, on 15 February 2008.

The Children's Parliament held its sixth session from 24 to 28 November 2007 entitled "Child Smuggling is a Crime Punishable by Law". Numerous organisations and official bodies reported at the session, including the MoSAL, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Interior, the HCMC, UNICEF, and members of the House of Representatives. The Children's Parliament then drafted recommendations to: make child trafficking a felony with harsh penalties; increase awareness-raising campaigns and funding

24 The World Bank, "Secondary Education Development and Girls Access Project." Project Appraisal Document, 2008, pg. 1, available online at [http://www.wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSPContentServer/WDSP/IB/2008/02/28/000333038\\_20080228234736/Rendered/PDF/417730PAD0P08911y10IDA1R20081003611.pdf](http://www.wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSPContentServer/WDSP/IB/2008/02/28/000333038_20080228234736/Rendered/PDF/417730PAD0P08911y10IDA1R20081003611.pdf) (last accessed 22 August 2010)

25 Law No. 45 for the year 2002 on the rights of the child

26 "The Yemeni General Education Law No. (45) for the year 1992", 1992

27 Republic of Yemen, "Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) 2003-2005", pg. 28, 31 MAY 2002, available online at <http://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/upload/Yemen/PRSP/Yemen%20PRSP.pdf> (last accessed 12 January 2011)

for programmes that include children; strengthen security coordination at the border and ensure children are treated humanely; implement a comprehensive strategy for poverty

reduction; select border control staff qualified for dealing with children; form school committees and hotlines to combat violence against children; place social workers and

psychologists at centres working with trafficked children; and activate the Technical Committee to Combat Child Trafficking and a related database.<sup>28</sup> h. Children Associated with Armed Groups and Forces Yemeni law prohibits the exploitation of children in armed conflict. In 2001, Yemen's National Defence Council abolished compulsory military service, relying instead on volunteers to fill posts in the military and security forces. Article 149 of the Rights of the Child Act No. 45 states that, "persons under the age of 18 cannot participate in armed conflicts or be recruited".



## Health and Nutrition

The public health system in Yemen is lacking in structure and organisation. It suffers from "low staff morale, low quality of health care, shortages of essential medicine, and insufficient government budget. These are compounded by irrational use of health care, lack of equity in facility distribution and human resources, as well as a lack of a formal referral system or of integration of services at the level of delivery of care."<sup>29</sup> Looking at private health services, "there are more than 9,000 private health facilities in Yemen, of which nearly 1,800 are concentrated in the main cities, including 56 private, general and specialized hospitals, and more than 1,750 pharmacies and clinics. It is estimated that the private sector covers about 70% of all hospital care in the country."<sup>30</sup> The State's expenditure on health in the year 2009 was 5.6% of the GDP but accounted for 57% of the country's total health expenditures.<sup>31</sup>

Half of this is spent on the salaries of health workers and health facilities are not well-equipped due to a lack of resources.<sup>32</sup> The WHO reports that Yemen's infant mortality rate decreased to 74.8 per 1,000 live births in 2003 and that the under-five mortality rate was 101.9 deaths per 1,000 live births. The infant mortality rate (86.3 per 1,000) and the under-five mortality rate (117.6 per 1,000) were higher in rural areas.<sup>33</sup> According to a Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, child mortality rates dropped from 102 to 78 per 1,000 cases

28 Children's Parliament under the supervision of Democracy School, "First Report By the Children's Parliament on the Conditions of Children in Yemen 2008", 2008

29 The World Health Organisation, "Country Cooperation Strategy for WHO and the Republic of Yemen 2008-2013", Pg. 17, 2009, available online at [http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation\\_strategy/ccs\\_yem\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation_strategy/ccs_yem_en.pdf) (last accessed 20 February 2011)

30 The World Health Organisation, "Country Cooperation Strategy for WHO and the Republic of Yemen 2008-2013", Pg. 17 & 18, 2009, available online at [http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation\\_strategy/ccs\\_yem\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation_strategy/ccs_yem_en.pdf) (last accessed 20 February 2011)

31 World Health Organisation, "Country Profiles- Yemen", available online at <http://www.emro.who.int/emrinfo/index.aspx?Ctry=yem#HealthExpenditure>

32 The World Health Organisation, "Country Cooperation Strategy for WHO and the Republic of Yemen 2008-2013", Pg. 20, 2009, available online at [http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation\\_strategy/ccs\\_yem\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation_strategy/ccs_yem_en.pdf) (last accessed 20 February 2011)

33 The World Health Organisation, "Country Cooperation Strategy for WHO and the Republic of Yemen 2008-2013", Pg. 24, 2009, available online at [http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation\\_strategy/ccs\\_yem\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation_strategy/ccs_yem_en.pdf) (last accessed 20 February 2011)



between 1999 and 2006. Infant mortality rates reportedly decreased during the same period from 76 to 68.5 per 1,000 infants.<sup>34</sup> The main causes for child deaths in Yemen are diarrhea (which causes 20% to 22% of child deaths), upper respiratory tract disease, and malnutrition (a component of these two and other diseases). “We talk about 25% malnutrition among children; but the real figure ranges between 40% to 50%,” a health official said.<sup>35</sup> Forty-six percent of children in 2005 were moderately and severely underweight, 13% suffered from frailty and 52% experienced moderate and severe height problems.<sup>36</sup> The WHO reported that “about 60% of the population is at risk of malaria. The estimated figure for annual malaria cases is three million, with more than 30,000 malaria deaths per year, mostly among children under the age of five years and pregnant women.”<sup>37</sup> Poliomyelitis remains an issue, despite repeated annual national vaccination against polio infections.<sup>38</sup>

34 Meeting between SOUL for Development and the Head of the PHC Sector at the Ministry of Health, Sana’a, Yemen February 2010

35 Meeting between SOUL for Development and the Head of the PHC Sector at the Ministry of Health, Sana’a, Yemen February 2010

36 Civil Society Organisations in Yemen in cooperation and coordination with the Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights, a corresponding member of the International Federation for Human Rights “Shadow Report on Children’s Rights in Yemen”, Sana’a, May 2005, available online at [www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/YemenShadowReportCRCENDEF.pdf](http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/YemenShadowReportCRCENDEF.pdf) (last accessed 15 July 2011)

37 The World Health Organisation, “Country Cooperation Strategy for WHO and the Republic of Yemen 2008-2013”, Pg. 24, 2009, available online at [http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation\\_strategy/ccs\\_yem\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation_strategy/ccs_yem_en.pdf) (last accessed 20 February 2011)

38 Civil Society Organisations in Yemen in cooperation and coordination with the Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights, a corresponding member of the International Federation for Human Rights “Shadow Report on Children’s Rights in Yemen”, Sana’a, May 2005, available online at [www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/YemenShadowReportCRCENDEF.pdf](http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/YemenShadowReportCRCENDEF.pdf) (last accessed 15 July 2011)



## PROTECTION

### Key thematic priorities

SCS defines child protection as measures and structures to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect affecting children. The goal of child protection is to promote, protect and fulfil children's rights to protection from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect as expressed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights humanitarian and refugee treaties and conventions, as well as national laws.

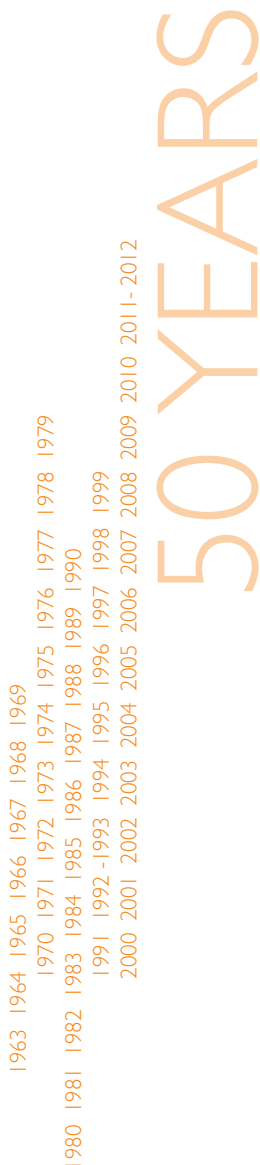
**In 1999:** With the participation of Yemen Mine Association Middle East, a region program has been initiated through a regional mine Awareness Education workshop (27 Dec 99- 3 Jan 2000). Participants in this workshop were from Jordan, Sudan, Lebanon and Palestine. This promoted stronger linkages between projects and partners in Yemen and similar projects.

### Achievements

#### In (2001-2003-): Key achievements

- SCS contributed to the establishment of the Juvenile Girls Centre in 2001 which succeeded in shifting the girls from adult prisons to the centre. In addition, SCS supported the Juvenile Centre for Boys and linked it with other relevant NGOs. A booklet was published under the name of Aden Free of Violence.
- Al-Mocha integrated development project was implemented between 2001- 2003 by the SCS Yemeni partner organizations and local councils. The project aimed to empower them through transfer of skills with a focus on health issues.
- Main impact: Alzahra'a women association, SCS partner, is still active in Mocha and attracting donor funding targeting women and children right issues.
- In 2004: Piloting of a project stopping violence against Juvenile children in Aden. Impacts:
  - Sharing the experience at national regional and global level.
  - Aden police stations were free of violence against juvenile children.
  - SCS in coordination of MoE supported development of a training manual on alternatives to corporal punishment which is integrated within MoE teacher training packages.
  - In (2005-2006): SCS in coordination with UNICEF advocated for the right of children to Free Birth Registration. This involving campaigns and advocacy activities with Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood and succeeded with issuance of a presidential resolution for free birth registration. In September 2005 an awareness-raising and birth registration campaign was conducted.





- In 2007: SCS with HCMC, work started on the drafting of a National Strategy for birth registration. Stakeholders involved were: SC, UNICEF, ISSC, Ministry of Social Affairs, CSRA, GUYW and other stakeholders on building a national plan for birth registration.
- In 2008: The national plan was launched on 23 July 2008 in the governorate of Abyan to insure that all children and adults in Yemen are registered by end of year 2015.

**Child Right to Protection and Education in emergency 2009:** Yemen's political instability has increased as has its poverty rating. The year has seen the 6th Sa'ada War start and with this a massive increase in the scale of fighting and therefore a displacement of some 250,000 people. Political tensions in the south have increased significantly with regular demonstrations and acts of civil disobedience. Finally Al Qaeda in Yemen announced this year that it had merged with AQ Saudi Arabia to form AQ Arabian Peninsula.

**Key achievement:** SCS has become the key player in protection in emergency in Sa'ada. As a leader for the Education Sub cluster and joint leader with UNHCR/UNICEF on the Protection Cluster. SCS played a lead role on advocating on Child Soldiers through these clusters. **In 2010: Key achievements**

- Eight school based child protection communities were established and functional with schools and community in Sana'a.
- Over 16,000 conflict affected children are supported through direction actions in Child Friendly Spaces and work in School and another 20,000 children have been supported through community mobilization, media campaign, and work with Imams, MoSAL and local partners. This was a direct result of SCS role in emergency response in protection. **In 2011:** Refugee community leaders were trained by SCS on protection issues to respond to refugee children during civil unrest. Using evidence-based advocacy to highlight child protection issues at all levels by 30% of partner organizations was a clear result.
- Lessons learned

## EDUCATION

Despite recent gains in enrolment, school statistics in Yemen remain among the lowest in the Arab world, especially for girls and particularly in rural areas. In Yemen, a key factor affecting the risk of being poor is the lack of education. About 87 per cent of the poor did not complete primary education, or are illiterate. The overall goal for the Save the Children education programmes is that all children have access to quality education in schools or in non-formal settings. To achieve this Save the Children Yemen carry out immediate and long term support to children's education in both development and emergency situations.

In 1982, MoSA in Northern Yemen requested funds for the establishment of a mental health care unit for around 100 mentally ill men. SCS rejects the proposal as it did not fit the SCS mandate. The support of SCS to the pre-school "City of Light" continues with the help of a Swedish pre-school teacher who had 2 Yemeni assistants to run the school. The school had 25 children (aged 3-6 years) who had parents who had leprosy. The pre-school is well-suited to Yemeni culture and Yemeni conditions. The teaching is oriented towards areas that need to be prioritised in a developing country such as personal hygiene, environmental hygiene and nutrition. A new school building for 50 children started being built in 1982. SCS contributed to equipping 1 more pre-school in Taiz. Since June 1982 SCS has supported a medical research unit which is supervised by the MoH. A Swedish consultant/ paediatrician is connected to the project. The support to the Eritrean refugees is continuing.

Since 1992 SCS is providing elementary and secondary education to Somali refugees in Yemen benefiting 4 thousand Somali children every year. Save the Children Sweden has been working with the Yemeni ministry of education on providing education to children with disabilities.



In 1982, SCS supported the pre-school "City of Light" which had 25 children (aged 3-6 years) who had parents who had leprosy.

## Key thematic priorities

**Refugee Education:** As a mandate of SCS to provide basic education for refugee children, in cooperation and support of UNHCR, Somali Refugee Primary School was established in 1992 to insure the education right for Somali children. As stated in the chart, the enrollment of the children was increasing. It reached 3756 boys and girls.

## Achievements

**In 2004:** SCS started supporting college/ university education for Somali youth.

**In 2006:**

- The starting of using Yemeni curriculum.
- The entire education sector in refugee camp became under SCS management



- The integration of refugees with civil society.
- Facilitate access of refugees to the certificates of the Ministry of Education, as well as the possibility of joining secondary education.
- In 2008, SCS succeeded to get an additional fund from BPRM to develop basic services including education.
- **In 2010: Key achievements** Education community awareness campaign for parents on the value and importance of education was conducted by SCS.

**Inclusive Education (IE):** Work in inclusive education has been initiated in 1997 as a project in three governorates (Taiz, Lahej and Abyan) and were chosen based on the presence of the community-based rehabilitation (CBR) program. The initiation of inclusive education program was an evidence of Yemen's commitment to its obligations under the Convention on Rights of the Child to which had signed and ratified in 1991. Fourteen schools were selected in the mentioned governorates. During 1997 – 2001 the inclusive Education Directorate within the Ministry of Education (MoE) and in participation with SCS implemented a number of training courses and workshops through local and regional experts. Program Expansion: The decision of expanding the program was based on the existing pilots in the targeted governorates (Taiz, Lahej and Abyan). The expansion included Sana'a, Aden, Hodeida, Al-Mahweet, Ibb, Hadramout and Dhamar. In 2006 the expansion included five new governorates: Al-Mahra, Sa'ada, Mareb, Amran and Shabwa.

In 2008: With the support of Dubai Cares and in the participation of the CBR Aden, Lahej and Abyan, SCS is working in five districts in two rural provinces (Lahej and Abyan) and eight urban districts in the province (Aden). The project was launched by Dubai Cares in October 12, 2008. It aimed at increasing the enrolment rates of children coming from vulnerable groups, improving the quality of education and ensuring the inclusion of girls in schools in a Child-friendly environment.

## Key achievements

**In 2008,** 35 IE schools are inclusive and child-friendly in 3 governorates and all children in those schools successfully learn to read. 35 IE schools have active father-mother councils and student councils and CBR networks have active links with IE schools. Impact: There is an increase in the number of children having access to quality education.

**In 2009,** Despite the challenges that were represented in obtaining data for monitoring and evaluation difficulties, insecurity in accessing school impact areas particularly in (Lahej and Abyan) due to recent political unrest in the south, and also the high level of centralization that was applied in the Ministry of Education, SCS continued a community-based, child-focused health and nutrition education program in Lahej, Abyan & Aden governorates. A total of 12 schools communities, 303 young people (72 boys and 231 girls) were trained in working with children and using the nutrition module. Through fun activities, children learn information and practices related to nutrition. A total of 2928 children (1350 boys and 1578 girls) participated in the activities and completed

the cycle of 12 sessions. At the end of the module, a campaign was organized in 6 schools neighborhood, in Bir ahmed, Radfan & almemdara school in Aden, in Abbas boys & girls & Iqbal school in Lahej, volunteers participated and approximately 1500 child participated boys, girls and with total 148 volunteers participated (51 boys – 97 girls), spreading messages to approximately 3,000 community members.

**In 2011:** SCS completed construction work in nine schools in Lahej, seven schools in Abyan and seven schools in Aden (totally 23 schools). Construction work included construction and equipping of twelve resource rooms and fifteen reception rooms; Maintaining eleven class rooms in order to use them as resource as well as maintaining eight class rooms in order to use them as reception rooms. Four toilets were built as well as maintenance and rehabilitation of 104 latrines; 23 schools became accessible for disable children (ramps and toilets); and provided with drinking water system.

## CIVIL SOCIETY AND CHILD RIGHTS

1979: A decision was taken to give 210,000 SEK for a pilot project in Sana'a to take care of children and youth in conflict with the law. 150,000 SEK which was supposed to be for a Swedish expert was never used and of 60,000 SEK which was supposed to be for the 4 local employees there was only 51,420 SEK paid. The project management are seeing that other payments are uncontrollable because the initiative taker is no longer responsible for the activity (i.e. the original Colonel who initiated it).

### Key achievements

- In 1999, The Yemen Child Law was written as a significant development after holding up a series of meetings and seminars in participation of SCS.
- After conduction a series of meetings in the participation of SCS, a ministerial decree was signed in August 1999 by the minister of education in which children with disability were given the right to attend Governmental schools.
- **In 2001:** In cooperation with Aden National Library and Aden Girl Guides, SCS established a mobile library in Aden Hospital.
- **2002 Children's Parliament:** SCS is working to promote child participation in Yemen and supports the Children's Parliament. This is a national venue for children to voice their views on issues faced by children in Yemen. The Children's Parliament is an advisory body and its members represent children from all governorates, and include working children from the marginalized community. Click the link bellow to see stories from the Children's Parliament. <http://mena.savethechildren.se/MENA/News-and-events/Press-Releases/Saada/Yemen-stories/The-Childrens-Parliament-in-Yemen>
- **In 2006** The issuance of The International Convention on the Rights of the



In 2009, SCS celebrated its 90th years and the 20th years of CRC with participation of Children, NGOs and government.





Child (CRC) and its impact on the Yemeni level. This was funded by SCS.

- SCS launched the Community Youth Development Program (Naseej). This program aimed to provide more job opportunities for youth and help them to play and active role in community development.
- **In 2007:** With the support of Save the Children USA, SCS launched the Youth Capacity Building (Seraj) program as a **part of a regional program that covers five countries; namely, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine and Yemen. This program supports youth and volunteers capacity who work directly with youth, institutions and individuals who work with youth. It looks for successful young leaders and presents them as a module to youth in Yemen and the Arab world so as to form positive visions in leadership to contribute in community development. The program supported and trained a number of youth groups in Aden and Sana'a, Taiz and Hodeidah targeted 210 young men and women from 20 provinces.**
- **In 2008:** Under the USAID Youth Empowerment Program (YEP), SCS started work with youth, their families, their communities and the Yemeni government to provide youth with a voice and to engage young people's energy to positively contribute to their futures. The program carried out at local levels with a special focus on three areas that have certain geographical features; Sana'a, Ibb and Aden/ Abyan.
- **In 2009:** SCS built the capacity of the Yemen National NGOs Coalition for Children Rights Care in fundraising and they managed to get EU support for two years.
- **In 2010:** President of Yemen gave directives to the Ministry of Education to take the recommendations of the Children Parliament regarding Inclusive Education.
- **In 2011:** Children parliament recommendations on children rights issues were submitted to all related stakeholders at national and international levels.

## EMERGENCY

SCS was an international mandate to respond to emergency situations and a core of trained national staff ready to respond to emergencies in Yemen. Several emergency programmes were kicked off in response to the increased violent conflict in Yemen

- **1970**, There was an emergency situation in Yemen – certain measures had been taken after the report that had come in from the project director CB Agartz. An extra team composed of 1 doctor, 2 nurses and 2 team helpers were employed and they arrived in Yemen on 26 August. SCS asked for funds from “Radiohjalpen” (like a radio appeal) to raise money for the famine. They contributed with 200,000 SEK. The special team sent reports in which it was clear there was a great need to equip already existing health centres and to start the activities there, after making financial calculations the DR of the team decided to send in a report so that a decision could be taken at the annual meeting. It was decided to increase the assistance to Yemen due to the famine.
- Another request came in for SCS to start up a health ward for treating illness in Zabid and to also have mobile health activities in certain villages in the area of Zabid, according to a specific programme. It was planned for the existing clinic in Zabid to be extended in 1972 with a ward for 10 beds, and they established the need for Scandinavian health care staff. SCS approved these plans for extended assistance in Yemen due to the famine, and these proposals will be used to continue negotiations with Yemeni authorities and UN Agencies. The financial contribution was decided to be until 1971.
- **1971**, The original plans re: opening the preventive care centre and health care centres in Taiz as well as the mobile clinic were aborted. Instead SCS concentrated on the 10-20,000 inhabitants of Zabid and to create a health centre for children and for adults. From 1 January 1971 until 30 June 1972 the total costs for this were 605,000 SEK.

## Refugee in Yemen and emergency

- **1979**, 150,000 SEK was to be given to buy 75 tents for around 450 refugees from Eritrea who had arrived to Khocha in Northern Yemen. After the tents had been transported to Taiz there were still 83,500 SEK left – the PD Dr. Hermansson therefore used 50,000 SEK in an emergency situation by food supplement for these refugees. The government of Northern Yemen has reduced its contribution to the health ministry's budget by 25% (1 July 1979 to 1 June 1980) – which means a cut in the project budget by 13.6%. In order not to reduce the activities in the project, Dr. Hermansson asked for an additional fund of 272,000 SEK for the period 1 July 1979 to 31 December 1979. At first the committee dealing with this request recommended for the board to issue this amount but the SG went to a trip to Northern Yemen and visited the refugees from Eritrea in Khocha and said the refugees are in need of a school and proposed that



As a mandate of SCS to provide basic education for refugee children, in cooperation and support of UNHCR, Somali Refugee Primary School was established in 1992 to insure the education right for Somali children. As stated in the chart, the enrollment of the children was increasing. It reached 3756 boys and girls.

# 50 YEARS

1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969  
1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979  
1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990  
1991 1992-1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999  
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011-2012

SCS reserve funds to build a school. SCS Board then reserved 10,000 SEK to build a school for the refugees in Khocha.

- **1980**, During the past 4 years SCS has reached 400 refugees in Khocha. The PD Hermansson is requesting more funding of 75,000 SEK for these refugees for food, medicine, clothes, construction, and equipment of a clinic and health care training for 3 of the refugees, and this was approved. There had been previous negotiations between SCS and FAO regarding a possible collaboration for a nutrition program within FAO's agricultural cooperative in Northern Yemen hence Professor Yngve Hofvander will travel to Northern Yemen to elaborate on a nutrition program there.
- On 13 December 1982 the country is struck by an earthquake causing a great damage. Several cities and villages are destroyed – several thousand people, most of them women and children are killed and an uncountable number are left homeless. SCS received 3,000,000 SEK as disaster funds from SIDA and sent equipment for blood transfusion.

## SCS emergency response in Yemen, 2009 – 2011:

During the fifth and sixth rounds of armed conflict in Sa'ada governorate in 2009, SCS was the first international NGO operational in Amran and Haradh and one of only two NGOs that were able to maintain operations in Sa'ada city during the war. SCS have been responding to the Sa'ada emergency since 2009 with Child Protection, Emergency Education, Health and Nutrition and since the beginning of 2011, also Food security programming. In 2011, due to emerging civil unrest in Yemen during the spring and summer, SCS stepped its emergency response in other emergency affected areas as well.

## SCS emergency response in North Yemen 2009:

Since the beginning of the last round of armed fighting between Houthis and the Yemeni military and government-backed tribal fighters in Sa'ada, in August 2009, SCS responded to the emergency situation in North Yemen, and continues to work on the sectors that have the most impact on the lives and well-being of thousands of children: education, child protection and health and nutrition. SCS has been working in three governorates in the North Yemen - Sa'ada, Amran and Hajjah - responding to needs of IDPs and host communities who have been affected by the six rounds of war.

## SCS emergency response in Yemen, 2011:

In 2011, the humanitarian situation was further complicated. Children and their families faced a new set of challenges in Yemen due to the civil unrest. According to UNICEF reports, approximately 149 children were killed and 696 children were injured. SCS stepped up its emergency preparedness and responded to the crisis, supported by emergency funding from SCDK, UNICEF, UKAID, WFP and IOM. SCS mainly addressed the situation in the South Yemen where the access to services had been most severely affected. In the North (Sa'ada, Hajjah and Amran), SCS emergency programming in response to the 2004-2010 conflict include Child Protection, Emergency Education, Health and



Nutrition and Food Security funded by SIDA, UKAID, UNOCHA, USAID/FFP and WFP.

## **Total Reach - SCS Emergency Response, 2010 - 2011:**

- A total of 510,706 people directly benefited from SCS emergency response activities across Yemen from 2010 - 2011.
- A total of 39,727 people directly benefited from emergency education in North Yemen. These included children and teachers participated in awareness sessions, as well as those participated in students councils. This also include children who received school bags and uniforms.
- More than 437,000 people directly benefited from maternal, child and newborn health and nutrition projects.
- More than 13,000 conflict-affected children directly benefited from community based child protection activities including activities provided in the Child Friendly Spaces.
- The emergency food aid targeted urban IDPs giving priority to female headed households, and a total of 10,401 persons benefited from the distribution of monthly cash vouchers of 81 USD each to 1,400 households in Sa'ada city.

## **Health and Nutrition**

SCS continued looking for funds to extend the project further – the needs was still important as it was clear the Yemeni authority were not ready to take over the project. Unicef were willing to support SCS' vaccination and nutrition activities, if the project would continue after 1970. SCS decided to extend the project until end of December 1974, and to also take a certain portion of collected funds from 1969 for this.

After the December 1982 earthquake-affected area in Northern Yemen, there were a need for psychosocial support. A special commission was set up to take care of women and children and primary health care and the schools.

## **-Achievements**

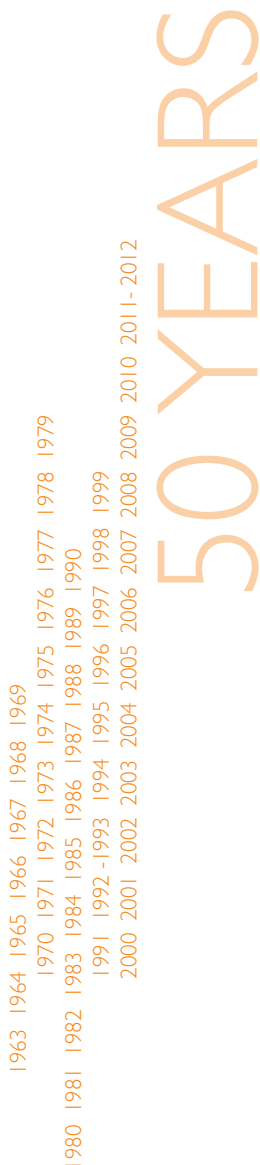
- **In 1982**, SCS clinic in Taiz is appointed by the Northern Yemeni government and the WHO/ Unicef as a national centre for fighting against diarrhoea through oral rehydration and a training centre for doctors and other personnel. The clinic is also used as a regional centre for continuing education of different groups of health care staff.
- **In 1984**, SCS prepared a program for women and children to improve the living condition and health of women and children who were struck by the earthquake and to develop a training program for certain villages struck by the earthquake.



SCS emergency programming in response to the 2004-2010 conflict include Child Protection, Emergency Education, Health and Nutrition and Food Security



1986 - SCS Constructions Rada Hospital Delivery Room



- **In 1987**, with support from the Canadian government contributed 150,000 Canadian dollars, SCS built new clinics in Zabid and Ibb governorates.
- **1988**, A country study was made based on SCS continued activity in Northern Yemen. A new agreement was prepared to hand over SCS main activities as follow:
- The responsibility of SCS for the Radaa clinic is handed over to a Dutch volunteer organisation.
- The responsibility of the Khocha refugee camp is taken over by OXFAM.
- A rehabilitation specialist is employed for the planned CBR in Taiz governorate.
- An agreement for the pre-school “City of Light” is being developed.
- The Canadian government is contributing with another 50,000 Canadian dollars for equipment for the Taiz clinic.
- SCS is giving support to a prison in Sana’a to improve the living conditions of women and children.

## COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY

SCS aims to ensure that child rights Civil Society Organizations effectively monitor the respect, protection and fulfilment of the rights of children in the region and hold governments accountable for realizing the rights of children. We work through national partners and the relevant government ministries including, MoPIC, MoE, MoSAL, MoHP, both at a central government and governorate level. We receive excellent support from these ministries which helps enable our work. SCS advocates to ensure all children in Yemen have the right to protection through formal and non-formal networks. SCS works specifically with vulnerable groups such as Somali refugees, IDPs from Sa'ada and other marginalised groups. SCS is working closely with the Government of Yemen to set up responsive national child protection networks



SCS is working closely with the Government of Yemen and advocates to ensure all children in Yemen have the right to protection, Education, survival, health and nutrition and participation

### Priorities

#### Advocacy for Yemeni Children returnee and Refugee

In the early 90s SCS took on emergency work with both the arrival of refugees from Somalia and the short Southern Secessionist war. This work generally revolved around education and mine risk education. SCS has over the years, with its core donor SIDA, advocated for the Rights of the Child with some success. Yemen is a signatory to the Child Rights Convention on 1991, has a Children's Parliament (supported by SCS) since 2002 to advocate for Children rights in Yemen and has taken many positive steps in realising Children's Rights. There is still some way to go with a few issues of special concern including the legal age for marriage, child recruitment in conflict and child trafficking. SCS works closely with the Government of Yemen (MoSAL, MoE, HCMC) to improve this situation.

Since 1992, SCS advocate for children's rights at the local and national levels.

**A** National Committee for Children's Rights: "experimental work" was launched in support of national organizations in the "right of children activities". Emergency management and educational programs for children from Somalia; contribution to UNHCR o MSF emergency + IDP children. Start of school programs for low and middle schools in refugee camps in Aden. Child-to-Child activities begin. Advocacy for children's right – especially for refugee children, street children and girls' education through using many cooperative channels including the media, researches and studies.

### Advocacy for Children with disabilities:

CBR program started in 1992 in Taiz and Lahej. Disability Federation o Ministry of Social Affairs. Hard to anchor the concept of CBR as a method. Media attention led to pay attention to children with disabilities very vulnerable and secluded situation. Rehabilitation / training in Aden: meant to educate rehabilitation techniques .



## Children's right issues in Media

SCS advocates for CRC through launching many activities with the media. Theatre performances carried and shown on television - Production of television programs and articles on CRC in newspapers . SCS supports the National Child Rights Coalition work to reach out to the general makers on the government. Support the alternative report to the Committee. Support for networks of children's rights organizations in the Arab world - regional follow-up seminar, materials production.

## Children's Parliament

The Children's Parliament has been in existence since the year 2000. Since 2002, Save the Children has been supporting the Children's Parliament over the years through capacity building activities and nation-wide awareness raising campaigns. The Children's Parliament is the national venue for children to raise their views on issues that are important to children and one of the few opportunities for children's voices to be heard. Through this, SCS strengthens children's capacity to effectively advocate for their rights with a focus on child participation, which is one of the basic principles of United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Children (UNCRC).

In 2008, the Children Parliament members developed an alternative report on the situation of children in Yemen which was later presented to the public. In 2010, the Parliament was supported in carrying out a national campaign on the dangers of early marriage to the life and health of girls. Similarly the parliamentarians had visited the camp for internally displaced people (IDP) in Sa'ada, Amran and Haradh to learn about the issues that IDP children are facing in the northern governorates of Yemen.

In 2010 Save the Children helped Children Parliament to increase its membership from 38 children to 50 children. To make it a body that represents Yemeni children from all sections including (boys, girls, working children, orphans, children with disabilities, and children from minorities) in which all governorates are represented in the parliament. President of Yemen gave directives to the Ministry of Education to take the recommendations of the Children Parliament regarding Inclusive Education.

**Youth and young people participation** In 2010, Ministry of Sport and Youth, Save the Children- Youth empowerment Project (YEP) funded by USAID launched the Regional conference for Youth Empowerment from 7-9 in Sana'a –Yemen. This conference was an opportunity for youth empowerment and participation to be decision makers in issues that directly affect them. And to ensure Youths voices are heard through preparing, planning, and implementing this conference with a focus on vulnerable youth in decision-making.

## Birth Registration

The Yemeni legislation that ensures birth registration include articles 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 29 and 30 of the Civil Status and Civil Registration Act instructing that "the child's birth must be registered by notifying the Civil Status Department within 60 days from his or her date of birth". Since 2004- 2008,

SCS in cooperation with UNICEF, (HCMC) and UNFPA advocated towards the authorities to ensure that birth registration is for free and easily accessible to guarantee one of the basic rights of children as stated in Article 7 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child. Birth registration is a serious issue in Yemen. Until April 2006, birth registration with the Civil Status and Registration Authority (CSRA) necessitated a fee that a big percentage of Yemeni parents could not afford. SCS achieved this through launching campaigns to raise the awareness of Yemenis and refugees in two districts in Sana'a on the importance of obtaining birth certificates. In 2007, the Prime Minister issued Decree No. 120 for the year 2006, making the issuing of birth certificates a free service. Subsequently, 276,716 birth certificates were issued.<sup>39</sup> The Government also developed a national strategy for 2008 to 2015 to develop Civil Status and Civil Registration.

in 2007 in Sana'a, Yemen, SCS in collaboration with the Arab Human Rights Foundation and the Yemeni Disability Fund for Care and Rehabilitation are holding a regional consultation meeting on Children's Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD). Children's recommendations were contributed to the development of a CRPD implementation advocacy handbook that will promote the rights of children with disabilities worldwide and that will be published by Save the Children in 2008.



In 2009, Save the Children launched Every ONE Campaign

## Every One campaign

Every child has the right to survive and thrive. The under-5 child mortality rate in Yemen is 73 children per 1000 live births, which is symptomatic of the humanitarian and developmental problems facing children in the country. Rates of severe and moderate acute malnourishment are high across the country, and children affected by

conflict have increased vulnerability to negative impacts. Save the Children's global Every One campaign is boosting the international community's effort to save the lives of millions of children that die from basic illnesses every year. The Yemen country programme has developed a strategy for Child Survival, working with authorities and local communities to improve health and nutrition across the area where we work. Most of our health and nutrition work is based around our emergency interventions. In 2009, Save the Children launched Every ONE Campaign to Reduce and Child Mortality Worldwide with a session for Children Parliament members to advocate for the child right to be saved and encourage the government to move forward for children's benefit. In 2011 we plan to expand these activities across the country into more development programmes and to raise the profile of the issue through advocacy.

## SC Strategic advocacy plans for 2009-2012

SCS had a three strategic advocacy plans for 2009-2012 focus on the main

<sup>39</sup> Children's Parliament under the supervision of Democracy School, "First Report By the Children's Parliament on the Conditions of Children in Yemen 2008", pg. 15 and Meeting between SOUL for Development and the Study and Research Officer at the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood, Sana'a, 12 February 2011





thematic areas ; Child Right to protection, Education and Participation. The main goals are:

- **Child Right to Participation:** Develop and implement a SC children's/ youth participation policy to promote participation of children and youth in decision-making in programming that concerns children and young people with civil society partners, including SC itself.
- **Child Right to Education:** Basic Education is a right for all children in Yemen. In 2008 Save the Children US (SCUS) officially joined SCS in Yemen. With funding for Inclusive Education from Dubai Cares, Save the Children in Yemen was formed. The country programme was set up with SCS as managing member. The merger of the two organisations and their different operating styles has been complimentary and a real success for the children. During 2010, one of the main focus of the children's parliament was on Inclusive Education through a specific session on this issue which was discussed with decisions makers and related stakeholders. The session recommendations put forward by the Children Parliament on Inclusive Education has also been endorsed by the President of Yemen, who has issued directives to the Ministry of Education to take these into action to allow children from minorities and disadvantaged sections to attend government run schools.
- **Child Right to Protection:** Implementation of the Ban on the use of violence against children in schools. MoE issued in 2002 a resolution banning corporal punishment in schools and there is absence of implementation of this ban. One of the key of recommendations of UN Study on Violence against Children is to stop all forms of violence against children including sexual abuse and exploitation: corporal punishment and all other forms of degrading punishment, in all setting, including the home. Article 19 in the Convention on the Rights of Children states that countries have obligations to stop child's abuse, violence and neglect. For the ban to be issued advocacy was focused on the development of new or the improvement of existing legislation to improve the integration of the CRC into Yemeni law, as none of the existing legislation said anything about the use of physical and humiliating punishment by adults with children, in the home or in the school. The advocacy aimed at a specific mentioning of banning physical and humiliating punishment in schools and was applied at two main levels; initially at the school level and later at the central MoEd level. The final steps towards the issuing of the Decree were supported by a range of actors; the National NGO coalition for the Rights of the Child, consisting of more than 40 local NGOs, international NGOs, such as Save the Children, as well as UN agencies, such as UNICEF and WHO. Together with ministries, such as Ministry of Human Rights and the HCMC and institutions such as the Children's Parliament the advocacy was implemented. The Decree provided for new legislation and by incorporating it into the Child Law, existing legislation was strengthened. The process shows that at the school level, the school councils were essential for the start of the process as well as the ownership of the issue by both the school and the community, while a shift to the central level with participation of civil society was essential for legislation.

## Animate It movies

Save the Children believes in children's right to participation. Every child has the right to participate in decisions that affect their lives in a meaningful way. Children participate by having opportunities to have their voices heard. Save the Children continuously seeks adapted methods and techniques to empower children and make their voices heard. "Animate it" is a technique focused on children who tell stories about their lives and learn to understand their rights. Using simple tools of animation it is possible for children to create animation films on their own to be used as an educational tool but also as a tool to advocate for issues and concern. To see short animations movies made by children, documentary films...etc. visit <http://www.youtube.com/user/SavethechildrenY>



## Advocacy for protection and education during civil unrest in Yemen 2011

The "Arab spring", starting in Tunisia, and spreading throughout North Africa and Middle East, reached Yemen in February 2011. For three months, the country has seen civil disobedience, sit-in demonstration, and marches led by people whose aim is to oust President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the ruler of Yemen for the past 33 years. On many occasions the demonstrations have been met with violence and force, on some occasions the demonstrations themselves turned violent. Children are part of those killed and injured in demonstrators. They have become victims both as bystanders caught in the unrest, and as active participants in protests targeted by official security forces or armed supporters of the current regime.

## Save the Children Advocacy and Communication response:

Save the Children, as co-lead of the Education Cluster, and an active member of the Protection Cluster and the Child Protection sub-cluster, has taken the lead in cluster-led campaigns to mitigate the impact that the civil unrest has on children and to ensure that children's rights are protected. The protection advocacy aims at protecting children from violence related to the recent civil unrest, while the education advocacy aims at ensuring children's access to education (formal and non formal). A special campaign aimed at ensuring that as many children as possible could attend the national exams that were brought forward to early May by the Ministry of Education (MoE). Earlier advocacy to delay the exams and to extend the school year were not successful. There are strong links between the two advocacy initiatives; children who are attending education (formal and non formal) are much less likely to be victims to violence due to the civil unrest.

Advocacy to ensure that children sit exams: The Education Cluster developed a plan for a campaign around the early school exams. **More info about this is attached,** A copy of the TV flash about exam is posted here: <http://www.youtube.com/user/SavethechildrenY#p/u>

50 YEARS

1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969  
1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979  
1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990  
1991 1992-1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999  
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011-2012



- -Links to videos and visibility materials

Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/SavethechildrenY>

children in Yemen and UN Child Rights Committee

Because of the continuation of the region's poorest country, the world record in educational discrimination against girls. High proportion of errors or malnourished children, high infant mortality, and working children begging on the streets is increasing. Continued internal splits in the ruling coalition, which led to political paralysis and local clashes.

In 1995, UN Child Rights Committee expressed deep concern over the persistent discriminatory attitudes towards girls and said, among other things that the government should revise legislation that stipulates a lower marriage age for girls. As for the most vulnerable groups including "girls, children in rural areas .. affected by armed conflict, .. with disabilities. "Akhdam", and those who are forced to live / work in the street. "SCS supports in following up the recommendations of UN with government and NGOs

SCS supports the National Child Rights Coalition work

Advocacy on the UN Committee's treatment of the Yemeni Child Rights Report, support for the preparation of action plan, support for the review of national child welfare legislation, training materials and production. The coalition now seems to have one local and national forces by concentrating and focus its efforts on specific target groups of vulnerable children. Follow-up of Yemen's UN reporting - Seminars and media coverage, cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Child Rights Coalition. Support for networks of children's rights organizations in the Arab world - lies in the region, but the land office has continued to lead the seminars, etc.



## **1997**

National Child Rights Coalition's work - - Publication and dissemination of research on national child protection legislation, in-house management issues, training of trainers convention. Follow-up of Yemen's UN reporting - Seminars and media coverage in connection with the Yemeni additional UN report 1997th SCS contributed to the work on the report, advice and support.

Pros: Child Rights Coalition included in a natural way of meetings and discussions on issues related to policies and strategies on children's rights and children. Applies to both government and international organizations including UN. Happily for the operation of Somali refugees, the active participation and involvement of men, women, boys and girls from the local community.

## **1998**

Actions

CRC generally: Children's right 1 / Conventional education, child-oriented professionals - pilot training for example, lawyers and journalists, support for local experiments with the introduction of child rights teaching school. Children's right 2/ Child Rights Awareness through cultural institutions - re-established cooperation with the National Library of Aden, at least two performances by child rights theme. Children's right 3/ Support to Child Rights Coalition - Strengthen the organization's competence to plan and implement the information and training, and networking with additional local and international sponsors. Children's right 4 / Follow-up of Yemen's reporting to UN Child Rights Committee - Implementation of the study of BKS impact, seminars and meetings on children's rights with representatives of relevant ministries, the media and NGOs. SCS ran the Ministry of Social work in the report, as well as the printing of the Arabic version of the spread.

## **inclusive education - IE 1998**

CBR - Continued training for new field workers and government personnel, strengthening of the Social Ministry of the leadership organization for the program. and Support the development of methods for integrated education (inclusive education - IE) with the Ministry of Education as principal. Noted that children from CBR projects were consulted before the formulation of IE and their views have influenced the design of the project. Other players in IE is the UNESCO and UNICEF. Activities for Children and Youth with disabilities - to bring about more positive attitudes towards inclusion and removal of resources for rehabilitation and the education of children with disabilities. School Preparation program. Special training for children with disabilities other than movement-disabled - Experimentation with integration into regular school of the blind / visually impaired children, the strengthening of cooperation between the Blind Association and Ministry of Education, Development of the Blind Association's service to the children.

Socially and economically vulnerable children (SESUB): Survey of Child Labour - Ensure follow-up through the concrete support and investigative projects led by the authorities and organizations, phase-out of SCSS involvement as



a key player in question. The study will hopefully contribute to the work plans of action for child labor. Preventing child street work - the creation of management teams in the local community and training of local leaders, analysis of the results of sociological survey and evaluation. Children in jail / children in care - Continued improvement in the situation of children in specific activities, seminars around the country with representatives of the Government and NGOs on a study of young offenders. (The study was completed not).

Children in war and on the run (BIKOF): Somali refugee children on the run - Ensure the right to education and development of children who have fled / returned from Somalia. and Pre-school education in the refugee camps, special training of teachers, psycho-social work. CBR. Rehabilitation of children after the Civil War - Complete Child-to-Child associations, support the training of and the formation of the association for social workers, management training, follow-up campaign around landmines. Focus on work on landmines because of the government's ratification (see above). Interventions for children with war trauma - Consisting decentralized system of child mental health care. Complete training for relevant professionals and support the development of systems and routines for further decentralized operations. Vocational training for girls in Al Basatin - facilitating the Somali and return Somali / Yemeni adolescent girls adjusting to life in Yemen, combat sexual abuse. Specific training in income generating projects for girls. Child Rights Focused workshops with representatives of the local community.

**Other:** Integrated Model project for health development - Setting up a system of democratic control of health care, provide training for local communities representatives and health workers, establish an effective cost-recovery drug system, improving health units function and carry out rehabilitation of buildings, etc. where needed. The project has succeeded beyond expectations to develop the sense of local ownership. Parents' successes very encouraging.

#### Conclusions / lessons learned

- First, the study's conclusions about the CRC impact. Of particular interest to most international donors from the United Nations to Ingo, no child focus in their programs. Would be good if for example the Alliance and the INGO Group in Geneva, drew attention to these shortcomings and began to take action.
- Poor eyesight a serious handicap that resulted in premature leavers. Glasses Testing introduced in the CBR.  
Sustained improvements for children living in vulnerable situations is a very uncertain and time-consuming process.

Pros: The Ministry of Education publicly committed to children with disabilities have both rights to education and to the extent possible in regular schools.

## Fundraising and working with external donors (1 page)

### 1975

Margareta Tullberg is reporting that several requests have come from the Red Cross and the UN Disaster Coordinator regarding assistance in the Disaster struck areas. There was flooding in Yemen and the population of Sana'a was struck – SCS put their 2 vaccination teams at the disposal of the government. Children's clothing had also been distributed from existing emergency storages.

## 1976

Hakan Landelius after his visit to Northern Yemen, reported that the government had contributed with 1,000,000 SEK to a clinic activity. Currently there is a governmental 5 year planning going on for mother and child care activities in Northern Yemen and for which SCS clinic in Taiz is a model. Within the frame of this planning the Sana'a authorities wanted to connect the Project Director Ole Lundberg to the health ministry to implement these plans. Ole Lundberg is put at the disposal of the Ministry for one year. The total cost of the health project for children and mothers in Taiz and Zabid areas are expected to rise to 2,688,000 SEK. According to the agreement to gradually hand over the project to Northern Yemeni authorities they are expected to contribute with 1,200,000 SEK. In addition there will be a contribution from Norwegian SC with 155,000 SEK. There were also food sponsors. Food contribution will be 600,000 SEK.

## 1977

The project in Northern Yemen has considerably developed in a positive direction. The relation with the authorities is good, the Yemeni gov't has set aside 1,500,000 SEK for activities in Taiz and Zabid clinics. SCS is concerned about what will happen at the end of 1979 when the agreement between SCS and Yemeni authorities will end.

The government wished to use the SCS clinics for training for primary health workers, to include them in Yemeni government health care plans. The SG on his way home passed by the Finance Ministry in Kuwait to discuss a possible collaboration on Yemen. When the SG was visiting Sana'a in July and during a personal visit in Stockholm, the director of the Criminal care institutions of Northern Yemen Colonel Ahmed Mohammed Al Jerumouzi requested the assistance of SCS on how to take care of ex-detainee children. Al Jerumouzi was one of the initiative takers on rehabilitation of ex-detainee children is requesting help from Sweden to have a person who has experience in rehabilitation of children with a criminal record. This person would together with concerned authorities, make a plan for a pilot project to take care of children and youth in conflict with the law in Northern Yemen. SCS gave 210,000 SEK for one year for Scandinavian expertise in this field and maximum 4 civil employees.

## 1978

Tage Oihn reported that in 1977 the budget for the project in Northern Yemen



First emergency response team in North Yemen 2009 ( Amran and Haradh)



had been exceeded with 579,500 SEK after salary increased of the Yemeni staff and increased costs due to purchases of medicines and vaccines. SCS therefore granted an additional amount for the project in Northern Yemen. Additional assistance was requested regarding the purchase of the rabies vaccine. The health care minister from Northern Yemen will visit Sweden at the end of May and SCS, and also SCS Project Director Dr. Ingemar Hermansson will return to Sweden.

## 1980

The Dutch Embassy in Northern Yemen had contacted SCS. The Netherlands has a large development project in Radaa (south east of Sana'a). The Dutch Embassy has proposed that SCS becomes the implementing agency for running a clinic in Radaa and employ Yemeni staff for it. The Dutch gave 4,000,000 SEK to SCS to start the clinic and will totally finance it for a period of 5 years.

SCS gave an advance of 200,000 SEK to the new Mother and Child Project in Radaa. The advance will be reimbursed from the Hague when the Dutch government has taken a formal decision about this collaboration in Northern Yemen.

SCS gave a guarantee of 250,000 SEK for running expenses in Northern Yemen. Due to the insecurity in the sending of quarterly advances from the Northern Yemeni health ministry the PD requested to increase the guaranteed amount to become 500,000 SEK.

## 1981 medical research and evaluation

The MoH in Northern Yemen sent SCS a proposal for the establishment of an administrative unit for medical research and evaluation. SCS approved the project and to seek funding from SIDA for it. SCS rejected a proposal from FAO regarding continued support for an extended nutrition program in Tihama. The committee found that the project is outside the normal activity of SCS. SCS approved continued support for the Eritrean refugees in Khocha.

Voices of Children (1 or 2 case studies) – (3 pages)

We can select some stories and send them to Saleh

Voices of Staff (12- pages)

**Suggest to get quotes from Aisha, Gawad, Mohammed, an old employed i can call him and get quote**

List of publications (2 pages)

## Save the Children Sweden Staff, from 1999 – 2011

SCS HO sent a film team to Yemen to document and advocate for SCS activities in Yemen and the film was shown on TV on 1 November in Sewden. HO are in continued contact with Swedish MoFA who are continually orienting SCS staff visiting Yemen. As a result of this advocacy media campaign, SCS opened its first office in Yemen was on 1 November 1964 in Taiz with 3 nurses and 1 administrator staff.

- **1973**, Number of staff has now reached 90 persons in Taiz. This staff started to negotiate salaries. They agreed on a salary proposal which would mean a rise in operational costs of SCS in Yemen of 90,000 SEK. Leftover budget from the activity in Zabid was used to cover this and other extra operational costs which were due to the increasing inflation in the country. Forms of collaboration were discussed with the Norwegians – the Norwegians were willing to recruit and cover the cost of one doctor and one nurse from 1 January 1974. SCS decided to contribute with 70,000 SEK for immediate improving measures for the patients of the leprosarium in Taiz. Erik Linnander was employed as Project Director in Yemen from 1 February 1974. There is an ongoing investigation regarding the unreported funds by the Yemeni staff on the health project in Yemen – the Yemeni health ministry is informed. The report made them start a discussion around the routines in the financial administration of the SCS project.
- **1974**, Linnander leaves to continue his studies in Sweden – Captain Ola Lundberg was then recommended for the position. SCS agreement with the Yemeni authorities was extended until the end of 1978.
- **In 1983**, moved the central administration in Northern Yemen from Taiz to Sana'a.
- **In 2007**, SCS in Yemen through unified presence with Save US changed its name to Save the Children. works in three main thematic areas which are: Child Rights, Education and Protection.
- **In 2009 -2011**, SCS geographical coverage has been increased due to emergency in Sa'ada. It's been working in Aden, Abyan, Lahej, Ibb, Taiz, Sana'a, Sa'ada, Hajjah and Amran provenances.
- **Growth in programs and operations:** In addition to continuation of SIDA Core as SCS donor, there was an expansion of new donors (EU, SIDA Hum Emergency, Dubai Cares, DFID, OFDA, MOI, OCHA, ERF, UKAID and USAID).

In budget terms Save the Children Yemen has grown from around \$1 million two year turn over to over 10 million USD for 2011.

- **Staff growth:** The country programme has seen a large growth over the last two years from a relatively small rights based programme of around 17 staff to a large scale rights and community based programme of 133 staff. SCS has a country office in Sana'a, area offices in Sa'ada and Aden, and four smaller field offices.



# 50 YEARS

1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969  
1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979  
1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990  
1991 1992-1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999  
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011- 2012

## VOICE OF STAFF WORKED WITH SCS



Aisha Saeed

Since 1996 until now, she got many positions with SCS. She started as Program officer, then Head of Aden Office. Aisha Saeed is the Senior Protection Specialist in SCS "I used to be an English Teacher and Inspector; my job had me working with children all the time. However, Save the Children concentrates on all children but focuses on vulnerable groups such as refugees and this was an eye opener for me when I started working here. During the years, SC strengthened my commitment to promote children rights especially the right to protection."



Mohammed Al-baadani joined SCS in 1998 as a driver and we were very small staff not like now. In 2007, the number of staff was increased as new offices were established "I am very grateful that I got the opportunity to work in SC where I have gained great experience for years. I started as a driver and then was promoted with time as I attended many training sessions to improve my skills. I am now an Administration Assistant and I love my work here."



Mohammed Qayed Mohammed worked with SCS since 2003 as Security Guard. He was immigrated in Saudi Arabia then he came back to Yemen and started his work with SCS. "I was living in my village and I could not find a job so I moved with my family to Sana'a City. "I worked with SCS as a Security Guard and I really love my work. I gained all the experience and received many trainings that built my capacity and learn a lot. I sure wouldn't have had the same privileges working elsewhere."



**We save children's lives. We fight for their rights. We help them fulfill their potential.**

**Our vision** is a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation. **Our mission** is to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children, and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

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