

Protection Rapid Needs Assessment Report

Sa'ada governorate

❖ **Introduction:**

Since 2004, Yemen is facing major humanitarian crisis led to major population displacement in the country and severe restriction in livelihood and basic needs. This situation has exacerbated in mid- March 2015, when the conflict has spread to 20 of Yemeni's 22 Governorates and start of KSA led decisive operation against Houthies forces and their allies in Yemeni Army. More than one year of of conflict in Yemen has exacted a dreadful toll on civilians, who urgently require assistance to protect their lives and fundamental rights.

Sa'ada governorate is the most affected governorate in Yemen. It was affected by army conflict since June 2004 in which that suffered from the 6 wars. More than one year ago, KSA airstrikes started against Yemen, Sa'ada governorate affected by the most intensive airstrikes. Majority of its population fled to neighboring governorate and became IDPs, while the most vulnerable people of women, men, boys and girls of whom were forced to stay in conflict areas or flee among the governorate or to the mountains, thus, faced the most deteriorated humanitarian context at all. In addition, it is hosted by 245,897 IDPs; in accordance to the 8th task force report on population movement. As Sa'ada is one of the most conservative community in Yemen, it is clear that incidents of GBV are under-reported, but there are indications of them.

To assess the scope of the problem, identify needs and improve appropriate response, NFDHR has conducted the rapid protection needs assessment in three districts of Sa'ada governorate; Those are: Sa'ada city, Sihar and Al Safra districts.

Objectives of the Assessment:

- 1- To assess the level of awareness of protection issues in the targeted districts.
- 2- To assess the protection needs in the three-targeted districts.
- 3- To design suitable response mechanism based on the needs and to improve the available services.
- 4- To assess the possibility of implementation of such kinds of projects in such conservative communities.
- 5- To create initial acceptance among the communities of carrying out the protection projects, particularly those related to SGBVs.

❖ **Methodology:**

a) Assessment Tool:

A combination of questionnaire survey, Focus group discussion and key informants interviews were implemented in the three targeted districts (Sa'ada city, Sihar and Al Safra districts).

b) Sampling Method:

- Random sampling method was used to conduct the assessment.

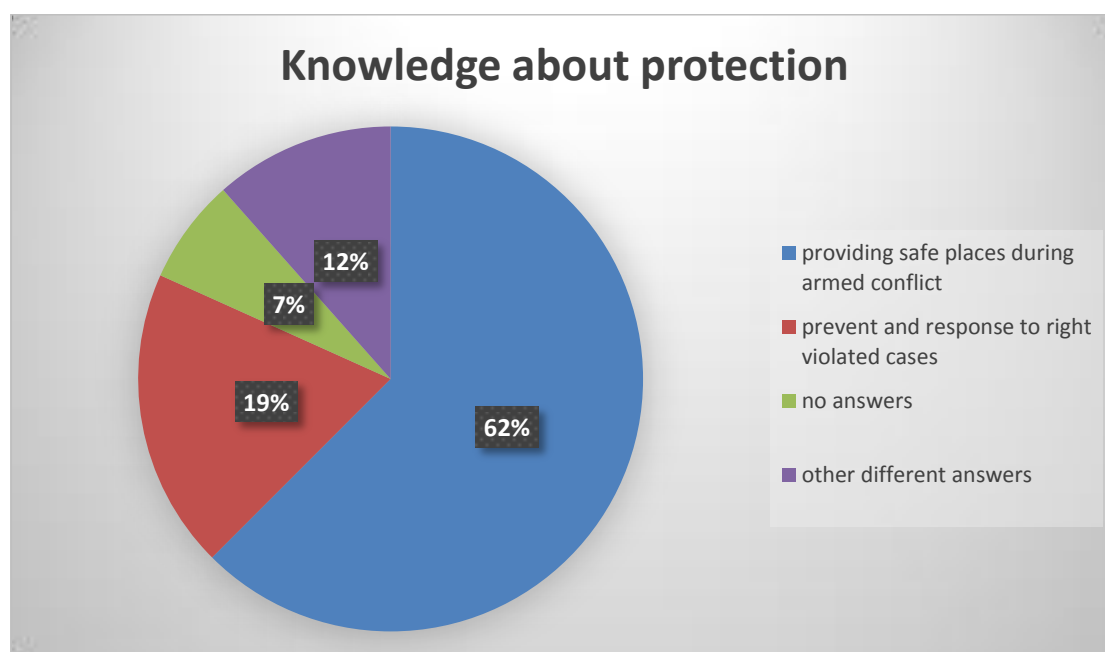
- Total of 245 of communities' members, leaders and children were interviewed used the opened & closed questionnaire forms designed for each groups.
- Total of 21 Focus Group Discussions (FGD) were conducted (7 in each district), participants in each one ranged between 9 – 12 of men, women, boys and girls.

c) **Data Collection:**

NFDHR formed 6 data collection teams in the three targeted districts (3 male & 3 female teams). Those teams had conducted 21 focus groups discussion with community members (men, women, boys and girls) and 4 meetings with the community leaders. This includes the interview with key informant.

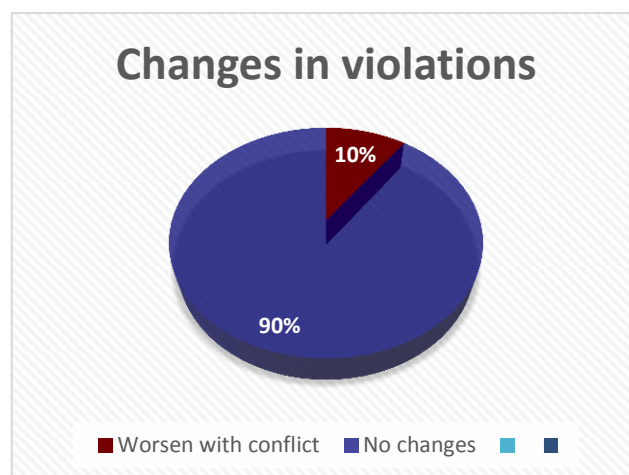
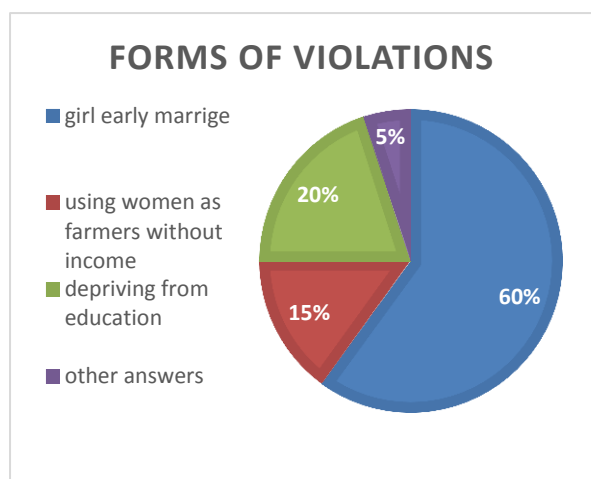
❖ **Data Analysis:**

Knowledge about protection: nearly 62 % of respondents respond that the protection means to protection women and children during conflict and to provide them with safe places. 19 % explained that it is Prevent and response to right violated cases. 7% could not answer this question and 12% responded by different other answers



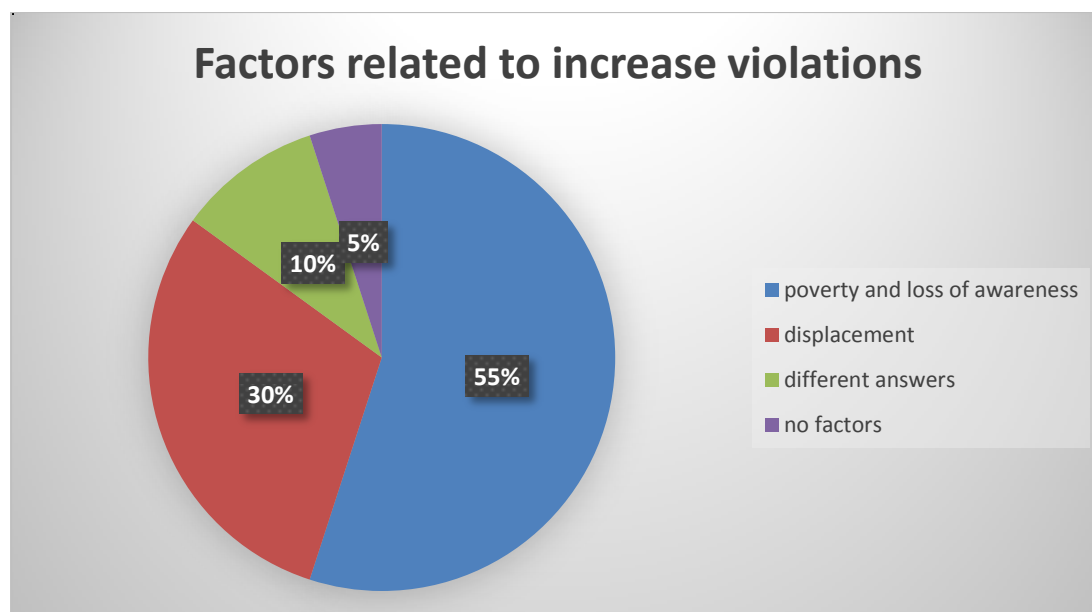
❖ Forms of violations and GBV in communities:

Approximately 60 % stated that the girls early marriage is the most form of GBV in the society. 15% using women and widows as farmers without income. 20 % stated that depriving of education especially for girls. 5% had different answers such as mistreatment of children. 90% stated that the violations worsen with the conflicts



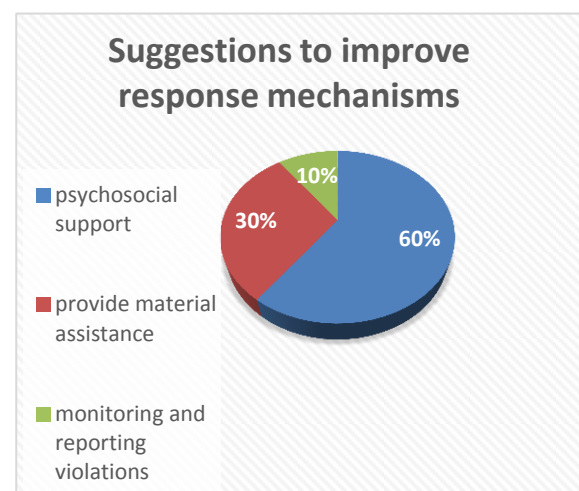
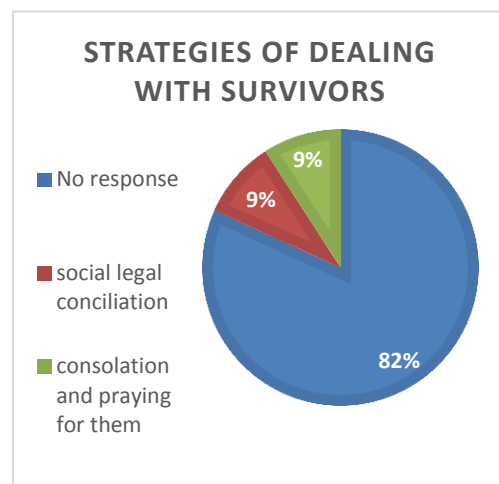
❖ Factors related to increasing violations:

- 55% stated that poverty and ignorance are the main factors that cause increasing of violations cases. 30% concentrated on displacement. 5% stated that there are no factors. 10% stated other diversity of answer such as, conflict, depression and other psychological problems.



Strategies of dealing with GBV survivors, perpetrators, and other violated cases:

- 98% of the selected sample stated that there are no strategy to deal with any one of them, while 1% stated that they are dealing with them with social legal conciliation. Other 1% stated that they are dealing with them by consolation.
- 60% of sample suggested providing psychosocial support. 30% suggested provision of material assistance and find job opportunities. 10% suggested monitoring and reporting violated cases.

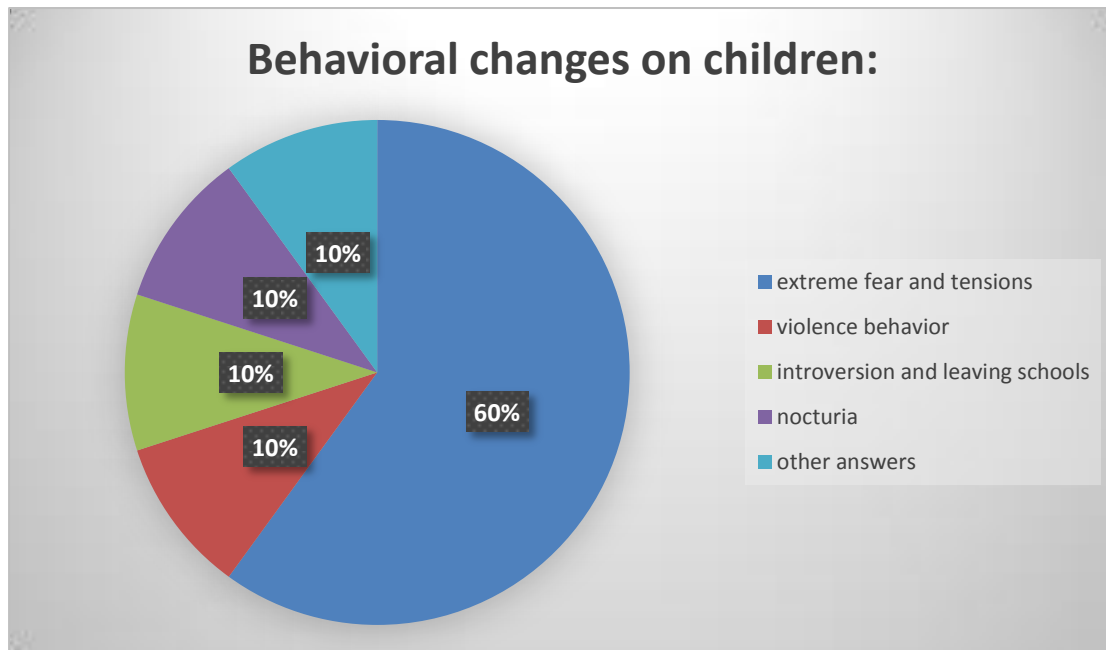


The available services in the communities:

- 99% agreed that there are no available services at all. 1% stated that there are inactive services providers.

❖ Behavioral changes on children:

- 60% of respondents stated that extreme fear and tensions is the behavior noticed among children. 10% stated on violence behavior, 10% stated introversion and leaving schools, 10% stated nocturia and 10 stated other different answers such as nightmares, children diabetes mellitus.... Etc.
- 99% stated that they do not do anything to deal with such behavior. They suggested to provide safe places for playing and find fast solutions to education.



Physically affected children due to UXO or Mines:

- 60% stated that they know children have body injuries due to explosions of UXO. 40% said that they do not know.
- Most of them explained that there are no efficient awareness about their risks and they suggested to conduct awareness sessions and mine removal.

➤ **Children:**

Risks or difficulties:

60% stated that plane shelling is the more risk and difficulties they face. 30% said displacement, 16 % said stopping of education, 4 % of girls said early marriages.

According to their answers, it is obvious that they are suffering from psychosocial distress.

- *When I hear plane, I hide, sprawl and close my ears*
- *We could not study and we have fear of planes. My friends' houses were targeted by plane shelling.*
- *Due to war and poverty, early marriages increase and spread among the communities..*

60% stated that they know children injured physically by the explosions.

- *Yes, but in neighboring village, one child died and the other lost his hand*

Most children respondents (girls and boys) want peace and safety, they want to play in safe grounds and desire to return to school permanently.

- *We want to study and play in parks.*

➤ **Community leaders:**

Knowledge of human rights law

- 75% stated that they know about human rights, but it is not applied in our country.

Percentage of violations

- 25% stated that the percentage of violations is ranging from 50 – 70%
- 50% stated it is ranging from 10 – 30 %
- 25% stated that it is from 70 – 100%.

Most vulnerable group:

- 50% is women and girls
- 25% women & girls & boys.
- 25% stated that all are vulnerable.

The most vulnerable age group:

- 50% agreed that it is from 12 – 18 years old
- 25% stated from 18 – 30
- 25 % said that all age groups are vulnerable.

Criteria of vulnerable groups:

- 100% agreed that there are no identified standards.

The most prominent kind of GBV:

- 75% stated that physical and domestic violence are the most noticed kind of GBV.
- 100% agreed that cases were exacerbated by the conflict, the factors ranging between loss of awareness and care and war.

Responsive Mechanisms:

- 75% stated that they provide social conciliation. 25% stated that they provide medical and cash assistance.

Available services:

- 75% stated that there are no available services, while 25% stated that there is a team for mine risk education.
- There are noticed changes in children behaviors such as extreme fear and tensions, violence, nightmares. The communities do not deal with these problems. They suggest to provide psychosocial support.
- They think that the main reason of injuries of children affected by explosion of UXO is loss of awareness of their risks among the communities.

❖ **Key Findings & conclusions:**

- 1- Loss of adequate awareness in protection issues and types of violations and GBV.
- 2- The prevalence of psychosocial problems is so high among people, particularly children.
- 3- Shortage of available service or knowledge about them.
- 4- The prevalence of mine injuries among children due to in adequate awareness.
- 5- Poverty and displacement are the main causes of violence among communities.
- 6- There are no strategies among the communities used to response or mitigate the protection incidence.

❖ **Recommendations:**

- 1- Raise awareness among the communities on protection issues, available services, and Mine risks.
- 2- Assist communities by providing cash assistance or job opportunities.

❖ Annexes (Pictures while focus group discussions):



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❖ **Focus groups Responses:**

District	Question	Men	Women	Numbers
Al Safraa	What do you know about protection?	Protect citizens from wars and killings and improve security and stability	Protect women, children during armed conflicts and provide safe places for them. Improving awareness to families about the human rights violations. Prevent and response to right violated cases.	Men: 9 Women: 46
	What are the most violations and violence, which found in your communities? Are there differences before and after armed conflict?	Planes shelling, terrifying of children and women by planes.	Girl early marriage. Mistreating of children, depriving of education, using women as farmers without income It worsen with conflict	
	Based on your thinking, what are the factors affected in raising of the violence and violations in your communities? Are there any differences with presence of armed conflict?	There is no violations or violence cases, than the plane shelling.	Some think that there are no factors. Others think loss of adequate awareness on the violations and forms of violence, displacement, increasing of poverty and ignorance and illiteracy.	
	How communities deal with GBV survivors? How they deal with the perpetrators? What are their strategies of dealing with these cases and how do you suggest to	By psycho-social support to victims	There are no strategies or actions. Suggestion: improve the situation by awareness	

	improve them?			
	What are the available services in your communities? What do you suggest to improve these services?	There is no services. We suggest providing services by international and local NGOs, presence of human rights organizations. Presence of safe places of the risks of shelling	There are no services. We suggest to provide protection centers for children and for people affected psychosocially.	
	What are behavioral changes on children caused the distress on parents in these situations?	Extreme fear and tension, loss of concentration during studying, difficulties to keep information.	Extreme fear and tension, autism, leaving schools, introversion.	
	How do you deal with these behaviors? What are your suggested services to response to these behaviors?	Taking children out to safer places. Support them psychosocially.	We can't do anything for them. We suggest to provide electricity and safe places for playing and fix the wall of school, find fast solutions to education, awareness and security	
	Do you know any child affected physically due to explosion of any kind of un-exploded remnants of weapons? What are the reasons and how we can prevent this in the future?	Yes, we suggest to provide expertized team to remove them, and print pictures of these harmful materials and warn children from them.	No.	

District	Question	Men	Women	Numbers
Sa'ada	What do you know about protection?	It is a program aim to monitor and report human rights violations. It is preventive and responsive program to abused, neglecting, and violated cases. Preventive measures for human rights violation	No answers	Men: 21 Women: 35
	What are the most violations and violence, which found in your communities? Are there differences before and after armed conflict?	Mistreatment of children and scolding them, physical violence, emotional violence and neglecting. These cases worsen with the situation.	Displacement and living in unsafe places, destroying houses, early marriage, depriving girls from education.	
	Based on your thinking, what are the factors affected in raising of the violence and violations in your communities? Are there any differences with presence of armed conflict?	Material and psychological status, poverty and displacement. Yes, it worsened	Poverty, inability to face the difficulties in life due to conflict, depression, psychological problems, displacement and loss of medical care	
	How communities deal with GBV survivors? How they deal with the perpetrators? What are their strategies of dealing with these cases and how do you suggest to improve them?	No dealing. Some answered that we sympathy with the survivors, the perpetrators are rejected by community. Improve the strategies by awareness, build protection centers, to make the idea reach to societies to accept the ideas of the problems to deal and response adequately to them.	There are no strategies or actions. Suggestion: provide psychosocial support and implement entertainment events to mitigate the psychological problem, monitor and report human rights' violations, find the organizations that provide material assistance.	
	What are the available services in your communities? What do you suggest to improve these services?	There is staff but neglected. Unsuitable and inadequate services. We suggest creation of protection centers and committees in districts.	There are no services. We suggest to provide psychosocial support for children to return to schools, provide material assistance to poor HHs	
	What are behavioral changes on children caused the distress on	Extreme fear and tension, divagation, hesitating, escaping from schools, introversion,	Extreme fear and tension, violence behaviors, psychological distress, leaving schools and	

	parents in these situations?	memory disorders and violent behavior. loss of concentration during studying, difficulties to keep information.	loss of desire to study.	
	How do you deal with these behaviors? What are your suggested services to response to these behaviors?	No dealing. We suggest to increase awareness of parents and present of fast solution to education.	We can't do anything for them. We suggest to provide safe places for playing and studying, material and psychosocial support	
	Do you know any child affected physically due to explosion of any kind of un-exploded remnants of weapons? What are the reasons and how we can prevent this in the future?	Yes. Reasons: loss of awareness on mine risks. We suggest to intensify the awareness on mine risks to be reached to each house and demanding to implement mine action	Yes. Remove mine by expertized team and raise awareness to mitigate the mine risks.	

District	Question	Men	Women	Numbers
Sihar	What do you know about protection?	Find safe places during wars and armed conflict. Providing basic needs for people during armed conflict.	Caring of children before the risks happen, caring of people during wars, provide suitable places to displacement.	Men: 18 Women: 30
	What are the most violations and violence, which found in your communities? Are there differences before and after armed conflict?	Girls marriage, prevent children from studying, denial of widows from all humanitarian services. Use women as farmers without income	Girl early marriage, exacerbating by conflict situation. Community deals sometimes by social conciliation. Preventing from education, planes' shelling.	
	Based on your thinking, what are the factors affected in raising of the violence and violations in your communities? Are there any differences with presence of armed conflict?	Poverty and ignorance. conflicts	Fear, displacement, unemployment, poverty, war. They worsen with the current situation.	
	How communities deal with GBV survivors? How they deal with the perpetrators? What are their strategies of dealing with these cases and how do you suggest to improve them?	No dealing with them. Improving Strategies: raise awareness and spread education.	By Consolation. Suggest: raising awareness	
	What are the available services in your communities? What do you suggest to improve these services?	There is no services. We suggest providing near schools	There are no services. We suggest to raise awareness, removing mines. Provide work opportunities	
	What are behavioral changes on children caused the distress on parents in these situations?	Extreme fear and tension, introversion	Extreme fear and tension, nightmares, mind distraction, leaving schools, violent behavior, nocturia, and children diabetes mellitus.	
	How do you deal with these behaviors? What are your	No dealing. Suggestion, to raise awareness, find	No dealing. We suggest to activate the organization roles in this	

	suggested services to response to these behaviors?	safety and provide them with some games.	regards	
	Do you know any child affected physically due to explosion of any kind of un-exploded remnants of weapons? What are the reasons and how we can prevent this in the future?	No.	Yes, by plane shelling. Suggestion, remove the mines	

Children:

District	Question	Boys	Girls	Numbers
Al Safra	What are risks and difficulties that you face in these situations	Randomly plane shelling. Fear and tension. Inability to concentrate at schools	Plane shelling, war, displacement, absence of education.	Boys: 11 Girls: 9
	Comments as they are said from children	We are not able to play football. We wish to study and feel safety We wish to go to the park or to playground, but we are afraid to be targeted by plane shelling.	Due to the war, we were displaced to safer place and we were prevented from education.	
	How do you deal with difficulties? Who are persons you rely on to face those difficulties?	Father Mother Older brother or sister School teachers	By patience. They rely on fathers	
	Comments as they are said from children	When I hear the plane, I run away to home because I do not want to die.	Due to displacement, no education. It is difficult to fathers to take us to school	
	Do you know any child affected physically due to explosion of any kind of un-exploded remnants of weapons? What are the reasons and how we can prevent this in the future?	We hear, see them in other areas. That because there are bombs from planes	No	
	What are service you want to have?	We want peace and safety. We want to return to school permanently.	Provide schools	

District	Question	Boys	Girls	Numbers
Sa'ada	What are risks and difficulties that you face in these situations	Delay of education. Fear Burns Physical and body injuries. disabilities	Fear of being killed by plane Being in the plane shelling targeted places. Fear to be unable to continue education. Fear of disease because of explosions Living in caves and displaced places. Being depressed Affected by dermal and respiration diseases due to displacement to unsuitable and unhealthy places	Boys: 15 Girls: 31
	Comments as they are said from children	We could not study and we have fear of planes. My friends' houses were targeted by plane shelling.	My school where I was studying in, were destroyed by plane shelling. When I hear plane, I escape in the dark. When I hear plane, I hide, sprawl and close my ears	
	How do you deal with difficulties? Who are persons you rely on to face those difficulties?	Fathers Older brothers	By patience, pray for Allah, not quit. They rely on Allah, then family	
	Comments as they are said from children	Our fathers and brothers	Even if we were young, we will fight the enemy. When we hear planes, we hide and pray for Allah.	
	Do you know any child affected physically due to explosion of any kind of un-exploded remnants of weapons? What are the reasons and how we can prevent this in the future?	Yes. Reason is plane shelling Suggestion, stop the war	Yes Reasons are that children pick up the weapon remnants and play with them. And because plane shelling We suggest to remove these things and raise awareness on their risks.	
	What are service you want to have?	We want to study and play in parks	Go back to schools Awareness, Peace and safety Remove remnants of weapons	

District	Question	Boys	Girls	Numbers
Sihar	What are risks and difficulties that you face in these situations	Shelling Displacement Absence of education	Difficulties of living Absence of basic services such as water, electricity, communications. Stopping education Mines Displacement Early marriage of girls	Boys: 10 Girls: 21
	Comments as they are said from children	Due to the war, we were displaced to Sana'a.	Since the war started, we were not able to study and we escaped from our homes to Damaj. Due to war, we stopped studying. Due to war and poverty, early marriages increase and spread among the communities..	
	How do you deal with difficulties? Who are persons you rely on to face those difficulties?	fathers	Fathers, mothers, brothers, my uncle	
	Comments as they are said from children	Due to war, we can't study. We depend on fathers to overcome these difficulties.	We are relying on fathers and brothers. Mothers mitigate the effects of our suffering. We escaped by my uncle's car to other villages	
	Do you know any child affected physically due to explosion of any kind of un-exploded remnants of weapons? What are the reasons and how we can prevent this in the future?	No	Yes, but in neighboring village, one child died and the other lost his hand	
	What are service you want to have?	Providing schools and awareness	Go back to schools Find work opportunities Games and safe places.	