

**FEASIBILITY STUDY ON RECOVERY AND
REINTEGRATION SCHEMES FOR CHILDREN
VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING: CASE STUDIES
OF HAJJA, HODEIDA, AND AL MAHWEET
GOVERNORATES**

BY

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ACRONYMS

CAC	–	Cooperative and Agricultural Credit Bank
CBO	–	Community-Based Organization
CRC	–	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	–	Civil Society Organization
FGD	–	Focus Group Discussion
GM	–	General Manager
HRC	–	Haradh Reception Centre
ILO	–	International Labour Organization
IO	–	International Organization
IOM	–	International Organization for Migration
KSA	–	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
MoSAL	–	Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour
MTEVT	–	Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training
NGO	–	Non-Governmental Organization
SFD	–	Social Fund for Development
UNICEF	–	United Nations Children’s Fund

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Child trafficking is a worldwide phenomenon that has increased at an exponential rate over the last decade. The world is becoming much more aware of this issue and is calling for stricter and more targeted measures to be put in place to prevent and combat it on a greater scale. In recent years, there have been strong indications that the Government of Yemen (particularly the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour) (MoSAL), along with civil society organizations and its development partners, is taking the issue more seriously than ever before. The government's eagerness to work with IOM and UNICEF in spearheading initiatives to tackle child trafficking from a number of different angles over the last year-and-a-half has proven this to be the case.

This feasibility study was the next logical step in efforts to prevent and combat the phenomenon in Yemen. It followed IOM's and UNICEF's efforts to assist MoSAL to establish reception centres in Haradh (on the border with Saudi Arabia) and in Sana'a, train the staff in shelter management, train border guards and security officials to detect and investigate suspected trafficking cases, and raise awareness among the general public in Yemen.

The objectives of the study were: to collect accurate information concerning the livelihood conditions of families of origin of trafficked children transiting through the reception centre in Haradh; to analyze current practices of reintegration of trafficked children within their families of origin and the risks of their being re-trafficked; to identify alternative solutions of return and reintegration appropriate for the context and the children; to elaborate those solutions into an implementation plan; to identify potential local partners in the implementation of those measures and draft a capacity-building plan; to organize all the research findings into a concise final report inclusive of recommendations; and to present the final report to a technical audience.

This study focused primarily on the collection of qualitative rather than quantitative data. This is primarily because the purpose of the study was geared mainly toward analysis of current practices related to trafficking in children and current measures adopted to assist victims, their families, and their communities in order to devise alternative return and reintegration schemes for trafficked children and livelihood assistance schemes for their parents rather than to determine how many children were trafficked from a particular area.

The study was conducted in Hajja, Hodeida, and Al Mahweet Governorates in Yemen, which were used as case studies. There were five principal methodologies employed during the study. These comprised questionnaires, in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, stakeholders' meetings, and community observation. This combination was adopted to enable the research team to obtain a representative sample.

Based on practical recommendations resulting from observations, consultations, and data collected from respondents during fieldwork, the study devised an implementation plan for MoSAL and other relevant stakeholders to consider during attempts to build on their previous efforts by developing prevention activities in order to reduce children's vulnerability to being trafficked and re-trafficked. This can be done through the use of the National Inter-Agency Taskforce and the National Steering Committee coordinated by MoSAL whereby children who pass through the reception centres are referred to the rehabilitation centre to be set up in Sana'a to

receive comprehensive rehabilitation assistance during their stay there as well as return, reintegration, and follow-up assistance in their communities of origin.

Likewise, the plan included a family tracing and assessment process while the children are in the process of being rehabilitated at the centre and provision of micro-credit and livelihood assistance to the parents to enable them to take care of their children over the long-term. Finally, the implementation plan included measures to be taken to prevent child trafficking by providing development assistance to the major sending communities in the three study governorates.

A capacity-building plan for potential implementing partners identified during the course of the fieldwork complemented the implementation plan.

A synopsis of some of the most important basic findings and recommendations that formed the basis for the implementation plan is included below.

Basic Findings:

1. Many of the children included in this study cannot be considered victims of trafficking, but rather should be classified as unaccompanied minors or “other vulnerable groups”, which would include minors who migrated together with their families, relatives, or neighbours in search of work, but were not recruited or exploited in any way.
2. Although some of the children may have been trafficked for begging, many were sent away or migrated on their own for a variety of other purposes, and indiscriminate use of this term can be misleading.
3. Large family sizes, lack of employment and educational opportunities, isolation of communities, lack of basic government services and facilities (such as schools, health clinics, and water sources), and sheer poverty were identified as contributing factors to trafficking.
4. Breakdown of the traditional family structure was not seen as a primary factor.
5. Many of the children either migrated or went to stay with their parents, relatives, siblings, friends, or neighbours for short periods of time on multiple occasions.
6. Some of the children had left their communities without the consent or knowledge of their parents in search of work to support their family.
7. Intermediaries, traffickers, employers, brokers, and other unscrupulous agents operating through organized crime networks did not facilitate the children’s movement in many cases, with the notable exceptions of Aflah Asham District and some selected districts in Al Mahweet Governorate.
8. Children mainly migrated of their own volition with slight encouragement from their parents or peers in some cases.
9. Children primarily engaged in activities related to farming, animal-rearing, marketing flour, qat, vegetables, and other basic commodities, and any other work they could find in Saudi Arabia. It is worth noting that most of the children did not state that they were begging.

10. Some children who had been brought home from the reception centre by their parents continued to travel back and forth from Saudi Arabia on a regular basis in order to support their families and thus could be considered vulnerable to re-trafficking if appropriate measures are not taken to relieve them of their burdens.

Conclusions:

This study has shown that child trafficking does exist in Yemen and is an issue that warrants more attention from the Government of Yemen and its partners in order to prevent and combat the phenomenon in a sustainable manner. Despite the government's recent efforts to protect and assist children who have been deported from Saudi Arabia through the establishment of the Haradh Reception Centre, a more coordinated and holistic approach should be adopted in collaboration with Saudi authorities in order to break the cycle of trafficking and re-trafficking in Yemen. Yemeni authorities and service providers can benefit immensely from further research along the lines of the case studies included in this feasibility study. In conducting research, attention also should be paid to irregular migration of children and youth from Yemen to Saudi Arabia, including unaccompanied minors, minors who migrate and work together with their families, relatives, or neighbours abroad, and other vulnerable groups.

Recommendations:

Based on the findings of this study, it was recommended that MoSAL and its partners consider opening a rehabilitation centre to provide comprehensive, tailored, and sustainable rehabilitation assistance to severely traumatized trafficked children and other vulnerable groups referred by reception centre staff; instituting a family tracing and assessment mechanism; providing skills training, livelihood assistance, and employment opportunities to parents; increasing Social Care Fund allowances; providing and monitoring reintegration and livelihood assistance given to children and parents, respectively; and forming mobile teams to visit vulnerable communities to raise awareness of trafficking and educate parents on children's rights, assess families' home environments, provide and monitor the use of reintegration assistance given to children and livelihood assistance given to parents, and form child protection groups to prevent children from being trafficked and re-trafficked.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background on Child Trafficking

Child trafficking, defined by the Palermo Protocol of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime¹ as the **recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt** of any person **under 18** years of age² for the purpose of **exploitation**, is now widely recognized as a problem on a global scale. No country is beyond the reach of traffickers and their vast networks.

Child trafficking is a problem for most countries in the world in one form or another. It is widely accepted to be a gross violation and infringement of the basic rights of the child, including their rights to survival, protection, and development. A child who is trafficked loses his or her inherent right to enjoy being a child and growing up in a home environment that is nurturing and truly fosters the child's growth and development. At bare minimum, such a home environment would consist of a family capable of providing shelter, clothing, nutritious food, access to healthcare, clean drinking water, sanitary and hygienic environmental conditions, recreation, supervision, guidance, and education.

Beyond light work such as household chores like setting the dinner table, cleaning the house, taking out the garbage, or helping out with cooking meals, children have a right to enjoy a childhood free of labour. When children are trafficked, these rights diminish because the children are removed from their family and their home environment and forced to work, often without even being given the opportunity to attend school or engage in recreational activities.

The most authoritative document on the rights of children is the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which lays out in detail the fundamental rights and freedoms to which children are entitled throughout the world. In addition, the CRC recognizes the important role of families and caregivers. In Articles 5 and 18, the CRC articulates their rights and obligations to provide direction and guidance consistent with the child's evolving capacities and in conformity with their rights. It places on governments the responsibility to protect and assist families in fulfilling their essential role as nurturers and the child's first line of defence against a harsh world.

This feasibility study is intended to delve into trafficking issues in Yemen and to devise a comprehensive plan to prevent and combat child trafficking from a holistic perspective that takes into account the Palermo Protocol and the CRC through the adoption of targeted measures designed to bring about sustainable results and long-term solutions. Such potential solutions clearly will need to take into consideration not only the child victims and their parents, but also the socio-economic background of some of the communities that send their children away and the gaps in structures and services that often lead them to do so.

¹ For the full definition, refer to the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol, Article 3).

² The age of a child varies from country to country according to national labour laws. In Yemen, for instance, the age at which a person becomes an adult varies between 15 and 18 depending on the law in question.

1.2 Child Trafficking in Yemen

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an intergovernmental organization that assists all forms of migrants, including refugees, internally displaced persons, stranded migrants, labour migrants, irregular migrants, and victims of trafficking. In collaboration with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MoSAL), IOM has been working in Yemen for the last eighteen months on a project entitled, “National Capacity-Building Programme to Counter Child Trafficking in Yemen”. The initial phase of this programme focused particularly on the following three main objectives: Enhancing the management and operations of the reception centre in Haradh; training of security and border officials; and designing and implementing a communication framework for the prevention of child trafficking.

Based on the recent collaborative efforts of IOM, UNICEF, MoSAL, and other relevant stakeholders, the problem of child trafficking has been brought to light in Yemen in the past year-and-a-half, despite its having been in existence at least since the first Gulf War in 1990, when many Yemenis who had been living in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) for decades were summarily expelled en masse due to conflicting views over the war. This displacement led many former residents in KSA to begin to migrate there illegally in search of work, in turn leading to an upsurge in the practice of child trafficking.

Since IOM and UNICEF have started working together with MoSAL in Yemen, more than 300 children reportedly have been returned to Yemen by Saudi security officials from various parts of Saudi Arabia, especially areas located around the border. Allegations of some of the children having been treated unfairly by the officials have surfaced in recent years. Claims have been made that the Saudi authorities have caught Yemeni children without the requisite travel documents, thrown child victims on a bus along with juvenile delinquents and adults, and sent them to the border without providing them with proper care and protection or following standard operating procedures in such situations.

In response to this emerging situation, MoSAL took the initiative to establish a reception centre at the border with KSA to house children caught up in these circumstances on a temporary basis until their families could be contacted and pick them up. Although shelter staff had provided psychosocial counselling and other forms of rehabilitation assistance to the children who stayed there for longer periods of time, some children were taken to the centre multiple times, causing concern that they were falling victim to re-trafficking. This indicated that a vicious circle was being formed and signified that the rehabilitation assistance given to the children was not sufficient to solve the problem. At the same time, this led to inquiries surrounding the parents’ and communities’ roles in perpetuating this vicious circle, ultimately prompting IOM, UNICEF, and MoSAL to collaborate even more closely to determine what can be done to break this cycle.

By this time, most Yemeni authorities at the national level and in the three governorates included in this study—Hajja, Hodeida, and Al Mahweet—are very much aware that child trafficking does exist in Yemen, although the term “irregular migration” may be more apt due to the nature and circumstances surrounding most of the children’s experiences. Whatever the term for it, it is clear that many children’s rights are being violated by the Saudi authorities as well as their parents, and something must be done about it.

Having established that child trafficking is indeed present in Yemen as in most of the rest of the world over the last year-and-a-half, IOM, UNICEF, and MoSAL decided to further their collaboration to ascertain which forms of trafficking in children are in existence in Yemen. Although this study touches upon the various forms, as well as examines to what extent they constitute trafficking or are more aptly considered instances of irregular migration, it goes beyond that aspect by delving into its root causes, examining its dynamics, and proposing solutions on how to deal with it.

Although it may appear at first glance that many of the children who have passed through the Haradh Reception Centre (HRC), for instance, could be considered victims of trafficking, upon carefully exploring the situation in Yemen, a larger picture encompassing far more than “trafficking” emerges. This necessitates in-depth analysis of problems inherent in families, communities, districts, and governorates in order to come to realistic conclusions. One may then draw upon these conclusions to adopt a holistic strategy and approach to dealing with the multiple problems that surround the issue of children’s migration to Saudi Arabia to engage in illegal work.

In an effort to address these issues, IOM, UNICEF, and MoSAL have commissioned this feasibility study to analyze current reintegration and livelihood assistance schemes and propose viable alternatives. The study forms part of the annual joint plan that IOM and UNICEF implement with MoSAL, who requested that this study be conducted in order to enable the ministry to expand its knowledge of the child trafficking situation in Yemen and spearhead further initiatives by leading its partners in following-up on recommendations presented in this report. This will serve to enhance MoSAL’s lead role in coordinating government efforts to prevent and combat child trafficking in the country.

1.3 Purpose of Feasibility Study

The ultimate purpose of the feasibility study is to draw up a comprehensive and coherent implementation plan and accompanying capacity-building plan to enable IOM, UNICEF, and MoSAL to identify and strengthen the capacity of credible implementing partners to provide tailored and sustainable return and reintegration assistance to trafficked children, livelihood assistance to their parents, and development assistance to their communities, perhaps through a cohesive network of support established in the framework of a multi-year project.

1.4 Specific Objectives

According to the Terms of Reference, there are seven specific objectives:

1. To collect accurate information concerning the livelihood conditions of families of origin of trafficked children transiting through the reception centre in Haradh;
2. To analyze current practices of reintegration of trafficked children within their families of origin and the risks of their being re-trafficked;
3. To identify alternative solutions of return and reintegration appropriate for the context and the children;
4. To elaborate those solutions into an implementation plan;

5. To identify potential local partners in the implementation of those measures and draft a capacity-building plan;
6. To organize all the research findings into a concise final report inclusive of recommendations; and
7. To present the final report to a technical audience.

CHAPTER 2: METHODOLOGY

2.1 Study Approach

This study focused primarily on the collection of qualitative rather than quantitative data. This is largely because the purpose of the study was geared mainly toward analysis of current practices related to trafficking in children and current measures adopted to assist victims, their families, and their communities in order to devise alternative return and reintegration schemes for trafficked children and livelihood assistance schemes for their parents rather than to determine how many children were trafficked from a particular area.

The fieldwork portion of the study took place from 15 August to 18 September, 2006. The research team was composed of two members. The international field researcher was responsible for conducting the feasibility study, while the research assistant facilitated meetings with local authorities, provided translations, and made logistical arrangements.

2.2 Study Areas

The feasibility study was carried out in the Republic of Yemen, a developing country located in the Middle East at the crossroads between the Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, and Red Sea with a population of 21.5 million people.³ It is one of the poorest countries in the Middle East and indeed the world, evidenced by its ranking in the 2005 Human Development Index as 151st out of a total of 177 countries included in the survey. Although political stability and the discovery of oil in several governorates have triggered more rapid economic growth over the last decade, many Yemenis still live below the poverty line and lack even the most basic social infrastructure in most rural areas.

Most people are employed in agriculture and herding; services, construction, industry, and commerce account for less than one-fourth of the labour force.⁴ Yemen's traditionally close ties to its northern neighbour, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, have been marred by disputes over how to handle the first Gulf War crisis, recurring boundary disputes, and the subsequent mass influxes of Yemenis to the country in search of a better life. The fact that qat, a narcotic that is legal in Yemen but not in KSA, could be sold for a higher price—yielding a larger profit for those smuggling it into the country—lures many Yemenis to travel there as irregular migrants on a frequent basis.

The same applies to a number of other commodities, such as flour or fruits and vegetables, which are legal in both countries, but could nonetheless yield a higher profit at the border due to the prevailing exchange rate between Yemeni rials and Saudi riyals, with the latter being of much greater value. Yemen and KSA share a common history between Yemeni and Saudi tribes and familial relations as well as cultural, linguistic, and religious affinities, given the predominance of common pastimes and practices based on Islamic values and ideals, the Arabic language, and religious affiliations.

The study was conducted in Hajja, Hodeida, and Al Mahweet Governorates in Yemen. In these governorates, the districts of Haradh, Bani Qais, Abss, Aflah Asham, Al Zohra, Bait

³ According to the CIA World Factbook, Yemen had 21.5 million people in July 2006.

⁴ According to the CIA World Factbook.

Al Faqeh, and Bani Saad were selected according to information provided in stakeholders' meetings. Visits to various districts during an initial fact-finding mission as well as several follow-up visits to the reception centre to collect data also greatly contributed to the selection process. Once data had been made available by the reception centre staff indicating that 126 and 184 children had been returned to Hajja and Hodeida Governorates, respectively, between January and June 2006—numbers which were far greater than those in the other governorates—the sample size was restricted to a few districts in each of these governorates, plus one district in Al Mahweet known for having a number of trafficked children as well.

The districts were chosen in part on the basis of their having larger numbers of children who had been returned there than their neighbouring districts and partly due to their proximity to the capitals of the governorates, thereby making them relatively more accessible than the other districts.

In Hajja Governorate, the communities of Al Ghroza, Al Fag, and Al Khdoor were visited in Haradh District. In Bani Qais District, the communities of Al Harqa, Al Medhbar, Bani Saifan, Al Mrbah, and Al Twor were visited. In Abss District, the communities of Qotaba, Shafr, Bani Maki, and Al Makhzan were visited. In Aflah Asham District, the community of Noaman Al Aize was visited.

In Hodeida Governorate, the communities of Al Rafee, Al Muthalt Bani Ala Dhabi, and Al Maris-Mahal Abu Al Sen were visited in Al Zohra District. In Bait Al Faqeh District, the communities of Soulat Al Qbassi and Al Gurbshia were visited.

In Al Mahweet Governorate, the capital of Bani Saad District was visited, but no particular communities were visited due to time constraints and the upcoming elections.

Hajja Governorate

1. Haradh District

Haradh District borders Saudi Arabia; thus, it represents one of the districts with the largest number of trafficked children. The “green zone” of the border is roughly 90 kilometres in length and difficult for security officials to patrol. This district is rather large with many schools, health clinics, and other facilities in the capital and surrounding areas, but far fewer social services and infrastructure in the communities located close to the border areas. Both children and adults can be easily observed crossing the border without going through the requisite formalities.

2. Bani Qais District

Bani Qais District was one of the smallest and most impoverished among the districts included in the study. There were very few schools and health clinics available in the communities; serious health ailments would require taking a trip to Abss District, which is about twenty minutes away. This is not a feasible option for most community members who have little means of transportation in most instances.

There was an almost total absence of basic government facilities in Al Medhbar and Al Harqah, for example, which most of the parents who were interviewed and participated in

focus group discussions (FGDs) admitted was a major contributing factor to their sending their children to KSA. Saifan, which the research team visited on several occasions, was relatively deserted most of the time, in large part because its residents were away from their homes searching for work during the day.

3. Abs District

Abs District was quite large in comparison with the others and had a large number of government facilities and personnel providing services to several neighbouring districts as well. Abs District is known as a transit point both for regular and irregular migrants, with some trafficked children also originating in this district or passing through on their way to KSA. The District Education Manager explained that “There are far more schools in Abs than in Bani Qais or Haradh, but because of poverty and lack of viable employment opportunities, some children head for KSA to find something to do”.

In all, there are 95 primary schools (one in every four or five communities, including Shfar, where some of the trafficked children come from) and seven secondary schools; however, as the education manager explains, “More education would reduce the problem by 20%, but the problem is more economic than anything else”.

Still, it became clear after several trips to Abs that it was far better off in terms of availability of basic facilities, such as schools, health clinics, water and sanitation, and even electricity, than any of the other districts included in the study and, consequently, had considerably fewer children migrating irregularly or being trafficked from its communities than all the other study districts.

For example, despite the fact that Bani Qais was located nearby, the lack of government services was readily apparent upon entering some of its communities and, as a consequence, there were comparatively more children being trafficked from this district than Abs, given the proportionally vast differences in demographics in the two districts.

4. Aflah Asham District

Although the team spent relatively little time in Aflah Asham District due to time constraints and its inaccessibility because of its location in a mountainous area with steep, winding, bumpy, unpaved feeder roads leading to it, it was sufficient enough to gain a preliminary understanding of the exceedingly high poverty level and low standard of living of the people in the communities included in this district. In some of the communities in the district, there is a serious lack of medical doctors to take care of the residents. For instance, in Noaman Al Aize the largest grievance among the people in the community was that there were no doctors around to take care of them when they would fall ill, in spite of the fact that there was a brand new hospital being built in the centre of the community.

Hodeida Governorate

1. Al Zoohra District

Although the research team had believed Al Zoohra District to have a large number of trafficked children who had passed through the reception centre in Haradh based on data compiled by the staff, upon investigating more carefully it became apparent that some of the children came from Al Zoohra, while others came from Al Lahaya, a neighbouring district, and still others hailed from other nearby districts. The children and their parents were as scattered across vast, inaccessible, remote areas in this district and its neighbours as any of the other districts included in the study. Consequently, it was quite difficult to find respondents who were on the list given to the research team by the shelter staff.

A survey of the social infrastructure (schools and health clinics) in the district revealed that it was not on par with Bait Al Faqeh, but was not nearly as inadequate as those in Bani Qais or Aflah Asham. Most of the respondents made similar claims to those in other districts, emphasizing that they were not able to find work and that skills and vocational training would be of immense benefit to them. In this district, they focused on the need for farming implements and tools of all sorts to be able to work the land and the complementary need to be given some animals to rear on the side. Some of the respondents thought that beekeeping would be a good way of earning money to support their family, but only on a seasonal basis, and therefore it could not be considered as a reliable and steady source of income.

2. Bait Al Faqeh District

Bait Al Faqeh District had far more facilities than Al Zoohra and was a far larger district. There were 107 schools in the district. In Soulat Al Qbassi, which the team visited on several different occasions, there were seven schools, all of which were visited during the team's stay there. Five of the seven were in very good shape, thanks in part to the renovations carried out with generous contributions from the Social Fund for Development (SFD). There were plenty of teachers and classrooms were well-stocked with furniture and school materials, relative to the schools located in most of the other study districts. The vocational training institute located in the district was quite small with very few tools and equipment, but they have acquired the land necessary to build a larger one in the coming year. There have been promising developments taking place all around this district, including the sending community of Soulat Al Qbassi.

In this district, despite the high level of development and government assistance, there is a fair amount of trafficking because of lack of job opportunities for children who graduate from school and for parents who lack the skills necessary to find employment that will generate enough revenue to enable them to cater for the needs of their family. During a FGD with mothers in this district, they mentioned large family sizes and lack of family planning as key reasons for sending some of their children away. They simply couldn't afford to support them all. They mentioned over and over again that a combination of skills training, equipment such as sewing machines, and family planning education would greatly reduce the number of children leaving their district.

Al Mahweet Governorate

Al Mahweet Governorate was the last one visited by the team. Poverty is highly prevalent in the three districts of Bani Saad, Al Khabth, and Malhan in particular, which are all located close to the border with Saudi Arabia and are therefore especially vulnerable to infiltration by traffickers. The Wadi Sarea, which is a valley that lies between Al Mahweet and Bani Saad Districts, is known to have a large number of its residents below the poverty line as well, contributing to the existence of child trafficking in this area. Floods have damaged much of the farmland in the valley, further exacerbating the problem. Although many schools and health centres have been established in remote areas of this governorate, a severe dearth of jobs has made it difficult for residents to have access to them.

2.3 Target Population

The principal target groups were the children who had passed through the Haradh Reception Centre and been returned to their parents and their parents themselves. These groups were targeted because of the need to analyze the situation surrounding the children's unique trafficking experiences and what happened to them before and after undergoing such experiences with the view to devise appropriate reintegration and micro-credit schemes for the children and their parents, respectively.

Secondary target groups included the communities in which these children and their parents lived, the community leaders, and the local government authorities and representatives of civil society who have a stake in fighting against child trafficking in the districts included in the study.

2.4 Sample Size

Due to the fact that this study was not quantitative in nature, there was no pre-set sample size; however, 340 respondents were involved in the data collection process. The composition of the 340 is as follows: Children—59; Parents—126; Community Leaders—82; and Stakeholders—73.

Children

In all, 59 trafficked and vulnerable children were involved in the study. Out of this number, 30 children were interviewed, of which 10 were interviewed at the HRC and another 20 were selected from among children who had already been reunited with their families. The latter group of 20 children was interviewed using questionnaires in their communities of origin in Haradh, Bani Qais, Abss, Al Zohra, Bait Al Faqeh, and Al Mahweet Districts. The rest, consisting of 29, were involved in FGDs.

Parents

In all, 83 fathers and 43 mothers of trafficked and vulnerable children were involved in the study. Out of this number, 23 fathers were interviewed using questionnaires in their respective communities, while the other 60 fathers and all the mothers took part in FGDs.

Community Leaders

In total, 82 community leaders, including sheikhs, imams, teachers, and health practitioners, were involved in the study. Out of this number, 38 were interviewed with the help of an interview guide, while the remaining 44 participated in FGDs.

Stakeholders

The research team met with a total of 73 stakeholders. Out of these, 48 were involved in stakeholders' meetings and the remainder, consisting of 25, were interviewed on an individual basis with the use of an interview guide. The individual stakeholders consisted of district managers, local government authorities (including governors, vice governors, assembly-members, and other political figures), security officials, and representatives of various civil society organizations (CSOs).

Furthermore, six stakeholders' meetings were organized. Two of them were held in Hajja, another two were held in Hodeida, and the final two were convened in Al Mahweet and Sana'a. In Hajja and Hodeida, stakeholders' meetings were held before and after the fieldwork, while there was only one convened in Al Mahweet and one in Sana'a due to time constraints.

2.5 Methods of Data Collection

There were five principal methodologies employed during this study. These comprised questionnaires, in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, stakeholders' meetings, and community observation. This combination was adopted to enable the research team to obtain a representative sample.

2.5.1 Questionnaires

Administration of questionnaires was one of the means used to collect data from trafficked and vulnerable children as well as their fathers. A total of 43 questionnaires was administered in order to acquire more detailed information from children who had returned from the Haradh Reception Centre and their parents. The children were asked about their backgrounds, trafficking experiences, vulnerability to re-trafficking, and current status (whether working, attending school, both, or neither). Their parents were asked about their backgrounds, socio-economic conditions, home environment, ability to cater for the needs of their children, livelihoods, and standard of living. Specific questions on which assistance would benefit the children and parents the most given their unique set of circumstances, and how best to assist their communities as well, were posed to all the respondents.

2.5.2 In-Depth Interviews

In-depth interviews were conducted with a selected group of children and parents who were able to give more in-depth information on important aspects of the trafficking experience, root causes, and problems that exist in their communities. Moreover, in-depth interviews were conducted with 10 children who were residing in the reception centre at the time interviews were taking place. Despite the fact that these children were not included among

the initial target respondents of the feasibility study, a number of insights were gleaned from these children, which are mentioned briefly in this report in Section 3.5.

In addition, 38 community leaders and 25 stakeholders were interviewed with the aid of interview guides. In-depth interviews were conducted with local administrators, such as governors and vice governors, and district and community leaders, such as district managers and sheikhs, as well as a wide range of opinion leaders, which included officials from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), Islamic organizations, and international organizations (IOs), teachers, health practitioners, and assembly-members.

2.5.3 Focus Group Discussions

A total of 16 focus group discussions with 176 participants were held in the three governorates. On average, each group consisted of 11 members. The composition of the participants in the FGDs was made up of the following:

- 4 groups of mothers of trafficked and vulnerable children (this was significant given that they were not permitted to be interviewed individually);
- 5 groups of fathers of trafficked and vulnerable children;
- 3 groups of trafficked and vulnerable children; and
- 4 groups of community and opinion leaders, which constituted district managers, general secretaries, sheikhs, imams, teachers, health practitioners, assembly-members, agricultural extension officers, general managers (GMs) of social affairs, local council members, NGO officials, and other representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations.

These discussions solicited the views of these groups on the kinds of assistance that would be most beneficial to the children, parents, and communities in order to prevent and combat child trafficking. This enabled the research team to gain much insight on trafficking issues and potential solutions in the selected districts from a variety of perspectives.

They also helped the research team to gain a better understanding of the perceptions of child trafficking that existed in the minds of the various groups. In particular, these discussions substantiated the team's observation that most of the respondents did not consider the children returned from Saudi Arabia to have been victims of trafficking, but rather irregular migrants who left their homes voluntarily in many cases in order to support themselves and their families.

2.5.4 Stakeholders' Meetings

Stakeholders' meetings were held with local government authorities, NGOs, CBOs, and IOs, among other relevant stakeholders. In all, six stakeholders' meetings were held in the three governorates and Sana'a.

The objectives of the meetings were to do the following:

- a. Give Debriefing on IOM Mission/Objectives of Project in Yemen
- b. Identify Child Trafficking Issues
- c. Identify Local Partners
- d. Map Out Roles and Responsibilities
- e. Identify Gaps and Weaknesses
- f. Discuss Types of Assistance Available
- g. Suggest Potential Solutions

2.5.5 Community Observation

Community observation was carried out in order to obtain information in the following areas:

- a. Household Patterns
- b. Community Structures and Facilities
- c. Community Profile (Governor)
- d. Jobs in Community
- e. Work Potential
- f. Dominant Occupation
- g. Standard of Living
- h. Political and Religious Structures (Sheikh, Imam)
- i. Cultural Attributes that Promote Trafficking
- j. Potential Causes of Trafficking (Vulnerable Families)

A community questionnaire was filled out in selected communities for this purpose. This questionnaire contained sections on infrastructure; social services and infrastructure such as water and sanitation facilities, health clinics, schools, sources of electricity, and communications; the economic landscape, including employment opportunities; and various social problems experienced by community members. In all, 17 schools and 7 health clinics were visited in Hajja, Hodeida, and Al Mahweet Governorates. In addition, an orphanage and a juvenile centre in Hodeida were visited to provide a broader picture of problem areas associated with children.

2.6 Methods of Data Analysis

During the course of the fieldwork, prior to analyzing the data, all questionnaires, topic guides for focus group discussions, and other research instruments were coded for easy reference. This made it easier to look at the most common responses given in the questionnaires, interviews, and focus group discussions, and draw conclusions as appropriate.

Following review meetings with stakeholders in the various governorates toward the end of the fieldwork portion of the study, a very basic situation analysis was drawn up with a list of preliminary findings and a non-exhaustive set of practical recommendations was compiled. This helped in pulling out the most salient points from the vast amount of information gathered during the five weeks of fieldwork and putting them into a rudimentary framework, which in turn facilitated the compilation of this final feasibility report.

In writing this report, efforts were concentrated primarily on in-depth analysis of the initial list of findings and expansion of the recommendations, all of which was elaborated into a cohesive implementation plan and capacity-building plan designed to strengthen the capacity of various stakeholders to provide assistance to trafficked children, their parents, and their communities in the nearest future.

2.7 Limitations

In any study, there are bound to be limitations. The most important among them are as follows:

- a. Due to the lack of accurate data available at the Haradh Reception Centre, it was initially quite difficult to locate some of the children and their parents in their respective communities.
- b. Based on the lack of data at the HRC, it was difficult to differentiate between children who had only been resident at the centre once and those who had stayed there on multiple occasions, compounding the above-mentioned problem.
- c. A further difficulty in locating the children and parents was that their communities were so far apart from each other and in many cases highly inaccessible due to mountainous terrain, unpaved roads, and floods because of heavy rains. For example, the heaviest rain the research team had ever encountered in their lives occurred one day on the way to one of these communities, effectively making it impossible to reach the intended destination. In some cases, even the LandCruiser was not able to go to some communities, compelling the team to borrow MoSAL's vehicle and make arrangements with locals to use their pick-up trucks.
- d. Focus group discussions were difficult to organize because there were only one or two trafficked children who had passed through the centre and one or two of their parents in most of the communities according to the data received from the centre staff, so most of the groups consisted of vulnerable children, mothers, and fathers, in addition to opinion leaders (many of whom were located in the district capitals and had to be provided with transportation in order to reach the communities in which the FGDs were being held).
- e. Time constraints only allowed for the team to visit Al Mahweet during the very last day of the study.
- f. Scheduling meetings was a challenge due to limited working hours because of the upcoming elections on 20 September, 2006 and the traditional custom of qat-chewing during each afternoon.

CHAPTER 3: FINDINGS BASED ON DATA ANALYSIS

This chapter focuses on analysis of the data gathered from questionnaires, in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, stakeholders' meetings, and community observation. The first section of this chapter presents some tables to shed light on socio-demographic characteristics of the children and their parents. The second section touches upon the nature of child trafficking in Yemen, while the third focuses on its root causes. The next section provides more detail on the children's trafficking experiences, which are illustrated through a number of case studies. Finally, the last section explains about rehabilitation assistance offered to the children at the Haradh Reception Centre as well as provides some general observations about its operations.

3.1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

3.1.1 Children

Table 1: Ages of Children Interviewed in Communities and at Haradh Reception Centre

AGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
6-8	3	10
9-11	3	10
12-14	12	40
15-17	12	40
TOTAL	30	100

The table above reveals that the majority of children interviewed are adolescents between the ages of 12 and 17, while 6 of them are between the ages of 6 and 11. This is perhaps because there is less work that they are capable of undertaking when they are below 12 years of age. This also was confirmed by various stakeholders during meetings and interviews. The data received from the HRC on the ages of 44 children returned to the study districts also indicate that 30 out of the 44 were between the ages of 15 and 17. Only 2 of the 44 children were below the age of 12. Some stakeholders also mentioned the fact that there are many Yemeni children under the age of 10 begging in KSA. This calls for further research and more systematic data collection by relevant authorities at the border and the reception centres to ascertain the ages of children sent to KSA to find work.

Table 2: Educational Background of Children Interviewed Using Questionnaires

ATTENDING SCHOOL	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
YES	5	25
NO	15	75
TOTAL	20	100

Table 2 indicates that the vast majority (three-quarters) of the 20 children were not attending school at the time of interview. All of these children were interviewed in their communities of origin after having transited through the reception centre. Among the 15 children who were not attending school, 10 of them, representing two-thirds, had dropped out to search for work in KSA. None of these children had returned to school after having been reunited with their parents.

Table 3: Employment Status of Children Interviewed Using Questionnaires

EMPLOYMENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
YES	15	75
NO	5	25
TOTAL	20	100

The table above reflects the inverse proportional relationship existing between those children who were not attending school and those who were working. All 15 children who responded that they were working also stated that they were not attending school. Out of the children who were employed, 6 of them said they were selling flour and another 3 were selling qat, mostly close to the border with KSA. They all claimed that they did these jobs because they needed to earn money to support themselves and their families. Five of the children stated that they did several different jobs for the same purpose.

3.1.2 Parents

Table 4: Educational Background of Parents Interviewed Using Questionnaires

EDUCATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
None	18	78.3
Primary	1	4.3
Vocational	1	4.3
Non-formal	3	13.1
TOTAL	23	100

The vast majority (78.3%) of the parents of trafficked and vulnerable children who were interviewed in their communities said that they had not received any formal education at all, as indicated in Table 4. Among those who had received some education, 3 of them, or 60%, said it was based on study of the Qu’ran, which has been classified as non-formal. Only one parent had attended primary school, and had only reached grade five. Most parents could benefit from functional literacy and numeracy classes as well as vocational and skills training.

Table 5: Main Occupation of Parents Interviewed Using Questionnaires

EMPLOYMENT	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
None	5	21.7
Farming	6	26.1
Petty Trading	6	26.1
Construction	2	8.7
Handicrafts	2	8.7
Other	2	8.7
TOTAL	23	100

Table 5 reveals that the vast majority (78.3%) of parents (fathers) were employed, but all of them claimed that they were not generating enough revenue to support their families. More than half of the parents (52.2%) were engaged in farming and petty trading as their main livelihoods. In addition, all of these parents were engaging in various other activities in their spare time to supplement their income, especially animal-rearing. The two parents included in the “Other” category were rearing cattle and working as a teacher.

3.2 Nature of Child Trafficking in Yemen

In Yemen, many cases of children migrating from their communities to Saudi Arabia do not fit the internationally-accepted definition of child trafficking laid out in the first chapter. The study showed that children leave their homes for various reasons, but principally they migrate to KSA on a temporary basis in order to help support themselves and their families. In most cases, they were not found to have been recruited by anyone or forcibly sent away by their parents, but instead migrated in search of a better life.

It is a common practice for children to go to KSA and stay with their relatives because they are poverty-stricken and lack educational opportunities. Often, children would ride a donkey across the border or simply walk across a part that is not being carefully guarded by security officials. Most of the children do not possess official travel documents, but successfully make it across the border anyway without any Yemeni official even bothering to check for them.

During interviews, nearly half of the children revealed that either they had chosen to go of their own volition without informing their parents or their parents had sent them to KSA on a daily or weekly basis to provide for the family while staying with relatives. In a large number of cases, children made multiple journeys to KSA, both on their own and with their parents. Some of the children in Hajja Governorate, especially in Haradh, crossed the border to KSA every morning and returned to Yemen every late afternoon in search of any work that they could find to feed themselves and their families. Others decided to go during their school breaks to earn some extra money.

Indeed, as many stakeholders, opinion leaders, community leaders, and even shelter staff put it, most of the children who had transited through the reception centre in Haradh had not been trafficked, but merely crossed the border to a country very close to their own, in terms of customs, traditions, language, and mere geographical proximity, to look for work along with their relatives.

In general, there was little evidence to be found of organized crime syndicates or cohesive trafficking networks involving intermediaries at various stages, employers, brokers, and agents working in Hajja and Hodeida Governorates, with the notable exception of Aflah Asham, which was clearly quite different from most of the other districts included in the study. Bani Saad District in Al Mahweet Governorate was another such exception.

Focus group discussions in Aflah Asham and Bani Saad Districts revealed that a large number of traffickers would come to various communities and offer unspecified sums of money to fathers to coax them into releasing their children. The trafficker would then take the children to the border to meet an intermediary, who would either escort them or arrange for transport to their final destination in Saudi Arabia. A portion of the proceeds generated by the trafficked children's work in KSA would then be sent back to their fathers at regular intervals, while the trafficker and his accomplices would retain the bulk of the remainder of the money.

After a while, the trafficker would start to use these same trafficked children to recruit additional children from their communities of origin and the surrounding areas and to assist with transport and other logistical arrangements to facilitate their movement across the border to KSA. In this way, the cycle of child trafficking continues without end.

Given that such limited time was left over to delve more deeply into more children's trafficking experiences in these two districts, it is necessary for further research to be conducted to ascertain more information that could assist the appropriate authorities to combat child trafficking in these areas. It is believed that there are other districts in Al Mahweet Governorate with trafficked children caught up in similar situations.

In general, when children do reach KSA, they often find themselves in difficult situations, but during interviews many of them did not complain of being exploited by those for whom they were working. Rather, it is the Saudi authorities whom children describe as maltreating them by rounding them up when they catch them without the requisite documents, putting them on a bus, transporting them back to the border, and handing them over to Yemeni border guards and security officials without due regard for their care and protection or taking into account their welfare throughout this process.

Following a brief initial interview upon first contact, the Yemeni authorities contact the HRC staff to send the bus to pick them up. In turn, the staff contact local council members, MoSAL officers, and other local authorities to assist in locating their parents, who then go to pick up their children from the centre, sign an agreement, and take them back home. In many cases, these children end up going back to KSA because the root causes propelling them to leave home have not been addressed in an adequate manner. As a result, some of the children undergo the entire process all over again.

Given this backdrop, it may be more accurate to consider most cases of children leaving Yemen to go to KSA as falling under the rubric of irregular migration rather than trafficking, as there does not appear to be much organized activity suggesting that traffickers are setting this process in motion, except in Aflah Asham and Bani Saad Districts. It must be noted, however, that children cannot be considered "irregular migrants", as this is a term that may only be applied to adults. Whereas in some cases it is clear that the children are unaccompanied minors, and in other cases they are victims of trafficking, in many other

cases they cannot be classified in either way, as they may be migrating illegally to KSA with their families, relatives, or neighbours, without having fulfilled the necessary conditions of recruitment and exploitation to consider them as trafficking victims. Despite its shortcomings, the term “irregular migration” shall be used in this report to describe vulnerable children who crossed the border without official travel and identity documents and were subsequently deported from Saudi Arabia and who clearly cannot be considered victims of trafficking.

3.3 Root Causes of Child Trafficking

There are a large number of root causes, as is usually the case regarding the factors that contribute to the perpetuation of child trafficking. A thorough knowledge of the reasons for this practice is crucial to knowing how to tackle the problem through concerted efforts on the part of all relevant stakeholders. Although it is clearly not possible to provide a detailed description of all potential root causes, the following list does describe the most important among them.

3.3.1 Poverty

Poverty is at the root of the problem in Yemen, one of the poorest developing countries in the Middle East. There are many factors that come together to perpetuate poverty, but chief among them are large numbers of children in families that cannot afford to support them, lack of employment opportunities for parents, the political instability that was rife until relatively recently, lack of commodities and natural resources to export and bring in foreign exchange earnings, and stunted development in isolated areas of the country. There is no denying that the grinding poverty experienced by the Yemeni people propels many of them to send their children to their far-richer neighbour, Saudi Arabia, in order to supplement their income in any way possible.

Although poverty should be included first among the root causes of child trafficking due to the way in which it relates and impacts upon all the other factors in one way or another, gradual reduction of poverty in and of itself should not be considered a catch-all solution to child trafficking. Thus, the problem of poverty should be tackled along with the other root causes.

3.3.2 Lack of Educational Opportunities

There were either no schools at all or most of the schools that did exist were lacking even the most basic facilities in many of the communities visited during the study. Due to rain and the shoddy local building materials used to construct schools, which in some cases were nothing more than tiny huts with names attached to them, many schools were left without roofs or parts of walls, rendering them useful only when there was no rainfall.

The district capitals contained the best schools, as one would expect, but were located much too far from the various communities for the children to have access to them. Although there is clear evidence in all the districts included in the study that the SFD is constructing a large number of schools in the capitals and surrounding areas, few of the actual communities from which children are being sent away are benefiting from these efforts. The areas are mostly

remote and isolated, rendering it difficult for real development on a large scale to take place there.

There is a substantial lack of qualified teachers willing to work in rural areas such as the study communities because of the harsh living and working conditions, inadequate pay and benefits, and lack of adequate facilities to create an environment that is conducive to motivating the children to attend school regularly and excel in their studies. The rotation system that requires teachers to shift work environments every few years only adds to the problem. Sustainability of programmes and teaching methods are jeopardized as a result of this policy, which should be reviewed and altered in collaboration with school management authorities.

Children who do not attend primary or secondary school become vulnerable to trafficking because there is nothing else for them to do but go and find any kind of work they can.

3.3.3 Lack of Employment Opportunities

Lack of viable employment opportunities and marketable skills among parents is at the core of the problem of child trafficking in Yemen. Many parents are devoid of the requisite skills, educational background, and qualifications to earn a decent living and be able to cater for the needs of their often many children. This is a problem at all levels in the country, but that much more so of a problem in such isolated communities, where there is very little means of generating revenue from the resources at their disposal.

Compounding the problem is the fact that most of the parents residing in these communities do not own land and are therefore compelled to enter into sharecropping arrangements and tenancy agreements with the few wealthy landowners who control most of the resources—and leave little for those who work the land to enjoy for themselves and their families. Parents are not even provided with relevant tools and implements to work the land. Moreover, there are few markets where parents engaging in cottage industries in their communities could sell their goods. To do so would require travelling long distances in most cases.

Still other activities are seasonal in nature, such as beekeeping, requiring a nomadic lifestyle that does not lend itself to rearing children in a healthy home environment. Furthermore, the infrastructure necessary to engage in some potentially lucrative activities, such as offering telecommunications services to residents in the area, is often not in place, nor is there any conceivable means to build it without government support, which is not forthcoming in most of these remote areas. Even when government structures are being built, construction contracts usually go to foreigners with more impressive credentials and more experience.

Such problems that are routinely encountered by parents have an adverse affect on the children, who cannot go to school because their parents can't afford to pay the meagre fees required for their children's registration. Those children usually wind up looking for work in their own communities and the surrounding areas, but often come away empty-handed at the end of the day. This prompts them to search for work beyond their communities, districts, and governorates, all the way to Saudi Arabia. Their options are extremely limited there as well, but at least they can earn more from petty trading or street hawking in the border areas

due to the considerably higher exchange rate for goods coming from KSA, whose currency has a much higher value than that of Yemen.

The following case study gives some insight into how lack of employment opportunities can lead to child trafficking.

PARENT OF A TRAFFICKED CHILD

I have 11 children whom I love dearly. Although I have done my best to provide for them, I was never able to earn enough as a carpenter to send them to school. Although I am so eager to work and am considered to be a good carpenter, it is too difficult to find continuous work.

In fact, I can usually only find work about two days each week, which is not enough to support my family. Part of the problem is that Egyptians are being given contracts to build houses and bridges in Yemen and being paid 8,000 Yemeni rials, while Yemenis are only given about 2,000 rials to do the same work. It is completely unfair.

My son went to Saudi Arabia in search of work to help support my family, which made me very sad. I didn't want him to go, but there was really no choice. He travelled from Bait Al Faqeh with my brother's son to meet his older brothers in KSA. He was able to find a job rearing animals for an old woman there, but she never ended up paying him in full for his work.

I followed him there, but was only able to find a few jobs in carpentry, so I decided to return to Yemen. After one month, he was caught by the Saudi authorities and sent back to Yemen. He found his way home on his own and then returned to KSA for another week. He was caught again and this time was taken to the Haradh Reception Centre. I went to pick him up the next day. I felt so ashamed.

I decided to sell all my carpentry tools in KSA in order to cultivate my farm to grow bananas, mangos, and papayas in Yemen. Initially, it was quite lucrative, as I was able to sell about 1,300 cartons of fruits in a normal harvest period, amounting to roughly 50,000 rials. Unfortunately, I eventually had to stop this work as well due to the increased cost of diesel and rental of tools. The bananas were burned because of lack of water when insufficient rain was falling as well.

These days, I search for any work I can find, but it is very difficult. I would prefer to be a farmer because it is more profitable than carpentry. I already have the necessary skills and experience, so I don't need any training, but I do need tools, equipment, and materials. I am fortunate enough to have land and heavy rains have been falling lately, but without tools, there is not much I can do.

3.3.4 Obligations of Children

In Yemen, the obligations that children have toward their parents are often a major contributing factor to child trafficking. Children are compelled to support their families by working at an early age, especially when those families are mired in poverty, as is the case with most of the respondents included in this study. Some children are encouraged or forced to leave school and go to KSA to seek work, while others drop out or never have the opportunity to attend school at all because they have to assist their parents to farm or to rear animals.

Parents' expectations of children and their conception of their children's role in the family and in society as a whole often lead them to send their children away to KSA. They do not perceive anything wrong in doing so. From a socio-cultural standpoint, this practice is accepted due to longstanding familial and ancestral ties to KSA, among numerous other affinities, such as their common language and the cultural backgrounds that the two countries share.

3.3.5 Inadequate Infrastructure

As mentioned above, due to the isolation of many of the study communities, government authorities find it difficult to spearhead development initiatives, including building essential infrastructure.

One major problem is lack of availability of clean water and sanitation facilities in the communities. Parents often send their children to fetch water from bodies of water or wells located long distances from the communities. In most of the communities, even basic water facilities such as water pumps or boreholes are absent. Lack of clean, potable water, coupled with non-existent sanitation facilities and measures, greatly contribute to the spread of disease in the communities, further weakening the parents' ability to care for their children. Lack of water also leads the community members to engage in unhygienic and unsanitary practices, such as bathing irregularly.

In almost every single community, there were no communications services or electricity, further serving to isolate the communities from potential job opportunities. Lack of electricity greatly hinders the parents' ability to work and to care for their children.

As discussed earlier, social structures such as schools and health institutions are absent from most of the communities or usually highly inadequate when present. If children fall ill and need to be rushed to hospital, they usually need to go all the way to their respective district capitals, which could take hours, especially given the lack of transportation available in the communities and the long, winding, unpaved feeder roads that become inaccessible after heavy rains.

Government support in developing infrastructure in all these areas is necessary to prevent more children from leaving their communities to go to KSA.

3.3.6 Large Family Sizes

Large family sizes are a very big socio-cultural problem, which is made even worse by the fact that many families do not see it as such.

Table 6: Family Sizes of Parents Interviewed Using Questionnaires

NO. OF CHILDREN	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1-3	1	4.3
4-6	4	17.4
7-9	7	30.5
10-13	8	34.8
14-16	2	8.7
17-19	1	4.3
TOTAL	23	100

The table above indicates that the majority of parents (65.3%) have between 7 and 13 children. Out of 23 parents interviewed, only one had two children. These large family sizes make it extremely difficult for parents to give their children proper guidance and care for them, especially in terms of food, healthcare, and shelter, given the lack of facilities available in most of the communities. There is a correlation between parents with a large number of children and their inability to cater for their needs, leading to their being trafficked.

Reproductive health units of the various government hospitals, which are located primarily in district capitals, are reaching out to as many communities as possible within their jurisdiction in order to discuss family planning options. It is clear, however, that few of the study communities had been paid visits by health officials who would have been in a position to do so. This is mainly due to a severe lack of transportation and human resources with the requisite expertise.

In spite of the government's persistent efforts to make primary education free for all and substantially lower the cost of fees for school materials, uniforms, and the like, parents with eight, ten, twelve, or fifteen children simply cannot afford to send them to school. Even if enough funds were made available to send all their children to school, most parents still might not send some of them to school, as they have expressed a strong desire—and pressing need—for at least a few of their children to work full-time to help support the family. One gets the impression that some of the parents even gave birth to additional children for this very purpose.

Table 7: Marital Status of Parents Interviewed Using Questionnaires

MARITAL STATUS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
YES	23	100
NO	0	0
TOTAL	23	100

Table 7 shows that breakdown of the traditional family structure was not a problem due to divorce, separation, or similar arrangements, among parents of trafficked and vulnerable children who were interviewed during the study, as all 23 respondents were still married.

Table 8: Number of Wives of Parents Interviewed Using Questionnaires

NO. OF WIVES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	19	82.6
2	4	17.4
TOTAL	23	100

Table 8 points to the prevalence of the practice of polygamy, which causes the sizes of families to swell even further. Although only 17.4% of parents interviewed claimed to have more than one wife, given the sensitive nature of this inquiry, it is likely that some respondents were reluctant to divulge that information. Whatever the case, polygamy is a socio-cultural practice that further perpetuates the cycle of child trafficking by making it difficult for fathers to look after all of their various offspring, some of whom could be located in different areas and easily migrate to KSA without their father's knowledge.

3.4 Trafficking Experiences in KSA

Children in Yemen have had a host of different experiences while abroad in Saudi Arabia. Below are some stories narrated by some of the children, both of which give an impression of the trafficking situation in KSA. These children's trafficking experiences were conveyed to the research team during in-depth interviews and focus group discussions.

TRAFFICKED CHILD

I am from Bait Al Faqeh. There are seven of us. We are four boys and two girls and my mother. My father died. I am the second child. My older brother and I carry goods for people. Our house has only one room and a bathroom.

I left my house five years ago for the first time when I was 13-years-old. That time, I stayed away for about a year and I was able to build our house—our room—with the little money I had saved from when I was in Saudi Arabia. Now we are safe, but still when the rains come, they destroy the house and make us get wet.

I stayed in school until grade six until I left five years ago because there was no money or transportation to keep sending me to school. My mother was not working and my brothers weren't able to find jobs either to support the family. At first, I was rearing cattle for someone and selling water on the street when I went abroad. Later, I left my home many times and even helped to send different groups of children and adults across the border to find work.

I worked with a trafficker. I remember that he would give the fathers of the children about 300-400 Saudi riyals and receive about 500-600 Saudi riyals from the children's work.

TRAFFICKED CHILD

I am 18-years-old and I come from Noaman Al Aize in Aflah Asham. For five years, starting from when I was 12, I moved to different governorates to find work to feed myself. I suffered a lot during my experience.

I had to wash cars, clean dishes, and work as a waiter to survive. When someone asked me to go abroad, I agreed and went with five others. I stayed in Saudi Arabia for one month about a year ago. I reared sheep, washed cars, and worked in a restaurant.

The police caught me while checking people's passports, put me on a bus, and sent me back to Yemen. It is so difficult when you stay illegally in a country and then return to your village.

I am now prepared to stay in my country, but I need skills training to find work because I want to stay in Aflah Asham and work.

These case studies exemplify how the dynamics, conditions, and processes of migration of children from Yemen to Saudi Arabia do not always conform to the internationally-accepted definition of child trafficking given in the first chapter of this document. Children are not usually victims of an organized network of traffickers and their associates (except in Aflah Asham and some districts in Al Mahweet), but rather victims of poverty, lack of opportunities, and the other root causes described in Section 3.3 of this report.

For the most part, children are not just begging, but actively crossing the border into KSA to find any kind of work to do. It was surprising to find that the staff at the reception centre in Haradh had classified most of the children who had passed through the centre between January and June 2006 as having been caught “begging” in their data, which was not found to be the case during the study.

Begging seemed to be a convenient catch-all term for the shelter staff, who perhaps had assumed that because the children had been picked up on the street and close to the border, put on a bus, and deported by the Saudi authorities, they had been caught begging. Had they delved deeper into what the children had been doing in KSA during the interviewing process, they might have discovered that many of them were engaging in a variety of activities for pay, scanty as it may have been. Aflah Asham was the exception to this rule, in which the trafficking experience was vastly different than anything the team had encountered in most of the other districts, apart from Bani Saad.

According to the data collected, most of the children were actually farming or rearing animals for others in Saudi Arabia, or marketing flour, qat, vegetables, and other basic commodities close to the border. A few were working as domestic servants in addition to carrying out these activities.

Few of the children responded affirmatively during interviews to having been abused while in KSA, but nearly all of them knew of the potential risks involved in crossing the border illegally and getting caught by the Saudi authorities. They simply claimed that they had to take their chances despite these risks because they simply had no choice—they had to feed themselves and support their families by any means necessary.

3.5 Rehabilitation Assistance: Structure and Operation of Haradh Reception Centre

3.5.1 Background

The Haradh Reception Centre is located less than a kilometre from the border between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, an excellent location for a centre designed to assist children who have been sent back from KSA. It opened its doors to trafficked children in May 2005 and has had at least 300 of them in attendance since that time, some of which have been trafficked several times. Initially, the centre had been managed by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, but the Al Saleh Foundation, a local NGO, took over in mid-July 2006, shortly before the research team’s visit to the facility.

The centre is used primarily as a reception, identification, and transit centre, but does provide a limited number of extracurricular activities that serve to make the children feel more comfortable during their short stay, including games and sports, trips to the beach and similar venues, and reading sessions.

3.5.2 Observations on the HRC

a. Structure

The HRC is a medium-sized facility with a small recreational area for the children to play football and other sports. Despite a problem with the roof, which leaks whenever it rains, the centre is being maintained to a large extent, although there is some room for improvement on this score. There was no problem with water, electricity, and similar facilities, and there was a police officer stationed outside an external wall surrounding the centre premises for quick identification of visitors. Its location does not pose a security threat and no security incidents have occurred since it began admitting children. Although the HRC may be considered a relatively child-friendly facility in terms of its environment and recreational area, a few juvenile delinquents who are not victims of trafficking occasionally stay at the centre for a few days along with trafficked children, detracting from an otherwise child-friendly atmosphere.

b. Personnel

Al Saleh had a total of 17 staff working at the centre, most of whom were found to be in need of substantial training due to their lack of experience and qualifications. The staff turnover rate was very high, as many of the staff were volunteers or employees who perceived their work in Haradh as temporary and were therefore actively seeking employment elsewhere. They complained of not having been paid their salaries on time and lack of incentives to boost their motivation to work in difficult conditions in Haradh.

In addition to the director and deputy director of the centre, four staff were in charge of making all logistical arrangements for reception of the children, two staff were social workers responsible for conducting interviews, profiling the children, and opening case files, one staff attended to all health matters, and five general “supervisors” guided the various activities undertaken by the children at the centre, including cultural activities, reading sessions, storytelling, arts and crafts, drama performances, and light vocational activities, and then provided information on the children to the social workers. Finally, there were two cleaners and one cook.

In addition, there was a bus available with a driver responsible for transporting the children from the border to the centre after the initial interviewing process carried out by security officials.

c. Programme and Activities

Although there were many staff, during several visits to the centre in the afternoon, the children were not occupied with activities. The daily programme shared by the director did not include clear references to counselling sessions, including group therapy, interviewing to learn about their respective trafficking experiences and determine what course of action would be in the best interest of the child, and similar essential activities. It is well understood, however, that it is difficult to draw up such a programme when some of the children only stay at the centre for one or two days, others stay for three months, and at times there are no children there at all, as was the case at the end of the study in mid-September.

Furthermore, it was impossible for the staff to differentiate between children who had stayed at the centre once and those who had been housed there multiple times. The data kept on the children were found to be inaccurate in the course of the study, but there were a number of positive indications that steps were being taken to remedy the situation. In particular, a five-page report attempting to summarize and consolidate the data collected on the children had been written just a month prior to the commencement of the study. Moreover, a new, detailed form had been drawn up and the corresponding data entered into the database. The database was not user-friendly, however, making it difficult for the centre staff to find specific information on the children, their parents, and their communities of origin in a timely manner.

One of the biggest problems at the centre was the extremely limited medical care that the staff were able to provide due to a severe lack of resources. The one staff in charge of health matters was only qualified to treat minor ailments and must refer children with illnesses to a hospital in Haradh. Since May 2005, only children with severe illnesses or those who complained of not feeling well were taken to hospital for screening and treatment. Payment for drugs following diagnosis was another big problem. The director mentioned that he had drawn up a related budget and was trying to appeal to the Ministry of Health for resources. He had the intention of bringing an assistant doctor on board to provide more specialized assistance to all the children as soon as possible.

d. Reunification Process

Another big problem is that there is only a rudimentary family tracing process and no family assessment process currently in place to ensure that the children are not in serious danger of being re-victimized and re-trafficked by their parents. The current practice is for parents (or elder siblings or relatives when parents cannot be located) to be contacted by centre staff (or local government authorities based in the governorate to which they will be returned, especially MoSAL and security officers), find their way to the centre by their own means, sign an agreement pledging not to re-traffic their children, and bring their children back home with them.

This can be done within hours of the children being brought to the centre or six months later, depending on a host of factors, including whether the parents have enough money to go all the way to the centre, whether they are inclined to do so or are scared of being thrown in jail—especially in those cases where it is the child’s second or third time at the centre—or whether the children are even capable of providing sufficient information to the shelter staff to be able to locate their parents.

e. Reintegration

Once reunited with their parents, there is no follow-up assistance provided to the children by any authority, due to lack of resources (especially transportation) and a cohesive network of support formed by qualified service providers.

There are no standard operating procedures or guidelines governing the operations of the centre or provision of follow-up assistance following the children’s release. A referral network consisting of centres, institutions, and professionals with the requisite credentials to provide and monitor assistance given to children is also absent.

3.5.3 Children’s Perspectives on the HRC

In-depth interviews were conducted with 10 children at the centre. Most of the children expressed satisfaction with their stay at the centre, but those who had been there for more than a week or two generally wanted to return home. One 15-year-old boy who was hoping to advance to the eighth grade in October, made the following remarks: “I want to return home right away to attend school. I don’t want to stay here because my mother and father are not here with me. There is too much routine to follow here. I made a mistake when I left and I want to go back home”.

Most of the children made mention that the food was good and sufficient for their daily needs. A number of them also said that there was enough time allocated for recreational activities and reading exercises, both of which were enjoyable.

The following case study profiles the trafficking experience of a child who transited through the Haradh Reception Centre.

PROFILE OF A CHILD AT THE RECEPTION CENTRE

He is 11-years-old. He travelled from his hometown of Al Aqab in the mountainous and remote district of Al Gamima in Hajja Governorate five weeks prior to the date of interview. Some of his friends encouraged him to go so that he could collect money from “Saudi people in traditional dress”—perhaps a reference to begging—and help to support his family upon his return. His father was convinced that this would be the case by the boy’s older brother.

One day, he left his hometown for Saudi Arabia with a group of seven friends by using public transport. They went to a small hotel located in Muthala Aeam, close to the border at Haradh, where the manager contacted the police, who came to the hotel in plain clothes, asked the boys what they were doing there, and took them into custody.

The police conducted an investigation at the police station and a bus came to take them to the reception centre. This all took place on the same day.

He and his friends were still residing at the centre five weeks later when the interview was taking place. When asked if he had been in contact with his family, he said that he had spoken with his mother once on the phone and she had told him that “they will come to get him when they finish working on the farm”. Two of his brothers had visited him during his first week there, but were not permitted to take the child away.

He said that he liked being at the centre, but he wished to go home so that he could continue his studies. He was looking forward to advancing to the sixth grade in October, but wasn’t sure if he would make it home in time to register for classes. Fortunately, due to IOM’s intervention by discussing his situation with the director of the centre, he did make it home just in time.

3.5.4 Parents' Perspectives on the HRC

Most of the parents were happy to have their children back in their care, but expressed serious concern about having to go all the way to Haradh from their respective communities to pick up their children even though they lacked the transportation and financial means to do so. Many of them also were concerned about having to sign a pledge in which they were made to vow to take good care of their children and not allow them to return to KSA unaccompanied again as a precondition for their release.

From various comments made by parents during interviews, it seemed that the HRC staff had been doing their job well. When asked about his encounter with the HRC staff, one parent replied, "They asked me why I sent my child away, to bring certain documents with me, and to sign a statement. They also told me to take care of my child".

3.5.5 Conclusions

Although clearly it was much too early to determine whether Al Saleh Foundation had been capable of rectifying some of the outstanding problems that MoSAL had encountered while running the centre, it emerged during an in-depth interview with the Director of Al Saleh that plans were underway to do so. By working closely with MoSAL and other governmental and non-governmental authorities, as well as IOM and UNICEF, it is likely that Al Saleh can effectively remedy most of the problems mentioned in this section, but this will take some time.

3.6 District Findings

3.6.1 Haradh

Haradh District shares a long border with Saudi Arabia. Since border guards are used to many children going in and out of Yemen on a daily and weekly basis, they often turn a blind eye to the fact that the vast majority of them do not possess the requisite travel documents.

One merely has to sit at the border for half an hour to understand the complexity of the situation, as a multitude of children cross the border on donkey, on foot, and in small groups. One does not get the impression that they are skulking around looking for the right opportunity to present itself to sneak across the border. It is quite easy to do so. Besides the fact that crossing the border without official travel documents is illegal, the problem is that some of them do not come back that day or the following week. Furthermore, the children leave themselves open to all sorts of exploitation as they search for work and food to assist their families.

The communities that the research team visited, especially Al Khdoor, were filled with children and parents who had migrated illegally to KSA to find work on a regular basis. Despite the fact that there were more government structures and services available in this district than in any of the others (with the possible exception of Abss), lack of employment and traditional ties with KSA among families living in this district make frequent trips to KSA an enticing prospect.

3.6.2 Bani Qais

Bani Qais District severely lacks infrastructure, which contributes to the perpetuation of child trafficking in some of its more remote areas. During a FGD involving mothers of trafficked and vulnerable children in Saifan, they remarked that there were “no real development projects” in their community, that “some schools only had one teacher and were usually just huts”, and that there was a “health clinic in their community, but never anyone there to treat patients because there was no way to pay their salaries, and they needed training because there was a very low understanding among them of the needs of the people”.

3.6.3 Aflah Asham

Lack of essential social infrastructure and services is a big problem in Aflah Asham District. For instance, there is a severe lack of schools and hospitals in this district. A typical example is Noaman Al Aize, where a discussion with the only doctor in town revealed that the closest functioning hospital was quite a distance away. This doctor had just completed school and was offering medical services to some residents of his community by going to their houses to diagnose and treat them due to lack of equipment in the local hospital. Despite the fact that there is a hospital located in the centre of the community, there is no money to pay for doctors’ salaries, so residents have to walk for more than two hours to reach the next closest local hospital.

It came to light that UNICEF provided funds for a computer room and recreational area that were built for children attending the local school in Noaman, but the generator donated by UNICEF required fuel and the community pleaded with the research team to find the funds to enable them to buy some. Government intervention to supplement UNICEF’s financial assistance would ease the burden on the people of this community.

Although it was quite difficult to glean insights on the dynamics of the children’s trafficking experiences because of severe time constraints and the fact that most residents were preoccupied with the forthcoming elections, a clear picture of real trafficking—as opposed to mere irregular migration—involving traffickers and intermediaries who would come to their community and pay an unspecified amount to take their children away, began slowly to emerge. Fortunately, some of the residents of Noaman pointed to a significant reduction in trafficking because of the promulgation and enforcement of strong laws and regulations targeting traffickers in their area.

Aflah Asham was unique in the sense that nearly every participant in the FGDs knew about child trafficking, had strong opinions against it, and claimed that many of their children had been sent away by traffickers for the purpose of begging in KSA.

Surprisingly, the data received from the reception centre in Haradh revealed only two cases of trafficked children from Aflah Asham who had passed through the centre between January and June 2006 out of a total of 126 who had returned to Hajja Governorate. This is shocking because the situation on the ground indicates that trafficking is highly prevalent and organized in Aflah Asham, leading one to wonder if the children who are being trafficked from this district are not being identified properly by the Saudi authorities because the types of work they do in KSA are sometimes different than what children from other districts do. This could be partly because of the underground and highly organized nature of trafficking

from Aflah Asham in comparison with the other districts included in the study. This calls for further research into the nature and scope of child trafficking in Aflah Asham.

3.6.4 Bani Saad

Bani Saad was particularly noted for its vulnerability to traffickers. FGDs confirmed what had been said at the stakeholders' meeting—that trafficking was an organized business in Bani Saad, but it had diminished significantly over the last two years due to the interventions of local security officials and government authorities. It was no longer the problem that it used to be, yet it was still surely in existence to some extent. It is highly recommended that follow-up visits be made to Bani Saad and other districts identified as being focal points for traffickers in order to come up with comprehensive, realistic solutions to combat the practice.

CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Conclusions

This study has shown that child trafficking does exist in Yemen and is an issue that warrants more attention from the Government of Yemen and its partners in order to prevent and combat the phenomenon in a sustainable manner. Despite the government's recent efforts to protect and assist children who have been deported from Saudi Arabia through the establishment of the Haradh Reception Centre, a more coordinated and holistic approach should be adopted in collaboration with Saudi authorities in order to break the cycle of trafficking and re-trafficking in Yemen. Yemeni authorities and service providers can benefit immensely from further research along the lines of the case studies included in this feasibility study. In conducting research, attention also should be paid to irregular migration of children and youth from Yemen to Saudi Arabia, including unaccompanied minors, minors who migrate and work together with their families, relatives, or neighbours abroad, and other vulnerable groups.

The recommendations in the subsequent section provide a foundation upon which relevant stakeholders can build in order to prevent and combat child trafficking and assist vulnerable children in Yemen.

4.2 Recommendations

4.2.1 National

1. Conduct Fact-Finding Missions on Child Trafficking

Fact-finding missions should be undertaken by research agencies in collaboration with MoSAL and other government authorities at the governorate and district levels in order to gain a better understanding of the magnitude and nature of child trafficking in all the governorates of Yemen. This will enable service providers to make targeted interventions in selected sending communities particularly known for sending their children to Saudi Arabia.

Follow-up visits should be made to Aflah Asham, Bani Saad, and other districts identified as being focal points for traffickers in order to come up with comprehensive, realistic solutions to combat the practice of child trafficking in these areas.

2. Enhance Collaboration between Yemeni and Saudi Authorities

The Governments of Yemen and Saudi Arabia should build upon the progress made during several bilateral meetings held between high-level Yemeni and Saudi authorities in 2005. A draft agreement between the two countries on information-sharing and protection of vulnerable children who migrate illegally to Saudi Arabia, *inter alia*, should be finalized and signed in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding as soon as possible.

3. Create Databases at the Haradh and Sana'a Reception Centres

A central database and effective database management system should be set up at each of the two reception centres in order to maintain proper documentation on the ages of the children

who pass through the centres in addition to other vital background information that will enable service providers to draw up an effective reintegration plan. Such a plan should be customized to reflect and cater for each child's individual needs. It is recommended that a database specialist be hired on a temporary basis to organize the data and generate useful reports on the children that will aid the centre staff in their work.

4. Train Service Providers to Protect and Assist Trafficked Children

All service providers should be trained with the aim of strengthening their capacity to provide comprehensive and customized protection and assistance to children victims of trafficking. Border authorities and other security officials should be further trained in the areas of database management, information-exchange, detection and investigation of suspected traffickers, identification and protection of victims, interviewing techniques, and cooperation with NGOs and other CSOs in providing support to victims. Judicial authorities should be trained to prosecute, convict, and sentence traffickers.

5. Coordinate Assistance Network

MoSAL should lead the Technical Committee and National Inter-Agency Taskforce in coordinating and guiding actions taken to assist trafficked children by forming a cohesive network of support and national referral system in line with the draft National Plan of Action. This will serve not only to ensure that children receive tailored, sustainable assistance from service providers at every stage in the rehabilitation and reintegration process, but also help to prevent them from being re-trafficked. To facilitate the work of this network, a database consisting of centres, institutions, and highly-skilled professionals capable of supporting children on a range of issues should be created jointly by staff at the two reception centres and the rehabilitation centre that should be opened in Sana'a.

4.2.2 Rehabilitation

6. Provide Comprehensive Rehabilitation Assistance

Children who have been severely traumatized and/or have no formal educational background should be provided comprehensive rehabilitation assistance prior to returning to their communities of origin. A rehabilitation centre should be opened in Sana'a for this purpose. This is especially important because many of the children live in remote villages and are scattered across vast areas, making it difficult to reach them to provide comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration assistance in groups in their respective communities of origin.

To facilitate the children's recovery, rehabilitation assistance should include, at a minimum, the following services: medical screening and treatment; psychosocial counselling; needs assessments; creation of a reintegration plan; life skills; functional literacy skills; basic education in English, maths, and other core subjects; religious education; handicrafts (needlework, sewing, etc.); and creative therapies, such as arts and crafts, drawing, drama performances and role plays, and song and dance.

7. Recruit and Train Qualified Staff

Qualified staff should be recruited and trained to build their capacity to provide reception and rehabilitation assistance to the children who pass through the centres. Continuous in-service training should be provided to all staff, along with other incentives to reduce the current high turnover rate at the centre in Haradh and make the trainings more sustainable. Salaries of the staff should be paid promptly and accommodation should be provided whenever possible, especially for those working in Haradh. Once a detailed form has been designed, staff should be specifically trained in conducting interviews and profiling the children to assess their social, educational, and psychosocial needs, among others.

8. Create a Child-Friendly Environment

The two reception centres in Haradh and Sana'a and the rehabilitation centre recommended to be set up in Sana'a should only accommodate children victims of trafficking and other groups of vulnerable children and not juvenile delinquents in order to be able to kick-start the healing process in a child-friendly environment. Juvenile centres in Hajja and other governorates should be upgraded to be able to accommodate juvenile delinquents immediately after their deportation, in order to avoid having the children spend a few nights at the reception centres with the trafficked children and other vulnerable groups. To further create a child-friendly atmosphere, the centres should contain a large recreational area with an appropriate level of security to ensure the children's safety.

9. Draw Up Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines

Standard operating procedures, standards of conduct, and guidelines for the protection and assistance of children victims of trafficking should be devised in order to serve as a blueprint for all service providers working with trafficked children, including staff located at the reception centres and the rehabilitation centre. Such procedures and guidelines should govern all actions taken by service providers in support of trafficked children.

4.2.3 Reintegration

10. Form Mobile Teams

Two mobile teams should be created in order to raise awareness and educate parents on child trafficking and children's rights, conduct family assessments, provide rehabilitation, reintegration, and follow-up assistance to the children and livelihood assistance to their parents in their communities of origin, monitor these groups of target beneficiaries on a regular basis, and form watchdog committees that will protect the children from being trafficked and re-trafficked. These mobile teams could work on a pilot basis in Hajja and Hodeida Governorates until resources can be found to establish teams in other governorates as well. Alternatively, if resources cannot be made available for the teams to be established right away, district and community focal points should be recruited and trained to carry out the above-mentioned functions in the interim.

The teams should be multidisciplinary in nature, reflecting the wide array of expertise and skills available in the various districts. Family assessment teams need only comprise two

social workers each, but it is essential to include a number of other service providers on the teams to undertake the other activities.

In addition, until such a time as sufficient resources are made available for multidisciplinary teams, district health offices can take the lead in composing mobile medical teams to visit communities located in their districts and provide returned and vulnerable children and their parents with primary healthcare services, periodic medical check-ups, psychosocial counselling, health education, preventive care, vaccinations, reproductive health services, family planning education, and services for pregnant mothers. These visits could be coupled with general awareness-raising and vaccination campaigns, which are already in existence, to minimize the number of extra trips that need to be made to various communities. It is highly encouraged that these services—as with all other services provided by local authorities—should be offered to entire communities determined to be at particular risk of sending their children away or especially known for already doing so, rather than just parents of children who have transited through the centres.

11. Provide Transportation

Given the fact that means of transportation is known to be a very big obstacle to reaching some communities, especially those located in mountainous areas that are generally more inaccessible than those in coastal areas, joint field visits could provide a partial solution, but need to be coupled with provision of additional vehicles and motorcycles by international organizations and the central government. Per diems need to be given to members of the mobile teams as well.

12. Conduct Family Tracing and Assessment Exercises

A coordinated family tracing and assessment process should be established among local authorities and centre staff while the children reside at the centres. As soon as families have been traced and assessed, they should be provided with training and livelihood assistance, as applicable to their particular circumstances. Family assessment should consist of two parts. The first part entails having mobile teams of highly-qualified social workers conduct an assessment of the family's home environment to ensure it is suitable to cater for the most essential needs of the children. The second component requires centre staff to assess the parents' psychological make-up to verify that they are capable of providing for their children.

13. Attend to Children's School and Vocational Needs

Once returned to their families, all children under 15 years of age should be enrolled in school, have the associated registration fees covered by the sponsoring NGO or local authority, and be provided with two sets of uniforms, notebooks, schoolbags, clothes, hygiene kits, and other materials essential to integrate them into their new environment. Some of these items may be given to the children before they leave the centres to facilitate their reintegration. Children who are over 15, have no formal educational background, and live in remote communities, should be given comprehensive rehabilitation assistance at the rehabilitation centre in Sana'a prior to being enrolled in an apprenticeship, non-formal training, or a vocational training institute.

14. Provide Livelihood Assistance to Parents

Parents and guardians of children reunited with their families should be given livelihood assistance in the form of loans, materials, and equipment necessary to supplement their income and generate enough revenue to cater for the most essential needs of their children and those in their care. In-kind assistance is much preferred to cash, which is likely to be squandered in a short period of time due to probable misuse of the funds.

15. Set Up Microfinance Programmes

Efforts should be made to establish partnerships between microfinance programmes managed by the Social Fund for Development and those run by the Cooperative and Agricultural Credit (CAC) Bank branches in order to enable them to provide more low-interest loans over longer periods of time that take into account the realities of farming and animal-rearing (for example, it takes one year for animals to breed, but loans are provided sometimes only for six months at 10-13% interest, making it difficult for parents to repay them on time). Joint field visits could be organized to conduct needs assessments, attend skills training sessions, help parents to devise viable business plans, encourage parents to form groups or cooperatives with others who wish to engage in similar activities and trades, evaluate their progress, and monitor repayment of the loans.

16. Monitor and Provide Follow-Up Reintegration and Livelihood Assistance

Both groups of main target beneficiaries—children and their parents—should be provided with reintegration and livelihood assistance, respectively, and need to be extensively monitored by NGOs and local authorities on a regular basis to ensure that they are using that assistance in an appropriate manner. Mobile service provision and monitoring teams composed of representatives of the Ministries of Social Affairs and Labour, Technical Education and Vocational Training (MTEVT), Health, Education, and Agriculture and Irrigation, as well as members of local councils and local NGOs based in the various districts of the governorates, should pool available modes of transportation and undertake joint assistance and monitoring missions.

4.2.4 Prevention

17. Provide Community Development Assistance

Whenever possible, assistance should be provided to communities in target areas where child trafficking/irregular migration is known to be widespread. Such assistance should come mainly in the form of community development projects that fall in line with the national poverty reduction strategy.

18. Increase Government Services

International organizations should team up with local NGOs in the target areas to augment basic government services, which are presently limited in scope. Such services would include provision of clean drinking water, electricity, communications, education, and healthcare.

19. Provide Vocational Training

Trafficked and vulnerable children over 15 years of age should be enrolled in vocational, technical, or commercial institutes to learn how to become carpenters, electricians, plumbers, IT experts, tailors or seamstresses, mechanics, etc. Most of the districts included in the study lacked appropriate and suitable vocational training centres to impart such types of skills on adolescents and unemployed youth, who constitute the groups most vulnerable to being trafficked or migrating abroad illegally in search of work.

20. Increase Social Care Fund Allowances

The Social Care Fund should increase the number and amount of allowances provided to poor families so as to afford them the opportunity to send their children to school, provide for their nutritional, dietary, health, and other basic needs, repair their houses and other facilities (many of which have been severely damaged by heavy rains and lack of availability of quality materials—principally wood from cedar trees in Hajja; mud in Hodeida; and stone in Al Mahweet), attain a higher standard of living, and find suitable work. Moreover, the Social Care Fund should make provision for rehabilitation assistance for trafficked children at the reception centres as well as training of service providers.

21. Provide Training and Employment Opportunities for Parents

Job opportunities, skills and vocational training, functional literacy classes, and equipment need to be made available to parents. There are a variety of options available to parents who seek to establish or expand small-scale enterprises, including the following:

- a. **Animal-rearing** (mainly goats, mutton, cattle, and some chickens and hens)
 - provision of animals, shelters for animals, and medications
 - continuous training and awareness-raising on animal health and proper breeding techniques by veterinarians and agricultural extension officers
- b. **Beekeeping**
 - provision of wooden racks to store bees
 - education on marketing techniques
 - training on how and where to multiply bees and during which seasons this activity will be most effective
- c. **Farming**
 - distribution of land by the government to poor farmers, as most of them merely work on land owned by a few wealthy families and keep a small fraction of the profit

- provision of loans, materials, and equipment, such as tractors, wheelbarrows, ploughs, and other farming implements by local authorities and NGOs
 - training by agricultural extension officers on when to sow and harvest, particularly which crops to grow during which seasons
 - use of sophisticated irrigation techniques such as provision of agricultural drops on areas affected by severe drought to water the land in sufficient amounts to nourish the soil and make it more fertile for various crops and trees to grow, but not to the extent that the grass grows so much as to impede this process
 - construction of strategically-placed dams in valleys to prevent floods from occurring during times of heavy rain and washing away the crops
 - diversification of crop production to include various different types of fruits and vegetables according to those indigenous to certain areas
- d. **Small Shops** (establishment of any number of different types of shops, depending on market needs in a particular area, such as stores selling provisions or games for children, through the provision of micro-credit assistance)
- e. **Small Commercial Enterprises** (barbering, dressmaking, sewing, weaving, producing furniture, etc.)

22. **Raise Awareness of Child Trafficking**

Awareness of the dangers of sending children away to Saudi Arabia to work for others, including relatives, and the adverse impact it has on their growth and development by infringing on their rights to survival, protection, and development, should be raised among parents in highly-endemic areas of the three governorates. The repercussions of sending their children away, especially the legal ramifications associated with doing so, should be made clear to them to serve as a deterrent.

23. **Upgrade School Facilities**

Although a large number of schools for both boys and girls are in the process of being constructed through funds allocated for this purpose by the Social Fund for Development or, in some cases, the Ministry of Education, many facilities that are already in existence need to be upgraded through provision of furniture and structural improvements to the classrooms. Schools for girls are notably absent, but they are not at risk of being trafficked due to cultural norms.

24. **Provide Training for Teachers**

In-service training for teachers should be provided on a continuous basis to enable them to facilitate extracurricular activities for children determined to be particularly at risk. Such activities could include mentoring and tutoring programmes, peer education and counselling through child clubs, and extra classes after school to keep children occupied. Recreational

areas should be made available and sports and cultural activities should be promoted for the same purpose.

25. Offer Incentives for Teachers

There is a problem with constant rotation of teachers, especially those located in rural communities, so incentives should be provided to them to reduce this high turnover rate. Such incentives could include provision of in-service training, suitable accommodation, and various school materials that will facilitate the teachers' work.

26. Establish Child Clubs

Child clubs need to be revived in some areas and established in others in order to foster the reintegration of children victims of trafficking and reduce their vulnerability to being re-trafficked. Such clubs enhance vulnerable children's level of comfort in their communities and serve to strengthen their ties to their peers and fellow community members.

27. Establish and Strengthen Child Protection Groups

Protection groups or watchdog committees should be strengthened in Aflah Asham and replicated in other highly-endemic areas as well. Such groups serve as a deterrent to would-be traffickers who often capitalize on lax enforcement of laws and regulations at the community level.

CHAPTER 5: IMPLEMENTATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING PLANS FOR GOVERNMENT AND PARTNERS

5.1 Implementation Plan for Government of Yemen and Partners

OBJECTIVE	MAIN ACTIVITIES	RATIONALE	APPROACH	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES	EXPECTED OUTCOMES
		NATIONAL			
1. To conduct fact-finding missions in order to explore which areas of the country have parents who are sending their children away to Saudi Arabia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct fact-finding missions to major sending communities in each district of each governorate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To gain an overview of the nature and scope of the trafficking situation in Yemen, and particularly all districts of the three study governorates, through informal and coordinated fact-finding missions, in order to devise targeted interventions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use local authorities in each governorate to float the information down to the district managers. ▪ Make these missions a part of the daily activities of the local authorities, who report to MoSAL on a regular basis. 	<p><u>SECTOR RESPONSIBLE</u> Research Agencies</p> <p><u>SECTOR TO FACILITATE</u> Security Officials, Local Authorities, Sheikhs, and NGOs</p> <p><u>SECTOR TO SUPPORT</u> MoSAL and Donors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Major sending communities in each district of each governorate identified by relevant government authorities.
2. To enhance collaboration between Yemeni and Saudi authorities in order to combat trafficking and irregular migration at the border.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create an inter-institutional information-exchange mechanism between Yemeni and Saudi authorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To set up a platform for Saudi authorities to handle children without official travel and identification documents in a child-friendly manner and give relevant information to the Yemeni authorities at the border. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Convene bilateral meetings and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High-Level Saudi Security Officials ▪ High-Level Yemeni Security Officials ▪ Senior-Ranking MoSAL Officials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MoU signed between Saudi and Yemeni authorities.

<p>3. To create databases on children victims of trafficking and other vulnerable groups of children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create databases on children victims of trafficking and other vulnerable groups of children at the two reception centres in Haradh and Sana'a. ▪ Hire a database specialist to organize the data and make the databases more user-friendly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To enable relevant border authorities to have information on children who move in and out of the country. ▪ To provide insight to centre staff on how best to assist children who transit through the centres. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use qualified in-house social workers and counsellors to record the information into the databases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Haradh and Sana'a Reception Centre Staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information on children victims of trafficking, unaccompanied minors, and other vulnerable children recorded and documented.
<p>4. To build the capacity of law enforcement officials, border guards, judicial authorities, social workers, counsellors, local government authorities, NGOs, CBOs, and other stakeholders on working with children, assessing children's needs, interviewing and recording skills, data management, and other relevant issues related to counter-trafficking and irregular migration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify key agencies working with children victims of trafficking and other vulnerable groups. ▪ Identify and engage the services of resource persons who have extensive experience in assisting such children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To enhance the capacity of various stakeholders to play their respective roles through the provision of services and assistance to the children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organize training workshops and seminars. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IOM ▪ UNICEF ▪ International Labour Organization (ILO) ▪ Other International Organizations ▪ All Relevant Ministries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Service providers trained to the extent that they can easily recognize and cater for all the most essential needs of the children entrusted to their care.

<p>5. To set up a national referral system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create a system whereby trafficked children remain at the Haradh or Sana'a Reception Centre for a minimum of ten days before either being referred to the Sana'a Rehabilitation Centre for specialized rehabilitation assistance over a longer period or being reunited with their families in their communities of origin. ▪ Determine whether some children should be classified as juvenile delinquents and refer them directly from the border authorities to the closest juvenile centre in their governorates of origin. ▪ Create a database on centres, institutions, and professionals for referral on social, educational, medical, and protection issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To ensure that all activities undertaken and decisions made on behalf of children are coordinated so as to enhance the possibility of their being successfully reintegrated into their communities and reduce the eventuality of their being re-trafficked. ▪ The creation of such a database would enable the relevant authorities to map child-friendly social services and create a viable referral network capable of handling all eventualities on the ground. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase the duration of the children's stay at the Haradh and Sana'a Reception Centres to a minimum of ten days in order to determine what is in their best interest and draw up an individual plan to suit their different needs. ▪ Upgrade the juvenile centre in Hajja to build its capacity to take referrals from border authorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All Stakeholders, Led by MoSAL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children referred to appropriate authorities for targeted assistance through a coordinated network of support.
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		REHABILITATION			
<p>6. To enhance the capacity of centre staff to provide temporary accommodation and customized recovery and rehabilitation assistance to trafficked children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruit and train qualified staff to work at the reception centres. ▪ Provide in-service training for staff. ▪ Design a detailed form to be used during interviews assessing the social, educational, and psychosocial needs of the children. ▪ Create a standardized approach to provision of basic rehabilitation assistance at the reception centres by inserting a mandatory five-day therapeutic workshop into the programme for each child. ▪ Provide appropriate incentives to staff to reduce the current high turnover rate at the centre in Haradh. ▪ Establish a rehabilitation centre in Sana'a to provide tailored rehabilitation assistance to severely traumatized children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To enable centre staff to receive the children temporarily following deportation and consult with their parents and the children themselves in order to determine what is in their best interest. ▪ To impart the requisite skills on the reception centre staff to ensure a quicker psychosocial response. ▪ To empower staff with the capacity to give each child the individualized attention necessary to kick-start the rehabilitation process. ▪ To increase the staff retention rate at the centres, thereby enhancing the level of sustainability of results. ▪ To prepare traumatized children to transition into their home environment by placing them on the path to healing from their traumatic experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engage a consultant to draw up standard operating procedures and shelter guidelines to govern the operations of the centres. ▪ Conduct trainings for centre staff, placing emphasis on interviewing and profiling children and drawing up individual plans. ▪ Encourage active participation of the children and their parents in joint decision-making processes about the children's future. ▪ Engage a consultant to prompt the Sana'a Rehabilitation Centre staff to devise a detailed programme and realistic budget for provision of rehabilitation assistance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IOM ▪ UNICEF ▪ ILO ▪ Other International Organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capacity of centre staff to identify and attend to children's needs at the centres strengthened. ▪ Staff retention rate increased. ▪ Individual plan devised for each child. ▪ Rehabilitation centre in Sana'a established. ▪ Capacity to provide rehabilitation assistance to a greater number of children increased. ▪ Quality of rehabilitation assistance provided to trafficked children increased.

<p>7. To establish two mobile teams to work with families of trafficked children on a pilot basis in Hajja and Hodeida Governorates.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raise awareness among families about the dangers inherent in sending their children away and educate them on children’s rights. ▪ Assess families’ home environments to ensure they are suitable for the children and assess parents’ specific needs. ▪ Provide rehabilitation and reintegration assistance to the children and livelihood assistance to their parents in their communities of origin. ▪ Monitor the use of all assistance given to children and parents and provide follow-up assistance as necessary. ▪ Form watchdog committees and community surveillance groups to protect children from being trafficked. 	<p style="text-align: center;">REINTEGRATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The mobile teams will create a network of support and sphere of protection for children and their families in their communities of origin. ▪ Through the mobile teams’ frequent visits to the communities and establishment of vigilance groups through which community-based interventions can take place, children’s vulnerability to being re-trafficked will be significantly reduced. ▪ The mobile teams and/or designated community focal points will be able to find social solutions to family problems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mobilize resources to create two mobile teams. ▪ Assemble highly-qualified, multidisciplinary teams with a range of expertise, experience, and skills. ▪ Equip mobile teams with the requisite resources to travel to the various communities on a regular basis. ▪ Incorporate a section on allocation of resources and recruitment exercises for mobile teams into the National Plan of Action. ▪ In the absence of adequate resources, appropriate persons resident in the communities can be trained to carry out the functions of the mobile teams. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ASSESSMENTS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highly-Qualified Social Workers ▪ Local Government Authorities Based in Hajja and Hodeida Governorates ▪ NGO Officials ▪ Health and Education Practitioners <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RESOURCES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MoSAL ▪ Social Care Fund ▪ CSOs <p style="text-align: center;"><u>VIGILANCE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Imams ▪ Community Leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trafficked children and their families educated, assessed, provided with rehabilitation, reintegration, and follow-up assistance, monitored, and protected by vigilance groups in their communities of origin.
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<p>8. To institute a family tracing and assessment mechanism at the reception centres and in the children's communities of origin.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish a mechanism among centre staff, local government authorities, and NGOs by which to conduct family tracing and assessment exercises. ▪ Design a form and train the relevant staff to fill it out properly and collect vital information during the family assessment process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To locate and identify suitable family members and a home environment conducive to fostering the child's growth and development and facilitating the child's transition into his or her community of origin and society at large. ▪ To identify the needs of the child's parents in order to assist them to take care of their child over the long-term. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bring together government officials, NGOs, and community leaders to trace families. ▪ Assemble two mobile teams of two highly-qualified social workers each to assess families. ▪ Family assessment should consist of two parts: 1) Assessment of the parents' home environment by mobile teams. 2) Psychosocial assessment of the parents at the reception or rehabilitation centre by qualified social workers. ▪ Refer families to the Social Care Fund for assistance. ▪ Begin the family assistance process immediately after conducting assessments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MoSAL ▪ Al Saleh Foundation ▪ District Managers ▪ Local Council Members ▪ Sheikhs ▪ Community Leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trafficked children placed in the care of suitable parents and guardians.
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<p>9. To reintegrate trafficked children into their communities of origin.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Place children in schools or apprenticeships according to their qualifications and preferences. ▪ Provide children with school supplies, uniforms, and other essential materials at the centres prior to their departure. ▪ Provide biannual medical screenings and treatment. ▪ Provide psychosocial counselling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provision of comprehensive reintegration assistance greatly reduces the child’s vulnerability to being re-trafficked by his or her parents. ▪ Provision of primary healthcare services and psychosocial counselling on a regular basis further serves to facilitate the child’s reintegration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mobilize resources for two mobile teams to provide comprehensive reintegration assistance to the children in their respective communities. ▪ The education office in the children’s districts of origin should liaise with the centre staff well in advance of the children’s return to their communities of origin in order to coordinate school or apprenticeship placement with teachers and supervisors. ▪ Provide transport and allowances. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ District Education Office ▪ District Health Office ▪ MoSAL ▪ MTEVT ▪ NGOs ▪ Centre Staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children who pass through the centres reintegrated into their communities of origin.
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<p>10. To provide micro-credit and livelihood assistance to parents of trafficked children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide vocational and skills training to parents. ▪ Organize a training workshop for parents in communities on alternative livelihoods. ▪ Provide in-kind assistance to parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To enable parents of trafficked children to cater for their most essential needs and reduce the risk of having vulnerable parents in the same communities send their children away as well because those who do will not be entitled to receive assistance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NGOs target parents of vulnerable and trafficked children together in sending communities. ▪ Following training conducted by NGOs and financed by SFD, parents apply for loans and inputs. ▪ Parents present business plans; some vulnerable and all parents of trafficked children will have their applications accepted. ▪ Vulnerable parents whose business plans are not selected can apply for loans and inputs from the CAC Bank and SFD through a joint microfinance programme. ▪ Disbursement and recovery of loans and inputs to be coordinated by local NGOs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NGOs ▪ CAC Bank ▪ SFD ▪ Yemeni Women Union ▪ Al Saleh Foundation ▪ MoSAL ▪ MTEVT ▪ Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation ▪ District Managers ▪ Sheikhs ▪ Community Leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parents of vulnerable and trafficked children provided with micro-credit and livelihood assistance as well as skills and vocational training.
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<p>11. To monitor extensively and provide follow-up assistance as necessary to reintegrated children and their parents in their communities of origin.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct monitoring missions once every month in the first quarter following family reunifications and once every three months for a minimum of one year thereafter to chart the children’s progress in reintegrating into their communities of origin and the parents’ progress in undertaking their alternative livelihoods. ▪ Provide follow-up medical and educational assistance as deemed appropriate. ▪ Assist and monitor the families of those highly-traumatized children who are assigned to the rehabilitation centre in Sana’a throughout the duration of their stay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To ensure that the parents are taking care of their children and generating enough revenue from their respective alternative livelihoods to provide for their children over the long run. ▪ To address problems that are impeding the children’s progress in reintegrating into their home environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involve service providers in every stage of the intervention that precedes monitoring of the target beneficiaries. ▪ Hold a workshop to map out strategies, roles, and responsibilities of the various service providers. ▪ Mobilize resources for two mobile teams of NGO officials, social workers, education and health officers, and community leaders to carry out regular monitoring missions. ▪ Provide transportation and allowances to the team members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NGOs ▪ MoSAL ▪ District Education Office ▪ District Health Office ▪ Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation ▪ District Managers ▪ Sheikhs ▪ Community Leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children and parents monitored on a regular basis and follow-up assistance provided to these groups.
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		PREVENTION			
<p>12. To adopt preventive measures to address the root causes of child trafficking and irregular migration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide intensive family planning education to parents. ▪ Foster community-based education on children's rights and welfare. ▪ Build more schools and health clinics in major sending communities. ▪ Train more teachers and encourage them to remain in major sending communities through incentive packages, particularly in the three study governorates. ▪ Increase the number of recipients of the Social Care Fund and raise the amount given to these recipients. ▪ Set up child clubs and child protection groups in each of the major sending communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remedial measures taken by centre staff and other service providers based in the children's communities of origin need to be coupled with appropriate and targeted prevention activities to ensure sustainability of results and achievements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intensive advocacy campaign among service providers to enact preventive measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social Care Fund ▪ Social Fund for Development ▪ District Education Office ▪ MoSAL ▪ NGOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cycle of child trafficking and irregular migration broken, as evidenced through a progressive reduction in the number of such cases reported by child protection groups.

<p>13. To develop major sending communities in order to prevent parents from sending away their children to Saudi Arabia.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase access to water and sanitation facilities among parents in children’s communities of origin. ▪ Inform the Ministry of Planning of major sending communities and lobby for their inclusion in other targeted interventions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greater availability of basic facilities in communities will decrease parents’ dependence on the surrounding areas and make them more self-sufficient and capable of taking better care of their children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local political leaders, including district managers, should advocate for the government to drill boreholes, build wells, lay pipes, and provide water pumps to the residents of major sending communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government of Yemen ▪ Ministry of Planning ▪ SDF ▪ Governors ▪ District Managers ▪ Sheikhs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water and sanitation facilities upgraded in the major sending communities. ▪ Other basic social services and structures developed in line with Yemen’s development agenda.
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5.2 Capacity-Building Plan for Government of Yemen and Partners

TYPE OF TRAINING	AGENCIES	SPECIFIC AGENCIES	DURATION	EXPECTED OUTCOMES
1. Standard Operating Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local government authorities ▪ Shelter staff ▪ NGOs ▪ CBOs ▪ District managers ▪ Security officials 	MINISTRIES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MoSAL ▪ MTEVT ▪ Education ▪ Health ▪ Agriculture and Irrigation ▪ Interior ▪ Justice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved coordination among agencies facilitating the identification, protection, return, and reintegration of trafficked children.
2. Standards of Conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local government authorities ▪ Shelter staff ▪ NGOs ▪ CBOs 	OTHER GOVERNMENT ENTITIES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social Care Fund ▪ Social Fund for Dev't. ▪ Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood (HCMC) ▪ Parliamentary Human Rights Committee ▪ Yemeni Centre for Social and Labour Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved understanding of how to work with trafficked children among service providers.
3. Basic Concepts in Counter-Trafficking and Irregular Migration (Emphasis Placed on Child Victims)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local government authorities ▪ Shelter staff ▪ NGOs ▪ CBOs ▪ District managers ▪ Security officials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social Care Fund ▪ Social Fund for Dev't. ▪ Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood (HCMC) ▪ Parliamentary Human Rights Committee ▪ Yemeni Centre for Social and Labour Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stakeholders have a more comprehensive understanding of the twin phenomena of trafficking and irregular migration.
4. Cooperation and Networking (Including Team-Building Exercises)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local government authorities ▪ Shelter staff ▪ NGOs ▪ CBOs ▪ District managers ▪ Security officials 	SHELTER STAFF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Haradh Reception Centre Staff ▪ Sana'a Reception Centre Staff ▪ Sana'a Rehabilitation Centre Staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Referral system strengthened among relevant Yemeni authorities in Hajja, Hodeida, and Al Mahweet Governorates in order to establish a cohesive network of support and sphere of protection for children referred to service providers.

5. Investigation, Prosecution, and Conviction of Traffickers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Security officials ▪ Border guards ▪ Judges ▪ Magistrates ▪ Prosecutors ▪ Attorneys ▪ Social workers 	<p>NGOs and CBOs:</p> <p>Hajja:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Al Saleh Foundation ▪ Al Pharis Foundation ▪ Care (NGO Network) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5 days x 6 workshops (Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced Levels for Security and Judicial Officials, Respectively) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Law enforcement officials and judicial authorities know how to work together with MoSAL officers to ensure that traffickers are brought to justice.
6. Interviewing and Recording Skills (Including Communications Skills)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Security officials ▪ Border guards ▪ Social workers ▪ Counsellors ▪ Shelter staff ▪ NGOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Civic Democratic Initiatives Support Foundation (CDF) ▪ Al Mustaqbul (Aflah) ▪ Al Anwar (Aflah) ▪ Al Entelaqa (Aflah) ▪ Albalda Altaiba (Aflah) <p>Hodeida:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Law enforcement officials and social welfare officers know which interviewing techniques to employ in order to capture important data while also making the child feel comfortable in their presence.
7. Needs Assessments of Children, Parents, and Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Law enforcement officials ▪ Border guards ▪ Social workers ▪ Counsellors ▪ Local government authorities ▪ NGOs ▪ CBOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Al Zahra Foundation ▪ Yemeni Women Union ▪ Abu Musah ▪ Reach Out Foundation for Human Development (ROFHD) ▪ Hearing Disability and Deafness ▪ Child Rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Service providers trained to the extent that they can easily recognize the most essential needs of the children, parents, and communities.
8. Data Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shelter staff 	<p>Al Mahweet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Care and Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped and Invalids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff in the two reception centres and the rehabilitation centre know how to collect, compile, enter, analyze, and report data on trafficked children and their parents.

9. Case Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shelter staff ▪ Local government authorities ▪ NGOs 	<p>INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IOM ▪ UNICEF ▪ International Labour Organization ▪ World Food Programme ▪ Save the Children <p>MICRO-CREDIT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cooperative and Agricultural Credit Bank ▪ Hodeida Micro-Credit Programme ▪ Bait Al Faqeh Micro-Credit Programme <p>DISTRICT and COMMUNITY LEADERS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ District Managers ▪ General Secretaries ▪ Local Council Members ▪ Assembly-Members ▪ Sheikhs ▪ Imams ▪ Teachers ▪ Health Practitioners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shelter staff and service providers compile information on each child and share it among themselves on a confidential and need-to-know basis.
10. Shelter Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shelter staff 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality and quantity of rehabilitation assistance provided to trafficked children increased.
11. Family Tracing and Assessment Techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social workers ▪ Local government authorities ▪ NGOs ▪ Community leaders 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shelter staff, local government authorities, and NGOs know how to work together to find a suitable home environment for trafficked children.
12. Return and Reintegration Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social workers ▪ Local government authorities ▪ NGOs ▪ CBOs ▪ District managers ▪ Sheikhs ▪ Community leaders 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Service providers can examine various return options from among a selection of durable solutions and choose the one which best fits the child's particular situation and is most clearly in the child's best interest.

13. Monitoring and Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social workers ▪ Local government authorities ▪ NGOs ▪ CBOs ▪ District managers ▪ Sheikhs ▪ Community leaders 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Service providers are aware of how to monitor children's progress, assess the impact that specific interventions are having on them and their families, and make adjustments to their strategy and approach accordingly.
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**APPENDIX I: STUDY ON CHILD TRAFFICKING IN SENDING COMMUNITIES
OF HAJJA, HODEIDA, AND AL MAHWEET GOVERNORATES**

Interview Schedule for Trafficked Children

Name of Interviewer:

Place of Interview: Community: District: Governorate:

Date of Interview:

SECTION 1 SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

1. Full Name of Respondent:
2. Phone Number:
3. Sex: Male..... Female.....
4. Age:
5. Place of Birth:
 - i. In the same district
 - ii. In the same governorate
 - iii. In another governorate in Yemen
 - iv. Outside Yemen
6. Educational Level:
7. Do you do any work to provide for your family? Yes..... No.....

If Yes

8. What work do you do?
9. Why do you work?

10. How many siblings do you have?

No	Name	Sex	Age	Attending School (Y/N)	Grade	Social Status
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						

6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						

SECTION 2 TRAFFICKING EXPERIENCE

- 11. Could you give us some information about children being sent from this community outside of Yemen?
- 12. Have any of your siblings been sent outside of Yemen?
- 13. Have you been outside of Yemen before?
- 14. How many times have you been outside of Yemen?
- 15. How long were you away from your parents the last time?
- 16. Did you travel with your father, siblings, or relatives?

If No

- 17. Did you travel alone?
- 18. Did your parents send you away or did you decide to go on your own?

- 19. Give reasons for your parents sending you away or deciding to go on your own?
- 20. Did you meet a lot of other children from your community while you were away?
- 21. With whom were you staying while you were away?
- 22. What kind of work did you do while you were away?

23. What difficulties did you face in the course of the work?
24. What benefits did this work bring you and your family?
25. Did your parents ever visit you while you were away? Yes..... No.....
26. When and where did you first come into contact with the authorities?
27. Who referred you to the authorities at the reception centre in Haradh?
28. When did you arrive at the reception centre?
29. How long did you stay there?
30. How were you treated by the centre staff?
31. What did you do at the reception centre?
32. Did you miss your parents while you were away?
33. Who came to receive you from the centre and when?
34. How have your parents treated you since your return?
35. Are you happy you are back?
36. What are you doing now?
37. What types of assistance would you like to be provided?

38. Do you think you could benefit from some vocational and skills training? Yes..... No.....

If Yes

39. Which types of training?

40. If you were given assistance, would you attend school full-time and stop travelling outside of Yemen?

APPENDIX II: STUDY ON CHILD TRAFFICKING IN SENDING COMMUNITIES
OF HAJJA, HODEIDA, AND AL MAHWEET GOVERNORATES

Interview Schedule for Parents of Trafficked Children

Name of Interviewer:

Place of Interview: Community: District: Governorate:

Date of Interview:

SECTION 1 SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

1. Full Name of Respondent:
2. Phone Number:
3. Sex: Male..... Female.....
4. Age:
5. Place of Birth:
 - i. In the same district
 - ii. In the same governorate
 - iii. In another governorate in Yemen
 - iv. Outside Yemen
6. Marital Status:

Married.....	Separated.....
Single.....	Divorced.....
Widowed.....	Co-habitation.....
7. Educational Status:
 - No formal schooling
 - Primary (Grades 1-9)
 - Secondary
 - Vocational/Technical/Teacher training
 - Religious institution
 - Non-formal/Apprenticeship
 - Tertiary/University
 - Other (Specify)

Occupation/Economic Ventures

- 8. What work do you do now?
- 9. Does this work allow you to provide for all of your family's needs? Yes..... No.....

If No

- 10. Give reasons for your answer.

- 11. What assistance do you need to boost your work?

Information on Children in Household

- 12. How many children do you have?

No	Name	Sex	Age	Attending School (Y/N)	Grade	Social Status
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						

13. How many other children are you supporting? () Children

Social Support System

14. Please describe your house (Materials, rooms, utilities, etc.).

15. What facilities are needed to improve your household? List them.

16. What other facilities do you need in your community? List them.

SECTION 2 EXTENT OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

17. Do parents send children from this community to work or stay with people in other communities?

If Yes

18. Why?

19. Have any of your children left your community alone?

If Yes

20. Why?

21. Have you sent any of your children to stay with someone outside of this community before?

If Yes

22. Why?

23. What kind of job did your child/children do?

24. How long did your child/children stay away?

25. How many times have your children been away from you?

26. How many of your children did you take from the reception centre? Number.....

27. Did you ever feel the absence of your child/children? Yes..... No.....

28. How did the reception centre staff treat you when you were given your child/children back?

29. What did you have to do in order to take your child/children back?

30. Did you receive guidance on how to take care of your child/children instead of sending them away from the reception centre staff?

SECTION 3 **ASSISTANCE NEEDED**

31. Do you need assistance to take care of your child/children? Yes..... No.....

If Yes

32. What kind of assistance do you need to send your children to school?

33. What kind of assistance do you need to improve your work in order to support your family?

34. What kind of assistance do you need to make your household more suitable for your family?

35. Do you think you could benefit from some vocational and skills training to enhance your work and increase your income? Yes..... No.....

If Yes

36. Which types of training?

37. If you were given assistance, would you ensure that all of your children attend school and stop sending your children to work outside of Yemen?

**APPENDIX III: STUDY ON CHILD TRAFFICKING IN SENDING
COMMUNITIES OF HAJJA, HODEIDA, AND AL MAHWEET GOVERNORATES**

Interview Guide for Stakeholders

Name of Interviewer:

Status of Interviewee:

Place of Interview: Community: District: Governorate:

Date of Interview:

1. Awareness/Knowledge of Child Trafficking in the Community
2. Extent of Child Trafficking in the Community
3. Root Causes of Child Trafficking
4. Historical, Traditional, and Cultural Beliefs Supporting Child Trafficking
5. General Views/Attitudes towards Child Trafficking
6. Suggestions to Curb Child Trafficking
 - i. Individual Level
 - ii. Family/Household Level
 - iii. Community–Wide Initiatives and Projects
7. Do you think that some of the children in this community have been trafficked/re-trafficked? If so, to which countries? Why Saudi Arabia in particular? What do they do there?
8. Which types of assistance can help parents/guardians in this community not to traffic/re-traffic their children?
9. How can the assistance be sustained over the long-term?
10. Do any poverty reduction schemes, micro-credit schemes, or community development projects exist in your community?

**APPENDIX IV: STUDY ON CHILD TRAFFICKING IN SENDING
COMMUNITIES OF HAJJA, HODEIDA, AND AL MAHWEET GOVERNORATES**

Interview Guide for Community Leaders

Name of Interviewer:

Status of Interviewee:

Place of Interview: Community: District: Governorate:

Date of Interview:

1. Objectives of Feasibility Study and Yemen Project
2. IOM Mandate
3. Main Occupation of Community Members
4. Youth Employment
5. Community History
6. Community Profile
7. Are parents sending children out of this community?
8. Awareness/Knowledge of Child Trafficking in the Community
9. Root Causes of Child Trafficking
10. Historical, Traditional, and Cultural Beliefs Supporting Child Trafficking
11. General Views/Attitudes towards Child Trafficking
12. Suggestions to Curb Child Trafficking
 - i. Individual Level
 - ii. Family/Household Level
 - iii. Community–Wide Initiatives and Projects
13. Which types of assistance can help parents/guardians in this community not to traffic/re-traffic their children?
14. Do any poverty reduction schemes, micro-credit schemes, or community development projects exist in your community?

**APPENDIX V: STUDY ON CHILD TRAFFICKING IN SENDING COMMUNITIES OF
HAJJA, HODEIDA, AND AL MAHWEET GOVERNORATES**

Topic Guide for Focus Group Discussions

Name of Moderator:

Date:

Community:

District:

Governorate:

Total Number in the Focus Group:

Time Discussion Started:

Time Discussion Ended:

1. Have you heard of child trafficking? What are your opinions about child trafficking?
2. Do you think that some of the children in this community have been trafficked/re-trafficked? What do they do there?
3. What are some of the reasons that children are sent away from your community?
4. Which types of assistance can help parents/guardians in this community not to send their children away?
5. Which types of assistance can help children not to leave this community again?
6. Do any development projects exist in your community?
7. What other services do you need in your community?

Distance from Community
Health Personnel
Availability of Drugs

Schools: Primary
Intermediate
Secondary
Other (Specify)

Electricity: National Grid
Generator
Other (Specify)

Telephone/Mobile:

Radio/FM:

Television:

Other Amenities:

SECTION 3 **ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE**

Main Occupation (s):

Market: Days
Structure
Type

Banking Services:

Government Service Providers: Extension Service
Buying Centre
Storage Facility

Employment Opportunities:

SECTION 4 **PROBLEMS IN THE COMMUNITY**

Disputes: Chieftaincy
 Land

Child Labour:

Crime: Type (s)

Unemployment:

Poverty:

SECTION 5 **CHILD TRAFFICKING**

History:

Cultural Beliefs:

Trafficking Routes: Transit Points
 Destination Areas

APPENDIX VII: PARTICIPANTS IN STAKEHOLDERS' MEETINGS

The participants in stakeholders' meetings were from various governmental and non-governmental organizations, namely:

1. Director of Yemeni Women Union in Hodeida
2. Executive Director of Abu Musah NGO in Hodeida
3. Executive Director of Reach Out Foundation for Human Development (ROFHD) NGO in Hodeida
4. Director of Training Department of the District Education Office in Hodeida
5. Executive Director of Hearing Disability and Deafness NGO in Hodeida
6. Executive Director of Child Rights NGO in Hodeida
7. Director of Primary Healthcare Unit of the District Health Office in Hodeida
8. Coordinator of Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood in Hodeida
9. UNICEF Programme Officer and Assistant in Hodeida
10. World Food Programme Officer in Hodeida
11. Executive Director of Al Zahra Association in Hodeida
12. Credit Officer of Cooperative and Agricultural Credit Bank in Hodeida and Al Mahweet
13. Chairman of Social Fund for Development in Hodeida
14. General Secretary of Juvenile Investigation Unit of the Ministry of Justice in Hajja
15. Advocate for Juveniles in Hajja
16. Managing Director of Juvenile Police Unit of the Ministry of Interior in Hajja
17. Doctors and Vice GM of Health and Population Office in Hajja, Hodeida, and Al Mahweet
18. Vice GM of MTEVT in Hajja and Al Mahweet
19. GM, Vice GM, and Officers of MoSAL in Hajja, Hodeida, and Al Mahweet
20. General Secretary of Al Pharis Association in Hajja
21. Vice Chairman of Social Care Fund in Hajja
22. NGO for Care and Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped and Invalids in Al Mahweet

23. Vice GM of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Al Mahweet
24. Vice GM of the Ministry of Information in Al Mahweet
25. Sheikh of Community in Al Mahweet
26. Members of National Technical Committee