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# Cash for Work: Promoting Livelihood Opportunities for Urban Youth in Yemen

## Awareness-raising event

**Restoring Livelihoods through Culture in Yemen  
26-27 May 2021**

### Concept Note



## **I- Context**

In September 2018, UNESCO and the European Union launched the project entitled “Cash for Work: Promoting Livelihood Opportunities for Urban Youth in Yemen”, aimed at creating jobs in heritage restoration and preservation for young Yemenis, while promoting social cohesion and resilience through cultural programming. The initiative comes as a response to the economic hardship, extensive population displacement, and heavy damages to infrastructure and heritage due to the ongoing conflict in the country and recently the covid-19 pandemic.

In 2020, the project picked up speed and was able to implement on the basis of the solid foundation established in the inception phase. Progress was achieved despite a challenging operating context of political fragmentation, extreme weather conditions affecting several cities, the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, shortage of raw construction materials as well as severe security risks impacting operations and staff mobility. However, UNESCO, the Social Fund for Development (SFD) and the Public Works Project (PWP) were able to launch emergency rehabilitation works in Sana’a, Shibam, Zabid and Aden that are enhancing livelihoods of young male and female beneficiaries and are informed by evidence-based damage assessments and newly produced technical urban rehabilitation guidelines.

As of March 2021, the Project has: surveyed over 8.000 historical buildings, stabilized and/or rehabilitated 150 historical buildings consisting mainly of private houses and public spaces; enrolled over 1500 young workers (including 10% females, representing 6.500 household members) over 20.000 working days in urban rehabilitation works; engaged over 500 youth in cash-based cultural programming and services; and disbursed small grants to 8 cultural CSOs to boost income-generation in the creative sector. Communication and awareness-raising materials fostering the ownership amongst local communities reached 5.5 million people, and resulted in 84 media features.

In this context, the proposed Consultation event will inform project’s stakeholders, partners and relevant stakeholders about concrete progress made, pending challenges, adjust work streams building on resources, knowledge and tools available. It will valorize the achievements of the Project so far and identify opportunities of additional synergies.

## **II- Objectives**

The event aims at:

- ✓ Sharing and discussing information on progress made during the year 2020/2021 (number of buildings rehabilitated, youth employed and impact on livelihoods, outcomes of small grants to support cultural industries, outcomes in terms of awareness raising on heritage and culture at risk, etc.)

- ✓ Disseminating new outputs produced under the project, such as urban rehabilitation guidelines, communication materials, awareness-raising contents, cultural projects.
- ✓ Discussing lessons learnt, challenges and correctives actions
- ✓ Sharing testimonies from the field (how the cash for work project is impacting livelihoods and preserving heritage on the ground) – including video stories, testimonies from beneficiaries, etc.
- ✓ Laying the ground for priority actions and explore additional synergies.

### **III- Dates & Format**

The event is planned on 26 and 27 May 2021, from 2pm to 6pm (Paris/Brussels Time). It will take place online via Zoom.

Registration link: <http://en.unesco.org/news/RestoringLivelihoodsCultureYemen>

The event will consist of:

- Thematic presentations by partners' and stakeholders
- Panel discussion with specialized experts
- Analysis of progress, lessons learnt and challenges
- Testimonies from beneficiaries (young workers, homeowners, artists)
- Screening of 12 short films
- Creative performances and conversation with young artists

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