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Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA)



Project details

Support Obstetric Emergencies to provide maternal, newborn and RH services at health facilities supporting CEMONC & BEMONC services



funded by

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Venue of the story

Saada Governorate - Razih District  
Razih Hospital



Sector

Health

# HANGING BY A THREAD



Her life was hanging by a thread, she kept struggling, her screams of agony echoing throughout the misery and despair. After what seemed like an eternity, a child's miraculous cry broke the silence, and she opened her eyes in disbelief. Was it over? Had they made it?

Matara is a 35-year-old woman resided in Al-Shawareq area, Razih District, Saada Governorate. Matara had a very tough childhood, filled with deprivation, poverty, suffering and hard labor, both inside and outside the house. She was unable to receive education due to these circumstances. When she was 16, a young man from the same village proposed to her, and without

her consent, her father agreed to the marriage. She then moved to her husband's family which consisted of his parents and seven brothers. As this is the case in rural villages, Matara was expected to serve all the members of her husband's family. This was a drastic change for her, which caused her immense physical and psychological pain.



At the age of 17, Matara became pregnant with her first child, who was born into a difficult life due to lack of nutrition and the hard work Matara endured. Two years later, Matara gave birth to her second child, whose condition was similar to the first one. Matara wanted to break away from this miserable life and asked her husband to be independent, living away from his family, but he fiercely refused. As the fires of war broke out, Matara and her husband with their poor two children were forced to flee, and she believed this could be an opportunity to find a better life. Unfortunately, they could only find a shelter in the camps at the center of Sadaa governorate, and without any other source of income, but the assistance from humanitarian organizations. Poverty and misery hunted them harshly. Matara became pregnant with her third and fourth child, and the suffering and poverty only grew stronger, forcing them to desperately return to their destroyed village.

**“ We drifted from one place to the next to search for a better and safer life, yet all that met us was despair once and again ”**

Matara said with a heavy heart

Now, Matara, her poor husband and four children live in a simple house near the ruins of their former home, struggling with difficulty in living and severe need for basic requirements every day.

Matara's health had declined significantly due to her pregnancy with the fifth child, and her husband had to plead their village's notables for money in order to rent a car and take her to Razih Hospital. “As I looked upon my four children along with the one I was about to bring into the world, I felt as if I was slipping away

because my husband was just as powerless as I am.” Matara faintly said. Fortunately, as they reached out to Razih hospital, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the medical team was able to provide Matara with urgent assistance, including fluid replacement, clinical examination, blood tests, intravenous fluids, and resuscitation. After running tests and an ultrasound, it was discovered that Matara had a cluster pregnancy, and Misoprostol was administered – one tablet every four hours.

After three days of close monitoring, Matara was discharged from the hospital in excellent condition, having her health regained. Matara was absolutely astounded when she and her newborn had made it out alive. Her husband fell on his knees, his voice was rising in a prayer of thanks. Matara and her family were filled with profound gratitude towards Family Care Association and the United Nations, for lifting the burden of their shoulders and enabling them to thrive.