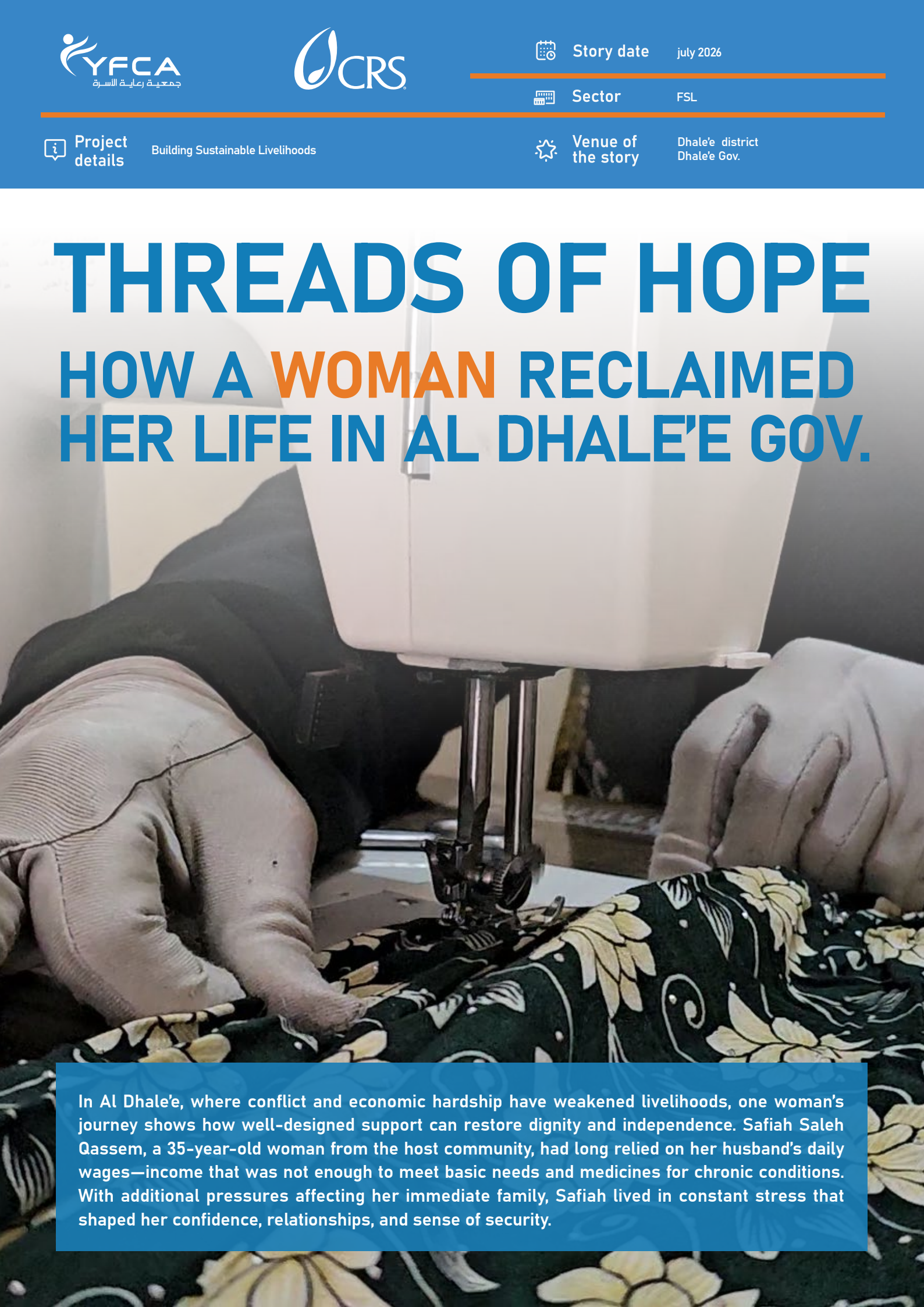


THREADS OF HOPE

HOW A **WOMAN** RECLAIMED HER LIFE IN AL DHALE'E GOV.



In Al Dhale'e, where conflict and economic hardship have weakened livelihoods, one woman's journey shows how well-designed support can restore dignity and independence. Safiah Saleh Qassem, a 35-year-old woman from the host community, had long relied on her husband's daily wages—income that was not enough to meet basic needs and medicines for chronic conditions. With additional pressures affecting her immediate family, Safiah lived in constant stress that shaped her confidence, relationships, and sense of security.

“The financial situation affected us deeply,” Safiah recalls. “My husband tries and works hard, but his income is not enough for the simplest household needs and medications. The worries are overwhelming, and the situation has affected my mental health greatly.”

When she lacked the ability to provide, Safiah withdrew from social life and felt shame and insecurity. Her hopes for stability and a more secure future kept fading, especially as treatment needs remained out of reach.

Then, a turning point came through the “Building Sustainable Livelihoods” project, implemented by YFCA with support from CRS.

The initiative targeted vulnerable households and aimed to shift families from dependency on assistance toward sustainable livelihoods. Safiah participated in three conditional cash transfer rounds of 90 USD each (90 USD per round), tied to her engagement in training. She first completed entrepreneurship training, learning how to manage a small business, plan finances, and make better decisions. She then joined vocational tailoring and cutting training, building the practical skills needed for her livelihood activity. After finishing the training, she received certification, strengthening her belief in her ability to succeed.

“ The moment I started the training and received the support, I felt that someone cared about me, I learned so many things I had never known—how to plan my business, calculate my income and expenses, and manage my finances. I felt the path finally becoming clear ahead of me. ”

Safiah says



Participants practice tailoring techniques during the vocational training workshop.

To help Safiah launch her work, the project provided an additional 500 USD grant for equipment and starter materials, including a sewing machine, fabrics, and essential tools. With this support, she moved from planning to action—and did not have to rely on others to start her livelihood.



Livelihood starter equipment, including solar energy systems and sewing machinery, purchased by project participants using their \$500 grants to launch independent enterprises.



Saifa and participants stand alongside agricultural and livelihood kits—including water storage tanks, irrigation piping, seeds, and fencing materials.

The project team, including a dedicated consultant, supported Safiah with ongoing technical mentoring over several months, helping her with business management, calculations, and marketing. This guidance helped her translate skills into consistent work. Today, Safiah runs her own tailoring business and earns regular monthly income. Her household is better able to meet needs without returning to the same cycle of financial pressure. Just as importantly, she regained self-confidence, improved her decision-making, and developed a stronger sense of stability.

Safiah manages daily operations and finances inside her tailoring workspace, securing a steady income for her family.



Safiah shares with pride

“Today, I have a sewing machine and my work is progressing, I am the one who provides now, without having to ask anyone for anything. This project gave me back my life. It gave me hope and the confidence that I can succeed and depend on myself.”

Safiah's case demonstrates YFCA's approach in practice: pairing cash assistance with training, certification, seed funding, and continued mentorship—so vulnerable women can build livelihoods that endure. For Safiah, a sewing machine is not only a tool; it represents independence, dignity, and a future she can sustain.

In the hands of a determined woman, a sewing machine is not just a tool—it is the key to independence, the thread that weaves a new future, and the stitch that binds a community together.