

FROM UNCERTAINTY TO OPPORTUNITY SHAHIM'S JOURNEY TO A SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD IN AL DHALE'E GOV.



For years, Shahim Abdullah Saleh, a 45-year-old man from Al Dhale'e Governorate, woke each morning wondering how he would provide for his family. With no stable employment and only occasional daily labor, his income was unpredictable and insufficient to meet even the family's basic needs. As opportunities became increasingly scarce, financial pressures mounted, forcing him to rely on relatives for support while struggling to maintain hope for a better future.

Everything began to change when Shahim joined the Building Sustainable Livelihoods Project, implemented by Yemen Family Care Association and funded by CRS. The project first provided three rounds of conditional cash transfer, enabling his family meet their immediate needs while allowing him to focus on rebuilding his future.

YFCA then equipped Shahim with the knowledge and skills needed to establish a sustainable livelihood. He completed entrepreneurship and business management

training, followed by specialized vocational training in electrical installations and solar energy systems at the Technical Institute in Al Dhale'e, where he earned a professional certificate. Through ongoing mentoring and business coaching, he developed a practical business plan, strengthened his financial and marketing skills, and prepared to launch his own enterprise. A USD 500 livelihood grant enabled him to purchase the professional tools and equipment required to start his electrical and solar installation business.



Trainees and instructors gather outdoors near a solar panel installation for ongoing technical mentoring and practical demonstration.

The project's impact extended to the entire household. Shahim's wife participated in home gardening training, where she learned sustainable vegetable production techniques. Their home garden now provides fresh vegetables for the family while generating additional income through the sale of surplus produce, further strengthening the household's resilience and food security.

Today, Shahim works as a skilled electrical and solar energy technician, installing solar systems for households across his community. His growing customer base provides a reliable source of income, while the family's productive home garden contributes to both nutrition and household earnings. Together, these complementary livelihood activities have enabled the family to meet their essential needs, reduce their dependence on external assistance, and

build a more secure future.

Beyond improving their economic situation, the intervention restored Shahim's confidence and sense of purpose. He is now able to provide for his family with dignity, plan for the future, and pursue opportunities to expand his business. The stability created through the project has also strengthened family relationships, replacing uncertainty with optimism and renewed hope.

“Today, I have a profession, a certificate, and my own business. People now ask for me by name to install their solar systems. For the first time in many years, I feel confident that I can provide a dignified life for my family. This project didn't just give me financial support—it gave me the skills, confidence, and opportunity to build a better future.”

Shahim says



Shahim uses his livelihood grant to purchase essential electrical wiring and tools at a local hardware shop to launch his installation business.



Shahim practices assembling and wiring electrical junction boxes during practical training.



Shahim inspects and adjusts ground-mounted solar panel frameworks on a rooftop as part of his technical installation services.

Shahim's journey demonstrates how the Building Sustainable Livelihoods Project, implemented by Yemen Family Care Association with funding from CRS, empowers vulnerable families to move beyond short-term assistance toward lasting self-reliance. By combining temporary financial support with vocational training, business development, mentoring, productive assets, and household livelihood activities, the project is helping families in Al Dhale'e build sustainable sources of income and create more resilient futures.