

MORE THAN HONEY

BEEKEEPING FOR LASTING IMPACT



In the rugged landscapes of Al-Dhalea Governorate, Yemen, Mohammed Naji Mohammed, a 40-year-old, has emerged from the shadows of poverty to become a respected beekeeper. This transformation was made possible through the “Building Sustainable Livelihoods” project, implemented by YFCA with funding from CRS. Targeting 140 vulnerable families, the initiative is designed to move households from dependency on aid toward achieving independent and sustainable futures.

Before the intervention, Mohammed depended on seasonal work assisting a relative in beekeeping, with an unpredictable income that often fell short of covering his family's essential needs. "I had no stable income, and I was always anxious and stressed," he recalls. "Everything in my life came to a standstill. I couldn't plan for anything. Every day, I saw the look of pain and hunger in my children's eyes, and that broke my back." The lack of opportunities and the crushing weight of poverty stripped him of hope, ambition, and dignity, leaving his wife suffering in silence while their children's needs grew beyond his reach



The "Building Sustainable Livelihoods" project, supported by CRS, offered Mohammed a holistic and phased pathway out of poverty. He first received three cash transfers totaling \$90 each, providing immediate relief to stabilize his household. He then attended entrepreneurship training, where he learned to develop a business plan, manage finances, and make strategic decisions. Leveraging his prior experience, Mohammed chose beekeeping as his livelihood activity. With a \$500 startup grant, he purchased five beehive colonies and gained practical skills in feeding, packaging, and marketing his honey. Crucially, he received ongoing mentorship from Ms. Mahani, an expert in beekeeping and business management, who guided him through every technical and administrative step. "They didn't just give me money," Mohammed says. "They trained me, taught me, and provided the support that gave me the confidence to start my project."

The impact on Mohammed's life has been profound and multi-dimensional. He now enjoys a steady, daily income from honey sales, allowing him to meet his family's basic needs without relying on anyone.

“Today, I am a new man, I am a beekeeper and the provider for my family. This project changed my life and gave me hope and confidence”

Mohammed says



Beyond financial stability, his psychological well-being has recovered. He makes his own decisions, plans for the future, and has regained a sense of security he had long lost. In his community, he is now recognized as a productive man; customers seek out his honey, and his family no longer suffers from hunger. His wife is at peace, and his children are proud of him, as the project alleviated the constant stress of survival and restored his family's dignity.

Looking ahead, the sustainability of this CRS-funded intervention through YFCA is clear. Mohammed plans to expand his hive count, improve honey quality, and diversify into products like beeswax and royal jelly. With his new assets, practical knowledge, and business acumen, he is equipped to compete in the local market and may eventually employ others in his area. The integrated approach of “Building Sustainable Livelihoods”—combining cash relief, targeted training, capital investment, and continuous mentorship—has built resilience rather than temporary dependency. Mohammed's journey from despair to self-reliance powerfully demonstrates that with the right support, even the most vulnerable communities can build prosperous, dignified futures.

