

FROM DARKNESS TO SAFETY

HOW CASH ASSISTANCE HELPED AN ELEVEN-MEMBER FAMILY REBUILD ITS SECURITY



A timely intervention by YFCA helped a vulnerable family restore safety, meet essential needs, and create a better environment for their children

For 57-year-old Ali, the hardest part of his family's situation was not simply poverty. It was the feeling of being unable to provide his children with the safety and basic necessities they needed.

Ali lives with his family of eleven in a deteriorating house that lacked basic safety conditions. Among the family are five school-age children and a daughter with a hearing impairment. One of their most pressing

challenges was the absence of electricity or lighting. Each evening, the home was left in darkness, affecting the family's safety, daily routines, and the children's ability to study.

The family was also struggling to afford sufficient food, leaving them exposed to multiple and overlapping vulnerabilities.



When everyday challenges become protection risks

The lack of lighting had consequences beyond discomfort. The children returned home from school tired and were unable to review their lessons or complete homework after sunset. For the younger children, the darkness increased fear and anxiety, while the poor condition of the house added to their sense of insecurity.

For Ali's daughter with a hearing impairment, the situation was particularly difficult. As she

relies heavily on visual communication and sign language, the absence of adequate lighting made communication with her family harder and increased her sense of isolation.

At the same time, the family's financial hardship meant that securing enough food was a daily struggle. These challenges compounded one another, placing additional pressure on the family and increasing their exposure to protection risks

Flexible cash assistance put the family's priorities first

As part of the Provision of Life-Saving Assistance in Protection Sector for Displaced and Vulnerable Populations in Al Azariq District, Ad Dali' governorate, implemented by Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA) with support from the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF), the family was assessed and identified as facing multiple protection risks.

Through the project's cash assistance, Ali was able to decide how best to use the support according to his family's most urgent needs.

He used part of the assistance to purchase and install a household solar power system, bringing reliable lighting back into the home. He used the remainder to purchase essential food supplies, helping the family cope with its immediate food needs.

This flexibility allowed the assistance to address two interconnected challenges at once: improving the safety and functionality of the home while helping the family meet an essential household need.

From darkness to greater safety and dignity

The change was immediate.

With lighting restored, the children could study and complete their homework in the evening rather than ending their day when darkness fell. The home also became safer to move around at night, reducing the risks associated with navigating a poorly lit and deteriorating environment.

For Ali's daughter, better lighting made it easier to communicate visually with her family and participate more comfortably in household life.

The food purchased through the assistance also provided immediate relief from the pressure of securing basic meals, while giving Ali greater peace of mind about his family's immediate needs.

Most importantly, the assistance gave the family the ability to respond to its circumstances with dignity. Rather than receiving support determined by others, Ali was able to identify what would make the greatest difference to his household and act on those priorities.

“ It was an opportunity to choose what our family needed most ”

Reflecting on the assistance, Ali said

“The assistance was not simply an amount of money. It was an opportunity to choose what our family needed most. We were able to purchase a solar power system that brought light back into our home, and we bought the food we had been going without. Today, my children can study in the evening and go to sleep feeling safe. I also feel that I am once again able to fulfil my responsibility towards my family.”

A safer home and a stronger sense of security

For Ali's family, the intervention addressed more than a lack of electricity or food. It helped reduce several protection risks that had been affecting their everyday lives.

The solar power system provides an ongoing source of household lighting without the recurring fuel costs associated with conventional alternatives, while the food purchased through the assistance addressed an immediate need

during a period of severe financial hardship.

However, the family's longer-term food security will continue to depend on improved income or additional support. The intervention did not remove all of the family's vulnerabilities, but it provided timely and flexible assistance at a critical moment—helping them make practical improvements that directly responded to their circumstances.



The impact of putting families at the centre

Ali's experience demonstrates the value of flexible cash assistance in protection programming. By enabling vulnerable households to determine their own priorities, the intervention can respond to needs that are interconnected and highly specific to each family.

For Ali and his family, YFCA's intervention helped bring light back into their home,

ease immediate food pressures, support the children's education, and create a safer environment for the entire household.

It was not simply cash assistance. It was support that gave a vulnerable family the means to make decisions, address urgent risks, and regain a greater sense of security and dignity.