## "Women in Health in Yemen"

## (Results Summary)

## Prepared and designed by:

Yomna Ahmed

Women's participation in the health sector in Yemen is crucial, given the multitude of challenges faced by the country. The ongoing conflict, spanning over nine years, has severely impacted the healthcare system, particularly in rural and conflict-affected areas.

Despite the prevailing circumstances, Yemeni women encounter significant obstacles that impede their effective involvement in the health sector. These challenges encompass poverty, persecution, gender discrimination, and security threats associated with the conflict. Women's active engagement in Yemen's health sector plays a vital role in strengthening the national healthcare system.

Their involvement brings numerous advantages that contribute to the sector's development and improves access to appropriate health services for women and other vulnerable groups. Furthermore, women's participation in the health sector empowers them and enhances their societal standing. It provides them with opportunities to assume leadership positions, enabling more balanced decision-making, resource allocation, and equitable distribution of health services.

To gain comprehensive insights into the reality of women's participation in Yemen's health sector, the Information and Opinion Survey Unit of the "Yemen Information Center" conducted a survey titled "Yemeni Women's Participation in the Health Sector in Yemen." This survey aimed to gather public opinions on the challenges and opportunities related to women's involvement in this critical sector.

The survey involved a sample of 250 participants, with $52.9 \%$ male and $47.1 \%$ female respondents.


The age distribution of the participants varied, with $45.1 \%$ falling within the $26-35$ age group, $39.2 \%$ within $36-45,9.8 \%$ within $18-25$, and $5.9 \%$ within 46-65.

45.1\%

39.2\%

9.8\%

5.9\%

Regarding academic qualifications, $60 \%$ of the participants held a bachelor's degree, $24 \%$ held higher degrees, $12 \%$ had a high school diploma, and $2 \%$ possessed a middle school certificate. University students and individuals with a middle school certificate each constituted $2 \%$ of the sample.

| Bachelor | $60 \%$ |
| ---: | :--- |
| Higher studies | $24 \%$ |
| High school | $12 \%$ |
| University student | $2 \%$ |
| Prep or less | $2 \%$ |

The survey encompassed ten governorates, with the highest representation from Sana'a (27.5\%), followed by Ibb (25.5\%), Hadhramout (13.7\%), Al-Hodeidah and Aden (7.8\% each), Dhamar (5.9\%), Lahj and Hajjah (3.9\% each). The lowest percentage (2\%) of respondents came from Abyan and Taiz separately.


## Governorate



## Main Results

According to the survey, $100 \%$ of the participants emphasized the significance of enhancing women's participation in the health sector. The respondents identified several reasons for this importance, with the following percentages associated with each choice (each answer analyzed separately at $100 \%$ ):


When participants were asked whether Yemeni women face difficulties and obstacles preventing their participation in the healthcare sector or not, $90 \%$ responded that they do face many difficulties. Meanwhile, $10 \%$ stated that there are no major obstacles or difficulties hindering the participation of Yemeni women in the healthcare sector.


In addition, when asked about the difficulties and obstacles that hinder women's participation in the healthcare sector in Yemen, their responses were as follows (multiple-choice question, each response was analyzed as a separate sample, with a percentage estimated at 100\%)::

## 69\% <br> Cultural and social restrictions

## 63\%

Lack of financial and technical support

## 53\%

## Lack of appropriate educational

 and training opportunities
## 31\%

Violence and
armed conflicts

## 29\%

Legal restrictions and
limited legislation

The survey participants also proposed necessary steps to enhance women's participation in the health sector. The most important steps, according to the respondents, were (each answer analyzed separately at $100 \%$ ):

## Providing universities

 and health institutes
## 80\%

## Providing support to

 establish facilities51\%

## Implementing seminars and training workshops

In conclusion, the participants of the survey view enhancing women's participation in the health sector in Yemen as pivotal for strengthening healthcare and improving the national health situation. Empowering women and granting them opportunities to actively participate in decision-making and policy implementation can lead to positive and sustainable changes in the health sector of Yemen.

