



Community empowerment Is the Basis for Promoting Comprehensive Development in Yemen

(Suggested Proposal)

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Summary:

The report reviews the issue of community empowerment as a basis for advancing development in Yemen, where Yemen is experiencing a large-scale humanitarian emergency resulting from the ongoing conflicts and its decline in all areas of development, widening poverty, lack of basic services, absence of state authority, and weak rule of law in many areas. The conflicts have also displaced thousands of Yemeni families and affected families of others in one way or another. This crisis is considered one of the worst humanitarian crises that Yemen has experienced, and the citizen is still living under its continuous repercussions.

It is no longer feasible to look at the challenges facing Yemen in this critical period away from the human resources, and in order to get out of the current situation, it has become necessary to make the issue of the community empowerment a basic rule, as reconstruction and restoration of the economic and social situation will not be effective without empowering community members and developing their skills and capabilities.

The report referred to the most important difficulties facing Yemen, which are: the expansion of poverty, deterioration of the educational system, weakness of mechanisms for empowering human resources in particular the vulnerable groups, including women. The report also reviewed the context of empowerment, its goals, stages and dimensions, in addition to its review of six Arab and regional development experiences.

Finally, the draft report presented a suggested proposal for the community empowerment to advance the comprehensive development in Yemen in a way that suits the Yemeni society. The proposal presented a mechanism to raise the capacity of community members to rely on self-reliance, reduce poverty, raise the educational level, and employ empowerment strategies by activating the community participation in identifying needs, arranging priorities and taking decisions to benefit from all the natural resources and manage their distribution optimally to work on employing the development empowerment strategies that are consistent with the local capabilities and resources, raise the level of education, and secure the decent livelihoods for all the members of society in a fair and equal manner, in order to be an essential step in achieving the comprehensive development goals and social justice to provide a decent lifestyle for all the members of society equally.

Key Words: Community Empowerment, Development Advancement

Introduction:

The empowerment is a development strategy that represents a set of mechanisms and activities aimed at helping individuals, groups and societies to overcome the challenges they face in order to become able to achieve their goals and improve their living conditions. The empowerment is achieved when more responsibility and decision-making power is given to vulnerable individuals. In fact, the primary goal of the empowerment is to equip individuals with the skills to develop their abilities to reach a better standard of life, and to have the ability to discover themselves in order to work on increasing the options available to them and their societies in order to improve the access to their rights at all levels.

It is well known that the development is centered on the individuals and their environment more than on the profits and production. Therefore, creating opportunities for members of society by providing a set of standards and services, such as: working to reduce poverty, improving educational opportunities, providing appropriate health care, and acquiring strategies to the community members, in addition to empowering women in various fields as it is an essential element in the process of promoting development. All of this must be provided for the individuals to be able to contribute to the developmental advancement.

Japan is a pioneer in the economic development, as it provided the appropriate opportunities for its people, especially in the field of education, and it was the first before the European countries in terms of the education and the number of learners, and then good education led to the economic development and this was positively reflected in the development of human resources capabilities and skills in Japan.

The rise in the economy of many European countries is due to their interest in human development; that is why many theories have indicated the importance of caring for human capital as a fundamental pillar leading to the social and economic development, and for this reason, the empowerment is a set of strategies and mechanisms aimed at moving society from a stable or unsatisfactory position to a better one, which is a process of continuous development and improvement.

We can also say that the empowerment is a social, administrative, economic, cultural and political process that works to develop society and advance the skills and abilities of its members. Hence, the specialists in the field of development believe that the empowerment in order to advance development must proceed according to planned and organized stages in accordance with the requirements of society, and community members must participate in planning and determining the priorities of its needs, as well

the members of society must be involved in proposing and implementing the appropriate alternatives.

Among the dimensions of empowerment to achieve sustainable development: self-development, social, administrative, economic, environmental, and local community development.

What the current report focuses on is how to activate societal empowerment for the development of the Yemeni community because the development, in light of the current situation and its repercussions, has become overly dependent (Dependence), and the Yemeni society has become a passive recipient of development.

The history of Yemen urges the cooperation and self-reliance. In the past, the community cooperatives were the ones that brought about a developmental advancement and drive, and the example of the tremendous development that occurred years from the period of ruling of the late Ibrahim Al-Hamdi. During a short period of his ruling (three years), economic and social development was achieved, and Yemen got into lending the World Bank itself.

Generally speaking, the human resources are considered the most important pillar of the developmental advancement in its various fields, thus the development will not be achieved unless the human wealth is utilized as it is the goal of development, its basic tool, and capable of implementing the progress and building.

Objectives of the report

In order to find systematic solutions to confront these challenges, the strategic goal is to present a proposal to activate development empowerment strategies for the Yemeni society, and to reach this strategic goal, the following goals will be achieved:

1. Providing strategies and solutions for poverty reduction.
2. Introducing a mechanism to develop the education system in all its fields and stages, and eradicate illiteracy.
3. Promoting and activating strategies the developmental empowerment of human resources and gender.

In order to achieve these goals, the main challenges will be addressed throughout the present report, and those challenges are: poverty, education system, weakness of empowerment strategies for human resources and gender, in addition to reviewing the empowerment axis in terms of: the empowerment concept, goals, dimensions, strategy, community empowerment standards, empowerment strategies and policies, empowerment and sustainable development, empowerment and gender and its relation to development, empowerment relation to the poverty eradication and empowerment challenges.

The Basic Report Terms:

Developmental empowerment: It is the empowerment of individuals, groups and communities with skills that give them the ability to properly manage their circumstances, exercise power and achieve their own goals, and also equip them with the mechanism through which they, individuals and groups, are able to help themselves and others to achieve the maximum value of their lives.

Advancing development: It is working on developing the capabilities of the local community members to help themselves participating in identifying their needs, planning to meet these needs, following up on, implementing and evaluating all the development plans, especially those that concern them and affect their needs. And it is clear here that the actions that the community wants to change and create are directly related to the community members that embodies the importance of the community empowerment and increasing their ability to raise the level of options among the community members to achieve their interests and societies and move them to a better condition in all social, economic and political fields.

Community Empowerment

▶ *The concept of empowerment:*

The Empowerment is a planned and organized process that aims to raise the political, social, economic capabilities and skills of individuals and societies to help them make the most appropriate choices and transform those options into the desired actions and results.

The empowerment, as an activity, refers to the process of self-empowerment and professional support for individuals that allows them to overcome their feeling of powerlessness, lack of leverage, awareness and use of their resources, to change their situation for the better.

In the field of the social work, the empowerment is a practical method of directed intervention towards developing the human resource skills and capabilities. The empowerment is also seen as a mechanism that works to provide the citizen's rights and give him responsibility towards his community and his country. The empowerment is also a key concept in the discourse related to promoting the effective community participation.

The empowerment, as a concept, is a move away from the powerless feeling towards a more power-oriented perception, and it can be found increasingly in the administrative and development sciences, as well as in the fields of the continuing education and self-help (Baqer: 2019).

▶ *Empowerment Goals:*

The empowerment generally aims to provide individuals with the capability to discover themselves and the abilities and skills that they possess leading them to the quality of life they want. The development does not mean getting more, but developing for the better, increasing the options available, improving access to various rights and services, and enhancing the capabilities of individuals. Herbert (1980) adds the following sub-goals of the empowerment process serving to connect the individuals to manage their lives:

- ◆ The empowerment is concerned with increasing the individuals' confidence in their abilities and their independence.
- ◆ Helping the individuals to identify their capabilities more appropriately in order to find self-solutions to their problems.
- ◆ Managing the personal life affairs and being able to handle the daily life matters.
- ◆ Getting the individuals to use their intense capabilities to work with others to bring about change.

- ♦ Creating a developmental context conducive to participation and interaction based on developing skills, abilities, self-confidence, and opportunities for cognitive development (Al-Shuaibni; et al.: 2018).

► *Empowerment Dimensions:*

The empowerment has several basic dimensions, and the following are these dimensions:

1) **Social Empowerment:**

The social empowerment refers to raising the capabilities of individuals and groups to independently establish relationships and conduct the necessary institutional and environmental activities to ensure their well-being and productivity.

2) **Economic Empowerment:**

It can be reached by securing more suitable jobs and livelihoods for the most vulnerable and focusing on youth, women and people with disabilities. And concerning the economy, the empowerment is essential to the eradication of poverty.

3) **Political Empowerment:**

The political empowerment refers to the level of broadening the participation of citizens in decision-making, and increasing the ability of the vulnerable groups to influence the processes that aim at achieving their well-being.

4) **Legal empowerment:**

It takes place through facilitating the principle of transparency, activating legal accountability, being able to ensure justice for those living in poverty, and providing individuals with the opportunity to claim their rights (The World Summit for Social Development: 2013).

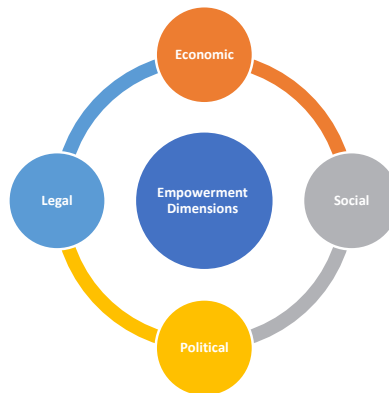


Figure No (1) Community Empowerment Dimensions

Source: Report team according to the theoretical frame of the empowerment Dimensions

► *Empowerment Strategy:*

One of the empowerment strategies is to help the most vulnerable individuals defining their priorities and needs on the basis that they are the most capable of knowing what they need the most, and that managing change for the better can only come with their active participation in all stages. The process of empowering individuals or groups is the method for the full access to the personal or collective power, authority and influence, and the use of that power when dealing with the others, institutions, or society.

More precisely, the empowerment does not give the individuals the power because the individuals already possess a lot of power, rather, the empowerment is represented in the wealth of generating the knowledge and motivation in individuals to better do their work, encouraging them to acquire knowledge and skills that qualify them to better overcome the difficulties they face in their organizations or societies, and helping them develop their own and societal capabilities.

► *Empowerment Criteria and Conditions:*

The criteria and conditions that must be met for a sustainable community empowerment process are:

- 1) Activating the rule of law over everyone.
- 2) Introducing a civil system mechanism and reducing centralization at the governorate and district levels in order to ensure the availability of standards for coordination and accountability.
- 3) An inclusive and wide-ranging participation that involves the participation of all the concerned bodies and stakeholders in light of the availability of multiple channels of participation.
- 4) Activating the principles of governance and accountability at all levels.
- 5) Providing opportunities for participation that could affect decision-making processes.
- 6) Distinguishing between all the short and long-term goals while achieving rapid progress in the specific procedures in the short term in order to ensure legitimacy and maintain both compliance standards, and proposals related to the investment plans and financing strategy.
- 7) Facilitating the process planners in a manner characterized by skill, independence and flexibility.
- 8) Choosing the appropriate tools for the forms of participation processes according to their purpose.

- 9) Generating the desire in individuals to strive for results, supported by the necessary techniques to resolve the emerging conflicts.
- 10) Providing the support and cooperation with civil society institutions, and making use of the methodologies applied in organizing the activities of vulnerable groups to enable them in an appropriate manner.
- 11) Implementing monitoring and evaluation processes in order to monitor progress and results, and learn from experiences.
- 12) Strengthening the linkages in terms of legislation and practices between the various sectors working in the field of planning and implementation of all activities (World Summit for Social Development: 2013).

► *Stages of the Empowerment Process:*

1) Community awareness

The community awareness is one of the most important steps for successfully implementing the empowerment process, which helps achieving the comprehensive, sustainable development in societies.

2) Initiation and granting of authority

The first step is considered to be the beginning of the entry of the members of society to be an effective party in the development processes, and the efforts of the various parties must be directed to granting the members of society, especially the vulnerable groups, the right to effective and appropriately possible participation.

3) Community organization

The second step in the empowerment process is the formation of intermediaries represented by NGOs, associations, and community-based institutions, because the community organizing process requires forces that help in capacity-building training processes.

4) Community development continuity

This will be a very important step to ensure the continuity of the impact of the empowerment and to complete the activities of the empowerment process as needed in the future, as it allows community members to practice the self-development. (Tariq: 2014).

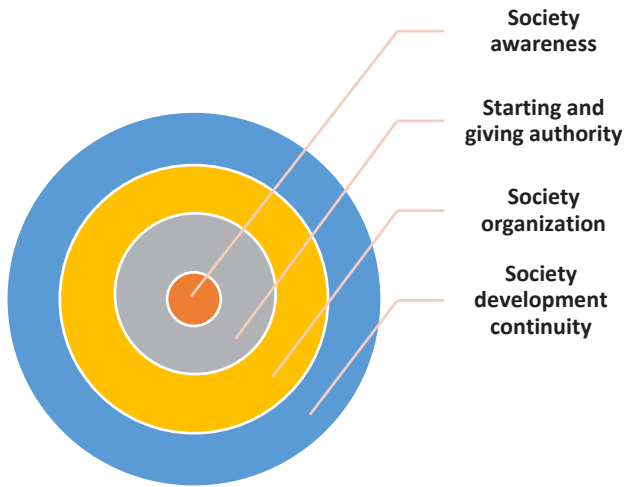


Figure No (2) Stages of the Community Empowerment

Source: Report team according to the theoretical frame of empowerment stages

► Empowerment Policies:

1) Social protection:

The social protection has proven to be an effective tool of empowerment for individuals, families and groups, working to reduce poverty, vulnerabilities and disparities, as well as to enhance the social inclusion approach.

2) Investing in education, skills training and health in the interest of achieving the empowerment and improving livelihoods:

In order to contribute to reducing poverty, creating job opportunities and encouraging social inclusion, it is imperative to focus on education and training, imparting skills to the community members and providing access to the health care as indispensable components of any empowerment strategy.

It is also working to expand the availability of information through information and communication technology, such as the Internet, mobile phones, and social media platforms that may help facilitate the participation.

3) Participation, Governance and Accountability:

The governance standards are a very important element in reducing and eliminating poverty and achieving social inclusion, as empowerment leads to the promotion of good governance that is characterized by the participation of the members of society, including the

vulnerable groups, building consensus, accountability, transparency, responsiveness, efficiency, parity and inclusiveness. (World Summit for Social Development: 2013).

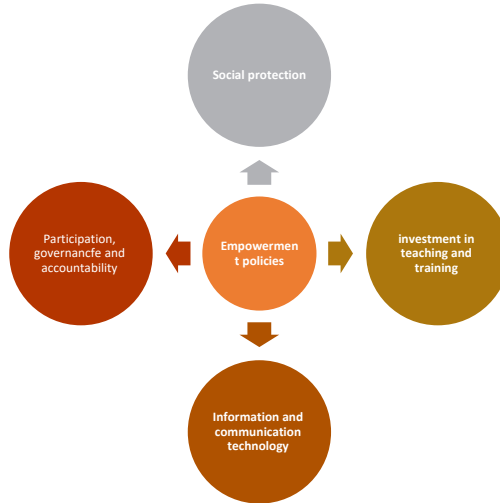


Figure No (3) Community Empowerment Policies

Source: Report team according to the theoretical frame of the community empowerment policies

► *Empowerment and sustainable development:*

The participation of all members of society in social, economic and political life is an important element that enables the achievement of sustainable development. It requires addressing challenges such as climate change and fundamental changes in human behavior in terms of both production and consumption patterns. These changes can be effectively achieved when people participate in the development of plans, policies, programs and their implementation.

► *Empowerment, gender and its relation to development:*

Empowering all the members of society (men and women) is the main pillar for developing the capabilities and skills that could not be unleashed without their empowerment. And in light of achieving the standards and foundations of social justice, equal opportunities, integrating gender in all plans and comprehensive development programs, raising community awareness of gender issues, enhancing the role of women in the family and society, and raising their capabilities and empowerment politically, socially and economically.

The empowerment is one of the most recent modern methods of inclusion and its means, and the success of development programs, ensuring their sustainability, and society's ability to absorb them can only be achieved with the participation of both men and women.

Therefore, the empowerment is often linked to equality and the consequent provision of fair opportunities for all in the use of society's resources and non-discrimination on the basis of gender, which makes both men and women freedom to work and produce, to act and control, which leads to support the implementation of the sustainable development process. (Al-Zalab: 2005).

Women and Empowerment

The religion confirms the fact that human life will not continue, create and develop without the presence of male and female (men and women).

In the national and international charters of the twenty-first century, the world unites, from all the countries, religions, parties, organizations, legislation, and laws, that enabling a decent life for the human being will only be achieved by realizing equality between men and women in rights and duties to ensure the sustainable development of the earth and the human being. In fact, it is achieved through the effective participation of both, men and women, as they are essential partners in building and developing societies.

From this standpoint, many global, international, Arab and domestic laws and charters have been approved and promulgated that affirm the importance of women's participation in building and developing societies, as stipulated in the articles of the Yemeni constitution and laws.

▶ Low Participation of Women in Decision-Making Positions

Women are the main partner for men in building and advancing community development and decision-making, which should be actual on the ground. The absence of women from their real and actual role has led to the occurrence of large and deep gaps in the process of building and developing society.

This was the result of many reasons and factors, including religious beliefs that are subject to the interpretation of some of those involved in the interpretation of the legal texts according to their own understanding and in what often serves their selfishness, as well as some customs, traditions, laws and legislations that are unfair to women.

► *Yemeni Women, in the Past and the Present:*

For centuries, Yemeni women have been playing their role in building and developing society. In fact, their role and participation had led to the existence of the ancient civilizational Yemeni state since thousands of years, including the Kingdom of Saba, Himyar, and Ma'in ... etc. Yemeni women were famous for their existence and their role in governance, politics and leadership, such as the Queen of Saba, Queen Bilqis in the time of the Prophet Solomon, and the Queen Sayyidah Bint Ahmed Al-Sulayhi during the era of the Sulayhid state and other Yemeni women.

During the past two decades, Yemeni women were able to gradually return to the pursuit of their role and participation in building the society, but they were not able to actually reach the actual and real participation at the required level, but only managed to achieve some rights and tangible participation in the education and health sector, and participation in the record and registration in the elections, while still being deprived of its right to explore the depths of the political sector.

► *The Political Participation of Yemeni Women:*

The political participation of Yemeni women is below the required level. Despite the progress witnessed by the status of Yemeni women in the areas of health and education, there are no similar indicators in the political field. The status of women in participating in the public and political life in the Arab region in general, and in the Yemeni region in particular, is among the lowest estimations in the world.

We can say that there is a very large gap between the international orientations and decisions and the reality of empowering the Yemeni women politically. While the Yemeni state tries to fulfill in its constitution and laws the requirements of the Arab and international orientations and decisions, there is, in practice, a great discrepancy between the essence of these orientations and the reality of the political empowerment of Yemeni women. As the women's exercise of her role in public life has become a national and humanitarian necessity, and in order to achieve this, there must be a supportive political will for women to access the parliament and the position of decision-making in order to be able to provide the support in the political field because they are more appropriate to build the societal fabric, thus the citizenship rights will remain grossly deficient if women are not empowered to participate in the public sphere, as it is a deficiency in the effective practice, not just in the legal legislation

The Yemeni women in the modern era are exposed to many practices and beliefs that weaken their role and participation in building and advancing the development of society.

► *The Concept of Empowering Women:*

It is the process that makes women capable to take the strategic decisions providing them the skills and abilities that enable them to manage their lives.

Empowerment of women can also be defined as the process that leads to women's ownership of resources and the development of their ability to benefit from them and manage them more appropriately to achieve a set of accomplishments according to their acquired capabilities. And here the importance of having a set of elements available for women to be able to exercise their choices, including: management, resources, and goals. The management refers to a woman's ability to define the strategic goals that she wants to reach in her life, act on those goals, and to make decisions based on the results of those goals. While the resources refer to the expectations and the material, social and human aspect, as the goals refer to a variety of results that start from achieving a decent standard of living and improving it, and ending with the realization of the principle of the representation of women in the positions of taking the ticks and the political sphere.

Education

Education is the best mechanism and the primary factor for improving the living conditions of all members of society, and the most capable element of bringing about social, cultural and economic change, and the most efficient way to achieve development in its various fields. Those concerned with education affairs face great challenges by bridging the big gap between the minimum necessary and basic needs, and the quality and quantity of the educational services that are currently available.

The education we advocate must be united with practice, and it means reshaping the awareness with the aim of empowering people to defend their human rights and freedoms and calling for them to actually undertake and codify them more precisely and consistently than the constitutions include. In fact, the education and empowerment, that is, knowledge and practice, are inseparable. There is no minimal benefit from the education unless it means freedom from fear and the effective exercise of rights as part of the

duty and civil responsibility of every citizen (Al-Naim, 2000: 36).

And because of the conditions that Yemen is experiencing from continuous conflicts over the course of 7 years, it has led to the collapse of the educational system, which was previously characterized by indicators of weakness. The low level of education is one of the reasons of the spread of poverty, as poor education is a factor with a major role in the expansion of poverty.

Poverty affects the level of the access to education opportunities. At the same time, the quality education is an important requirement for the poor due to the low access to it due to the accompanying material costs required to meet their needs in terms of supplies, books and other needs. The impact of poverty on poor students is reflected in their inability to focus and follow up school lessons, as they live in unsuitable places, or because they are malnourished due to the food insecurity.

The reality of education in Yemen:

Education is a fundamental factor in improving the living conditions and achieving development goals. Education indicators are very low, as the illiteracy rate among the community members is high, and in recent times, due to conditions, the enrollment rates have decreased more than before, for example in primary education, grades 1-9.

There is a wide gap between males and females in terms of the enrollment in education, especially in the rural areas, where the education faces many social, cultural and economic challenges and obstacles, and this is caused by poor distribution of resources due to the widespread of financial and administrative corruption, ineffective use of the available resources, and inappropriate distribution for the educational facilities that interfere with a set of considerations outside the regulation of the educational system, in addition to the quality of education.

The educational situation in Yemen is characterized by indicators that are considered the worst in the world in terms of the phenomenon of dropout, the high rate of illiteracy, in addition to the recent low enrollment rates in basic and university education, especially among girls, and the widening gap in education between males and females, as well as between the countryside and cities.

There is a weakness in the efficiency of using and distributing resources in an optimal manner and explained by some parties to the scarcity of resources, in addition to the problems of distributing the educational facilities, limited educational inputs, their low quality, and the weakness of the educational management, in addition to the economic, social and cultural

difficulties that affect the education system.

Some reports related to the education in Yemen have indicated that about half of the Yemeni citizens of adulthood who are fortunate enough can read and write. As for the children who enroll in the basic education, they do not exceed 70% in the best cases, and less than a quarter of girls in the rural areas are of primary education age, and less than half of the total number of girls of primary school age.

The war and armed conflicts in Yemen from 2015 until 2020 have contributed to the destruction of the educational process, and the size of the damage to the public education can be indicated as follows (Al-Khatib; Al-Raymi: 2021):

1. Education for All: Yemen has failed to achieve the Education for All goals by the year 2015, despite receiving aid amounting to about 800 million US dollars.
2. Human development: Yemen was ranked 153 in the year 2015 in the human development index (HDI), then it ranked 179 in 2020 out of 189 countries, and the expectations indicate that Yemen will not be able to achieve any of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) by 2030, and nearly a quarter of a million people have died as a result of the fighting directly, and as a result of the indirect availability of food, health services and infrastructure. Children under five formed 60% of the dead, and the conflict hindered development 21 years until 2019, and if the conflict ends in 2022, the development will regress 26 years over a single generation.
3. School book: The war led to a shortage in the printing of the school book due to the prevention of the entry of papers, stationery and ink for its printing, and as a result of the lack of financial resources for printing and the donor countries' suspension of support, it all caused harm to more than five million students in their education, and deprived them from 56,565,868 school books. It reflected negatively on the educational process in Yemen, and the average annual deficit in printing school books was about 84%, equivalent to one copy of the curriculum for every 7 students.
4. Educational cadre: The number of the educational cadres affected by the war and whose salaries have stopped since 2016 reached about 196,197 educators, or about 65% of the total educational cadre in Yemen, as well as the total number of educational staff working in the affected facilities reached 90,189 educators, i.e., 29.7 % of the total of that cadre.
5. Material losses of the public education due to the war: The Ministry of Education estimated the direct losses of damage to the education

sector during the period from 26 March 2015 until 26 March 2020 at about 3 trillion riyals, and the total cost of losses and material damage of the education sector as a result of the continued targeting of schools and educational facilities was estimated for 383,110,000 dollars.

6. The human losses of the war: According to a report by the Global Education Coalition entitled “Education under attack” (9 July 2020), more than 5,000 students, teachers, and academics were injured, killed, and harmed in Yemen during the period 2015-2019, in addition to 3,804 wounded.

Poverty

► *Idiomatic Concept of Poverty:*

It is the lack of community members to the basic requirements recognized within the prevailing social framework of the family and the individual, and is represented in the failure to meet these needs to the point of inability to meet the needs of food, drink and housing in a manner that contradicts the requirements of a decent life. In addition, poverty has a set of indicators that goes beyond economic indicators such as: health status deterioration, low level of education, prevalence of deviant behavior, high crime rate, low level of individuals skills, as well as lack of job opportunities.

► *Poverty Phenomenon:*

Poverty is a social phenomenon with socio-economic dimensions, and multiple political implications. No society is devoid of it despite the difference in degrees of need, and some reports indicate that one-fifth of the world’s population has been classified as poor deprived of the minimum opportunities for a decent and safe living.

Despite the difference in defining the concept of poverty and its standards, the low and lack of per capita income is the main focus of this phenomenon, and this is accompanied by the weak ability to provide the necessary life requirements of food, drink and clothing, in addition to other necessary supplies such as medicine.

The impact of the phenomenon of poverty in Yemen increases due to the continuous conflicts, and the methods of treatment that aim to reduce this dangerous phenomenon and its effects vary accordingly. The concept

of poverty may go beyond the economic dimension to represent the social, psychological and cultural aspect related to the human dimension of poverty.

The financial and administrative corruption in state institutions is one of the factors that exacerbate the phenomenon of poverty, and this corruption has led to the class inequality through the emergence of obscene wealth and extreme poverty among the different groups of society, as well the absence of the equal rights standards, and the problem of poverty is closely linked to the deterioration of economic and political performance, which caused the emergence of differences that have turned into litigations and armed conflicts over large areas that have caused many businesses to stop, the deterioration of the situation of agricultural lands and farmers, and increasing the unemployment and the unemployed.

This, in turn, has led to a deterioration in the standard of living in general, in the economic situation in various areas of life and cast a shadow over the citizens. The lack of salaries exacerbated the worsening situation, which increased the rate of poverty, the loss of agricultural lands, assets and businesses, and the deterioration of per capita income, and in many cases the lack of it. In addition, the living conditions have deteriorated to the greatest extent, then infrastructure services in general, in addition to the spread of epidemics and diseases and the increase in deaths due to preoccupation with conflict management. This matter calls for urgent solutions to save the community members. International reports indicated that more than 20 million Yemenis are exposed to an inevitable state of famine.

In addition to the above, the continuing violent conflicts in Yemen have led to severe disruption in economic activity and exports of materials, in addition to severe damage to the infrastructure and suspension of basic services, which exacerbated the phenomenon of displacement and its spread and the situation worsened. And from here, it is imperative to work on housing the displaced, providing the most basic necessities of life for different groups and segments, preserving the dignity of affected individuals and families and supporting them in equal access to food, housing, protection, health and all the rights that guarantee their lives in dignity and safety.

In order for poverty to end, the war and armed conflicts must end, and the Yemeni people must begin to reunite, and to call for a national reconciliation that brings together all spectrum and groups in conflict, and to work on implementing reconstruction development projects in all fields to end the suffering of the Yemeni people and provide decent living under a safe and stable situation.

► *Poverty Conditions in Yemen:*

The poverty gap index reaches 8.9%, which means that there is a per capita deficit of up to 497 Yemeni riyals per month. On average, a poor individual should receive 1,431 Yemeni riyals per month in order to be able to break out of poverty. Typically targeting the poor requires 124.4 billion Yemeni riyals per year (about 4% of GDP) to bridge the gap between the actual spending of poor families and the poverty line. (World Bank January 2010).

Several international reports have also indicated that a large segment of the Yemeni population is in dire need of basic needs, and some reports have shown that 24.7 million which represents 80% of the population, are in urgent need of assistance, and that 16.2 million individuals are in urgent need. And that 4 million people have been displaced from their homes as a result of the conflict, children represent about 74% of the total number of the displaced people, and there are 137,000 foreign refugees living on the Yemeni territory.



Figure (4): Poverty in Yemen is related to eight of the Millennium Objectives

► *Causes of Poverty:*

Poverty is the product of a set of natural and human factors, local policies and external factors that combine together to create an environment conducive to the spread and increase of poverty, and manifestations of poverty differ from one society to another according to a set of factors such as the level of provision of infrastructure services and the increase in the number of families as well as the educational level of individuals and the geographical area.

The poor suffer from a lack of job opportunities, lack of possession of resources and assets such as agricultural land and money, in addition to high prices, scarcity of water resources, widening class inequality between groups of society and gender inequality. The segment of women and children is the most affected by poverty because it is the most vulnerable group.

Among the most important causes of the spread of the phenomenon of poverty:

1) The spread of the phenomenon of financial and administrative corruption:

The Millennium Development Goals take into account this broader concept of poverty for it is necessary to go beyond measures of linking poverty with income only because financial and administrative corruption is one of the main causes of poverty and the spread of corruption, undermines the foundations of development, and violates human rights, individuals and legal frameworks.

Among the manifestations of corruption is the looting of budgets that are approved to combat poverty, and corruption limits the possibility of economic growth, in addition to the low levels of internal and external investments, efforts to combat poverty and other efforts related to promoting development.

The spread of corruption leads to the failure of the implementation of development plans, as well as the increase of poverty. When the phenomenon of corruption ramps up, mechanisms to combat poverty, such as transparency, legal accountability and institutional responsibility, become non-existent.

As economists and sociologists have stated, the corruption tax is always paid by the poor, where the proceeds of natural resources are plundered for the benefit of limited individuals at the expense of members of the entire community.

2) Wars and conflicts:

In the recent period, Yemen witnessed a deterioration in the performance of the political side, which led to the outbreak and spread of conflicts, and resulted in the movement of the population and their displacement, which led to an economic deterioration in various areas of life and cast a shadow over the citizens due to the deterioration of the security situation.

The phenomenon of displacement and the homes and jobs left behind by the displaced are a cause of widespread poverty, especially among the most vulnerable segments of society, and the deterioration of the security situation leads to a decrease in the number of investors, which results in a weakness in the economy and a deterioration in the level of currency, in addition to the deterioration of the level of providing the infrastructure services for society, food security, health, education, and water.

3) State general policy:

The governance system of the state represents a fundamental factor in the fight against poverty or to increase its area. If the entity of the state is based on a civil system that relies on the law and protects the rights of individuals, and works to enact and implement laws that provide equal opportunities and capabilities, reduce poverty, promote equality among the members of society in a just manner and eliminate the class disparities and enacting laws and regulations that work to undermine corruption, the state will be stable and able to provide stability for its citizens.

The civil state is a state of rights in the first place and focuses on the basic needs of the poor and provides the largest number of job opportunities through the equitable exploitation of available resources for the equal benefit of members of society and preservation of them. Likewise, if the state is absent, factional, class and regional prevail, and the role of law disappears, the situation will worsen, the middle class will end, the number of poor will double, and the class inequality will intensify.

4) Inequality and class disparity:

The severity of class discrimination is exacerbated by the conflicts and their persistence, and this differentiation appears in the disparity in income levels of the community members, as well as the gender, sectarian and regional discrimination.

As for the children segment, children of poor families and rural areas are more vulnerable to health problems, including underweight, and

they are three times less likely to enroll in the education compared to children from rich families who live in cities. As for gender, the school dropout rate for girls is higher than the dropout rate for boys. Class disparity weakens the possibility of community members being able to obtain civil, social and political rights, and it also leads to the rich exploitation of the poor in the most horrific ways, and authoritarian and individual groups work on political, economic and social decisions to monopolize their members for the materials of the country at the expense of members of society, and captivate the poor in a state of poverty that is hard to get out of it.

5) Low wages and economic growth:

Low wages lead to a decrease in the number of the expert workforce, and to a deterioration in the level of services and outputs of all institutions and bodies, which builds upon the high rate of economic inflation during the period of crises, and the high rate of class disparity between members of the same community in the level of income, property and opportunities for a decent life.

One of the effects resulting from poverty is the low level of wages that leads to malnutrition resulting from extreme poverty, as well as a deterioration in the physical and psychological health of individuals, and also causes diseases that may prevent them from carrying out their work tasks, resulting in a shortage in the number of the workforce that is a source of production and helps to raising productivity. This results in a shortage in the number of the workforce, which is a source of production and helps to raise productivity, resulting in a proliferation of unemployment and poverty are two interrelated problems. In this context, the World Bank notes in one of its reports that unemployment is not the main cause of poverty, but rather low wages and the consequences thereof.

6) Increasing the number of family members:

The large family is more vulnerable than other families to the problem of poverty, especially if the head of the family is the only breadwinner, due to the large number of its members, and thus its requirements increase, and the situation becomes more difficult if the head of the family does not find a job opportunity with an income commensurate with the level of these needs.

7) Traditional agriculture:

The agricultural sector represents an important activity in the economy, but it faces a set of challenges, including:

- ♦ Scarcity and misuse of water resources.
- ♦ Population growth and urbanization at the expense of agricultural lands.

- ♦ Rough terrain and poor infrastructure.

Among the causes of low productivity in the agricultural sector:

- ♦ The typicality of the agricultural methods used which are described as old.
- ♦ Scarcity of water resources.
- ♦ Price fluctuations for seeds and agricultural means.
- ♦ Insufficient agricultural production requirements.

8) **Poor health:**

Due to the repercussions of the current situation, diseases have spread, the level of health facilities services has deteriorated, and this situation has worsened the population density in some cities as a result of displacement from conflict-raging areas, as well as the disruption of salaries for state employees, as more than 50% of the health facilities are not working or are almost stalled, due to the lack of medical supplies, and this requires about 12 million people to intervene in the health services to reach the minimum life-saving services, and it has become necessary to contribute to saving the operational costs of health facilities and to pay incentives to the health service providers.

The poor, and even the lack of, health facilities services lead to more dire challenges facing the Yemeni people, most of whom cannot afford to pay for treatments, and thus citizens cannot obtain the health services. Most health facilities have stopped providing their services due to the repercussions of the current situation, in addition to the additional financial costs that it causes on a daily basis to provide the necessary treatment.

Poverty affects the health side, as the lack of income has led to most families living in unhealthy places such as homes that suffer from unsound sanitary threats, or in camps that are not equipped with the lowest living services what caused many diseases to the children such as various fevers, severe diarrhea, intestinal infections, dehydration and other illnesses due to the polluted environment in which they live.

The nature of the level of housing, most of which lacks the good ventilation for its residents, causes multiple diseases such as respiratory and kidney diseases due to the lack of bathrooms in some of these dwellings, in addition to the widespread of frightening diseases such as malaria, dengue fever, Chikungunya, tuberculosis and Corona virus recently, as thousands of families lack the source of income, live in unqualified housing, such as an entire family living in only one

room, and there are thousands of similar cases, or live in displacement camps, are more vulnerable to the diseases and epidemics.

9) **Poverty and Gender:**

Women are more vulnerable to poverty compared to men due to the war and displacement, and due to the burdens, that they bear. Most of them suddenly become the ones on whom the families rely on after losing the head of the family, or getting injured and becoming disabled. Sometimes women and children are exposed to death, disability, or injury in the areas of confrontation. Indeed, many of them become exposed to great dangers such as harassments and threatens, as well many unscrupulous people take advantage of their situation in horrible ways, and the luckiest of them accept any work for low wages usually less than the wages of men in professions for different jobs.

The current and deteriorating conditions of women in Yemen have caused most of them to become in dire need of work in addition to the presence of a large proportion of uneducated women, which makes it difficult for them to find suitable work, so they accept working in simple and low professions to get a low wage that is not sufficient in many cases to the basic requirements of their families.

Also, the expansion of poverty has dire effects on children, as most children in Yemen suffer from malnutrition, especially infants who are at risk of contracting respiratory infections or epidemic diseases that may cause them long last damage, and affect their bodies and their psychological and harmonious conditions in the future. In addition to the general impact of malnutrition on the positive level of children's performance in school, which leads to a decrease in their level of productivity in the future.

► *Impact of Poverty:*

Psychologists and sociologists emphasized the need to focus on the phenomenon of poverty, and they indicated that there is a big difference in children's mental levels according to the different economic levels of their families, as most children who belong to families with low economic levels have lower achievement scores on school exams than children belonging to families with high economic levels.

Scientists have also concluded from the experiences that there is a disparity in the level of children's ability to acquire behavioral and professional skills, as children who belong to the poorest families are more likely to acquire aggressive behavior, are more prone to violence, and they are

the most dropout from different stages of education, which makes them more likely to be unemployed in the future.

The scientist Maslow stated, through his pyramid of human needs, that the basic human needs were arranged according to their urgent priorities, starting with the need for food, water, housing and sleep (physiological needs), then to a sense of safety and then belonging to the environment and society, and gradually moved until he reached other individual needs such as self-esteem and realization, and others.

Maslow emphasized that individuals are unable to satisfy their higher needs, such as appreciation and self-realization, except after satisfying their basic needs of food, drink, shelter, etc. Depression and despair, which may be exacerbated by some of them because of suffering and other more serious negative manifestations arise, such as a weak sense of belonging to the family and society, and problems of family disintegration. In fact, the seriousness of the negative aspects of poverty is exacerbated by the widening of the large gap between the rich and the poor, with class disparity, the emergence of obscene wealth and extreme poverty, which leads to more manifestations of behavioral and value deviations such as the exploitation of the poor in the most horrific ways that may reach the crime of trafficking in human organs and multiple human violations against them. Indeed, the phenomenon poverty is an ethical challenge that can often be difficult to overcome.

This clearly shows the importance of finding radical solutions to the spread of the phenomenon of poverty, and working to spare many personal, family and social problems that are aggravating, and the phenomena of trade in human organs and trafficking are the most ugly, as well as displacement and begging and what results from them, in addition to the effects of the spread of the phenomenon of poverty on children who are considered more vulnerable to physical and material abuse and exploitation, as well as the prevalence of abnormal behaviors among the poor themselves to earn food and money such as theft and other crimes.

The relation of empowerment to poverty eradication, full employment, social inclusion, and decent work:

1) Empowerment and eradication of poverty:

In order to achieve the goal of reducing poverty, members of society, especially the most vulnerable groups, should be actively involved as they are most capable of identifying its causes and ways to address them.

2) Empowerment, full employment and decent work:

Providing employment and decent work opportunities are two means of critical importance in improving living standards, and they can be necessary components of social inclusion and empowerment, provided that they achieve adequate wages and a secure income, as well as access to social protection.

3) Empowerment and social inclusion:

Social inclusion is activated to empower individuals equally without any discrimination through the provision of decent work opportunities, the enjoyment of basic services and the full participation in the political and social life. (World Summit for Social Development: 2013).

Challenges Facing the Community Empowerment

► *Concept of Challenges:*

Challenges are meant as those changes occurring in the societal environment that affect it in different weights and shapes, and constitute constant pressures and worries, which increase as the pressures and threats increase in case society's response is not parallel to it, in addition to the many capabilities and opportunities that these changes provide that enable it to face it.

First: Challenges of empowering Yemeni society members:

- ◆ Not to involve the community in determining its needs and independence in formulating and implementing local development plans.
- ◆ Conflicts and political instability.
- ◆ Absence of good governance.
- ◆ Low efficiency of the local executive bodies.
- ◆ The lack of comprehensiveness of local development plans and policies.
- ◆ The weak role of the private sector and civil society in the developmental construction.
- ◆ Poverty and the spread of financial and administrative corruption.
- ◆ False beliefs.
- ◆ Customs and traditions that are foreign to the authentic Yemeni ones.
- ◆ Weak education and the spread of illiteracy.
- ◆ Continuing political confusion, conflicts, wars and conflicts.
- ◆ Social and cultural obstacles.
- ◆ Economic constraints.

- ♦ Vulnerable groups (the poorest) are not represented in decision-making processes.
- ♦ Discrimination, inequality and parity, in addition to the lack of seriousness of the decision-making authority in the state and the government in granting women the right to participate in the advancement of community development and decision-making.
- ♦ Failure to empower women to actually exercise rights and truly participate in all areas, particularly in decision-making positions.
- ♦ The weakness of the mechanism for activating the political participation of women, as well the personal status laws.

Second: Challenges of the Education System in Yemen

The system of education challenges in Yemen is represented by internal and external challenges. The internal challenges of education are the obstacles and concerns that the education systems in Yemen suffer from resulting from the internal conditions of this or that educational system as it is on its way to carry out its functions towards achieving its educational goals, where these challenges put pressures on the education system and pushing it towards changing itself in form and content, renewing its methods and means, and arming itself with everything new and developed in light of contemporary educational experiences or orientations so that education in Yemen can carry out its tasks and roles enabling the society to face its challenges with high capacity and sufficiency.

As for the external challenges of education in Yemen, they are the economic, social, cultural, and political changes that Yemeni society is witnessing ... etc., and the various dimensions of their effects, whether local resulting from its conditions, resources and forces, or the international and regional resulting from the scientific and technical revolution and the information and communication revolution that translates these changes into burdens and demands placed on education in order to respond to and adopt them in its philosophy and goals, and reflect them in its plans and programs, so that it fulfills its roles and responsibilities entrusted to it to overcome these pressures and challenges, and enable society to achieve the development and progress it aspires to. In the sense that the challenges of society are translated and transformed into challenges surrounding education, pushing it to respond to them and enable society to face those challenges, so education becomes the bridge across which people cross to achieve their aspirations for progress and prosperity (El-Hajj, 2007: 166).

And what complicates and worsens the conditions of education is that reform efforts and strategies for developing education were fragmented and unrelated, and were often limited to certain aspects of this or that edu-

cation. Therefore, it was natural that visions and perspectives varied, paths contradicted, methods and means contradicted, and then the results were disappointing. Rather, stagnant conditions did not stir the types of education which complicated education problems and exacerbating their impact on all sides in light of political disregard, the absence of supervision, and a great material and human resources impotence... etc.

If the current conditions persist, the future of education in Yemen will be very critical if the development of education is not given the highest priority of the government and society as a whole, and if all current efforts to reform and develop education are not radically reconsidered, as well as to work seriously while being up to date to create a comprehensive vision for the development of education with a long-term strategy that addresses all types of education in an interdependent and harmonious whole, in light of the challenges that Yemen faces from its accelerating international and regional dimensions, and to provide all kinds of support and care officially and publicly in order for the educational system to assume its vanguard place in driving the change in the society, and to join effectively in pushing forward the desired development processes for Yemen.

These challenges can be categorized as follows:

First: The internal challenges facing education in Yemen:

- ◆ Security unrest and ongoing conflict.
- ◆ The spread of the phenomenon of dropping out of education in all its stages due to the spread of poverty.
- ◆ Unsuitable placement of school buildings.
- ◆ Lack of school supplies and equipment.
- ◆ Far-reaching transformations in curriculum and content building, teaching methods, evaluation, and means of implementing them.
- ◆ Lack of operating expenses for school facilities in the public sector.
- ◆ Teacher's rights are virtually non-existent.
- ◆ The modularity of school and educational administration.
- ◆ The centralization of the decision in the hands of the higher authorities.
- ◆ Low enrollment of girls.
- ◆ Illiteracy is widespread.
- ◆ Poor preparation and qualification for work and development needs.

Second, external challenges facing education in Yemen:

- ♦ Changes and increases in population growth and movement.
- ♦ The amazing development in the flow of knowledge, science and technology.
- ♦ The radical transformation of the concepts and implications of development.
- ♦ The rapid development in the media and communication.
- ♦ Big companies are responsible for education and training.
- ♦ Increased free time.
- ♦ Orientation towards a knowledge society.

In light of the foregoing, it can be said that education in Yemen, in its current state, is unable to meet the aforementioned challenges as it is far from society's issues and concerns, and has even become a heavy burden on the development plans, and a major cause of exacerbating the labor market crisis.

Developmental experiences

Experience: Qatar (Sustainable Development Vision 2030)

The developmental dimensions that Qatar's vision focused on and the solutions that have been developed:

The challenges

There are social, economic, environmental and institutional challenges

- ♦ Social challenges.
- ♦ Economic challenges.
- ♦ Environmental challenges.
- ♦ Institutional challenges.

Objectives

1. The vision aims to transform Qatar by the year 2030 into a country capable of achieving sustainable development and ensuring the continuation of decent living for its people, generation after generation.

Strategies adopted

- The social dimension:

Establishing a population committee, proposing solutions for the reform process, controlling urban growth, encouraging work in the private sector, establishing health centers and linking them to scientific research.

- Economic dimension:

Raising wages, establishing laws to facilitate real estate financing, limiting liquidity growth, and encouraging scientific research and technological development.

- Environmental dimension:
Enacting laws, building wells, using modern technologies to treat wastewater and waste, supporting companies, establishing environmental institutions, and raising awareness.
- Institutional dimension:
Establishing legal mechanisms, founding a culture of sustainable development, increasing interest in scientific research, providing incentives for scientists, and encouraging the private sector to open research centers.

(Qatar National Vision 2030 AD, The General Secretariat for Development Planning, PO Box 1800, Virginia Commonwealth University Qatar).

Malaysia (The Developmental Experience Dimensions in Malaysia)

Challenges:

There are internal and external challenges, including those related to the global economic crisis, the decline in exports and the accumulation of goods resulting from the nature of the Malaysian economy that is dependent on the external environment.

- **Social side:**
 - ♦ Ethnic pluralism, gender differences, and social diversity.
 - ♦ There are more Chinese than native Malaysians, which has created a lack of confidence.
- **Economic aspect:**
 - ♦ Chinese merchants are the dominant group.
 - ♦ Ethnic unrest.
 - ♦ Poverty of minorities marginalized by English colonialism.
 - ♦ Corruption, unemployment and deterioration in the standard of living.
 - ♦ The economy dependent on the export of raw materials, which is slow to regenerate.
 - ♦ Malaysia has adopted an economic production policy that depends on the international market and trade. It is natural that it will be affected by any external changes, whether positively or negatively.
 - ♦ Insufficient or lack of foreign direct investment.
 - ♦ Increasing inflation pressures that require the authorities to raise interest rates to absorb the high level of liquidity.

- ♦ The lack of untrained workers due to the large population, which leads to an increase in the productive cost.
- **Political aspect:**
 - ♦ political corruption.
 - ♦ Power succession at the state level.
 - ♦ The social handicap (the prevailing ethnic plurality in the Malaysian social components and composition and its diversity).
 - ♦ The Malaysian state finds itself between the compulsory acceptance of some demands and the problem of marginalizing one ideological group at the expense of another, with the impossibility of meeting all the factional demands due to the great diversity of beliefs.
 - ♦ Obstacles related to British colonialism (colonialism left a distortion in the demographic and social structure in Malaysia and worked to dismantle the social structure and raised the differences among ethnicities (Malay - Chinese - Indians).
- **Environmental aspect:**
 - ♦ demographic growth in front of the provision of an appropriate environment.
 - ♦ Loss of green spaces due to industrial and urban activity.
 - ♦ Fresh water crisis.
 - ♦ Air pollution due to old cars and the huge volume of medical waste.
 - ♦ Forest fires.

Objectives:

- ♦ Transferring society and the economy to entrepreneurship.
- ♦ The human being is at the center of development.
- ♦ Returning the human being to the true meaning of Islam.
- ♦ The citizen's living welfare.
- ♦ Balance and inclusiveness in the economic renaissance.
- ♦ Providing food security, the right to own land, and ensuring the formation of a distinguished good generation.
- ♦ Protection of the rights of women and minorities.
- ♦ Consolidating the defense capacity of the homeland.
- ♦ Combating poverty and unemployment.

The Malaysian experience focused on the following strategies:

- ♦ Qualified human capital is the most important for achieving comprehensive development.
- ♦ Adaptation of experiences and successes to suit the privacy of the local community in terms of resources, values and principles, which combined modernity with Islam.

- ♦ Creating a consensual democracy and gender accommodation (the policy of social cohesion and national unity).

The development dimensions that Malaysia focused on for the success of development.

✦ **Political level:**

- ♦ Pluralism and party competition.
- ♦ Applying standards of good governance.
- ♦ The independence of the judiciary and the rule of law.

✦ **Economic level:**

- ♦ Establishing an Islamic bank.
- ♦ Freedom from the dependency of the capitalist system.
- ♦ The five-year plan.
- ♦ Privatization policy.
- ♦ Wawasan Vision 2020 policy (a national policy aimed at the development of Malaysia).
- ♦ Malaysian nationalism, coexistence and strengthening the sense of the state.
- ♦ Encouraging private enterprise, industrialization and technology development.
- ♦ Achieving coexistence between Islam and contemporary technology through building Islamic economic and educational institutions.
- ♦ Focusing on the powers of the state in economics and politics.
- ♦ Transferring the experiences of Japan and Korea (setting financial, economic and monetary policies that take into account the specificities of Malaysian conditions).

✦ **Social side:**

Malaysia has set up mechanisms to pay attention to the social and humanitarian aspect (human security), educational, civilized, and decent living, including:

- ♦ Coexistence.
- ♦ Human capital and education.
- ♦ Combating unemployment and poverty.

✦ **Environmental aspect:**

- ♦ Strict control, oversight, and laws to protect the environment and the citizens' biosphere.
- ♦ Recycling of wastewater and establishing desalination plants for sea water.
- ♦ Declining in natural resources due to the rapid expansion of the wood industry.

Factors for the success of the Malaysian experience:

- ♦ Existence of an appropriate political climate characterized by the creation of appropriate conditions to accelerate economic development.
- ♦ Negotiations and participation in political decision-making.
- ♦ The government's refusal to reduce expenditures for infrastructure projects.
- ♦ Improving social indicators of human capital, improving living conditions, health and education.
- ♦ Dependence on internal resources.
- ♦ Careful dealing with foreign investment according to conditions in favor of the national economy, including not competing with local production.
- ♦ Diversity in the industrial structure and cautious openness to the outside world.
- ♦ Existence of a future vision for the development and economic activity through five-year plans.
- ♦ Companies whose capital amounts to 2 million dollars are allowed to recruit 5 workers to fill the jobs.

(Dimensions of the development experience in Malaysia 2019, an analytical study on backgrounds - foundations - prospects).

UAE (Sustainable development vision 2030)

Challenges:

First: The challenges of sustainable educational development (the educational dimension).

Second: Challenges of sustainable social development and mechanisms to achieve goals (the social dimension).

Third: The challenges of sustainable economic development for the United Arab Emirates and the mechanisms for achieving the goals (the economic dimension).

Objectives:

- 1) Establishing institutional policies to build educational and pedagogical foundations for all individuals from the primary education to the higher education and finding available financing options and implementing them within a specific period of time with the aim of achieving a strong educational base and a conscious, educated and efficient generation.
- 2) Launching awareness-raising governmental programs and initiatives

to educate community members about the importance of climate action and environmental preservation at the national level, with the aim of preserving the environment and addressing various environmental risks.

- 3) Enacting laws that impose social equality between the sexes in all social, economic, cultural and political fields and working to implement them with the aim of equal rights and responsibilities and non-discrimination between the sexes.
- 4) Forming specialized economic and research committees to conduct research and studies in order to identify all aspects of available and untapped national resources, and determining the best way to exploit them with the aim of rational use of available resources and their spending in order to achieve sustainable national development.

Strategies:

- The economic dimension:

- ♦ The Future National Strategy for Food Security (2018 AD).
- ♦ The Program for Accelerating the Adoption of Modern Agricultural Technology (2018 AD).
- ♦ “Future Food Valley” platform.
- ♦ “Good Endeavors Initiative” (2018 AD).
- ♦ “The Policy for Motivating the Ability to Work” (2017 AD)

- Educational dimension:

- ♦ Early Childhood Policy (2018 AD).
- ♦ Inclusive Education Policy Framework (2018).
- ♦ The Ministry of Education has been concerned with developing the smart educational environment.
- ♦ The Council of Ministers approved a record federal budget of 180 billion dirhams (49 billion US dollars) for the three years.
- ♦ The United Arab Emirates has achieved the first position in the world in the index of number of international students, according to the Global Talent Competitiveness Index report for the year (2018 AD).

- Environmental dimension

- ♦ Launching the climate project (2018 AD).
- ♦ Adoption of the National Climate Change Plan (2050 AD).
- ♦ Launching the National Adaptation Programmes of Climate Change (2017 AD).
- ♦ Energy and Water Demand Management Programme (2050 AD).
- ♦ Implementing the UAE Water Security Strategy (2036 AD).

- **Social dimension:**

- ♦ The issuance of a law to increase the representation of women in the Federal National Council to become 50%.
- ♦ The promulgation of the law of equal wages and salary between the sexes.
- ♦ The National Strategy for Women's Empowerment and Entrepreneurship (2015-2021 AD).
- ♦ Launching the Gender Balance Index (2017 AD).
- ♦ Launching the citizens' redistribution policy (2018 AD).
- ♦ The unified online portal for self-employment for people with skills (2018 AD).
- ♦ The National Policy to Empower People of Determination (People with disabilities) 2017 AD.

(The UAE Experience, General Secretariat of the National Committee for Sustainable Development Goals, PO Box: 127000 Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2018 AD)

Saudi Arabia (Sustainable Development Vision 2030)

Challenges

- ♦ The economic aspect.
- ♦ The educational aspect.
- ♦ The health aspect.
- ♦ The environmental aspect.
- ♦ Lack of women's participation in the labor market.
- ♦ The high unemployment rate of Saudi hands.
- ♦ Lack of competencies of the Saudi workforce.
- ♦ Dependence on oil as a major economic activity, low level of productive efficiency, lack of diversification of sources of income, and gender inequality.

Objectives:

- ♦ The rise in the size of the economy and its move from 19 to 15 first place in the world.
- ♦ Increasing the percentage of local content in the oil and gas sector from 40% to 75%.
- ♦ Raising the value of the assets of the Public Investment Fund from 600 billion to more than 7 trillion Saudi riyals.
- ♦ Raising the percentage of foreign direct investment in GDP from 3.8% to the global average 5.7%.
- ♦ Reaching the private sector's contribution to the GDP from 40% to 65%.

- ♦ Raising the percentage of non-oil exports from 16% to 50% at least of the non-oil GDP.
- ♦ Increasing non-oil government revenues from 163 billion to 1 trillion riyals annually.
- ♦ Raising the percentage of household savings of their total income from 6% to 10%.
- ♦ Increasing the non-profit sector's contribution to GDP from less than 1% to 5%.

Strategies:

By implementing a number of programs, including:

- ♦ Government restructuring program.
- ♦ Program for achieving financial balance.
- ♦ Project management program.
- ♦ Systems review program.
- ♦ Performance measurement program.
- ♦ Adopting a culture of performance as a business principle.
- ♦ Saudi Aramco's strategic transformation program.
- ♦ National Transformation Program.
- ♦ A program to strengthen government work governance.
- ♦ The privatization expansion program.

(Saudi Vision 2030 www.vision2030.gov.sa)

Egypt Experience (Sustainable Development Vision 2030)

The challenges

The most important challenges mentioned in Egypt's development plan were the following:

The repercussions of global economic conditions on the Egyptian economy negatively affected:

- 1) Traffic in the Suez Canal.
- 2) The ability of Egyptian industries to penetrate international markets.
- 3) The internal situation affected the tourism sector greatly, which caused the Egyptian economy to lose resources that were guaranteed and increasing in foreign exchange significantly in financing the development needs of the country.
- 4) An increase in the percentage of deficit in the general budget by 11.5% of GDP.
- 5) Increasing the public debt ratio to reach 94% of the gross public product.

Objectives

The report dealt with the most important initiatives launched by the country to achieve the sustainable development goals, which can be presented as follows:

- ♦ The first goal: Improving the quality of life of the Egyptian citizen and his standard of living.
- ♦ The second goal: justice, social inclusion and participation.
- ♦ The third goal: a competitive and diversified economy.

Strategies

Focusing on achieving development according to the following dimensions:

-The economic dimension:

The first axis: Economic development.

The second axis: Energy.

The third axis: Knowledge, innovation and scientific research.

The fourth axis: Transparency and efficiency of government institutions.

- The social dimension:

Fifth Axis: Social Justice.

Sixth Axis: Health.

The seventh axis: Education and training.

The eighth axis: Culture.

The ninth axis: The environmental dimension.

The tenth axis: Urban development.

(The sustainable development Egypt Vision 2030 www.sdsegypt2030.com)

Iraq experience (Economic Development)

The Iraqi economy has been accompanied by a set of challenges, the most prominent of which are: structural imbalances, political instability, challenges of corruption and poverty. On the other hand, Iraq possesses enormous natural resources such as oil, gas and minerals, and it also possesses great human wealth. Accordingly, focus should be placed on the mechanisms to increase growth rates, employment and achieve economic stability by following the following strategies:

1. Increasing the contribution of national and foreign investment, especially in the non-oil sectors.
2. Ensuring the gradual transformation into an institutionalized economy subject to free market conditions.
3. Taking measures to increase Iraq's exports of industrial and agricultural commodities and reducing imports.

4. Extensive application of human development programs, skills rehabilitation and productivity improvement programs.
5. Allocating oil revenues to finance infrastructure projects, basic social services or public utilities, and introducing advanced technology in the fields of production, communications and information.
6. Providing an appropriate economic environment that enhances the state of competition between the public and private sectors on the basis of productive efficiency and submission to market forces, and granting the private sector a full opportunity to play its role in the development process.
7. Strengthening the rule of law and urgently ending the role of armed organizations and militias that participated in spreading chaos, sabotage, killing and disrupting the economic, social and political process.
8. Taking serious and effective steps to combat administrative and financial corruption in Iraq.

Commenting on the development experiences

The development experiences in each of Qatar, Egypt, UAE, Saudi, Iraq and Malaysia.

As for Qatar's development experience, there is a great similarity between the challenges of the development process in most of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in terms of their primary dependence on oil in their national economy, and despite the huge return of the State of Qatar, from its wealth, the most important of which is oil and gas, compared to its small population, which represents a significant increase in per capita income, the comprehensive sustainable development is based on a balance in the factors of its advancement.

The State of Qatar faced challenges and obstacles regarding the development, the most important of which was the total dependence on oil and gas, the lack of a national strategy for sustainable development and the weakness of the scientific research and development system. To face these challenges, Qatar has devised effective strategies to address the obstacles of the sustainable development process, the most important of which was the establishment of various economic mechanisms and the strengthening of manufacturing sectors, building and financial services, establishing a culture of sustainable development, increasing interest in scientific research, providing incentives to scientists, and encouraging the private sector to open research centers.

As for Malaysia and its exemplary experience in development, the situation is very different from the Arab countries. Rather, it is one of the experiences that are distinguished by their specificity and importance for the aforementioned countries and for all the third world countries, so that it is possible to follow in their footsteps to rise from backwardness and dependency in the economy and class and sectarian discrimination. It has transformed from a country dependent on the export of simple raw materials to the largest exporter of commodities and industrial technologies in the Southeast Asian region, for the fundamental reason that it made the right of citizenship for all guaranteed by law, regardless of religion, affiliation, or any other considerations. And It faced challenges by giving education the lion's share of the comprehensive development, paying attention to qualified human capital, and adapting experiences and successes to suit the privacy of Malaysian society, and to create a consensual democracy, and to accommodate the gender in development. To achieve this, it has adopted practical mechanisms according to a unified scientific planning, such as: the strategy of dependence to a large extent, the strategy of relying on internal resources to provide the necessary capital to finance investments and many local programs for the development of individuals.

As for the United Arab Emirates, it has undergone a profound transformation from a poor region and a small desert emirate to a modern country with a high standard of living. Indeed, it has become at the present time among the first ranks in the world in terms of some economic indicators, mainly due to the enormity of its natural resources of oil. Like other countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council, one of the main challenges for sustainable development in the country was the total dependence on oil and the weakness of securing sustainable sources of food, in addition to the low quality of education and the weak level of representation of women in society.

Hence, the UAE practiced exemplary development policies compared to the rest of the GCC countries, as it was based on a comprehensive government approach from which a national committee concerned with sustainability goals emerged, called the "National Committee for Sustainable Development Goals, which is concerned with ensuring the implementation and evaluation of activities that achieve the 17 sustainable development goals" by launching policies, mechanisms and initiatives to advance the development process, such as: the inclusive education policy, the national strategy for women's empowerment and leadership, the promulgation of the Equal Pay Law, and the future national strategy for food security.

With regard to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, its economy ranks among the strongest economies in the world, and is the largest oil exporter on

which its economy is mainly based, as oil wealth enabled rapid economic development in the country, despite this, the comprehensive development process in the Kingdom has faced many challenges, what it proves the necessity of developing resources to ensure their sustainability, and the most prominent of these challenges are: dependence on oil as a major economic activity, low level of productive efficiency, lack of diversification of income sources, and gender inequality.

Saudi Arabia faced these challenges by developing strategic plans and specific mechanisms aimed at sustaining development in all its dimensions, the most recent of which was the Kingdom's Vision 2030, which mainly aims to preserve development gains, reform the Saudi economy and continue its growth, and end its dependence on oil as a main source of income.

Among the mechanisms that it has adopted to do so are the government restructuring program, the fiscal balance mechanism, and the expansion programs for economic planning. This was followed by the supervision, evaluation processes and measuring of the development activities effectiveness. As well, the unification of the efforts of the parties in the Kingdom had an effective role in the success of the comprehensive development process.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, which is characterized by a very high population density as well enjoys fewer natural resources than Iraq, the Egyptian government faces many challenges in all aspects of development, especially in recent times after the political chaos that had a major impact on the Egyptian economy and investment, for example, as well as the aftermath of the recession. The global economy, which caused a negative impact on the Egyptian revenues and national product and thus weakened the wheel of development, which forced the state to start implementing institutional mechanisms to carry out the development process in all its aspects, such as launching the Egyptian economic reform program, and reducing the interest rate for a number of industrial private sector initiatives, providing a financial allocation to support the sectors of health, education and social solidarity, and many mechanisms that were followed by direct activities that have been highly effective in advancing the aspects of social, economic and environmental development.

As for the Republic of Iraq, it possesses enormous untapped natural resources and resources such as oil, gas and minerals, and it possesses a large human wealth that constituted a great burden, in addition to the fact that the Iraqi economy has been accompanied by a large set of administrative, structural and national problems and challenges that faced the emergence of effective sustainable development in the country. The most prominent of these obstacles are the structural imbalances, political instability, and corruption and poverty challenges.

This necessitated that the Iraqi government's focus, in recent times, on the development strategies to increase growth rates, employment and achieve economic stability, as the main means to advance the comprehensive development of the state, and began implementing basic measures to advance the process of economic development, such as: allocating oil revenues to finance infrastructure projects, and introducing the advanced technology in the fields of production, communication and information, and moving towards a gradual transformation into an institutionalized economy subject to the conditions of the free market, as well as strengthening the rule of law and taking serious and effective steps to combat administrative and financial corruption. It was found that the programs pursued in the State of Iraq have a progressive, effective and tangible impact on all dimensions of the development therein.

Suggested Proposal of community empowerment to advancing the development in Yemen

Everyone knows the value of the Yemeni cultural, human, religious, and social knowledge (inheritance), and so on. This inheritance is what makes it compete with high efficiency and have the desired impact in the era of globalization, as well as the actual empowerment of its people, making a difference in the labor market and absorbing the digital revolution as a product of knowledge and its employment.

Proposal objectives:

1. Providing strategies and solutions for poverty reduction.
2. Introducing a mechanism to develop the education system in all its fields and stages, and eradicating illiteracy.
3. Enhancing and activating strategies for enabling the development of human resources and gender.

Procedural steps impeding empowerment in Yemen in accordance with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

First: Poverty:

The current raging conflicts and the accompanying unprecedented collapse of the Yemeni economy have resulted in the absence of most basic services and the widening of the humanitarian crisis in a frightening manner that the country has not experienced before in its contemporary history. Recent reports have shown an increase in poverty rates from 49% in 2014 AD to 62% -78% in 2017 AD. According to the UNICEF estimations in 2019 AD, the poverty rates among the younger age groups reached 53% in 2014 AD to 84.5% in 2017 AD, with the almost complete collapse of institutions, and this impeded the desired societal empowerment of the Yemeni state.

The scarcity of job opportunities, collapse of infrastructure, and food insecurity, in addition to the existence of grinding conflicts, have all decimated the entire economic situation, and according to estimations by international organizations, there are 21.6 million Yemenis who fall below the poverty line, equivalent to 80% of the population.

Therefore, poverty reduction has two main aspects:

The first aspect: strengthening strategic institutional work and supporting it by enhancing recovery efforts by supporting capacities in all local institutions of various degrees and forms, and these strategies include:

1. Establishing a database based on the comprehensive survey of Yemeni society (economic, social, ...) to provide real data on individuals and society, such as identifying the category of poverty, measuring its forms according to gender and age, and collecting and analyzing data accurately.
2. Implement an integrated national strategy for poverty alleviation.
3. Creating an effective and integrated system to face poverty in the future.

The second aspect: Promoting multi-sectoral policies that benefit the poor:

The economic and social challenges of vulnerable groups, especially the poor in rural and remote areas, must be addressed through a curriculum that includes the following:

1. Supporting agriculture and hunting to be a community protection that includes important components, namely:
 - A. Activating social security mechanisms to include all the target groups.
 - B. Protecting the labor market, especially in the countryside and remote areas.
2. Building a comprehensive collective protection system capable of facing the crises and emergency risks facing especially the poorest segments.
3. Providing decent and productive job opportunities for women and youth in rural and remote areas.
4. Focusing on small projects for the affected districts.
5. Supporting the field of agriculture to enhance economic growth.
6. Creating an atmosphere for the local community in which all citizenship rights are available.
7. Activating the role of the private sector in cooperation with the international community.
8. Activating poverty alleviation programs with the governmental external partnership programs and civil society organizations.

It can be said that the poverty reduction is linked to the lack of equality standards among members of society, as it is imperative to achieve equality in the distribution of resource revenue and the level of income for all members of society without any discrimination, as well as between the sexes, the participation of women in the labor market, politics, economic empowerment projects, and achieving community justice.

Second: Developing education in all its forms and stages and combating illiteracy:

The level of general education has decreased and enrollment rates in secondary education reached 27% in 2012 AD due to the increase in drop-out rates at its various stages. And with the intensification of the current conflicts and war in Yemen, this has resulted in severe damage to the infrastructure of educational institutions, so the illiteracy rate increased to 21.4% of males and 60% of females, up to 40% of the population.

In order to address the problem of collapsing education and eradicate illiteracy, we must:

- 1) Establish peace rules and building the modern Yemeni state.
- 2) The workers in educational institutions are neutralized from any political, sectarian or regional conflicts or disputes.
- 3) Promote initiatives and systems concerned with raising the level of education and solving its problems.

- 4) Build educational institutions and facilities and taking into account the differences and various aspects between the sexes and people of determination.
- 5) Apply the law of the compulsory basic education, and the prohibition of child labor and their recruitment.
- 6) Reduce the educational gender gap and equal access to education.
- 7) Take care of reducing child labor and begging, and combating school dropout by the state.
- 8) Encouraging scientific research and interest in its institutions.
- 9) Raising awareness of the local community about the importance of education.
- 10) Paying attention to curricula and linking them to scientific and technological development.
- 11) Qualifying the educational personnel.
- 12) Paying attention to educational policies.
- 13) Developing of the entire educational system.

Third: Empowering Human Resources and Gender:

The empowerment strategy for human resources can be strengthened and activated through some measures, the most important of which are:

- 1) Participation of all the members of society from different groups on an equal basis without any discrimination.
- 2) Raising the capabilities of youth and women and empowering them according to their capabilities and needs.
- 3) Increasing the capabilities of community members to discover and developing their potential.
- 4) Creating a partnership between the public sector and the civil society organizations sector.
- 5) Activating community initiatives according to the developmental needs of different groups, particularly the vulnerable.
- 6) Directing the capabilities and skills of human resources to create sustainable development.

Yemen faces many challenges, one of which is the discrimination according to the gender (male / female). The gender gap must be bridged in order to reach equitable societal empowerment, and among the challenges that hinder this are:

- A. The difference between the enrollment rates of boys and girls in education.
- B. The phenomenon of underage marriage is widespread.
- C. Restrictions imposed on women related to their social, economic and human rights lives.

D. Lack of job opportunities under stringent standards.

The strategies for building community empowerment must take into account a number of actions and plans at all levels, as follows:

On the social level:

In order to achieve a development empowerment for different groups and focus on the weak ones, such as Yemeni women, it is imperative to:

- 1) Paying attention to human development and reducing the gender gap.
- 2) Paying attention to the infrastructures of various infrastructure facilities, such as schools, hospitals, sewage networks, water, electricity ... etc., whether in terms of infrastructure or in terms of appropriately providing operational expense.
- 3) Paying attention to raising awareness about the importance of educating girls.
- 4) Paying attention to the economic development aspect based on pre-prepared plans and programs.
- 5) Paying attention to the civil rights of women in all their forms.
- 6) Combating the domestic violence.

On the political level:

- 1) Paying attention to and consolidating the national identity at the level of both the individual and the state.
- 2) Settling a culture of dialogue and participation in political decision-making.
- 3) Working to consolidate the principle of justice and equal opportunities.
- 4) Charging individuals' humility and paying attention to their creative energies.
- 5) Making the laws for the protection of women within the laws of the country and the labor laws in particular, and amending what is required of them.
- 6) Increasing government expenditures on women empowerment programs.
- 7) Working in harmony with the international conventions ratified by the Yemeni state, to achieve societal justice.
- 8) Applying an internal reform of party visions and the involving the youth of both genders in decision-making within them.
- 9) Activating the sources of power in the context of individual and societal patriotism.

On the economic level:

The economic aspect depends on developing plans and programs to be comprehensive strategies that create job opportunities contributing to help empowering women and youth through:

- 1) Linking education to labor market requirements as a preliminary step.
- 2) Building model schools interested in mental skills in several specialized fields.
- 3) Empowering by granting small and medium loans.
- 4) Settling policies and programs for women in cooperation with the private sector and non-governmental organizations.
- 5) Training to upgrade skills.
- 6) Practical policy for solving legal problems for women in society, such as inheritance and others.

Economic conditions can be rearranged in terms of:

- 1) Preventing the unfair exploitation of resources for the benefit of specific individuals or groups.
- 2) Working to increase productivity to raise the competitive capabilities in all fields.
- 3) Diversification of the economic activities.
- 4) Paying attention to improve the standard of living.
- 5) Emphasizing the principle of efficiency, quality, accountability and transparency, and creating a supportive infrastructure.
- 6) Making the necessary adaptation and positive interaction with the requirements of globalization and the knowledge economy a strategic choice.
- 7) Creating a partnership between the state and the civil society and international organizations sector by setting up projects aimed at improving the capabilities and skills of human resources, especially the vulnerable groups (the marginalized, children, and women), and working for them to obtain their rights fairly.

The principle of health care must be provided through:

- 1) Partnership between the state and business entities in saving health care costs.
- 2) Reorganizing the social security network.
- 3) Adopting the small projects in terms of the strategic options.

Conclusion

The issue of empowerment and advancement of socially vulnerable groups is a multi-dimensional and phased process that requires building an integrated approach to sustainable development in all fields, and it also requires continuous cooperation and coordination among various parties, public opinion leaders, vulnerable groups and civil society in order to develop integrated development programs to implement the requirements of national strategies, and focus on the quality of plans and programs for those groups and the integration among them, and working on the inclusion of all groups, especially the most vulnerable, starting from the planning process until the evaluation and follow-up process, in addition to the importance of the institutional linkage and coordination among the development institutions and their various fields such as education, economics, health ... etc., as well as focusing on programs aimed at the advancement of local communities and civil society in addition to coordination with the relevant countries, and identifying obstacles and constraints, as well as the ways of their impact and how to overcome them.

The world has unanimously agreed that the pursuit of the sustainable development means the optimal use of all available resources. Hence, the human element is one of the most important pillars of these resources, and since vulnerable groups, especially women, constitute the largest proportion of the human element, so it is imperative to continue building their capabilities and energies. A qualitative change must be made at the level of their empowerment programs, and those programs must be evaluated to determine their impact on advancement, especially in the aspect related to women and their role in building and advancing society in order to achieve the sustainable development.

This requires the framing of a scientific and practical model to assess the quality of all activities and programs to empower and enhance the capabilities of these groups, and to enhance them socially, politically and economically.

As for the development experiences that have been reviewed, the success of many countries, such as Qatar, the Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia, is clearly evident in moving forward in improving the conditions of their peoples and moving them to a better condition. The global experiences are rich in experiences worth studying in order to learn from them best practices for integrating human resources, especially women, in state policies and programs within various development fields, taking into account the specificity of the situation of Yemeni women.

The role now is for Yemen to seize opportunities and benefit from the

results of national, regional and international reports, studies and surveys on all challenges and difficulties facing various socially vulnerable groups. It is also imperative to work to identify obstacles to implementing community empowerment programs and weaknesses and strengths in all programs and activities, and focusing on integration of its dimensions to achieve the sustainable development.

It is important to benefit from the essence of the lessons learned from the achievements and failures, and work based on them in the experiences of different countries and among them to push forward the reform and development process, in addition to the necessity to encourage optimal investment of inputs, processes and outputs for empowerment strategies, whether related to all human resources sectors or vulnerable groups (youth, woman).

The economic, political and social changes that Yemeni society witnessed during the past six years, the increase in the pace of armed conflict and the resulting suspension of a large part of the productive processes in the economy, absence of the government from the economic scene, complete cessation of public investment programs, as well as the flight of a large part of the owners of the local capital went abroad to search for investment opportunities in safe areas, and then closed many productive and service establishments, especially small ones, layoffs part of the workforce or reduced daily working hours, and increased unemployment and poverty rates among members of society. For all of this, the empowerment process of Yemeni society members must be at the forefront as an urgent priority in the agenda of the Yemeni authorities to enable developmental advancement in all its fields, on the basis that enabling community members to define their priorities and needs and involve them in building local development plans and exercising a monitoring role over them will contribute to reducing the major problems and challenges that Yemeni society faces at the present time.

Following a new socio-economic model based on working on activating law and accountability, providing rights and duties to all members of society without any discrimination, and what supports the achievement of this, will enable the Yemeni state to rise and play its role in social empowerment and adopt the economic model away from the corruption mafias that it nested in all the sectors.

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