


<b><i>Nurturing the Agricultural Basin through Natural Irrigation in Abyan Delta</i></b>	
<b>Country</b>	Republic of Yemen
<b>Location(s)</b>	<b>Abyan Governorate:</b> Abyan Governorate: Khanfar District, Al Makhzan area
<b>Partners</b>	<b>Lead Grantee:</b> Nahda Makers Organization (NMO) <b>Sub-Grantees:</b> Abyan Youth Foundation (AYF)
<b>Duration</b>	20 months (01.04.2026 – 30.11.2027)



*In Abyan, stability and rural livelihoods depend on effective land and water management. In Khanfar District, deteriorating irrigation systems, weak governance, and recurring floods have increased pressure on farming communities, fueling conflicts over water and land. Conflict mapping shows that disputes are largely driven by competition over these resources, compounded by limited mechanisms to manage tensions and support livelihoods.*

## The Challenge

Through 15 focus group discussions (225 participants, around 25% women), 45 key informant interviews, and 3 district-level validation sessions, the Consortium’s Local Peace and Conflict Analysis identified the following key tensions across the target locations:

- Tensions between farmers and residents linked to water and agricultural resources.
- Limited trust and cooperation with local water and irrigation authorities.
- Unequal or unreliable access to irrigation water, causing disputes.
- Damage to parts of the irrigation system causing damage to livelihoods and eroding social cohesion.
- Exposure of houses and agricultural land to uncontrolled flood damage.

### Abyan – Khanfar District

In Al Makhzan area, agriculture central to livelihoods and community stability. When water does not reach farmers fairly or predictably, and when flood flows damage homes and agricultural land, grievances can grow between communities and local actors responsible for water management. The project therefore treats irrigation rehabilitation as both a practical infrastructure investment and an entry point for reducing resource-based conflict.

## The Building for Peace Approach in Practice

### ① Dialogue, Mediation and Conflict Prevention

Community-based committees will serve as early warning and mediation mechanisms to address tensions around water access, resource use, and flood risks before they escalate, while building local capacities for dialogue and conflict resolution. They will also improve communication within the local community and raise awareness about irrigation interventions and irrigation practices.

### ② Irrigation and Flood-Protection Improvements

4 weirs and 1 water gate will be rehabilitated in the Al Makhwzan area. These interventions should benefit 11,760 people, through better access to irrigation water, Improved agricultural livelihoods and reduced flood damage to farms and nearby homes.

### ③ Accountable and Sustainable Water Governance

Existing maintenance and local governance structures responsible for water and irrigation management will be supported with capacity-sharing and accompaniment. Community committees will also increase community awareness on positive practices related to water and flood management and will aim to improve trust between communities and water/irrigation-related local authorities.

*Restored irrigation systems, community-based dialogue and mediation and strengthened water governance work together to reduce resource-based tensions, rebuild trust within communities and improve relationships between citizens and local authorities.*

## How it Works

### Target Outcomes

- Strengthened cooperation and trust between farmers, residents and local authorities.
- More peaceful and sustainable prevention and resolution of local water- and agriculture-related conflicts.
- Increased water availability for irrigation and agriculture.
- Improved protection of houses and agricultural land from uncontrolled flood damage.
- Improved living conditions for residents and farmers in Al Makhzan.
- Improved management and governance of water resources.
- Stronger trust and responsiveness between communities and local water/irrigation authorities.

### In Figures

- **11,760 beneficiaries** of rehabilitated infrastructure and improved dialogue
- **1,680 farming households** in Al Makhzan
- **4 irrigation diversion structures rehabilitated** to improve irrigation water flow
- **7,460 acres of agricultural land** served by the rehabilitated irrigation system
- **1 community committee established** for local engagement and conflict resolution
- **25 community members and local authority representatives** engaged in dialogue and mediation

