

ANNUAL REPORT

**Studies & Economic Media
Center**

2017



STUDIES & ECONOMIC MEDIA CENTER
مركز الدراسات والإعلام الاقتصادي

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Introduction

Although political and security conditions in Yemen witnessed further deterioration in 2017 due to the ongoing war, the Studies and Economic Media Center (SEMC) managed to preserve its leading role as an active civil society organization. Exceptional efforts were exerted in responding to the harsh conditions experienced by the Yemeni people.

SEMC activities in 2017 focused on critical aspects, especially in relation to continuity of economic activity and development, and improvement of humanitarian assistance and relief works mechanisms. Equal attention was paid to the media. The Center worked towards improvement of conflict-sensitive media and protection of journalists at work.

Thanks to the concerted efforts of its field team, experts and consultants, SEMC data pool proved a significant source of economic information. The Center issued several Economic Index reports. It also launched the Media Freedom Observatory in Yemen, which focuses on monitoring violations against journalists, in addition to conducting and preparing surveys and reports on the media scene in Yemen. SEMC also sought to upgrade its strategies so that they meet the urgent demands imposed by the crisis in Yemen without reconciling its objectives or main vision of realizing a successful and transparent Yemeni economy. Our success was made possible by the efforts of a professional team and dozens of volunteers covering the various governorates.

It is our pleasure to release this summary of the main activities of the Center in 2017. The success of the projects and activities listed below was surely facilitated by partnership with various local and international organizations. We hope SEMC will continue to perform its role over the forthcoming years as an independent organization that meets professional standards in serving Yemen and the Yemeni people.

Mustafa Nasr
Chairman

SEMC in brief

Who We Are:

Studies and Economic Media Center (SEMC) is one of non-governmental organization, nonprofit, research and think tank, which works on educating citizens on how to improve the economic system towards transparency as well as taking decisions and finding competent economic media. SEMC has been growing steadily keeping up with a pace of social and economic development of Yemen. It works throughout outreach services and peace building, human rights violation monitoring activities, . It has the capacity to influence policies, laws and issues of practice at the national level, while obtaining its mandate and support from the grass-roots. In addition, SEMC strives to empower the public, promote, reinforce and safeguard human rights and good governance, support private sector and civil society participation in decision making in Yemen through legal and civic education and media; sound legal research and advise; monitoring and follow up of human rights violations; and advocacy for reforms of policies, laws and practices to conform to international human rights standards.

Our Mission:

As an National Active organization looking for successful and transparent economic system, the Studies & Economic Media Center wants to contribute to improving the knowledge of Yemeni people on economic and development issues. We are committed to recognizing and strengthening transparency and people participation in decision-making. As well as developing and expanding the journalists skills on economic issues in aims to create professional economic media.

SEMC Goals

- ◆ *Educating and improving the knowledge on economic and development issues.*
- ◆ *Improving the good governance and people participation in decision-making.*
- ◆ *Contribute to improving the development of current and future generation of young people to enable them economically.*
- ◆ *working to reduce Conflict's impact on development.*
- ◆ *Developing professional media and specialized economic media.*

SEMC International Partners in 2017



Key Achievements in 2017

SEMC works according to a 2-year strategic plan. The 2017-2018 plan was developed and improved in 2017. It includes several programs, activities, and objectives. The Center sought to achieve 70% of the annual goals. Efforts multiplied reflecting the five objectives of the Center (see below).

The key achievements of the Center in 2017 will be listed in the following sections.

The Media: creating a free and professional media environment, reducing conflict and its impact on development



Training Yemeni educators in the field of conflict-sensitive journalism

SEMC worked in partnership with Friedrich Ebert Foundation to train 10 journalists from different governorates and build their capacities as trainers in the arena of conflict-sensitive journalism. This program inaugurated a series of training sessions in the arena of conflict-sensitive journalism in 5 Yemeni governorates, as follows:

Training 190 journalists on conflict-sensitive journalism

In the context of the ongoing war, the Center conducted a study on the media coverage and treatment of the war in Yemen. Findings showed that the Yemeni media play a negative role in stirring up conflict. This attitude is mainly caused by inadequate understanding of conflict-sensitive journalism. Therefore, SEMC trained 190 journalists selected from the Taiz, Aden, Hadhramout, and Marib gov-

ernorates, in cooperation with International Research and Exchange (IREX) and Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

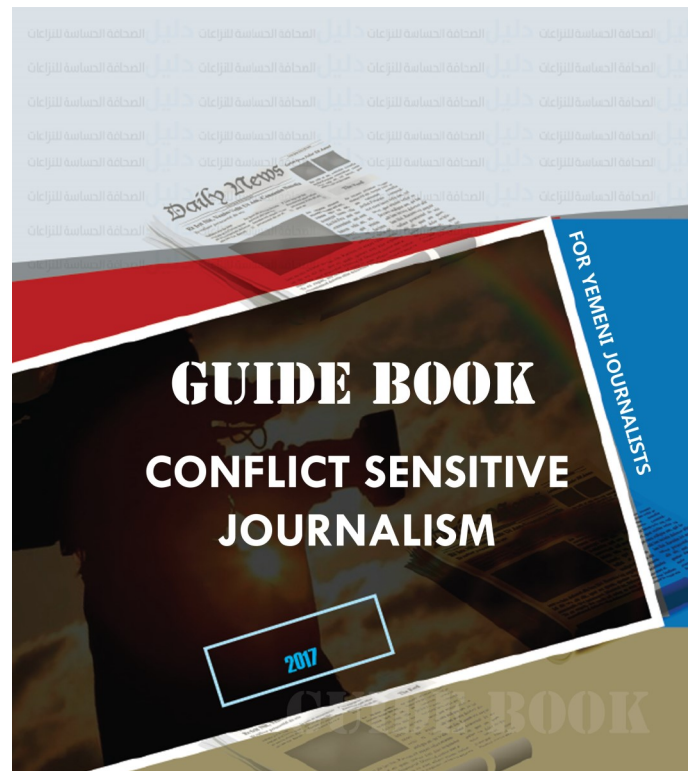
Training 75 Journalists on Professional Security of Journalists



In cooperation with the Rory Peck Trust, SEMC trained 75 journalists from Aden, Hadhramout, and Taiz governorates on occupational security in Yemen. The program aimed at building the coverage skills and capacities of journalists in conflict areas, occupational security and utilization of cellphones in coverage and security tasks. Training also covered journalist physical and digital security.

Releasing the Guide to Conflict-Sensitive Journalism in Yemen

In cooperation with IREX and International Media Support (IMS), SEMC released the Guide to Conflict-Sensitive Journalism in Yemen. The guide reflected the Center's conviction of the sig-



nificance and sensitivity of this risky branch of journalism. It is worth mentioning that the guide is the first of its kind in Yemen, and constitutes an important contribution to Yemeni journalism publications and a reference to journalists wishing to upgrade their coverage skills to conflict-sensitive journalism standards. The guide was released in both Arabic and English.

مرصدك .. عينك الرابضة للانتهاكات وسيلتك لناصرة حرية التعبير والدفاع عنها

[خريطة الانتهاكات](#)
[ابلق عن انتهاك](#)

Media Freedom Platform

In cooperation with Internews Europe, SEMC launched the first Yemeni platform specializing in monitoring violations of freedom of the press and media freedom generally. The Media Freedoms Observatory in Yemen is a monitoring platform and an independent source of professional information. It maps violations of the press and media freedom in the various parts of the country. Moreover, it constitutes an important reference to national and international observers and others interested in media freedom and the status of the media in Yemen, providing documented and methodologically-sound stories of violations of media freedom; in addition to periodical reports on media freedoms and the status of the profession in Yemen generally.

The Platform is an important contribution to efforts aiming at protection and safety of journalists through monitoring, analysis and advocacy of journalist issues at the local and international levels. A portal is allocated to providing urgent support to Yemeni journalists. The Center receives requests of urgent support from journalists, and shares those requests with relevant international organizations.

Releasing Periodical Reports on Freedom of the Press and Media Freedom

Within the scope of creating a free and professional media environment, SEMC released several periodical monitoring reports of media freedom in Yemen, including:

- [Media Freedom Report, January-February 2017,](#)
- [Media Freedom Report, March-April 2017.](#)

- [Bi-annual Media Freedom Report, January -June 2017.](#)
- [Annual Media Freedom Report – 2017.](#)

Releasing Media landscape studies

[Evaluative Study of Professional Performance of Yemeni TV Channels](#)

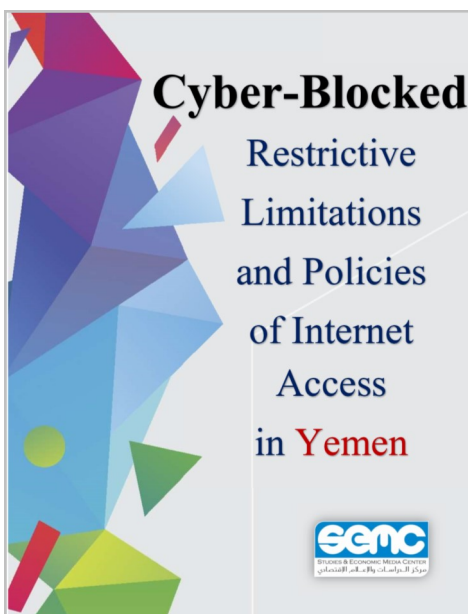
The study examines several themes, including media domains of interest, the extent to which TV channels present information-rich stories, utilization of facts and figures as well as quotations and sources, presentation of balanced views, level of clarity of media parlance, and sensitivity to conflict in Yemeni media outlets. The study was released in both Arabic and English.

[A Study of the Presence of Women in Yemeni Media Outlets](#)

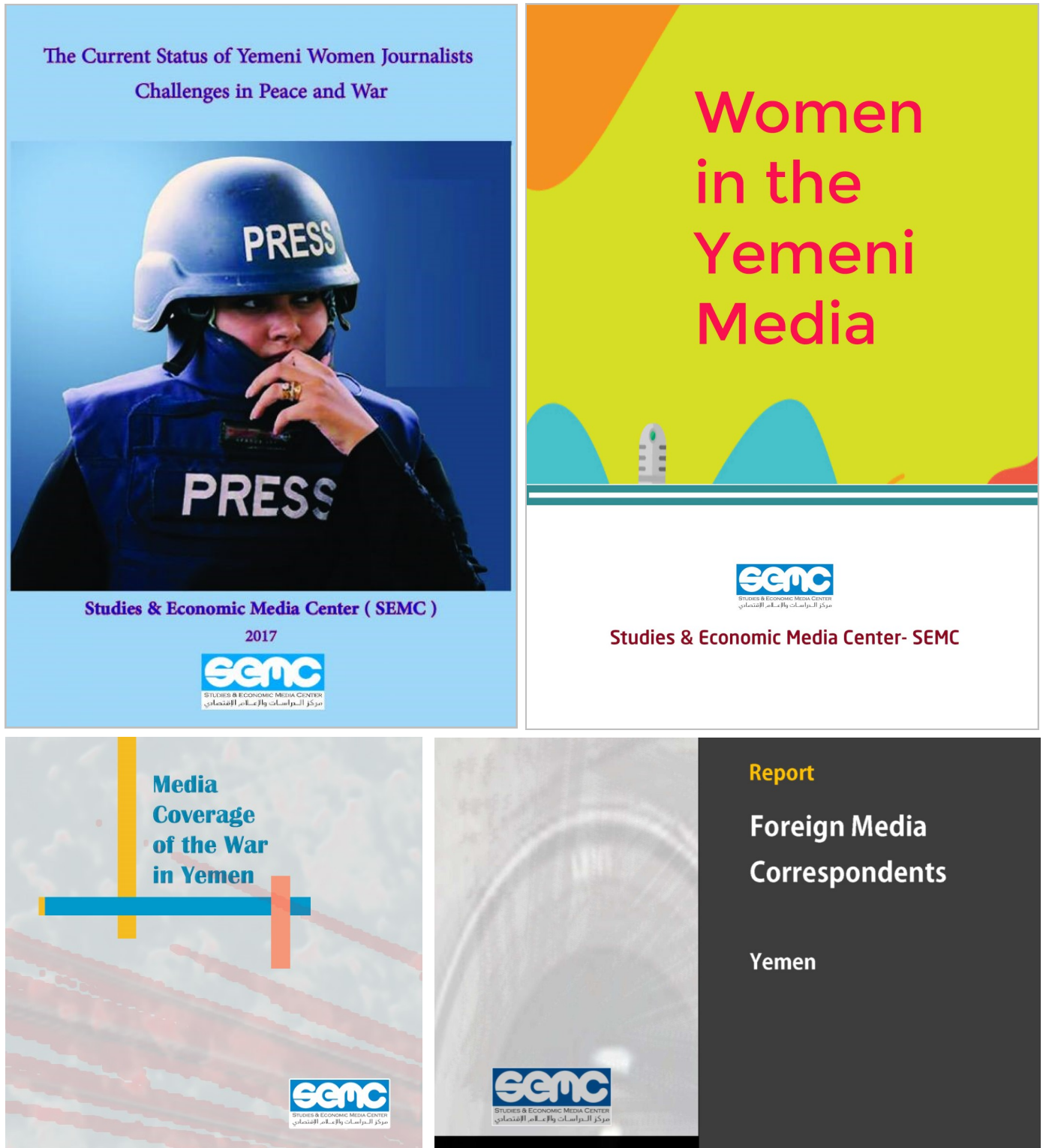
The study seeks to determine the scope and volume of media treatment of gender inequality, assigned roles for women in the media, assessment of the role of women in programs and news, stereotyping of women in the media, and protection of female victims and witnesses.

[A Study of Media Coverage of the War in Yemen](#)

The study seeks to assess treatment of the current conflict in Yemen by Yemeni TV channels. It examines and assesses the extent to which media outlets present basic information on the nature and phases of conflict. It also evaluates media adherence to several professional standards, including offering opportunities to the different conflicting parties to express their views, media consideration of conflict sensitivi-



ty in covering of the war events, and balanced coverage of news of the various parties. In addition, the study attempts to determine the role of the media in reaching a peaceful and comprehensive resolution of the Yemeni crisis.



[A Study of Yemeni Radio Stations: Reality and Impact on Yemeni Society](#)

The study seeks to determine the status and identify types of Yemeni radio broadcasting services. It attempts to measure the volume of media treatment of issues viewed as important to Yemeni society,

and assess the relevance of the issues covered by the radio services to the concerns of the audience. Moreover, the study covers challenges to and needs of local radio stations.

[A Study of the Status of Yemeni Women Journalists: Challenges in Peace and War](#)

The report focuses on challenges faced by Yemeni women journalists in conflict contexts, and provides insights into future prospects.

[An Information Report on International Media Correspondents in Yemen](#)

The report seeks to examine the work environment of international media correspondents and the impact of the war on this important group of media professionals, the violations to which they were subjected, and the absence and exclusion of women from this field. It provides recommendations and suggested solutions to the major challenges faced by international media correspondents in Yemen.

Producing and Publishing stories on the humanitarian condition

SEMC produced more than 500 stories of the humanitarian conditions in Yemen during 2017. The stories were published online at SEMC-affiliated *Al-Mushahed Net* news website, in cooperation of the International Media Support (IMS). Publishing humanitarian crisis stories reflects the website orientation as an independent online platform which seeks to enhance professional and unbiased media in a way that contributes to enhancing opportunities of peace and reducing conflict. A network of professional journalists distributed in the various governorates make up the website field team.

Training and Education on economic and humanitarian issues: Economic response and Relief Works

Developing Economic Development Visions and Policies

In its capacity as one of the prominent think tanks specializing in economic and development issues, SEMC conducted and developed a number of visions and policies dealing with various issues. In 2017, the following studies, visions and policy papers were prepared:

Vision for Continuity of Economic Activity and Reconstruction

SEMC performed secretarial tasks for the Economic Reforms Team (ERT), which comprised private sector leaders, economic experts, and representatives of civil society organizations. In cooperation with MEPI and Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), SEMC developed the Vision for the Continuity of Economic Activity and Reconstruction in Yemen.

The vision is highly important due to the innovative and influential policies and programs it proposed for continuity of economic activity and reconstruction in Yemen. It is the only vision developed by the Yemeni private sector, rep-

resented by the Economic Reforms Team. The vision was the outcome of a series of discussions organized by SEMC in partnership with the chambers of commerce in six governorates: Taiz, Sana'a, Aden, Hodeida, Hadhramout, and Marib. About 300 participants were engaged in those discussion sessions and interviews, including leading private sector actors, economic experts, as well as representatives of civil society organizations and local authority.

Releasing a Policy Paper on Priorities of Reconstruction and Rehabilitation in Yemen

In the capacity of its secretarial role, and in cooperation with the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), SEMC issued a policy paper on priorities of reconstruction and rehabilitation. The paper sought to assess the performance of the Yemeni economy over the last few years, particularly 2015-2016, which was marked by armed conflict and a foreign intervention which led to a breakdown of most production and economic activities of the various productive and service economic sectors. The vi-

sion sought to identify the sectors which were affected by the conflict. In addition, it determined priorities and proposed holistic and sector-specific interventions required for reconstruction and economic recovery at the current stage and in post-conflict phase. It also identifies the roles of the various partners, particularly the private sector, donors, and the government in the post-conflict phase.

Pre- and Post-War Yemeni Economy: A Comparative Study

The Status of Social Protection in Yemen: A Case Study

A Study entitled, “Strategic Reconstruction Roles of

Yemeni Society in Conflict Countries”

A Policy Paper on the Usage of Solar Energy in Yemen

In cooperation with the Green Endowment Fund (GEF), SEMC released a policy paper, entitled “Solar Energy: Reality and Future Prospects.” The paper proposed several programs, which aimed at a gradual shift to clean energy in Yemen.

Creating local Relief Teams and Development Committees

SEMC created local relief and development teams in five governorates. The teams coordinate development and relief activities among



the various local stakeholders, including the private sector, CSOs, and local authorities to enhance relief work partnerships. They also seek to bridge gaps and enhance partnerships in the various fields. The teams and committees have held meetings and implemented a number of community activities, and are still active. The committees were the outcome of a series of discussions involving the local authorities, the private sector, civil society organizations, and economic experts.

Boosting the Capacities of the Yemeni Economic Forum

In pursuit of the goals of the Yemeni Economic Forum, established in 2015, SEMC worked towards enhancing the capacities of the forum by setting up a team of Yemeni researchers specializing in developing economic policies and visions. In 2018, the Center seeks to build the capacities of the research team to enhance their capabilities and enable them to conduct field studies and surveys that can be used in developing economic policies and visions. In 2017, in cooperation with CIPE, SEMC advocated several visions and policies through the Yemeni Economic Forum.

YEF runs an interactive interface, which keeps

updated database of basic commodity prices in five governorates. The database has become an important source of information for researchers interested in assessment of the economic conditions and humanitarian situation in Yemen. Several periodical economic index reports were released by YEF (See below).

Yemen Economic indicators reports :

[A Bi-Annual Report, 2017](#)

The Report highlights the decline of economic conditions and humanitarian situation in Yemen, January-June 2017. It monitors prices of basic commodity and fuel prices, as well as the humanitarian situation and health conditions.

[Yemen Economic Index: 2017](#)

The report highlights the key economic indicators in 2017, and predicts 2018 economic trends. It also updates basic commodity prices and exchange rates, in addition to assesses provision of public services in Yemen.

Training and Participation in local and Regional Conferences and Events

A Training Workshop on Data Journalism

SEMC implemented a training workshop on data journalism skills in Amman, Jordan, in cooperation with Internews Europe. The workshop aimed at enhancing the SEMC personnel capabilities of employing data in preparing visual reports.

Center Staff Participation

Within the framework of partnership and cooperation with regional and international organizations, SEMC participated in several workshops, and regional and international conferences in 2017. It represented Yemen in those events, in which SEMC representatives contributed worksheets, papers and inputs on various economic and development issues.

Participation in International Conferences

- ◆ IMF-CSO Partnership Workshop, organized by the IMF in Amman, 15-17 Feb., 2017
- ◆ Forum on the Role of Women in Reducing Armed Conflict, organized by the Arab League, Cairo, 12 April, 2017

- ◆ Non-Governmental Group Regional Workshop: “Enhancement of Collective Action,” organized by the Arab Anti-Corruption & Integrity Network, Beirut, 30-31 March, 2017
- ◆ “Social Protection Floors in the MENA Region” Workshop, organized by Friedrich Ebert Foundation in cooperation with International Labor Organization (ILO), Tunis, 03-04 May, 2017
- ◆ ACINET Non-Governmental Group Workshop on Anti-Corruption Preemptive Measures, Amman, 12-13 July, 2017, with support from United Nations Development Program (UNDP).
- ◆ “Role of Civil Society Organizations in Reconstruction in Conflict Countries” Workshop, organized by Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Beirut, 20-21 September, 2017
- ◆ “Rethinking Yemen’s Economy” Workshop organized by the Sana’a Center for Strategic Studies, Amman, 01-03 October, 2017
- ◆ Areej Investigative Journalism Conference, 01-03 December, 2017
- ◆ “Data Journalism” Workshop, Amman, 05-09 December, 2017.

STUDIES & ECONOMIC MEDIA CENTER

WWW.ECONOMICMEDIA.NET



Studies & Economic Media Center (SEMC) is a high-profile NGO ,specializing in training in economic and media fields, working towards the enhancement of transparency, good governance, public engagement in decision-making, the creation of professional and free media and empowering youth and women economically..

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