

SEMC

NON-PROFIT NGO

PROFILE

Studies & Economic Media Center

Taiz, Republic of Yemen
Al-Dahea Zone
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Organization Name

Studies & Economic Media Center

Address

Head Office
Wadi Al-Dahea Zone, Taiz, Yemen

Establishment

August 2008

Legal Status

Registered under the law of the Yemeni Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor
License No. 145/65
Registration place: Sana'a, Yemen
Registration Date: - 5 August 2008

SEMC HAS TWO BRANCHES

Taiz Branch

License No. 2016 /M/32
Date:- 1/10/2016

Aden Branch

License No. 1299
Date:- 17/10/2017



Who We Are

SEMC is a non-profit civil society organization, and a think tank promoting a successful and transparent economic system through raising awareness of economic issues, enhancing transparency and citizen engagement in decision-making.

SEMC influences policies and laws at the national and local levels. It advocates citizen empowerment, human rights protection, and good governance in Yemen through raising legal and civil awareness, media and legal research, monitoring human rights violations, and advocacy of reforms of policies, laws and practices to conform to international human rights standards. The Centre has also contributed to private sector and civil society engagement in decision-making processes.

VISSION

Efficient and transparent economic system

MISSION

As an active organization, SEMC contributes to a successful and transparent economic system. Employing efficient expertise, SEMC works in partnership with the public and private sectors as well as local and international CSOs to boost development in the country.

GOALS

- ✓ Rehabilitation and awareness raising on economic and development issues
- ✓ promoting transparency, good governance and citizen participation in decision-making
- ✓ creating a free and professional media
- ✓ Economic Empowerment for you women and youth
- ✓ working to reduce Conflict's impact on development

SEMC PARTNERS




WORK AREAS

- 1- DEVELOPMENT
.....
- 2- TRANSPARENCY
& GOVERNANCE
.....
- 3- MEDIA
.....
- 4- ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT
.....
- 5- CONFLICT
REDUCTION
& PEACE-BUILDING



DEVELOPMENT





The Center is one of the most active CSOs working in the field of development in Yemen. It has implemented numerous research and field activities. SEMC has been active in promoting development in Yemen prior to the Arab Spring, through the Transitional Period and up to the present. During the current conflict, the Center has supported efforts of economic recovery, reconstruction, and relief and humanitarian work. Some of our activities are summarized in the following sections.

Yemeni Private Sector Enhancement Programs

The programs implemented by the Centre have sought to strengthen the role of the private sector and civil society organizations as key partners of the Yemeni government in formulating economic and development policies. Since 2012, SEMC has acted as a coordinator of the activities of the Yemeni Economic Reform Team (ERT), which comprises 26 prominent Yemeni private sector leaders, economic experts and CSO representatives. The team has developed several economic and development visions and policies that were presented to the Yemeni government. Several inputs have been incorporated into the plans and programs of successive Yemeni governments. A team of young private sector leaders has been formed to support the ERT in advocating private sector issues and economic development in general. SEMC has been involved in broad partnerships with private sector institutions in six governorates (Sana'a, Taiz, Aden, Hodeida, Marib and Hadramout) to create a consensus on several visions that were presented to government entities. The most recent of those efforts was the Vision for Continuity of Economic Activity and Reconstruction, which yielded a series of consultations and discussions in six Yemeni governorates. These events were carried out by SEMC in partnership with chambers of commerce and industry in the target governorates.

The Yemen 2030 Economic Vision

In cooperation with economic experts from various Yemeni provinces (Azal, Hadramawt, Al-Janad, Tihama, and Marib), SEMC conducted a study on province

opportunities and challenges from an economic perspective. The project resulted in the Yemen 2030 economic vision. The project was supervised by the Ministry of Industry and Trade in cooperation with the USAID Response Program.

The Yemeni Economic Forum (YEF)

YEF is an economic development platform that monitors and reports on the economic and humanitarian situation in Yemen. As part of the program, Yemeni experts were trained to prepare economic policies and programs. The Center issues several periodic publications, including reports on the economic and humanitarian situation in Yemen. The following reports have been issued:

- Economic Indicators Report, Jan-March, 2016
- Economic Indicators Report, April 2016
- Economic Indicators Report, May 2016
- Economic Indicators Report, June 2016
- Economic Indicators Report, July 2016
- Economic Indicators Report, August 2016
- Economic Indicators Report, September 2016
- Economic Indicators Report, October 2016
- Annual Yemeni Economic Indicators Report, 2016
- Bi-Annual Yemeni Economic Indicators Report, Jan-June 2017

YEF is also an economic data source, serving both experts and institutions and providing weekly interactive updates of basic commodity prices and foreign exchange rates.

Organization of Conferences and Economic Events

The Center has organized several conferences and events. The most important event was the IT and Telecommunications Conference, in which telecommunications experts from Yemen and other Arab countries participated. The aim was to liberalize communications and Internet services in particular. The Center also implemented the annual Youth and Women Conference, which engaged representatives of young leaders and local authority officials from five Yemeni governorates. The conference sought to promote youth engagement in policy-making processes at the local level. In partnership with the Yemeni Business Club and the Economic Reform Team, SEMC organized the Development Priorities Conference under the slogan "Partners in

Making the Future" under the patronage of former PM, Mohammed Salim Ba Sondowah. Delegates included representatives of the government, political parties, foreign missions, donor countries, civil society organizations, and the media. ERT development priorities inputs were reviewed and incorporated into the government development plan. Moreover, a joint entity comprising the private sector, civil society organizations and the government was set up.

A conference was also organized on Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting Terrorist Financing (AML&CTF) in collaboration with CAC Bank. Agricultural and Fisheries Products Marketing Conference was also organized in Abs, Hajja Governorate. A series of seminars and workshops on the urgent development issues in Yemen were held.

Relief and Humanitarian Work

SEMC has been actively involved in and underscored the priority of relief and humanitarian work in several programs. Efforts in this respect include conducting surveys and making reports on the humanitarian situation, determining urgent humanitarian needs and contributing to the formation of humanitarian coalitions of the private sector and civil society. Five private sector-backed coalitions and entities, providing humanitarian assistance to war-affected groups in five governorates, were formed.

The Center also prepares matrices of urgent as well as medium- and long-term humanitarian needs.

IDP Shelter

IDP Shelter is a SEMC-affiliated institution, providing support to the displaced. It seeks to:

- I. Build IDP database, including IDP places of residence and the problems they face.
- II. Conduct surveys and develop policies to address the situation of displaced persons due to conflicts and wars.
- III. Provide technical and financial support to the displaced and contribute actively to providing them with water, food and other basic requirements.

TRANSPARENCY & GOVERNANCE



Popular Committees to Monitor and raise awareness of corruption issues Project

Implemented in cooperation with the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the program aimed to promote the role of youth and women activists in monitoring corruption cases at the district level. More than 95 corruption cases were reported and referred to the Anti-Corruption Supreme Commission.

Project on the Evaluation and Monitoring of Rural Water Projects

Funded by the Dutch Embassy, the project monitored and evaluated 65 rural water projects which were implemented by the Rural Water Authority.

The Anti-money Laundering Project, funded by the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)

Celebrating the World Anti-Corruption Day Program, 9 December 2012, funded by the United Nations Program.

Celebrating the World Anti-Corruption Day Program, 9 December 2013, funded by the United Nations Program .

Celebrating the World Anti-Corruption Day Program, 9 December 2014, funded by DFID .

Boosting Community Monitoring of Local Institutions Project .

Project to Monitor Yemeni Institutions Commitment to Transparency .

Transparency and Disclosure Handbook Project in collaboration with UNDP .

The project to promote transparency in extractive industries revenues

Funded by the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), and in partnership with Yemen Pak, the Extractive Industries Transparency Project (EITP) aimed to promote transparency in extractive industries revenues. Project activities included following up, analyzing, and discussing revenues with specialists as well as making data available to the public.

Observers Coalition Project:

it monitored the implementation of the National Dialogue outputs. The Coalition comprised several civil society organizations working in the field of monitoring and control. Several Monitoring Units were set up to monitor, analyze, and issue reports on the implementation of National Dialogue outputs.


Social Insurance Law Project was implemented in partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The objective was to reform the social insurance and pension sector. Based on a field study, it proposed uniting all civil and military insurance institutions in an independent entity.

Project for conducting surveys of World Bank-funded road projects: The project was implemented in cooperation with Global Greengrants Fund.

The Youth and Women Voices Project

The Youth and Women Voices Project, which was funded by the European Union Mission, aimed to enable young people and women to effectively communicate with their local authority representatives, train Local Council members on identifying incorporating youth and women needs into governorate plans, and encouraging the media to address youth and women issues.

Promoting Financial Decentralization Project

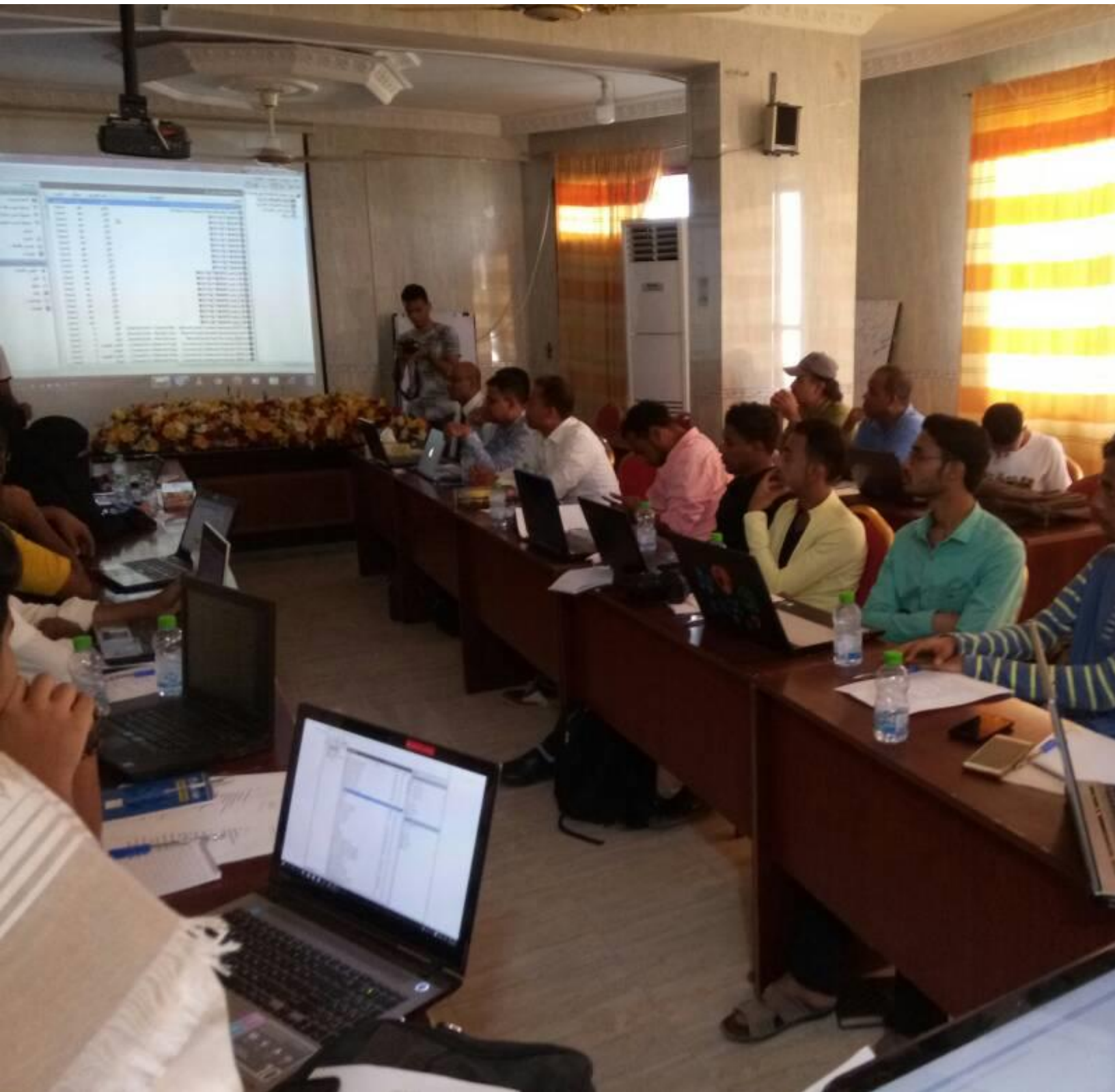



Promoting Financial Decentralization Project aimed at raising awareness of financial decentralization and conducting a community discussion with all actors to create a constitutional ground for financial decentralization in Yemen, in line with Yemen's transformation into a federal state. The project came up with a vision of financial decentralization.

The Advocacy of Slave and Vulnerable Groups Rights Project aimed to prepare surveys on the slaves and marginalized, and raising awareness of the rights of slaves. Two slaves were liberated and rehabilitated.

Production of a series of awareness-raising films within the framework of the Center's various programs, including awareness flashes about the right to information, "My right to know," an awareness film about qat damage, in addition to other flashlights to boost transparency in extractive industries.

Economic Empowerment





The Center has contributed to youth and women economic empower through rehabilitation programs and loans to finance small enterprises. The most prominent of these projects were:

Rural Microfinance Fund

The Rural Microfinance Fund has been a successful experience in financing of rural income-generating enterprises. The Fund provided dozens of interest-free small loans to youth and women who started rural income-generating enterprises.

Working Women's Rights Project:

The project, which was implemented in collaboration with the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), was designed to raise the awareness of working Yemeni women. Advocacy campaigns were implemented to pressurize for adherence to the rights of women to increase the number of working women and reduce women withdrawal from the labor market.

MEDIA



In the field of the media, SEMC has implemented numerous rehabilitation and capacity-building programs for journalists and media institutions in various fields, in addition to advocacy of media freedom in Yemen. Several SEMC media studies have contributed to improvement of media content.

Improving Media Content

The Center has carried out several activities and programs to improve the media content through conducting surveys of the Yemeni media scene and producing journalistic materials, including the following:

- The Conflict-sensitive Journalism Guide: it is meant to assist Yemeni journalists in writing conflict-sensitive press articles.
- Launching Al-Mushahid Platform which focuses on producing humanitarian materials and stories according to professional journalistic standards.
- Conducting several surveys and issuing reports which deal with the media scene and provide for improving it. The most important surveys and reports are listed below : -
 - Survey of the Yemeni Media Scene, 20117
 - Survey of the Yemeni Media Scene 2015
 - Journalist Training Needs Report
 - Evaluation of the Performance of Yemeni Visual Media
The study examined several topics including focus areas of the media, the extent to which the media provide informative stories, the extent to which the media use facts and figures, quotations and sources, balanced impartial conflict-sensitive coverage, and clarity of the media language. The study was published in both Arabic and English.
 - A survey of women’s presence in the Yemeni media, The survey sought to identify the extent to which the media address issues of gender inequity, determine the roles of women in the media, and evaluate the role of women in programs and news, stereotyping women in the media, and protection of victimized women.
 - Media coverage of the war in Yemen
 - The survey sought to assess the visual Yemeni media of the war. It examined and evaluated the extent to which the media provide fair unbiased conflict-sensitive information, and the role of the media in building peace in Yemen.
 - Yemeni Radio Stations: Reality and Impact on Yemeni Society, the survey sought to identify the status of Yemeni radio and to evaluate radio coverage of critical issues. It examined the public views of local radio services, and addressed challenges to and needs of local radio stations.
 - Yemeni Women Journalists: Challenges in Times of Peace and War, the survey is an information report on Yemeni women journalists in the context of the ongoing conflict, focusing on challenges and future prospects.
 - Information Report on Foreign Media Correspondents in Yemen, the report examines the working environment of foreign media correspondents and the extent to which they are affected by the war,

violations they were subjected to, and the absence and/or exclusion of women from this field. The report provides recommendations to overcome challenges faced by correspondents of foreign media.

- Report on Press and Internet Access in Yemen

Journalists' Capacity-building

This area covers the multiple efforts of the Center to qualify journalists in various professional fields.

Training Yemeni Trainers in Conflict-sensitive Journalism

In partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, SEMC organized a training workshop targeting 10 journalists from different governorates on conflict-sensitive journalism. This training workshop was the starting point in a wide-ranging training program in conflict-sensitive journalism.

Conflict-sensitive Journalism Training Workshop

In cooperation with EREX and Friedrich Ebert Foundation, SEMC trained 210 journalists based in several governorates; namely, Taiz, Aden, Hadramout, Marib and Sana'a.

Journalists Professional Safety Training Workshop

The workshop aimed at building the capacity of 100 journalists in skills of conflict-sensitive coverage, professional safety and utilization of cellphones press coverage. The program also covers the physical safety and digital security of journalists.

Training Female Media Students on Economic Journalism

The workshop targeting female students at the Faculty of the Media, Sana'a University, aimed at introducing 30 participants to preparing economic reports and using figures and statistics.

Improvement of Independent Media in Yemen:

In collaboration with the American embassy, the workshop trained nearly 100 journalists from several independent media institutions in Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Hadramout and Hodeida on the tools and skills of enhancing resources and building

institutional capacities to ensure sustainability of independent media institutions in Yemen.

Training journalists on decentralization

EU-funded training workshop of Yemeni journalists on decentralization and advocacy of youth and women's issues

The Citizen Media Project:

it aims at enhancing media coverage of social, political and human rights issues in the southern governorates, building the capacities of 25 youth media professionals on social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube).

Media Neutrality Enhancement Project:

it aims at enhancing the neutrality of the media in dealing with events in Yemen. The project was implemented in cooperation with the EU Mission in Sana'a

Analysis of State Budget Training Workshop

Launching the Yemeni Data Journalist Network (DJN):

The network is the first of its kind in the country, and seeks to spread the culture of data journalism in Yemen. SEMC arranged for the participation of five Yemeni journalists in a regional data journalism training workshop.

Citizen Journalism Training Workshop

The workshop targeted more than 50 journalists and activists in Sana'a and Aden.

Training young media professionals on the use of social media:

About 50 participants from different governorates participated in the workshop.

Monitoring and Advocacy of Media Freedom

Numerous programs and activities have been carried out, notably:

Launching the platform of the Media Freedoms Observatory in Yemen, which aims to monitor the situation of freedoms of expression and media freedoms in particular and the preparation of periodic reports of media freedoms in Yemen. The Center has issued several media freedoms reports,

- Media Freedom Violations in Yemen Report, 2015
- Media Freedom Violations in Yemen Report, January-March 2016
- Media Freedom Violations in Yemen Report, April-June 2016
- Media Freedom Violations in Yemen Report, July-September 2016
- Media Freedom Violations in Yemen Report, November 2016
- Annual Media Freedom Violations in Yemen Report, 2016
- Media Freedom Violations in Yemen Report, January-February 2017
- Media Freedom Violations in Yemen Report, March-April 2017
- Media Freedom Violations in Yemen Report, January-March 2017
- Bi-Annual Media Freedom Violations in Yemen Report, Jan-June 2017
- Annual Media Freedom Violations in Yemen Report, 2017
- Media Freedom Violations in Yemen Report, January-February 2018
- The Media Freedom Platform also regularly publishes stories of violations of freedom of expression.

SEMC has also carried out several advocacy campaigns of press issues in Yemen.

Publications and Reports

Economic Media Magazine is a monthly magazine published by SEMC dealing with political, social and economic issues.

A number Media Reports:

- Media Freedom report 2015
- Media Freedom report Jan. March 2016
- Media Freedom report April- June 2016
- Media Freedom report July- Sep. 2016
- Media Freedom report for 2016
- Media Freedom report Jan. Feb 2017
- Media Freedom report March. April 2017
- Media Freedom report First half of 2017
- Media Freedom report for 2017
- Media Freedom Report – First half of 2018
- Media Freedom Report – July – August 2018

Economic Indicator Reports :-

- Economic Indicator Report – First quarter of 2016
- Economic Indicator Report – April of 2016
- Economic Indicator Report – May of 2016
- Economic Indicator Report – June of 2016
- Economic Indicator Report – July of 2016
- Economic Indicator Report – August of 2016
- Economic Indicator Report – September of 2016
- Economic Indicator Report – October of 2016
- Economic Indicator Report – for the year 2016
- Economic Indicator Report – for first half of 2017

- Economic Indicator Report – for the year of 2017
- Economic Indicator Report – September 2018

Training manuals and publications

- Transparency and Disclosure Information Guide March 2012
- Economic Glossary March 2014
- Financial Decentralization - Brochure
- A guide to integrating the needs of young people and women into public policies at the local level in March 2014
- Advocacy for development guide
- Conflict sensitive Journalism guide .

Other Studies:-

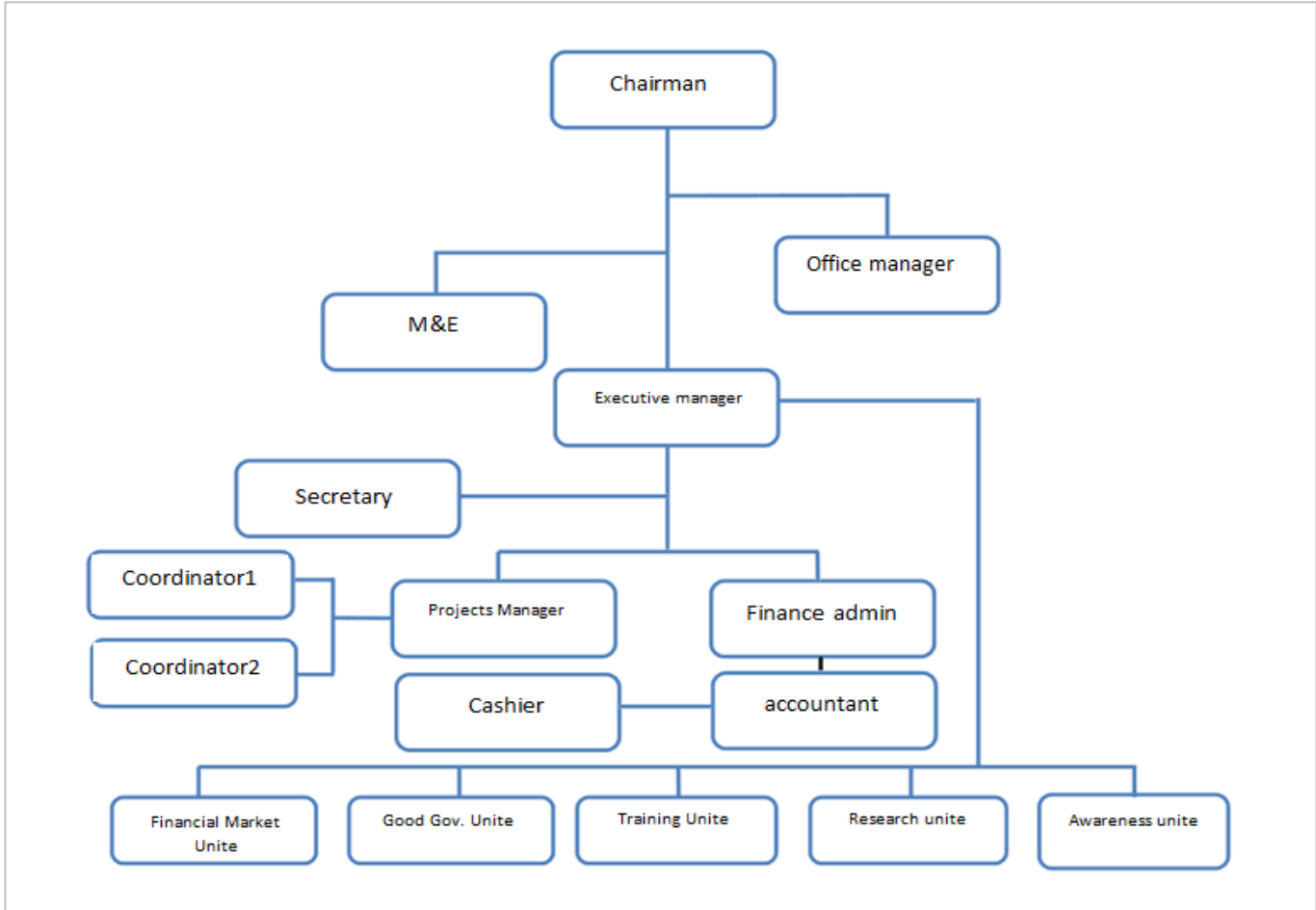
- The extent of the commitment of Yemeni government institutions to transparency and disclosure of information April 2009
- Matrix of Legislative and Administrative Constraints to Decide Corruption Issues December 2012
- A survey to determine the needs of the media in Yemen - 2015
- Survey study on the media in Yemen in 2015
- Survey on the Status of Local Civil Society Organizations in Yemen - 2015
- Evaluation study of the professional performance of the Yemeni visual media in April 2017
- Study: The presence of women in the Yemeni media in June 2017
- Study: - Media coverage of the war in Yemen, September 2017
- Priorities for reconstruction and rehabilitation - Yemen September 2017
- Study of Yemeni Broadcasts and their Impact on Society October 2017
- Studies on the role of civil society in combating corruption

Expertise in Supporting Women's Issues

In principle, SEMC upholds the representation of women by 30% of the total target number of participants in all of its activities. Several programs supporting women's issues in Yemen have been implemented, including the following:

- A documentary on women's political participation in Yemen
- Evaluative study of the presence of women in Yemeni media
- A Survey of the status of Yemeni women journalists
- Training Yemeni women journalists on humanitarian journalism in Yemen
- Program on the Rights of Working Women in Yemeni Government Institutions
- Advocacy of Women's Rights Program in the National Dialogue Conference: SEMC participated as a member of the Volunteers for Women's Rights Coalition.
- UN Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security Training Workshop, in collaboration with Oxfam. SEMC participated as a member of the Volunteers for Women's Rights Coalition.

SEMC TEAM



SEMC has a professional team in various filed, both in economics, media, administration, voluntary work and community. Where the center has an executive staff of up to 20 people and operates according to an organizational structure in the various governorates of Yemen. SEMC also has local coordinators in five other Yemeni governorates. The Center has consultants, experts and has a board of trustees



Coalition and Network Membership

SEMC is a member and founding member of the following networks and coalitions:

- Fair Development Coalition "Arab Eye"
- Arab Network for Social Accountability (ANSA)
- Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET)
- Volunteers for Women's Rights Coalition
- CSO Coalition for Supporting the National Dialogue
- Yemeni Anti-Corruption Coalition
- Development & Poverty Alleviation Network
- Extractive Industries Transparency Coalition
- The Right to Information Coalition
- Founder of Yemen Data Journalism Network
- Founder of Yemeni Data Journalists Network
- Founder of Observers Coalition to monitor the implementation of National Dialogue outputs



Honors and Awards

SEMC won the Arab Social Accountability Award due to distinctive role in advocating the right to information law in Yemen. The Center carried out an extensive advocacy campaign to support enactment of the law. The law was ultimately passed after 5 years of suspension.



STUDIES & ECONOMIC MEDIA CENTER
مركز الدراسات والإعلام الاقتصادي

Studies & Economic Media Center

Studies & Economic Media Center (SEMCC) 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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