

## Article 5: Empowering Women in Yemen: Stories of Resilience and Success

### Empowering Women in Yemen: Stories of Resilience and Success

Across Yemen, women are proving that resilience, creativity, and determination can transform lives even in the most challenging circumstances. The #OrangeTheWorld campaign and the 16 Days of Activism provide us an opportunity to spotlight stories of young Yemeni women who have turned obstacles into opportunities and emerged as symbols of strength in their communities. Through the Support to Youth Entrepreneurship and Financial Inclusion (SYEFI II) project, supported by Silatech, the European Union, and Agfund, many young women have taken bold steps to overcome barriers, foster economic independence, and inspire others to do the same. "Break the Silence. End the Violence" resonates through these stories as we highlight the strength of Yemeni women.

#### Ghada, Muzna, and Sumaya: Turning Skills into Prosperity

Take the story of Ghada al-Khazen, who transformed her childhood passion for knitting into a thriving business, supporting her family even amidst difficult conditions. With financial assistance and capacity-building support, she has been able to enhance her products and expand her market reach, becoming a symbol of perseverance for other women in her community. "Break the Silence. End the Violence"—Ghada's journey is an example of how targeted support can create real change.

Similarly, Muzna's dedication to silver handicrafts and sewing allowed her to sustain her family through difficult times. Thanks to a grant from the SYEFI II project, Muzna revitalized her business, expanded her offerings, and became a source of inspiration for other young women. Her success speaks to the power of community support and the importance of preserving cultural heritage through artisanal crafts.

Sumaya's journey is another testament to the strength of Yemeni women. Faced with economic challenges, she leveraged her artistic talent in creating handmade gifts and antiques, turning her creativity into a sustainable business. With the right financial support, she expanded her reach and became a beacon of hope, showing that art and entrepreneurship can thrive even in tough environments. "Break the Silence. End the Violence"—Sumaya's success is proof that resilience and empowerment can go hand in hand.

#### Aya and Hanadi: Young Women Leading Change

Aya Amin Al-Mahfali and Hanadi Ismail are two young women who embody the spirit of resilience and innovation. Aya learned to knit in a safe space for women and girls in Taiz, and with the grant from SYEFI II, she transformed her skills into a viable business, securing her livelihood and inspiring others to follow her example. Her journey demonstrates how access to skills training and financial resources can turn talent into empowerment. "Break the Silence. End the Violence"—Aya's journey from learning a skill to leading change inspires us all.

Hanadi, a young woman from a low-income family, expanded her accessories business by acquiring a laser machine with the help of the SYEFI II project. This investment allowed her to improve her production quality and market reach, creating more affordable products for

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her community. Hanadi's story exemplifies how perseverance, paired with institutional support, can lead to lasting success and positive community impact. "Break the Silence. End the Violence"—Hanadi's resilience is a reminder of the transformative power of support.

### Unified Impact

Together, these stories showcase the transformative power of targeted support for young women entrepreneurs in Yemen. By turning passion into viable businesses, these women are not only providing for their families but also inspiring their communities. The #OrangeTheWorld campaign allows us to celebrate their achievements and bring attention to the importance of empowering women through economic opportunities. These stories remind us that, with resilience and the right support, women can overcome any challenge and create lasting change in their communities. "Break the Silence. End the Violence"—let's empower every woman to break barriers and end violence.

These are not isolated examples. Across Yemen, many women like **Ghada and Aya** are taking the lead to build better futures—not just for themselves but for their entire communities. The European Union remains committed to supporting initiatives that empower women and foster resilience. By investing in education, vocational training, and advocacy, we are helping to break barriers and create an environment where women can thrive.

Let us continue to "**Break the Silence. End the Violence**" and celebrate the courage and achievements of Yemeni women who are paving the way for a more inclusive, peaceful, and empowered society.