

NNGOs Forum Progress Report

January – June 2025

Introduction:

This progress report presents a comprehensive overview of the key activities implemented by the NNGOs Forum during January- July 2025. All activities were aligned with the Forum's annual plan and centered around its three core pillars: **coordination and information sharing; joint advocacy and capacity strengthening**; serving 191 country wide members

Last year, a **Performance Review Survey** was shared with Forum members to assess the level of satisfaction, and to identify strengths and gaps in the Forum's performance. The results of the survey were incorporated into the **2024 Annual Report** and served as a learning tool to enhance the Forum's efficiency.

In January 2025, a **draft of the annual plan** was developed under the Forum core pillars, taking into account the performance review findings. The draft was initially shared with the Steering Committee for a first-phase review. It was then circulated among all members and discussed during the January monthly meeting to ensure members feedback was incorporated before finalizing and sharing plan in February . *[2024 NNGOs Forum Annual report+ 2025 Annual plan are attached*

I. Coordination and information sharing:

The Forum played a pivotal role in strengthening coordination and networking among local & national organizations. Key highlights include:

1.1 Coordination Meetings:

- Organized and conducted **five** monthly online coordination meetings since January to July 2025, except for March. The March meeting was not held due to Ramadan, where most of members were on leave.
- Meetings' agenda was mainly focused on providing updates from HCT, contexts and oriented members about key changes such as humanitarian reset, funding statues, with hosting guests from international networks such as CALP and JOPs Steering Committee.

Meeting actions and attendance sheets can be accessed via the link : [Coordination Meetings](#)

1.2. Communication Channels:

- Since the lunch of the Forum, the email had been promoted as the official communication channel. According the Membership Form [<https://ee-eu.kobotoolbox.org/x/rX6zWGw4>] Each member organization is represented by three focal points to ensure that Forum updates reach multiple contacts within each NNGO. All meeting invitations, agendas, minutes, opportunities, and updates were shared via email.
- To address challenges related to poor internet connectivity in some areas and to accommodate members with varying levels of digital capacity, two WhatsApp groups were established:
 1. An open discussion group, where members can interact, share news, and engage with each another.
 2. A dedicated notification group, managed solely by the Forum Coordinator, where all official announcements and updates—previously shared by email—are reposted to ensure no member misses critical information.
- An online archive has been established and is regularly updated. This archive contains all Forum-related materials, organized by year, including training resources, meeting minutes, localization strategy, and other relevant reports. It enables both current and new members, including newly appointed focal points, to easily access and catch up on key documents and activities, The Forum Archive can be accessed via: [Forum Archive](#)

- 1.3. Field Visits:

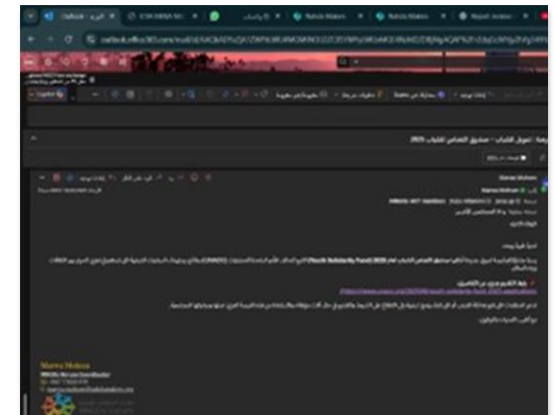
A field visit was conducted to Taiz from April 19 to 22

With the aim of strengthening relations with local authorities
understanding the challenges faced by NGOs operating on the ground



- 1.4 Information Sharing:

- Disseminated context updates, funding opportunities and relevant sectoral information to help NNGOs access timely relevant data and stay connected with ongoing developments.



2. Joint Advocacy:

2.1 Strengthen the vice of NNGOs in humanitarian dialogue and platforms, this includes:

- a. *Facilitated a transparent and inclusive election process to select the NNGOs representative for the YHF Advisory Board (AB), following the approach below:*
- Discussed the election process during the June monthly meeting. Members collectively agreed to open nominations to local YHF-eligible partners only, while voting to be open to all Forum members. *June meeting minutes can be accessed via the link : [June meeting](#)*
 - Shared a call for expressions of interest among YHF-eligible local partners, resulting in 14 candidates.
 - Organized an ad-hoc meeting to give candidates space to present their plans and members were also given the opportunity to ask questions.
 - Sent a voting email to all NNGO members. Since the process required senior-level engagement, voting was limited to Executive Directors.
 - Formed a vote-counting committee consisting of the Forum Coordinator and two members from the Steering Committee [Al-Aman from Sana'a and Al-Twasul from Aden] to ensure the transparency and quality in the process.
 - Announced and shared the contact details of the elected candidates ,(Human Access , LMMPO, BCFHD) with both the YHF team and NNGOs Forum members.

b. HCT Localization Task Force (LTF) – NNGOs Representatives:

- Following the HCT's endorsement to establish the Localization Task Force (LTF) under the Yemen humanitarian structure—based on the outcomes of the Humanitarian Reset Phase I—the HCT approved the allocation of three additional seats for NNGO representatives, in addition to the existing three who were part of the strategy development phase.
- The Forum was requested to facilitate the selection process for the new representatives.
- An open call was shared with all Forum members, based on the following selection criteria:
 1. Organizations that have a localization agenda and efforts.
 2. Ability to nominate senior and technically competent staff with decision-making authority.
 3. Commitment to actively contribute to the Task Force and advocate for the HCT Localization Strategy within different networks.
 4. Adequate human and financial capacity to support strategic initiatives, including the ability to measure baseline and endline indicators and deliver key outputs.
- 42 local NGOs expressed interest in joining. The list of candidates (submitted via Kobo form) was shared with the Steering Committee, which conducted a full-day review session to evaluate applications based on the set criteria and select the final additional members: Deem ,CRB ,and SHS where the Forum Coordinator participated as an observer and note-takers. *Selection report is attached.*
- The final list of NNGO representatives on the LTF was officially announced during June monthly Forum meeting

c. SOM VII NNGOs Representatives:

- Collaborated with ECHO to facilitate the selection of SOM VII NGO representatives by sharing the opportunity with all Forum members, resulting in 14 interested organizations.
- As only four spaces were allocated for NNGOs, a dedicated meeting was organized with the 14 interested organizations resulting in group voluntary consensus on the four final participants.
- Provided technical support to the selected four representatives in developing their statements to ensure a strong and effective representation of the NNGOs' voice.
- Participated in numbers preparatory and consultation meeting with INGOs, ECHO and Advocacy Working Group (AWG) where national priorities and concerns were raised.
- Collaborated with the AWG to sign the joint advocacy statement ahead of the SOM meeting, which was signed by 116 local and international NGOs.

2.2 Advocacy and communication Training [In collaboration with IRC]:

Conducted a 3-day in-person training in February for 21 members ,collaboration with IRC.

The training focused on enhancing negotiation skillsstrategic messaging, and advocacy techniques, aiming to strengthen the joint advocacy efforts among NNGOs.



3. Capacity Strengthening

3.1 In addition to the Advocacy Training detailed under the Joint Advocacy section, the following online trainings have been organized:

- I. **Data Protection Training [in collaboration with ADRA]:** the training session focused on the principles of personal data protection and confidentiality in NGO operations. The training was conducted online in February, with the participation of 158 Forum members.
- II. **AI Tools in Humanitarian Work [in collaboration with NAHR]:** the training session introduced practical applications of artificial intelligence tools that can be deployed to enhance humanitarian response and upgrade the efficiency. The training was conducted online in April , with the participation of 218 Forum members.
- III. **Networks Governance [in collaboration with ICVA]:** the training session explored key principles of governance, accountability, and the importance of strong structures within NNGO networks. The training was conducted online in June with the participation of 66 Forum members.

IV. **Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) [in collaboration with WHO]:** a follow-up and refresher training to strengthen awareness of PSEA mechanisms in humanitarian contexts. The online session was conducted in March with 64 participants.

Additionally, an in-person PSEA training was held in early July with participation of 50 NNGO members with a focus on supporting organizations to develop an internal PSEA policy.



3.2 In collaboration with the forum-hosting organization Nahda Makers—a member of ICVA Newtek, and with ICVA's permission—the Forum successfully expanded members' access to training opportunities

4. The Forum Governance:

The NNGOs Forum's Steering Committee (SC), that composed of six member organizations [*Al-Aman, Al-Twasul, NAHR, NMO, Salam, and Family Care Association*] has been working with technical support of ICVA's Governance Specialist, to develop a revised version of the Forum's Terms of Reference (ToR). The updated ToR aims to endure good governance including hosting/SC rotation, transition arrangements, and inclusive engagement. The draft has already been developed and is currently in its final revision stage, pending a final round of consultation with Forum members and formal endorsement by the SC which expected to be finalized in September.

5. Key Challenges and Opportunities

5.1 Challenges:

Despite the significant progress made by the Forum under this report duration, number of challenges have constrained the Forum performances, this includes:

I. **Limited Financial and Human Resources:**

The Forum currently operates with minimal funding, covering only the salary of one coordinator. This places a considerable burden on a single person to manage all tasks on country wide level—ranging from coordination, reporting, communication, member engagement, field mission to representation in different platforms. This limitation directly impacts the Forum's ability to conduct adequate field visits, which are essential for strengthening relationships with local actors and understanding on-the-ground challenges.

II. **Political Sensitivities:**

The ongoing escalation in the context—coupled with increasing risks of staff detention without progress toward their release, and the recent FTO designation—continues to restrict the engagement of NNGOs operating in de facto authorities (DFAO areas).

These dynamics are shrinking civil space and creating reluctance among Steering Committee members based in Sana'a to take on co-hosting roles. As a result, in-person coordination activities in northern areas remain limited, with most engagement occurring online.

III. **Connectivity Constraints:**

While digital communication channels were a good strategy helped in overcome the political sensitivities and keep engaged with NNGOs operated in De Facto areas, the poor internet access in some areas continues to hinder inclusive and timely communication with members in remote areas.

Opportunities:

Despite existing challenges, the following points highlight promising opportunities that can strengthen the Forum's impactful role:

I. **Building Strategic Partnerships**

Over the past year and a half, the Forum has successfully established numerous collaborations with donors, INGOs, and UN agencies, earning recognition for its professional and credible approach. This growing trust presents a valuable opportunity to secure the necessary financial resources to sustain and expand its operations in a stable and strategic manner.

II. **Leveraging Open-Access Learning Platforms:**

The Forum is actively promoting the use of free and low-cost online learning platforms—such as Kaya, DisasterReady, and Coursera—as part of a comprehensive capacity-strengthening toolkit for members. These platforms offer accessible training opportunities that help bridge skills and knowledge gaps without financial requirements.

III. Strengthening the Role of the Steering Committee:

Empowering Steering Committee members with defined responsibilities—such as leading specific initiatives, organizing events, or enhancing member outreach—can reduce the operational burden on the coordinator. This approach also fosters greater ownership, engagement, and leadership within the Forum's governance structure.