

Yemen National NGOs Forum

NNGOs Forum

MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT 2026

Reporting Period: January–June 2026



Executive Summary

During the first half of 2026, the Yemen National NGOs Forum (NNGOs Forum) continued to strengthen its role as a national platform for coordination, representation, collective advocacy, capacity strengthening, and strategic engagement for national and local NGOs in Yemen.

Building on the Forum's progress in 2024 and 2025, the January–June 2026 period marked an important shift toward a more integrated model of engagement. Coordination, capacity strengthening, evidence generation, representation, and advocacy were increasingly connected to enable national NGOs not only to participate in humanitarian processes, but also to collectively articulate priorities and engage more strategically with donors, international NGOs, humanitarian coordination mechanisms, and decision-makers.

The Forum maintained a network of 230 national and local NGO members. During the reporting period, it convened five monthly coordination meetings, held in January, February, March, April, and June. These meetings remained the Forum's primary mechanism for information-sharing, consultation, identification of common priorities, and engagement with members. The Forum also continued to circulate relevant funding, training, consultation, and participation opportunities.

A major focus during the reporting period was strengthening collective advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy. In partnership with ICVA and IRC, the Forum organized a three-day Advocacy and Coalition Building Training for 36 representatives of national organizations. The training was originally planned to take place in person in Aden but was adapted to an online format due to the political circumstances affecting the area in February.

This was complemented by a three-day Humanitarian Diplomacy Training in Amman, organized in collaboration with CCHN and IRC, bringing together 23 representatives from national/local NGOs. Importantly, the training was designed as part of a wider process rather than as a stand-alone capacity-building activity. It supported work on the Forum's Advocacy Strategy and contributed to preparations for establishing a dedicated NNGOs Forum Advocacy Working Group.

Following the Humanitarian Diplomacy Training, participants engaged directly with humanitarian donors through a Donor Roundtable in Amman, attended by representatives from FCDO, the European Union (EU), BMZ, and SDC. The Roundtable provided an open space for national NGOs and donors to discuss priority humanitarian issues, financing, localization, partnership challenges, and the sustainability of national humanitarian action.

The Forum also participated in the Yemen Humanitarian Emergency Meeting in Amman. Ahead of the meeting, it coordinated preparatory discussions with participating national NGOs to consolidate priorities and strengthen coherence of their engagement. The Forum also coordinated with the advocacy mechanism of international NGOs to identify shared issues and strengthen alignment of advocacy messages. During the meeting itself, the Forum facilitated the final Roadmap Session, supporting the translation of discussions into forward-looking priorities and actions.

Evidence generation continued to form an increasingly important component of the Forum's advocacy work. The Forum supported data collection and consultations for several humanitarian studies and contributed substantially to the development of "Bridging Principles and Practices – Local NGO Strategies for Sustaining Humanitarian Action in Yemen," undertaken in partnership with IRC and ICVA. Its contribution included pre-study consultations, participation in researcher selection, facilitation of engagement with national NGOs, and periodic coordination with the researcher and partners throughout the research process.

The Forum also strengthened national NGO participation in humanitarian coordination mechanisms by facilitating the selection of six national NGO representatives to the Humanitarian Access Working Group (HAWG): NFD, ADF, NMO, LMMPO, SDF, and ADO.

Other strategic engagements during the reporting period included a consultation between FCDO and 20 national NGOs related to the design of British humanitarian programming, a World Bank consultation on the Country Partnership Framework for Yemen, and a dedicated session to strengthen national NGOs' understanding of humanitarian funding structures.

Overall, the first half of 2026 reflects the Forum's continuing evolution from primarily a coordination and information-sharing mechanism toward a platform that increasingly connects coordination, capacity strengthening, evidence, collective advocacy, representation, and strategic engagement.

1. About the Yemen National NGOs Forum

The Yemen National NGOs Forum is a national coordination and representation platform bringing together Yemeni organizations engaged in humanitarian response and development work.

The Forum was established to strengthen coordination and information-sharing among national NGOs, promote their meaningful participation in humanitarian structures and decision-making processes, enhance organizational capacities, facilitate engagement with international stakeholders, and amplify the collective voice of national organizations.

The Forum's earlier work established regular coordination meetings, membership mechanisms, capacity-development initiatives, representation processes, and advocacy engagement. In 2024, membership stood at 164 organizations, alongside extensive monthly coordination, capacity-building, and advocacy activities. By the end of 2025, membership had reached 230 organizations, while the Forum had further expanded its work on representation, high-level engagement, capacity strengthening, and knowledge generation.

During the first half of 2026, the Forum maintained its 230-member network while placing greater emphasis on connecting its different functions into a coherent pathway for strengthening national NGO participation and influence.

- Coordination and information-sharing;
- Collective advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy;
- Representation and strategic engagement;
- Capacity strengthening linked to advocacy and influence;
- Evidence generation and knowledge support.

2. Coordination and Information-Sharing

2.1 Monthly Coordination Meetings

Regular coordination meetings continued to serve as the Forum's core mechanism for engagement with its membership.

Between January and June 2026, the Forum convened five monthly coordination meetings, held in January, February, March, April, and June.

The meetings provided a structured and recurring space for national NGOs to exchange information, discuss developments affecting humanitarian operations, raise organizational and collective concerns, and identify opportunities for coordinated engagement.

Rather than functioning solely as information-sharing events, the meetings increasingly served as a consultation mechanism through which members could contribute to Forum positions and ongoing initiatives.

- Stay informed about humanitarian developments and coordination processes;
- Share operational challenges and emerging concerns;
- Identify common priorities requiring collective follow-up;
- Receive updates on Forum activities and representation processes;
- Access information about funding and capacity-development opportunities;
- Engage with relevant national and international stakeholders;
- Contribute perspectives to consultations and advocacy processes.

The regularity of these meetings remains critical to ensuring that the Forum's external engagement is informed by the priorities and experiences of its wider membership.

2.2 Membership and Network Reach

During the reporting period, the NNGOs Forum maintained a membership of 230 national and local NGOs.

The network provides an important foundation for the Forum's coordination and advocacy role by enabling consultations and information to reach a broad range of Yemeni organizations.

The Forum uses its membership network to disseminate opportunities, circulate consultations and surveys, identify candidates for representation mechanisms, collect perspectives on humanitarian issues, and mobilize organizations around common priorities.

Maintaining this connection between the Forum and its members is particularly important as the Forum expands its engagement with donors, international organizations, and humanitarian coordination mechanisms.

2.3 Sharing Funding, Training and Participation Opportunities

Throughout January–June 2026, the Forum continued to share relevant funding and capacity-building opportunities with its members.

Information circulated through the Forum included funding opportunities, training programmes, webinars, consultation opportunities, calls for participation, and other relevant opportunities provided by humanitarian and development actors.

It also complements the Forum's broader capacity-strengthening work by connecting organizations to external learning and development opportunities beyond those directly organized by the Forum.

Collective advocacy emerged as one of the most important areas of development for the Forum during the first half of 2026. The Forum increasingly approached advocacy as a process that connects capacity strengthening, evidence generation, collective priority-setting, representation, and direct engagement with decision-makers. This represents an important progression from isolated advocacy interventions toward a more structured and sustainable advocacy model.

In collaboration with ICVA and IRC, the Forum organized a three-day Advocacy and Coalition Building Training for 36 representatives of national organizations.

The Forum and its partners therefore adapted the programme and delivered it online over three training days, ensuring continuity of the initiative despite the changing context.

Beyond individual capacity development, the training contributed to building a stronger foundation for collective advocacy through the Forum.



4. Humanitarian Diplomacy: Linking Capacity Strengthening with Advocacy

One of the Forum's most significant initiatives during the reporting period was the integration of humanitarian diplomacy capacity strengthening with practical advocacy planning and donor engagement.

4.1 Humanitarian Diplomacy Training in Amman

The Forum organized a three-day Humanitarian Diplomacy Training in Amman, Jordan, in collaboration with CCHN and SRC.

The programme brought together 23 representatives of national/local organizations and aimed to strengthen their capacities to engage more strategically in humanitarian advocacy and diplomacy.

The programme addressed humanitarian diplomacy and relevant skills for stakeholder engagement, negotiation, communication, and influence. However, the importance of the initiative extended beyond the three training days.

The training was designed to support participants in applying humanitarian diplomacy concepts to actual priorities affecting national organizations in Yemen and contributed to the Forum's wider work to develop a more structured advocacy approach.



4.2 Developing the NNGOs Forum Advocacy Strategy

The Humanitarian Diplomacy initiative was directly linked to work on the NNGOs Forum Advocacy Strategy.

The process provided an opportunity to examine issues affecting national organizations, identify stakeholders and audiences, consider advocacy approaches, and discuss how the Forum could strengthen its collective voice.

The strategy is intended to provide a clearer framework for the Forum's advocacy work, enabling advocacy engagement to become more systematic, coordinated, and linked to defined priorities.

This represents a significant institutional development for the Forum. Instead of advocacy being driven primarily by individual events or emerging issues, the strategy provides a basis for building a longer-term and more structured approach to collective advocacy.

4.3 Towards an NNGOs Forum Advocacy Working Group

Alongside development of the Advocacy Strategy, the Forum initiated preparations for establishing a dedicated Advocacy Working Group within the NNGOs Forum.

The proposed group is intended to provide a mechanism through which national organizations can contribute more systematically to the Forum's advocacy agenda.

Its anticipated functions include identifying common priorities, supporting development of collective positions and messages, reviewing evidence relevant to advocacy, coordinating around emerging humanitarian issues, and supporting national NGO representatives engaging in key platforms.

Together, the Advocacy Strategy and Advocacy Working Group are intended to provide the strategic and operational architecture for strengthening collective advocacy through the Forum.

5. Direct Engagement with Humanitarian Donors

5.1 Donor Roundtable – Amman

The three-day Humanitarian Diplomacy Training was followed by a dedicated Roundtable with humanitarian and funding donors in Amman.

The Roundtable brought participating national NGOs into direct dialogue with representatives from FCDO, the European Union (EU), BMZ, and SDC.

The Roundtable was designed as an open and direct dialogue space in which national NGOs could present and discuss priority issues with donors.

The engagement provided an opportunity to discuss issues affecting humanitarian action and national organizations, including financing, localization, partnerships, and challenges affecting the sustainability and effectiveness of nationally led humanitarian action.

Importantly, the Roundtable was linked directly to the preceding Humanitarian Diplomacy Training. Participants therefore moved from strengthening their humanitarian diplomacy capacities to applying those capacities in a real engagement environment with donor representatives.

strengthening Capacity → Identify Priorities → Strengthen Messages → Engage Decision-Makers



6. Yemen Humanitarian Emergency Meeting – Amman

The NNGOs Forum participated in the Yemen Humanitarian Emergency Meeting in Amman, Jordan, by coordinating preparatory discussions with participating national NGOs to consolidate priorities and align interventions. The Forum also coordinated with the INGO Advocacy Working Group to identify shared advocacy issues and strengthen alignment between national and international NGO advocacy messages. **6.1 Facilitation of the Roadmap Session**

During the Yemen Humanitarian Emergency Meeting, the NNGOs Forum facilitated the final Roadmap Session.

The session provided an opportunity to translate discussions generated throughout the meeting into forward-looking priorities and potential next steps.

The Forum's facilitation of this session further demonstrated its growing role not only as a participant in humanitarian discussions, but also as a platform capable of convening and facilitating dialogue involving different humanitarian stakeholders.

7. Evidence-Based Advocacy and Research Support

Evidence generation remained an important part of the Forum's work during the first half of 2026. The Forum supported humanitarian research by facilitating data collection and connecting researchers with national NGOs to ensure their operational experiences and local perspectives were reflected. A key initiative was the study "Bridging Principles and Practices – Local NGO Strategies for Sustaining Humanitarian Action in Yemen," undertaken in collaboration with IRC and ICVA. The Forum contributed through pre-study consultations, participation in researcher selection, and facilitating engagement between the researcher and national organizations.

8. Representation in Humanitarian Coordination Mechanisms

Ensuring meaningful national NGO participation in humanitarian coordination structures remains one of the Forum's central roles.

During the reporting period, the Forum facilitated the selection of national NGO representatives to the Humanitarian Access Working Group (HAWG).

(NFD , ADF,NMO ,SDF , LMMPO, ADO)

The process supports stronger participation of national organizations in humanitarian access discussions and helps ensure that operational realities experienced by national actors can be reflected within relevant coordination mechanisms.

9. Strategic Consultations and High-Level Engagement

During January–June 2026, the Forum facilitated and participated in several strategic consultations aimed at strengthening national NGO access to international stakeholders and decision-making processes.

9.1 FCDO Consultation with National NGOs

The Forum coordinated a consultation involving FCDO and 20 national organizations concerning the design of British humanitarian programming.

The consultation created a direct space for national organizations to share their perspectives, priorities, operational experience, and concerns during discussions related to programme design.

This type of engagement is particularly important to localization because it provides opportunities for national organizations to contribute at an earlier stage of the humanitarian programming cycle rather than being engaged only during implementation.

9.2 World Bank Consultation on the Country Partnership Framework for Yemen

The Forum also supported national NGO engagement in a consultation with the World Bank concerning the Country Partnership Framework for Yemen.

10. Strengthening Understanding of Humanitarian Funding Structures

During the reporting period, the Forum facilitated a dedicated session on understanding humanitarian funding structures.

The session supported national organizations to better understand the humanitarian financing environment and the structures through which humanitarian resources are mobilized and channelled.

Improved understanding of humanitarian financing is directly relevant to the Forum's broader localization and advocacy work.

It enables national organizations to participate more meaningfully in discussions with donors and international partners concerning funding access, partnerships, and the role of local organizations within humanitarian financing systems.

11. Strengthening National–International NGO Coordination

During the first half of 2026, the Forum initiated coordination to establish regular monthly meetings between NNGO and INGO Country Directors, aiming to strengthen senior-level dialogue on shared humanitarian priorities, partnerships, localization, funding, and advocacy. Coordination remained ongoing at the end of the reporting period. At the end of the reporting period, coordination for these regular meetings was ongoing.

12. Connecting Capacity Strengthening, Evidence and Advocacy

A defining feature of the Forum's work during the first half of 2026 was the stronger connection between activities that might traditionally be treated as separate workstreams. The emerging approach can be summarized as follows:

- 1. Capacity Strengthening:** National NGOs strengthen their advocacy, coalition-building, negotiation, and humanitarian diplomacy capacities.
- 2. Evidence Generation:** Research and consultations help document national NGO experiences, priorities, and challenges.
- 3. Collective Priority-Setting:** National organizations identify common issues and contribute to collective positions and the Forum's Advocacy Strategy.
- 4. Representation:** National NGOs participate in humanitarian coordination mechanisms and strategic consultations.
- 5. Strategic Engagement:** National NGO representatives engage directly with donors, international organizations, and humanitarian decision-makers.
- 6. Institutionalization:** The Forum strengthens the sustainability of collective advocacy through its Advocacy Strategy and the planned Advocacy Working Group.

This model reflects an important development in how the Forum approaches capacity strengthening. Capacity development is not treated as an end in itself. It is increasingly used as an enabling mechanism for stronger representation, more effective advocacy, and meaningful national NGO participation in humanitarian dialogue and decision-making.

13. Key Emerging Results

Stronger collective advocacy capacity: The Advocacy and Coalition Building Training and Humanitarian Diplomacy Training strengthened the foundation for more systematic collective advocacy by national organizations.

Movement toward institutionalized advocacy: Development of the Forum Advocacy Strategy and preparations for establishing the Advocacy Working Group represent important steps toward a sustainable advocacy architecture.

Direct access to donors: The Amman Roundtable provided national NGOs with direct access to FCDO, EU, BMZ and SDC, while the separate FCDO consultation enabled 20 national NGOs to contribute to discussions concerning humanitarian programme design.

Stronger linkage between learning and practice: The Humanitarian Diplomacy Training was directly followed by donor engagement, enabling participants to apply learning within a practical advocacy environment.

Evidence supporting national NGO advocacy: The Forum's contribution to Bridging Principles and Practices and other research processes strengthened the connection between local humanitarian experience and evidence-informed dialogue.

Strengthened national NGO representation: The facilitation of six NNGO representatives to HAWG supported stronger participation of national organizations within humanitarian coordination mechanisms.

Greater coordination of advocacy messages: Preparatory engagement before the Yemen Humanitarian Emergency Meeting, together with coordination with international NGO advocacy actors, supported greater coherence around priority issues.

14. Priorities for July–December 2026

Building on the progress made during the first half of the year, the Forum will focus on consolidating and institutionalizing key initiatives during the second half of 2026.

- Finalizing and operationalizing the NNGOs Forum Advocacy Strategy;
- Establishing and activating the NNGOs Forum Advocacy Working Group;
- Continuing regular monthly coordination meetings;
- Advancing regular Country Director-level meetings between NNGOs and INGOs;
- Strengthening communication and accountability between national NGO representatives and the wider Forum membership;
- Continuing strategic dialogue with humanitarian and development donors;
- Continuing dissemination of relevant funding and capacity-development opportunities;
- Developing the Forum's 2026–2027 Strategic Plan;
- Launching the Forum's Website;

Conclusion

The first half of 2026 marked significant progress in strengthening the Yemen NNGOs Forum as a platform for coordination, representation, capacity strengthening, and collective advocacy. With 230 member organizations, the Forum expanded its engagement with donors, international NGOs, humanitarian coordination mechanisms, and research initiatives.

Key achievements included advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy trainings, progress toward developing the Forum's Advocacy Strategy and establishing an Advocacy Working Group, the Donor Roundtable in Amman, and strengthened national NGO representation in humanitarian processes.

During the second half of 2026, the Forum will focus on consolidating these achievements, institutionalizing advocacy mechanisms, strengthening representative accountability, and promoting regular strategic dialogue among national NGOs, international NGOs, donors, and other humanitarian actors.

Ultimately, the Forum aims to ensure that Yemeni national organizations move beyond participation and consultation toward meaningfully influencing humanitarian decisions, priorities, and the future of humanitarian action in Yemen.