

## EC Partners

Ministry of Human Rights

10 local NGOs

## Facts and Figures

- EC contribution: € 2 million (100% of total)
- Duration: 2005-2010
- A successful start of a direct cooperation between EC, Yemeni NGOs and the Ministry of Human Rights
- Follow up project expected in 2011



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# Human rights and democracy

## SHARAKA YEMEN - Partnerships for Human Rights

Promoting women's and children's rights through capacity building of the Ministry of Human Rights and Yemeni NGOs

*EU-funded project "Sharaka Yemen" is the essence of our cooperation in Yemen: partnership with local organisations, who are close to the people and know their needs best. We support their efforts to develop their country, without conditions.*

Michele Cervone d'Urso, Head of the EU Delegation in Yemen



## Context

The situation for human and in particular women's rights in Yemen is rather poor. Women are still struggling with various constraints and secondary status and have fewer rights than men. In rural areas they are often excluded from decision making and deprived of access to resources and assets. Common early marriage not only increases the likelihood of maternal complications during pregnancy but also stops girls' education, which leads to low female enrolment rates and one of the largest education gaps between boys and girls in the world.

## Objective

- Strengthen and protect human rights; empower women and support their participation; protect women from violence; support a democratic society in Yemen
- Strengthen the capacities of the Yemeni Ministry of Human Rights to promote and protect human rights
- Set up partnerships, networks and consultations between Ministry of Human Rights and local NGOs
- Strengthen the capacities of local NGOs to develop projects for protection of women's and children's rights

## Impact

- Better consultation and cooperation between the Ministry of Human Rights and local NGOs
- Improved capacities of the Ministry of Human Rights' staff
- The first direct EC funding of the Yemeni NGOs' initiatives
- Start of a dialogue on a National Human Rights Institute in Yemen

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### SHARAKA YEMEN: women's rights in Yemen's tribal areas

*"The SHARAKA YEMEN project is our first experience with the European Union. We consider it very successful and we would like to continue the cooperation in the future.*

*I represent the modern youth society from Shabwa governorate in Yemen. Shabwa is a very conservative region, where tribal traditions rule our daily life. This affects in particular women and children, who have a lesser role in the power structures of our communities and are often victims of violence and human rights violations. I started to work a few years ago with a group of colleagues to address these issues, having come across a variety of examples in my daily work as a gynaecologist. It was extremely difficult, especially as a female doctor, to work in this environment. But I managed to open my clinic and in my spare time I talk to women about their rights.*

*The EU support given to me and my organization in 2008 helped to raise this discussion to a higher level. We managed to organize larger conferences bringing together women and political leaders from the governorate to discuss what is important to us, women living in this tribal region. In our tradition you don't mix men and women outside the family circle so this was a huge step and moreover, different groups really started having a dialogue. Of course, we still see violence, but at least more and more women now speak up for themselves and I'm convinced that with continued support from the EU and other donors we can make a difference."*

Dr. Ishraq al-Suba'ee, gynaecologist



Teaching children on human rights in tribal areas of Yemen