



SUCCESS STORY

Drop-out girls re-join formal education



USAID Yemen, Basic Education Support and Training Project

Al-Shagn school is one of USAID's targeted schools in Bayhan District in Shabwah. It serves grades 1-6 and is the only school supporting three other neighboring villages. Most women and girls in Al-Shagn area received no education due to the lack of schools and female teachers in the area. The few girls who did manage to enroll in Al-Shagn school dropped out from grade four onwards due to the unavailability of female teachers.

This school was supported by the previous USAID funded four-year Basic Education Project. Support included renovating schools, establishing and training parents' councils, holding summer camps, training of headmasters, teachers and social workers, as well as conducting adult literacy classes.

The adult literacy class that USAID helped open in Al-Shagn school enrolled twenty-two learners, women and girls between the ages of 15-20 years. Twelve of these learners were drop-outs. When they first joined the adult literacy class they could hardly read or write a word. That was apparent in the test administered to them by the facilitator and the Adult Literacy (AL) Coordinator right before the start of the AL class.

The success about this story is that after a year of intensive AL trainings, with a strong will to complete their education, these learners are now proficient in reading, writing, and math. They managed to join formal education again, but as special students, since the school does not support higher classes. They have now completed their studies and formal exams with the support of the AL Facilitator and Al-Shagn School headmasters. The success of these girls was made possible only with the support of the project and the District Office of Education in Bayhan.