



SUCCESS STORY

Age No Obstacle to Creativity

Youngsters serve as trainers at USAID-sponsored workshop



Fatima Al-Aiei, Save the Children

Hadi and Bander Al-Adini demonstrate their creativity to other youth at the USAID-supported workshop.

“We felt so important when all these older youth showed interest and admiration for our skills!” say Hadi and Bander Al-Adini.

Two youngsters, Hadi and Bander Al-Adini, were asked to serve as trainers at a three-day USAID-supported Youth Empowerment Project workshop. The two brothers, ages 13 and 14, were asked to train much older youth who were the workshop participants.

The brothers were selected to lead a creative session at the workshop because of their ingenious use of simple materials found in and around their house. The boys are especially interested in making small devices that operate with battery power. Hadi, 13 years old, showed how he created a small washing machine for toy clothes and a small ship. His brother Bander, 14 years old, created a small fan and a plane with moving parts. “Our father encourages us to do these things. He himself was always making things. Our father has a shop and allows us to use the things in the shop to invent and make things.”

Initially, the brothers were uncertain about participating, wondering if they would be taken seriously by the older participants. But their demonstrations were a hit at the workshop. “We felt so important when all these older youth showed interest and admiration for our skills!” the brothers exclaimed with big smiles on their faces.

During the three days of the workshop, more than 100 young men and women from all over Yemen participated in a range of activities and sessions—all led by other youth. Young people exchanged experiences and learned a variety of new skills, including story writing/telling, acting, cartoon drawing, poetry, and calligraphy.