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| From            | Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA)                                                                                                               |
| Project details | WASH and humanitarian food assistance for IDPs, host communities, returnees, and marginalized groups in six districts of Shabwah Governorate-Yemen |

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| funded by          | DKH                                                                                 |
| Venue of the story | Nisab, Ursaylan, Jordan, Markha Al-Sufla and Bayhan Districts , Shabwah Governorate |
| Sector             | WASH                                                                                |

# SAFE HYGIENE PROMOTION



In previous years, it was noted that there is a huge pressure on health centers in most of the targeted districts in Shabwah governorate, due to received cases that was infected by dengue fever, watery diarrhea, malnutrition and viral fever among different age groups. As the number of suspected cases per day reaches 25 cases at the Motherhood and Childhood Center in Nisab district, the manager of the Motherhood and Childhood Center in Nisab district stated that the reason for this wave is a large number of waste near homes that cause a lot of viral and dengue fevers. Meanwhile, the manager of the health centers Dr. Ali Nasser Al-Sharif in Ursaylan district also indicated other causes of the spread of diseases by saying: “The majority of people lack awareness when it comes to health, unaware that the disease can spread from one person to another. This lack of concern is reflected in their lack of personal hygiene, hand-washing and the stockpiling of waste near homes - leading to an increased presence of mosquitoes and flies.”

Moreover, the manager of the health center in Nisab district, Dr. Awad Ahmed, added about the status of the center before the intervention by saying, **“Most of the individuals seeking medical help at the health center were struggling with diarrhoea, fever and illnesses, such as malaria, dengue fever, as well as other associated with bad hygiene.”**. In addition, the health centers receive a number of cases of watery diarrhea and fevers, especially among women and children. The centers receive more than 15 cases per day during the wave of disease spread, and most of the people were ignorant of the importance of hand washing and its consequences.



Based on the above, Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA) conducted 700 awareness sessions through 50 Hygiene Community Volunteers (CHVs) for six months in five targeted districts, Bayhan, Ursaylan, Jordan, Nisab and Markha Al-Sufla districts, in Shabwah Governorate. This activity is considered as part of the project of WASH and humanitarian food assistance project for IDPs, host communities, returnees and marginalized groups in six districts of Shabwah Governorate, Yemen, which is funded by German Humanitarian Assistance (AA) in partnership with Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH). The awareness sessions included main awareness messages such as personal hygiene, hand washing, cholera, watery diarrhea, transmission and prevention of infectious diseases, proper

ways to store and purify water, waste-safe disposal, and COVID-19 prevention. The awareness sessions contributed in increasing health and community awareness. Also, they had a significant impact on changing the behavior of the people and bad habits and traditions of most groups of the community. Consequently, this led to a decrease in the percentage of people infected with diseases caused by polluted water and air, as well it led to decrease the spread of mosquitoes, flies, and harmful insects. **Hassan Mohammad Ahmed, one of the participants in the sessions of Nisab district, expressed his experience during acute diarrhea by saying, “I had severe diarrhea late at night, and the centers in Al-Hanak village were closed. Though, I was treated with Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) at home which relieved diarrhea.”**

In addition, the manager of the health center in Al-Nuqoob area of Ursaylan district, **Dr. Ali Nasser Al-Sharif**, explained the impact of the activity of hygiene promotion on reducing pressure on the center by saying, “The hygiene promotion activity contributed in decreasing cases of fever and diarrhea in the area through awareness messages delivered to the people by the CHVs team of YFCA, and specifically, the awareness message, transmission of infectious diseases and their prevention and the method of washing hands, had a significant impact on reducing the number of dengue fever infections”. Therefore, YFCA continued the awareness sessions about the importance of washing hands in the right way as well as the method of preparing Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) that help people to relieve diarrhea and help in saving their lives, especially if they are in remote areas and at critical times. The number of participants in awareness sessions during the activity period reached 9007 individuals from different targeted groups in five targeted districts.



After the community received awareness sessions on the importance of environmental cleanliness, several cleaning campaigns were held by the people of the community in partnership and cooperation with the CHVs team of YFCA. The cleaning campaigns targeted many neighborhoods, schools, health centers and mosques in five targeted districts. The number of participants in the campaigns of five districts reached 180 individuals, males and females, and 1430 individuals benefited from these campaign. As the main objective of the campaigns was to reduce diseases caused by mosquitoes, which transmit fevers, and to create a clean healthy environment. The implementation of the campaigns took several months. During the activity period, it was observed through the campaigns major changes to some wrong behaviors and habits has occurred. As a result, the rate of diarrhea got reduced, waste from residential places was removed, open ponds was closed, and places where rainwater was forming puddles were leveled with the ground. Such campaigns reduced diseases and provided society with protection needed. **“Community leaders have greatly contributed in making this campaign effective,”** says **Dr. Ali Nasser Al-Sharif**, manager of the health center in the Al-Nuqoob area of Ursaylan district.



In short, the manager of the Health Center in Nisab district, Dr. Awad Ahmed, emphasized on the importance of health awareness by saying, "hygiene promotion activity was reflected positively on the health center and aided in reducing the pressure through decreasing the rate of arrivals to the center, and the exacerbation of diseases. Also, he thanked all those in charge of the project for their efforts to create a healthy life and better awareness in communities.