

AGAINST ALL ODDS

In Yemen, the ongoing war has caused a severe humanitarian crisis, including food insecurity and malnutrition. Al-Husha district in Al-Dhalea governorate is one area that has been hit hard by the crisis.

In response to this crisis, Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA) and World Food Program (WFP) implemented a Promotion of Preventive and Lifesaving Nutrition Interventions in Al-Husha district to provide therapeutic and blanket feeding for children and pregnant and lactating women. The project also included nutrition education for mothers and caregivers, delivered through sessions conducted by Community Health Volunteers (CHVs). However, in January 2023, the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP) was forced to come to a halt due to unfortunate circumstances, and the incentives provided to the community health volunteers were discontinued.

Despite these setbacks, the (CHVs) in some villages of Al Husha district, Al Dhalea governorate (Al Mashriqi, Hawshab, Al Ahthoof, Al Sabwah, Bani Seeh, and Bani Malik) refused to stop their work. They were determined to help their community and prevent any further deterioration of the nutritional status of the people in their village.



“We recognized the significant risks faced by vulnerable children and recently recovered cases when the preventive program was suspended. We realized we couldn’t retreat or slack off and did everything in our power to assist them”

said a CHVs

Thanks to the volunteers’ dedication and commitment to their humanitarian duty, many children, including Aqeel Abdulwahid, a 23-month-old child who was previously diagnosed with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), were able to maintain their nutritional status and prevent a relapse. The volunteers closely monitored Aqeel’s condition and provided his mother with the necessary guidance to prepare the required food using available, affordable materials. As a result, Aqeel’s condition improved, as evidenced by his mid-upper arm circumference measurement.



The project coordinator praised the volunteers' work, stating that

“the impact of the volunteers' invaluable initiative cannot be overstated, as it prevented a large number of children, including Aqeel and others, from experiencing malnutrition. Their timely assistance ensured that these children did not suffer a relapse in their condition”

YFCA's nutrition project, which provides therapeutic and blanket feeding for children and pregnant or lactating women, along with nutrition education for mothers and caregivers, delivered through sessions conducted by CHVs, demonstrates the importance of providing support to vulnerable communities during times of crisis. The success of this project serves as a model for future interventions in Yemen and highlights the critical role that CHVs can play in addressing humanitarian crises.

