

FROM DISPLACEMENT TO STABILITY: HOW A SHELTER PROJECT HELPED A FAMILY RETURN TO THEIR HOME

Mohammad Abdullah is a farmer who lives with his wife, four daughters, three sons, in Al Hazm district of Al Jawf governorate. Their house was severely damaged by the war that broke out in the area in 2017. They had to leave their home and seek refuge in Almtoon district, where they lived in poor conditions for four years. Their house, which had many rooms, a lounge, a kitchen, and a bathroom was affected by the war. Shells of different calibers hit the house, causing a fire that burned the furniture, ceiling, walls, doors, windows, and glass. The house's roof and sewage system were also damaged. The house became unfit for living, open to the elements, dirt, and bugs.



Mohammed's house before and after the rehabilitation

Mohammad and his family wanted to go back to their home, but they could not afford to fix the damage. They had a very low income from farming, which was hardly enough to meet their basic needs. They felt desperate and powerless, as they saw their home decay over the years.

In 2021, Mohammad and his family were among the returnees who benefited from YFCA's project to rehabilitate damaged houses in Al Jawf governorate. The project, funded by the YHF, aimed to provide safe and dignified shelter for the most vulnerable returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the governorate. The project team visited Mohammad's house and assessed the damage. They found that the house needed extensive rehabilitation, and the cost of restoration was within the allowed amount in the project. They consulted with Mohammad and agreed to rehabilitate almost all parts of the house. This included treating the external walls and plastering them with clay, rebuilding a damaged wall, completely repainting the interior, replacing the damaged doors and windows, and establishing an integrated sewage system, which included digging a well, connecting a septic tank, and installing an Arabic toilet seat.



Before and after the repainting of the interior

The rehabilitation work transformed the house from a ruin to a home. The house regained its previous appearance before the war, and the traces of destruction and fire disappeared, especially after the walls were repainted. Mohammad and his family felt a sense of stability and comfort in their home, and resumed their normal daily activities. They also returned to farming on their lands near their home, which improved their livelihood and food security.

Mohammad expressed his happiness and gratitude for the project. He said: **“I thank YFCA and YHF for restoring my house and my dignity. They did not neglect any part of the house; instead, they repaired everything that was damaged. They made me feel that I am not alone and that there are people who care about me and my family.”**

The story of Mohammad and his family is one of the many examples of how the shelter project implemented by YFCA in Al Jawf governorate has improved the lives of the returnees and IDPs in the area. The project, funded by the YHF, aimed to provide safe and dignified shelter for the most vulnerable people who have suffered from the war and displacement. The project has also supported the social cohesion and resilience of the communities in the governorate, as they collaborated to rebuild their area and overcome the challenges. The project shows the crucial role of providing safe and dignified shelter for the most vulnerable people in Yemen and the positive impact it can have on their well-being and livelihood. We call on the international community to support more initiatives like this to address the humanitarian crisis in Yemen.