

HOPE IN THE MIDST OF CRISIS



Yemen has been facing a catastrophic humanitarian crisis since the outbreak of war in 2015. The conflict has left the country grappling with multiple crises, including severe food insecurity and malnutrition. The citizens are barely able to access basic necessities, and the quality of health and education has significantly declined. The malnutrition rate in Yemen has recently increased due to various factors, including a lack of education and low literacy levels among mothers, who are not aware of proper feeding methods and nutrition standards. This has put young children under the age of two and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) at risk of malnutrition.

To address the malnutrition crisis, Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA) and the World Food Programme (WFP) implemented the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP) in the district of Sewirah, Amd - Hadhramout Valley. The program enrolled around 80 children under the age of two and 80 PLW, providing them with the necessary nutrition to combat malnutrition. Moreover, community Health Volunteers (CHVs) were trained to pass on information on proper feeding methods and nutrition standards to the locals. At first, the community was hesitant to accept the CHVs.

“At first, the community there rejected us because it was unfamiliar to see women passing around spreading information and carrying commodities. They were also not keen on the idea of CHVs taking photos of the progress of the program. However, with the help of the DHOs and the District Coordinator, we managed to get the program implemented and accepted.”
Ms. Khlood Al-Jabri, a Community Health Volunteer in Sewirah, Amd, recounted



The CHVs were successful in spreading awareness about proper feeding methods, and today the locals look forward to receiving the rations and seeking out the CHVs for information and help. The success of the program is also reflected in the positive impact it has had on the female CHVs. It provided them with an opportunity to develop their communication skills and offered a source of livelihood, enabling them to navigate through life in Yemen while being secure and financially stable. Through the BSFP, the program not only filled the nutrition gap in the district and surrounding areas but also helped to spread awareness about proper feeding methods and nutrition standards.

Thanks to the YFCA's and WFP's efforts, the BSFP program in Sewirah has made a significant difference in the lives of the people in the area. Mothers are more aware of proper feeding methods and nutrition standards, and children and PLW are now receiving the necessary nutrition to combat malnutrition. The success of the program serves as a model for future humanitarian interventions in Yemen and highlights the importance of community involvement and awareness spreading in addressing humanitarian crises. Despite the challenges faced by Yemen, progress can be made when organizations work together with local communities to address their needs.