

HOW YFCA'S CLEANING CAMPAIGNS IMPROVED THE LIVES OF DISPLACED PEOPLE IN DAMT STORY

Walid is a 44-year-old man who has shown remarkable resilience and courage in the face of adversity. He is one of the millions of Yemenis who have been displaced by the ongoing conflict that has ravaged the country since 2015. Walid had to leave his hometown of Taiz, where he used to work as a carpenter and seek refuge in a displacement camp in Damt, Al-Dhale Governorate. There, he faced harsh living conditions, with limited access to basic services, such as water, sanitation, health, and education. He also had to cope with the psychological trauma of losing his home, his livelihood, and his sense of belonging.

However, Walid never lost hope. He joined the community efforts to improve the situation in the camp, where he became a leader and a role model for others. He participated in the cleaning campaigns that were organized by Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA). YFCA, with the support of the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF), conducted 18 solid waste collection and disposal campaigns in Damt district, targeting both the host community and the internally displaced persons (IDPs). The campaigns aimed to address the urgent need for a clean and healthy environment, especially at a time when Yemen is facing serious health challenges related to hygiene, such as cholera and malaria.

“Before the intervention, camps were filled with waste for over four months.”

Walid said



YFCA team during their visit to the camp.

The cleaning campaigns not only removed the accumulated waste from the camp, but also instilled a sense of cleanliness and order among the residents. They also created job opportunities for 30 workers, who received salaries, diesel, and cleaning tools from YFCA. Walid was one of them. He said that the income he earned from the cleaning campaigns helped him support his family and to purchase essential items such as food, clothes, and medicine. He also said that the cleaner surroundings improved his mood, self-esteem and gave him a sense of normalcy and dignity amid displacement.

Walid expressed his gratitude for the intervention, acknowledging that the efforts made by organizations like YFCA have made a tangible difference in his daily life. He also thanked the YHF who contributed to the project, which enabled YFCA to implement these crucial campaigns.

Walid's story is emblematic of how targeted interventions can have positive impacts on people's lives by addressing their basic needs and improving their living conditions. It also demonstrates how humanitarian actors can work together with local communities to achieve common goals through collaboration and coordination.



YFCA team during cleaning up the camp site.