

RESTORING ACCESS TO SAFE WATER IN DAMT

Damt City, located in Al Dhale Governorate, Yemen, has long been affected by the ongoing conflict, resulting in a high population density and limited access to essential services. Among these services, access to safe and sufficient water has been a major challenge for the residents. However, through the intervention of Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA) and funding from the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF), a remarkable success story has unfolded. The rehabilitation of the water community assets, particularly the Al-Omarah Haql Alford well No.1, has brought about positive changes, improving the lives of the people in Damt City.

Before the intervention, Damt City faced severe water shortages, with the population receiving water for only one hour once every 15 days. This scarcity greatly impacted the daily lives and health of the community members. The water project suffered from numerous challenges, including a lack of fuel and power supply, resulting in the inability to perform regular maintenance. As a result, the generator and pumping equipment failed, exacerbating the water crisis. The situation placed a heavy burden on both the Local Water and Sanitation Corporation (LWSC) in Damt and the beneficiaries, who had to resort to expensive water truck services to meet their needs.

In response to the dire situation, YFCA, with support from YHF, undertook the rehabilitation of the Al-Omarah Haql Alford well No.1. The intervention involved the supply, installation, and operation of a complete solar energy system with a capacity of 67.5 kW. Additionally, civil works were carried out to rehabilitate the control room, ensuring the efficient functioning of the well.



Results and Impact:

The completion of the intervention brought about immediate and significant improvements in the water supply situation in Damt City. The targeted well was able to enter into production service, providing a daily water output of 170–220 m³. This substantial increase in water production represented more than 100% of the total production before the intervention. The positive outcomes of the intervention can be summarized as follows:

- 1. Increased Water Production:** The total water production of the Damt water project rose from 170 m³ to over 350 m³ per day, ensuring a more reliable water supply for the community.
- 2. Enhanced Access to Safe Water:** The intervention contributed to reducing the monthly water cycle, guaranteeing continuous access to safe water for both Host Communities and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) throughout the month. The per capita share of safe drinking water increased from less than 7.5 liters to 20 liters per day, significantly improving the well-being of the residents.
- 3. Financial Relief:** The increased water production alleviated the financial burden on families, who no longer needed to rely heavily on expensive water truck services.
- 4. Improved Community Health:** The intervention had a positive impact on the health conditions of both Host Communities and IDPs in Damt City. The availability of safe drinking water helped mitigate the spread of waterborne diseases, such as cholera and diarrhea, leading to improved overall community health.
- 5. Reduced Water Tariffs:** The intervention successfully decreased the water unit tariff from 1000 YER to 500 YER, making safe water more affordable for the residents.



The well after the complete rehabilitation intervention.



YFCA worker while installing the solar energy inverter.

“ The intervention by YFCA and YHF was a remarkable success story, as it transformed the water supply situation in Damt. By rehabilitating a well and installing a solar energy system, they provided a sustainable and green solution that improved lives and well-being of residents. ”
Ahmed Qasim Al-Halqabi, Director of LWSC at Damt district.

Through the concerted efforts of YFCA, YHF, and local stakeholders, the rehabilitation of the Al-Omarah Haql Alfarid well No.1 in Damt City has brought about a transformative change. The intervention has significantly increased water production, improved access to safe water, relieved financial burdens, enhanced community health, and ensured the long-term sustainability of water infrastructure. This success story serves as a testament to the positive impact that targeted interventions can have on vulnerable communities, ultimately improving their quality of life and fostering resilience in the face of adversity.