

DIGNITY AND SANITATION: HOW KHALED AND OTHER PWD BENEFITED FROM YFCA'S INTERVENTION

Khaled is a 43-year-old father of two boys and one girl. He used to work as a farmer in his field in Alhejrah Village, Abyan Governorate, until 2017. One day, when he was returning to his house at noon, suddenly, a cliff fell on him and he was injured and could not move. After a couple of hours, he got help and then he was taken to the hospital. After five hours of treatment, shocking news struck him and his family that he would not be able to move and walk as before because of his injury that caused severe damage to his spine.

“This incident was devastating to me and my family since I was the only supplier to this family. Khaled said. On the other hand, one of the ramifications of this incident was that he started to have difficulty when he used the toilet.”
Khaled added.

Khaled is one of the millions of Yemenis who have been affected by the ongoing conflict that has ravaged the country since 2015. The conflict has not only caused widespread displacement, violence, and insecurity, but also disrupted public services, such as water, sanitation, health, and education. The lack of proper sanitation facilities poses a serious health risk to the population, especially to the most vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities, minorities, and people with specific needs. The provision of appropriate facilities for defecation is also an essential response to people's dignity, safety, health, and well-being.



To address this urgent need, Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA) intervened with the support of the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF). Under the project of “Provision of comprehensive & life-saving WASH assistance for IDPs and most vulnerable groups of PWD, Minorities and people with specific needs at Damt, Juban, and Qa’atabah districts of Al-Dhale Gov. & Baqim District of Sa’adah Gov.”, YFCA constructed 10 latrines for people with disabilities (PWD) in Damt district, Al-Dhale Governorate, in Old Damt, Alqaimah, Alhejrah, Bait Al-Awlaqi, and Alhathath villages. The latrines were designed to ensure access to good sanitation facilities for the PWD, taking into consideration their specific requirements and preferences.

The latrines not only provided a suitable place to defecate safely and without struggling every time they used the toilet, but also improved their living conditions and dignity. The latrines had wide space, which gave the PWD who had a wheelchair the ability to turn 360 degrees inside the latrine. They also had handrails, which made it easier for them to have control by themselves. The latrines were entered into service directly after the completion of the activities, so the beneficiaries could use them immediately.



Khaled while standing in front of the laterin installed for him by YFCA and YHF .

Khaled was one of the 10 beneficiaries who received a latrine from YFCA. He said that since he had no decent income, he could not afford to have a special toilet that would facilitate his use of the toilet. He thanked YFCA for providing him with this toilet and said that it was the only organization that conducted such intervention in his district and looked after his necessary needs. He said that now he could defecate safely and easily without the need for his family's help.

Khaled'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, with the support of YHF, is committed to continuing its work to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to the most vulnerable people in Yemen, especially those who are affected by the conflict and the lack of basic services.