

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH WATER HARVESTING TANKS IN AL AZARIQ DISTRICT

A Community in Crisis

In the remote village of Al Aawkima, located in the Al Azariq district of Al-Dali' Governorate, Yemen, residents faced severe challenges in accessing clean drinking water. Faisal Hussein Musaid, a 35-year-old resident, lived with his family of seven in a modest traditional house. The ongoing conflict and harsh living conditions exacerbated the lack of infrastructure and resources necessary for constructing water harvesting tanks. Faisal's financial situation was dire, with a monthly salary barely covering his family's necessities. As a result, he was forced to travel approximately two kilometers to fetch water from shallow wells, which were often contaminated and dried up during periods of low rainfall.

Quote from Faisal:

"We fetch water from the nearest well using donkeys, traveling approximately 2 kilometers from our home. During the dry season, when the wells run dry, I am unable to afford even a liter of water due to our difficult living conditions. Moreover, the rough terrain and poor road conditions in the area drive the cost of water trucking up to 100,000 Yemeni riyals. At times, I am forced to sell livestock—the very source of my family's livelihood—just to secure water. Fetching water was primarily the responsibility of my children, causing them to miss school regularly as they had to transport water using donkeys."



One of the 26 constructed water tanks in Al Aawkima area.

A Ray of Hope

Funded by GFFO & Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH) and implemented by YFCA, the project aimed to construct 36 water harvesting tanks in the Al Auwkima area. This intervention was a beacon of hope for the residents of Al Azariq district. The project provided a sustainable solution for water collection during the rainy season and ensured a reliable water source during dry periods.



Faisal setting next to the water harvesting tank in his area.

Quote from Faisal:

“We extend our sincere gratitude to the Family Care Association for implementing such a sustainable activity, providing a long-term solution to ensure access to safe drinking water during both the dry and rainy seasons.”

A New Beginning

The impact of the project was profound. The construction of water harvesting tanks transformed the lives of the villagers. They now had reliable access to safe drinking water, which improved their quality of life and reduced the spread of water-borne diseases. The presence of rainwater tanks near their homes saved them time and effort, allowing children to attend school regularly and alleviating the daily struggles of women and girls.

Quote from Abdul Jalil, Chairman of the Community Committee:

“Before the intervention of the Family Care Association, we used to fetch water from wells located 2 to 3 kilometers away from the beneficiaries’ homes. Children and women had to transport the water using donkeys, which disrupted their regular attendance at school and caused great hardship during the journey. Due to the challenging living conditions of the village residents, they did not have the means to build rainwater harvesting tanks. However, now, with the intervention of the Family Care Association, children and women will be able to return to school, alleviating their daily struggles.”

Empowering the Community

Access to reliable and safe drinking water empowered the community, particularly women and girls, to redirect time and cost savings into improved livelihoods, income-generating activities, and educational opportunities. The project brought about gender-transformational changes within both households and communities, ensuring a brighter future for all.



YFCA employee conducting a post assessment for the water tanks.

Impact on Faisal

For Faisal and his family, the construction of water harvesting tanks was life-changing. No longer did his children have to miss school to fetch water, and his family no longer suffered from the physical strain of walking long distances. The reliable access to clean water meant that his family could focus on their health, education, and overall well-being.

Quote from Faisal:

“The construction of water harvesting tanks has truly transformed our lives. My children can now attend school regularly, and my family no longer has to endure the physical strain of fetching water. We are healthier and happier, and we can now focus on building a better future for our family.”