

# Community Based Approaches to Water Conflict Mitigation



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## Weaponization of Water in Yemen

- Millions of people in Yemen live in poverty specially IDP's due to the senseless war in Yemen which has impacted even more the lack of clean water sources.
- Water infrastructure has been a casualty of Yemen's conflict, whether through direct targeting or lack of governance/maintenance. Damage to water infrastructure in #Yemen has direct environmental impacts, as sewage goes untreated and pollution is not dealt with.
- Deteriorating access to water and sanitation services as a result of the conflict has also had a disproportionate impact on women across the country.

# Impacts on Women



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- The dangerous task of water collection falls to women and young girls, they spend hours a day to collect water for their family's needs, they are often unable to finish their education.
- Many girls do not have time for education because they are needed to collect water daily for their family's everyday needs. Having a close water supply allows these girls to work on their education
- Water projects in rural areas have been suspended due to the increasing numbers of displaced people fleeing the conflict areas to the countryside, pump breakdowns in artesian wells, worn-out and damaged pipes, inadequate amounts of water, and higher prices of oil products amid an economic crisis.

## Local Approaches to Mitigate Water Conflicts

- Access to clean, water sources empowers women to bring their families and communities out of poverty and violence. Food4Humanity has initiated a Water4Peace project where the team fundraises to build and repair wells in #Yemen to bring clean water sources closer communities
- At Food4humanity we aim to allocate time &resources for girls and boys by having close water sources, so that they do not have to travel for hours a day to collect the water needed to support their families.
- The Water4Peace project is a holistic approach designed by Food4Humanity which is based on three main strategies:
  - Women and Youth Empowerment
  - Sustainable Development
  - Community Peacebuilding

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## Fragile Contexts Require Grassroots Approaches

- Both global and local climate change impacts are likely to matter for future development, given Yemen's high levels of food import dependency, food insecurity, and poverty.
- Gender inequality, conflict and fragility are key challenges to sustainable development
- women leadership is key to effective water diplomacy in Yemen and the Middle East
- Strengthening gender equality and women's empowerment in fragile situations is critical for achieving sustainable peace and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Access to safe, dignified livelihoods mitigates the risk of exploitation and abuse and reduces violence.

## Multi-Stake Holder Collaboration is Key

- Engage private sector and community committees/ representative in all programs/ interventions process including designing, implementation, and evaluation. And to ensure women are represented in community committees to channel women voices and needs toward a more gender-sensitive Humanitarian response approach.
- Donors and international actors can better support these types of strategies by providing flexible funding, valuing and investing in collective organizing and ensuring their approaches to identifying partners have a gendered and holistic approach.

## People affected and they are the people with solutions!

- To pave the way to self-reliance, recovery and resilience of conflict we need to enhance the role of civil society and engage community committees/ representative in all programs/ interventions process including designing, implementation, and evaluation.
- Don't just focus on the elite but the grassroots. These are the people affected and they are the people with solutions!

# Generations rely on our decisions today

