



Peace returns to Saawan District

In Sanaá's Saawan district, the residents used to rely on floodwaters in the valley for irrigation and household use through shallow wells. This all began to change in 2009 when the government completed the construction of two dams in the area. The hitherto plentiful shallow wells all dried out and there was no more water for irrigation in the lowlands. Conflict erupted between the farmers living in the uplands and those in the lowlands

FAO support the communities to resolve disputes and by addressing the root causes of the conflicts. This is done through, the introduction of new conflict resolution approaches such as the establishment of Water Users Associations, building community leaders negotiation and water management skills as well as rehabilitation or construction of water assets/ infrastructure.



In this case FAO partnered with Saawan Association and together engaged the community in an attempt to understand the root cause of the conflict better and find workable solutions to restoration of peace through open dialogue.

Following several meeting the conflict parties agreed that it was necessary to build a network of pipes to supply water from one of the dams to the lowlands so that they too could have water. The communities provided the labour for the work and received payment through the cash for work modality.

The people of Saawan have now started appreciating the importance of peace and development and now have a better understanding of the consequences of conflict.