



### Restoring peace to Al-Maqlad

In 2017 conflict arose between Al-Maqlad’s residents and the neighbouring villages. It all started when one of the only safe water springs was contaminated by some nearby untreated sewage water. Being the single source of safe water that Bait Al-Maqlad village (Hawazan sub-district, Manakhah District) and the 10 neighbouring villages depended on for, drinking, domestic purposes and irrigation, tensions quickly flared up.

Violence between Al-Maqlad’s residents and the neighbouring villages over the polluted stream soon turned into revenge attacks as the conflict escalated. As the spring physically lay in Al-Maqlad’s village, the community members eventually blocked other villages from accessing the spring. Meanwhile, the water remained contaminated, and nobody could use the water anymore.



The local authorities tried to resolve the conflict, but since they were only addressing the consequences of the conflict and not the root causes, all their efforts came to naught.

Following the protracted dispute, the Green Association Water Users Association for the Sana’a basin was created and funded by FAO. The Association engaged youths from both villages in the leadership of the Executive Council of the Association (with at least 30 percent women representation). A conflict resolution committee was appointed by the executive council. The primary role of the committee was to comprehend the root causes of the conflict as well as analyze its impact on both communities to find a lasting solution.



FAO trained Al Zayah Association in the water conflict resolution. After they proceeded to work with representatives of both conflict parties to fully comprehend the root causes of the conflict and all related issues therein. They also looked at what durable solutions may reassure the communities such as the installation of a wastewater network to transfers the sewage away from safe spring water. They also looked at the possibility of building rainwater harvesting tanks as an additional source of clean and safe water. The villagers agreed on with this proposal, and they have become part of the implementation process.

FAO and Green Association, with the support from the community leaders, have enacted the resolution that has been agreed and signed by both parties bringing the conflict to an end.

- Opening dialogue channels and negotiation between the communities.
- A sewage reservoir will be constructed at an agreed location to collect the wastewater so that it does not affect the ecosystem.

Following the implementation of the two proposed actions of the resolution, the people of Al-Maqlad’s villages have started appreciating the importance of peace and development and now have a better understanding of the consequences of conflict. This is a direct outcome of the FAO-implemented Peace Building project in Al Zayah village, “Strengthening the role of Women in peacebuilding through natural resources management.”



As an immediate impact of the project, the conflict has been resolved and the villagers in ten villages now have access to clean and safe water with positive health consequences. In addition, 90 households have been engaged in cash for work activities, which will increase their income during the project implementation process.