



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



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## *Water for Peace – Yemen*

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Projects in Hadramout governorate – Yemen

January 2020



## Introduction

The workshops titled **Water for Peace** and **Water for Food Security** were held on Wednesday 23/01/2020. Mr. Essam Hebrish Al-Kathiri, Undersecretary of Hadramout governorate for Hadramout Al-Wadi and Al-Saharaa districts Affairs, Mr. Hesham Mohammed Al-Saidi Assistant Undersecretary for Hadramout Al-Wadi and Al-Saharaa districts Affairs as well as the general director of Tarim district and a number of specialist general managers attended the launch of the two workshops.

**Two proposed projects in Tarim city were presented and they are:**

- 1- Water for Peace.
- 2- Water for Food Security.

In addition to the monitoring and evaluation system for both projects.

## An exercise to determine the conflict and peace dimensions:

The team was divided into groups as follows:

- 1- Thabi
- 2- Edid (2 groups)
- 3- Dammoun.
- 4- The main stream adjacent to Tarim city (2 groups).

Brainstorming and group discussions were held and resulted in a wealth of information. The conflict in each valley was determined in addition to its causes and effects. Each valley's situation will be explained separately.

## 1 - Wadi Thabi

Conflict: it is a conflict about benefiting from the water of the torrents passing through Wadi Nasma in Thabi.

- 1- Large parts of the flood irrigation system were damaged.
- 2- The landowners unawareness of the public interest and of the resulting damage.
- 3- The increased volume of torrent water entering the valley from the downstream (from the hills).

### **Effects:**

- 1- Continuous disagreements between members of the community because of the water conflict which psychologically affects children, for example by spreading animosities between them.
- 2- Inability to farm the lands located within the flood irrigation network (no economic return).
- 3- Trees, forestation, and the Christ's thorn jujube trees are all dying (vegetation damage).
- 4- A downfall in women's role in improving family income.
- 5- A decrease in animal wealth.
- 6- Increase in prices of livestock feed.
- 7- Not utilizing Christ's thorn jujube trees.



Mechanisms for Managing Conflicts Over Water:

Mechanisms for Managing Conflicts Over Water	Level of participation/ Access	Frequency of use	Authorities implementing the resolution	Ability to achieve harmony in the community
Reconciling between the parties through negotiations. (community-based)	Participation in decision-making	Repeatedly	Non-binding	Community harmony will be achieved.
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**Advice on implementation:**

What should the project do to preserve /improve the relationship with the community?	What should the project avoid in order to not harm the community?
1- Emphasize to all members and components of the target community that this project was launched for the people’s interest and for no other purposes.  2- The project staff must consider and respect the prevalent customs and traditions in the target community.  3- Ensuring building the capacity of the community and assisting it to submit its development projects to other donors that they it may not be able to reach alone.	1- The project must not be biased to one side over the other during implementation.  2- Not considering any political or partisan aspects.

2- Wadi Eidid (group 1):

Conflict: It is a conflict about maintenance and operation between rich famers and farmers with less assets.

Causes:

- 1- No works of maintenance.
- 2- Heavy flow of torrents.
- 3- Random construction works and growth of trees in torrents paths.



4- No early warning system and no anticipation of coming rain.

5- Ownerships of lands.

6- Climate changes.

**Effects:**

1- Soil erosion which deprived women from practicing their activities.

2- Decrease in the families income due to the decrease in crops caused by soil erosion.

3- Isolating the effected areas from services and infrastructures (schools, roads, playgrounds).

4- Blockage of torrent pathways and destruction of public and private properties.

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**Advice on implementation:**

What should the project do to preserve /improve the relationship with the community?	What should the project avoid in order to not harm the community?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Transparency.</li> <li>2- Ensuring community contribution.</li> <li>3- Utilizing the help of experts from the local community.</li> <li>4- Coordinating with governmental and nongovernmental relevant authorities.</li> <li>5- Conducting community, environmental, vocational and economic studies related to the project.</li> <li>6- Prioritizing recruitment from the local community, then from the IDPs and returnees.</li> <li>7- Drawing on the previous lessons learned and studies of water distribution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Lying.</li> <li>2- Favoritism, nepotism and corruption.</li> <li>3- Utilizing the help of incompetent and non-local experts who have bad reputation.</li> <li>4- Utilizing the help of local incompetent experts.</li> </ul>

**3- Wadi Edid (group 2), women’s group.**

Conflict: A conflict about using lands due to shortage of water.

**Causes:**

- 1- Seeking financial gains.
- 2- Weak agricultural production and income.
- 3- Lack of awareness of food security.
- 4- Climate change and the cost of extracting water.
- 5- No existing legal guarantees for the tenants’ rights.

**Effects:**

- 1- Malnutrition in children.
- 2- Blocking torrents pathways.
- 3- Burial of wells.
- 4- Compromising food security.
- 5- Male and female unemployment.
- 6- Increased family burdens on women.
- 7- Weak local production.
- 8- Weak family income leading to community conflict.



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**Advice on implementation:**

What should the project do to preserve /improve the relationship with the community?	What should the project avoid in order to not harm the community?
1- Respecting and adhering to customs and traditions. 2- Working in suitable times (especially for women). 3- Assigning appropriate work to women. 4- Assigning female staff to handle everything related to women. 5- Seeking and considering women's opinions.	1- Imposing a uniform on women. 2- Imposing a work or training location outside the women's areas. 3- Inequality in distributing the allocations of the cash for work program as well as other activities and tasks.



#### 4- Wadi Dammoun:

Conflict: Water does not reach the farmer's fields in Wadi Dammoun

#### Causes:

- 1- Deepening the valley's water pathway randomly for the purposes of construction or building roads.
- 2- The community's need for fill materials to be used in construction works.
- 3- Absence of a law that regulates the interventions and new works in the torrents pathways.
- 4- Community's indifference and not taking a strict position with regards to the community-harming interventions.
- 5- Weakness of the security authorities.
- 6- The authorities relevant to these responsibilities are not performing their duties.
- 7- Nationalizing the farmlands in the 70s of the past century and the issuance of the agricultural reform law, both of which led to weakening the landowners' adoption of the old traditions regulating the use of torrent pathways.

#### Effects:

- 1- Presence of stagnant water puddles increases the risk against children in that area.
- 2- Decrease in the size of farmed areas which are irrigated with torrent water.
- 3- Spread of diseases due to stagnant water.
- 4- Decrease in employment opportunities in the field of agriculture for women.
- 5- Decrease in income leading young males to stop marrying which caused an increase in the levels of spinsterhood.
- 6- Absence of food security.
- 7- A downfall in the living standard of farmers in Wadi Dammoun.
- 8- Increasing ground water volume by deepening the valley's topside which in turn deprived the farmlands from torrent irrigation.
- 9- Nonexistence of none-farmed lands in the pathway, which led to turning them into you play areas for youth and children.





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**Advice on implementation:**

What should the project do to preserve /improve the relationship with the community?	What should the project avoid in order to not harm the community?
1- Practicing neutrality and not cause group-based, territory-based or tribe-based conflicts. 2- Engaging the local community and consulting its members before implementing works in their areas. 3- Involving the residents of the target areas in the implementation of projects in their areas.	1- Highlighting religious disagreements and political quibbles and practicing them. 2- Conducting field work in irregular working hours which are agreed upon in the area. 3- Parking heavy machinery and equipment in the tight roads and alleys and impeding the people's movement. 4- Disposing of garbage and work debris in the area. 5- Grouping and storing construction materials close to populated areas.



## 6- The main runway for Hadramout Valley which is adjacent to Tarim city (group)

Conflict: a conflict about the rights to the water between people in the top of the valley and people at the bottom of the valley.

### Causes:

- 1- The torrent pathway is blocked by Sesbania trees.
- 2- The torrent irrigation structures were destroyed and were not rebuilt.
- 3- Absence of relevant laws and negligence of relevant customs and traditions.
- 4- No presence of government authorities responsible for the torrents pathways.
- 5- Urban sprawl near to the torrents pathways.
- 6- Political changes in the 70s of the past decade led to the abandonment of the farmlands by their owners.
- 7- Abandonment of farmlands.
- 8- Disputes over the lands near to the torrent pathways.

### Effects:

- 1- Change in the work type to service work (as opposed to production).
- 2- Isolating school children from their schools.
- 3- Female farmers are affected and forced to work in remote areas.
- 4- The vegetation changed from a useful element to a less useful one.



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**Advice on implementation:**

What should the project do to preserve /improve the relationship with the community?	What should the project avoid in order to not harm the community?
1- Practicing transparency and honesty. 2- Coordinating with community leaders and religious figures. 3- Respecting and maintaining community's customs and traditions. 4- Expanding community engagement 5- Enlisting the help of competent members of the community.	1- The project management making false promises. 2- Being biased towards a certain group. 3- Violating religion and community standards by mixing between men and women.