



United Nations Development Programme Iraq Stabilisation Agriculture Cash For Work Project in YATHRIB, Salah AlDin Governorate

FINAL PROJECT REPORT



Frontline in YATHRIB, January 2017

Human Relief Foundation

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Context

Brief background

Yathreb is an agricultural-based town located on the Tigris River. The majority of residents are farmers that farm the irrigated areas either side of the River Tigris. Since July 2014, there have been a number of religious-based conflicts in the area which have been made tenser due to the conflict between Daesh (Islamic State) and the Government of Iraq. Consequently, the town has a high percentage of war-damage buildings, as well as They have many poor families and widows who have lost their husbands by Daesh (Islamic State). In November 2016, a HRF team comprising of staff from the HRF Tikrit Office and the Senior Technical Advisor from HRF Erbil Office, visiting YathrebDistrict to conduct a needs assessment. The HRF assessment team consulted with the following officials:

- Mayor of Yathreb
- Local military commander
- Yathreb local government board
- Head of Irrigation Department in Yathreb

The Yathreb Council Board members selected the areas to be targeted in discussion with HRF Staff. Also with community leaders the establishment of a community platform was used to identify the pressing needs and to ensure that community members have a direct input into the selection of cash-for-work activities. During the needs assessment, HRF team members discussed with families and youths to obtain a wide range of inputs that were representative of the whole community. It was also noted that the existence of organised civil society groups was low however HRF will continue to identify and mobilise civil societies group so they can be engages as project participants. The actual selection of beneficiaries will be made using the selection criteria that is detailed in section 5.0. From the assessment and the community platform the following problems were raised. Impact from the conflict has left the agricultural sector in urgent need of rehabiliation to bring the farm systems back to their full potential. Areas that require urgent attention include:

- 1. Land management activities such as clearing of weeds and shrubs and soil prepation / Tilling the soil)
- 2. Provision of farm inputs (NPK fertlizer/Planting of fruit trees);
- 3. Repair or replac pumps for irrigation systems;
- 4. Restocking of livestock/Poultry and sheep /beekeeping;
- Debris removal and street cleaning
- 6. Repair of house buildings.
- 7- Filling the irrigation channel route with Clean Soil.
- 8- Lining the Channel route with concrete

Each of these outputs will also build impacts, for example, improving agricultural production and Plowing and planting the land with fruit trees; improving environmental sanitation; livestock-based asset replacement; provision of cash for work activities and; the actual repairing of houses. These activities are design to have multiplier effects which provides direct impacts through increased income generation, for example through agricultural livelihoods and small business such as build craftspersons. The different outputs are not all directly related but they will all produce a range of impacts that complement each other and provide assistance across a wide distribution of the population. In addition, many of the farm lands are overgrown with weeds and shrubs and farmers no longer have access to suitable equipment, farm inputs (fertilisers/fruit trees), tools and labour to prepare for the coming spring season.

Also, the construction of a side channel in the village of Albu Fadous to deliver water to areas far from the main canal and which Was one of the most important reasons in the region between the tribes, the /tendencies in the region and contribute to the restoration of the social fabric in the region



Map 1: Yathrib town and surrounding agricultural areas (red rectangles = HRF target areas)

Rationale

The project was required to provide immediate support for For returning and current residents which provided incentives and boosted the safe return of families Which is still displaced through the rehabilitation of livelihoods in the newly accessible areas of yathrib. Linking livelihood stabilisation and enterprise recovery provides the building blocks in long-term recovery and the building of a strong local economy which is also required to build social cohesion and minimise the impacts of the regional conflict as well as deterring extremism and sectarian-based violence which has clearly recently been evident in all areas of Salah Al-Din Governorate. As in HRF's previous interventions this project was not just about recovery and rehabilitation but also re-building the community fabric including the social dimensions required for a just and fair society for the future of Iraq..

Intended objectives

- Cleaning Preparation agricultural land and plowing the land and planting fruit trees
 Provision of chemical fertilizers
- 2. Repair of irrigation systems
- 3. Restocking of livestock / bee keeping.
- 4. Rubble removal
- 5. Street cleaning
- 6. repairs building for Poor families and widows
- 7- Constructing a side channel irrigation in the village of Albu Fadous to deliver water to agricultural landFar from the main irrigation channel

Intended beneficiaries

In yathrib District, HRF worked with the poorest community members through the targeting of vulnerable groups. HRF has always selected beneficiaries for 'cash-for-work' programme based on their need and their availability regardless of their religious, ethnic and/or political backgrounds. As such HRF have never faced political issues or problems in working with beneficiaries in this region.

To maximise the beneficial impacts in all the project activities HRF will adopted a selection criteria in each component that is based on maximising the impact to the most vulnerable residents of yathrib District. In addition, a minimum of the 330 workers of the project beneficiaries were women, particularly as it is culturally acceptable for women to work in agriculture related activities. In term of stabilisation this can potentially have profound impacts as forming 'women cash-for- work groups' to Preparing agricultural lands for planting fruit trees will bring a triple-win scenario: 1) direct economic enhancement of women; 2) much need cash injection in the communities and; 3) huge labour burden will be removed as the agricultural lands will be ready to be cultivated and then planted with fruit trees

The recruitment of the beneficiaries took place in close consultation with the following bodies:

- Mayor of yathrib
- Yathrib local government board
- Head of Department of Agriculture in yathrib

The yathrib Council Board supplied a list of priority beneficiaries that was cross checked using the HRF Selection Criteria. Additional beneficiaries will then be recruited at the local level in each of the project areas using the HRF Selection Criteria. HRF did not recruit beneficiaries without close consultation with the above bodies and in accordance with the selection criteria as detailed in the project document.

Funding was planned to recruit and employ on average x65 people per week for a period of approximately 13-weeks. As mentioned a priority was to ensure that a weekly minimum of 26 workers were women however this figure was raised were possible.

Main project stakeholders

- Director of Yathrib District
- Local Council for Yathrib
- Security forces Catcher of the area
- Head of Irrigation Department in Yathreb

Implementing arrangements

The project was managed by the Head of the HRF Tikrit Office under the direct supervision of the HRF Country Director based in the HRF baghdad Office. In addition the Country Director also based in the HRF baghdad Office carried out regular monitoring missions to yathrib. The required capacity building and training of key staff from the HRF Tikrit Office took place in Erbil and was conducted by the HRF technical advisors. The cash-for-work modality was managed by the HRF Cash-for-Work Coordinator based in Tikrit .

Main Achievements

The implementation of the agricultural stabilization project in Yathrib has had a clear impact on the lives of the families that were targeted through the program. Many families were preparing themselves to escape from reality in the area to other areas because of the lack of financial resources. This was reason create a situation of despair in the families that there is no chance to reform what was destroyed by terrorist organizations, but the implementation of the United Nations Development Program(undp) in the area of Yathrib

Despite the short duration and the limited number of beneficiaries compared to the persons of Yathrib area, this program returned the life of area and create some kind of optimism and hope for the future and that there is light at the end of the dark tunnel caused by terrorist organizations in yathrib.

The programs of (undp), which included several sections of land tillage and planting to daily work opportunities (cash for work) and enable families through the rehabilitation of livestock and street cleaning and maintenance and processing of pumps to save the Water to Re - Life to Farmer and Constructing a side channel irrigation in the village of Albu Fadous to deliver water to agricultural landFar from the main irrigation channel

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Yathrib has had the greatest impact on the lives of people and many beneficiaries have improved their living conditions. This has reflected their psychological condition and social relations with their families on the one hand and society on the other -Success story

1- Describe the widow (Bushra) His Status, as she is a mother of eight children, her husband was killed by terrorist organizations because of his work as a soldier in the Iraqi forces. She say when my husband was killed lost hope in life and I was terrified of the unknown future that awaited me and my children. so I fled with my children to Baghdad lived in my family's house, for a full year with a cases of tragic where the many problems I faced and finally decided to go back to my house in yathrib when I saw my house I shocked that the house was looted and burned completely. I was so miserable and desperate how I would restore my house.

I was surprised one day by a knocking on the my door. Young people from the human relief foundation carrying papers asking me for some information than they saw the damage of the house from inside . And they told me that I would be part of the UNDP grant to restore part of my house. I could not believe myself when they started working in the house and started renovating two rooms. I did not own myself. When the work was done, tears fell from my eyes. They returned hope in life and in the future . Now I and my children can live safely and safely in our house . Thank you UNDP

2-Umm Hussein is a widow with six children, (four daughters and two children), she have a land inherited from her husband and because of the weakness of economic situation, I have neglected the land after the death of my husband because of her illness, which did not know him. When the organization team came to my house, I did not believe to be part of the program because I am poor and I have no one but only my God. But when they told me that I would be part of the grant and that my land would be cleaned, plowed and cultivated I could not believe myself and I said that this is a dream and it will end. I did not believe myself when I work in my land Plant trees that I thought was dead and would not benefit.

My life was miserable and I felt sick and could not do anything . I feel now healthy and have no disease You have given me the hope of life. I am now a second woman with a goal in life, growing and raising her children I feel every day that I am sick and I suffer from pain in my head but after the organization started cleaning my land and planting it and planting it, I felt that my condition improved a lot. I gradually lost my pain and felt active, especially after I worked in my land farm. I feel that all my food is gone D the debt of life in my land I now have hope of a second command of life improvement in my mental contributed to my recovery I do not know how to thank me Adm my confidence and my family from the loss delivered the thank you

Implementation Progress

Output 1 Preparation of agricultural lands

Agriculture irrigated from the River Tigris is a critical livelihood activity for the people of yathrib. Farming not only directly sustains the local population but also provides valuable market products for the supply to regional markets that extends even as far as the capital Baghdad, as is the case in all agricultural areas along the River Tigris. Due to the recent protracted conflict many of the fields were not cultivated in 2015, resulting in a decline in locally produced food items, a loss of profits, and the overall collapse of local markets resulting in major food insecurity. In addition to the negative impact on food security many of the farm lands have been neglected and thus are now overgrown with weeds and scrub bushes. Also due to this period of neglect during the traditional farming seasons the top soils have been left exposed to rain, solar, and wind erosion. In addition, top soils in some framings areas were bulldozed into defensive mounds resulting in damage to farming areas, loss of top soils and increased soil erosion. These major agricultural constraints provided a critical entry point for the cash-for-work modality which was used to clear farm lands in preparation and to carry out a number of land conservation measures. In addition, other activities also included:-

- Cleaning the ground: where the land was cleaned of weeds and debris where more than 70 farms were cleaned
- Plowing the land: Within the program plowing more than 70 farms with an area of (4) acres per farm
- Cultivation of fruit trees: Because of the scarcity of water has been cultivating the land with various types of fruit trees, such as pomegranate, apple and other types of fruit trees and the area of 4 acres, where 70 farms were planted- Distribution of chemical fertilizers to farmers, where more than 14 tons of chemical fertilizers were distributed, including more than 70 farmers
- -In total, 2500 cash-for-work days were completed and 70 farmers for 70 beneficiaries were cleaned, plowed and planted and provided with chemical fertilizers. All project targets that were set in the work plan have been achieved.









Output 2 Repair of irrigation systems

Irrigation systems are critical to the river-based farming systems along the Tigris River. In most cases the irrigation pumps are powered by diesel generators but currently due to the damage of the generators many farmers have no energy supply. HRF focussed on the repair of on-farm irrigation pumps so HRF in partnership with the local authorities from the Salah Al-Din Governorate To identify beneficiaries who need to repair their pumps or replace them were identified beneficiaries At the detection of the location of these pumps show that most of the engines were stolen vital parts of them and no benefit from the repair, so it was agreed to repair part and buy a Big engines with a full pump ,each pump benefited 7 families A number of pumps were also repaired and materials were purchased provide , Irrigation channels were also cleaned to facilitate the flow of water and reach the farthest point

A total of 300 cash-for-work days were completed and There are 35 families benefiting from the repair of irrigation pumps .

All other project targets that were set in the work plan have been achieved.











Output 3 Restocking of livestock /bee keeping

The programme of Rehabilitation of livestock (cows, sheep, chickens, and beehives)has also partially contributed to local food security by implementing restocking measures that not only increased local food supply and thus availability but also ensured a degree of social mobility for the most vulnerable of poor village families by providing important economic assets in the form of livestock restocking (dairy cattle/poultry).

Cleaning and repair of cows, sheep and animal storage places has effectively contributed to the restocking and breeding of livestock

- -A total of 300 cash-for-work days were completed. In addition, a total of 35 cows were handed over, and 120 poultry farms . provision of beehives to 20 beekeepers and In addition, 100 heads of sheep were equipped for 25 beneficiaries
- -All project targets that were set in the work plan have been achieved.













Output 4 Rubble removal

In villages and areas that are still covered in debris and rumble a number of cash-for-work days was allocated to debris removal. This activity also served as a clear post-conflict indicator bringing a degree of psychological comfort as normality is brought back to village life.

A total of 600 cash-for-work days were completed.

All project targets that were set in the work plan have been achieved.



Output 5 Street cleaning

in the area of Yathrib , the streets were still covered with debris and rumble. The cleaning teams were formed with the purchase of necessary equipment. And we Cooperation with the local council of the district in the cleaning of streets, and the Cooperation with the population was also raised Remnants of waste left by residents and dumped on the road

This activity was a clear indicator of the return of Natural life to yathrib also served as a clear post-conflict indicator bringing a degree of psychological comfort as normality is brought back to village life. Cleaning the streets and removing waste and dirt is a good incentive for the residents

Preserving the clean streets and green spaces and highlighting the beauty of the area A total of 300 cash-for-work days were completed.

All project targets that were set in the work plan have been achieved.







A large number of houses were destroyed or looted and burned, so a number of housing grants were allocated to renovate parts of the house. A number of Iman were also allocated cash for housing repairs to the most vulnerable families

The reforms have varied between changing doors and windows or rehabilitating burnt rooms in terms of whitewashed walls, dyeing them and rehabilitating sanitary and electrical installation network.

The reconstruction of the role contributed to the restoration of stability for more than 73 families in the area of Yathrib and draw the smile on the faces of children and mothers who lost hope in life because of the tragic circumstances they have experienced in the past and also contributed to the improvement of their psychological and economic by obtaining a home to revive them again More than 73 house for weak families have been rapair in Yathrib

A total of 1000 cash-for-work days were completed

All project targets that were set in the work plan have been achieved.







Output 7: Filling the irrigation channel route with Clean Soil.

In Salah al-Din and in some villages of Yathrib district there were major conflicts between the tribes over the division of water developed into sectarian tendencies in the region and these tendencies reached the fighting among the tribes in the region and to alleviate these differences and try to return

The social fabric in the region has been the establishment of a side channel in the village of Albu Fadous to deliver water to areas away from the main canal and was started works. Assessment for channel route, benchmarking and leveling ,Mobilization for recruitment,Direct spraying, damping and pressing of soil, Implementation of backfilling activity to the required level, Excavating the filling channel using specialist equipment, Irrigation Department estimated that the amount of dirt needed to bury the channel channel up to 33000 m 3, but after the completion of the burial shows the real amount of clean soil used in burying the channel amounted to 41655 m3, a difference of 8655 m 3 This was supported by the Committee Irrigation Department Ishaqi overseeing the implementation of the channel

A total of 1194 cash-for-work days were completed

All project targets that were set in the work plan have been achieved.













Output 8 Lining the Channel route with concrete

in order to complete the irrigation channel in the village of Albu Fadous to work properly to deliver water to remote villages we began work mobilizing for recruitment and Lining Concrete and Filling the joints with Mastik

A total of 504 cash-for-work days were completed

All project targets that were set in the work plan have been achieved







Challenges and Issues

Managing expectations

- Because of the attacks on the city of Yathrib from ISIS, as well as the regional conflict and extremism and sectarian violence that took place in the province of Salah al-Din, which led to the displacement of many families on the Yathrib and after the liberation of the area has been holding the land from several security forces, (the Iraqi army and popular crowd and Alasab and Saraya Salam). The work permit may require obtaining approvals from all parties stated above and due to lack of knowledgeof the work of United Nations organizations A section of the organs has been undertaken the procedures for starting work which required the intervention of several parties to obtain approvals. This stopped our work for 15 days.
- demand in all project activities was much higher than the support and inputs that were provide. Consequently the community platform had to take a more active role in final beneficiary selection. In some cases the local Mayor would precede over section procedures such as the dairy cow distribution which was done through random picking names from a pile of beneficiaries that all met the 'vulnerable' selection criteria. Open transparency was key to ensuring these results were accepted by all the community.

Lessons Learned

Improvement in agricultural techniques and extension

The current stabilization programmes are based on the provision of inputs through 'financial inputs' as cash-for-work and 'agricultural inputs'. Both of these are forms of short duration stabilisation injections that provide an initial boost to upstart agricultural livelihoods, and return to previous farming systems. However, these systems are based on conventional agriculture that is dependent on chemical inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides. An effort should be made to make farmers more aware to organic and low-external- input-sustainable-agriculture (LEISA). This could take the form of: 1) establishing demonstration farms; 2) on-farm-training; 3) capacity building of local agriculture offices and extension staff. Such activities could still be delivered during a stabilisation programme allowing for the delivery of improved technical services for local farmers. These opportunities remain in the farming areas.

Solar irrigation

The river-based farming systems in Iraq provide excellent conditions to establish solar-based irrigation systems. This would involve the replacing of conventional irrigation equipment (using electricity or diesel pump supplies) with solar-powered irrigation equipment to build resilient river-based farming systems. It is strongly recommended that a pilot solar irrigation is developed in Iraq. HRF have now held meetings with solar equipment suppliers and are developing a concept note.

Result Framework Report

Intended Outcome:

SRP Outcome 2: Resilience is built through improved livelihoods, specifically increased employment and access to services.

SRP Indicator: 2.1: # of the most vulnerable host community and IDP families with increased access to income (Note: Each direct beneficiaries represent

one family with an average size of 6 who are all indirect beneficiaries)								
INTENDED OUTPUTS	INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	INPUTS	ACHIEVEMENTS
Output 1: Preparation of agricultural lands Indicators: 2500 CFW days completed; inputs for 70 farms given. Baseline: Targets:	Activity 1: Assessment of agricultural plots Activity 2: Prioritisation of plots Activity 3: Removal of weeds & shrubs through weeding and hoeing Activity 4: Formation of on-farm compost windrows using wastes Activity 5: Tilling and raking of top soils Activity 6: Provision of farm inputs to selected beneficiaries.	> >	>	> > > >	✓		\$159350	Total 2500 CFW days completed Farm inputs provided to 70 farms for planting and initial application of NPK fertilizer
Indicators: 300 CFW days; 6 transformer to be fixed, 35 irrigation	Activity 1: Liaison with District Board Activity 2: Beneficiary identification in cooperation with the district council Activity 3: Assessment of irrigation lines and irrigation pumps	✓					\$15000.00	Total 300 CFW days completed A number of pumps have been repaired and seven large size diesel pumps are equipped as an alternative to pumps that have been stolen 35 beneficiary families

Targets:	Activity 4: Relaying of irrigation pipes Activity 5: Repair of irrigation pumps				✓ ✓		
Output 3: Restocking of Livestock / bee keeping Indicators: 300 CFW days; 35 cows distributed; 120 poultry farms and 20 beekeepers restocked ,100 Liestock - sheep Baseline: Targets:	Activity 1: Identification of restocking beneficiaries Activity 2: Assessment of facilities Activity 3: Repair of facilities if required Activity 4: Provision of restocking items			✓ ✓	✓	\$93800.00	Total 300 CFW days completed Total 35 cows handed over. Total of 120 poultry farms and(20) beekeepers restocked ,100 Liestock - sheep
Output 4: Rubble Removal Indicators: 600 CFW days completed. Baseline: Targets:	Activity 1: Assessment of rubble disposal site Activity 2: Removal and transportation of rubble to disposal site Activity 3: Recruitment and training of rubble management teams Activity 4: Processing of rubble at disposal site Activity 5: Final disposal of inert materials	✓	✓	1	✓ ✓ ✓	\$34000	Total 600 CFW days completed The area of the remains of debris was cleaned in the streets, markets, public places and service departments by using shingles and dumped vehicles and moving them to places designated outside the area and according to the direction of the district director and local council

	Activity 6: Grouping of reusable materials for construction sector Activity 7: Processing of reusable materials for construction sector			✓			
Output 5: Street cleaning Indicators :300 CFW days completed Baseline: Targets:	Activity 1: Assessment of solid waste accumulation Activity 2: Prioritisation of intervention Activity 3: Recruitment and training of street cleaning teams Activity 4: Implementation of street cleaningteams Activity 5: Assessment of solid waste disposal site Activity 6: Removal and transportation of solid waste to disposal site	✓		√	* *	\$6,000.00	Total 300 CFW days completed
Output 6: housing repairs Indicators: 1000CFW days completed. Baseline: Targets:	Activity 1: Assessment of housing / room damage Activity 2: Costing of partial repairs Activity 3: Prioritisation of interventions Activity 4: Procurement of materials and allocation of repair team	✓ ✓	* * *	✓	✓ ✓	\$48,000.00	Total 1000 CFW days completed 73 house belonging to poor families in the area of reconstruction were repaired The reforms have varied between rehabilitating water and electricity networks, changing doors, windows and damaged glass, and rehabilitating and painting walls and ceilings.

Output 7: Filling the irrigation channel	Activity 1 Assesment for channel route, benchmarking and	·			
Target: Filling the irrigation channel route with clean soil, using machine	leveling Activity 2 Mobilisation for recruitment Activity 3-Direct spraying, damping and pressing of	1		167730\$	Total 1194 CFW days completed 66 beneficiaries of cash for money during the period of work for 7 weeks where the work was completed
operators and workers.:	Activity -4 Implementation of backfilling activity to the required level	✓ ✓			The course of the channel was determined and cleaned completely, and then the path of the channel was
	Activity- 5 Excavating the filling channel using specialist equipment	✓	✓		buried in the clean soil, then sprayed with the large chisels and then started digging the channel using the dredges
Output 8: Lining the Channel route with concrete. Indicators: 504 CFW. Baseline n/a Target: Lining the channel route with concrete, using machine operators and workers	Activity -1 Mobilisation for recruitment Activity -2 Lining Concrete Activity -3 Filling the joints with Mastik		✓ ✓	127375\$	Total 504 CFW days completed 41 beneficiaries from cash of work during the period of work for 4weeks where the work was completed
					The channel is lined with concrete from

Activity info Indicator Report

SRP/3RP Output	Indicator	Location 1: Yathrib		Location 2: (Name of camp or District/Governorate)		Location 3: (Name of camp or District/Governorate)	
		Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Objective 1: Preparation of agricultural lands							
1.1. Increased employment opportunities for returnees	# of returnees benefited temporary employment activities (cash for work etc.)	253	276				
1.2. Farm enterprises supported	# farm enterprises benefited through provision of farm inputs	33	37				
1.3. Farm enterprises supported	Number of returning farmers who benefited from land replanting		37				
	Objective 2: Repair of irrigation	systems					
2.1. Increased employment opportunities for returnees	# of returnees benefited temporary employment activities (cash for work etc.)	7	70				
2.2. Farm enterprises supported	# farm enterprises benefited through repair of irrigation	4	31				
Objective 3: Restocking of livestock/bee hives/fish farms							
3.1 Increased employment opportunities for returnees	# of returnees benefited temporary employment activities (cash for work etc.)	17	44				
3.2. Farm enterprises supported	# farm enterprises benefited through provision of dairy cow	35					

	# farm enterprises benefited through provision of sheep	21	4					
	# farm enterprises benefited through provision of poultry							
	# farm enterprises benefited through provision of bee hives							
	Objective 4: Rubble remova	l and						
4.1. Increased employment opportunities for returnees	# of returnees benefited temporary employment activities (cash for work etc.)	7	114					
	Objective 5 Street cleaning							
5.1. Increased employment opportunities for returnees	# of returnees benefited temporary employment activities (cash for work etc.)	9	47					
Objective 6: Housing repairs								
6.1. Increased employment opportunities for returnees	# of returnees benefited temporary employment activities (cash for work etc.)	11	192					
6.2. Housing repair grants	# of returnees benefited from houses repairs	38	34					
	Objective 7: Filling the irrigation channel ro	ute with Clea	n Soil.					
7.1 Increased employment	# of returnees benefited temporary employment activities (cash for work etc.)		66					
	Objective 8: Lining the Channel route							
8.1 Increased employment	# of returnees benefited temporary employment activities (cash for work etc.)		41					