Jordan is the second most water scarce country in the world. Water Dams are an important water source for the country. With 16.8 and 7.8 million cubic meters as storage capacity of Wadi Arab dam and Kufranja dams respectively, both of them are considered an important source of water for the local communities and the agricultural activities in the surrounding areas.

Funded by BMZ and implemented by GIZ, in collaboration with World Vision International, the project implemented in both Wadi Arab and Kufranja dams, aims to reduce the amount of sediments intake into the dams, and to maintain the storage capacity by implementing different landslides prevention techniques (constructing different structures and planting trees). This will lead to reduced risks of the dams to be blocked by silt, and of flooding in the future.

In addition, the project aims to tackle the high unemployment ratio and the lack of income-generating opportunities for those vulnerable. As a result, the project was designed to promote livelihoods and to provide short term employment opportunities to the Syrian refugees and host communities in the target areas. The project also provides raising awareness sessions to the local communities on environmental related topics.

**OVERALL OBJECTIVE:**

Reducing social tensions in Jordanian communities hosting Syrians by contributing to maintaining a stable level of water supply at Kufranja dam through provision of livelihoods opportunities (cash for work).

**Specific objective(s)/Outcome(s)**

- Decrease landslides within the Kufranja Dam facility by implementing landslide prevention techniques and taking initiatives to increase plantation coverage at the dam area.

- Provide cash-for-work opportunities to vulnerable Syrian Refugees and Jordanian host community members in the surrounding areas of Kufranja Dam.

- Increase awareness of local communities including youth in the target area about agricultural lands, soil sliding, water conservation and keeping the environment clean.
The dam protection project provided women with financial stability while teaching different skills which helped enrich their experience; it also helped develop their skills in agriculture.

Recruited more than 500 Syrian and Jordanian workers under the project activities, out of them, 101 (20%) female workers benefited from the project in the first phase.

Conducted 15 awareness sessions to 150 community members on water and environment-related topics.

More than 500 workers received training on employability and soft-skills.

More than 500 workers received technical training on construction activities.

17 structures were constructed during the first phase of the project around the dam area.

Planted more than 12,000 trees around the dam to prevent landslides and increase the green cover in the area.

The Kufranja and Wadi Al-Arab Dams projects are closely aligned with World Vision Syria Response’s strategy for 2021-2023 under its Livelihoods strategic objective “Improve most vulnerable household economic resilience through income generation and cash assistance” and “Improving household self-reliance through short term work opportunities and skill-building programs” by providing vulnerable host community and refugees with short-term employment (CFW) opportunities. These increase their participation in service provision and infrastructure, which, in return, strengthens households’ resilience, enabling parents and caregivers to provide for and protect their children.

This project also supports the country in dealing with water scarcity by protecting the water dams and maintaining its capacity, as well as, supporting the groundwater aquifer recharge.

“I wanted to further support my own family, to provide and extra income which will help us financially, my goal is to provide for my own family.”

Imtiyaz, Syrian refugee man from Jordan.

For more information, please visit www.wvi.org/syria-response

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