BACKGROUND:

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 Wadi Al-Arab dam through provision of livelihoods opportunities (cash for work).

Specific objective(s)/Outcome(s)

- Promote livelihood opportunities to vulnerable Syrian Refugees and Jordanian host community members in the surrounding areas of Wadi Al-Arab Dam.
- Protect Wadi Al-Arab Dam by maintaining the water storage capacity and strengthening the capacity of the Jordan Valley Authority and the workers.
- Raise awareness of local communities in the target area about flood mitigation at agricultural lands, soil erosion, water conservation and keeping the environment clean.
PROJECT’S ACHIEVEMENTS UP TO DATE

Recruited more than 1,222 Syrian and Jordanian worker under the project activities. More than 277 of them are female workers who benefitted from the project in the first two phases of its implementation.

Conducted 35 awareness sessions to more than 800 community members on water and environment related topics.

More than 850 workers received training on employability and soft-skills.

More than 850 workers received technical training on construction activities.

143 structures were constructed during the first 3 phases of the project around the dam area.

Planted more than 400 trees around the dam to prevent landslides and increase the green cover in the area.

STRATEGIC IMPACT

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 maintain its capacity, as well as, supporting the groundwater aquifer recharge.

“It is something I know how to do very well. It is also a great chance to meet new people and further develop my skills,” says Rakan, Syrian female refugees from Jordan.