

# INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE WASH INFRASTRUCTURE IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES IN YEMEN



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International Medical Corps provided water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services to more than 25 supported health care facilities (HCF) across Yemen with adequate water supply, regular water quality monitoring and chlorination, construction of medical waste zone, distribution of environmental health and latrine cleaning kits and train the HCF staff on infection prevention and control (IPC) and health care management.

## **Water Supply**

Prior to the crisis in Yemen, due to the indiscriminate drilling of wells and the unrestricted use of groundwater, water scarcity reached a level higher than that of many countries in the world. Unfortunately, after the crisis, some rural areas have no safe source of water due to the suspension of water projects and the inability of the state to dig wells and construction new water network systems. Also, with the shortage of fuel, economic conditions of the beneficiaries etc. water harvesting is considered a viable option. Ibb governorate is among the most exposed to rain and floods and therefore the exploitation of rainwater to meet the needs of health centers is a proposed solution by International Medical Corps and key local stakeholders. During 2019/2020 three health care facilities with catchment population of 41,716 people in Jiblah district, Ibb governorate have been benefited from the project of construction of masonry rain water harvesting tank with

capacity of 25-m<sup>3</sup>, equipped with small solar pump system to pump the water from the harvesting tank to the upper tanks. water collected from the rain harvesting will be sufficient for 6-7 months. Al-Rabadi health care center manager, said "": We have suffered a lot in the absence of a sustainable water source, especially during the waves of the cholera epidemic, although our region is characterized by heavy rains, but what is the benefit of all this rains when we cannot use or storage these rains? As for now, we are happy and satisfied after building this harvesting tank." The project is being implemented with financial support from USAID/OFDA.

## **Sanitation**

The sanitation structure is still weak or almost non-existent in most health facilities in Yemen, for example: Al-Rabadi health facility in Jiblah district, before our intervention, the wastewater was drained to the abyss of the mountain and then to the valley. and this is a very dangerous behavior because this wastewater contaminated with all kinds of diseases and is discharged through this valley to the communities surrounding the facility, in the beginning of the year 2020, International Medical Corps drilled a large cesspit with a sewage network for this health facility in amid of happiness from the community. During 2018/2019, International medical corps have built ten cesspits with sanitation networks in health facilities in Taiz and Ibb gov.

## Environmental Health

In order to minimize the negative impact on the environment and public health risks, International medical corps have improved waste management at health facilities and in the target communities through provision of supplies, services, operational support and trainings. At the health facility level, adequate actions have been putted in place to prevent the cross infections and adverse health impacts through appropriate disposal of hazardous medical waste and infection prevention control measures. Four health facilities in Ibb have been provided with incinerators and sharp pits as well as provide 10 health facilities in Ibb and Taiz with environmental health and latrine cleaning kits and train the HCF staff on infection prevention and control (IPC) and health care management. One of the supported HCF in Ibb, add: "As you know, our health facility is located in a remote and rugged mountainous area, so it is difficult for us to get rid of medical waste and needle residues in the absence of adequate facilities and the lack of basic hygiene materials due to the collapse of the government health system in the country, we have suffered a lot, but now the situation has changed after the intervention of International Medical corps by built a crematorium and an underground room to get rid of sharp materials and needle residues, as well as supporting us with basic cleaning materials for 6 months as well as we were trained in the management of medical and solid waste."

### WASH Infrastructures Rehabilitation

In Yemen, there are more than 3,000 health facilities spread throughout the country, 45% are fully operational, 38% work partially and 17% are out of service. The facilities face many obstacles in WASH infrastructures, among which are worn out, due to the failure to rehabilitate the building and its facilities in relation to the old facilities or the failure to complete the facilities due to the outbreak of the war in relation to the health facilities that were built recently before the war. International Medical Corps is supporting its health facilities in Yemen with rehabilitation works for WASH facilities. In Ibb governorate, the recently constructed health facility called Al-Rabadi, has been rehabilitated, and due to the war, the construction of important facilities in it were suspended and not completed, such as hand washing basins, water pipes, taps, and sewage network, as well as Paint, doors, windows and electrical sockets. In the beginning of 2020, International Medical corps completed all these works and handed it to the related stockholders. All this being implemented with support from USAID.



### WASH in health facilities Goals 2020/2021

We are planning to continue our works and supports to the health care facilities and indeed we already prepared all paper works to do rehabilitation works in four health care facility in the most remote areas of Taiz governorate, and continue our usual WASH support ' water trucking, waste management and construction sustainable infrastructures to more than 20 health care facility cross Yemen.

## USAID IN YEMEN

USAID provides humanitarian assistance to Yemenis in need, ensuring that the most vulnerable receive lifesaving assistance throughout the humanitarian crisis. Through the offices of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance and Food for Peace, USAID supports interventions including emergency food assistance, medical treatment and vaccination support for children, emergency obstetric services for women, blankets and household goods for displaced families, and hygiene kits and water treatment supplies to reduce the spread of disease. People of Ibb governorate in central Yemen is Accepting the USAID and they always said Thank you to the American people.

