INTEGRATED FOOD AND WASH RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT IN TWO DISTRICTS OF AL-DHALEA AND DHAMAR GOVERNORATES

Al-Husha and Wesab Al-Safil

CONDUCTED BY POLICIES, RESEARCH AND COMPLIANCE UNIT
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1. INTRODUCTION:

In Yemen, more than 18.8 million people, including women and children have been thrust into high and deeply concerning levels of humanitarian situations; some of the worst in the world, 60% of them (10.8 million) are in acute needs. This includes 14 million people unable to meet their food needs (of whom 7 million are severely food insecure), 14.4 million who lack clean water and sanitation, 14.7 million without adequate healthcare and 3.3 million are acutely malnourished (HNO, 2017).

The intensification of the ongoing crises in Yemen continues to create many humanitarian challenges in term of emergency levels of food insecurity, livelihood changes, malnutrition and other humanitarian needs.

The impacts of the ongoing conflict since March 2015 have left many in fear, displaced millions of people, while hundreds of thousands have lost their livelihoods and are facing serious starvation. Furthermore, because of the ongoing and escalated conflict in the country, food security situation and livelihood has largely deteriorated and has pushed millions of people to the brink of famine.

Likewise, the humanitarian Need Overview (HNO, 2017) and 13th TFPM report (as of March 2017) reiterate that WASH needs in Yemen are also acute and lack of access to clean water is reported as a key priority.
YFCA has conducted an integrated food and WASH community-based rapid need assessment in Al-Husha of Al-Dhalea governorate and Wesab Al-Safil in Dhamar governorate. The overall aim of this assessment was to assess the needs of populations of the two districts and sub-districts and to identify the appropriate interventions that shall meet the needs of these areas in the term of food and WASH. The results of the assessment are discussed within this document, and will be used to better inform and target YFCA’s planned activities in the two districts and the targeted sub-districts.

The preparation of this assessment started from 18th of September 2017 passing through teams’ formation and training then the data collection carried out during September 18 - 25 2017.

The main goal of this need assessment was to get a situational overview of needs and provide detailed understanding of food insecurity, livelihood changes and vulnerabilities conditions along with needs for WASH interventions for the most affected communities in Al-Husha and Wesab Al-Safil districts. It also covers the functionality assessment of local markets at the targeted districts and sub-districts. It will be in line with the ongoing humanitarian priorities to address and overcome the high priorities that Yemen is in great and urgent need for.
1.1 Specific objectives:

- To assess the food security, livelihood changes and WASH situation of communities in the targeted districts and sub-districts.
- To assess local priorities surrounding needs and identify local capacities and resources to meet needs,
- To identify the most livelihood activities in these communities and identify the priority needs, responses and coping mechanisms of men and women.
- To determine the priorities of those areas and their needs in term of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene to ensure better functional water sources in the two districts.

Findings of this assessment will be essential to obtain reliable information that will contribute and used to design a better responses and interventions needed to meet the food security and livelihood needs in the immediate, short and medium term. Also, the results will be used to better inform and target YFCA’s planned activities in the two districts and the targeted sub-districts.

1.1 BACKGROUND

1.1.1 Food security and Livelihood

In general, Yemen is greatly dependent on importing the food items from markets outside the country to meet the local demand and requirements and majority of Yemeni community and household procure their food needs from the local markets. The current conflict has greatly impacted the food imports and market supply and that led to prices increase of both imported food and local produced goods. It is important to note that the current economic decline should be considered a crucial factor that affects people’s financial ability in purchasing enough food. Because of the current conflict, the financial crisis has also affected the people’s livelihood activities and their assets and created various hardships of population’s capabilities to access assets, food and markets more difficult.

1.1.2 Water, sanitation, and hygiene

An estimated 14.4 million people require assistance to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation, including 8.2 million who are in acute need. This represents an increase of 8 per cent since late 2014, and the severity of needs has intensified.

1.1.3 Snapshots of situation in target governorates

YFCA has conducted this need assessment in the target districts due to the critical humanitarian reality in these districts. The great needs for humanitarian assistance in these districts are summarized as follow:
1.1.4 Al-Husha district- Al-Dhalea governorate:

The district of Al-Husha in Al-Dhalea governorate districts that populated with 93,796 people (TFPM Sep. 2016) and it has been witnessing a crisis of chronic food insecurity for many years. According to the FSAC 2017 Yemen HNO data, it was estimated that total of 87% of the total population of the districts are considered to be in need (PIN) (19,442 men, 17,964 women, 23,057 boys and 21,096 girls), of them (51,593) people are in acute need.

Latest IPC results in 2017 show that Al-Husha district was classified as very high priority district and in IPC phase 3 due to the fact that Al-Husha is among the highest GAM rate (17.0%) and 24.4% food insecurity rate.

1.1.5 Wesab Alsafil district – Dhamar governorate

Wesab Alsafil districts locate in the western side of Dhamar governorate with very difficult topography and geographical conditions and very hard to move between its regions and sub-districts with total population of 240.904 (TFPM Se. 2016).

Moreover, Wesab Alsafil is one of the highest priority areas due to the poor food indicators, the food consumption (22.5% poor and 36.4% borderline) and the negative copings on food as 30.6% of the people borrow food or rely on help to get food and 19.4% have reduced their number of meals per day as per EFSNA preliminary results 2016.

According to the latest IPC results, Wesab Alsafil was classified as phase 3. The GAM and food insecurity figures are 21.2% and 24.1% respectively.
1.1.6 WASH in targeted districts and Sub-districts

There are huge needs for various WASH needs and intervention in the targeted districts and sub-districts of Al-Husha and Wesab Al-Safil. The access to water sources in Al-Husha and Wesab A-Safil sub-districts is very poor along with the access to latrines and poor hygienic practices. It is worth mentioning that both governorates (Al-Dhalea and Dhamar) are considered among the highest governorates where the Acute Diarrheal Diseases AWD cases have reported according to the WHO Epidemiology bulletin updates as of September 22, 2017. Around 40,120 and 63,753 AWD cases were reported in Al-Dhalea and Dhamar respectively with 79 death cases were recorded in Al-Dhalea and 151 death cases in Dhamar.
1.2 Key Findings:

The key findings are summarized in the below table,

**Table 1 Summary of Focus Groups Discussions findings based on Cluster level indicators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Food Security indicators</strong></th>
<th><strong>WASH</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local market functionality and accessibility:</strong></td>
<td>Primary source of water:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 90% of the participants reported difficulties in accessing the local markets, Of the targeted groups, the most affected groups were women, marginalized and disabled.</td>
<td>The assessment has found that people depend on which are wells (protected and unprotected) and unprotected rainwater tanks as their primary source of water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Distance to the market:</strong> -there were varieties in distance to the market responses that range between 30 min – 1 hour,</td>
<td><strong>Distance to water source :</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost to reach the market:</strong> the cost to reach nearest market ranged from 1000 YR – more than 3000 YR,</td>
<td>The distance to water points reported very far and the estimated time needed to reach the water fetching ranged from 1 hour to 3 hours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food Stock:</strong> some people in the targeted sub-districts have some kind of food stock, but majority of the people don’t have</td>
<td>It was reported that women and daughters who undertaken the water fetching, the water is transferred by car or they carry jerrycans on back or by donkeys,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coping Strategies:</strong> more than 75% of the community groups reported negative coping strategies.</td>
<td><strong>Water storage unit:</strong> Only few of the population have water storage unit with led.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Livelihood Activities :</strong> 30% of people are depending on farming, 10% employees, 10% transport, 40% piecemeal and daily wages works, 5% remittance and 5% labor out of their areas,</td>
<td><strong>Access to latrines:</strong> Community groups and KI stated that more than 70% of the population has no access to latrines, and some used simple dry pit latrines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transportation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Household Hygiene practices and promotion</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sold household assets and reduced health – including drugs- and education expenditures,</td>
<td>most people use soap but have problems affording the cost of soap and some are not using soap regularly as the soap is not available. A high proportion of the participants reported most families experienced diarrhea in the last 30 days.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Challenges of agricultural activities:**
lack of capitals, scarcity of water and rain, lack & high cost of inputs (seeds and fertilizers)

**Local market functionality and accessibility:**
More than 85% of the participants reported difficulties in accessing the local markets, due to the very long distance, transportation difficulties and financial barriers especially with the continuous increase of prices.

- **Distance to the market:** people need between 30 min – 1 hour and more to reach the markets, by cars,
- **Cost to reach the market:** the cost to reach nearest market ranged from 1000 YR – more than 3000 YR,

**Food Stock:** All participants have agreed that less than 10% of population in the targeted sub-districts have food stock, but majority of the people don’t have food stock that shall be enough for 2 weeks,

**Coping Strategies:**
more than 80% of the community groups reported that people follow many negative coping strategies

**Livelihood Activities:** people tend to rely on remittance, piecemeal and daily wages works and many have work out of their areas,

**Livelihood coping mechanisms:** majority of residents of the target communities have engaged in more than one livelihood coping mechanisms, mostly borrowed money, purchased food on debit, sold productive assets

**Challenges of agricultural activities:** lack of capitals, scarcity of water and rain water, lack & high cost of inputs (seeds and fertilizers),

**Access to water source**
It was reported that people spent 30min – 1hour to reach the water source, All community groups agreed that all people do water fetching by women (mother- daughter)

only 30% reported that households have containers with lid and some have containers but without lid, and 450% of the people used plastic pots and gallons to store drinking water.

**Access to latrines and type of available latrine**
Community groups and KI stated that 45% of the population have no access to latrines, some used simple dry pit latrines.

**Household Hygiene practices and promotion**
the community groups and KI stated that most people don’t use soap because lack of enough water,
2. Methodology

This integrated food and WASH – community based rapid need assessment was carried out by the YFCA team between 18 – 25 of September 2017 in some sub-districts of Al-Husha district in Al-Dhalea governorate and Wesab Al-Safil sub-districts of Dhamar governorate. YFCA has developed the assessment tools based on the recent guidance notes and indicators of food security and WASH clusters that shall collect data through focus group discussions in the targeted communities.
2.1 Assessment Areas:

The food security and WASH community-based rapid need assessments were conducted in five sub-districts in Al-Husha district of Al-Dhalea and five sub-districts in Wesab Al-Safil of Dhamar governorate. The selection of the districts was based on the shared list of highest priorities areas for interventions under envelope one of the 2nd standard allocation and the coordination with local authorities, partners, governmental authorities, clusters and sub-clusters as well.

An extensive coordination was done to avoid any duplication with partners who might have some interventions in some of sub-districts in these two districts. For this purpose and after close coordination with local authorities, sub-national clusters of food and WASH in Aden hub and Sana’a hub, those sub-districts with no interventions are implemented by other partners were selected for this rapid need assessment. The following table demonstrates the selected sub-districts in Al-Husha and Wesab Al-Safil:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governorate</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Sub-district</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Al-Dhalea</td>
<td>731,496</td>
<td>Al-Husha (93,796 inhabitant)</td>
<td>Atabah – Amarah Ulia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Amarah Sufla – Bani Malik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bani Subh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhamar</td>
<td>2,012,264</td>
<td>Wesab Al-Safil (240,904 inhabitant)</td>
<td>Bani Ghushaim- Al-Majouhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Al-Athlath - Bani Salamah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wadi Al-Khashab</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2 Assessment Tools:

This assessment is a qualitative based method and designed to be a community-based activity that adopts focus group discussions for different community groups in the target districts. Two forms were developed to fulfill the overall objectives of this assessment that shall give a clear picture on the reality of these districts’ needs in terms of food and WASH. The recent guidance notes received from the relevant food and WASH clusters guided the developed forms. The developed forms are as follow:
- Food security, Livelihood and WASH community-based assessment tools:

**Food and Livelihood FGD tool:**

An assessment tool was prepared by YFCA that guided by the recent guidance note and indicators for food security. The health assessment tool was used to assess the different needs, priorities and challenges for communities in the target districts and sub-districts. The used food and livelihood assessment tool has covered various aspects such as local market functionality and accessibility, food stock, coping strategies of most people in the community, Livelihood activities and coping mechanisms and challenges to agricultural activities.

**WASH FGD tool:**

The WASH aspects and indicators were covered in the FGD tool such as primary source of water, accessibility to water source, latrines accessibility and hygiene practices. In addition, among the assessment team, a WASH specialist conducted filed visits to selected water sources in the targeted sub-districts to identify maintenance priorities that should be considered to ensure better functionality of these sources.

The focus group discussions form was developed to facilitate managing the different community informants points of views, the recommended gender and protection mainstreaming issues were considered as well.

### 2.3 Sampling

Random sampling method was used to conduct the assessment. Total of 70 of communities’ groups in both districts include the following groups:

- Community leaders (local authority),
- Social leaders,
- Representatives of water authority,
- Health authority,

- and women from 10 sub-districts in both Al-Husha and Wesab Al-Safil districts were interviewed used the opened & closed questionnaire forms designed for each groups. Total of 10 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted (5 in each district), participants in each one ranged between 7 – 9 of men and women.
2.4 Data collection:
The data collection was performed between 18 – 25 September 2017. YFCA formed 4 data collection teams in the two targeted districts (2 male and 2 female teams). Those teams have conducted 10 FGDs with community members including community leaders (social leaders and local authority). The selection of community members was done through coordination with the local authority in each sub-district.

3. Findings:
In this section, the detailed summaries of communities’ focus groups discussions are displayed for each sector of food and in the targeted districts and sub-districts of Al-Husha and Wesab Al-Safil.

Total of 70 of communities’ members, community leaders (local authority), social leaders, representatives of water authority, health authority, and women from 10 sub-districts in both Al-Husha and Wesab Al-Safil districts were interviewed used the developed forms designed for each groups. Total of 10 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted (5 in each district), participants in each one ranged between 7 – 9 of men and women.

Table 3 Community groups attended FGDs in the districts of Al-Husha and Wesab Al-Safil

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Community leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Al-Husha</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wesab Al-Safil</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Graph of Al-Husha](image)

![Graph of Wesab Al-Safil](image)
3.1 Al-Husha district of Al-Dhalea governorate:

3.1.1 Summary of FOOD community group discussion- Al-Husha The table (4) below displays the analysis of the different community groups’ responses to the FOOD questions, the key questions were to tackle the main issues and needs for the community groups based on the gender mainstreaming.
### Table 4 Summary of Food related community responses in Al-Husha targeted sub-districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Responses from the community groups - Al-Husha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Local Markets accessibility and functionality | -There was an agreement among community participants that there are problems and needs related to food in the targeted sub-districts.  
- The causes for food challenges were attributed to the lack of enough food, community inabilities to afford it, and lack of fuel to cook with,  
- More than 90% of the participants reported difficulties in accessing the local markets. Of the targeted groups, the most affected groups were women, marginalized and disabled.  
- This is because increasing cost of goods, transportation problems, road conditions & security and some groups in the community can’t afford the food,  
- One sub-districts (Atabah) stated that market is not functional,  
- **(Women groups)** have reported that women in different sub-districts in Al-Husha are not allowed to access the market for a social norms related factors,  
- There were varieties in distance to the market responses that range between 30 min – 1 hour,  
- Similarly, the cost to reach nearest market ranged from 1000 YR – more than 3000 YR, |
| Distance to the market | |
| Cost to reach the market | |
| Market assessment and analysis | Snapshot of market assessment and analysis was done based on the approved (WFP) minimum food basket. YFCA assessment team checked the availability of the identified items for FOOD and WASH in the local markets of Al-Husha district as follow;  
- The market is considered as low access (more than 60 min to reach),  
- FOOD items that were studied their availability in the local market, they are somehow available but could be afford,  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOOD Items</th>
<th>WASH Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Basic food items such as: wheat flour, rice, cooking oil, sugar, beans, salt, bottled water</td>
<td>- Hygiene commodities such as; soap, bar, washing powder, towel cotton, jerrycans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Stock</td>
<td>- All participants have agreed that only some people in the targeted sub-districts have some kind of food stock, but majority of the people don’t have food stock that shall be enough for 2 weeks,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Any humanitarian assistance been provided in the targeted sub-districts

-All groups declared that no previous humanitarian assistance (specifically milk products for children) been given by any agency since the beginning the emergency,

Coping Strategies

-“Purchasing food on credits, rely on help from a friend or relative, rely on less preferred and less expensive foods and limit portions size at mealtimes” were the most common reported coping strategies that describe how the community cope with food shortages,

Livelihood activities

-according to the discussion groups, 30% of people are depending on farming, 10% employees, 10% transport, 40% piecemeal and daily wages works, 5% remittance and 5% labor out of their areas,
- red corns, sorghum) and maize were the most corps cultivated in Al-Husha sub-districts for the topography nature of the soil and the area,
-Cows and goats were the main animal reared in the different sub-districts of Al-Husha district,

Livelihood coping mechanisms

-all participants stated that most of residents of the target communities have engaged in at least one or more livelihood coping mechanisms, mostly borrowed money, purchased food on debit, sold productive assets (means of transportation), sold household assets and reduced health –including drugs- and education expenditures,

Challenges of agricultural activities

-Challenges: -lack of capitals, scarcity of water and rain, lack & high cost of inputs (seeds and fertilizers) and some people don’t own land so they could not afford the cost of farming when they get very little products in return and no reason to keep the land,

Main issues/ challenges related to food

-All groups responded that no specific livelihood activities that only women do as out-door activities but help in farming and fetching water are the most roles for women,

-ensure provision of enough food,
-scarcity of funds and cash,
-markets are not easily accessible, (far away- high cost…etc.)
-no rains,
-increase goods prices dramatically,
| Underlying causes/ factors | - Food insecurity due to reduction or loss in crop production  
- no stable source of income for most people of Al-Husha district,  
- financial crises that affected the agricultural activities that most people used to carry,  
- participants indicated most challenges against the current conflict and its negative repercussions,  
- lack and high cost of fuel (especially the cooking gas)  
- weakness of humanitarian work for areas specifically where clashes are exist,  
- collapse of the system (socioeconomic, governance and political),  
- low awareness level,  
- Lack of labor and business opportunities, |
|---|---|
| Priorities related to food needs | - basic food needs (wheat, grains- beans, rice, milk, sugar, fuel, cash, cooking oil,  
- support farmers to rely on corps and agriculture. |
| Suggested effective interventions | - food distribution,  
- in-kind support,  
- Provide the basic food need (by the INGOs),  
- Support the citizens to have better farming activities and livestock)  
- work opportunities for youth  
- food support should be provided along with WASH and health interventions,  
- support livelihood include (livelihood protection, livelihood promotion and livelihood recovery.  
- Livelihood protection such as Seed and Tool distribution  
- Distribution of / support to animal traction.  
- Distribution of agricultural inputs(fertilizer)  
- rehabilitation of community assets such as water cisterns, farming lands and roads to improve access to food and other services as well as this will contribute in sustaining services and diversify HHs income. |
| Preferred modality of community engagement | - in order to ensure better and effective community engagement and partnership, the participants stated that communicating and involving community committees (male and female), community workers and hotline will be their preferred modality of community engagement in humanitarian interventions. |
3.1.2 Summary of WASH - Community group discussion- Al-Husha

The table (5) below displays the analysis of the different community groups’ and KI responses to the WASH questions, the key questions were to tackle the main issues and needs for the community groups based on the gender mainstreaming.

**Table 5 Summary of communities’ responses for WASH sector – Al-Husha sub-districts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Community groups Responses - Al-Husha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Source of water</td>
<td>of the participants have agreed that very limited numbers of 85% water sources that people depend on which are wells (protected and unprotected) and unprotected rainwater tanks are the main source of water in all Al-Husha sub-districts and villages. <em>(See Photos Annex)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to clean water source</td>
<td>of the respondents have no access to clean water source. It is 85% reported that women, children, old aged and the poor were the most affected group in accessing a clean water sources even if the water trucking is available, but people can’t afford the cost of water trucking in addition to the rugged &amp; bumpy roads that trucks can’t pass by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to clean water source</td>
<td>All community groups have confirmed that all people have problems and difficulties accessing enough water for their needs. No public water network in the district the distance to water points was reported to be very far and the estimated time spent for water fetching ranged from 1 hour to 3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance-</td>
<td>Unfortunately, the water fetching seems to be a female job in Al-Husha district where all participants stated that either mothers or daughters who undertake the role of water fetch worth mentioning that fetching water is done only by car or donkeys due to the long distance, and still some people have to carry the water on back (carry the jerrycans on back Yes, around 80&amp; of the people in the targeted sub-districts depend on water fetching from the nearest water points or wells ,All people have jerry cans that used for water fetching- Apparently that fetching water is a problem as stated by the :community participants because</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water storing units</td>
<td>Of the community groups, only 30% reported that households have containers with lid and some have containers but without lid,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water treatment</td>
<td>No, people in Al-Husha sub-districts are not using any method for water treatment. This is because people believe that water is clean and does not need any treatment, people do not have materials for this purpose and do not know any treatment methods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coping means to lack of water</td>
<td>For the severe lack of water, the people in Al-Husha sub-districts tend to follow the below coping mechanisms:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Latrines</td>
<td>Community groups and KI stated that more than 70% of the population have no access to latrines, some used simple dry pit latrines. The related problems to latrines are: insufficient (absence) of water, existing latrines are not clean/unhygienic,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygiene practices</td>
<td>The community groups and KI stated that most people use soap but have problems affording the cost of soap and some are not using soap regularly as the soap is not available. In general, the KI reported that most of HH in the community practiced hand washing before eating their meals,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- it reduces time usually spent on other tasks,
- force households to complement with closer, less desirable water source,
- reduce amount of water accessible to households,

- of the community groups, only 30% reported that households have containers with lid and some have containers but without lid,

- for the severe lack of water, the people in Al-Husha sub-districts tend to follow the below coping mechanisms:
  - reduce water consumption for hygiene practices,
  - go for water fetching,
  - spend the money that usually spent on other things to buy water,
  - and drink water usually used for cleaning or other purposes than drinking,

- community groups and KI stated that more than 70% of the population have no access to latrines, some used simple dry pit latrines.

The related problems to latrines are: insufficient (absence) of water, existing latrines are not clean/unhygienic,

- Female participants raised the problems of lack of privacy where no separation between latrines for men and women, also most people have no latrines due to poverty,

- The common type of latrines in Al-Husha sub-districts are:
  - flush latrine to the open area,
  - flush latrine to a tank,
  - pit latrine-covered with slab,
  - use sheepfold as a latrine for defecation,
### Household and community wastes

- 70% of the community groups and Ki stated that children in Al-Husha sub-districts usually experiencing diarrheal diseases,

**Accessing the hand washing facilities:** the community groups and Ki reported that more than a half of the residents in Al-Husha sub-districts have no access to hand washing facilities,

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- More than half of the residents in Al-Husha sub-districts have no access to hand washing facilities,

- Waste is a serious public health problem in Al-Husha district and sub-districts. The community groups and Ki reported that the garbage left in street containers by households, not collected properly and it burned. Because of the salaries cutouts, the garbage is collected once every two weeks or once a month.

- Most areas of the community have many piles of garbage everywhere in the streets,

### Sewage/ waste water management in the community

- The participants and Ki stated that most areas of the community have had issues with sewage once or twice (visible wastewater sometimes in the streets but in other areas the sewage problem is constant. This should be linked to the type of latrines and sewage system that population in Al-Husha have as majority have flush latrines to an open areas.

### Key issues/ challenges related to WASH

- Severe lack of water due to the absence of public piped water network in the entire district
- Hardship in fetching water and reaching the sources of water
- Lack of wells, if exist are not covered.
- Inability of most citizens to get/buy water tanks for water storing.
- Latrines and sewage system is totally broken,
- Therefore, waste water and sewage in visible in the streets,

### Suggested effective interventions

- Provide main water tank for the catchment and public piped water network. Support houses with water storing unit for water,
- Support households with water filters,
- Support water well maintenance,
- It is crucial to raise the public awareness in water treatment technics.
- Empower purchasing capabilities of people to obtain hygienic items and food from the local markets,
3.1.3 Water sources correction needs: Al-Husha

In this section, many observation points are addressed that made by YFCA WASH specialist while visiting some of water sources in Al-Husha targeted sub-districts. Two wells have been visited by YFCA – WASH specialist, they are Al-dakhlah and Al-maihali wells in Al-Husha district.

Since the people of Al-Husha sub-districts depend on wells (protected and unprotected) and unprotected rainwater tanks, it is necessary to introduce few maintenance and rehabilitation activities to these wells.

Few suggested interventions that shall ensure functionality of these and other wells:

- All unprotected wells should be covered,
- Establish a stone / protection wall around the wells, and irrigation basins to be built specifically for animals,
- Coating the inner walls of the wells using Portland cement,
- Install a metal pipes that connect the wall to tanks,
- Rain water harvesting,
3.2 Wesab Al-Safil district of Dhamar governorate:

3.2.1 Summary of FOOD community group discussion- Wesab Al-Safil

The table (6) below displays a summary of the different community groups’ and KI responses to the FOOD questions, the key questions were to tackle the main issues and needs for the community groups based on the gender mainstreaming.
Table 6 Summary of Food related responses (FGDs) in Wesab Al-Safil targeted sub-districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Responses from the community groups – Wesab Al-Safil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Markets accessibility and functionality</td>
<td>-The community participants and KIs all agreed that there are problems and extreme needs related to food in the targeted sub-districts of Wesab Al-Safil, -The causes attributed to the sever food needs were: the lack of enough food, community inabilities to afford it, and lack of fuel to cook with, -More than 85% of the participants reported difficulties in accessing the local markets, due to the very long distance, transportation difficulties and financial barriers especially with the continuous increase of prices, -this is because increasing cost of goods, transportation problems, road conditions &amp; security and some groups in the community can’t afford the food, -(Women groups) have reported that women in different sub-districts in Wesab Al-Safil are not allowed to access the market for social norms related factors, -the respondents described the distance is very far and people need between 30 min – 1 hour and more to reach the markets, by cars, -similarly, people need to pay 1000 YR – more than 3000 YR for the transportation to reach the markets,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market assessment and analysis</td>
<td>In the assessment, market analysis was done based on the approved (WFP) minimum food basket. YFCA assessment team checked the availability of the identified items for FOOD and WASH in the local markets of Wesab Al-Safil district as follow; -the market is considered as low access (more than 60 min to reach),</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOOD Items</td>
<td>-Basic food items such as: wheat flour, rice, cooking oil, sugar, beans, salt, bottled water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH Items</td>
<td>-Hygiene commodities such as; soap, bar, washing powder, towel cotton, jerrycans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Stock:</td>
<td>-All participants have agreed that less than 10% of population in the targeted sub-districts have food stock, but majority of the people don’t have food stock that shall be enough for 2 weeks,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any humanitarian assistance been provided in the targeted sub-districts</td>
<td>-No previous humanitarian assistance (specifically milk products for children) been given by any agency since the beginning the emergency,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Coping Strategies

- “Purchasing food on credits, rely on help from a friend or relative, rely on less preferred and less expensive foods and limit portions size at mealtimes” were the most common reported coping strategies that describe how the community cope with food insecurity.

### Livelihood activities

- People in Wesab Al-Safil are likely to have very limited livelihood activities due to the hard topography factors, where people tend to rely on remittance, piecemeal and daily wages works and many have work out of their areas,
- also there are government employees who have not received wages for 8 months,
- red corns (sorghum) and maize were the most corps cultivated in Wesab Al-Safil sub-districts for the topography nature of the soil and the area,
- Cows and goats were the main animal reared in the different sub-districts of Wesab Al-Safil district,
- All groups responded that no specific livelihood activities that only women do as out-door activities but help in farming and fetching water are the most roles for women,

### Livelihood coping mechanisms

- all participants stated that majority of residents of the target communities have engaged in more than one livelihood coping mechanisms, mostly borrowed money, purchased food on debit, sold productive assets (means of transportation), sold household assets, reduced health –including drugs- and education expenditures and unfortunately begging and withdraw children from schools,

### Challenges of agricultural activities

- **Challenges**: lack of capitals, scarcity of water and rain water, lack & high cost of inputs (seeds and fertilizers),

### Main issues/ challenges related to food

- scarcity of funds and cash,
- markets are not easily accessible, (far away- high cost…etc.)
- no rains,
- increase goods prices dramatically,

### Underlying causes/ factors

- Food insecurity due to reduction or loss in crop production
- no stable and secured source of income for most people of Wesab Al-Safil district,
- financial crises that affected the agricultural activities which most people used to practice,
- participants indicated most challenges against the current conflict and its negative repercussions,
- lack and high cost of fuel (especially the cooking gas)
- weakness of humanitarian work for areas specifically where clashes are exist,
- low awareness level,
- lost jobs and work opportunities,
### Priorities related to food needs
- Basic food needs (wheat, beans, rice, milk, sugar, fuel, cash,
- Better work opportunities (alternative opportunities),

### Suggested effective interventions
- Ensure provision of enough food support,
- Food distribution,
- In-kind support,
- Food support should be provided along with WASH and health interventions,
- Distribution of cooking set,
- Resume of wages and salaries to mitigate people suffer,
- Restart/ restore livelihood activities,
- Support livelihood include (livelihood protection, livelihood promotion and livelihood recovery.
  - Livelihood protection such as Seed and Tool distribution
  - Distribution of or support to animal traction.
  - Distribution of agricultural inputs (fertilizer)
  - Water supply is necessary (not only for drinking but also for farming),
- Rehabilitation of community assets such as water cisterns, farming lands and roads to improve access to food and other services as well as this will contribute in sustaining services and diversify HHs income.

### Preferred modality of community engagement
- In order to ensure better and effective community engagement and partnership, the participants stated that communicating and involving community committees (male and female), community workers and hotline will be their preferred modality of community engagement in humanitarian interventions.

### 3.2.2 Summary of WASH - Community group discussion- Wesab Al-Safil
The table (7) below displays the analysis of the different community groups’ and KI responses to the WASH questions, the key questions were to tackle the main issues and needs for the community groups based on the gender mainstreaming
### Questions

#### Primary Source of water

All community groups and KIs agreed that very limited numbers of water sources that people totally depend on which are rainwater tanks (protected and unprotected), superficial wells (water ponds) and water trucking are the main source of water in all Wesab Al-Safil sub-districts and villages. *(See Photos Annex)*

- People of Wesab Alsafil depend on open rainwater collected tanks and wells and only few who can afford water trucking. People also use plastic pots and gallons to store drinking water.

#### Access to clean water source

80% of the respondents have no access to clean water source. It is reported that women, children, old aged and the poor were the most affected group in accessing a clean water sources.

- even if the water trucking is available, but people can’t afford the cost of water trucking in addition to water sources are very far, and the rugged roads that trucks can’t pass by,

#### Access to clean water source - Distance

All discussion groups and KIs confirmed that all people have problems and difficulties accessing enough water for their needs. No public water network in the district.

- the distance to water points was reported to be very far and the estimated time spent for water fetching ranged from 1 hour to 2 hours.

#### Water fetching

- Unfortunately, it seems that the water fetching is a female job in Wesab Al-Safil district where all participants stated that either mothers or daughters who undertake the role of water fetch,

- worth mentioning that fetching water is done only by feet and carry the water on back (carry the jerrycans on back),

- Yes, around 80% of the people in the targeted sub-districts depend on water fetching from the nearest water points or wells.
- All people have jerry cans that used for water fetching,
- Apparently that fetching water is a problem as stated by the community participants because:
  - it reduces time usually spent on other tasks,
  - force households to complement with closer, less desirable water source,
  - reduce amount of water accessible to households,
  - and unfortunately prevent children from attending schools and classes,
- long distances from the water point are also a problem,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water storing units</th>
<th>-of the community groups, 60% reported that households have containers with lid and other have only jerrycans,</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water treatment</td>
<td>People in Wesab Al-Safil sub-districts are not using any method for water treatment. This is because people believe that water is clean and does not need any treatment; people do not have materials for this purpose and do not know any treatment methods.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Coping means to lack of water | -for the severe lack of water, the people in Wesab Al-Safil sub-districts tend to follow the below coping mechanisms:  
  - reduce water consumption for hygiene practices,  
  - go for water fetching,  
  - and drink water usually used for cleaning or other purposes than drinking, |
| Access to Latrines  | -community groups and KI stated that more than 45% of the population have no access to latrines, some used simple dry pit latrines.  
  The related problems to latrines are: insufficient (absence) of water, existing latrines are not clean/unhygienic,  
  - Female participants raised the problems of lack of privacy where no separation between latrines for men and women, also most people have no latrines due to poverty,  
  - The common type of latrines in Wesab Al-Safil sub-districts are:  
    - flush latrine to the open area,  
    - pit latrine-open/without slab (unimproved),  
    - lack of water is also a problem for latrine access, |
| Hygiene practices   | -the community groups and KI stated that most people don’t use soap because lack of enough water prevent people to use soap as they will need more water quantity for soap use, |
INTEGRATED FOOD AND WASH RAPID NEEDS
ASSESSMENT IN TWO DISTRICTS OF AL-DHALEA AND DHAMAR GOVERNORATES
Al-Husha and Wesab Al-Safil

Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA) – Yemen

Household and community wastes

-70% of the community groups and Ki stated that high percentage of children always experiencing diarrhea and diarrheal diseases,

-Accessing the hand washing facilities: the community groups and Ki reported that nobody has access to hand washing facilities,

Sewage/ waste water management in the community

-Waste is a serious public health problem in Wesab Al-Safil district and sub-districts. The community groups and Ki reported that the garbage dropped next to houses, not collected at all.

-Most areas of the community have many piles of garbage everywhere in the streets,

Key issues/ challenges related to WASH

- Severe lack of water due to the absence of public piped water network in the entire district
- Hardship in fetching water and reaching the sources of water
- Lack of wells, if exist are not covered.
- Inability of most citizens to get/ buy water tanks for water storing.
- Latrines and sewage system is totally broken,
- Therefore, waste water and sewage in visible in the streets,
- Long distances from the water sources,
- High cost of bringing water to the villages, People are poor

Suggested effective interventions

- Provide main water tank for the catchment and public piped water network, Support houses with water storing unit for water,
- Support households with water filters,
- Support water well maintenance,
- It is crucial to raise the public awareness in water treatment technics.
- Empower purchasing capabilities of people to obtain hygienic items and food from the local markets,
3.2.3 Water sources correction needs: Wesab Al-Safil

In this section, many observation points are addressed that made by YFCA WASH specialist while visiting some of water sources in the targeted sub-districts. In general, the water sources in Wesab Al-Safil are

- Open wells
- Rainwater
- Water trucking from private wells,

According to YFCA – WASH specialist’s report on the suggested interventions that could be implemented to ensure better functional and safe water sources, the following solutions were suggested:

- Wells maintenance and rehabilitation, for instance to cover the wells, establish aprons,
- Rainwater harvesting,
- Distribution of ceramic filters,
- Water points with tap-stands connected to the boreholes or wells.
4. Conclusion and Recommendations:

This rapid need assessment report provided an overview of current situation related to FOOD and WASH in two districts (targeted sub-districts) in Al-Husha – Al-Dhalea governorate and Wesab Al-Safil of Dhamar governorate.

The findings of this assessment revealed that communities in those districts are in huge need for humanitarian support and interventions in terms of food and WASH as majority of communities in these targeted sub-districts showed inability to meet their needs and unable to secure these needs. Moreover, the results of this assessment showed that water, hygiene and sanitation WASH is a serious problem and challenge for the communities in these districts, as people need to travel long distances to access the water points.

Lack access to latrines remains prevalent and problem among the targeted communities. There were also negative hygienic practices as lack of hand washing points and lack of soap at household level and communities reported high proportions of diarrhea cases. There should be interventions to overcome these challenges especially with the current context of cholera control efforts.

In general, the situation in these districts is dire and requires immediate interventions from all interested stakeholders in Al-Husha and Wesab Al-Safil districts and sub-districts.

**Recommendations:**

- To provide humanitarian support in these districts as all have shown signs of frequent food access shortages and stock due to reported communities low income and poor purchasing abilities,

- Raise community awareness on food and nutrition would be useful in combination with food distribution. The awareness sessions should ensure promote awareness on how to maintain diverse and balanced diet.

- Assist in improve people access to latrines, hand washing and other hygienic practices, Provide and distribute hygiene kits at household level including soap.

- Raising awareness on water purification and processing and other hygiene promotion issues is of utmost importance.

- Intervention to ensure rehabilitation of community assets such as water cisterns, farming lands and roads to improve access to food and other services as well as this will contribute in sustaining services and diversify HHs income.