

TOWARDS SAFE SANITATION

For the people of Samakha, a remote village in Al-Azariq district of Al-Dhale governorate, having a decent and hygienic place to defecate was a luxury they could not afford. Most of them relied on open defecation, exposing themselves and their children to various health risks and environmental hazards. They also experienced a lack of privacy and dignity, particularly affected women and girls.

Haidra, a 44-year-old father of six, was one of the villagers who faced this challenge. He lived in a traditional house with an old and dilapidated latrine that had no toilet and a leaky roof. He and his family had to use the open space next to their house, near a mountain, to relieve themselves.

“Look at the old latrine, it is useless and dangerous. We live in the shadow of war and poverty, and we have no income or job to build a better one. We want to protect our children and families from diseases and shame.”
Haidra said

The situation took a positive turn when Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA), initiated a Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) project in Samakha. With funding from the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF), the project focused on installing 20 family latrines for the most vulnerable households. The primary objectives were to enhance the local population's access to and the standard of sanitation services while promoting awareness and adoption of hygienic practices.

Haidra was among the 144 beneficiaries selected to receive a new latrine, based on their vulnerability and needs. He also participated in the construction of the latrine, along with the YFCA engineers who supervised the project. He received training and guidance on how to use and maintain the latrine, as well as hygiene kits and messages.

“I am very grateful to YFCA and YHF for this opportunity. It changed my life and the life of my community. Now I have a clean and safe latrine for my family and myself. We can defecate with dignity and comfort. We are also more aware of the importance of hygiene and washing our hands. We feel healthier and happier.”
He said



Haidra and his children delighted with their latrine.

The project benefited not only Haidra and his fellow beneficiaries but also the entire community of Samakha. About 1,000 people can now enjoy the improved sanitation facilities, which also reduce environmental pollution and the transmission of diseases such as cholera and diarrhea.

The WASH project in Samakha is an example of how humanitarian interventions can make a positive difference in the lives of people affected by conflict and poverty. By providing access to safe sanitation and hygiene, the project improved the health and dignity of the villagers, as well as their resilience and coping capacity. The project also demonstrated the importance of community participation and ownership, as the beneficiaries were involved in the design, implementation, and maintenance of the latrines. The project is a testament to the power of partnership and collaboration, as YFCA and YHF worked together to address the urgent needs of the people of Samakha.