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Ilma-dheer Water Catchment Update

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Background.

Salaam Development Centre (SDC) partnered with United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to make certain that drought-affected individuals have immediate assistance in resolving challenges brought about by water inadequacy. In April, SDC planned and implemented the restoration of the Ilma-dheer Water Catchment. The catchment area allows migrating pastoralists and the surrounding community access water throughout the drought season. Successful community consultations were undertaken, which helped with the smooth flow of the project implementation's. Partnership with the local communities assists in building trust to ensure the affected individuals are able to express their preferences and challenges freely.



Ilma-dheer Water Catchment October 2022.

Benefits of a water catchment area in arid places.

There are various benefits a community enjoys from a water catchment area in arid places. One of them is that water catchment serves as a direct productive form of water and soil conservation. Water catchment also provides high-quality water at lower costs, as rainwater is free. It ensures continued water supply during dry seasons for the migrants and community members. It provides clean water that can be used for irrigation and food production. It requires low maintenance, and therefore, it is cost-efficient.

Objectives.

The project's objectives include: to provide vulnerable households with a dignified existence while significantly decreasing dependence on humanitarian assistance. To alleviate the challenges of water shortage for the migrants and surrounding community. To ensure adequate water supply in the community during drought season. To protect existing assets and repair the ones in bad shape. Last but not least, to provide clean water to facilitate sanitary welfare to avoid diseases outbreaks due to lack of water.

The project implementation process.

The project began with SDC mobilizing the community members to dig the 500M³ water catchment. This took three months to be completed and was targeted at 200 households. By April, sixty percent of the water catchment rehabilitation was complete. In June, ninety-eight percent of

the water catchment rehabilitation was completed. SDC then provided plastic lining and fencing materials, which are crucial in holding water while protecting the catchment area from wild animals. The beneficiaries cleared mud on the plastic lining over time and opened the canal outlets and inlets in preparation for rainy seasons. The catchment is currently filled up with fresh water from the recent Deyr rainfall. The catchment area can hold water for up to six months. This is adequate for the needs of the community as they await the next rainy season.

Results

The water catchment provided the community with a reliable water supply during drought. This is affirmed by a community member who attested that other methods had been unsuccessful, whereas the water catchment was dependable. One hundred households have been enabled to access water to use for domestic and irrigation purposes despite the unwavering drought.

Conclusions

The Ilma-dheer project was a success as it satisfied a crucial need in the community. Community members can live in a dignified way, free from suffering from water shortage while having to travel long distance in search of water. Numerous households have been empowered, and living conditions improved as a result of the Ilma-dheer water catchment rehabilitation.



Ilma-dheer Water Catchment after rehabilitation

Recommendations

The water catchment only serves as a temporal solution. One of the recommendations is to introduce livelihood projects that go a long way in rescuing the famine situation. This can be done by constructing water tank storages, which can hold and keep the water clean for longer. Also, drilling boreholes can provide a continuous water supply throughout the seasons. Another recommendation is to increase education on water conservation practices among migrants and community members. This shall assist in water conservation in the long run as community members will be empowered to manage their water much more effectively, when in plenty or

scarce. Another recommendation is to implement effective water demand management. This shall comprise a management approach whose objective is to conserve water by influencing demand. It pertains utilization of specific incentives to encourage equitable and efficient water utilization. Water demand management can increase water availability through more efficient allocation and use.

Reference.

Ilma-dheer Water Catchment. (2022). SALAAM DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (SDC).

Website; <http://www.salaamcenter.org/>