YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE EASTERN DESERT - JORDAN

RURAL FAMILY SOCIETY - JORDAN
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Acknowledgement

Special thanks to:
- The Rural Family Society
- USAID and FHI360
- SuSanA
- KAFD
- Dhulail Youth Group
Rural Family Society

- Established in 2010 to serve the local community in one of the most environmentally rich, yet threatened areas of Jordan.

- RFS is concerned with environmental development in rural areas with regards to the livelihood of rural communities.

- RFS thinks globally but acts on the local community level where we believe we can have a significant impact on the lives of people.
Project Justification (why water?)

- Lack of Fresh Water Resources
- Scarce Rainfall (~250 mm/yr)
- Loss in Networks
- Groundwater Depletion
- Refugee Influx

- Jordan Water Share per capita was 123m³ in 2016
- 1.3 Million registered refugees in Jordan since 2011

-Jordan Times
Project Approach

- Provide Training for youth in rural communities in the field of Environmental Leadership
- Assess community needs and come up with solutions
- Support youth initiatives (technically and financially)
- Supervise Implementation
- Create a Sustainability Plan

- Raise awareness among rural communities about Greywater reuse
- Using an alternative water resource for irrigation
- Decrease the amount of wastewater in septic tanks
- Increase awareness on the importance of water reuse to fight climate change (surface water evaporation)
A comprehensive training program was designed to provide 85 youth (48% females) with necessary tools to start their own initiatives.

The Training Program Included:
- Environmental Leadership
- Communicating Environmental Issues Via Media
- Advocacy for Environment
- Proposal Writing
Community Needs Assessment

- The project took place in Dhulail; a small town in the eastern part of Jordan with dry weather and mediocre rainfall season.

- Water supply is intermittent and water contamination incidents have been reported in the area.

- Area schools have the highest demand for water (both for personal use and irrigation).

- One girls high school with 960 students was selected for water re-use initiative implementation.
Initiatives Support

- Two youth teams were selected to implement initiatives
- Each team received $3000 funding to conduct activities
- One team selected Grey Water Re-use
- The other selected School Garden Rehabilitation
Initiative Implementation

- The Greywater System design is a simple one. The design elements took into consideration the following:
  - Volume of collected water – 960 students in school
  - Quality of collected water – Handwashing/Drinking/Solid objects
  - Type of plants receiving treated water - Rehabilitated garden
  - Access to the system – Limited to prevent tampering/theft
  - Durability and Easy Operation
Initiative Implementation

- Installation and primary operation took around 4 weeks. The system was Officially opened on Feb, 14 2017 with invitees from the local community.
Sustainability Plan

Goal: To Ensure the sustainability of the project by capitalizing on the School Resources.

Actions:
- Provide training for school girls on the importance of water re-use and hands-on training on the operation and maintenance of the system
- Assign 2 teachers to mentor students and monitor the system
- Provide protection, warning signs, and instructions of the system
- Rehabilitate the school garden with non-edible plant to receive treated water
- Sign a Memorandum of Understanding between RFS and the school to assure compliance
Impact on the Community

- ** Aware of the importance of water rationing and re-use in response to climate change
- ** Possess technical knowledge of modern water saving techniques
- ** Responsible towards their own environment
- ** Value team work and youth engagement
SuSanA Chapter In Jordan?

- At RFS, we believe that Sustainable Sanitation is a priority for communities living in Jordan, especially with the increasing pressure on water resources due to forced displacement of vulnerable communities.

- We believe that sustainability of water-related initiatives can only be valid via collective efforts that engages the local community members.

- We are confident that starting a Jordan SuSanA Chapter will not only provide an opportunity for cooperation, but will also be a platform for exchanging expertise.

Za’atari Refugee Camp in northern Jordan (home to around 80,000 refugees)
Thank you

The Rural Family Society

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