



## **Promotion of the Practice of Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) at the Household Level among Women in the Bedouin Community of Qatrana in the Karak Governorate**

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**Organization:** Qatrana Social and Economic Development Association (QASEDA)

**Country:** Jordan

**Contributors:** Hamzeh Al Alayani

**Beneficiaries:** Women; rural households

**Note:** This project was one of the winners of Karianet Competition (June 2017): Youth Initiatives in Rural Development in the Arab Region.

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### **Abstract**

The 4 months project (Jan 2017 – Mar 2017) aimed at contributing to the conservation of the water resources of Qatrana through adoption of sustainable water management and conservation technologies and create the environment necessary to foster investment in these practices and technologies. It included a survey of the women’s current knowledge of RWH. Women included NGO activists, municipality officers, school teachers, women business owners, and others. This was followed by a workshop with the objective “to contribute to the conservation of the water resources of Qatrana through adoption of sustainable water management and conservation technologies and create the environment necessary to foster investment in these practices and technologies”. The project promoted the implementation of rainwater harvesting and raised the awareness of women in this Bedouin community on RWH. This workshop was followed by an educative activity targeting school children from 8-15 years of age on RWH. This short term project resulted in the development of a local initiative for RWH by a group of young and enthusiastic women in Qatrana.

## **Situational analysis**

Women have an important role in the household management within the Bedouin community of Qatrana; however, they have limited opportunity to learn about current issues relevant to best practices in household management. They lack capacity building on how to mitigate the effect of climate change. Training women on sustainable water management, including the revival of an old water management practices in a more sustainable and more practical way, has a great potential in preserving water resources and aiding women in the sustainable management of their households and their communities.

## **Project Background**

Qatrana Social and Economic Development Association (QASEDA) is a nonprofit organization with most of its members being youth. It was established in June 2016 in the town of Qatrana. The organization aims at advancing the local economic and social development in the Bedouin community of Qatrana, with a particular attention to women, youth, and child issues, and linking cooperation and exchange of experiences with the various associations, institutions and organizations at the national and international levels, in order to build the local capacity in the various relevant fields of local development. The organization is engaged in a short term project in the area of capacity building and awareness raising actions and activities carried out by civil society within the framework of a donor funded project by the regional environment center, headquarter in Budapest. Moreover, QASEDA aims to further advance its water-related activities and develop community initiatives in relation to water resources management using low-cost systems managed by communities and women's empowerment in planning and managing these initiatives.

This project aimed to contribute to the conservation of the water resources of Qatrana through adoption of sustainable water management and conservation technologies and create the environment necessary to foster investment in these practices and technologies. It aimed at promoting the implementation of rainwater harvesting among the women in this Bedouin community and raising their awareness and encouraging them to start a local initiative in rain water harvest at the local level. In addition, the project aimed at developing new partnerships with civil society and engaging with all stakeholders through regular consultations concerning water sector project planning, thus building awareness of the efficient use and conservation of water and protecting the water infrastructure.

Actors involved in this initiative included all parties who have an effect on women in their households, including women NGO activists, women working in public sectors including teachers, municipality workers, young women studying at university, and school children. Furthermore, the awareness campaign was planned and implemented by women volunteer in the organization.

## **Methodology**

QASEDA aimed at conducting an awareness campaign targeting these women in particular the youth, to turn them along with their children as local ambassadors to further promote suitable water management practices in particular RWH, which will eventually initiate a positive effect in implementing best practices of water resources management in the local community in Qatrania.

The project started by identifying women who are interested in participating in this workshop. This was implemented by women members of the NGO. Then a survey was sent to these women to determine their current knowledge of RWH, including NGO activists, professional agricultural engineer, school teacher, housewives, and university students.

Social media production and mobile messages were prepared to promote water conservation and RWH in Qatrania.

This was followed by a workshop for a total number of 15 targeted and interested women from the local community. The workshop included a practical work session that required women to develop a local initiative on RWH based on the opportunities and challenges that are present in their local community and to identify the target groups and partners and develop a basic action plan for the initiative.

An educational afternoon was conducted targeting school children from 8-15 years of age. Twenty children attended the educational day that included various activities, a theatrical play on rainwater harvesting, a dance, quizzes, games, questions and answers and drawing activities. At the end of the afternoon gifts were distributed to the children.

## **Outputs/Impact**

Awareness on RWH was raised. Fifteen women were targeted through a workshop. Twenty children were targeted through educational activities.

Three initiatives were developed that QASEDA is planning to further develop into proposals for future work including:

**Initiative 1:** 10 women neighbors will install a main reservoir well and connected to their home tanks of water collected from rooftops and will prepare a common land for crop production using this water.

**Initiative 2:** RWH system in Princess Basma Centre in Qatrania.

**Initiative 3:** The renovation of the reservoirs attached to the historical Qatrania castle.

## **References**

<http://www.theswitchers.eu/en/switchers/qatrana-natural-resources-managment-skill/>

