

Climate resilience and raising awareness

For people affected by climate change in Sinjar, Iraq

The impact of climate change on livelihoods and the agricultural sector is a significant factor contributing to displacement and causing many to be reluctant to return to Sinjar. To support the return of displaced people and promote climate change mitigation and adaptation in the region, Dorcas launched a project titled 'Resilience and raising awareness for the affected population in Sinjar, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq'.

The project aims to enhance the resilience of affected communities in the Sinjar district against the impacts of climate change. To achieve this, the project provided training in climate-smart agricultural practices and livelihood diversification strategies. A key activity was to introduce the expansion of green cover by distributing tree seedlings alongside innovative agricultural techniques, such as the 'Waterboxx'. This technology is specifically designed to support tree planting in challenging environments, such as deserts, semi-deserts, and mountains, where conventional planting methods would typically fail.

Activities of the project

Project duration: 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024

Activity 1: Planting 350 tree seedlings as part of the cash-for-work (CFW) programme.

- Ten people without skills in these matters took part in CFW activities involving the installation of Waterboxxes and the planting of tree seedlings.

Activity 2: The provision of 350 Waterboxxes to farmers.

- 350 Waterboxxes distributed to seven-headed households (farmers).
- 350 tree seedlings distributed to seven-headed households (farmers).

- Seven farmers received training on how to use the Waterboxxes.

Activity 3: Trainings to develop skills and knowledge for climate-resilient agricultural practices and diversification strategies.

- Two training sessions were conducted for staff, government staff (DOA and DOW) and community leaders.
- A total of 48 government staff were trained on climate change in the Ninawa governorate.

Activity 4: Raising awareness of the importance of sustainability and the impacts of climate change.



Iraq's urgent need for climate-smart agriculture: Learn how the Waterboxx makes a difference.

- A total of 350 awareness sessions were conducted across thirteen communities in Sinjar.
- A tailored public outreach campaign and targeted information initiatives focused on climate change adaptation have improved the awareness and resilience of over 3,486 returnees, including 1,018 men, 731 boys, 1,028 women and 709 girls.

Results

- A total of 550 households, comprising 277 men and 274 women, reported an improvement in their food security. This equates to 83 per cent of the total number of project participants (LTO2.1).
- Eight communities demonstrated improved climate resilience (LTO Indicator 2.2).
- 243 target households applied at least 75 per cent of the climate-smart agricultural practices taught (MTO indicator 2.1.2).
- Thirteen communities responded to climate change (MTO 2.2.1).
- All project participants reported a reduction in the water-related challenges faced by farmers, such as the impact of drought.
- Participants' knowledge of climate-resilient agricultural practices and diversification strategies showed a 100 per cent improvement.
- The level of knowledge and understanding of participants regarding climate impacts and sustainability has changed 100 per cent.
- The intervention was found to be satisfactory by 98 per cent of the project participants.



Complaint response mechanism

A total of 323 accountability inputs were received during the project cycle, including 245 cases of feedback, 37 suggestions, 35 enquiries and six non-sensitive complaints.

- Six communication channels were used to receive accountability input during the project.
- Complaint/suggestion box
- Face-to-face meetings
- A hotline
- Household visits
- Phone calls
- Social media

Feedback was provided to applicants regarding unresolved cases.

Locations of activities in the north of Iraq

Legend

- Climate-smart agriculture training
- Waterboxx and cash-for-work
- Climate change awareness-raising
- Dorcas country office
- Dorcas sub-office

