**Community Engagement & Trainings for Sustainable Development in Al-Fayha Village, Jordan**

1. **Objective and relevance (the world around us)**

* **What is the main purpose with the intervention?**

Through local capacity building and community participation, the main objective of the project is to enhance the livelihoods of poor local communities in the Governorate of Jerash. To this extent, the project points to strengthen the capacity of one of the local partner to manage, monitor and implement sustainable livelihood practices; and through this, develop and enhance the local community[[1]](#footnote-1)’s awareness of the local environmental conditions and ways to optimise resources by adapting more sustainable practices within primary livelihood/employment sectors of the village of Al-Fayha (construction and farming).

To ensure a successful implementation, the project relies on a 3-legged partnership between Rahma Worldwide and the Al-Fayha Cultural Club, civil-society organisations active in Jordan, and the Danish partner Emergency Architecture & Human Rights.

* **Describe the conditions that apply in the area of intervention and its challenges**

As of today, 1.2 million Syrian refugees are in Jordan of which 654.266 are registered with UNHCR[[2]](#footnote-2). Traditionally accustomed to sudden influx of population fleeing from conflicts from neighbouring countries, Jordan is struggling to cope with the high number of refugees. It is estimated that 531.232 Syrian refugees are living outside the refugee camps lacking employment opportunities and facing financial constraints. Jordan’s labour market competition is high: only 38% of Jordan’s working-age population are employed[[3]](#footnote-3). The lack of employment opportunities and decent employment in a volatile market are significant constraints to the Jordanian development. The existing physical and social infrastructures are overstretched negatively impacting the country’s ability to continue providing assistance to Syrian refugees whilst maintaining adequate service levels for Jordanian citizens[[4]](#footnote-4). The conflict has brought together Jordanians and Syrian refugees but has undermined their fragile means of support.

The situation is exacerbated by the pressure put on the already limited natural resources, its non-sustainable usage and the climate change effects. The negative effects of global warming such as the increase in temperature, the expansion in areas affected by drought, the loss of some natural ecosystems, and the decrease in the amount of available water are resulting from the decline in water flows. The water scarcity impacts every aspect of the Jordanian life. It represents a big barrier to the economic growth and development negatively exerting influence on food security in the country[[5]](#footnote-5). The local municipalities, as well as the local government, have limited financial inputs, resources and instruments to establish communication channels with the population in the rural areas to enhance participatory dynamics and solve problems in relation with e.g. food security and natural resources depletion.

Firstly, at a community level, the communities engage for e.g. in not up-to-date agricultural practices resulting in high percentage of water wastage; the over-usage of chemicals and agro-chemicals causes the contamination of drinking water and destruction of natural resources. Secondly, at the institutional level, the adoption of construction techniques such as cement blocks requires a high percentage of water in a context of extreme water scarcity. It is estimated that about 50 million tonnes of cement and two billion cubic metres of water are required to rebuild areas devastated by conflicts in the Arab world[[6]](#footnote-6). The adoption of new technologies to (re)build the physical assets of the country must go in line with the extreme weather patterns of Jordan which are damaging infrastructures, wiping out harvests, eroding natural resources and endangering species[[7]](#footnote-7).

The lack of strategic methods to include the communities in the identification of environmental problems increases the negative effects for the marginalised population due to the adoption of institutional strategies and policies that don't match their needs. The implementation of recently adopted policies would require major changes in the population’s practices affecting their interests and livelihood resulting e.g. in higher prices on water and electricity[[8]](#footnote-8). The local authorities’ efforts on climate change, including water, have remained limited in ambition and action. Decision-makers need to act and behave towards climate change as a priority issue by understanding the communities’ needs, implications and costs as well as the benefits of a relevant strategic action.

* **Describe the context of the intervention: The village of Al-Fayha**

The [village of Al-Fayha](https://www.google.com/maps/place/32%C2%B022'36.3%22N+35%C2%B059'55.4%22E/@32.3751666,36.0022449,5711m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x0!8m2!3d32.3767548!4d35.9987259?hl=en) is located in Almsheirfeh sub-district, in the district of Al-Naseem in the Governorate of Jerash. Al-Fayha is at the crossroads of the governorates of Jerash, Mafraq and Irbid, areas that have been experiencing a high influx of Syrian refugees. Indeed, the refugee camp of Za’atari is only 30kms away; two additional refugee camps, namely Jerash and Souf, are located in the governorate, hosting displaced people from the West Bank, Gaza and southern Syria.

Al-Fayha counts about 10.000 inhabitants, including Syrian refugees. As in many other rural areas of Jordan, people who find employment work in the agricultural and construction sectors, or in the city of Amman. The job-market competition is high; since 2017, Syrian refugees can only apply for working permits in sectors approved for foreign workers such as agriculture, construction, textile and food[[9]](#footnote-9). A great proportion of young men living in Al-Fayha are employed in the construction sector; while young women can rely on employment in the agricultural sector too. Characteristic of the Al-Fayha village is that a great number of people continue to practice agriculture to feed themselves and their families during retirement. The village hosts 4 schools (primary and secondary level), but there is no specific centre for technical and vocational education.

In the rural area of Al-Fayha, the environmental conditions are harsh and the effects of climate change are visible. The arid nature of the land and the hot/dry climate make it challenging to grow enough crops; and the situation is exacerbated by regular droughts. The access to water sources is fairly limited and the only way is to dig wells in the desert. Many villagers have highlighted how, along the years, they have witnessed a significant loss of the ecosystem and a great reduction of the natural resources. The community is aware of the finite resources and is willing to take a step forward to integrate more sustainable strategies and techniques for the years to come, starting from their day-to-day practices. Nonetheless, they have limited or no access to entrepreneurship training, loans or vocational training to develop their skills and knowledge to adopt environmentally relevant strategies as to e.g. farming and construction. The policy instruments adopted in the area do not match the community’s needs; and together with the depletion of accessible resources and increasingly difficult conditions for sustaining local livelihoods, they may lead rural people into chronic poverty as they lack access to adaptation and coping strategies.

* **Describe how this intervention will strengthen civil society organising**

The intervention is the result of a shared effort among the parties to support a comprehensive yet sustainable development of climate change-affected areas in Jordan, starting from the village of Al-Fayha, by cutting across community participation, agriculture and construction. In a rural area, such as Al-Fayha, the improvement of the livelihood opportunities for the community goes together with the preservation of the ecosystem. Therefore, the project works to enhance the engagement of the local community of Al-Fayha to integrate environmentally sustainable practices as to farming and construction, two primary sectors of employment in the village. The local community of Al-Fayha will be directly engaged through participatory mechanisms to share their knowledge and experience; this will then be combined with new yet locally relevant practices as to farming and construction to skilfully use the available resources and contribute to a sustainable development of the area of Al-Fayha. The adoption of a bottom-up approach will enhance the engagement of the community members in the area by strengthening their access to knowledge as to environmental problems as well as practical implementations to tackle them. The members of the village of Al-Fayha will come to have a strengthened ownership and confidence to skilfully use and share with others their knowledge about sustainable practices that will contribute to improve their livelihood opportunities. The local community members will come to take ownership over their actions, recognising their ability to contribute to a sustainable shift in the village of Al-Fayha, that will benefit the generations to come.

* **What climate- and environmental conditions do the intervention need to respond to?**

The project strives for a better management of the environment surrounding the village of Al-Fayha contributing to a strengthened approach to sustainability; thus, climate- and environmental conditions have been key elements around which the intervention has been developed. The activities are expected to positively influence the consumption of natural resources through e.g. reduced waste-water, bio-waste treatment etc. in order to reduce the overall impact on the available land and resources by creating environmental consciousness in day-to-day activities. The activities are going to consist mostly of workshops and practical applications; they will therefore account for a low level of environmental impact by encouraging local sourcing of materials, knowledge and discouraging massive consumption or freight of resources.

To lower the project’s CO2 footprint, preliminary partner engagement have been conducted remotely while presence during training, workshops, capacity building and project evaluation have been deemed a necessary condition for a successful outcome.

1. **The partnership/collaborators (our starting point)**

* **Danish organisation: Emergency Architecture & Human Rights** (EAHR)

The EAHR is a Danish non-profit organisation founded in 2015. The EAHR works with communities, local stakeholders and decision-makers to improve the livelihoods of the most vulnerable groups, mitigate effects of humanitarian crisis and works towards ensuring basic human rights. At the heart of the organisation is the imperative to involve communities actively in participatory processes, giving them a voice, and allowing even the most vulnerable to become agents of change in development initiatives. The EAHR believes in a strong, diversified and independent civil society engaged in humanitarian and development issues. Internationally, when embarking on a new project, the EAHR involves volunteers and participants from all over the world giving them the opportunity to embrace new experiences and contribute to improve the human quality of life.

The EAHR’s previous experiences in Jordan range from the adoption of participatory mechanisms, development of platforms for citizen participation, training of low-skilled workers and construction processes. By working in line with the local geography, climate conditions and resources and by engaging the local community (in the design and construction processes), the EAHR has successfully completed the construction of environment-friendly/cost-effective classroom facilities in Za’atari, Jordan (2017) and in Azraq, Jordan (2018). The adoption of *new* construction technologies such as CSEB *Compressed Stabilised Earth Blocks* have limited the consumption of water (if compared to concrete blocks) and reduced the overall costs in areas characterised by severe water stress and high poverty rates. Along the past 3 years, the EAHR team has been collaboratively working with *AVSI – People for Development*[[10]](#footnote-10) in vocational trainings in sustainable construction techniques using eco-friendly materials with a low environmental impact. The Construction Manager Andrea Maggiolo have carried out trainings for cash-for-workers supporting the realization of infrastructures using environment-friendly construction techniques in Al-Qweirah, Al-Humaya and Abbasiyeh (2021). In addition, the EAHR has successfully developed and applied *Social Matters*, the EAHR’s own participation-based methodology. The development of activities focused on active community participation has been successfully implemented in various countries including Jordan, Lebanon, Italy, Denmark and Nepal.

* **EAHR: contribution, roles and responsibilities**

The overall project management structure lies within the EAHR’s roles and responsibilities. As Danish partner, the EAHR is accountable for the overall project implementation in relation to the donor. The EAHR team is represented by Chiara Garbelotto (PLA Specialist), Andrea Maggiolo (Construction and Training Manager), Kathi Peischl (Environmental Specialist), Celeste Meersohn (Admin & Finance) and Veronica Hamilton (Communication). The EAHR team’s tasks include: technical advice, budget control, quality assurance, evaluation, and reporting. To this extent, the added value of the EAHR lies in the knowledge and experience of participatory processes and sustainable construction methods applied to the Jordanian context. The team has previously worked in the Jordanian Valley with a focus on participatory process and construction methods that are relevant to this region. The organization’s acquired knowledge and experience is instructive for the project’s implementation and is introduced as a new strategy to the local partner Al-Fayha Cultural Club and Rahma Worldwide, that recognise the added input brought forward by the Danish partner. The EAHR will work side-by-side with the local partners to hand-over instruments and practices that will qualify and strengthen the local partners’ development activities. The EAHR is responsible for the training of participatory approaches, identification of environmental problems as well as the training on environmentally sustainable construction techniques. The deployment of EAHR will take place 3 times during the project’s timeframe: one team member (and/or volunteer) per visit will be on site to perform tasks that include workshops, vocational training and capacity building, evaluation. As it has been until this moment, continuous support will be provided by the Copenhagen office. Approximately a month after the completion of the activities, EAHR is going to conduct a final evaluation visit.

* **Rahma Worldwide-Jordan (RW)**

RW-Jordan, formerly known as Rahma Relief Foundation, is a well-established and internationally recognised partner organisation focusing on development projects in Jordan with solid foundation within the local communities. The RW’s main local office is in Amman consisting of 9 paid staff-members. The RW is registered as a branch for foreign organisations under the umbrella of the Ministry of Social Development in Jordan. The RW relies on a solid network of local organisations who are active in different areas of Jordan. Through permaculture and organic agriculture, the RW’s efforts in the Jordan Valley are focused on improving the livelihood opportunities of the farming communities by implementing low-tech and sustainable farming techniques to turn plots of land in the Jordanian Valleys into economic resources. The *Rahma’s Oasis[[11]](#footnote-11)*,located in the Jordanian Valley and consisting of an eco-lodge and a series of greenhouses, has popularised innovative techniques (such as aquaponics, waste recycling, eco-building, insect breeding) and crops (moringa, jojoba, duckweed, azolla etc.). Since its launch, several tons of fresh produce have been produced every year creating economic opportunities for local farming communities. The *Rahma’s Oasis* has provided Syrian refugees and local farmers with fresh vegetables, meat, eggs, dairy products as well as training in low-tech sustainable farming techniques. The RW works to ensure that the Syrian and Jordanian communities move beyond subsistence farming and towards implementing eco-friendly agriculture through e.g. on-site bio-waste treatment factories. In addition, through the direct engagement of the local communities, the RW has implemented different capacity building activities through a *Training-of-Trainers* approach targeted to e.g. Syrian women in home-based soap production by giving them the opportunity to work on small family projects in an income generating framework.

* **RW: contribution, roles and responsibilities**

Since its establishment in Jordan, the RW has strengthened its organisational structure becoming a strong and reliable community mobiliser working with a rights-based approach to engage a wide range of community members that include young children, women and men in activities that involve both Syrian refugees as well as local Jordanians. The project team consists of Fayha Mohammad (Project Management), Usama Alsyasna (Farming and Sustainability) and Heba Atom. Being a well-established organisation, the RW is going to support the strengthening of the organisational structure of the Al-Fayha CC through training on project management (focusing on planning, execution, monitoring and closure), considering the different years of experience in the Jordanian Valley. Indeed, the RW is providing valuable support to develop training activities and instruments that are relevant for the context of the Al-Fayha village. The added value of the RW is indeed the experience and knowledge in relevant agricultural practices that are resilient to the harsh environmental conditions of Jordan; its competences in managing projects and activities integrating local Jordanians and Syrian refugees; and the knowledge as to administrative and legislative regulations of Jordan. The RW lives up to CISU’s financial standards and is the responsible organisation for the local administration of the project in terms of provision of accounting and budgeting activities, holding the responsibility for the disbursement towards the Al-Fayha Cultural Club; the RW is going to ensure transparency in practices and administration e.g. open budgets and account management in coordination with the partners. It might be noted that the RW is going to conduct monitoring activities for the IO1.

* **Al-Fayha Cultural Club** (Al-Fayha CC)

The Al-Fayha CC is registered as a cultural association under the umbrella of the Ministry of Culture in Jordan. It is led by Wejdan Al-Qudah, an experienced woman who has been working in the area of Al-Fayha Village for 21 years. Today, the organisation’s activities are driven by more than 50 active members including 40 women and 12 men. The Al-Fayha CC’s office is located in the village of Al-Fayha, from which it takes its name. The organisation has carried out service-based implementations that range from workshops in manufacturing of traditional scarves, painting with sand and language training courses, granted by the Ministry of Culture or LDS Charities. In addition, in December 2019, they carried out a first winterisation project in cooperation with/and funded by RW. Over the years, the organisation has worked with women, school-students, children and other members of the local civil society in training courses focused on a frontal learning experience, resembling the classic ‘teacher-to-students’ approach. As it has gained a great deal of local trust through its presence, the Al-Fayha CC is instructive for access to the most vulnerable parts of the local community and a strong knowledge resources in terms of understanding local livelihood challenges.

The Al-Fayha CC’s training centre has been established very recently and it is not yet well-equipped, lacking equipment as well as trained personnel. None of the permanent staff has ever undergone a formal training in project management or facilitation. They are well-educated, speak English but have little experience with project management and facilitation. The Al-Fayha CC has explained how they strongly believe that a transition to a more sustainable development of the area is essential for the generations to come. At the same time, Wejdan Al-Qudah has made clear that the organisation has a need for growth which includes strengthening its internal capacity by training more personnel and learning how to handle bigger-size projects; building-up their capacity will mean being able to reach an even wider target group, compared to the current one, but also effectively include and engage the community members in the projects. Working for and with the people is essential to the Al-Fayha CC; and learning and practicing how to make the community members as an integral part of the development of sustainable strategies and initiatives focused on the improvement of their livelihood is a key stepping stone.

* **The Al-Fayha CC: Contribution, Roles and Responsibilities**

The Al-Fayha CC contributes with in depth knowledge of local livelihood challenges; its secure access to the most vulnerable of the population; and due to its longstanding role in the community, it is a strong partner to secure the lasting effects of the project by developing a stronger organisational base.

The intervention points to upscale the competences of the Al-Fayha CC, taking as a starting point the in-place capacity and knowledge. Firstly, the first phase of the intervention will focus on strengthening the organisation’s capacity and ability to effectively engage the community members and to manage projects; in this way, the Al-Fayha CC will be beneficiary of the activities. Secondly, the Al-Fayha CC will be responsible for: facilitation and organisation of community-level activities and face-to-face training sessions; mobilisation and engagement of the members of the local community; dialogue and coordination with the local community members; implementation of monitoring mechanisms as to IO2. The partners EAHR and RW will provide on-going support to the Al-Fayha CC during the implementation of the activities; but, at the same time, the partners aim to leave room for manoeuvre to the Al-Fayha CC, allowing them to strengthen their capacities, test the knowledge acquired during the training and wider their engagement in the village. Indeed, working with the RW will represent a great opportunity to increase their reach, adding legitimacy to their current and future activities among the local community’s members. Indeed, the Al-Fayha CC will work closely with the community members of the village, ensuring follow-up support and coaching, ensuring an effective transfer of knowledge to other community members. While being formally registered as a cultural association, the Al-Fayha CC does not live up to all the CSF’s financial requirements; a double-structured partnership is brought forward where the disbursement of the EAHR will take place only towards the RW; who will be responsible of administering the payments towards the Al-Fayha CC. An agreement of cooperation is being drafted between the Al-Fayha CC and the RW detailing roles and responsibilities of each partner.

* **Describe how the intervention will contribute to developing the relationship and collaboration**

The 3-legged partnership converges on promoting a sustainable development effort cutting across community participation and sustainable practices. The EAHR and the RW have met for the first time in 2019 and since then they have been working on how to effectively collaborate. In May 2021, the Al-Fayha CC was introduced to the EAHR by the RW. Due to the current travel restrictions, the EAHR has not been able to travel to Jordan and the communication has been taking place remotely, through online meetings and emails. The EAHR Project Manager has had the chance to meet with Wejdan Al-Qudah in different online calls, while coordinating with Fayha Mohamaad and Usama Alsyasna from the RW. The Al-Fayha CC has been thoroughly engaged in the different elements composing the project and has given inputs and suggestions regarding adjustments in terms of activities, target group and relevant strategies. On a weekly or bi-weekly basis, the partners are meeting for updates and follow-up. The coordination is moving forward and all 3 partners are confident that this implementation can be delivered in time and in line with the stated objectives and budget. There is a strong willingness and mutual commitment from all parts to bring forward this intervention to the benefit of the local community in Al-Fayha. The Al-Fayha CC has already started the process to get the approval from the Ministry of Social Development in Jordan and bring forward the implementation. The RW provide administrative and legislative support to the Al-Fayha CC to make sure that everything is done in line with local regulations and international donors standard. The RW is confident that the Al-Fayha CC can bring forward the intervention, meet deadlines and commitments; its judgment is based on the previous collaboration with the Al-Fayha CC focused on a winterisation project.

It could be noted that this intervention is the first in an intended sequence of successive interventions oriented towards securing social and sustainable livelihoods in a region that face severe social and environmental challenges. As mentioned, the partners have not met face-to-face yet; so the presence on-field of the EAHR is still considered highly valuable to strengthen the confidence and trust not only among partners, but also with the local community members..

1. **Target groups, objectives, and expected results (our intervention)**

* **Describe the composition of the target groups**

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| **Activity** | **Target groups** |
| A1.1.1 | **4 members** of the Al-Fayha CC (expecting: 2 women + 2 men) that hold functions such as e.g. project assistant, project management relevant for the managerial supervision of the following community-based activities; |
| A1.2.1 | **4** additional **members** among the personnel/volunteers of the Al-Fayha (expecting: 2 women + 2 men) who have previously engaged in community-based activities and are going to facilitate the activities; |
| A2.1.1 | **75 community members** who have experience/worked/are working in the field of farming and/or construction (expecting: 50 young women and 50 young men); |
| A2.2.1 | **100 community members** who have experience/previously worked/are working in the construction field (expecting: 30 community members who have partaken to A2.1.1 + 70 additional community members); |
| A2.3.1 | **100 community members** who have experience/previously worked/are working in the farming/agriculture fields (e.g. local farmers; low-skilled farmers) (expecting: 45 community members who have partaken to A2.1.1 + 55 additional community members); |
| A2.4.1 | **200 community members** who have taken part to the activities A2.1.1; A2.2.1; A2.3.1 (75 community members from A2.1.1 + 70 additional community members from A2.2.1 + 55 additional community members from A2.3.1); |

The final beneficiaries of the project are:

* **Around 1000 community members** living in the village of Al-Fayha benefitting from the project activities (by adopting a *Training-of-Trainers* approach, we assume that each individual will spread the knowledge to 5 more community members who have not taken part in the activities: 200X5=1000).

The recruitment and mobilisation of the local community will be implemented by the Al-Fayha CC, being located and active in the village, with the support of the RW; indeed, the RW has a reliable network of farmers and construction workers who have previously partaken in 1 or more activity. Nonetheless, the partners have outlined a series of criteria to facilitate the selection of the direct target group:

1) Place of residence: living or having family that lives in the village of Al-Fayha;

2) Work experience: having previous experience or currently working in the construction/farming sectors;

3) Gender: the goal is to involve an equal number of women and men (as far as possible). Based on previous experiences, no women are expected to partake in the training in sustainable construction techniques; accordingly, the partners will work to mobilise a greater number of women for the remaining activities. The ratio is expected to be 60-40 men/women.

4) Educational level: having completed the ten years of basic education or the 2 years of vocational education;

* **Logic of Intervention: describe the objectives, expected results and activities**

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| **Overall**  **Objective** | | To contribute to improved livelihood opportunities for Syrian refugees and low-income Jordanians in the governorate of Jerash, Jordan | | | |
| **Indicators** | | | **Verification Tools** | **Expected Results** | **Activities** |
| **Immediate Objective** | | IO1. The Al-Fayha Cultural Club has a strengthened capacity to efficiently manage and engage the local community members in the implementation of environmentally sustainable solutions; | | | |
| **I1.1** By the end of the project, the Al-Fayha CC has produced a handbook on project management based on the experience of the project (*learning-by-doing*) focused on tools and practices for community engagement;  **I1.2** By the end of the project, the Al-Fayha CC has successfully facilitated at least 3 participatory sessions to enhance ownership and build sustained efforts among the members of the local community; | | | The Al-Fayha CC’s Handbook on Project Management and Implementation  Project Report  Focus Group Discussions (FGD) | **R1.1** The Al-Fayha CC has strengthened competences to manage, implement and evaluate locally-relevant projects; | **A1.1.1** Conduct training on project management (planning, execution, monitoring and closure) to the Al-Fayha CC by the RW |
| **R1.2** The Al-Fayha CC has a strengthened knowledge and capacity to effectively engage the local community members in the design and implementation of sustainable locally relevant practices; | **A1.2.1** Conduct training on participatory methods (community engagement, situational awareness and community-based dialogues) to the Al-Fayha CC by the EAHR |
| **Immediate Objective** | IO2. The local community members have an enhanced awareness of the local environment and are integrating environmentally-sustainable strategies into their day-to-day work processes contributing to improved sustainability of natural resources and reducing their vulnerability to climate change effects | | | | |
| **I2.1** By the end of the project, 3 environmental problems (in common areas such as water, waste and food) have been identified and analysed by the members of the community enhancing ownership to devise environmentally sustainable solutions;  **I2.2** By the end of the project, 50% of the members that have been part of training activities related to sustainable construction techniques, perform successfully a practical test;  **I2.3** By the end of the project, 50% of the members that have been part of training activities related to sustainable farming methods, perform successfully a practical test;  **I2.4** By the end of the project, at least 50 community members taking part to the training activities have started to disseminate knowledge on good sustainable practices to build sustained efforts by e.g. handing over to other community members -not partaking to the trainings (e.g. co-workers; local households)- the results based booklet on sustainable practices; | | | Project’s report  FGD  Test Results/Overall Performance  FGD  Test Results/Overall Performance  FGD  FGD  Al-Fayha CC’s follow-up activities report | **R2.1** The community members are able to identify and analyse environmental problems at a grassroots level improving their understanding of dependencies and priorities in relation to the available natural resources; | **A2.1.1** Carry-out training in how to identify local environmental problems (in common areas such as water, waste and food); |
| **R2.2** The community members have achieved and consolidated their capabilities to perform environmentally sustainable construction techniques contributing to reduce their vulnerability to the shortage of natural resources; | **A2.2.1** Carry-out vocational training in contextually relevant skills as to environmentally sustainable construction techniques; |
| **R2.3** The community members have achieved and consolidated their capabilities to integrate environment-friendly activities in agriculture contributing to improving their food security; | **A2.3.1** Carry-out vocational training in contextually relevant skills as to sustainable farming production; |
| **R2.4** The community members have an enhanced capacity to disseminate sustainable good practices encouraging other community members to introduce new sustainable practices as to farming and construction; | **A2.4.1** Conduct training focused on a *Training-of-Trainers* approach to strengthen the community members’ training and facilitation skills; |

* **What is the strategy of the intervention? Describe the planned activities and how these will lead to the desired outputs and achievement of the objectives.**

The overall project strategy lies in capacity buildingactivities targeted to an environmentally sustainable development for the village of Al-Fayha cutting across community participation, farming and construction.

The **organisational capacity** of the Al-Fayha CC is going to be strengthened through training on project management with a focus on planning, execution, monitoring and closure of a project. The training will consist of face-to-face sessions and assignments where the personnel from the Al-Fayha CC will come to acquire (and test their) knowledge on the efficient management of projects, to have traits and competences of efficient project managers. The focus will be given to different areas including time/cost efficiency, procurement, communications, risks and stakeholder management, monitoring and reporting. The RW, supported by the EAHR, have outlined a training content which focuses on strengthening the capacities of the Al-Fayha CC to well-manage this intervention, as well as to acquire strategic organisational competencies for every future project. The RW is going to conduct the training as well as follow-up mentoring and support activities to ensure the effective acquisition of knowledge. A following series of training activities is going to be focused on participatory methods and approaches introducing the Al-Fayha CC on how to effectively engage the community, so as to develop activities and projects that are based on their actual needs. The training, held by the EAHR, is going to focus on participatory mechanisms relevant to the implementation phase of a project, so as to include more perspectives and voices from the affected communities by recognising their capacities and resources. The content of the training has been drafted by the EAHR in cooperation with the RW; whom has supported the identification of instruments that are relevant for the cultural and social context of Jordan. The Al-Fayha CC is going to directly implement these tools by being the leading facilitator of the following activities targeted to the community members of the village. Overall, the Al-Fayha CC is going to acquire knowledge and tools that are relevant, feasible and applicable to their social and geographical context of intervention. Whereas only 4 members are going to take part directly to the training activities (based on a shared decision among the partners for budget and time-reasons), they are going to draft a booklet focused on project management and participatory tools to eventually pass their knowledge to others within the Al-Fayha CC.

The **community capacity building** is targeted to enhance means and strategies of the local community to integrate sustainable locally-relevant practices into their day-to-day activities as to farming and construction. The training will take a point of departure in the actual experiences and challenges formulated by local community members. One volunteer from the EAHR is going to be deployed on field to support the local community (in collaboration with the Al-Fayha CC) in the identification and analysis of the specific environmental challenges of the areas. The focus will be given to water resources, waste management and food production to outline strategic solutions for a better usage of the available resources by the local community members in their daily practices. The capacity development on the identification of environmental problems (and relevant solutions) is expected to contribute to an improved sustainability of the usage of natural resources as well as to build a strengthened locally-owned effort.

The intention is that the results of this very first community activity will form the basis for the content of the following training focused on construction and farming. With this regard, at this stage, the partners cannot fully predict which specific tools and strategies will be chosen for the area of intervention; but based on previous experiences in the northern areas of Jordan, the partners foresee the introduction of training on e.g. aquaponics and compressed stabilised earth blocks. To this extent, a strategic service delivery is needed to lead to capacity building consisting in the purchase of 2 machines to produce compressed stabilised earth blocks (to be used during the activity A2.2.1); this strategic service delivery is locally administered by the RW. On the one hand, the capacity building on relevant sustainable farming practices is expected to be instrumental in improving the food security and well-being of the local community. On the other hand, the training on sustainable construction techniques is being conducive towards a reduced vulnerability to the shortage of natural resources.

The training activities will offer directly utilisable skills embedded in the local community’s reality thus, contributing to further employability opportunities for the members of the community. Each training module will allow the community members to acquire directly utilisable skills and innovative techniques as to farming and construction responsive to the environmental challenges of the area. Through group discussions, guided practices and hands-on experience, the community members are going to acquire new technical skills and knowledge related to the production of food, water management, materials and resources in construction, as well as a strengthened capacity to upskill others (e.g. family members, co-workers, community members of the village). Indeed, the training will follow a *Training-of-Trainers* (ToT) approach to ensure an effective transfer of knowledge among community members. The community members will be supported in understanding the relevance of introducing these new practices in their daily activities, as well as to pass onto others their knowledge. The community members are going to contribute to the drafting of a booklet presenting key practices and most important features of the new sustainable practices. The booklet is going to be a valid instrument to ensure an effective transfer of knowledge to other community members (e.g. co-workers; neighbours, etc.); it is going to present both written texts and easy-to-understand drawings.

Overall, the participation-based component of the capacity building activities points to enhancing the development of a network of trainers to ensure that the impact of the training sessions is maintained. To this extent, management and peer support is going to be boosted to strengthen the community members’ ability and motivation to share their knowledge. The efficiency of the training activities is going to be ensured through the establishment of a dialogue between the local partners and the community members; monitoring activities are going to be conducted by the Al-Fayha CC (with the support of RW) to visit trained farmers once they have completed their training to see if it has resulted in changes in their practices; the Al-Fayha CC is going to hold follow-up reviews to ensure the integration of sustainable practices in construction by the trained members.

The partners foresee a contribution in the improvement of **livelihood opportunities** for Syrian refugees and low-income Jordaniansfrom the successful development and implementation of these community-based strategies where the members come to recognise their role as key actors in their own development. The project is expected to reduce their dependency from the volatile food market, to enhance their understanding of the relationships between the natural available resources and their needs, as well as to strengthen their opportunities of employment being a skilled work-force with valuable competencies that can be applied in a variety of areas in northern Jordan. The community members will come to have enhanced ownership to devise environmentally sustainable solutions, as well as to pass onto other good practices.

* **What are the plans for systematising experiences along the way and at the end of the intervention?** 
  1. **Sustainability**

The overall sustainability of the project is embedded in the professionalization and capacity building of all participants. Whereas, there is a will to continue the cooperation among the partners, the project activities have been developed to ensure a long-term gain for the community members of Al-Fayha Village both in terms of organisational and environmental sustainability. Thanks to a strengthened consciousness, the members of the community are going to feel better qualified and able to carry on the sustainable practices. The adoption of participatory mechanisms aims to enhance the individuals’ sense of ownership not only in relation to this project, but to their own day-to-day actions. A further consolidation of practices will take place by holding review meetings on a regular basis with the Al-Fayha CC and the RW. To this extent, the project aims at actively engaging the members of the community through the Al-Fayha CC, which is going to become a strengthened community platform of engagement for environment-related problems. Indeed, advocacy efforts remain a crucial sustainability factor. To this extent, the RW is working towards the engagement of the local administrative division to ensure their participation and contribution as well as to let them understand the community’s needs and inputs as for example, the need for educational institutions and training focused on a sustainable approach. The aspiration is that the Al-Fayha CC will become a strengthened platform of community engagement, being able to advocate for a better management of the existing resources by the community members, as well as other stakeholders active in the area.

* 1. **Monitoring & Evaluation**

The project implementation is going to be evaluated in accordance with the results frame (see 3.1). The methods follow a people-centred approach with participatory reviews and participant performance appraisal. Ongoing monitoring will be carried out by the local partners through evaluation sheets and monthly reports. As to IO1, the RW is going to conduct monitoring activities through monthly reports to EAHR to measure progress towards the achievement of the project’s specific objective and planned results. As to IO2, the Al-Fayha CC is going to hold regular monthly reviews meetings to ensure that the learning at each stage of the project can be addressed and changes implemented during its course. Reports are going to be shared on a monthly basis with the EAHR in an on-going dialogue focusing on the identification of challenges and related solutions creating successes in an integrated approach of accountability, involvement and transparency.

The evaluation, with a participatory component, is planned through:

* Defining evaluation purpose, objectives and methods: by a small group of stakeholders from the RW, the EAHR and Al-Fayha CC;
* Logistic management (budget, field work, equipment and supplies): by project staff members from the RW and the Al-Fayha CC;
* Field-work Findings: by field-work team leaders; trainers from RW, Al-Fayha CC and EAHR;
* Formulating lesson learned, reviewing capacity and evaluating results: project implementers from the EAHR, the RW and the Al-Fayha CC;
* Reporting: 3 stakeholders lead by the EAHR and supported by the RW and the Al-Fayha CC;

Results, reports and monitoring and evaluation instruments are going to be, as far as possible, publicly available and shared with all the relevant stakeholders.

1. **Intervention-related information work in Denmark**

As a Danish organisation, the EAHR aims to secure space for civil society engagement in Denmark ensuring improved awareness of development issues of Jordan in Denmark. It is of key relevance to effectively highlight issues through a variety of media as well as to engage volunteers from Denmark to partake in this project implementation. The adoption of a multiplicity of instruments allow us to secure space for vibrant, inclusive and open debates fostering an understanding of shared global responsibility for global problems, in particular, climate change impacts on poverty within the Jordanian Valley. The EAHR believes that involving people directly through talks and debates is the best way to raise awareness, spread reliable information and create independent sound ideas on complex and controversial topics. The project is going to be presented in an event open to the EAHR members. Pictures, short stories, and articles from the field are going to be publicly available on our social media and website. The experience and evaluation of the project are going to be presented in a report made publicly available on the EAHR’s website.

1. It might be noted that by using the phrasings **members of the community**/**community members**, the project proposal refers to the members of the community in the area of Irbid Governorate who are taking part in the project activities (for further explanation, see 3.2). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria/location/36> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://jordankmportal.com/resources/jordan-response-plan-2018-2020> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. *Ibid.* [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16289Jordan.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <https://www.thenational.ae/uae/science/concrete-shortage-means-new-approach-to-rebuilding-war-torn-arab-countries-is-needed-1.675004> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. FAO, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, *Leaving No One Behind – Addressing climate change for a world free of poverty and hunger,* 2017 [FAO, 2017]. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Emilie Combaz, Jordan’s environmental policies and engagement on climate change, K4D *Knowledge, Evidence and Learning for Development*, 2019*.* [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <https://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2017/10/59df254b4/new-deal-work-permits-helps-syrian-refugees-jordan.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. https://www.avsi.org/en/ [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. <https://www.rahmarelief.org/rahmaoasis> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)