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SOUTH TURKEY  
FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS  
CLUSTER

# VOICES FROM THE FIELD

*With some 60 active implementing partners, the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC) South Turkey Hub coordinates support for IDPs and the most vulnerable people in Northwest Syria. These operations are made possible through the Syria-Turkey cross-border programme under UN Resolution 2585 (2021), enabling NGOs to reach 3.3 million people in need.*

STORY 6

ABU MUHAMMED

**High temperatures and low rainfall during the 2020/2021 agricultural season led to significantly reduced water levels in most areas of Syria. As the climate crisis accelerates globally, FSL Cluster partners are supporting farmers with climate-smart livelihoods projects, under the renewed UN Resolution 2585 adopted on 9 July**

## 2021.

This is the story of Abu Muhammed, a farmer who relies on his land to provide for his 23 relatives.

Two of his children have sight and hearing impairments, so securing medicine for them is an added challenge on top of providing food and meeting the basic needs of his large family. Like many farmers in northwest Syria, Abu Muhammed also lacks access to key services for his land.



Abu Muhammed is supported through a canal irrigation rehabilitation project facilitated by [CARE International](#) and implemented by [Shafak Organization](#), FSL Cluster partners on the cross-border programme in Northwest Syria.

Every year, farmers are constrained by limited access to irrigation water for their land, and crops are affected when irrigation canals get blocked from heavy rain. This leads to unstable water flow, creates instability and can flood the surrounding land. "When the heavy rain season comes, the canal floods and swamps the surrounding crops, which is very damaging," Abu Muhammad says.



[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO ABU MUHAMMED'S STORY](#)



Abu Muhammed working in his land. He says, "They cleaned about 4km of the canal. The flow of water to our land is now excellent and we can access our fields easily. Now we can plant, sow and harvest. The situation is much better".

FSL Cluster partner CARE along with implementing partner Shafak are undertaking a number of climate-smart livelihoods projects and improving irrigation to reduce water waste. This smart irrigation solution lessens dependency on groundwater by removing the need to open new wells. Instead, by existing canals are rehabilitated, thereby expanding water access for farmers and promoting the use of surface water.



An irrigation canal rehabilitated by FSL Cluster partners, allowing water access for Abu Muhammed's land.

Cleaning and rehabilitating irrigation canals mainly focuses on allowing access for more farmers and protecting land from potential flooding. These services relieve the burden of the climate crisis for the most vulnerable farmers in northwest Syria – who are among those who have contributed the least to the global climate emergency but are some of the hardest hit.

To learn more about the FSL Cluster South Turkey hub activities and partners' achievements [click here](#) to read our latest monthly report, "Insights on Northwest Syria".



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