KAHRIZ is a traditional form of accessing groundwater supply using the knowledge of the terrain.

Used as one of the main sources in arid zones of AZERBAIJAN, and being an effective solution to provide water throughout the year without electricity.

Many of these households belong to people who had been displaced by the conflict during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

IOM’s Kahriz initiative is also helping to conserve local knowledge and practices by employing KANKANS, the traditional technicians, and developing the capacities of new generations.

Since 1999, IOM Azerbaijan rehabilitated 189 KAHRIZES, directly benefiting around 25,000 HOUSEHOLDS.

This initiative also contributes to averting, minimizing and addressing FORCED MIGRATION, especially in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters by enhancing rural communities’ access to water resources for consumption and agricultural use.

This project received the international Energy Globe Award in 2021 because of innovative technology, developed and used by IOM AZERBAIJAN for the rehabilitation of Kahrizes.

Source: IOM, Azerbaijan

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