

**Ministry of Planning co-hosts a technical workshop for the National Platform for Construction and Development Project**

The Ministry of Planning, in cooperation with UN-Habitat organised a technical workshop for the "National Platform for Construction and Development" project. Since its launch in March 2019, the platform is instrumental in monitoring construction and development projects based on an integrated spatial database that contains information and locations of sectoral projects implemented by the Iraqi Government, United Nations programs and international community organizations.

The workshop was held in Erbil between 9 and 13 January and is part of the commitment of the UN-Habitat Program with the Ministry of Planning to support the technical staff of the Government Investment Programs Directorate responsible for managing the platform. The workshop covered a number of important topics as the platform's structure, work mechanisms and software used in the development of the platform in addition to the management skills through the Geographic Information System.

By the end of the workshop, the trainees acquired the skills necessary to handle the components of the platform and its technical details so that the Government Investment Programs Department can gradually handle over the tasks to the responsible division.



**Local Area Development team makes strides in improving WASH infrastructure in Mosul and Tel Afar**

In early January the Local Area Development team launched the rehabilitation and extension of a critical storm water network located in Al-Matahin neighbourhood, west Mosul. The project, supported by the European Union's Madad Fund, aims to ease the violent flash flooding that regularly hits this area during the spring rains.

Also, as part of its local area development programme, UN-Habitat has successfully completed the upgrading of a neighbourhood's pipe water network and the substitution of a battery bank powering a critical water pumping station in the town of Tel Afar, Ninewa governorate, thus improving access to drinking water for approximately 20,000 people.



**UN-Habitat hands over plots to contractors to start construction of core houses in Tel Afar**

In coordination with community leaders, UN-Habitat launched the Phase 1 of core housing construction in Aladiyah, Tel Afar District. In addition, it conducted meetings with community leaders in Tel Uzair, Ba'aj District, and Tel Qasab, Sinjar District to discuss debris removal before starting Phase 1 of core housing construction at these areas, and also to confirm the selection of plots in Tel Qasab and Tel Uzair.

## 1600 beneficiaries in Sinjar to avail vocational training and support

UN-Habitat partnering with the NGO Peace Winds Japan, has launched vocational training and awareness-raising support in Sinjar targeting 1,600 beneficiaries with funding from the Government of Japan, under the project "Support to Reconstruction and Peacebuilding of Liberated Cities in Iraq – Phase III". The participants will receive trainings required for ongoing reconstruction activities at the project site, trainings on enterprise development, and awareness-raising support on environmental and social risks and impacts prevention measures.



## Community Development Committees established in underserved neighbourhoods in Basra

As part of the EU-funded project in Basra, UN-Habitat Iraq held successful meetings with the Directorate of Municipalities and the Head of the Shatt Al- Arab Municipality for selecting the 3rd neighbourhood for the implementation of its COVID-19 Crisis response.

To ensure closer coordination and more participatory decision-making processes in the three underserved neighbourhoods targeted for upgrading in Basra, UN-Habitat established in each a Community Development Committee (CDC) and held preliminary meetings with their members to introduce the aim and objectives of the project. Establishing a CDC will help to facilitate UN-Habitat's activities in the neighbourhoods and encourage communication between UN-Habitat and the community.

## UN-Habitat launches Sustainable Development Forum in Iraq

The "Iraq Forum for Sustainable Development" launched formally on 24 January 2022, in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning. The project, funded by Iraq Trust Fund (ITF), aims to ensure the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by the Government of Iraq under the leadership of the Ministry of Planning. Mr. Wael Al Ashhab, Head of UN-Habitat Iraq, stated that UN-Habitat is proud to partner with the Ministry of Planning to roll out this very important project which will usher Iraq towards achieving the SDGs. The platform is designed to provide access to all Iraqis to information on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ms Irena Vojáčková-Sollorano, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, said that "Iraq, despite the difficult circumstances it has gone through during the previous years, launched this important initiative."



UN-Habitat, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, is the focal point for all urbanization and human settlement matters within the UN system and is mandated by the UN General Assembly (beginning in 1975) to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities. Its mandate is further derived from other internationally agreed upon development goals, including SDG11 of the Sustainable Development Goal, a goal dedicated for urban development, and the New Urban Agenda, an action-oriented document signed by member states which sets global standards of achieving SDG11. UN-Habitat has been active in Iraq since 1996.

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