

Rebuilding the lives of returnees in Sinjar, Tel Afar and Baaj

Destruction of houses remain one of the main obstacles that prevent many internally displaced persons from returning to their hometowns and communities. The absence of housing, jobs, and basic services means that displaced people will try to remain in camps as long as possible. Alternatively, returning to their hometowns may mean moving in with relatives, sometimes three or four families in the same house, or renting, establishing temporary shelters in informal sites, or living in unfinished or empty buildings. UN-Habitat recently welcomed a generous contribution of EUR 10 million from the European Union through the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syria crisis, the 'Madad Fund', for a project titled "Support for Urban Recovery and Peacebuilding in Western Ninewa, Iraq." On 9 February, UN-Habitat, in cooperation with the EU, brought together the Assistant Governor of Ninewa and representatives from Sinjar, Tel Afar and Baaj districts to discuss urban recovery in conflict-affected communities in western Ninewa to which formerly displaced Iraqis continue to arrive.



The abandoned Al Hurrya Park turns over a new leaf in rural Yathrib, Salah al Din

To mark the inauguration of the newly rehabilitated Al Hurrya Park (12,500 sqm) UN-Habitat organised a joyful 'Children Play Day'. In adherence to COVID-19 precautionary measures, 140 boys and girls from the surrounding area took part in a full day of games that included rope and wall climbing, a cloth bag running race, water delivery by buckets, Tug of War (rope pulling) and skipping over recycled truck tires. In their "resting time" children played on the new playgrounds, open-air gym equipment and recently grassed areas.



Moving forward to build multi-story housing units at Bab Sinjar, West Mosul

In February, Mr. Wael Al-Ashhab, Head of UN-Habitat Iraq, met with Mr. Najm al-Jiburi, Governor of Ninewa. After visiting a multi-story low-cost housing site in Bab Sinjar, which is being constructed to accommodate vulnerable returnees whose houses are fully destroyed, Mr. Najm al-Jiburi and Wael Al-Ashhab agreed that the Governorate of Ninewa and UN-Habitat would continuously work closely together and generate the maximum impact towards the people of Ninewa, particularly the most vulnerable.

Training for vulnerable youth equips them with employable skills in Heet

UN-Habitat has recently enrolled 20 unemployed and vulnerable youth from Al Baker in Heet, Anbar Governorate, in a two-week intensive training on how to lay concrete interlocking pavers and curb stones. The training blended a theoretical and practical curriculum designed in coordination with the Vocational Training Centre (VTC) of Heet. The newly trained workers will be employed to pave all the sidewalks and paths of Al Nejoom Park that is being created in Al Baker.



UN-Habitat organizes 3-day workshop for Syrian refugees

UN-Habitat Iraq, in collaboration with the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States and the UN-Habitat Lebanon office, organized a three-day workshop under the project "Housing, Land and Property Rights for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon and Iraq."

During the workshop, UN-Habitat together with the community representatives of Syrian refugees in Iraq discussed the progress of the project. Through this project, UN-Habitat is contributing to securing and safeguarding the housing, land and property rights and claims of Syrian refugees living in Iraq.



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.

Project handover to Ninewa Water Directorate in Mosul

In July 2020, UN-Habitat embarked on a project to replace damaged and non-functional water pipes in the underserved neighbourhoods of Al-Shifaa and Zanjili, Mosul. This month, the project was handed over to the Ninewa Water Directorate. The project provided clean water supply to 2,580 beneficiaries and the creation of 2,142 working days for local skilled and un-skilled work. The Ninewa Water Directorate expressed its gratitude to UN-Habitat for continuing to address the urban recovery needs in Mosul city.



Rehabilitation of war-damaged houses in Mosul

UN-Habitat is implementing a project in the Zanjili neighbourhood of Mosul to improve the living conditions of returnees through rehabilitation of war-damaged houses. This month marks the completion of 200 houses.



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