

Bridging the Digital Divide in Yathrib

In Yathrib Sub-District, UN-Habitat is contributing to closing the digital gap, vital to attaining sustainable development in Iraq's rural areas, by supplying state-of-the-art fibre optic equipment and materials to Yathrib's Post and Telecommunications Directorate so that it can repair its lines and connect its administrative offices and public facilities to the national network. UN-Habitat is also supporting the Directorate to set up and maintain a digitised system with which it can monitor the progress of its field teams.



UN-Habitat in Tel Afar, Western Ninewa

UN-Habitat has recently launched two new projects in Tel Afar District of Ninewa Governorate. The first is an area-based intervention supporting the rehabilitation of war-damaged houses, open spaces and public facilities, and the second is focussed on construction of low-cost housing to replace houses that were fully destroyed during the conflict, basic services, livelihoods and housing, land and property rights. In the month of January multiple meetings took place with Mr. Qasim Muhammad Sharif, Mayor of Tel Afar and the Head of Municipality. A mission attended by Mr. Mohammad Al-Tamimi, Representative of the Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Ali Omar Kabu, the Deputy Governor of Ninewa, and Mr. Raad Ahmad Al-Hadeedy, Director General of Ninewa Municipalities and other dignitaries was organized to discuss priority locations within Tel Afar district.



Yazidi Minority Receive Land Occupancy Certificates

In coordination with local authorities and community leaders, UN-Habitat's housing, land and property Rights programme issued and distributed 356 land occupancy certificates to the Yazidi minority in Tal Banat, Qayarawan sub-district of Ninewa Governorate. Due to continued discriminatory policy, the Yazidi minority were not allowed to register their land rights in Iraq. Through UN-Habitat's programme, Yazidi's housing, land and property rights claims and rights are registered, mapped and they receive their land occupancy certificates that are endorsed by the local authorities, community representatives and UN-Habitat for the first time.



Water Network Rehabilitated and Handed Over to Duhok Water Directorate

Within its ongoing interventions for ensuring access to adequate basic services in various underserved areas, UN-Habitat Iraq has completed the project "Rehabilitation of Water Network Infrastructure in Duhok Centre, Duhok Governorate". The project started in September 2020 and was handed over officially on 2 February 2021 to Duhok Water Directorate, who will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the rehabilitated water network. The implementation of this project included the replacement of 5,300-meter length of damaged and non-functional water pipes in Aytote neighbourhood in Duhok, and the connection of 315 houses to the main water supply network. The project helped in the creation of 1,300 working days for local skilled and un-skilled workers through the local contractor implementing the project.



Connecting Homes to Clean Water in Heet District

UN-Habitat, working together with the Heet Water Directorate, connected 124 houses to water in the Al-Baker neighbourhood, Heet District, Anbar, bringing the total number of houses connected to 218. An awareness campaign was also carried out the first two weeks of February with photos on social media to commemorate one year since the first recorded case of COVID-19 in Iraq. Access to safe water and sanitation services, and accurate information, is critical to stop the spread and reduce the impact of COVID-19 and there has been a recent spike in cases 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.

War-damaged Houses in Al Shifaa, West Mosul Rehabilitated

Ahmed Mahmud Omar was living in his house in Al Shifaa neighbourhood of West Mosul with his family of 9 members. During the conflict with ISIL, Ahmed's neighbors moved to stay with Ahmed's family in the basement of their house, which resulted in having 25 people living in one basement room for months. The structure was not safe enough to protect them from a bomb, which hit the house and ended up in their basement resulting in killing 3 people in the basement and permanently disabling 2 others. Ahmed's house has been rehabilitated by UN-Habitat under the project "Housing Rehabilitation in Mosul" together with other 109 war-damaged houses. Ahmed is happy to see his house rehabilitated after this hardship.



Accessing Clean Drinking Water for Vulnerable Families

"Previously, getting water on daily basis was very difficult and we were paying lots of money to do that. We needed one to two tanks per day for the two families of 21 members living in the same house and each tank costed 5,000 IQD. We now have daily access to the water supply thanks to UN-Habitat's initiatives in our neighbourhood and to the European Union for funding the project." Maather and her family were displaced from Anbar Governorate and are renting a house in Mamzawa neighbourhood in Erbil.

