

UN-Habitat improves accessibility for people with disabilities at Al-Yarmouk Park

In its on-going public space rehabilitation project funded by the European Union in Mosul, the team carefully considered improving accessibility for persons with disabilities since the early stages of designing the sports facilities, children playground area and toilet facilities and creating opportunities for children, youth, and adults with disabilities to conduct physical open-air activities in a safe and inclusive setting. Disability inclusion is an essential condition to upholding human rights, sustainable development, and peace and security. It is also central to the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to Leave No One Behind. The commitment to realizing the rights of persons with disabilities in Iraq is not only a matter of justice; it is an investment in a common future.



Shuhada Kindergarten in northern Tel Afar to be rehabilitated

In close collaboration with Tel Afar Education Directorate, UN-Habitat has launched the rehabilitation of the Shuhada Kindergarten located in northern Telafar. Workers have been busy removing large quantities of debris and charred waste from the air strike that perforated the roof over the main hall. The large hole in the roof will be repaired as part of the works, but the team has decided to install within the hole a solar tube to improve the lighting of the hall. The project also includes the realisation of a playground and a garden. Once completed, the kindergarten will be able to receive more than 400 children from the area. This initiative is being funded by the European Union, under the programme 'Supporting Recovery and Stability through Local Development', implemented by UNDP in partnership with UN-Habitat.



UN-Habitat starts rehabilitation of a marketplace in Tel Qasab

In partnership with the European Union through the EU Madad Fund, UN-Habitat rehabilitates and upgrades marketplaces, water facilities, parks and schools in Sinjar, Ba'aj and, Tel Afar Districts in Western Ninewa. These infrastructure intervention aims to facilitate sustainable returns, urban recovery, and peacebuilding in Western Ninewa.

In this regard, UN-Habitat has recently started rehabilitation of 24 stores in Tel Qasab Marketplace in close collaboration with the Qairawan Municipality and community members. This work will contribute to economic growth by raising community income and reducing poverty by creating jobs and opportunities for people who have returned.

Vocational training for 100 unemployed returnees in Tal Banat in Sinjar

UN-Habitat has successfully implemented vocational training courses for 100 unemployed returnees in Tal Banat village in Sinjar in partnership with the Japanese NGO Peace Winds Japan (PWJ) for the project titled "Emergency Support to Returnees in Iraq after the Outbreak of COVID-19" funded by the Government of Japan. The trainees acquired new skills including masonry, electricity, and whitewashing. This initiative aimed at enhancing livelihoods and self-reliance of young men and women in conflict-affected areas. Upon completion of their trainings, they received certificates of the trainings.

The apprentices are expected to be employed in the reconstruction and rehabilitation houses in Tal Banat village, another component of this project, through cash for work modality which will allow them to practice their acquired skills.



Skills training sessions empower 406 people in Ninewa Governorate

As a part of the EU-Funded program "Support for Urban Recovery and Peacebuilding" in Western Ninewa, Iraq, UN-Habitat, with the partnership of Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e.V (WHH) Iraq, has provided vocational training for 406 people, including 135 women and 271 men in Tel Qasab, Tel Afar District and 307 people, including 107 women and 200 men in Tel Uzair, Ba'aj District. The vocational training topics cover construction-related work such as painting, electrical and plumbing, blacksmith, carpentry, etc. As a complementary measure, after completing the training, 404 in Tel Afar and 195 trainees in Tel Uzair participated in apprenticeship opportunities provided by WHH through contractors with ongoing construction projects.



Empowering Iraqi women to lead in engineering and construction fields

Aspiring to be one of the leading UN agencies dedicated to empowerment of women, UN-Habitat encourages its implementing partners and contractors to support female community members. A female engineer, Ms. Dalal Khalil, who is originally from Sinjar, is currently engaged in the construction of low-cost housing units in Sinjar as a site engineer of one of the construction companies working under the supervision of UN-Habitat. Since she was a child, she has always wanted to be an engineer. This is her first professional job since graduating in civil engineering. The project, titled "Support to Reconstruction and Peacebuilding of Liberated Cities in Iraq – Phase III", is funded by the Government of Japan and will accommodate 1,100 returnees in new housing units.



Beneficiary families receive WASH/cleaning kits

As part of the Headway Programme implemented in partnership with UNDP and funded by the European Union, UN-Habitat has distributed 290 WASH/cleaning kits to targeted beneficiary families in selected vulnerable neighborhoods in Erbil and Mosul. This initiative will help raise awareness regarding the importance of good cleaning and hygiene habits in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. The kits included a leaflet promoting water saving strategies and practicing hygiene with less water, to counter the ongoing water scarcity and drought in Iraq.

*Each cleaning kit consists of (soft broom, bucket, mop, jerry can, soap, sanitary pads, detergent, gloves, etc.)

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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