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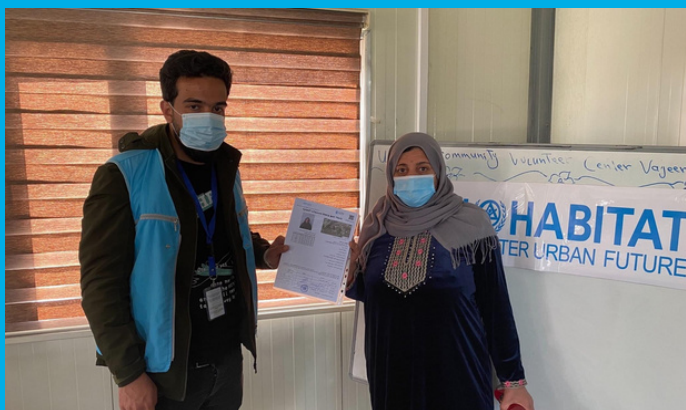


Celebrating Urban October in Iraq!

The *triple 'C' crises*— COVID-19, Climate, and Conflict— have exacerbated growing inequality and challenges in cities and human settlements all over the world. This Urban October, we recognized that in order to win the fight against inequality in cities and human settlements, we need to mind the gap and ensure that we leave no one and no place behind which was this year's theme for World Habitat Day.

Facilitating Housing, Land and Property rights for Syrian refugees in Dohuk

Prolonged conflicts in some countries may lead to refugee crises in others, leading to more inequality within cities. UN-Habitat has been working to improve land security and safeguard the housing, land and property rights of Syrian refugees residing in Dohuk, Iraq. Using the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM), UN-Habitat is streamlining the land security tenure process and benefiting 12,379 Syrian refugees.



Envisioning a sustainable future for Iraq: UN-Habitat organizes course on renewable energy

"It's the first time I attended such a training and now I feel that I need to learn more and more" said Mr Mahmood Nizar Abd, an electrical engineer of Mosul Municipality, after concluding a week-long training on the design, operation and maintenance of solar systems.

The training was delivered by UN-Habitat in partnership with Silevany Co. It was designed to upskill 10 staff members of the Mosul Municipality and Ninewa Governorate and to encourage the adoption of renewable energy solutions in the public sector. The training course included a variety of topics, from the basics of solar systems and photovoltaic (PV) modules, to system monitoring and troubleshooting.

The trainees successfully completed their practical training at Al Yarmouk Park where Silevany had recently installed a new solar system comprising of 88 solar panels to make the community hall fully independent from the main city grid and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This initiative, funded by the European Union, falls in line with Iraq's efforts to reduce its current dependence on fossil fuels.



Over 900 vulnerable people benefit from vocational courses in Telafar and Baiji

UN-Habitat Iraq wrapped up the vocational training courses it provided in the conflict-affected cities of Telafar and Baiji. The courses, funded by the European Union and developed in partnership with government-run training centers, focused on developing necessary construction and entrepreneurship skills among the unemployed youth. Recent trainees were offered apprenticeships leading to job opportunities in UN-Habitat projects or local businesses. By the end of October, over 900 vulnerable men and women had been trained in the cities of Mosul, Telafar, Heet, Baiji and Yathrib.



Supporting local revenue collection in conflict-affected cities

In cities that have been affected by conflict, improving service provision is necessary to serve a vulnerable population and help rebuild trust in the government. In an effort to enhance local revenue generation in Iraq, UN-Habitat invited members of the project Steering and Technical Committees to a workshop organized in Erbil. In the workshop, a financial expert reviewed the revenue data that had been collected from Falluja, Baiji, Mosul Erbil and Dohuk. The findings were discussed and opportunities for improvements in administrative practices were explored. This initiative was funded by the European Union as part of its effort to strengthen decentralization and service delivery in Iraq.



Celebrating World Cities Day: UN-Habitat inaugurates a garden exclusively for women and children in Telafar

In celebration of World Cities Day this year, the Al-Shuhada Garden in Telafar was inaugurated by UN-Habitat in the presence of its Regional Director, Head of Iraq Program and local authorities. What was previously a wasteland is today a tranquil garden located at the heart of a neighborhood severely affected by war. The park will be open exclusively to women and their children, enabling them to engage in a variety of recreational activities such as gardening and exercising.

This project was funded by the European Union and conducted through EADE, UN-Habitat's implementing partner, which has provided vocational training and recruited several unemployed women in the area.



Improving road traffic safety in Baiji

Road accidents rank as one of the leading causes of mortality in Iraq. Troubled by the rising number of fatalities in his city, the Head of Baiji Municipality requested the support of UN-Habitat's local development team to provide speed bumps and traffic signs. The municipal staff then proceeded to install these on the required road junctions and streets, particularly those in the vicinity of schools.

This initiative, funded by the European Union, will soon be complemented by the construction of sidewalks in the Al Asri neighborhood which have been designed to improve mobility and safety for pedestrians and people with disabilities.



Combat climate change: UN-Habitat implements WASH project in the Bab Sinjar Housing Complex

Growing inequality will have serious impacts on cities, especially as rapid urbanization and climate change ensues. Due to this, UN-Habitat worked closely to keep up with the rising urbanization in Iraq and to fortify cities against the effects of climate change.

An example of this was the WASH project implemented in the Bab Sinjar Housing Complex in Mosul, funded by the Government of Japan. UN-Habitat and UNICEF jointly constructed and installed Reinforced Concrete (RC) septic tanks and water treatment plants for the residents of the Housing Complex. They utilized environment-friendly products such as solar panels on the roofs of the buildings.

UN-Habitat concludes Urban October by celebrating World Cities Day at Al Yarmouk Park in Mosul

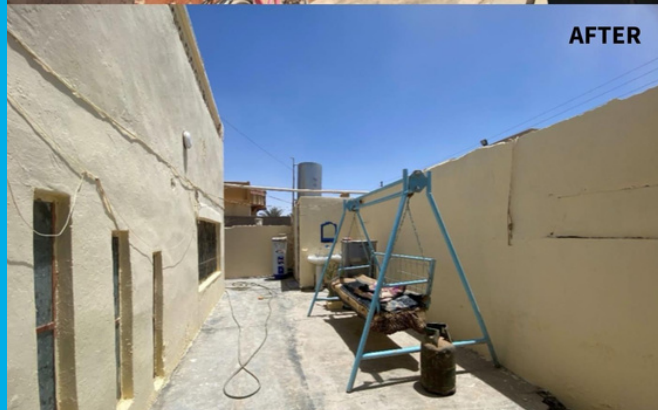
To make the urban areas of West Mosul cooler, greener and healthier, UN-Habitat inaugurated the newly rehabilitated and iconic Al Yarmouk Park in celebration of World Cities Day. Affected by two decades of neglect and war, the park was transformed and is now accessible to people of all ages and abilities, offering them a range of sports fields, playgrounds, an open-air gym, a running track, and a cycling path. Over 2,500 new trees, shrubs, and flowers were planted in the park, mostly by female gardeners. This European Union-funded project was aimed to contribute towards social cohesion and well-being.



UN-Habitat empowers the Iraqi youth of today to create a better tomorrow

Hawas, a 19-year-old from Sinjar, and his family were severely affected by the ISIS invasion in Iraq. His father had lost his job and his family was displaced. Hawas's dreams were thus abruptly put on hold but he never lost sight of his motivation to grow and learn. After completing high school, he went on to pursue accounting studies and is currently enrolled in his second year. Hawas hoped for improved job opportunities and a better life after engaging in UN-Habitat's vocational trainings and a cash-for-activity program related to the construction and rehabilitation of houses for 200 returnees.

"Through vocational training, I learned many skills and it provided me with new tools. Now I can even help my father with our unfinished house," Hawas stated. "This training has helped so many people in my community to improve and acquire new skills. Many young people want to contribute to the rebuilding of our community," he added. UN-Habitat believes that when it comes to rebuilding the community, youth empowerment is a vital component in creating more sustainable communities. This program was generously funded by the Government of Japan.



UN-Habitat's physical rehabilitation efforts in Telfar and Baiji

Cities must take bold action to recover from the triple 'C' crises in order to reduce growing inequality. Keeping in line with this, UN-Habitat's local area development team engaged in rehabilitating an additional 172 houses in Telfar and Baiji. By the end of the year, the EU-funded local area development program will have improved the living conditions of over 6,300 people in the cities of Mosul, Telfar, Heet, Baiji and the rural sub-district of Yathrib.



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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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE IN IRAQ

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