

Inauguration of Al-Qahira Park in Heet

Marking the completion of projects funded by the European Union in Heet, under its umbrella program "Supporting Recovery and Stability in Iraq through Local Development", UN-Habitat recently inaugurated the new Al-Qahira Park located in Al-Baker neighbourhood. In his speech, Mr Jassim Mohammad, Deputy Governor of Anbar for Administrative Affairs, stated that "one of the key reasons for the success of the projects implemented by UN-Habitat in Heet is their spatial focus on a single neighbourhood, which created a model for reconstruction that can be applied successfully in other cities of the province of Anbar and the rest of Iraq". Mr Muhannad Zabar, Mayor of Heet, praised the efforts of UN-Habitat in implementing vital projects that have contributed to the reconstruction of the city of Heet and supported the stability of the district after its liberation from ISIL. He emphasised the role of parks in "providing one of the critical necessities for the return of life to the region". The new 3,570 sqm Al Qahira Park in Al-Baker includes large green spaces and a composite playground for children and teenagers, an open-air gym, gazebos for families, and a modern multi-tiered and colourful water fountain surrounded by seating.



Inauguration of Al-Sulaikh Women Protection Center a joint UNFPA/UN-Habitat project

Al-Sulaikh Women Protection Center in Baghdad was recently inaugurated in the presence of His Excellency Mr. Éric Chevalier, the French Ambassador to Iraq. Its rehabilitation was conducted jointly by UNFPA and UN-Habitat under the project titled "Restoring Women, Youth and Health Services in Iraq", implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to protect women survivors of violence. The project is funded by the Government of France, and covers also similar facilities in Ramadi, Mosul, and Diwaniyah. The project has not only renovated the infrastructure of the Sulaikh Center but has significantly improved the well-being of the young women and girls residing in it.

Delivery of computer literacy training for Women in Mosul on International Women's Day



To celebrate the International Women's Day on 8 March 2023, and in line with this year's theme "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality", UN-Habitat organized a 3-day computer literacy training for 10 female gardeners and workers in the Community Hall of AlYarmoukPark in partnership with Mosul Municipality. This initiative is funded by the European Union in support of an inclusive digital transition. Through the EU's digital strategy and sustainable growth, the EU seeks to ensure women's equal access to the untapped potential of digital technologies. This cannot be done without tackling the structural barriers underpinning the global gender digital divide and digital transition that is both fair and inclusive.

Construction of in-situ core-housing units in Telfar



On March 8, 2023, Fadeela Mohammed received her *in-situ* core-housing unit in Ayadia Sub-District as part of the activities implemented by UN-Habitat in Telfar District. Over the last three years, with generous EU funding, UN-Habitat facilitated and supported the returns of 924 people through the construction of 108 core housing units, rehabilitating and expanding a football park in Ayadiah Sub-District and two mixed primary schools in Kasr-e Al Mehrab and Qazal Qiew Villages targeting about 250 students. In addition, to boost livelihood activities, UN-Habitat offered vocational training to more than 400 unemployed returnees. Moreover, UN-Habitat conducted a COVID-19 awareness campaign targeting about 10,000 people and supported 1,563 people through HLP rights activities.

Promoting peace and stability in Iraq by facilitating sustainable returns in Sinjar

On the 19th of March, UN-Habitat held the first Steering Committee meeting for the project titled "Promoting peace and stability in Iraq by facilitating sustainable returns" funded by the Korean Government through Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). The project aims to support IDPs in Sinjar through mapping and registering 4,000 HLP claims of Yazidi returnees, issuing 4,000 Occupancy Certificates to Yazidi households, resolve HLP claims of 24,000 beneficiaries, raise the awareness on HLP for 1,000 individuals, rehabilitate 200 houses benefiting more approximately 2,000 beneficiaries, support more than 25,800 beneficiaries by rehabilitating water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.



Handing over of Al-Ahrar mixed primary school in Basra

As a result of climate change and conflict, the need for a holistic response to upgrading underserved neighbourhoods in Iraq is becoming clear. With generous funding from the EU and as part of UN-Habitat efforts to improve the living conditions of vulnerable communities in these neighbourhoods, UN-Habitat handed over the Al Ahrar Mixed Primary School to school principals upon completing rehabilitation and expansion work. The school headmaster stated this project not only motivated teachers and students to be more attentive but also that the families of students were delighted to have a secondary school in the neighbourhood since some families could not afford to send their children to schools in other neighbourhoods.



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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