

### UN-Habitat Executive Director meets with Government counterparts and Donors in Iraq

During her visit to Iraq, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ms Maimunah Mohd Sharif, held productive meetings with different governors and witnessed the signing ceremonies of three Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) between UN-Habitat and Anbar, Salah Al-Din and Kirkuk governorates. The MoUs aim to strengthen the collaboration between UN-Habitat and respective governorates which consider UN-Habitat as a key partner in the rehabilitation and development phase.

The Executive Director also held fruitful meetings with the Iraqi Minister of Finance, Minister of Justice, Minister of Planning, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign affairs, as well as the KRG Minister of Municipalities and Tourism, KRG Deputy of Planning, and Erbil Governor, where she thanked them for the excellent collaboration with UN-Habitat and reaffirmed the agency's commitment to strengthen further the relationship and to continue supporting the government to provide assistance to people in need.

Ms Sharif met with representatives from the European Union, the US Ambassador to Iraq and the Japanese Ambassador to Iraq, who she thanked for their generous donations to the Iraq programme, the EU being the largest, and discussed on-going and future opportunities for collaboration.



### UN-Habitat Executive Director visits Heet to witness remarkable transformation of Al Baker Neighbourhood

On occasion of the UN-Habitat Executive Director's first visit to Iraq, UN-Habitat's Iraq programme organised a field visit to the town of Heet where the Executive Director, DSRSG/RC/HC, Member of Parliament, representative from Governor's office, and local officials attended a project handover ceremony. This is an exemplary case where UN-Habitat managed to successfully mobilize complementary resources from the European Union and Alwaleed Philanthropies for the joint transformation of the underserved and war-damaged neighbourhood of Al Baker. Between the two projects combined, UN-Habitat has rehabilitated 180 war-damaged houses; renovated a primary school; created a new park and two sports facilities; upgraded and extended potable networks serving over 600 houses; and upgraded seven health facilities, including Heet's General Hospital, to protect some 130,000 people in the current pandemic crisis. Throughout the projects, UN-Habitat has created over 6,500 working days for Heet residents in construction, civil works and landscaping, as well as offered vocational training for 120 unemployed youth.



### UN-Habitat Executive Director Ms Maimunah Mohd Sharif Visits Mosul as part of Iraq Mission

During the Executive Director's first visit to Mosul, the team arranged a site visit to Al Yarmouk Park where it is conducting a very large rehabilitation project in close coordination with Mosul Municipality. She met with community members – including 30 female gardeners working on the landscaping of the park – who have been engaged in this ambitious but strictly people-centred project. On this occasion, Ms Sharif inaugurated the recently completed Community Hall, where UN-Habitat held a Roundtable for representatives of the local authorities, academia, NGOs and private sector contractors to share the constraints faced in the painstaking reconstruction of Mosul. She successively visited the Old City of Mosul where she was welcomed by members of the UNESCO team who led her through the on-going project site of Al Noori mosque. The delegation then visited on foot an area of the old city which was severely bombed during the military efforts to oust the last ISIL fighters hiding in the historic quarters. UN-Habitat is working with UNESCO to develop a recovery plan for the Old City of Mosul.

## Distribution of tool-kits and certificates to 400 recent trainees in construction related skills

To mark the achievements of the Vocational Training in construction and related skills that was recently delivered in partnership with the Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) operating under the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA), UN-Habitat convened its 400 recent trainees in the three cities of Mosul, Heet and Yathrib to handover their hard-earned certificates and tool kits. In Heet, the event was attended by the Mayor of Heet, Mr. Muhanned Zbar, who complimented the efforts of UN-Habitat to support the unemployed youth to improve their economic situation. This initiative was carried out as part of the local area development programme funded by the European Union.



## French Government funding makes possible shelter upgrading assistance to 600 affected in Yathrib

UN-Habitat is providing shelter upgrading assistance to around 600 among the most vulnerable people in Yathrib sub-district in Salah al Din Governorate. This project is funded by the French government as part of its commitment to enable all Iraqis to come back home in safe, voluntary and dignified conditions.



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.

## UN-Habitat celebrates Europe Day 2021

To mark Europe Day on May 9 2021 and under the theme "Stronger Together", UN-Habitat Iraq implemented several activities in partnership with the respective municipalities and local counterparts. These included: the plantation of trees, installation of benches and supply of water pumps for Sarkarez park in Erbil and Al-Risala park in Mosul city; the beautification of the second and third roundabouts in Sinjar city through tree planting. These activities were highly appreciated by the local residents in the three cities where UN-Habitat has already rehabilitated 600 houses resided by IDPs, refugees and host community members under the Headway Programme funded by the EU. In Heet, UN-Habitat marked the Europe Day by engaging youth in the repainting of all the boundary walls of the houses overlooking the newly completed Al Nejoom Park.

