

UN-Habitat and UNESCO review progress of planning work for the Old City of Mosul

UN-Habitat was invited to attend the Steering Committee (SC) meeting organised by UNESCO for its European Union funded project 'Reviving the Old Cities of Mosul and Basra' and update attendees on the progress of its on-going normative and planning work in the Old City of Mosul. UN-Habitat's team presented the findings from the assessment of 370 sites in the historic quarters whose physical and socio-economic data was uploaded in a purposely development App linked to a GIS database established by UNESCO. On-going consultations with the Ninewa utilities directorates and Mosul Municipality aim to better understand current service gaps and opportunities for short- and long-term investments.



UN-Habitat completes WASH upgrades for seven health facilities in Heet

With funding from Alwaleed Philanthropies, UN-Habitat completed water and sanitation upgrades on seven health facilities including Heet General Hospital which has a catchment population of 130,000 people across the entire district of Heet. Upgrades included sliding doors, sensor water taps, water tanks, improved toilet facilities, construction of new toilet facilities, and ensuring disability-friendly access. The project will close soon but the needs in Heet district are still high, and it is hoped that additional funding can be secured.



UN-Habitat continues to issue land occupancy certificates to Yazidis

The HLP programme, in close collaboration with local authorities and community leaders, has issued 492 land occupancy certificates to the Yazidi minority in Tal Qasab and Tal Banat villages, Sinjar district. The Yazidi minority face major challenges in proving their ownership or occupancy land rights, particularly where official documents are missing, damaged, destroyed, or in the absence of registry information and maps delineating land and property to prove ownership or occupancy rights.

UN-Habitat kicks off rehabilitation of Al-Maliha Water Treatment Plant in Baiji

As part of its local development effort to restore essential public services in war-affected communities, UN-Habitat has just kicked-off the ambitious rehabilitation of Al-Maliha Water Treatment Plant (WTP) located in Al Asry neighbourhood of the city of Baiji. This is the third WTP project that the team has undertaken in less than one year with funding from the European Union, and the largest one so far. Built in 1976, Al Maliha WTP has a capacity of 500 M3/hr and was designed to supply potable water to 8,500 houses and over 50,000 people. Today it works at a fraction of its capacity, reaching only 2,900 households because of broken spare parts, years of accumulated sedimentation and poor maintenance.



UN-Habitat carries out five assessments in Basra City for urban recovery

Last month in Basra City, the UN-Habitat team carried out five assessments in coordination with the Basra Municipality to assess areas within which a European Union-funded project will be implemented. The team focused on building initial relations with community leaders and assessing environmental hazards, basic services (or lack thereof) and the impact of COVID-19 amongst other considerations. The team will then work with the Basra Municipality and other directorates to select three of the locations to carry out urban recovery projects.



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.

Mission team from UN-Habitat meets with Mayor of Mosul to discuss low-cost housing at Bab Sinjar

On 2 August 2021, a mission team of UN-Habitat Iraq met with the mayor of Mosul, Mr. Zuhair Mohsen Al Araj, and discussed the multi-story low-cost housing units with basic infrastructure at Bab Sinjar of the project titled "Support to Reconstruction and Peacebuilding of Liberated Cities in Iraq" funded by the Government of Japan. The main point on the agenda was the beneficiary selection. The Committee of beneficiary selection will shortly finalize the list of all of 324 families.

