

UN-Habitat conducts Citizens Consultation Forum in Mosul

As part of its ongoing urban planning efforts in the Old City of Mosul conducted in partnership with UNESCO, UN-Habitat held two sessions of Citizens Consultation Forum earlier this month in the historical Al Tawalb House. The first one, attended by 20 female and male inhabitants of the historic quarters, was set up to discuss thematic needs and aspirations that will be reflected in the drafting of a participatory urban recovery plan for this war-ravaged area.

The second Consultation Forum gathered owners of riverfront properties in Al Maidan and focused on identifying their claims and discussing on-going government proposals. In consideration of the severe level of destruction, the most realistic reconstruction approach will most likely imply a degree of land readjustment. Any planning scenario will also have to consider the high level of properties whose ownership is yet to be verified and a dozen of burned ownership documents.



UN-Habitat obtains approval of local officials of designs of new parks in Telfar

Supported by its Implementing Partner, EADE, UN-Habitat's team and several members of the community, met with the Mayor of Telfar, Head of Municipality and heads of Utilities directorates for a detailed progress update of its project activities in Telfar. The main focus of the meeting was obtaining the approval of the designs of two new parks in Muthanna neighbourhood, one of which will be exclusively accessible to female residents and children as per the explicit request of the community. This follows an intense two-month consultation process with the residents organised by age groups and gender, where they expressed their priority needs and vision for a greener and more convivial neighbourhood.



UN-Habitat hosts first Steering Committee meeting in Basra

On 13 September, UN-Habitat hosted its first steering committee meeting for its European Union-funded project in Basra. Fourteen representatives from local authorities and representatives from the European Union Delegation to Iraq were in attendance for a lively discussion on the project's strategies, activities, and work plan and to provide inputs and guidance on challenges that might arise. The forum laid a foundation for local authorities to be engaged in guiding various components through their leadership and participation to implement the project titled "Increasing Access to Employment Opportunities for Vulnerable Urban Population in Basra City in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis".

UN-Habitat successfully wraps up humanitarian assistance project in Yathrib

UN-Habitat has successfully completed its first project funded by the French Embassy in Iraq. The project consisted of the delivery of 70 shelter upgrading kits and 16 direct rehabilitations to a total of 86 very vulnerable households assisted in Yathrib sub-district. Housing rehabilitation works mostly focused on the removal of scorched plaster, replastering and painting of living spaces, new flooring, new doors, repairing or replacing windows and new electrical wiring. To mark the completion of this small but important humanitarian assistance project, UN-Habitat held an event with beneficiaries to discuss the impact of the project and their remaining needs.



UN-Habitat organizes workshop in Cairo to discuss building back after the pandemic

In cooperation with the Egyptian government and the government of Iraq, UN-Habitat held a two-day regional interchange workshop titled: "Building Back Better in the Arab region: Supporting spatial equality, Urban Regeneration and Informal Settlements, the operationalization of the Housing Reconstruction and Housing Development Strategy in Iraq".

The participants focused their engagements and discussion on activating the strategy of housing reconstruction and development in Iraq and building back better after COVID-19.



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 visited sites in Sinjar for low-cost housing for returnees

Early in September, a mission team of UN-Habitat Iraq visited the sites in Sinjar for the two projects titled "Support to Reconstruction and Peacebuilding of Liberated Cities in Iraq" and "Emergency Support to Returnees in Iraq after the Outbreak of COVID-19" funded by the Government of Japan. The mission team met with the beneficiaries who will accommodate houses to be reconstructed and rehabilitated upon completion of work by UN-Habitat. It is estimated that more than 2,700 individuals will benefit from reconstruction and rehabilitation of 260 houses for both the projects. The team also met with the Head of Municipality of Sinjar and discussed the current status and challenges of the projects.



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