

Rehabilitation of Al-Mahaba School in Sinjar

As part of the efforts to improve the educational environment and facilitate voluntary returns in Western Ninewa, UN-Habitat, with generous funding from the EU, rehabilitated Al Mahaba Mixed Primary School in Sinjar, which accommodates 325 students. Before the rehabilitation works, the school had no electricity, windows and doors were damaged, and walls were covered with ISIL slogans and drawings. Now the staff, students and their families feel comfortable, happy, and safe to resume their normal activities in the school." Mr. Hussein Hasso, the school headmaster of the school, said. In addition, to enhance the spatial quality of the school, the headmaster created a garden in the school that students can use.



Trading has started in the new Livestock Market in Telfar

Because of the limited size of the existing market area, the lack of shade, and the scarcity of facilities, in late 2022 Telfar Municipality requested UN-Habitat's support to establish a new livestock market in a much larger area nearby. The new market, funded by the European Union, measures 8,400 sqm and offers nearly 2,000 sqm of covered areas for trading sheep and cows, 20 shops, an admin office, guard rooms, and a small veterinary clinic. The market was also supplied with feeders and garbage containers, and connected to the city's electricity network. Inaugurated on 26th of March in the presence of the Telfar Mayor, Head of Telfar Municipality, the representative of Ninewa Municipalities, and community members, the market became fully operational on 1st of April 2023.

Completion of Al-Ghadeer Park first phase in Basra



Funded by the European Union, as part of UN-Habitat efforts to improve public spaces, the first phase of Al Ghadir Park's construction, including the football court and the boundary wall in Jurf Al Malah Neighbourhood in Basra was completed and handed over to Shatt Al-Arab District, in the presence of Mayor Mr. Haider Toama Khدير and community representative Mr. Ali Hussian So'abir Sayber. During the handover, the UN-Habitat team and Mr. Khدير discussed Shatt Al-Arab District's contributes and collaboration to launch the construction of the next phase of Al Ghadir Park.

UN-Habitat's HLP program is contributing to improve the living conditions and protect HLP rights of Yazidi minority in Sinjar

In coordination with local authorities and community leaders, the UN-Habitat HLP program issued 180 land occupancy certificates to the Yazidi households (Dohla, Tel Uzair, and Gir Zarak) in the Sinjar district. This project, titled "Promoting Peace and Stability in Iraq by Facilitating Sustainable Returns" funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency, aims to support displaced population of Sinjar by improving their living conditions and protecting their HLP rights. Previously, due to a legacy of discrimination, the Yazidi minority were not allowed to register their land in Iraq. Through the support of UN-Habitat's HLP program, Yazidi's HLP claims were registered, and households received their land occupancy documentation for the first time. UN-Habitat will continue its efforts to support Yazidi's housing, land and property rights.



Story of Minas Nouri Haroush, a 22-year-old, a mother of two children

"I used to live a normal and peaceful life, until the ISIL occupation drastically changed my family's circumstances for the worse. As a result of the occupation, my family became displaced and had to move to the Qadiya camp, where we resided for two years. During this time, my husband looked for a job to provide for our daily needs, but unfortunately, he did not find any job. This prompted our family to return to Sinjar, where we had no choice but to live in a completely burnt house. Due to the state of the house, it remained unclean for two years as it required extensive restoration and painting. After two years of struggling to make ends meet, the owner of the house asked us to leave on short notice, leaving us with no other option but to relocate back to Solagh area. Unfortunately, we have been residing in an abandoned school for almost a year now, as our house was demolished. Nevertheless, we are glad that our house has been selected to be rehabilitated by UN-Habitat, and I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of Japan for funding this project that covers the cost of the rehabilitation of our house, as well as to UN-Habitat for implementing the project. The rehabilitation of our house brings our family immense relief, as it will significantly improve our quality of life."



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.