



UN-HABITAT

Iraq Country Office

# Newsletter

## June 2023 | Issue 30



برنامج الموئل

• urban development

• sustainability

• housing

• Internal displacement people

• returnees

• human rights



In the latest newsletter, we share UN-Habitat Iraq's remarkable achievements in rebuilding communities during the month of June.

In Ba'aj District, we successfully facilitated the return of 973 individuals by constructing 97 housing units. Additionally, we focused on community development by rehabilitating a school, drilling water boreholes, and providing vocational training.

The inauguration of Al Zohour Park in Tel Afar brought new life to the once-abandoned area, while in Southern Iraq we are working to mitigate the impacts of sand and dust storms in the region.

In Sinjar District, we delivered 50 houses and a school to the Solagh Area community and rehabilitated 26 houses in Jafriyah Village.

These efforts aim to provide safe living environments, restore well-being, and promote sustainable returns. UN-Habitat Iraq's commitment to community development contributes to the overall development, stability, and hope in Iraq.



## ADRESSING SUSTAINABLE RETURN

By Wael AL-Ashhab

Dear readers,

UN-Habitat Iraq has been actively contributing to the rebuilding of communities and promoting sustainable returns in Iraq. Our achievements in June highlight our commitment to community development and the well-being of the Iraqi people.

We believe in the power of partnerships, collaboration, and shared responsibility. Working closely with local authorities, governments, and communities, we tailor our projects to meet their specific needs and aspirations.

Sustainable return is crucial for post-conflict recovery, providing individuals with the opportunity to rebuild their lives and communities with long-term stability. Our priority is to create safe living environments and promote overall well-being, empowering returnees to thrive.

Through the construction of housing units, rehabilitation of schools, vocational training, creation of public spaces, and building climate resilience strategies, we empower individuals to regain control of their lives and contribute to community development, social interaction, and health.

We are grateful for the support of our partners and donors, including the European Union, the Government of Japan, the United States of America, the Iraq UNDAF Trust Fund, the Government of Germany, the Iraq Ministry of Planning, Alwaleed Philanthropies, the Government of Korea, the Kuwait Relief Society, and the Government of France. Their contributions make our work possible.

Together, we strive to provide inclusive communities, resilient infrastructure, and the tools for individuals to rebuild their lives and secure a brighter future.

Let us continue supporting sustainable return in Iraq, fostering development, stability, and hope for all.



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**"Our priority is to create safe living environments and promote overall well-being, empowering returnees to thrive."**

Wael AL-Ashhab | Head of Country Programme  
UN-Habitat - Regional Office for Arab States

On June 25, 2023, Naif Nimer received his in situ core-housing unit in Tel Uzair Complex, Qahtanya Sub-District, through UN-Habitat's activities in Ba'aj District.

Over the past three years, with generous EU funding, our dedicated efforts in the project 'Support for Urban Recovery and Peacebuilding in Western Ninewa' facilitated the return of 973 individuals through the construction of 97 housing units.

In addition to housing, we took a holistic approach to community development, rehabilitating Al Qahtania Al-Oula Mixed Primary School for 250 students, drilling and rehabilitating three water boreholes serving 3000 people.

We also provided vocational training to over 406 participants and supported 2,189 individuals through HLP rights activities, ensuring sustainable livelihoods and well-being.

Ba'aj

## AL ZOHOUR PARK INAUGURATION: A NEW PUBLIC PLACE TO TEL AFAR'S PEOPLE TO ENJOY



 READ MORE



## REBUILDING LIVES AND COMMUNITIES: UN-HABITAT'S EFFORTS IN BA'AJ DISTRICT



Stay tuned for the media coverage of the Al Zohour Park inauguration in Tel Afar, witnessing its positive impact on the community.

The once-abandoned area, filled with trash, has been transformed through the support of the European Union, UN-Habitat Iraq, and local authorities. In the past four years, with EU backing, UN-Habitat Iraq has revitalized conflict-affected areas, creating and upgrading eight public parks, 120,000 new square meters of green spaces, including the iconic Al Yarmouk Park in Mosul.

These efforts aim to contribute to local development, restore well-being, and bring a sense of normalcy to the people of Iraq.

Tel Afar

## FIRST BATCH OF REHABILITATED HOUSES ENSURES SUSTAINABLE RETURNS FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE IN JAFRIYAH VILLAGE



Handover ceremony for the first 26 rehabilitated houses in Jafriyah village, supporting 193 beneficiaries under the KOICA-funded project marks major milestone in UN-Habitat Iraq's mission to foster peace and stability through providing adequate housing for internally displaced people.

Through extensive community-based consultations, we have been able to build trust within the community of Sinjar, ensuring that the houses meet the returnees' most pressing needs.

Looking forward, we aim to continue our efforts in promoting sustainable returns through facilitating access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities.

**Sinjar**

During our recent technical visit, we ensured perfection before delivering 50 rehabilitated houses and Al-Til school to the Solagh Area community in Sinjar District.

We interacted with families, including the Barakats, whose houses are being rehabilitated.

UN-Habitat Iraq and the Government of Japan are fully committed to safe living environments for families like the Barakats.

Our partnership project, "Recovery Support to Returnees in Iraq to Strengthen Socio-Economic Stabilization, including Improved Food Security" aims to help them return, rebuild, and restart their lives with hope, enhancing socio-economic stability and food security.

**Solagh**

## REHABILITATED HOMES AND SCHOOL TO SOLAGH AREA COMMUNITY IN SINJAR DISTRICT





## UN-HABITAT'S ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT SAND AND DUST STORMS IN IRAQ AND KUWAIT



UN-Habitat's project on "Improved City Resilience against Transboundary Sand and Dust Storms in Kuwait and Southern Iraq" has created an action plan for Priority Actions in sand and dust storm source areas in Southern Iraq.

These proposed measures, developed in collaboration with experts from Iraq and Kuwait, focus on physical and biological rehabilitation to curb wind erosion and dust cloud formation.

By implementing these actions, we aim to reduce the frequency and intensity of sand and dust storms not only in Southern Iraq but also in neighboring regions.

This concept emerged from extensive field studies and remote sensing analysis conducted by UN-Habitat since March 2023.

[Southern Iraq](#)

## SHARING EXPERIENCES AND ADVOCATING OUR MISSION

In June, UN-Habitat Iraq actively participated in events to share expertise and advocate for our mission.

Mr. Muslim Qazimi, UN-Habitat Iraq Deputy Head of Country Programme, joined the Youth, Peace, and Security Learning Forum in Jordan, discussing Youth-Driven Transformation and engaging Iraqi youth in urban and human development.

Mr. Ryosuke Teraoka, Head of Kurdistan Region of Iraq Office, contributed to the Humanitarian Futures Conference in Oslo, highlighting UN-Habitat's expertise in addressing shelter needs for vulnerable returnees in Iraq. This includes the construction of affordable houses for those whose homes were fully destroyed.

UN-Habitat's integrated approach combines reconstruction, rehabilitation, vocational training, and livelihood support, uplifting vulnerable populations in the most affected areas.

[Watch here: Humanitarian Futures Conference](#)

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.