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Visit of H.E. Mr. Futoshi Matsumoto, Ambassador of Japan to Iraq to the Bab Sinjar Housing Complex in Mosul

UN-Habitat is honored to have received His Excellency Mr. Futoshi Matsumoto, Ambassador of Japan to Iraq, to the Bab Sinjar Housing Complex in west Mosul, Ninawa Governorate for the inauguration of the social housing complex built by UN-Habitat Iraq under the project titled "Support to Reconstruction and Peacebuilding of Liberated Cities in Iraq" funded by the Government of Japan. The ceremony was held on 12th February 2023 with the presence of Ms. Evan Jabro, Minister of Migration and Displaced, Mr. Ghulam Mohammad ISACZAI, UN Deputy Special Representative, Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, Mr. Najim Abdullah Al-Jubouri, Governor of Ninewa, along with the representatives of UNICEF, relevant government officials, and construction partners. Approximately 2,300 returnees currently reside in nine buildings of 324 units. The great collaboration between the Government of Iraq and UN-Habitat was praised and the project is seen as one of the best practices for durable solutions towards the returnees.



Visit to Urban Recovery Projects in Basra

On February 5, UN-Habitat accompanied H.E. the EU Ambassador and the Ambassadors of Greece, Poland and Romania on a visit to the underserved neighbourhoods of Al Ahrar, Al Kubiyah and Jurf Al Meleh in Basra City. UN-Habitat is constructing and rehabilitating public spaces, providing sewage and water networks, upgrading roads and vocational training to improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable people in these neighbourhoods, through the EU-funded "Increasing Access to Employment Opportunities for Vulnerable Urban Population in Basra City in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis" programme.

DSRSG Visits UN-Habitat Projects in Sinjar



On the 13th of February, the Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations, Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC) for Iraq, Mr. Ghulam Mohammad ISACZAI, accompanied by the Special Advisor to the President of Iraq, Mr. Mohammed Amin and the Head of UN-Habitat Iraq Programme, visited the project sites in Sinjar. They attended the ceremony for the distribution of the occupancy certificates to the households in Tal Banat township, Sinjar district. Mr. Ghulam highlighted the close collaboration between the government of Iraq and the UN on the recently approved legal decree, and also emphasized that the compensation scheme is an important mechanism for the IDPs which will contribute to sustainable returns and achieve durable solutions.

Piloting of digitized commercial property inventories



Conscious of the need to move towards the digitization and digitalization of the public administration, Mosul and Baiji Municipalities have requested UN-Habitat's support to conduct a street-by-street pilot registration supported by GPS coordinates of unrecorded businesses and enterprises. Falluja Water Directorate has instead prioritized the conversion of users records on paper to digital databases. Both pilot activities were launched through UN-Habitat's implementing partner AGO, who deployed 110 young enumerators and 10 data clerks. The enumerators had recorded almost 25,000 businesses and the data entry clerks digitized over 33,766 water users' records. This initiative is being conducted with the generous support of the European Union.

Construction of in-situ core housing in Tel Qasab

Like many other families from the Tel Qasab Complex, Sinjar District, ISIL cast a shadow over Khiero and his nine dependents for many years before they decided to return to their home, knowing that ISIL's occupation had severely damaged their house and livelihood. However, they were determined to rebuild their lives as they believed there was no real home but their original hometown. Through the EU-funded programme implemented by UN-Habitat to promote returns and support returnees, Kheiro received HLP support to verify his property ownership and an in-situ core house unit to accommodate his family. After moving in, he improved the kitchen and the washroom by himself.



Recovery Support to Returnees in Sinjar

"UN-Habitat is currently conducting an assessment in Sinjar area under the new project titled "Recovery Support to Returnees in Iraq to Strengthen Socio-Economic Stabilization, including Improved Food Security" funded by the Government of Japan. The project will focus on (a) the rehabilitation of housing units damaged or destroyed by the conflict, (b) improving returnees' access to public infrastructure such as water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities, and basic services, including schools and marketplaces, using environmentally friendly approaches, (c) and providing opportunities for capacity development and raising awareness on food security and resource efficiency in particular. The project is planned to be completed in January 2024.



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.