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Government officials partake in the official inauguration of the revamped Al Asri Park in Baiji

As part of its effort to improve the quality of life in conflict-affected areas, UN-Habitat's local development team recently completed the rehabilitation of Al Asri Park (10,000 sqm) in the city of Baiji. The inauguration event held on 25 August was attended by Ms. Bushra Al-Qaisi, Parliament member from Baiji District, Baiji Mayor, Head of Municipality, local officials and community representatives. Speeches were followed by a formal ribbon-cutting and a site visit to the two new sports courts, open air gym, the large semi-circular fountain, picnic area, gazebos and amenities for children. The project, funded by the European Union, included a much-needed street-by-street garbage cleaning campaign, the distribution of domestic plastic garbage bins, and a WASH awareness-campaign that engaged nearly 400 children in a series of lively drawing sessions.



UN-Habitat completes construction of new low-cost houses for returnees in Sinjar

UN-Habitat has completed the construction of 32 core houses in Sinjar under the project titled "Emergency Support to Returnees in Iraq after the Outbreak of COVID-19" funded by the Government of Japan. The handover procedure to the beneficiaries has commenced in the presence of the community leaders and UN-Habitat mission team. About 350 returnees are planned to reside in their reconstructed houses shortly.

Construction of new core-housing units commences in Tel Qasab, to benefit hundreds of vulnerable households

Following the handover of 15 core-housing units to vulnerable households returning to Tel Qasab, Sinjar District, UN-Habitat has started the construction of another 30 units targeting 270 beneficiaries under the EU-funded project "Support for Urban Recovery and Peacebuilding in Western Ninewa."



UN-Habitat and UNFPA join hands for improving living conditions for women and girls

UN-Habitat and UNFPA Iraq office signed an inter-agency agreement to rehabilitate women shelters, youth, and health facilities in Iraq. The partnership aims to improve the rights and living conditions of women including GBV survivors and youth with disabilities as well as capacity and resilience of the health facilities in Iraq.



UN-Habitat rehabilitates a football park to support 15 local football teams for peaceful living

UN-Habitat believes in the power of sport as a tool for peace and community development to unite youth and strengthen social cohesion in post-conflict areas. To improve the quality of returnees' life and support 15 local football teams in Ayadiah Sub-District, UN-Habitat Iraq has rehabilitated a football park with lighting and the construction of changing rooms and WASH facilities as one of its interventions to help urban recovery and sustainable returns. This project is funded by the European Union.



Two tourist facilities completed in Mesopotamian Marshes to improve local livelihoods

In the presence of Maysan Governor, government officials and the media, UN-Habitat inaugurated a second tourist facility in the Mesopotamian Marshes funded by the Iraq Trust Fund. The tourist facility, built along the road to the Hawizeh marshes, offers a large traditional "mudhif" built and a shaded area built in reed, a row of shops for the sale of local products, a pier for accessing the boats, and toilets. The facilities' handover to the local authorities comes at a very critical time for the population living in the marshes because of the on-going drought and fall in water levels which is causing a dramatic loss of vegetation, fish and buffalos upon which they depend for their livelihoods.



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.



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