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UN-Habitat rehabilitates 260 houses in Sinjar for returnees

As part of its efforts to support the returns of displaced communities in areas badly affected by conflict, UN-Habitat is strongly engaged in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of houses in Sinjar to improve living conditions and uphold human rights.

Many internally displaced families continue to struggle with the harsh reality of returning home because of the destruction of houses, loss of livelihoods and the lack of vital services. The lack of safe, decent housing also poses challenges in terms of protection and causes additional hardship for vulnerable households, particularly those headed by women, or taking care of people with disabilities and elderly relatives.

With generous funding from the Government of Japan, UN-Habitat Iraq was able to rebuild and rehabilitate over 260 houses in Sinjar and restore the livelihoods of hundreds of residents.



UN-Habitat facilitates housing, land and property rights for Yazidi minority

In coordination with local authorities and community leaders, UN-Habitat's Housing, Land and Property Rights (HLP) program organized its first awareness session on HLP under the project titled "Promoting Peace and Stability in Iraq by Facilitating Sustainable Returns", funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). The team already issued and distributed a first batch of 90 land occupancy certificates to the Yazidi minority living in the Sinjar district.

The project aims to provide support for the displaced residents of Sinjar by facilitating and supporting their HLP rights and improving their living conditions.

Previously, due to a legacy of discrimination, the Yazidi minority were not allowed to register their land rights in Iraq. However, through UN-Habitat's HLP program, Yazidi's HLP claims were registered and homeowners received their land occupancy documentation for the first time in history.

Combating climate change in classrooms: UN-Habitat partners with the University of Mosul

UN-Habitat partnered with the prestigious Mosul University to deliver a two-week Summer Course titled "Green Building and Sustainable Technologies", as part of its local development program funded by the European Union. The curriculum was designed to address what might be this century's greatest challenge – the preservation of a habitable planet.

The course, held by Dr Adel Al-Assaf, an expert in this field, was attended by 30 freshly graduated engineers and final-year students, as well as a dozen professors who were keen to incorporate the concepts into their curriculum.



UN-Habitat provides vocational training in Telafar to promote a sustainable future

Despite the benefits of renewable energy, most Iraqi consumers and decision-makers in the public sector lack the necessary knowledge on solar energy and confidence in its feasibility as an alternative power source. There is an urgent need to ramp up the solar market in Iraq and reduce people's dependence on the national grid and non-renewable sources.

To support upskilling and employment prospects in this growing sector, UN-Habitat enrolled 10 youth from Telafar in a dedicated vocational training course delivered by Aid Gate Organization (AGO), in partnership with Mosul's Vocational Training Centre (VTC). Once their training was completed, they embarked on a week-long apprenticeship with the Dohuk-based Silevany Company during their installation of a new solar power system in Yarmouk Park in Mosul, also a UN-Habitat project. This initiative was funded by the European Union.



UN-Habitat organizes 'Athletics for Peace Festival' in Baiji

In order to promote sports and athletics in conflict-affected areas, UN-Habitat launched in partnership with the Sabe'a Sanabul Organization for Relief & Development (SSORD) the 'Al Asri Youth Athletics for Peace Festival' to mark the establishment of an adjacent five-a-side football pitch and the completion of the rehabilitation of Al Asri Park in the conflict-affected city of Baiji, both funded by the European Union.

Various football and volleyball matches, a marathon, and plays days for children were held during the festival. Team sports and athletics offer a powerful tool to strengthen social ties and reach across political divides and ethnic/religious differences, particularly for the youth that have grown up in an environment of intolerance and conflict.



UN-Habitat offers vocational training in Sinjar to empower the community

Nofa Issa Omar lived a peaceful life with her husband and daughter before the ISIS invasion in Iraq. During the conflict, Nofa's husband was kidnapped, and she was trapped fending for herself with a newborn child. She was forced to move with her daughter into a camp for about two years during which she desperately searched for any job opportunity that she could find.

Nofa eventually returned to her hometown to provide a better life for her child. She was enrolled in a vocational training course and a cash-for-work program implemented by UN-Habitat and supported by the Government of Japan. This initiative allowed 200 returnees to be engaged in construction activities, such as whitewashing walls during the construction of houses, and supported young people to improve their livelihoods and acquire skills to enhance their future employment opportunities.

Upon completion of the training, Nofa used her newly acquired skills in painting walls, fully engaging in construction works around the area. Nofa is planning to establish a small business with her female friends to provide services to help restore the destroyed houses for the people in the community.

"My message to all women would be to work and become independent financially – said Nofa – to take care of our children, to secure a better future for them".



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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