



UN-HABITAT

Iraq Country Office

# Newsletter

## May 2023 | Issue 29



برنامج الموئل

• urban development

• sustainability

• housing

• Internal displacement people

• returnees

• human rights



This month's newsletter encapsulates inspiring stories, valuable insights, and collaborative efforts that contribute to the advancement of Iraq's urban and human development and the well-being of its people.

We explore the significance of empowering homes with sustainable energy, shedding light on the positive impact it can have on communities. Through Ali's story, we highlight the daunting challenges individuals and families face in the aftermath of conflict and occupation.

Furthermore, we share the news of 450 solar water heaters being provided to homeowners whose houses have been rehabilitated. Lastly, we celebrate #EuropeDay, as the European Union and UN-Habitat join forces to commemorate the collaboration in Iraq.



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## ADVANCING URBAN AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN IRAQ

By Wael AL-Ashhab

Dear readers,

Iraq is currently undergoing a transition from a humanitarian to a development-oriented situation. Despite persisting challenges, our unwavering dedication lies in effectively addressing global and local concerns, including climate change emergencies, while actively working towards ending displacement through the provision of affordable housing and basic services, upgrading the urban infrastructure, protecting housing land and property rights, and facilitating sustainable returns.

We fully comprehend the weight of our responsibility and are dedicated to aligning our efforts with the interests of the Iraqi government and its people.

Gratefully we are not alone on this mission and can count on the support of esteemed partners, including the European Union, the Government of Japan, the United States of America, the Iraq UNDAF Trust Fund, Germany, the Iraq Ministry of Planning, Alwaleed Philanthropies, the Government of Korea, the Kuwait Relief Society, and France.

We invite you to delve into our May Newsletter, where we proudly highlight the month's achievements in advancing urban development in this transitioning nation.

As the Head of the Country Programme at UN-Habitat - Regional Office for Arab States, it is an honor to share this journey towards a better urban future for all Iraqis.



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

Noteworthy initiative provides 450 solar water heaters to rehabilitated homeowners. This enterprise promotes renewable energy use, offering environmental sustainability, relieving strain on the city grid, and reducing electricity costs for low-income families. With over 3,150 beneficiaries, this effort promises a significant impact. Guidelines brochures were also distributed to ensure homeowners can effectively utilize the equipment. The initiative showcases our commitment to renewable energy and sustainable development in these communities.

**Local: Mosul, Baiji, and Telafar.**

## EMPOWERING HOMES WITH SUSTAINABLE ENERGY



## #EUROPEDAY EUROPEAN UNION AND UN-HABITAT CELEBRATE COLLABORATION IN IRAQ



The European Union and UN-Habitat celebrated their partnership on Europe Day in Iraq, focusing on the importance of building equitable, resilient, and sustainable communities.

Together, we aim to create a better future for Iraqi communities.

Social events such as football matches and painting activities were organized in rehabilitated facilities.

Furthermore, they marked the occasion by delivering newly constructed houses to vulnerable community members and planting trees.

**Local: Basra City, Tel Qasab and Tel Uzair Complexes in Ninewa Governorate**

## DIFFICULTIES AND CHALLENGES IN THE AFTERMATH OF CONFLICT AND OCCUPATION



Meet Ali Haji Abd, a 75-year-old farmer from Solagh, who shared with us his story of displacement and hardship caused by occupation.

Forced to move to a camp, Ali's health deteriorated, leading him to return to Sinjar.

Facing constant relocation, he eventually built a tent on his land.

Fortunately, UN-Habitat selected his house for rehabilitation under a project funded by the Government of Japan, offering hope and stability to Ali and his community.

**Local: Solagh**

## BRINGING DISPLACEMENT SITUATION TO AN END

Since 2015, in partnership with Ninewa governorate, UN-Habitat Iraq has been dedicated to addressing the priorities and concerns of displaced and vulnerable people from Sinjar, aiming to facilitate a peaceful, sustainable, and dignified return.

In May we have initiated the rehabilitation of 26 damaged houses in Jafriyah Village. The goal is for these 26 families to return to their houses by mid-June.

**Local: Sinjar**



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.