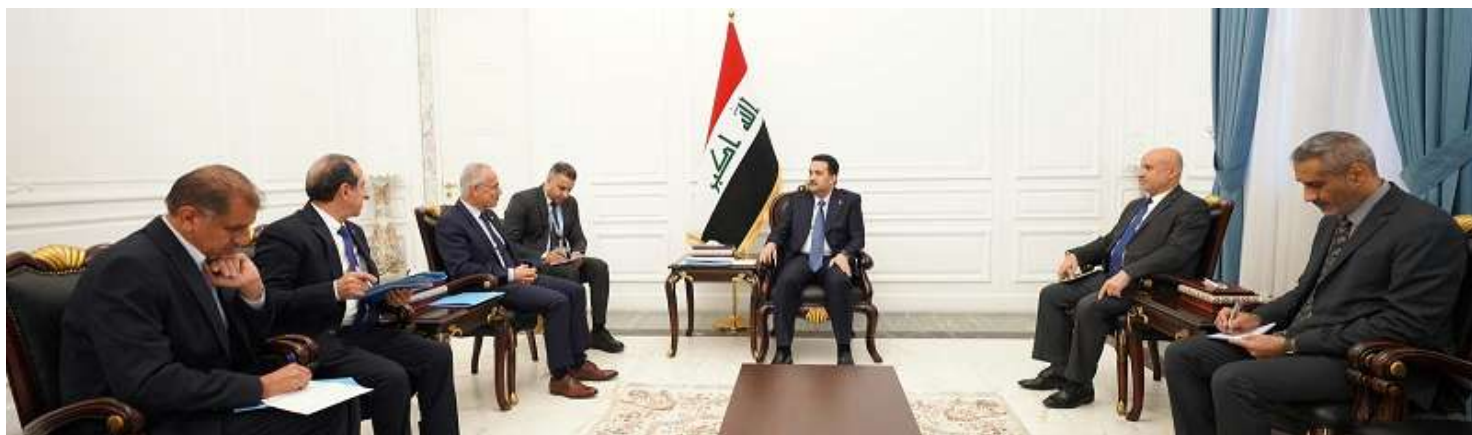


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Yazidi Land Rights Recognised by the Legal Decree

On the 16th of December, the Head of the UN-Habitat Programme in Iraq Wael Al-Ashhab, joined by DSRSG/RC Ghulam Isaczai, met with the Prime Minister of Iraq, HE Mohammed S. Al- Sudani to discuss the legal decree for recognizing the Yazidi's land and property rights. On the 27th of December 2022, the Council of Ministers approved in its regular meeting the Legal Decree which was jointly drafted with UN-Habitat and the Prime Minister's Office. The approved legal decree recognizes and grants land ownership and property rights for the Yazidi minority and will formalize their land rights by turning the Occupancy Certificates issued by UN-Habitat into full Land Ownership Titles.



Vocational Training in Al-Yarmouk Park



Aside from improving living conditions and helping to mitigate the extreme temperatures of Iraqi summers, the physical rehabilitation and maintenance of public spaces in war-affected cities offer labour-intensive job opportunities and the upskilling of youth. Conscious of this, UN-Habitat has recently concluded the final round of on-the-job vocational training for 26 unemployed male and female youth in Mosul on civil works that included plastering, painting, electrical and steel works. The theoretical and practical training courses were conducted in Al-Yarmouk park by specialized trainers from Nineveh Vocational Training Centre (VTC) in partnership with the Engineering Association for Development and Environment (EADE) and Mosul Municipality. This project was designed to improve the youth's employment prospects in civil works and further expand the local community's ownership of the newly inaugurated park. This important initiative was delivered under the European Union-funded programme "Supporting Recovery and Stability in Iraq through Local Development".



UN-Habitat and UNFPA join hands for improving living conditions of vulnerable population including women and girls.

UN-Habitat in partnership with UNFPA is renovating a Women Safe Space in Baghdad for survivors of gender-based violence. The project fosters a supportive environment where inclusivity is expected and prioritized. Also, UN-Habitat continues renovation works at youth facilities for people with disabilities in Mosul. UN-Habitat is committed to support diversity and actively promotes gender equality and disability considerations. The partnership between UN-Habitat and UNFPA 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.

DSRSG visit to UN-Habitat tourist facility in Maysan

The DSRSG and UN-Habitat Iraq's Head of Program visited the tourist facility built in Eastern Hammar Marshes at the edge of Al Shafi Village in Basra Governorate. The facility, which includes a traditional *mudhif* built-in reeds, was funded by the UNDAF Iraq Trust Fund and implemented by UN-Habitat to promote awareness of the importance of the marshes to the resilience and livelihoods of local communities and improve tourism access to the marshes.

The visit highlighted the suffering of these communities as a result of water shortages due to climate change and reduced river flow.



Ongoing rehabilitation of Al-Ahrar school in Basra

The DSRSG and the UN-Habitat Iraq Head of Country visited Al-Ahrar Primary School, located in one of the most underserved neighbourhoods in Basra City. Upon completing rehabilitation and expansion work, funded by the European Union and implemented by the UN-Habitat, this school will serve approximately 1,200 students in two shifts (boys and girls). During this visit, sustainability and community engagement were discussed with the school headmasters of the two shift schools and parent association.



UN-Habitat has completed the project titled "Emergency Support to Returnees in Iraq after the Outbreak of COVID-19" funded by the Government of Japan

UN-Habitat has completed the project titled "Emergency Support to Returnees in Iraq after the Outbreak of COVID-19" funded by the Government of Japan. The project was implemented in Sinjar/Western Ninewa, Ninewa Governorate and consisted of four components: reconstruction and rehabilitation of 167 houses, rehabilitation of WASH facilities, vocational training as well as cash-for-work (CfW), and COVID-19 awareness-raising campaign, with total of 28,000 beneficiaries. The project helped returnees to become less dependent on humanitarian assistance through stronger social cohesion and improved livelihoods. UN-Habitat will continuously provide its support to the returnees in the region with the newly funded project by the Government of Japan.



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.