

Beautiful Basra

Local project funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme under the programme Supporting Recovery and Stability in Iraq through Local Development



WHAT

Job creation and economic growth are among the top priorities of both the Government of Iraq and the Governorate of Basra. To improve the life of the people of Basra, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is implementing the Beautiful Basra project with funding from the European Union (EU), and in partnership with the Governorate of Basra and the local non-governmental organization Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid.

The two-year project is one of several local projects of the programme Supporting Recovery and Stability in Iraq through Local Development. The programme aims at contributing to the stability and socio-economic development of Iraq through enhancing democratic governance at the local level. It is working to improve the ability of selected governorates to efficiently manage local government and public services. Economic growth and job creation are prioritized, with a focus on green projects and the inclusion of youth and women.

WHY

The objectives of the Beautiful Basra project are:



Increased access to jobs;



Urban revival and boosted local socio-economic development;



Improved decentralized local services; and



Renewed sense of nationhood, self-confidence and hope as a result of the changes.



HOW

- Creation of the first environment-friendly recreational area in Basra along the Shatt al-Arab river (20,000 square meter-public space);
- Re-introduction of the architectural and cultural heritage of Basra into new designs such as the old-style 'Shanasheel';
- Reviving of the richness of traditional ecosystems and livelihoods, such as old boats and natural purification of water from the Marshlands;
- Building back better by using environment-friendly methods of recycling and renewable energy;
- Training of unemployed, vulnerable people, mostly youth and women, to carry out sustainable livelihood activities;
- Creation of employment opportunities for at least 400 unemployed members of the local community; and
- Facilitation of job creation through local small and medium enterprises.

FUNDING

**\$2
million**

Provided by
the European Union

DURATION

2 years

WHERE



Relevant Sustainable Development Goals

“Youth in Iraq are their country's greatest potential, ready to offer passionate solutions and eager to participate in shaping their local environment. I am happy that through this project, we can offer them such an opportunity.”

Ambassador Martin Huth
Head of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Iraq

“Beautiful Basra takes local development in the south of Iraq to a new level. Introducing green recreational areas and investing in youth as a driving force for the implementation of this project will help promote a more sustainable future.”

Zena Ali-Ahmad
Resident Representative of UNDP Iraq

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