



Social Cohesion Programme during COVID-19 Update

United Nations Development Programme Iraq December 2020

UNDP WORKSHOP BRINGING IRAQI GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL PEACE COMMITTEES TOGETHER

Pictured above, representatives of Local Peace Committees (LPCs) supported by UNDP from Ninewa, Anbar and Salah al-Din governorates met with the Iraqi government's Coexistence and Community Peace Committee at a workshop held on October 17 in Baghdad. The sessions discussed linkages between the work of the LPCs at the local level and the government on working toward increased social cohesion in Iraq, including areas for collaboration and improvement. The LPCs play a major role in conflict resolution, advocate for peace and coexistence, and work to empower locals to promote social cohesion and reconciliation within their communities. Over 100 people attended the day-long workshop, including eighty LPC members representing their respective committees.



MILESTONE COVENANT SIGNING FACILITATES VOLUNTARY RETURNS



A Covenant of Honour to encourage more than 1100 families perceived to be affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) to return to their places of origin in the Muhalabiya sub-district was signed at a Local Peace Conference in Muhalabiya, Ninewa on October 14. The conference, organized by the West Mosul Local Peace Committee, was sponsored by the Governor of Ninewa and supported by UNDP Iraq. For many families, the Covenant signing will mark their return home for the first time in three years, when liberation operations in the area began. UNDP Iraq has recently launched a project on community readiness and reintegration of perceived ISIL-affiliated families with a target to reach 4,000 families in four locations of Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Anbar governorates in the first year, to be followed by more households in 2021 and 2022.



PAINTING FOR PEACE IN IRAQ

During an 11-day campaign in September, UNDP Iraq's Diyala Youth Group for Peace painted a 100-metre-long mural depicting peace and freedom in Diyala's capital city. The artwork now adorning the external wall of Al-Huriyah (Freedom) High School in the center of Baquba is an initiative created by the local youth to promote coexistence and peace among community members. More than 20 youth participated in the design and painting, including volunteers, and school representatives. Part of the Social Cohesion Programme's Integrated Reconciliation Project focuses on empowering youth and strengthening their position within society by building their confidence to encourage better engagement with communities and local authorities.

ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION IN ANBAR & SALAH AL-DIN

In November, UNDP Iraq, in partnership with Kurdistan Human Rights Watch, implemented a multi-session programme to train vulnerable Iraqi youth and women in Anbar and Salah al-Din governorates. The training sessions focused on vocational skills including tailoring, barber skills, painting, computer skills, and English language skills. A total of 240 participants in Anbar and 129 in Salah al-Din took part in training sessions, running from 8 November to 25 November. Ensuring equal opportunity for access to income-generating activities and bringing different segments of communities together is vital in achieving social cohesion



RELEASED AND UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS

UNDP Iraq, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration, released a [policy paper](#) on the impact of COVID-19 on social cohesion in Iraq on 15 November. The report notes COVID-19's exacerbation of existing and sometimes deeply rooted political, economic, social and security challenges, highlighting its resulting impact on the country's diverse social fabric. It makes policy recommendations to help the Government and other stakeholders effectively plan for Iraq's recovery from COVID-19. Upcoming publications in December 2020 include:

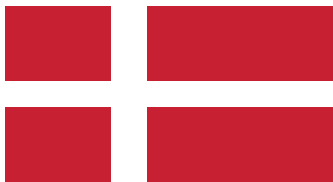
- Women and Girls in Iraq During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Elicitive Peace and Conflict Monitoring Pilot Study in Iraq



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS. WITHOUT YOUR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT, THESE PROGRAMMES WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.



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