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له خهلكى ژاپون

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UN HABITAT
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PRESS RELEASE

Delivery of IDP Shelter Site in Kerbala and Launch of two UN-Habitat projects in Iraq funded by the Government of Japan

On 30 March 2016, Kerbala, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) organized a ceremony to mark the delivery of a new IDP shelter site in Kerbala and to launch two projects funded by the Government of Japan to support to the humanitarian response and recovery activities in Iraq to be implemented by UN-Habitat: namely, the “*Gender-sensitive Durable Shelter Support*” and “*Promoting Urban Recovery in Newly Liberated Areas in Iraq.*”

The ceremony took place in Kerbala, where a new shelter site is delivered by UN-Habitat through generous funding from the Government of Japan provided in 2015. The new site was planned and equipped with durable prefabricated shelter units, basic infrastructure and public facilities. As of 3 March 2016, Kerbala Governorate has received more than 67,000 IDPs. In this phase the IDP shelter site in Kerbala is expected to accommodate more than 400 vulnerable IDP families who are currently hosted in hotels and Housainyat in the city.

Despite the efforts of the national government and local authorities in providing support to IDPs and returnees, the severe budget crises because of the decline in the oil prices and the cost of the war against ISIL necessitate the mobilization of substantial humanitarian support. H.E. Mr. Fumio Iwai, Ambassador of Japan to Iraq, stated that he is glad to support UN-Habitat’s projects across Iraq to improve living conditions of IDPs. He also emphasized that the Government of Japan is committed to engage with the humanitarian and stabilization efforts in Iraq and they will stand side by side with the people of Iraq to move forward on the liberation from terrorism.

In few weeks another four shelter sites implemented by UN-Habitat will be concluded to host more than 10,000 IDPs in Baghdad, Dohuk and Missan. Ms. Lise Grande, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, announced to the media that the government of Japan has provided substantial financial support to help the IDPs and the returnees in collaboration with the UN agencies and the government of Iraq. Ms. Grande added that provision of durable shelters implemented by UN-Habitat is the most dignified option for IDPs until their return is secured.

Dr. Erfan Ali, Head of UN-Habitat Iraq, in his remarks underlined the importance of the new Urban Recovery initiative that will be funded by Japan based on the good practices of UN-Habitat, aiming to support empowerment of communities in newly liberated areas in Iraq through self-repair and self-maintenance of housing and basic community infrastructure damaged by crisis.

H.E. Mr. Nsaief AlKhatabi, Chairman of Kerbala Provincial Council, expressed his gratitude to the Government of Japan as well as to UN-Habitat and all other UN agencies for supporting Kerbala Governorate to tackle challenges faced by IDPs and host communities who are suffering from severe country-wide financial crisis.