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PRESS RELEASE

Delivery of IDP Shelter Site in Aeon Missan, Missan Governorate

Amara, Maissan On 21 September 2016, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) organized a ceremony to mark the delivery of prefabricated shelter units for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Aeon Missan, Missan Governorate. With generous contribution from the Government of Japan, the new shelter site is provided with basic infrastructure constructed by UN-Habitat to accommodate more than 600 vulnerable IDPs under the project titled “*Humanitarian Support to IDPs in Iraq through Provision of Durable Shelter.*”

H.E. Mr. Ali Dawai, Governor of Missan, opened the event by explaining that Missan Governorate has opened and will continue to open its doors to help the displaced persons based on the belief that they have a moral duty to help those who are in difficulties. The Governor expressed his appreciation for the collaboration among the Government of Japan, UN-Habitat and Missan Governorate that enabled the completion of this project.

H.E. Mr. Fumio Iwai, Ambassador of Japan to Iraq, stated that Japan pays much attention to human security, which guarantees free life and a decent and secured living, wherever human lives. In this spirit, Japan provided more than USD 230 million since the beginning of the displacement crisis in 2014. The Ambassador reiterated that the optimal solution for the crisis is the return of the displaced people, based on reconstruction of the damaged infrastructure, and confirmed that Japan continues to stand by Iraq and provide financial support as people in Iraq exert utmost self-help efforts to overcome crises and to achieve the stability and economic development of the country.

Dr. Erfan Ali, Head of UN-Habitat Iraq Programme, pointed out that inadequate and insecure shelter conditions of the displaced persons endanger particularly women and girls, making them increasingly vulnerable to social challenges including gender-based violence. “*Southern governorates including Missan generously hosted significant number of displaced families, and it is indispensable to support their efforts*” he added. UN-Habitat’s representative expressed his hope that safe, dignified and durable shelter and public facilities provided in Missan will contribute to improve living conditions of the displaced persons, and reiterated the commitment of UN-Habitat to work closely with the Iraqi Government and local authorities to support people affected by the crisis and to offer them lives with dignity.

For further information, please contact:

Alan Miran

Media and Communications Specialist, UN-Habitat

Email: alan.miran@unhabitatiraq.org

Mobile: + 964 750 342 7036

Website : unhabitat.org/iraq

Facebook : facebook.com/unhabitatiraq

Twitter : twitter.com/UNHabitatIRAQ