



JSB 2019: Final Narrative Report

Project Title	Supporting Sustainable Peace and Development in Iraq	
Country	Iraq	
Geographical Coverage	Output 1: Sinjar and Ninewa Plains, Ninewa Governorate Output 2: Sinjar and Ninewa Plains, Ninewa Governorate Output 3: Qairawan-Sinjar, Ninewa Governorate Output 4: Qairawan-Sinjar, Ninewa Governorate	
Project Dates	Start 25 March 2020	End 31 December 2021
Implementing Party	UNDP	

Executive Summary

The current situation in Iraq remains challenging, with Iraq suffering from several protracted crises, poor productive infrastructure, low national product competitiveness, limited employment opportunities, especially among youth and women in the liberated areas of Iraq. The current security situation is unstable and the lack of processes towards reconciliation in multi-ethnic and multi-sectarian areas such as Ninewa are failing to address cyclical violence in Iraq at the same time ignoring the local population's needs (O'Driscoll, 2018b; Parry, 2018).

In response to this, UNDP's "Supporting Sustainable Peace and Development in Iraq" project aimed to address the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus, while supporting sustainable peace and development in Iraq. The project focused on target locations within Ninewa Governorate (Sinjar and Ninewa Plains) to restore the livelihood of residents and returnees with focus on youth, women, former combatants, and farmers.

The project provided direct support to productive power infrastructure such as power supply to the agricultural sector, built the capacities of youth and women specifically in the field of agriculture to meet the employment market demand, provided small grants for the creation of micro-small and medium enterprises (MSMEs); and to designed and established the Community Security and Integration Pilot (CSIP), including corresponding Standard Operating Procedures.

The project aimed to improve livelihoods of disadvantaged, vulnerable, and marginalized populations, especially returning youth in target areas through:

- Enhancing the livelihoods physical capital by enabling the provision of the cheapest and more reliable power supply for agricultural production which is the main income generating activity in the target location.

- Securing higher financial capital by producing more competitive agricultural products with less production cost leading to more profits for farmers and by supporting the financial capital through small grants.
- Developing the human capital through training and capacity building on sound agricultural practices, agribusiness management and marketing while meeting the market employment demand; and
- Increasing access to physical assets for existing entrepreneurs and providing funds for business expansion and micro-startups

While the project's objectives targeted all 16 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the project specifically contributed to: Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth through support for emergency and sustainable livelihood; Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities through strengthening public service provision, and Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

Background

The security and economic situation in Iraq remain unstable. The country is still suffering from the serious consequences of Islamic State of Iraq and the Islamic State in Iraq and Levant (ISIL) coupled with political instability manifested by demonstrations demanding employment and basic services among other demands. Poverty is increasing, unemployment is soaring especially among youth, social cohesion is fragile, and agricultural products are less competitive, opening markets through weak border control with neighbouring countries.

As a result, livelihood opportunities for citizens, particularly in liberated areas remain a challenge. The designated areas of the project, Sinjar and Ninewa Plains, were the most affected areas during the military conflict with ISIL. The number of damaged dwellings reached 14,035 houses in addition to damages to the public services infrastructure such as schools and hospitals.

Poverty

The standard of living has deteriorated, and a noticeable share of the population has fallen into poverty or is extremely vulnerable to falling into poverty. Iraq's poverty rate shot up from 20% in 2018 to 30% in 2021.

The Ninewa Governorate hosts the highest number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees out of all Governorates in Iraq. The families and individuals returning to their towns often face a lack of livelihoods, social cohesion, and security. Rural Ninewa poverty head count comes the second after rural Babel with almost 360,000 poor individuals. However, the number of people vulnerable to poverty are much higher. There are 602,490 IDPs and 1,498,020 returnees (Dylan O'Driscoll). The diminishing incomes, food and water insecurity, places pressure on remaining scarce resources, risking increased tensions within and between communities.

According to a 2021 World Bank and UNHCR study, in the KRI, vulnerable Iraqis, refugees and IDPs faced experienced substantial increases in poverty rates of 24 p.p., 21 p.p., and 28 p.p., respectively, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. That means 1.2 million people in the host community will have fallen into poverty, as well as 49,000 Syrian refugees and more than 180,000 Iraqi IDPs.¹

Agriculture

Ninewa plain comprises the biggest agricultural plain in Iraq, and it is considered the breadbasket of Iraq. Most of the inhabitants rely on agriculture and animal husbandry as their major income generating activity. In good precipitation years the production is adequate, otherwise the production per unit area is low. The intermittent and non-reliable power supply is causing deficient irrigation to summer crops leading to lower yields and causing financial losses to farmers. The cost of irrigation pumping, according to some references, goes up to \$250 per month because farmers must buy part of the fuel from unsubsidized sources. Some secondary and tertiary canals of irrigation water conveyance require maintenance to operate and to reach farms that currently cannot produce profitable crops sustainably.

The room for increasing yields is big. However, because of the lack of the public extension, services must be compensated by investing in the human capital of farmers and especially the youth who are

¹ <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/878321608148278305/pdf/Compounding-Misfortunes-Changes-in-Poverty-Since-the-Onset-of-COVID-19-on-Syrian-Refugees-and-Host-Communities-in-Jordan-the-Kurdistan-Region-of-Iraq-and-Lebanon.pdf>

more responsive to modern production techniques. Training farmers and supporting them in the production process will have a positive impact of their livelihood.

The development of existing value chains and the possible introduction of new value chains can diversify the products that have a greater market added value and reduce relying on imports. With adequate power to irrigation water pumping and sufficient training, the yields will be boosted to increase the financial revenues of households that will support the desirable livelihood outcomes of poverty alleviation, reconstruction of the physical capital such as houses, farms, and productive machinery on the medium run. The creation of new value chains and the development of existing ones can create direct and indirect jobs on many levels.

Social cohesion

Ninewa Plains and Sinjar located in the Ninewa Governorate are inhabited by a range of religious and ethnic groups such as Arabs, Christians, Kurds, Yazidis, Shabaks and Turkmens. Both Ninewa Plains and Sinjar have been severely impacted by the fight against ISIL. Following the recapture of these locations from ISIL control by the Iraqi security forces (ISF) in 2018, some tensions stemming from competition for limited resources (i.e., land) and access to public services and opportunities for gainful employment continue to cause much friction and division among the diverse local population and, more specifically between Shabak and Christian groups in some areas of Ninewa Plains. Additionally, the situation is further compounded by ongoing sectarian and communal tensions between different groups such as between Kurds and Arabs; Turkmens and Kaka'is; and Yazidis and Arab Muslims in Sinjar. Furthermore, the mass destruction of infrastructure by ISIL in these areas has also led to significant forced displacement of the local populations. All of the above are further igniting feelings of fear, threat to personal safety and, insecurity among the local populations. It has in turn led to a significant increase in possession of arms by some local groups, making IDP returns difficult. Considering this, improving community security together with reasonable delivery of public services to returnee IDPs will be a key driver to a smooth transition from conflict and instability to long-term recovery and stability in Ninewa Plain and Sinjar.

UNDP Iraq & Japan Cooperation

The Government of Japan has been playing a major role in advancing the humanitarian, stabilization, and resilience agenda as one of the major donors for the Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) to support the displaced population, refugees, IDPs, returnees, as well as affected host communities in Iraq. Moreover, the Government of Japan's support to Phases I-III of the Stabilization and Resilience initiative since 2015 has directly supported the return of over 4 million people and mitigated one of the worst crises in Iraq's recent history. Building on the achievements of the JSB 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 funds, it has been essential and urgent for UNDP to examine security challenges that impact the ability for Iraq to take on the development agenda, and to pilot initiatives that may contribute to sustainable solutions to prevent future conflict.

UNDP Iraq offered a wide spectrum of support to pilot the objectives launched by the Government of Japan's Security-Development Nexus in Tokyo in 2018. UNDP's strategic approach supports the SDN's major themes of 1. Providing sustainable employment generation; 2. Enhancing trust between communities and the Iraqi authorities; and contributing to discussions surrounding a national level strategy. Moreover, a rigorous conflict analysis will enable UNDP, the Government of Japan, and the Government of Iraq to better understand the impact of small arms cascading in the pilot area, especially on the security and stability of communities.

Outcomes and Outputs on the “Supporting Sustainable Peace and Development in Iraq” project:

OUTCOME: Improved safety, citizen security and socioeconomic conditions in pilot locations in Iraq.		
Output	Target	Cumulative Progress Summary
Output 1 Basic infrastructure for productive employment established, especially in the agricultural sector	1.1 Conduct assessments and prioritize priority infrastructure projects	One assessment conducted to identify priority infrastructure projects
	1.2 Conduct farmers training for 1,500 farmers	1,500 farmers trained on sound agricultural practices to guide on increasing the yield per unit area. Complimenting the training, the most vulnerable farmers also received a toolkit to support with their day-to-day business and safety
	1.3 Rehabilitation and provision of equipment for 40 existing wells	40 agricultural wells rehabilitated, of which 36 were supplied with solar power
	1.4 Rehabilitation of 3 km irrigation canals	3km long irrigation canal was rehabilitated in Rabia area, Ninawa Governorate
Output 2 Medium-term livelihood and employment opportunities created, and capacities strengthened with an emphasis on youth at risk and women in strategic liberated areas in northern Iraq	2.1 Finalize value chain for a minimum of 2 strategic commodities	Two value chains assessments completed: Olive + olive oil and Honey + Honeybees
	2.2 Provide skills development support to foster entrepreneurship and sustainable employment to 150 persons	150 beneficiaries received skills development support to establish or develop their businesses
	2.3 Provide emergency asset replacement support to 200 entrepreneurs	228 entrepreneurs received emergency asset replacement support
	2.4 Provide 300 small grants to support existing entrepreneurs	342 entrepreneurs received small grants to support their existing businesses
	2.5 Conduct an online communication campaign at local level.	An online platform established through which an information exchange campaign was conducted. The platform also facilitated forming a learning network to connect farmers in Ninewa with all the relevant stakeholders from the public sector, private sector, NGOs, and academics.
	2.6 Facilitate a learning network to bring expertise from key stakeholders and boost exchange of best practices.	
	2.7 Conduct a pilot programme, offering tailored-made support to a selected group SMEs.	200 unemployed university graduates received on the job training to support

OUTCOME: Improved safety, citizen security and socioeconomic conditions in pilot locations in Iraq.

Output	Target	Cumulative Progress Summary
		another 200 existing SMEs improve their businesses
	2.8 Identify the commodities that have potential to generate employment.	A thorough research conducted to identify commodities in the target locations
	2.9 Train 50 women and youth on the better methods of food processing	50 women received training on artisanal food processing
Output 3 Community security and integration pilot (CSIP) implemented to foster social cohesion in target locations	3.1 Rapid scoping assessments conducted.	One rapid scoping including market assessment completed to assess community security needs and priorities in the target location.
	3.2 SOP developed for CSIP in the target location	SOP finalized and fully operational in the target locations.
	3.3 100 Community members from target location receive support	103 beneficiaries (28 women) received support through vocational training, business development training and psychosocial support.
	3.4 10 youths trained and up - skilled to play a proactive role as youth ' Champions' or ' Change Agents	22 youths (8 males and 4 females from Qairawan, 10 males from Qurna) trained and up-skilled as 'Champions' or 'Change Agents'
Output 4 Lessons learned product on security-development nexus pilot prepared	4.1 SDN framework with Indicators developed	SDN framework highlighting the 'real time' security - development challenges, inter-links and, key recommendations including case studies in Nineveh Governorate developed.
	4.2 Lessons learned product for CSIP developed.	Lessons Learned Report on CISP produced

Table 1: Outputs and Activities

Outputs and Activities

Output 1. Basic infrastructure for productive employment established, especially in the agricultural sector

At the beginning of the project, an **assessment was conducted** in Sinjar, Sinuny, Qairawan, Al-Ayadhia and Bashiqa in Ninewa governorate **to identify the basic infrastructure and livelihoods needs** of residents. Findings of the assessment revealed that most of the residents are engaged and depend on agriculture (cereal crops, vegetables, livestock, beekeeping, and olive orchards) as a major source of income.

As a result, the project provided technical training on agricultural practices to **1,500** (555 women) **farmers** in targeted governorates. During the training, farmers were trained on the different agricultural practices to enable them to increase their agricultural productivity. The farmers were later selected to benefit from further training and support. Upon completing the training, 634 of the most vulnerable farmers received toolkits containing the following items: shovel, pickaxe, rake, boots, bucket, gloves, broom, hat and saw.



1,500 farmers received training on sound agricultural practices

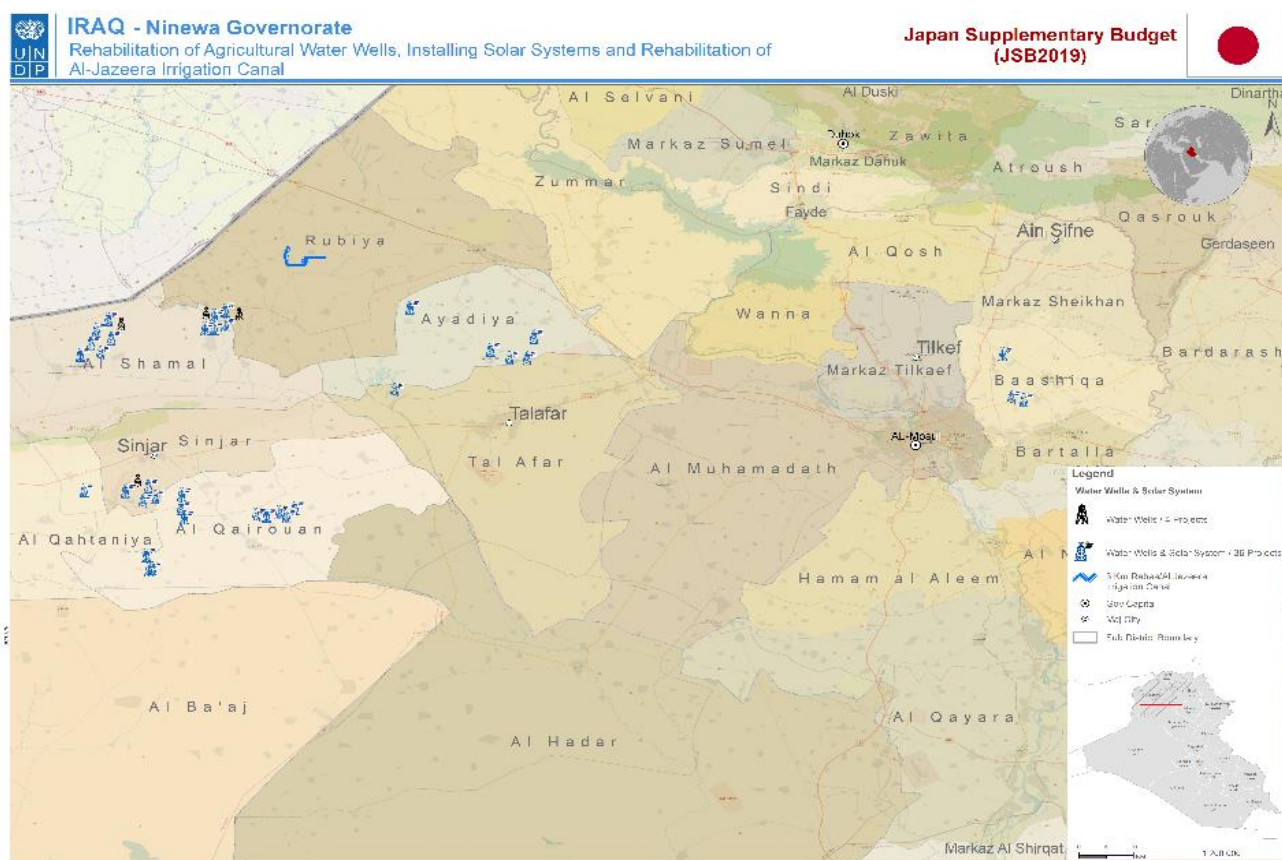
To restore critical services for the agriculture sector in the area and addressing the issues of both water and electricity shortages, UNDP **rehabilitated 40 agricultural wells, 36 of which were supplied with solar power** in the same target locations. The rehabilitated wells supply water for a large area of agricultural land, supporting 1,724 persons with their livelihoods directly and tens of thousands of others indirectly. Nearly 92% of the farmers supported were returnees, while 52% were breadwinners of their families, with 64% of them responsible for families sized over 9 persons. All supported farmers indicated that the project supported improvement of their livelihoods, 96% of them emphasized that the project helped with reducing their production costs, easy access to power and water because of which their produce and income increased. The same percentage indicated that their land was completely inactive, destroyed or burned before this project, compared to 96% of them being very active and productive now.

All the farmers supported with solar power systems said that the project has changed their perspective about clean energy, with 92% of them depending on generators and public electricity before this project. Since this project was implemented, 79% of the farmers depend on solar energy.





40 wells were rehabilitated and 36 supplied with solar system, Ninewa



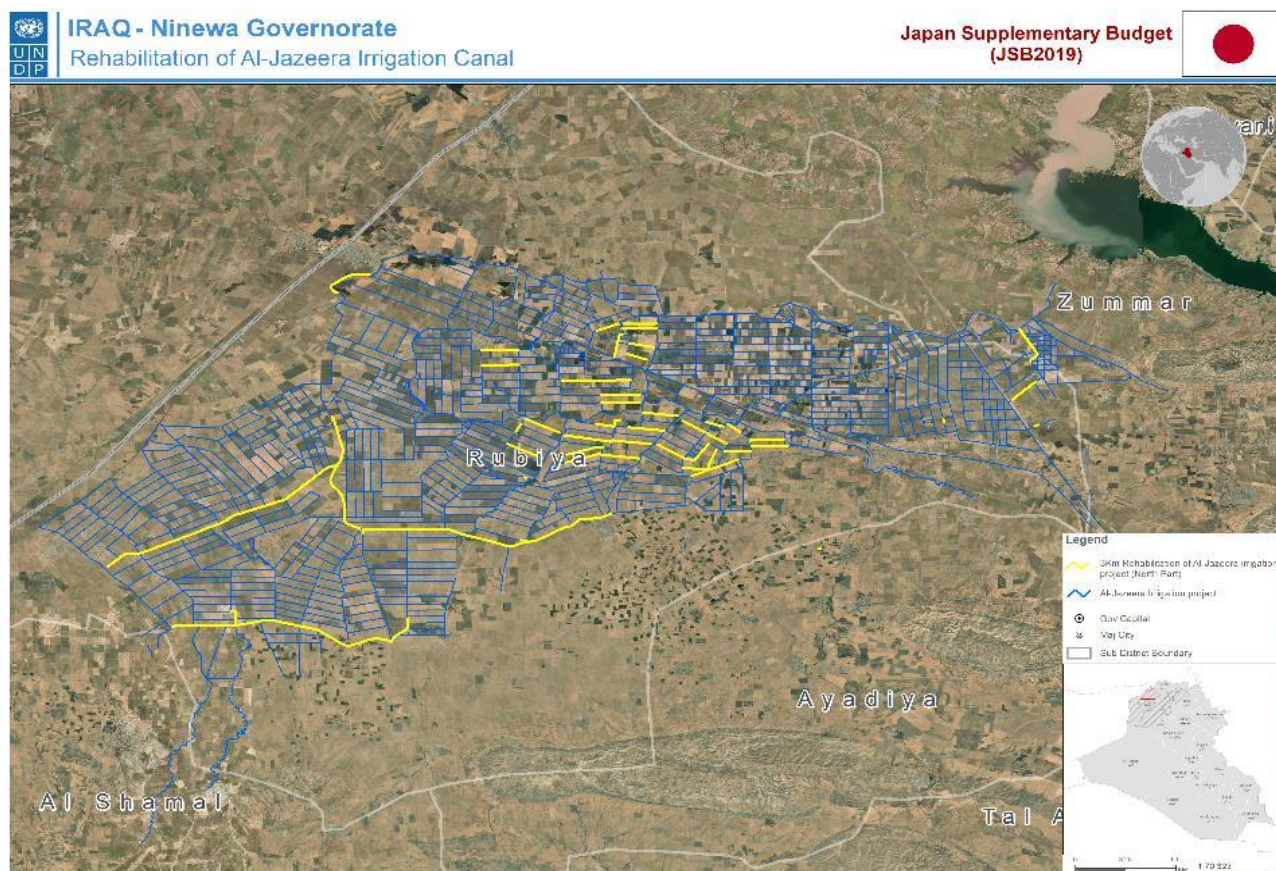
In addition, **3km of an existing irrigation canal was rehabilitated**. Al Jazeera Irrigation Project in Rabia area, Ninewa Governorate is a 120km concrete canal built in the 1980s on a wide area of agricultural land. Due to years of conflict and lack of maintenance, many parts of the canal are currently dysfunctional. Under JSB2019, 3km of the most destroyed sections of the canal were rehabilitated. This rehabilitation has helped save water for more than 600,000-meter square of agricultural land, as a result, approximately 33,000 farmers and their families have benefited from the project.



Parts of Al-Jazeera canal before rehabilitation, Al-Rabiaa area, Ninewa



Parts of Al-Jazeera during and after rehabilitation, Al-Rabiaa area, Ninewa



Three kilometres of Irrigation Canal rehabilitated in Al-Rabiaa area, Ninewa

Output 2. Medium-term livelihood and employment opportunities created, and capacities strengthened with an emphasis on at-risk youth and women in strategic liberated areas in Northern Iraq

Two Value Chain assessments (attached as annex 1) were conducted to identify the main strategic commodities in Sinjar, Sinuny, Qairawan, Al-Ayadhia and Bashiqa. Findings from the assessments showed promising results in the fields of Olive & Olive Oil and Beekeeping and Honey.

In total, **150 individuals (96 women)** were selected based on a pre-identified set of vulnerability criteria such as being a recent returnee, socio-economic vulnerability, level of income, type of income with preference given to youth and women, of which 70 and 80 beneficiaries received beekeeping and olive oil trainings, respectively. The trainings were delivered using in-person and practical field-based modalities. A post-participants' training survey shows 97% of the participants stated to have obtained new skills from the trainings.



Beneficiaries attending training to learn beekeeping and olive oil and soap making

228 (94 women) farmers received emergency asset replacement support. The individuals were selected based on a pre-identified set of vulnerability criteria from the same target locations. Selected beneficiaries who had lost their assets during the conflict were visited at their farms to identify lists of items they had lost. As a result, beneficiaries received replaced items worth of an average of \$2,500. Items included: for beekeepers (beehives, beekeeping kit, bee wax, honey extractor, bee watering equipment...etc), and for olive farmers (olive trees, general farming safety equipment, plough, hole digger, water pump, generator, fence, mini-tractor, water tanks, irrigation system...etc.). Since the Sinjar area has witnessed vast damage during the conflict, especially in the agricultural areas, 91% of the beneficiaries were returnees and 91% of the respondents stated the quality of items was very good or good. Although agricultural activities need to run at least one season to define if the support helped in increasing the owner's income, 99% of the beneficiaries stated that they are now able to restart their work after receiving assets from the project.





Asset's replacement supporting beekeepers and olive farmers restore their livelihoods

342 (233 women) farmers received small grants to support their existing businesses. The individuals were selected based on a pre-identified set of vulnerability criteria from the same target locations to receive a 5-day business management training. The main topics of the training were: marketing, small business management, human resources, risk management and financial analysis. After developing and accessing business ideas, 342 beneficiaries received small grants worth an average of \$2,800 in two/three instalments. Out of the overall target group, 91% of the beneficiaries were returnees and the remaining were from host communities selected based on socio-economic vulnerability criteria, among them 22% were able to develop a new business from scratch. In a post distribution monitoring, 75% of the beneficiaries mentioned the amount received was sufficient to develop their existing business or to start a new business. Meanwhile, all the respondents stated that they are convinced they will have a more stable income in the future due to the business grant they received.



Cash grants supporting agricultural entrepreneurs restore their livelihoods

The implementation of both **Conducting an online communication campaign at local level** and **facilitating a learning network to bring expertise from key stakeholders and boost exchange of best practices** were merged in an online platform. To be able to reach the widest network of project's target group from farmers, agribusiness owners, retailers, and other stakeholders, these two activities were conducted through a Facebook Page called "MaanNazdaher". The page received very good engagement from the target audience of over 2,400 followers by the end of December 2021. UNDP's experts, with the support and input from multiple stakeholders in the area, have established a consistent flow of content creation and posting. To maintain the sustainability of the platform, a two-day training was conducted on the topic of "Social Media Management" for 20 experts from the University of Mosul and Directorates of Agriculture from the wider Ninewa. Following this training, the platform has been handed over to the University of Mosul to manage in direct coordination with the Directorates of Agriculture and other relevant stakeholders.



Experts from University of Mosul and Agricultural Departments in Ninewa received a training on Social Media Management

Conduct a pilot programme, offering tailor-made support to a selected group SMEs.

Through this pilot programme **200 SMEs were supported** to improve marketing of their products. This activity **trained 200 (102 women) young university graduates** extensive in-class and on-the-job practical training in sales and marketing skills. The youth took a one-week intense in-class training, followed by one-month on-the-job training (OJT) where they were able to support 200 local businesses to improve their sales and online marketing of their products. 100% of OJT participants mentioned their skills has improved after this training, with 38 of the participants been able to find a job right after the training.





200 youth from Bashiqa received On the Job Training

Identify the commodities that have potential to generate employment (attached as annex 2). To identify commodities, a thorough research has been conducted focusing on the employability in the agriculture/agribusiness sector in Ninewa. The main findings show that, in Ninewa, wheat, barley, maize, fruits, and vegetables are significant crops, and livestock (sheep, goats, and cattle) are also an important contributor to household incomes and food security. However, due to the years of conflict Ninewa's agricultural economy has been severely damaged and the economy weakened.

The research shows, unemployment rates are around 56% while the rates for women and young people are even higher². The wider region also faces one of the highest poverty rates in the country. The research is focused on both micro and macro-level analysis and findings. The most viable sub-sectors for support are identified as smallholder vegetable farming and processing, and apiculture. Opportunities for women and youth were identified in vegetable cultivation and processing, beekeeping, and livestock tending. Training needs were identified in skills for agriculture (e.g., crop production diversification, improved crop management practices, integration of organic fertilizers in crop nutrient management, promotion of better soil fertility assessment and integrated pest management practices) and food processing (e.g., production of tomato paste, date or pomegranate molasses, olive oil, pickles, etc.

There may also be opportunities to develop partnerships with Mosul Dairy, local universities, and existing microfinance institutions, to promote partnership and develop curricula that meet the needs of local industry. Skills such as financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and marketing, are also in demand. Key recommendations were provided, including building the capacity of local women as small-scale household processors, smallholder farmers and beekeepers, stimulating the agribusiness sector, and enhancing the availability of capital and finance for young people and women.

Train 50 women and youth on the better methods of food processing (100% women, 60% between the age of 18-29). The participants were selected based on a pre-identified set of vulnerability criteria from the same target locations. It is well known that artisanal food processing products have higher prices and are more appreciated than industrial ones. Women in this area have the local knowledge of preparing food reserves for their homes, such as, tomato paste, jams, and pickles. During this 5-day training, the participants were guided in theory and by practice on food

² IRC, East Mosul Labour Market Assessment, 2017, <https://bit.ly/3jiHH5Q>

safety, paste and molasses, fruit and vegetable drying, pickle making, herbs, spices, and sweets. The training focused on improving the food safety, packaging quality and marketing of the products. Majority of these women also received business management training and those with a good business plan, received small grants to support them establish their own businesses.



Women received food processing training and grants to establish their business

Output 3. Community security and integration pilot (CSIP-2) implemented to foster social cohesion in target locations

A scoping assessment followed by market assessment was completed to understand the current context in the target location (Qairawan Sub-District). Two Yazidi locations (Tal Kassab, Tal Banat) were identified as they were geographically close, remain largely without assistance from external support and government partners. The scoping assessment also identified community investment schemes in Tal Kassab and Tal Banat. This is because basic physical and social infrastructure in the communities was largely non-existent and social services, such as health care, education, water, and electricity were rudimentary available due to the massive destruction. The Market assessment study identified business skills that were in demand for gainful employment in the target locations.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the CSIP-2 was updated and operationalized based on the lesson learned from CSIP pilot in Al-Qurna in Basra Governorate which was implemented in 2019-2020 under JSB2018. Serving as the foundation for implementation, SOP guided and informed the beneficiary selection process, setting up the payment system for stipends, and criteria and requirements for small business start-ups.

CSIP-2 was implemented in Sinjar, Ninewa Governorate to address the needs of disengaged combatants who fought against Daesh/ISIL. CSIP-2 supported former combatants in strengthening their skills and emotional resilience through a combination of vocational training, psychosocial support (PSS) and grant support interventions (Output 3, Activity 3.2), and consequently contributing to their greater economic stability.

CSIP-2 received 171 applications (59 women) from former combatants. Given the highly sensitive nature of this component, applications were subjected to an intense screening process. The screening process ensured that the project only engaged former combatants without a record of alleged human rights violations and serious criminal records and beneficiaries with no affiliation with questionable militia groups. Due to the nature of the support, the project also ensured that potential beneficiaries had minimum literacy level. Based on the stringent process and criteria outlined above, 103 (women 28) disengaged former combatants were selected.

The project delivered vocational training courses in electrical, carpentry, masonry, tailoring and cooking to the 103 (28 woman) CSIP beneficiaries – disengaged former combatants who fought against ISIL. The course duration of each course was 12-week, with theoretical and practical sessions and all courses were delivered in parallel. There were no beneficiary dropouts during the vocational trainings and their attendance was recorded daily.

The breakdown of disengaged former combatants who completed 12-week vocational training in the five different subjects are:

Type of Training	Male Beneficiaries	Female Beneficiaries
Electrical	44	
Carpentry	18	
Masonry	13	
Tailoring		19
Cooking		9



CSIP-2 Vocational Training Sessions



Practical training sessions organised at small workshops





CSIP-2 Business training

In partnership with UNDP implementing partner, Action Against Hunger (ACF), during the 12-week vocational training courses, UNDP also delivered mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) to all 103 disengaged former combatants.



Life Skills Training

The service provider provided 36 hours of group therapy over 12 weeks - i.e., 3 hours per session and 3 Life Skills Training (LST). MHPSS package was based on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) guidelines³ to address the needs of people in distress.

Between July and December 2021, CSIP-2 distributed \$800 in stipends per beneficiary to 103 disengaged former combatants. Stipends were disbursed in four instalments (\$200 per instalment per beneficiary), subject to attendance of vocational and business development training courses and psychosocial support sessions (PSS). In November 2021, UNDP, with support from service provider, organised graduation ceremony for 103 beneficiaries who successfully completed the training. Mr. Saad Hamad Matto, Director of Sinjar Education Directorate distributed the certificates. The graduation ceremony was attended virtually by the UNDP CSIP team.

Small Business Grants of \$3,400 were distributed to a total of 103 (28 women disengaged former combatants). The start-up grants had been used for buying tools, spare parts and renting space for their economic activities. More than 80% of the 103 FVFs stated that grants will be used for opening small shops or starting business from their home locations. Each application submitted

³ <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-reference-group-on-mental-health-and-psychosocial-support-in-emergency-settings>

by FVFS included a three-month business implementation plan for grant utilization which UNDP will use for impact tracer study after six months of grants utilization to monitor the effect of small grants.

Two community-level schemes were completed which includes rehabilitation of Al-Fagr Aljadeed and Al-dhuha primary schools for boys and girls in Tel Qasab Complex in Qairawan, Sinjar. Rehabilitation of two schools will enhance the stability of the community and will encourage the IDP of the complex to return to their homes. **It will also provide the opportunity to 600 students (360 boys and 240 girls) with 27 teachers to resume classes in the two schools.**

CSIP-2 organised Champion Workshop with selected number of disengaged former combatants from the two pilots in Qairawan and Al-Basra together with UNDP Social Cohesion team. 22 youths (8 males and 4 females from Qairawan, 10 males from Qurna) were trained and up-skilled as 'Champions' or 'Change Agents'. A selected number of project beneficiaries from the two pilots in Basra and Sinjar will be identified to seek their insights to inform the scaling up of the pilot as well as to establish a peer- support platform to identify possible joint engagements, and to promote north - south social cohesion /community relations amongst beneficiary groups going forward.

CSIP-2 also completed four beneficiary feedback surveys⁴ during one year of implementation period. The initial course feedback survey was completed in July 2021, and the key findings highlighted that more than 70% out of the 103 FVFs strongly agreed that the course content was very well organised in line with the market demands. A total of 78% of female respondents who attended the tailoring and cooking vocational training courses agreed that the learning and teaching methods used in the trainings encouraged active participation. The feedback provided by the family survey does support the hypothesis that PSS combined with vocational training support to FVFs contributes to positive changes at the family level.

Output 4. Lessons learned product on security-development nexus pilot prepared

CSIP-2 completed Security Development Nexus (SDN) study in Ninewa Governate.

The Security Development Nexus (SDN) study utilized a combination of qualitative and quantitative assessment tools such as surveys, semi-structured interviews, and focus groups discussions with beneficiaries of four UNDP projects and activities⁵ and five selected geographical locations⁶ to learn how these projects impacted the SDN in Nineveh Governorate. An analysis between different periods was also a focus of the study, including how project activities created synergies to leverage change.

Following the selection of a technical consultant in November 2020, the SDN framework and the methodology and survey tool for fieldwork were developed in coordination with UNDP multi-sectoral teams. As the technical consultant was unable to travel to Iraq to complete the field study in five locations, two researchers and vendor agency were selected to undertake fieldwork in the target locations. Fieldwork took place from August to October 2021. The technical consultant then completed the analysis of the results and drafted the final report.

CSIP-2 also completed documenting the Lessons Learned and key findings report. It is the final activity under CSIP-2 intervention in Sinjar. The report consolidated the findings from the four surveys conducted with disengaged former combatants (CSIP Baseline survey, End line and training

⁴ Course feedback Baseline, Course Feedback End-line, Instructor feedback surveys, Family, and tribal leadership survey

⁵ These four UNDP projects and activities were a) Basic Infrastructure; b) Support with Asset Replacements; c) Support with Small Grants; d) Former Fighters Training

⁶ Al-ayadya, Sinuni, Sinjar, Qairawan and Bashiqa

instructors survey, community leaders and family members survey) who participated in CSIP-2 followed by lessons learned generated by the overall engagement to 'DDR like' support interventions in complex context in Iraq. CSIP-2 also produced few case-studies/human stories from the beneficiary group, and it was disseminated widely via UNDP social media platforms like Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.

The impact of the CSIP was positive, with 87% of disengaged former combatants reported that the vocational training and psychosocial support were very good or excellent. A total of 100% responded that the vocational training course will increase their opportunities in securing a new job or retaining their existing employment status. The MHPSS experts noticed an improvement in how the trainees interacted with each other and with the trainers during the vocational training period. The feedback provided by the family survey does support the hypothesis that PSS combined with vocational training support to disengaged former combatants contributes to positive changes at the family level. When asked for the opinion on the most trusted entity to facilitate safer communities in your locality, the responses include the following: Iraqi Security Forces/ Army (33%), trusted the local police (26%), trusted their family members (20%), trusted the UN and international NGOs (11%) and trusted tribal leaders (10%). The community security investment schemes will provide opportunity to 600 students (360 boys and 240 girls) with 27 teachers to resume classes in the two schools.

CSIP-2 commissioned an impact tracer study with 15 disengaged former combatants from CSIP pilot in Al-Qurna, Basra governorate. The key findings of the study were: 14 disengaged former combatants were either employed or had started their business or both in line with the vocational training they had received. Most of them hired two to five other employees to support their businesses. Some disengaged former combatants stated that they had lost self-esteem prior to the support, and since the MHPSS sessions, they have learnt skills on managing their emotions, including how they communicate with the families and deal with symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Implementation Challenges

Overall, the target areas of this project were very challenging in terms of political, security, and economic instability. The areas also have a remarkably diverse target group of different religions, ethnicities and backgrounds, with high tensions and required a very delicate approach by UNDP teams. The high level of vulnerability of people made the demand and need for support so vast that deciding on selecting a small group of people was very challenging.

COVID-19 added an extra barrier on timely implementation of activities, which caused many technical, logistics and access issues but also increased levels of vulnerability of the target group.

The JSB project also faced several other technical challenges during its implementation period. The absence of a unified/officially recognized administrative authority, and the presence of multiple/competing administrative actors from different parties/groups in the target locations negatively affected timely coordination of the project activities on the ground. The government bodies in the area had very slow bureaucratic systems causing delays in the approvals to start and during handover in the closures. Shortage of information in the field of agriculture and lack of an up-to-date database of farmers was another challenge that caused delays during preparation and implementation. Harsh weather conditions during both winter and summer made it difficult for the teams to access and work in the field.

There was also difficulty in finding qualified MHPSS providers particularly given the fact that the target group is in dire need of such support. There were challenges in participation of women in the trainings and psychosocial support provided and overwhelming support for these interventions, women were restricted by their male family members to be involved in other activities, such as the family survey, as well as participation in the Champions workshop. The implementation of all activities under JSB

2019 required more than 12 months. The business grants that were distributed to disengaged former combatants required additional six months to monitor the grants are being spent in right way by beneficiaries.

Lessons Learned and Recommendations

Basic Infrastructure and Livelihood

- i. Agricultural projects implemented through a value chain approach to achieve sustainable results, need to be given more time and a longer coaching/technical support period.
- ii. There is a need for more training and capacity building followed by financial support to help people put their learnings into practice. In addition to farmers, government institutions such as Directorates of Agriculture need technical capacity building, systems, and tools to be able to track, manage and support farmers in their areas.
- iii. Asset's replacement can be challenging in these target areas. Cash grants with a strong distribution mechanism have shown a high level of satisfaction and success.
- iv. Most areas in Ninewa and other liberated governorates have already started showing signs of an upcoming water shortage crisis. This requires quick and serious action towards rehabilitating/building major irrigation systems, agricultural wells, and methods of rainwater harvesting and management.
- v. Rural areas also suffer from shortage of access to power and installing clean sources of electricity will encourage farmers return to their villages and restore their farms. It will also decrease their production costs, allowing them to compete better in the market.

CSIP-2

- i. **Expand initial data collection process to inform beneficiary selection process:** The grantee identification, vetting and selection process required several follow-up data collection and verification efforts to complete placement. Lessons learned on documents from CSIP 1 and 2 have been integrated into a candidate vetting tool for use in future programming in Iraq.
- ii. **Anticipate challenges of remote implementation and unstable security/public health environments by fostering use of virtual platforms:** COVID-19 interruptions impacted all facets of programming in the target area. Remote planning and coordination from multiple locations across different time zones in implementing a range of activities are highly time sensitive and challenging in comparison to in-country implementation. However, CSIP-2 was able to move forward with coordination with multiple vendor agencies through virtual platforms. There were a few challenges in terms of coordination with vendors during scoping, marketing assessment and surveys.
- iii. **Data Sharing Agreement:** Privacy and data security considerations are increasingly important. CSIP was not able to have data sharing agreements with international organizations, NGOs and other UN entities operating in Sinjar. Although ultimately not needed, the process identified the need to endorse and implement data policies early in the implementation process.
- iv. **MHPSS needs of FVFs in Qairawan remain high:** The support services provided by the MHPSS service provider with trained local MHPSS specialists have significantly decreased the severity of mental illness. While there are challenges remaining for FVFs to share their experiences, the service provider is confident that these concerns can be addressed over time and that more time is required to build trust within communities.
- v. **Effective Monitoring and Evaluation to monitor Outcomes:** There is a need for effective monitoring and evaluation to monitor the outcomes of CSIP interventions for at least a 12-month period after project end/conclusion of all activities. Impact tracer studies are required to monitor small business grants and ensure that they are being effectively utilized by FVFs in their business. The tracer study will assist in determining whether the beneficiaries are successfully

using the vocational training they received to either start up a business or to acquire employment despite the challenges posed by COVID-19.

- vi. **Selection of vocational or other trainings be connected to market analysis:** There were no vocational training centers in Sinjar, with the closest one being some 200km away in Tal Afar. It is therefore recommended that future CSIP scoping missions include market analysis or opportunity mapping that can also inform course design and identify possible institutions which could provide much-needed vocational training on a sustained basis in the future.

Financial Status⁷ (in US\$)

Output	Proposed Budget	Utilization	Remaining
Output 1 (BASIC SERVICES)	2,612,557.00	2,612,557.00	-
Output 2 (LIVELIHOOD)	2,331,298.00	2,331,298.00	-
Output 3 (Community Security Integration)	1,028,479.63	1,028,479.63	-
Output 4 (Security-Development)	228,000.00	228,000.00	-
Sub-Total: Outputs	6,200,334.63	6,200,334.63	-
Programme Management	800,364.44	800,364.44	-
Sub-Total: Direct Costs	800,364.44	800,364.44	-
GMS	560,055.93	560,055.93	-
GRAND TOTAL	7,560,755.00	7,560,755.00	-

⁷ Disclaimer: Data contained in this financial report section is an extract of UNDP financial records. All financial provided above is provisional.

Communications and Visibility

UNDP implemented a range of communication and visibility activities which highlighted the impact of the projects under JSB FY2019. The activities focused on critical milestones throughout the agreement cycle. The targeted communication and visibility efforts **reached over 300,000 people online across Iraq and the region**. This was done through using various communication formats such as leveraging UNDP Iraq's established digital channels, engaging with media, and displaying strategic visibility material at project sites.

Throughout the life cycle of the projects, UNDP consistently engaged with followers online through content that was interactive and provided a real-time experience. The content on UNDP Iraq's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram channels **engaged with over 39,800 people**. This included comments, likes, shares, and videos views.



Screenshot of the Arabic version of Ranya's story of establish an agriculture shop in Sinjar reached over 3,700 people on

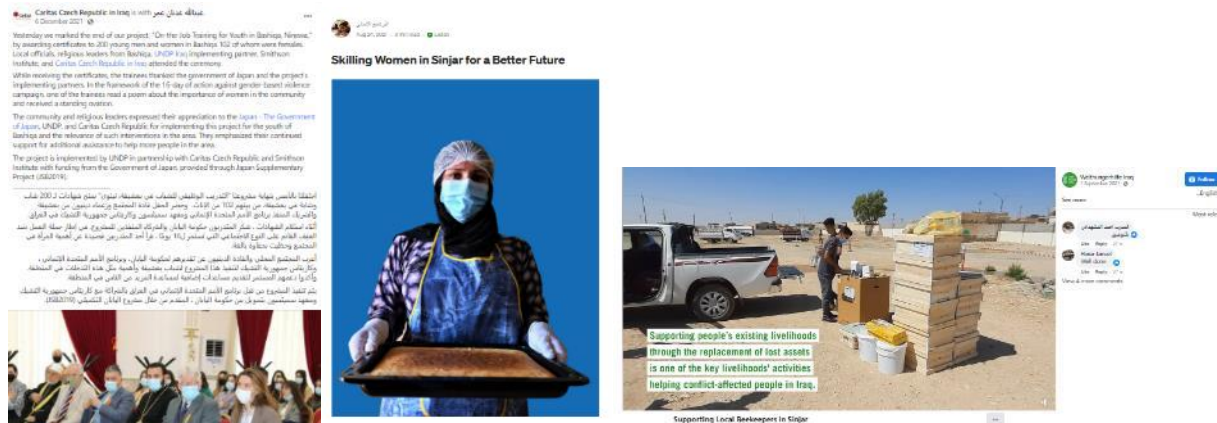
Overall, **six videos were published in English, Arabic and Kurdish respectively** to communicate the impact of the project. The videos covered the human impact of the projects, such as the livelihoods support provided to young people in Sinjar, support to volunteer former fighters living in Qurna and the rehabilitation of 40 agricultural wells across Ninewa. The six videos published in English, Arabic and Kurdish **reached over 63,300 people and received over 17,600 views online**.



Screenshot of the English tweet thread amplifying the multimedia photo story on providing food processing training reached over 3,841 alone.

In addition, a multimedia photo story on the **impact of vocational skilling in food processing** for 50 women and young people in Sinjar city, Sinuni, Qairawan, Bashiqa and Ayadiya was published. This **reached over 15,500 people online, of which 10 % of the readers were based in Japan.** A web story on reintegrating former volunteer fighters was also published.

Amplifying advocacy efforts under Japan's support, **three policy briefs under the Community Security Integration Pilot** were **published on UNDP Iraq's website in English and Arabic** on 28 January 2021, 12 August 2021 and 1 January 2022.



[Left to right] Screenshot of coverage of Japan's support on Caritas's Facebook page, UNDP's Regional Arab States medium website and Welthungerhilfe Iraq's Facebook page.

UNDP also broadened its reach by working with **UNDP's regional digital channels to amplify the stories, such as this photo story with UNDP Arab States.** Implementing partners also played a key role in amplifying Japan's support through their channels, such as coverage of this graduation event by Caritas Iraq and this video published by Welthungerhilfe Iraq.

UNDP also engaged with national, regional, and international media through strategic events and press releases. UNDP **published one press release announcing JSB FY19 and organized two graduation ceremonies** highlighting critical milestones in the project.



[Left to right] Permanent signage placed at the site the wells and solar panels, branding of equipment during asset distribution and branded vests during the olive training in Bashiqa.

UNDP **placed temporary signages during rehabilitation and permanent signages after the projects were completed** at visible locations on the site. The signboards included the Japan's flag and clear mention of the generous support provided. UNDP also ensured visibility of Japan's support to the projects by ensuring consistent branding across staff vests and distribution boxes.

Key Highlights:

Human Interest Videos	Six videos published in English, Arabic and Kurdish respectively which reached approximately over 63,300 people online and garnered over 17,600 views.
Human Interest Story	Two human interest stories in English, Arabic and Kurdish published online reached <u>approximately</u> over 22,000 people online.
Press Release	One press release disseminated with national and international media to announce the funding provided by JSB FY19 to boost employment opportunities in the Ninewa and promote safer communities in Sinjar.
Social Media	15 activities and project milestones were covered on social media across UNDP Iraq's social media platforms such as, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.
Total Reach	Communication on the impact of Japan's support to Iraq through JSB FY2019 reached <u>approximately</u> over 300,000 people online.
Total Engagement	Compelling content on Japan's support to Iraq through JSB FY2019 engaged <u>approximately</u> over 39,800 people online, this included comments, likes, views and positive reactions.

Links to Content Published Online Below:

Activity	Format	Platform	Date Published	Link(s)			Impact	
				English	Arabic	Kurdish	Reach	Engagement
Update on Salman's story who was supported by replacing assets lost during the ISIL conflict	Video	YouTube	March 6, 2022	Link	Link	Link	12583	3892
		Facebook		Link	Link	Link		
		Twitter		Link	Link	Link		
		Instagram		Link	Link	Link		
Update on Raghda's story of establishing a pickles store with support provided through vocational skilling	Video	YouTube	February 10, 2022	Link	Link	Link	12514	2926
		Facebook		Link	Link	Link		
		Twitter		Link	Link	Link		
		Instagram		Link	Link	Link		
Update on Ranya's story of establish an agriculture	Video	YouTube	February 9, 2022	Link	Link	Link	3274	3274
		Facebook		Link	Link	Link		
		Twitter		Link	Link	Link		

shop with grants provided		Instagram		Link	Link	Link		
Covering the graduation of 200 young people who were provided vocational and on-the-job training in Bashiqa	Social media	Facebook	Dec. 20, 2021	Link			15354	901
		Twitter		Link	Link			
Update on Nahida’s story who was supported by replacing assets lost during the ISIL conflict	Social media	Twitter	October 25, 2021	Link	Link	Link	20764	1130
		Facebook		Link				
		Instagram		Link				
Update on 200 farmers in Ninewa receiving farming equipment	Social media	Twitter	September 23, 2021	Link	Link		9453	358
		Facebook		Link				
		Instagram		Link				
Update on asset replacement and distribution of business grants	Video	Twitter	Sep. 5, 2021	Link	Link		9983	2472
		Facebook		Link				
		Instagram		Link				
Story on food processing training in Sinjar and Sinuni	Photo Story	Website	August 23, 2021	Link	Link	Link	15585	2162
		Twitter		Link	Link			
		Facebook		Link				
		Instagram		Link				
Rehabilitation of wells in Ninewa	Video	YouTube	August 11, 2021	Link	Link	Link	20275	3805
		Twitter		Link	Link	Link		
		Facebook		Link				
		Instagram		Link	Link	Link		
Update on rehabilitation of three wells in Bashiqa	Social media	Twitter	June 17, 2021	Link	Link		19038	615
		Facebook		Link				
Update on food processing	Social media	Twitter	June 13, 2021	Link	Link	Link	20313	1111
		Facebook		Link				

training in Sinjar		Instagram		Link		
UNDP leadership site visit to Japan funded wells in Bashqa	Social media	Twitter	June 6, 2021	Link	Link	Link
		Facebook		Link		
Update on Japan's support to livelihoods in Iraq	Twitter Moment	Twitter	May 1, 2021	Link	Link	
		Facebook		Link		
		Instagram		Link		
Story on Empowering societies: Reintegrating former volunteer fighters within society	Web Story	Website	January 19, 2021	Link	Link	
		Facebook		Link		
		Twitter		Link	Link	
Press release announcing new funding provided to UNDP under JSB FY19	Press release	Website	March 24, 2020	Link	Link	Link

Examples of Positive Comments and Reactions from Public on the support from Japan:

- **From a user on Facebook:**



Translation: I extend my appreciation on my behalf of all those who participated in the course, especially to the people of Japan for supporting this beautiful initiative. I also want to extend my thanks to Professor Ahmed and Professor Ammar, who have shown great merit. This is inspiring.

You can read the comment on Facebook [here](#).

Annexes

- 1.** Two Value Chain assessments
- 2.** Employability in the Agriculture Sector
- 3.** CSIP- 2 Key Findings and Lessons Learned Report, December 2021
- 4.** SDN Policy Brief: CSIP-2 in Iraq, January 2021
- 5.** CSIP-2 Case Studies
- 6.** CSIP-2 Beneficiary Identification