Recovery and Rehabilitation Mosul

Strengthening the resilience of vulnerable populations in Nineveh, Iraq

The Challenge

The people in Nineveh Governorate suffered seriously following the occupation of the so-called “Islamic State” (IS). First, the occupation itself led to a refugee crisis, then the military liberation from the IS did as well. Mosul, a city with a previous population of approximately 1.4 million, has experienced widespread destruction of public and private infrastructure during its final liberation from the IS in July 2017. In other districts of the Nineveh Governorate, the situation is similarly grave. Nevertheless, people are returning to their ruined cities and communities. During the years spent under occupation or living as internally displaced persons (IDPs) outside the conflict zone, many households lost the means to secure their livelihoods. The health situation of many people has deteriorated, and children have not attended school for years. The resilience of vulnerable returnees and residents in many communities in Nineveh has been weakened.

Our approach

In cooperation with the Ministries of Planning (MoP), Health (MoH) and Education (MoE) and its directorates, the objective of the project is to strengthen the resilience of returnees, internally displaced persons and host-communities of the districts Mosul and Hamdaniya. To achieve this, basic public social infrastructure is rehabilitated, income generating measures are implemented and peacebuilding mechanisms are put in place. By addressing these three fields of activity in a singular approach, the physical reconstruction of social infrastructure in the areas of education and health is directly linked to the improvement of social cohesion (peacebuilding).

During the IS occupation about 75% of the health facilities in Mosul have been rendered inoperable. For many displaced persons, the grave medical situation in Mosul is one of the biggest obstacles to return. To improve the health care in and surrounding Mosul, the project is constructing a relocatable health care facility that will provide basic and specialized health care for up to 600,000 people. The facility’s staff will be trained to ensure the adequate treatment of patients, operation of the equipment and management of the health facility.

To improve the provision of basic education, five pre-fabricated schools have been built and one more is currently being built. The respective schools have a capacity of 300 - 360 students each and as they are running in two shifts, almost 3,500 students benefit from schooling altogether.

To sustainably revive the local economy - which has been decimated by the physical destruction and displacement of the population - both short- and long-term income generating activities are implemented. For quick impacts, that reach the most vulnerable groups, Cash for Work (CFW) measures are being provided. For the long term, grants are given to small and medium enterprises to (re)build livelihoods. The grants are provided in conjunction with business trainings and linked to the project’s activities to support apprenticeships within the rebuilt companies as well as technical and vocational trainings based on labour market analyses and needs assessments.

With regards to peacebuilding, the project supports the increase of local capacities for conflict transformation and peaceful coexistence, e.g. through training in conflict mediation and prevention for local peace advocates. Further, the project works with local radio stations to promote peacebuilding through media and to stop the spread of rumours that could fuel conflicts.

Photo left: Construction site of pre-fab school Asma’a Bint Abi Baker
Photo right: Children in Sinuni returning to their rehabilitated school

Photos: © GIZ
Further, a conflict and context monitoring system was developed. Based on monthly data collection and along with information from various assessments and analyses it enables the project and its partners to adapt their programming to the continuously changing context in Nineveh.

**Impact**

Five pre-fabricated schools have been constructed and handed over to the Department of Education, enabling over 3,500 children to take up their education in a safe environment. One more school for up to 700 students is under construction and will be completed by end of July.

The construction of the health facility is progressing and planned to be finished in November 2019. This will give up to 600,000 people the opportunity to receive adequate basic and special medical treatments.

The livelihoods of more than 2,700 households of the vulnerable population have improved through Cash Assistance and an additional 200 households have taken part in Cash for Work activities to rehabilitate social infrastructure.

740 Livelihood and 90 Business Activation Grants have been distributed and 100 beneficiaries have participated in technical and vocational trainings.

Currently, 6,200 additional beneficiaries are being selected to participate in the various income generating activities that will continue throughout 2019 with a stronger focus on long-term solutions. 800 will receive technical and vocational training in line with market requirements. 900 will be supported to complete an internship or apprenticeship in the private sector. Supporting the rehabilitation of the local private economy, 1,400 persons will receive a Livelihood Activation Grant and 900 will receive a Business (Re)activation Grant. Finally, 2,200 persons will have access to Cash for Work while rehabilitating social infrastructure.

To support the reconciliation process, teachers will be trained on dealing with traumatised children and didactic methods for dealing with large classes.

Political, religious and social leaders - along with the civil society, women and youth groups - are trained on negotiation and mediation techniques, religious tolerance and media as an instrument of peace work.