



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



REBUILD and RELIEF INTERNATIONAL (RRI) gGmbH  
INTERNATIONAL NGO  
United Nations Implementing Partner

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# ORGANIZATION DETAILS

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# 1 EDITORIAL NOTE

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Dear Sir and Madam,

The situation faced by the humanitarian community in Iraq and Syria has always been incredibly challenging and communities are continuing to experience a dynamic political and economic environment and an ever-changing security situation. The conflict in Syria is especially disheartening and has resulted in Syria remaining one of the worst humanitarian crises in modern history.

During 2019, the humanitarian situation in Iraq steadily improved, the number of people in need (PIN) reduced from an estimated 6.7 million in early 2019, down to 4.1 million at the end of the year, and as the overall number of IDP's in Iraq continued to decrease during 2019, from an overall high of 6 million at the height of the conflict to an estimated 1.4 million (both in camp and out of camp), the closure and consolidation of IDP camps became an operational priority for both the government and the United Nations. Additionally, the number of returns increased throughout the year, however, the number of returnees requiring humanitarian assistance fell from 4 million to 2.85 million at the end of 2019.

With the Syrian crisis in its ninth year, staggering levels of need persist for people throughout Syria. Whilst there has been a reduction in violence in many parts of the country over the past year, an estimated 11.7 million people required multi-sectorial humanitarian assistance in early 2019 and this figure reduced slightly to 11.1 million at the end of 2019. Since 1 December 2019, escalating hostilities in north-west Syria have displaced more than 950,000 people. That part of Syria had seen intense hostilities in April-August 2019 that had already left 2.7 million people dependent on humanitarian assistance. The impact of present and past hostilities on civilians remains the principal driver of humanitarian needs in Syria. The Syrian crisis created more than five and a half million refugees and displaced a further 6 million Syrians inside their own country.

In the north-east, increased conflict since October 2019 has also resulted in widespread displacement. The population continues to look for safety in parts of the country still affected by ongoing hostilities with significant protection

needs, and new and protracted displacement, increased self-organized returns and the sustained erosion of communities' resilience persisting. The widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure, the depletion of savings, and limited economic opportunities have forced many to resort to harmful coping strategies and resulted in extreme vulnerability to additional shocks. Children, pregnant and lactating women, people with disabilities, the elderly and other groups or individuals with specific needs or diminished coping mechanisms are particularly at risk.

In both countries the need for assistance was immeasurable since people were facing destruction of public services, infrastructure, health care and other life essential structures. To assist displaced families in camps and ensure their survival as well as contribute to the relocation of returnee families to dignified homes, where they can meet their basic needs and live in safety.

We are looking forward to further successful cooperation in the future to realize humanitarian assistance in Iraq and Syria and help people overcome the hardships that they face.

Yours sincerely,



# 2 RRI AT A GLANCE

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*"All the lives we touch shall no longer need the help we give"- RRI Vision*

## 2.1 About RRI

REBUILD AND RELIEF INTERNATIONAL (RRI) is a German non-profit and non-governmental organization (NGO). We have operated in Iraq since early 2004 through Rebuild Iraq Recruitment Program (RIRP), our in-country program, and started our Syrian program through, Rebuild Syria Reconstruction Program (RSRP), in 2012. Since then, we have provided humanitarian assistance and support for the conflict affected population and have made huge efforts to relieve forcible displaced families and restore a minimum life-standard for those people in need.

RRI is specialized in providing emergency assistance in so called "hard to reach areas" where other humanitarian partners may find it difficult to access. Our strong and reliable networks in both countries allow us to intervene in recently

liberated areas with vast destruction and large numbers of IDP's, returnees and vulnerable host communities.

Our core competences are WASH interventions (water, sanitation, and hygiene), shelter rehabilitation and NFI (Non-Food Items) projects and education programs.

### **2.1.1 Mission and Approach**

Our Mission is to protect, accompany, advocate, and serve for the rights of refugees and forcibly displaced people in Iraq and Syria, regardless of their race, religion, nationality, or political convictions. Therefore, RRI maintains its autonomy at any time and during every humanitarian intervention and supports the UN agencies in their mission of providing and coordinating aid and protection in both countries.

Loyalty, credibility, thoroughness, and accuracy are basic principles we apply during all stages of every operation. Deep knowledge of the local environment and comprehensive experience gained within numerous interventions in diverse and challenging situations in Iraq and Syria, our wide and well-functioning network with local decision makers, community leaders and humanitarian partners and our solid capacities to mobilize our resources in a timely manner guarantee an excellent project delivery at any time and in both countries.

Our strong German independent position, our multicultural team of local and international specialists and our Senior Management based on the ground allows us to invest in the rights of people and successfully complete reconstruction, emergency relief, stabilization and training projects throughout Iraq and Syria.

### **2.1.2 Project Partners**

In the past 5 Years, RRI has implemented projects in partnership with the following agencies and organizations:





In Iraq and Syria, UNICEF, UN-Habitat and UN-OCHA have funded mainly Shelter/NFI or WASH projects, while UNICEF and UN-OCHA have also provided additional funding for educational programs and health awareness.

WFP and UNFPA have funded NFI and Food Security projects in Iraq to provide emergency support in camps and secure the survival of the most vulnerable internally displaced families and to provide "income generation" capacity building for vulnerable groups within the community.

The funding and support of the German Federal Foreign Office and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) have enabled RRI to realize WASH related projects in Ninewa and Anbar governorate as well as shelter rehabilitation and NFI support in Ninewa, especially within the city of Mosul to enable displaced families to return to their completely demolished home town.

All the partnerships have become very solid over the years. Based on our successful implementation and smooth cooperation with all the mentioned partners RRI is looking forward to more partnerships in the future to be able to support the people in most need and create dignified living conditions for displaced families.

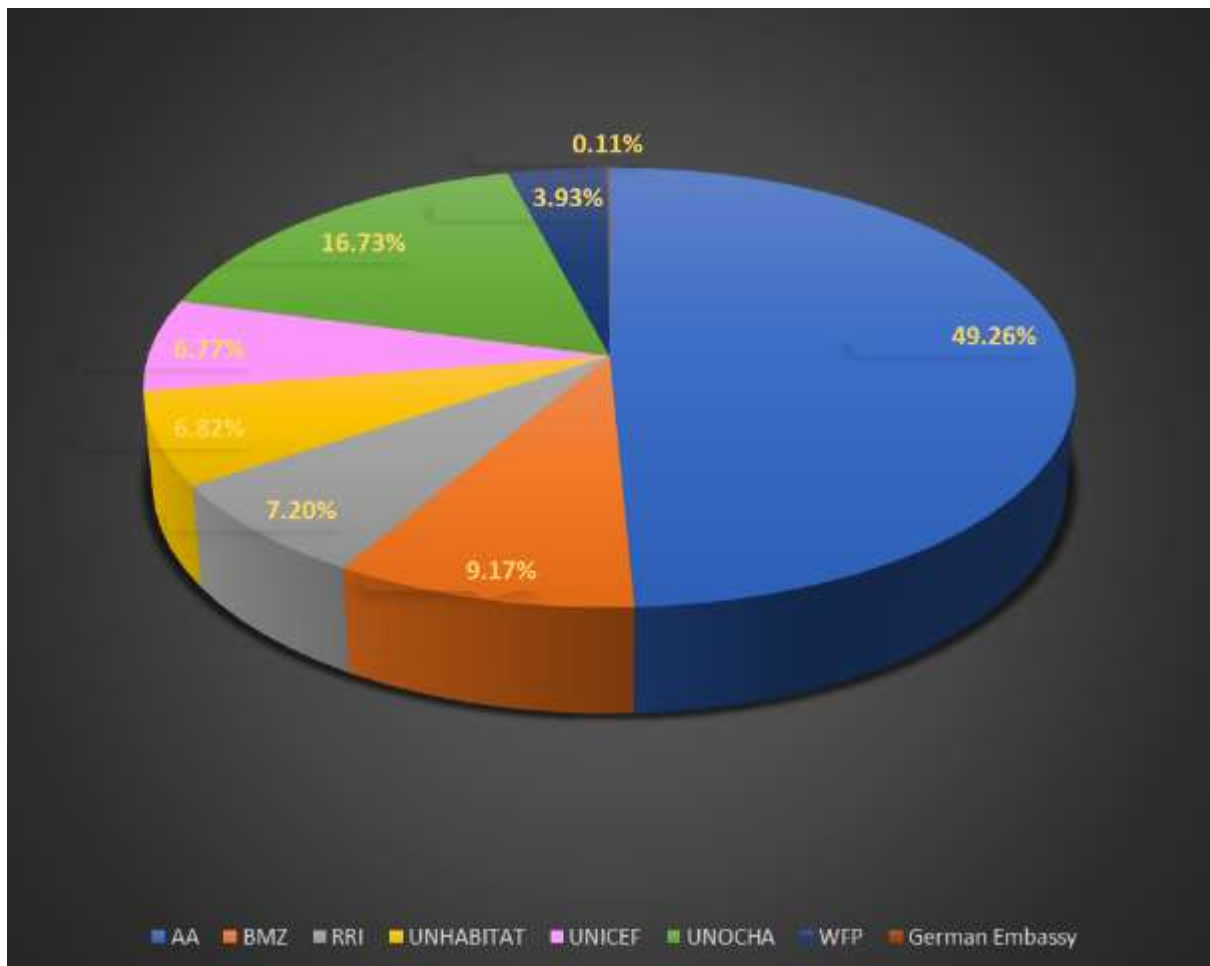
## 2.2 Financial Report

In 2019, RRI received a total funding of 11.204.741,48 USD funding for humanitarian assistance projects. The donors were the German Federal Foreign Office, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, UNICEF, UN-OCHA, UNFPA, WFP. RRI is mentioned as a donor since some projects require a certain percentage of contribution by the



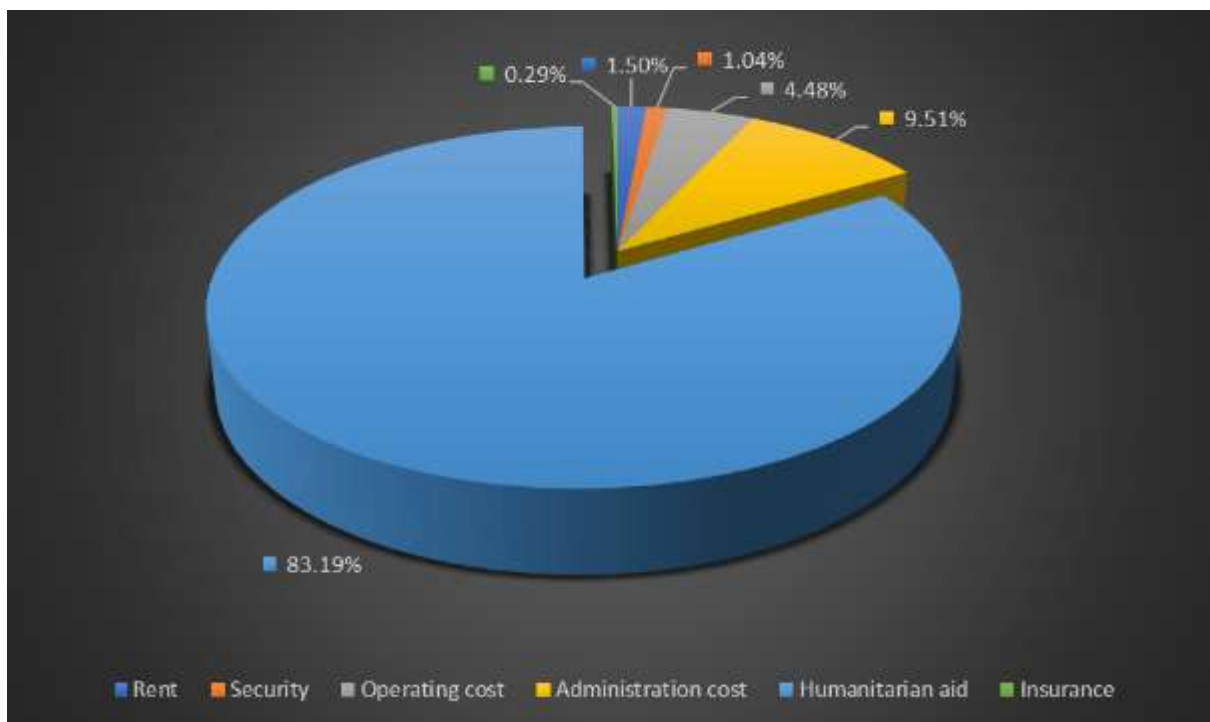
implementing organization. RRI pays this contribution out of overhead resources. Please find the detailed description of the projects in the following chapter.

### 2.2.1 Funding Source



The second chart shows in detail how the funds were allocated. It illustrates that in 2019, 83% of the funding was spent directly on humanitarian aid and approximately 17% utilised in running the organization (including payment of salaries, lease payment for office premises and security measures). Money allocated in the overhead cash register serves as a reserve fund for emergency actions and covers the NGO's operational management procedures and as our contribution to certain projects, in which the donor expects a partner contribution.

## 2.2.2 Allocation of funds



The exchange rates that have been used for the calculations are

1 USD = 1200 IQD

1 Euro = 1.14379 USD

1 SYP = 0.0023 USD

We ask for your understanding that the audited financial report for 2019 is not completed yet. Until the completion we present estimated values which will be updated soon.

# 3 Humanitarian Context

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Within Iraq and over the last programming cycle, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) returning to their areas of origin has reached 4 million, while approximately 2 million remain displaced. Although major efforts are underway to rebuild the country and jump-start local economies, significant barriers to return endure, including security concerns, fear and trauma; lack of social cohesion; issues related to documentation; lack of livelihoods; and destroyed or damaged housing. As return rates level out, protracted displacement and the sustainability of returnees are concerns which need to be addressed, as a growing number of Iraqis are forced to make increasingly negative or high-risk choices in order to cope. With protracted displacement expected to endure in 2020, humanitarian assistance must continue targeting IDPs both in-camp and in out-of-camp settings. Special attention is needed for individuals with perceived affiliations to extremist groups, who are often subjected to stigma from their communities, discrimination and are often barred from returning home. Overall, an estimated 6.7 million people in Iraq, including 3.3 million children (under age 18) and 3.3 million women and girls, continue to need some form of humanitarian assistance and protection.

The humanitarian context in Iraq has transitioned into a new phase. Although Iraq is currently in a post-conflict landscape after the end of military operations against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), there are unpredictable dynamics throughout the country, impacting humanitarian programming. Asymmetric attacks by armed groups continue to be carried out along with small scale military operations, resulting in new displacement and impacting the IDP return rate. In tandem, new sources of instability are also emerging linked to rising poverty rates, delays in community reconciliation, lack of livelihood opportunities, and political and social tensions which cause small-scale new displacement. The current political unrest and governmental paralysis makes the work of humanitarian actors more difficult than ever. Accessing people in need has become more difficult than at any other time since the end of combat operations against ISIL. As a result of political upheaval, the mechanism for granting access authorizations to humanitarian partners has been interrupted, a process already made burdensome by the growing fragmentation of access regimes around the country. Re-establishing

a unified, predictable access mechanism so that humanitarian actors can efficiently deliver aid to vulnerable people in need is a matter of utmost urgency for 2020. After the Iraqi government officially declared the full liberation of all Iraqi territories from ISIL occupation in Iraq, 2.85 million returnees require assistance to restore their lives in their communities of origin. However, ongoing hostilities, the immeasurable destruction and lack of basic services in many liberated areas forced one million people to remain displaced.

In Syria the year of 2019 was characterized through ongoing and intensive combat between different armed groups, violence and vast displacement of 6.2 million Syrians. Reconquered areas under government or Kurdish control faced large numbers of returnees but due to the instability in the country secondarily displacement was no exception.

In both countries returning families face devastating conditions. Many communities in retaken areas are contaminated by explosive hazards. Public infrastructure and private housing is almost completely demolished, while basic services and livelihood opportunities are practically non-existent. Those conditions complicate the returning and reintegration process of returnee families and impede the stabilization of the liberated areas.

In Iraq 4.1 million people needed humanitarian assistance in 2019 and 11.7 million in Syria. In both countries nearly half of the people in need were children. In Iraq most of the most vulnerable families in most urgent need of assistance was in Ninewa, Kirkuk and Anbar. In Syria, the needs were enormous in almost every governorate but especially severe in Deir-Ezzor, and Eastern-Ghouta.

All in all, the humanitarian crisis in both countries remains one of the largest and most volatile in the world, however returning movements have increased significantly due to the declaration of successful ISIL defeat in Iraq and the constant reconquer of wide territories in Syria by the Government and Kurdish forces.

Anyhow, 4 years of continuous conflict in Iraq and 7 years of violent crisis in Syria have negatively impacted nearly every aspect of the Iraqi and Syrian society, have led to economic stagnation and have put the survival of thousands of families at risk.

To reach the largest possible number of people in need and secure their survival, RRI concentrated its efforts in the governorates of Anbar, Ninewa, Salah al-Din, and Baghdad (in Iraq) and in Deir-Ezzor, Daraa and Raqqqa (in Syria).

To address the priority needs and to prevent overlapping actions, RRI coordinated the humanitarian assistance with the local UN-agencies, the Cluster-Managers, local community and tribe leaders, local authorities, and the beneficiaries.



Health and hygiene awareness campaigns being conducted in Iraq



# 4 Projects in 2019

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In 2019 RRI realized 13 Projects in cooperation with the German Government and different UN agencies. The projects are related to the following sectors: Shelters, NFI, WASH/Health, Education, Livelihood, Early Recovery and Community Engagement. The projects took place in Iraq (Baghdad, Ninewa, Anbar, Salah-al-Din and Najaf) and within Syria (Deir Ezzor, Daraa and Raqqqa Governorates).

## 4.1 Projects related to SHELTER

After the partial liberation of Mosul City in spring of 2017 RRI was one of the first NGOs who entered Mosul to assess the extent of the destruction and to develop a recovery plan. In the same year RRI started an extensive Shelter rehabilitation project in cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office. The main objective of this project is to provide dignified homes to families who return to Mosul after months or years of displacement and find their houses and apartments heavily destroyed. This project is planned to last 3 years and was one of our most comprehensive projects in 2019, with the focus being the rehabilitation of shelters. Assessments of 660 shelters started, BOQ's prepared and beneficiary documents collected. During 2019 these shelters were rehabilitated, completion certificates completed and signed by local authorities in the targeted areas. The rehabilitation works, including structural rehabilitation works, installation of new doors and windows, internal wall repairs and painting, realized by local unskilled workers from the targeted neighbourhoods to create temporary job opportunities and income sources for vulnerable families in Mosul.

The following show before and after pictures from shelters rehabilitated in Al Karama district, Mosul





## 4.2 Projects related to WASH (Water, sanitation, and hygiene) and HEALTH

During 2019, our WASH activities included rehabilitation of Water Treatment Plants (WTP's). With funding from the Germany Government, we rehabilitated four WTP's in Nineveh governorate (Makhmour, Al Qaiyara, Hammam Al-aleel), two WTP's in Al Qaim, and one WTP in Saqlawiyah Al Anbar governorate.

This urgently needed rehabilitation enabled beneficiaries within the communities, safe and equitable access to clean potable water for their daily needs. Prior to the rehabilitation, most communities were forced to drink untreated water directly from the rivers, with potential risks to health from water borne diseases.



Water treatment plant rehabilitated in Al Qaim – Before and After





In Syria, our main WASH intervention was conducted in Deir Ezzor, this included garbage collection and fumigation campaigns. These WASH activities in Deir-ez-Zour were given priority to help support efforts in countering the spread of leishmaniasis in the affected regions. The ideal environment for reproduction of leishmaniasis' transmitters (sand flies), is in waste and wastewater areas, from which they easily access residential areas, the conflict in the region destroyed the infrastructure for waste and wastewater disposal and thus created the right environment. These implemented activities benefitted over 75,000 beneficiaries in Deir Ezzor.



Before and after a garbage collection campaign in Deir Ezzor



With funding from UNICEF, Iraq, RIRP conducted a Health and Hygiene Awareness campaign in Baghdad, Anbar, Najaf, and Salah Al Din, targeting 477,151 beneficiaries. These hygiene awareness sessions were to assist in improving health and hygiene practices among schools and communities, with the main topics being:

- Improve individual's knowledge (especially for children and mothers), on safe and healthy behaviours for hygiene, sanitation and water conservation
- Distribution of key messages on the importance of health and immunization within the communities
- Capacity Building for teachers and the establishment of Health clubs in primary schools
- Capacity Building for teachers in female hygiene and conducting menstrual hygiene management trainings, for girls in secondary schools

Mass campaigns at primary and secondary school's taught students correct hygiene behaviour and contributed to spreading this knowledge within their families and communities.

Communication campaigns on the importance of routine immunization, conducted within different neighbourhoods, promoted children's health on the community level further and helped to reduce child-mortality rates, caused by childhood diseases.



Immunisation awareness in the IDP camps



Hygiene awareness in the primary schools



Awareness campaigns in the local communities and within Health Centers



The importance of immunisation being raised within the communities



### 4.3 Projects related to NFI (Non-Food Items)

With funding and support from UNICEF and UNOCHA (Syrian Humanitarian Fund (SHF)), enabled RRI to realize two important winterisation NFI projects in 2019.

In Syria, the project contributed to improving the winter living conditions, for 36,852 vulnerable returnees, host community and IDP's, within Daraa Governorate.

4,740 winter clothing kits were distributed in 2 phases. The initial 4,000 kits were received and distributed as follows: 1,577 in Kherbit Ghazaleh and 2,423 in Daraa Al-Balad reaching 33,052 vulnerable beneficiaries. The additional 740 winterization kits were distributed based on the extension phase, with distribution of 300 kits in Kherbit Ghazaleh and 440 in Daraa Al-Balad, reaching 3,800 beneficiaries.



A family gets to open their clothing kit in Daraa Al Balad



Distribution of a winter clothing kit in Daraa Al Balad



Distribution activities in Kherbit Ghazaleh

As part of the RIRP partnership with UNICEF, Iraq, RIRP realized a distribution campaign of winter clothes for the IDP's (out of camps) within Salah Al Din and Anbar.

The winter in Iraq brings a lot of concerns, harsh weather conditions and additional hardship for many displaced families. With temperatures dropping to zero at night, many displaced people, and especially children, are not prepared for the winter months, they suffer from the extreme cold as the majority of them live in small tents which are vulnerable to the wind, rain and the cold, and they have minimal appropriate clothing to keep them warm.

To protect their health and make their situation a little bit more bearable, RIRP has targeted displaced people and host communities in different locations, throughout Iraq and has put a lot of effort into realizing smooth and well-organized distributions for winter clothes.

The kits that were distributed contain the following items: jackets, gloves, bonnets, scarfs, pants, pullovers, warm underwear, socks, and other warm clothes.

This winterisation project was conducted in Al Anbar (Al Qaim, Karabila, Rumana, Huseiba, Obeidi, Ruqba and Haditha) and within Salah Al Din (Tirkit, Beiji, Al Mashaq, Al Sania, Kadria and Al Alam), with distribution of 18,850 winter clothing kits.



Clothing kit distribution in Salah Al Din





#### 4.4 Projects related to LIVELIHOOD

Iraq is considered one of the biggest populations within the Middle East, ranked 4th and with an approximate population in Baghdad of 8 million. Following years of crisis in Iraq, numerous sectors such as, agriculture, industry, services, and health have suffered and caused high levels of unemployment. Consequently, this has led to families surviving with limited income means and insufficient food for the family.

RIRP collaborated with WFP, as executive partner, to implement a Tech For Food project, that focuses on targeting households that meet WFP poverty criteria. One person per family were given an opportunity to enhance and develop their skills (English and IT), through the EMPACT (T4F) program. This program provided free education and entitlements for attendance, throughout the phases, and RIRP selected Ghazaliya district in Baghdad, to conduct the training project that would target potential beneficiaries from Ghazaliya, Hurriya and Shuala.

The overall outcome was to enrol 500 potential beneficiaries and those successful participants will empower households through both phases of the training cycle, by generating income opportunities by the entitlements being offered and through either internship or freelancing during or following successful completion of the course and microwork.



Training sessions being held in Ghazaliya training centre



The EMPACT graduation ceremony, attended by WFP, RIRP and local government

## 4.5 Projects related to **EARLY RECOVERY** and **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Within 2019, we conducted two important projects related to early recovery and community engagement. The first of these projects was funded by UN-Habitat and was implemented in Yathrib sub-district, in Salah Al Din governorate.

The overall goal of the project was to contribute to the stability and socio-economic development of Iraq by enhancing democratic governance at the local level. The specific outcomes are to enable the selected governorates to effectively and transparently manage local government systems and public services and to promote economic growth and job opportunities, with special focus on green projects involving youth and women and to improve living conditions in conflict-affected areas.

The programme intended to build upon the momentum created by the recently concluded EU funded capacity-building Local Area Development Programme (LADP II). The proposed intervention of this project was the rehabilitation of the war-damaged emergency unit in the main Health Centre serving the Yathrib sub-district in parallel to the delivery of a “Child Accident Prevention” Awareness-Raising Campaign that targeted the children living in the residential areas of Yathrib where UN-Habitat will be rehabilitating war-damaged housing, redesigning open spaces and sport facilities for children and implementing a new piped water network to facilitate the sustainable return of the population displaced during the conflict with ISIL.



The main Yathrib medical centre prior to rehabilitation



Following rehabilitation, all external and internal elements of the medical centre, could once again, provide the urgently needed medical services to the community.



Following rehabilitation



Designed by professional medical trainers or nurses, a “Child Accident Prevention” awareness-raising campaign specifically targeting children, was conducted. The campaign addressed the following causes of domestic and outdoor injuries, fractures, disabilities, and fatalities: electric shocks; burns; traffic accidents; drowning; falls and poisoning.

The open-air sessions were conducted in identified residential areas where UN-Habitat was conducting housing, infrastructure and open spaces rehabilitation works.

Three of the fifteen sessions were open-air sessions, given to the families and the children, where the children were very responsive and interacted more than their parents. The other twelve sessions were given in the local council of Yathrib building. Small workshops were conducted, with the aim being that children can discuss between them the potential dangers that they may face inside the house, school, and the street. Roll playing activities were made for the children on how to avoid aggravating the injury based on the topics learned from the campaign.

Small first aid kits were also distributed during and after the campaign, the kits were provided to treat minor injuries and contained the following items:

Medical cotton, sterile alcohol, wound dressings, gloves, medical soap, scissors, small plaster pack and large size medical plasters.



Practical theory lessons





Awareness sessions for the children and families



The second project was a neighbourhood socio-economic assessment and participatory design for public open spaces in Heet and Mosul, Iraq.

As part of this programme, RIRP was tasked to carry out a socio-economic assessment in neighbourhoods targeted for intervention in the cities of Mosul, Heet and Yathrib, and organise the following activities: -

- Socio-economic assessment in the mentioned cities.  
The assessments were conducted door-to-door in the implementation areas, and it was explained to the beneficiaries why it was made and how the assessment would be useful for future projects.
- Focus Group Discussions in three cities.  
The focus group discussions were conducted in the Mosul Municipal Technical office for Mosul, in Dar-Al Salam school for Heet and the Municipality of Yathrib with selected members of the community who were chosen, based on the assessment results. The participatory design sessions were made by dividing the participants into groups to express their ideas and preference for choosing the facilities they want to see and use in the park.
- Video competition in Mosul city.  
To engage youth in the design process, UN-Habitat organized a short video competition. RIRP distributed the competition leaflets in the schools, focus group discussions and targeted neighbourhoods to youth between the ages of 15 - 19 years. All videos that were submitted, were reviewed by Un-Habitat and 5 winners chosen, who received prizes.
- Drawing competition in Heet and Mosul cities.
- Participatory design sessions in Mosul.



Assessments being conducted in Heet and Mosul

# 5 Project Planning, Implementation and Monitoring

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## 5.1 Project Planning and Preparation

### 5.1.1 Beneficiary Selection Committee

To implement the projects, RRI's standard procedure includes the establishment of a Beneficiary Selection Committee (BSC) which consists of a representative of the local authorities, a local community tribe leader, community members, a representative from RRI and a representative of the donor.

In Shelter-related projects the BSC chooses the beneficiary families by visiting them personally and proving their need of assistance. After selecting the project beneficiaries the BSC requests the beneficiary registration papers from the local Community Councils, to ensure the avoidance of any conflict in reference to the ownership of the shelters.

In WASH-related projects the BSC identifies and assesses the existing infrastructure in different camps, informal settlements and returning areas through field visits realized by RRI-WASH-Officers and chooses vulnerable communities with insufficient water supply and lack of WASH-services for project implementation.

### 5.1.2 Tendering Phase

In the second phase RRI realizes a stakeholder analysis that includes local government departments, small-scale service-providers, private operators and NGO/CBO run entities. In doing so capabilities and capacities of different actors are assessed and the inter-organizational cooperation is promoted. The potential subcontractors are requested to perform site visits. Whenever

possible, RRI invites local companies to submit their offers since experience has proven that working with locals facilitates the project procedure and ensures the availability of contact persons beyond the project implementation. RRI selects the local partners according to their know-how, experience and a realistic cost ratio. After choosing the right subcontractors the decision is submitted to the donor for approval.

## **5.2 Project Implementation**

### **5.2.1 Implementation Phase**

The selection of appropriate technologies and the conduction of project-related preparatory trainings previous to the rehabilitation works serve to assure a smooth and constant project implementation and the reduction of potential risks.

During the project implementation RRI and its co-partners ensure the donors' visibility at all times.

### **5.2.2 Monitoring Phase**

For every project RRI establishes mechanisms for transparent and participatory project monitoring and evaluation. Field monitors on site maintain close communication with the targeted beneficiaries, supervise all phases of the project implementation and submit daily reports to project management. RRI management conducts regular site visits to evaluate the project progress and submits regular (weekly and monthly) monitoring reports to the donor.

The purpose of the monitoring is to ensure works and procedures are executed as planned, delays are avoided, the high-quality of the services is guaranteed and adjustments can be made in a timely manner in case any inconveniences arise.

Evaluation is done periodically to identify potential problems on time, provide fast and adequate reaction when needed, to improve or accelerate activities and to learn lessons for the future.

The beneficiaries are encouraged to provide feedback and proactively use our complaints mechanism on site to report on any shortage in the quality or quantity of the distributed services.



### 5.2.3 Gender, Equity and Sustainability

RRI ensures, wherever possible, to include female community members into the projects, since experience has proven that women often provide an additional point of view and can help to change the perspective of men towards the role and skills of women within their community.

Female headed households often suffer from much more difficult conditions in providing for their families. To encourage and empower women, RRI ensures that every response incorporates a gender perspective in assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Female workers are hired for implementation, gender specific services are provided when needed and female needs are strongly considered in every intervention.

Prevention of exploitation and sexual abuse (PSEA) against beneficiaries, is always at the forefront of our minds, during all activities. RRI commits all staff, contractors and stakeholders to our policies on PSEA and investigates any such instances.

### 5.2.4 Completion Phase

On completion the BSC evaluates and verifies the implementation activities and RRI elaborates a final report and submits it to the donor. The services/facilities are handed over to the beneficiaries or responsible local authorities and periodical monitoring checks are realized even after completion to assure the long-term functionality of the facilities/services.



Open and direct communication with beneficiaries

# 6 Success Stories

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## 6.1 “My school is being rehabilitated”

Wearing this bright colourful football-team shirt, Zakaria, a 10 years old boy starts his conversation with us, he lives in Al-Jafra neighbourhood in Deir Ezzor city, and he used to carry his bag every single day to go to his school in Harabish because his old school was destroyed.

The demolished school left him with no choice but to find another place to study even if that would cost him two hours of walking every day. He said “Every day, I wake up early morning when the sunlight comes-up, in a few minutes, I prepare myself for the long journey to the school in Harabish, it takes me an hour with non-stop walking, my school bag increases the burden on my feet and my back, every day I feel exhausted because of that”

However, his passion to learn every day and to help build his country in the future, is the flame which lights his way towards the success, he knew that his old school will be repaired, and since then his smile never left his face. He was so happy when he knew that UNICEF and RSRP are rehabilitating his school and his class will open again soon.



Zakaria

## 6.2 Khaled who benefited from the exam bursaries project.

Khaled Al Khalaf, a 20-year-old 9<sup>th</sup> grade student from Al-Kesra district (100 km from Deir-Ezzour city), travels every day from his home town to attend his final exams.

Khaled suffered from cancer and was cured in 2012 but unfortunately, he lost his left leg. However, he decided to not give up and complete his studies, so that in the future he can become a doctor, to help other people in need.

He took private lessons in Raqqa governorate to help him re-enrol in 9<sup>th</sup> grade classes. The huge distance that he had to travel every day was a big challenge for him, paying more than 5000 S.P. (Approximately 10\$) for transportation each day turned out to be a huge obstacle for Khaled.

The cooperation between RSRP (RRI's Country program for Syria) and UNICEF facilitated the creation of this "Basic Education Bursaries" project, which provides cash assistance for transportation. This allows students such as Khaled to pay for their daily transport to attend the final exams in Deir Ezzour City.

Khaled passed the exam and achieved one of the highest marks in the project (2499 marks).



Khaled talking to RSRP staff about the project

### **6.3 Sabreen's new employment opportunity**

Sabreen is 30 years old, single and lives with her family in Shoullah, Baghdad. Originally from Kirkuk, Sabreen and her family were displaced in 2008, due to the religious conflicts during this period and forced to leave her home with her family. Finally, they ended up in Baghdad and without money to rent a small house or the option to stay any longer with relatives, they found refuge in an unfinished governmental building,

Fighting these difficult circumstances and trying to live a normal life, was a challenge for Sabreen, the five members of her family depended heavily on the Iraqi social care network, of \$150 per month, to cover all the family needs and expenses. This, like many other families, puts them dangerously under the poverty line and in need of urgent help.

Sabreen graduated in 2009 with a diploma in the field of Administration and Marketing, however, seeing that Sabreen is not originally from Baghdad, her chances of getting employment in the governmental sector is zero, and with limited English language and computer skills, her chances in the private sector was also limited.

Sabreen was selected to be part of the EMPACT training courses (FIRST COHORT), she attended more than 80 sessions in English and IT skills, given by specialized and certified trainers, and training was also given on building professional CV's and how to search for careers via the web.

Sabreen completed both basic & advanced level courses successfully and she was one of the most committed people to attend and actively participated in every session.

Sabreen made the following speech during the graduation ceremony:

"I believe life has two faces, a black face and a white face and I think I am living the white face of life now. I spent many days dreaming of finding a real home and save my family from that illegal house that we are living in. I tried to find a job with a good salary but that did not happen because I do not know how to talk in English fluently or how to use a computer professionally. I could not even develop my skills; I simply do not have money for that. Our income was barely enough for food. Now the situation has changed, with your donation and this opportunity, it opens the chance to meet professional teachers and get taught these skills for free. I feel I am blessed, and my prayers have finally been answered. Thanks WFP, thank you RIRP, you make my dreams come true".



The professional English and IT training that she received during the EMPACT project, enabled her to be selected for advanced training in the humanitarian and social cohesion training. Sabreen is now a certified official trainer in the International Social Peace institute.

She was also chosen to be among 90 other Iraqi women, in supporting the Iraqi community during the COVID 19 pandemic.



Sabreen attending the WFP EMPACT Project