

Strengthening resilience in dealing with crises and conflicts in Nineveh (SRN), Iraq

GIZ's approach to support the transition from armed conflict towards peaceful and inclusive communities.

The challenge

Years after the liberation from the so-called Islamic State, Nineveh continues to struggle with the devastating consequences of the armed conflict. Many of the internally displaced people still cannot return to their homes. Tensions and mistrust between different ethno-religious population groups are extremely high and the trust in the state to provide security is low. There are limited income opportunities, especially for young people, and local administrations cannot provide social services sufficiently. Large parts of the infrastructure are destroyed, resulting in limited access to public social services, like schools or water systems. There are strategic plans to reconstruct the city neither locally nor internationally. This causes barriers for internally displaced people to return home.

Our approach

The aim of the project is to strengthen the resilience of returnees, internally displaced persons, host communities and local structures in Nineveh to deal with crises. As one precondition for safe and dignified return is a low level of tension and an environment of trust, SRN promotes social cohesion by building local peace structures and enabling people to solve disputes peacefully. To strengthen livelihoods within the destroyed economy, the project supports people, especially young adults, to find new prospects for employment. This provides households with a better income and allows them to actively take part in the local economy. Being resilient also means to have access to education and public services. That is why SRN builds and rehabilitates social public infrastructure that allows internally displaced persons to return to their home villages. The combination of social cohesion, livelihoods and construction measures allows the project to address the multiple crises Nineveh faces years after the liberation from the so-called Islamic State at the same time, so that the resilience of its population can be strengthened.

Project name	Strengthening resilience in dealing with crises and conflicts in Nineveh (SRN)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Nineveh Governorate
National partner	Ministry of Planning, Iraq
Duration	04/2020 – 06/2025

Activities and impact

To promote social cohesion, the project supports local peace structures in Sinjar, Tel Afar, Tel Kaif, Mosul and Hamdaniyah. The key stakeholders from administration, security, and civil society strengthen their skills to create awareness for their community priorities and to engage in complex and sensitive conflict resolution processes. The local peace structures support the implementation of two local peace agreements in Qayyarah and Zummar. In cooperation with a consortium of international and national experts, a social media campaign based on an edutainment model is designed to change knowledge, attitudes and norms to increase social cohesion. Through this cooperation, youth participants receive a media capacity development training. As a result, documentaries containing powerful messages are produced. One documentary shows how difficult living conditions can increase feelings of insecurity and uncertainty and offers options to deal with these feelings. This allows viewers to draw parallels to their own experiences.



Photo left: young men and women clean parks through a Cash for Work activity in Nineveh Forestry Nursery in Mosul.

Photo right: participants of Media for Peace (M4P) campaign shooting a documentary film in Lalish.



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Photo left: 5 district working groups discussing solutions for issues faced in their communities and finding solutions.

Photo right: a teacher teaches catch-up classes to students who cannot attend private classes during the summer break through Cash for Work activity.

To improve the income and employment situation, entrepreneurs receive small or medium-size grants to (re-) open a business. Some enterprises receive large grants to expand their businesses, target new sectors, and hire additional staff. While startup capital is a precondition to take part in the economy, entrepreneurs need to be equipped with certain skills to run their business successfully. That is why they receive Business Management and Finance Training. Since not everybody wants to start their own business and as there is a huge demand in the construction sector, the project provides Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) courses for young people to become an electrician, plumber, blacksmith, carpenter, IT-, or decor-specialist.

The project puts a special emphasis on supporting women to participate in the trainings. It offers Cash for Work to match the local need for labor with the workforce people have to offer. With the Department of Forestry and for Combating Desertification, for example, the project provides temporary employment for people to help provide seedlings for reforestation. The participants for this activity were identified through local peace structures that are supported by the project. The project provided a summer school program through Cash for Work in the Qayyarah sub-district. With the collaboration of the Directorate of Education in Nineveh, educational facilitators are trained in pedagogy courses to teach catch-up classes to students who are unable to attend private classes during the summer break.



Photo: Meeting to review the progress of the local peace structures with the participation of members from the local peace committee.



Photo: a woman from Mosul who opened her own shop through a small business grant provided by GIZ.

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