



COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE

Public Affairs Office

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Coalition, partners combat COVID-19 *Progress highlights in Iraq and Syria*

SOUTHWEST ASIA – The world has rallied to assist Iraq and Syria in their efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19. The security provided by Iraqi Security Forces and Syrian Democratic Forces, with support from the international military Coalition to defeat Daesh, enables humanitarian assistance to be distributed to communities in need.

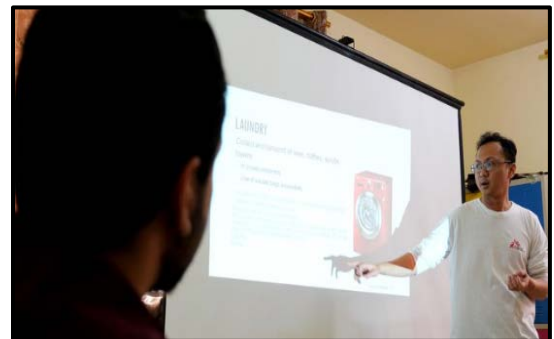
Below are examples of COVID-19 community outreach initiatives:

- **April 1: PHOTO: MSF– Twitter (Arabic)**

Doctors without Borders ‘Médecins Sans Frontières’ (MSF) teams support Iraqi hospitals responding to COVID-19 by assisting hospitals in Baghdad, Mosul and Erbil. The teams assessed the hospitals’ readiness to deal with the outbreak and started providing hospital staff with training on infection prevention and control and triage management.

“The initial goal of our intervention is to help the hospital handle suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients, to make sure they are welcomed and treated as well as possible in such circumstances, and to also avoid having new patients with hospital-acquired infections,” said Shaukat Muttaqi, MSF Head of Mission in Iraq. “To reach this objective, the MSF team will be working in collaboration with local hospital staff.”

MSF teams are continuing to work on other projects, but with additional measures. Elsewhere in Iraq, MSF projects continue to provide health services to vulnerable communities across the country. These services





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include surgical, neonatal, pediatric and maternity care, non-communicable disease treatment, emergency care and mental health support.

https://twitter.com/MSF_Iraq/status/1250057637623971841

https://twitter.com/msf_arabic/status/1250391866664722433

<https://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/msf-supports-iraqi-hospitals-responding-covid-19>

- **April 8: Photo UNDP Iraq – Twitter**

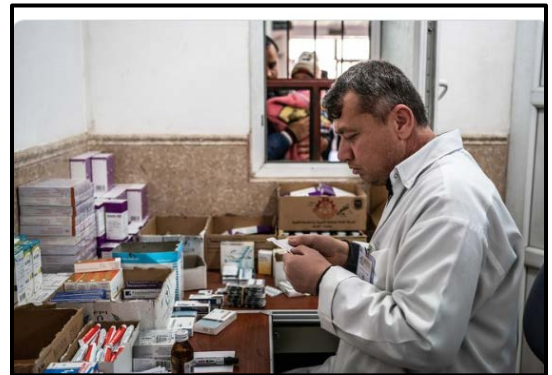
Belgium, Netherlands and Sweden committed \$5 million to tackle the COVID-19 outbreak in partnership with the United Nation Development Program (UNDP) for the stabilization of Iraq.

The funds, pledged under UNDP's 'Funding Facility for Stabilization' to help rehabilitate infrastructure damaged by ISIS, will be used to support UNDP Iraq's initial \$22 million COVID-19 response package, which is being implemented under the umbrella of UNDP's stabilization program.

Measures to combat the virus under this package include increasing the testing capacity of laboratories, providing personal protective equipment to healthcare workers, increasing the number of isolation wards, and undertaking assessments to establish post-COVID-19 recovery strategies. Focusing on the most vulnerable communities in Iraq, activities will be rolled out in nine hospitals selected by local authorities in the underserved areas of Anbar, Diyala, Dohuk, Basra, Karbala, Najaf, Ninewa and Salah Al-Din.

<https://twitter.com/undpiniraq/status/1247785603199979520>

<https://twitter.com/undpiniraq/status/1247786838208610306>





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- **April 13: PHOTO: UNDP Syria – Twitter (Arabic)**

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Syria continues its solid waste management programs in as safe a way as possible, helping residents to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases while providing workers with a source of income to sustain their livelihoods through cash for work.

<https://twitter.com/UNDPArabic/status/1249802477714788353>



- **April 14: PHOTO: OCHA Iraq – Twitter**

Women trained by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Iraq and Kurdistan Human Rights Watch (KHRW) are working to sew face masks to supply to health authorities.

In January 2020, UNDP and KHRW collaborated to train 60 women on sewing and tailoring in Ninawa over the course of a ten-day workshop. At the time, these women could not have foreseen how their newly developed skills would contribute to combatting the deadly coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic currently sweeping the globe.

Aseel, 45, says, “We have produced thousands of pieces and the major portion is delivered to the Ninawa Health Department. Some other organizations are also receiving face masks from us and they distribute those free of cost in communities and camps.”

<https://twitter.com/OCHAIraq/status/1249962557672128514>

<https://www.iq.undp.org/content/iraq/ar/home/stories/2020/03/newly-trained-women-in-ninawa-produce-face-masks.html>





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