Online Training workshop series - Workshop 2

“Fostering employment and entrepreneurship for locals and refugees: new challenges from COVID-19 crisis for host local authorities” - part 2"

To be presented at: Mediterranean Host Municipalities Learning Network

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The Mayoralty of Baghdad, is the official government entity responsible for the management and delivery of municipal services for the city of Baghdad, which gained great importance for being the capital of the Republic of Iraq and for its outstanding location in the center of Iraq and in the heart of a vital region of the world (the Middle East), as well as being a hub for political, administrative and economic events.

The interest in the city of Baghdad is aimed at creating balanced urban development that provides its citizens with a healthy environment, best services and all their requirements. This is planned through synergizing the efforts of official institutions, local community organizations, citizens and the private sector as the growth and development of Baghdad is a shared responsibility.

The city of Baghdad is home for about 9 million inhabitants and covers an area of approximately 883 km², accounting for 17.3% of the total area of the province of Baghdad, which amounts to about 5113 km².

The city of Baghdad currently consists of a number of technical, administrative and municipal sectors (14 municipal departments as well as the municipality of the Green Zone and the airport).
Key actions taken by the Baghdad Mayoralty and its contribution to reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus

The Baghdad Mayoralty and its different departments immediately responded upon the confirmation of the first COVID-19 cases in Iraq (end of February) under the guidance and direct supervision of Baghdad Secretary. The Mayoralty issued a number of policies and interventions that reflect the needs of individuals and various segments of society in addressing the various stages of the pandemic.

**Phase one**
- Total lockdown

**Phase two**
- Partial lockdown

**Phase four**
- Total lockdown
Administrative procedures

Some of the actions:
- The closure of parks, water parks, swimming pools and all public facilities (prohibition of assemblies).
- Reorganizing working hours and decentralizing the decisions taken by the management to arrange departmental work and attendance of staff.
Service and awareness based procedures

- Publish posts to raise awareness on social media and municipal departments

- Printing posters on staying at home in coordination with UNICEF.
The capital's local radio station continued daily broadcast without interruption even during curfew. The key achievements during this exceptional period. :-

- Continue the Mayoralty radio program, and invite municipal heads and directors of technical departments to clarify the mechanisms of their work during lockdown, and the sanitizing and disinfecting procedures being carried out, in addition to the provision of essential services.
- Produce over 25 voice clips and fillers that include interviews with doctors, artists and citizens to raise awareness on how to prevent infection.
- Launch a number of new social programs that include the most important information on preventive curfew and social solidarity.
Community participation

- Form an emergency cell for Baghdad that included competent figures from the Ministry of Health, the Red Crescent, Civil Defense, security forces, volunteers and civil society organizations. This group coordinated preventive measures and addressed complaints directly.
- Form sub-groups of the emergency cell in all districts within the municipal boundaries for further coordination (each in their own jurisdiction).
Launch awareness raising campaigns targeting shop and restaurant owners, and others in partnership with a number of civil society organizations working in Iraq, volunteer groups and relevant authorities (such as health centres, the community police..etc). This was in parallel to cleaning and disinfecting campaigns for shops, markets and public areas.
Continue providing municipal services (cleaning, sewerage, water, agriculture) during full and partial lockdown

Intensive cleaning and awareness-raising campaign by the Baghdad Mayoralty in densely populated areas with the participation of community police, tribal leaders and civil society organizations
Services

Continue providing municipal services (cleaning, sewerage, water, agriculture) during full and partial lockdown

Launch the Plant a Seed campaign in the capital Baghdad, organized by the Baghdad Mayoralty / Department of Municipal Awareness in partnership with Iraqi universities and civil society organizations. The campaign focused on planting flowers during Spring and electing the the best looking house-front.
Launch the My Prettiest House and My Finest Neighborhood campaign where community initiatives materialized in painting sidewalks, beautifying streets and planting outdoor spaces; all in the aim of supporting physical and mental health of the residents during quarantine, encouraging self-sufficiency for families, creating a long-term environmental effect especially in neighborhoods that suffer from lack of green spaces.
Production of PPE at reduced prices especially for health workers

Production of sanitization materials locally at a low-cost price and to substitute import
Technical procedures

The production department created three new sanitization systems (with diameters of 1700mm, 1350mm and 1350mm) that were manufactured within the engineering department in the mayorality and were installed on special vehicles that disinfected major streets, schools and some public facilities. The department also manufactured disinfection gates placed at the entrances of departments and institutes to disinfect people against Corona virus.
Advancement and empowerment of Iraqi women

Under the direct supervision of the Chair of the Commission on the Advancement of Women, the Secretary of Baghdad, and in light of the importance and the necessity of the advancement and empowerment of women, a sewing workshop for face masks was opened by the production department, the products of which were distributed to the staff and workers of the Baghdad mayoralty.

Women volunteered to sew the face masks in their homes to help with the fight against Corona, despite being in Ramadan, with working hours beginning at 11 pm and ending at 3 am.
The COVID-19 crisis underscored the important role of NGOs and volunteer groups in reinforcing the activities of local governments and the efforts to reduce the spread of the pandemic and mitigate its effects. A number of NGOs created electronic platforms that helped spread awareness among the various segments of society.
In support of humanitarian action, the Baghdad Mayoralty organized the Baghdad AlKher initiative during the holy month of Ramadan to support poor, impoverished families, the Baghdad Mayoralty workers and refugees.
Baghdad has already been facing many challenges, some of which are not specific to the city, but are part of the overall situation of Iraq. Security remains an issue, as well as the troubled political and economic situation. Not to mention the lack of, and difficulty in accessing, sufficient information and data.

The Mayorality of Baghdad supports all ideas that fall in everyone's interest, and is willing to provide municipal manpower to achieve those ideas. By working together and cooperating we make our city better.

Current problems that the city of Baghdad faces, or any that may arise in the future, can be solved through capacity building, improving efficiency, functional linkages, spatial allocation of the land and ensuring connectivity through transportation and road networks.

Ensuring that humanitarian action plans take into consideration, and reflect, response to COVID-19 and defend the rights of refugees, migrants and IDPs, in all national responses.

Applying humanitarian development approach, and fostering peace through organizational coherence, cooperation and synergies and partnerships to assist the government's response, and to maximize the comparative advantages of governments, NGOs and other aid agencies that work to achieve commonly agreed targets.
Thank You