

## AFTER YEARS IN TURMOIL, IRAQ DEVELOPS

Categories: Water and Hygiene Assistance/ Education Assistance/ Culture/ Project Update

### BE A PART OF THE PROJECT: PARTNER WITH JEN AND CONTRIBUTE

<http://www.jen-npo.org/en/contribute>

Education Assistance

#### Questionnaire Surveys



*Above: Students answer the surveys during school.*

When conducting any project, it is important to make assessments to determine the outcome of the work. Currently in Iraq, JEN renovated 10 schools in 5 governorates and promoted hygiene education at each one. After we completed our school renovations and hygiene campaign, which included hygiene education workshops for teachers and hygiene kit distributions, we asked the headmasters at each school and 10 students from each grade at every school to complete a questionnaire prepared by JEN. The same questionnaire was used prior to the implementation of the project so that we can compare the results and determine the impact of our project.

We discovered that we were able to achieve most of the objectives of the project and that school administrators began to appreciate the work we had done to improve their school environments. Some of these improvements include an increase in students' hygienic behaviors and an enthusiasm to maintain their personal hygiene and their school. It is very

rewarding to see the students answer the surveys with positive feedback and answers. The students and teachers would like to send their gratitude to Japan.

Culture

#### Questionnaire Surveys

Al-Zawra Park is located in the center of Baghdad and has a large green space with sitting areas, restaurants, fountains, a lake, a zoo, and amusement park. Everyday many families and students visit the amusement park, which is also a popular destination during the holidays. Currently, main buildings and services are under construction, but 15 new games have been installed recently.

There are several take-out restaurants throughout the park to serve the visitors. The amusement park even invites schools in Baghdad to visit for discount game prices. Visitors can relax in the park although public security is still unstable. However, Al-Zawra Park has no drainage system so it often gets flooded after rainfall. Fixing this issue will allow more visitors to enjoy the park to its fullest.



*Above: The popular amusement park in Al-Zawra at night.*

**COUNTRY: IRAQ**

Water and Hygiene Assistance

Project Update

## Launching a New Project



*Above: Students practice brushing their teeth.*

December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 marks the first day of our new project called “Improvement of Hygienic Environments in the Primary and Secondary Schools in Central and Northern Iraq.” This project is an expansion of our work in Iraq for the past 10 years. For the upcoming year, we would like the students to understand the importance of hygiene and have them become accustomed to hygienic behaviors such as washing hands and brushing teeth. We hope that this project will improve the health conditions of students so that they can continue their studies at school.

Since 2003, JEN has been implementing projects to improve the education sector in Iraq. In 2010, we expanded our project sites outside Baghdad to 4 other governorates, where we renovated schools and encouraged hygiene education activities in over 200 public schools. Because the Iraqi education sector still needs improvement, we decided to continue our work.

For this new project, we will implement hygiene education classes and activities in 18 schools in Anbar, Diyala, and Kirkuk governorates with approximately 650 teachers and 8,000 students. We will also renovate water and sanitation facilities in 3 schools due to them being dysfunctional and unsafe and encourage the Department of Education in each governorate to learn about the importance of monitoring and maintaining schools. We hope that these initiatives will lead to safer environments for students.

## Worsening Conditions in Anbar Province

JEN launched a new project at the end of 2013, but unstable security and unsafe environments in Anbar Province led to the project’s temporary stop.

Anbar province, located in the west of Baghdad, is the largest province in Iraq with the majority of the population being Sunni Muslims. Sharing borders with Syria and Saudi Arabia, Anbar Province is home to many tribes who have relatives on in neighboring countries. Because many of its residents are supporters of the Hussein administration, the province was attacked many times by the US military in 2003. Anbar province has a lower unemployment rate compare to other provinces and less public services available. Frustrated by the government, the citizens have begun antigovernment demonstrations.

It is important to remember that not all of our project sites are safe; however these are the areas that need our help the most. The safety of our staff members is our priority, and we have been carefully monitoring the situation to proceed with our projects.



### The 7 EN's of JEN

Engage  
Entrust  
Encourage  
Endeavor  
Enjoy  
Encounter  
Enable

### DONATE NOW AND HELP THE CAUSE!

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