

AFTER YEARS IN TURMOIL, IRAQ DEVELOPS

Category: Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH)/Sustainability/Hygiene Education/Culture

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Hygiene Education



Above: Girls at the Om Sama Intermediate School listen intently to the lectures on proper hygiene and care.

An Inside Look into Hygiene Education

Our hygiene programs, teaching proper practices to students, have started this March. Security has proven to be difficult, with many road blockages, especially in the Anbar and Diala provinces, JEN hygiene promoters and engineers cannot always reach our partner schools. The ten-year anniversary of the US-led invasion took place on March 19th, where over 60 people were killed in a series of car and suicide bombings throughout Baghdad. However, while taking care and precautions in terms of security, our hygiene education projects continue thanks to the support of The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The first day in schools, JEN hygiene experts train the school's teachers, who then hold sessions the next day for their students. Students pay more attention and take the topic more seriously when it comes from their own instructors. The sessions urge students to upkeep their personal cleanliness within the school and at home the sake of their own health and their surrounding environment. Hygiene kits are then distributed which contain soaps, toothbrushes, and informational booklets and posters to easily remind and teach the children how to care for themselves. Officials from Diala's Ministry of Education and Department of Education attended the

training sessions, and have expressed their admiration and satisfaction of JEN's work and materials. We would like to thank all our supporters who have made our education programs possible in schools throughout Iraq.

WASH

Facilities Completed: School Gives Thanks

Diala Province's Om Salma Intermediate School for Girls restroom facilities have been refurbished. Previously the school's facilities were in unusable and unsanitary conditions. Without proper functioning restrooms, the school could not operate functionally. The headmaster of the girl's school had previously gone to the Iraqi Department of Education numerous times requesting repairs, but to no avail, they denied their requests. JEN received permission from both the Department and Ministry of Education to fund and perform the renovations themselves. With dedication and hard work, the new bathrooms have been completed and the school is now completely operational. JEN conducted student and teacher trainings about hygiene education, as well as how to keep their newly refurbished restroom clean to ensure its longevity. School administrators gave their thanks in addition to a surprise song and dance for JEN staff performed by the schoolgirls. We would like to thank all our supporters who helped us see this project through.

Below: Girls from a local school sing and dance a surprise appreciation song to JEN staff for the newly refurbished restroom facilities in their school.



COUNTRY: IRAQ

Culture

Iraq Showcases Culture

Now dating ten years since the fall of Saddam Hussein, Baghdad, Iraq’s capital city has been designated the title, “Arab Capital of Culture” for 2013 as a part of an initiative taken on by the Arab League of UNESCO’s Cultural Capitals Program. The program has promoted and celebrated Arab culture, encouraging participation throughout Iraq. This is an opportunity to remind the world that Iraq has a rich history beyond its recent history of war and terrorism.

However challenges face this initiative project. For example around the Baghdad National theatre stands a 10-foot concrete blast wall, and half-a-dozen armed soldiers at its entrance. Due to past threats received from religious militias, the performing arts center has to stay on guard. Those opposed to the theater believe that their shows are too radical as they display men and women performing side-by-side.

Members of the theater received death threats, but keep going for the spirit of the arts. However even with these threats and opposition, Iraq’s artistic and cultural scene is expected to blossom once again. The Capital of Culture project will release 24, shot in Baghdad, films: including nine feature-length films, nine shorts, and six documentaries. The project has also included music and dance performances, photography exhibitions, as well as a series of folk art shows. In response to its past years isolated from the international cultural scene, Iraq additionally plans to host the Gulf Cup Football Tournament in Al-Barash in 2015.

Below: Iraq’s National Theatre in Baghdad



We Achieve the Best at Minimum Cost

For successful program implementation at minimum cost, we obtain all possible resources locally, both human and material. In this way the potential capabilities of an area can be developed (Project Management Policy)

Sustainability



Above: Students water and prune plants in their newly made garden in part of a government run school system wide competition.

Education and Beauty through School Garden Competition

This March, the Iraqi Ministry of Education has set out on a venture to improve the quality of the grounds at their schools around the country. A sector of the Ministry, the Department of Environmental Education and School Health, has geared up an annual competition between schools to build and plant the most beautiful campus garden.

Sponsored by Ministry of Education, JEN has assisted in educating both students and teachers about the environment through a series of training sessions. We placed an emphasis on how local gardens aid in not only contributing to a brighter atmosphere, but in improving the level of attention and awareness about the environment. The garden projects teach students about maintaining and caring for land, with a stress on taking responsibly for one’s surroundings. The gardens turned out beautifully, bringing smiles and color throughout many school grounds.

NGO JEN (Japan Emergency NGO)

7/F, Daini Tobundo Bldg, Ageba-cho, Shinjuku, Tokyo, JAPAN 162-0826
 Phone: (81) 3-5225-9352 / Fax: (81) 3-5225-9357
 Email: info@jen-npo.org / web: www.jen-npo.org
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