



Baghdad Women Association
Studies and Research Unit
Gender and Random housing

World Habitat Day



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Introduction:

Random housing is one of the issues that have appeared to become ingrained in Iraqi reality and social life, especially since they are not a result of a single event but rather are a result of a number of different circumstances and factors, most notably the lack of effective urban planning in Iraqi cities and the escalation of economic issues in some regions. This leads families to migrate to the outskirts of towns in search of newer economic prospects, after which they begin to build houses out of tin or using rudimentary materials such as clay or building rubble. The conflicts and the fragility of the security situation in the post-2003 period resulted in the displacement of many families and families to seek new shelter, whether in camps or construction in some areas, whether inside cities or on their outskirts in search of safety, and tribal conflicts contributed to the exacerbation of the phenomenon because tribal laws included the evacuation and exclusion of the aggressor tribe outside its residence or killing, which resulted in the tribes that were evacuated from the southern provinces moving to live in the capital Baghdad, and the gypsy found a shelter where they lived in these complexes. This has contributed to the creation of new neighborhoods and residential areas.

General framework and background of the problem/challenges of women in Random housing:

The problem of random housing is not born today or in recent history, but it dates back to the thirties of the last century, after or for a wave of displacement of residents to the outskirts of the city of Baghdad and the establishment of houses in the areas of the Nazim Pasha Dam with difficult living conditions at the time, then the situation began to increase in the fifties of the last century after many peasants under the system of agricultural feudalism were forced to leave the profession of agriculture and go to Baghdad from the beginning of the Most of the job

opportunities in factories and factories in the outskirts of the capital Baghdad. After the transition of the government from a monarchical to a republican one in 1958, the state started to build new cities that could provide the basic necessities of housing before working to build the cities of Althawra and Alsho'la to serve the large populations in these areas. This situation persists to this day for a reason. The inadequacy of government plans in this area to address the issues of rapid population expansion and provide the necessities for a decent living for citizens in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities, Within the framework of an overview of the available statistical data, the Ministry of Planning announced that there are more than four thousand complexes for informal housing and more than 500 thousand housing units and that a quarter of these complexes in the capital Baghdad, more than a thousand complexes and areas for random housing, the ministry also added that; more than 3.5 million people live in these regions, which equates to nearly 10% of Iraq's total population. When comparing the proportion of male to female residents, it can also be argued that about 5% of females live in informal housing. Referring to the speculative figures of a quarter of the complexes in the capital Baghdad, approximately one million residents in Baghdad live in the framework of a random life, with women making up half of this number, or more than half a million women in the random housing. The Central Agency for Statistics' statistical population estimates showed that the total population of Baghdad until the end of 2021 (8,780,421) and classified on the basis of gender. Women in rural regions make up 532,628 of the total population, whereas 3,792,484 women live in Baghdad's urban area (4,325,112) Upon arrival, I will provide you information about 125,000 unofficial housing units in Baghdad only based on the data of the Iraqi Ministry of Planning,

While the Ministry of Planning acknowledges the significance of addressing this issue, it also emphasized that Radom housing represents one of the crucial and dangerous issues that require appropriate solutions, in a way that helps to create a better life for its inhabitants. The Ministry is collaborating with the United Nations Human Settlements Program to provide treatments and has developed a plan to implement a comprehensive survey of random housing to identify their reality and identify appropriate solutions.

The areas that make-up random housing can be characterized as areas where construction has been built in primitive forms, even though they are modern, because they lack the simplest elements of life, such as the presence of public spaces or spaces for the establishment of basic service infrastructure, especially educational and health, as well as police stations or administrative institutions, due to random planning in these areas, and they also lack a Remarkably, therefore, there are high levels of violence, crime, domestic and economic violence, an increase in the rates of sexual exploitation of women because they lack the elements of privacy and personal security, in addition to the fact that the social nature in these areas is often constrained by old customs and traditions, some of which constitute a violation of human and women's rights. The most prominent of these are the marriage of girl girls, dropping out of school, marriage by coercion (al-Nahwa), and honor killings, especially since they are complexes that are not surrounded by security cover mostly, so we find the bodies of the girl victims dumped in garbage or old tables, which constitutes compound violence against women and flagrant violations of women's rights,

It should also be noted that some complexes were constructed under high-pressure towers for the transmission of electrical energy, which poses risks to women's health, as well as construction in mainly contaminated areas, water marshes, near areas of sanitary landfill or brick plants, as well as construction near sewage and rain drainage channels or above water or oil transmission lines. Its negative effects have been greatly reflected on the life of women and their reproductive and psychological health, especially with the absence of awareness of reproductive and sexual health as well as the absence of infrastructure of safe drinking and usable water, which greatly affects their usual healthy lives and their ability to deal with situations that most of them go through on a monthly basis and are part of the sustainability of their biological life, as a result of which the mortality rates of women during childbirth or loss of pregnancy, abortion and others have increased, In general, random housing areas in Baghdad and the provinces lack basic public services such as the services of the A and the police, as well as health centers and schools, and if any, they do not fully cover the needs and are witnessing congestion and overcrowding. In addition, the ports for entering and exiting to and from these areas suffer from traffic jams because they are irregular and do not fit the size of the population in them, which hinders them often even civil defense services such as ambulances and firefighters

have access to them in the event of an emergency that threatens the right to live in those areas. Economic hardship and poverty have a complex impact on women's right to work in these random housing; they are either denied the opportunity for productive work and are forced to care for their families or work in jobs that are insufficient for their needs as women, such as in sanitary landfills or brick factories. In addition, the money they earn is frequently seized, depriving them of financial independence.

These areas are also constantly at risk of removal and forced eviction in accordance with the laws in force, which means more burdens on women, especially those who do not have an income or are unable to work because of the risks of homelessness, exploitation, or trafficking in human organs, risks that have become more evident during the past years by exposing groups that practice such types of organized crime in these areas if they exploit the economic need and vulnerability of women and girls.

In addition to the difficulties already outlined, women's rights to political participation are also infringed by the suppression of their voices in favor of male families, more than double the likelihood that they will be disqualified from running for office. It should be highlighted that some political parties have taken advantage of the residents of these complexes, both sexes, by withholding their support in spite of election pledges and by taking advantage of their material needs and worsening conditions.

Recommendations and responses:

Iraqi Government:

First: Completing the plans for the full survey of random housing and abuses and the development of crisis and gender-responsive remedies that contribute to mitigating the negative consequences on the situation of women.

Second: Increasing the ability of the service, security, and legal organizations to handle the rising numbers of cases of violence against women in these regions while spending some time tracking and documenting the situation in order to create follow-up interventions.

Third: Approve a package of executive measures put forth by the Iraqi Council of Ministers and the relevant authorities to address the situation in these sporadic housing and allocate a gender-responsive financial budget to support the situation of women in these areas and empower them in ways that will protect them from violence or the taking of their basic rights.

Local and international civil society organizations:

First, develop a humanitarian action plan for women and girls in these regions that aims to increase their capabilities and rehabilitate them in terms of economics (livelihood projects), legal protection, health and psychological awareness campaigns, literacy lessons, and encouragement of initiatives to educate girls and enroll them in schools.

Second: Preparing a system of reporting and monitoring cases of violence against women in cooperation with Iraqi government agencies, especially community police, in order to address cases of violence, exploitation, and violation against women in these areas.

Third: Increasing the targeting of women and girls living in random housing in the project programs proposed by local and international organizations to be among the vulnerable care groups to help them integrate and work within these initiatives and projects.