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Back to Ninevah Plain: a new project funded by PRM to support the local community and people who decided to return and start again

On September 1, 2018, AVSI Foundation launched a new project in Qaraqosh, Ninevah Plain of Iraq, “A virtuous production cycle to relaunch a city and its economic fabric for IDPs and returnees to the Ninevah Plain, Iraq”.

The project, funded by the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), will last for two years and will reach more than 6,000 farmers and family members in Qaraqosh, Al-Hamdaniya district.

AVSI will work with local actors to create an association that will guide a new investment fund to refurbish 71 small and medium farms, while also fostering civic engagement and social cohesion through community gardens and conflict sensitive life-skills training. AVSI will put into place sustainability mechanisms from the start to ensure that initial funds are reinvested in additional farms and local businesses over time.

The project answers to the current situation and needs of the population, as Iraqi IDPs are returning to their destroyed towns of origin and to their lands since the departure of ISIS.

Their resettlement needs to be facilitated and supported as conflict and displacement have caused major disruption to the local economy and stock of private and public assets.

AVSI designed this project through extensive consultation with local actors in Qaraqosh including hundreds of farming families. It is based on the premise that if AVSI supports local civil society efforts at community-driven development and restores productive assets to family farms, the increase of agricultural production will generate income, create jobs and stimulate the local economy with positive returns for the health and well-being of the population.

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