

Mosul (Ninewa) Community Project

February – April, 2021

The Iraq Horticulture Development Program (IHD); ECO Consult



Ninewa Background

Ninewa Governorate is located in Northern Iraq; the capital of the governorate, and Iraq's second largest city after Baghdad, is Mosul. The city is diverse in terms of cultural, social, religious, and ethnic ranges. Historically, it has a mixed population of Arabs (mostly Muslim Sunnis); Kurds (mostly Sunnis); Turkman (both Sunnis and Shi'ites); Shabak (Shi'ites); Assyrians, Arman, Chaldean (Christians); and Yazidis.

The area has faced substantial demographic and economic shift following the ISIS invasion of 2014. Throughout this time, agriculture has remained a vital, yet underdeveloped, part of the economy of Ninewa, with the entire governorate hosting less than 300 greenhouses as of February 2021. Reduced access to safe land space, limited access to water, lack of modern tools and technologies, and collapsed governmental support pose major challenges to stakeholders in the sector.

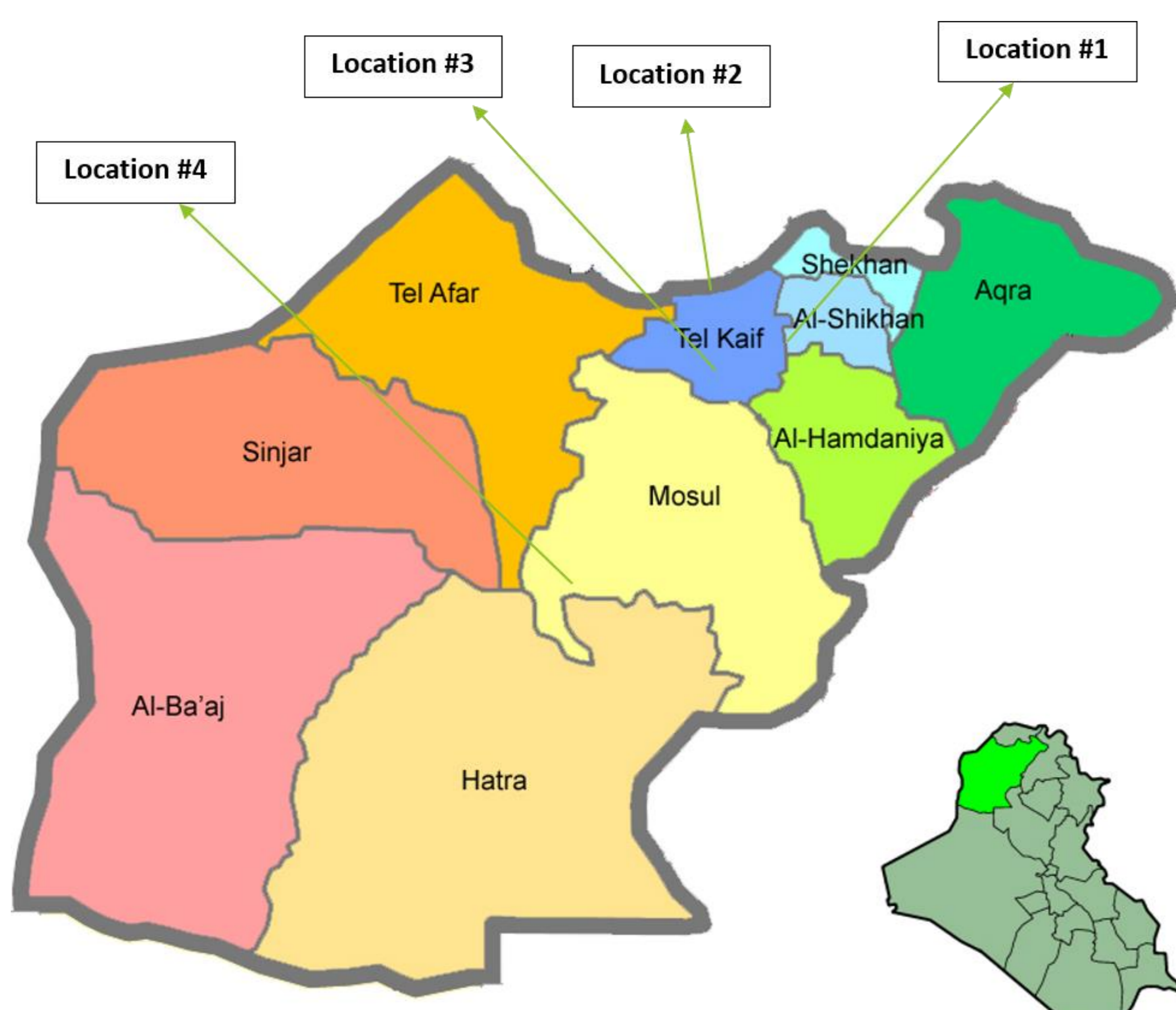
Areas of IHD Intervention

Location 1: Al Qosh (Dashqutan) – 6 Greenhouses

Location 2: Al Qosh (Bozan) – 6 Greenhouses

Location 3: Tilkeif (Aabasiya) – 3 Greenhouses

Location 4: Rashidiyah (Qubba-Shrekhan) – 3 Greenhouses



IHD Support

IHD is providing support to the agricultural sector in Ninewa by promoting a culture of protected agriculture. Using the Community Based Project to showcase the advantages and effectiveness of using simple greenhouses over the existing open field methods traditionally used, farmers in the area are encouraged to update their existing cultivation methods.



Through the project, eighteen single tunnel greenhouses have been built over four different locations, including the installation of irrigation systems. The first growing cycle is focused solely on growing cucumbers to meet the season and market demands. IHD provided high quality seeds, fertilizers and pesticides to the beneficiaries to ensure higher quality and higher yield outcomes. Taking a holistic implementation approach to the project, knowledge and capacity building is provided to the beneficiaries throughout the life of IHD's four year cycle.



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Project Beneficiaries

The project targets vulnerable farmers, whether from the host community, IDPs or returnees. Through multiple visits to different locations in the governorate and coordination with local authorities in Ninewa, beneficiaries were selected in the four locations suitable for implementation (based on security and land and water availability). A balance of ethnic and religious minorities have been maintained to reflect the population demographics and to ensure a neutral response so as to support further social cohesion.



The below demonstrates the demographic breakdown of immediate beneficiaries of the project:

Families	Individuals	IDPs	Host Community	Returnees
20	110	53	14	43
Yazidis	Arab Muslim	Kurdish Muslim	Christians	
59	43	10	8	

Female inclusion is widely encouraged and promoted through the project.



Project Sustainability

One of the challenges faced in a project like this is ensuring sustainability and continuance of the project beyond the initial installation phase, and project life. IHD have taken some steps to address this problem.



- MoUs have been signed with the beneficiaries
- Local authorities are involved in the process from the beginning, with agreements signed between them and the farmers
- Training provided (Greenhouse management, seeds, fertilizers and pesticides selection and use, harvesting techniques, segregation and packaging, etc.)
- Routine follow up and technical support are provided by IHD throughout the life of the program



IHD Project

IHD is a four year development program funded by the government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and implemented by ECO Consult. The program aims to develop the horticulture sector in Iraq, improve postharvest practices, and promote knowledge sharing among stakeholders in the country.