"The Role of Memory in the Post-Conflict Recovery"

A case study presentation:
Exploring memories in Mosul

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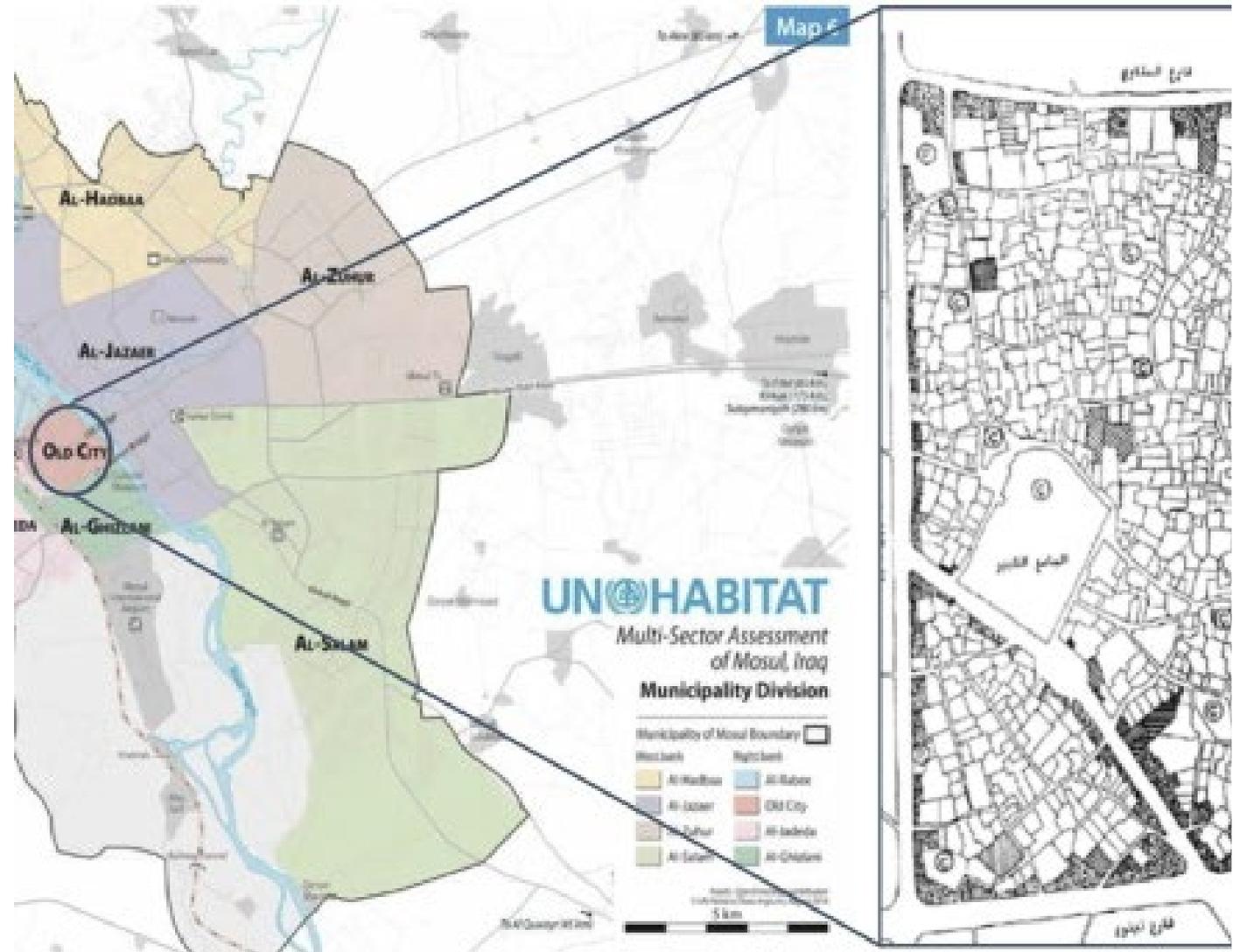email: vcostarelli@iom.int

9 June 2023

Background

- Around 3 million of internally displaced people (IDPs)

- 10 million the number of people in needs

- IDPs were displaced in camps, informal setting and host communities.

- The offensive to re-take Mosul started in October 2016 and ended on the 20th of July 2017.

- The city was heavily damages and destroyed during the offensive.

- Disruption of government services

Mosul on the path to reconstruction five years after its liberation

- Reconstruction and rehabilitation of private housing and public infrastructures.

- Upgrade and formalize informal settlements- controlling the expansion of the city in line with urban planning.

- Rehabilitate the houses in key villages on the Nineveh plains and rural areas to facilitate the return of farmers.

- Economic recovery and access to basic services and public utilities

- Protect the heritage from further destruction and ensure that reconstruction respects the city's historical character

Everyday Sites of Violence and Conflict

Exploring memories in Mosul and Tal Afar, Iraq

Frazer Macdonald hay, April 2019

IOM IRAQ

Definition of memory

"The faculty by which the mind stores and remembers information."

Memory is malleable as new event and information can be added, it can change our perceptions and what we think we remember about past events, resulting in subtle errors and misrepresentation.

Day-to-day building, landscape and materials serve as a poignant reminders of personal and collective culture and history.

• Reconciliation after violence is normally understood to be the restoration of sociable relations. It has adopted a variety of methods, approaches and roles to suits different circumstances.

• Buildings are linked with past events and such connections become powerful mediums of remembrance.

• For a post-conflict community, this sense of place has fundamentally changed. Many of the once familiar buildings that subtly reinforced a sense of place and belonging are now imbued with traumatic meaning and represent a complicated and contrasting set of post-conflict emotions.

Al Nuri Mosque

Case Studies

- **Al Zinjily, Pepsi Factory Wall Atrocity:** women and kids were killed by ISIL while they were trying to escape.

- Community acknowledged this atrocity by panting the wall and writing the names of victims.

- Creating of a football club in honors of the victims.

- _Gestures of social integration in recognition of suffering of the community_

Case Studies

- **Hamam Al-Aliel- Khasfa Sinkhole**: mass graves where 4,000-5,000 bodies were founded.

- It underpinned feelings of hatred, revenge, fear, distrust.

- It requires acknowledge and recognition of the trauma suffered by the victims' families.

- *It must be addressed by peacebuilding memorialization process*.

Case study

Al Nuri Mosque: In 2014, Daesh proclaimed the 'new caliphate' from its prayer hall. The final blow was dealt during Daesh's re-treat in 2017.

• It is considered Mosul's Great Mosque. It has been a core site in the urban life and development of the Old City of Mosul.

• UNHABITAT-UNESCO: launched their comprehensive reconstruction plan in 2019.

• The plan doesn't indicate how they intent to address the trauma and memory of people associated with the destruction and subsequent reconstruction efforts

Recommendations

- Engage an approach to memory awareness that can be adopted and used in everyday peacebuilding practice and protocol and that highlights the risks involved, the sensitivity required and reasons why memories are politically sensitive and socially impactful.

- Develop methods to engage and advise local and national government as to the importance of everyday collective memories of violence and their role in supporting a sustainable peace accord.

- Develop and promote the constructive synergy between memories of conflict, their management and a reconciliation initiative.

Thank you