

UN HABITAT

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

**61ST REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVES TO UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME
15 JUNE 2016**

**Item 7: Thematic / Country Presentation -
UN-Habitat's Work in the Republic of Iraq**

HSP/CPR/61/7

Presentation on Iraq for the CPR 15 May 2016

Key Data

Pop. 33,33 million of which 71.2% is urban
Pop. living under poverty line 18.9%
Pop. multidimensional poor 13.3%
Pop. under 15 Years Old 39.5%
Pop. (15---24) years old 20.5%
Pop. (15---64) years old 57.2%
Pop. (15---64) years old 3.31%
Pop. growth rate 3.4%
GDP 212.5 USD billion
GDP per capita 6,300 USD
Unemployment 11.3%
Household water supply 84.5%
Households sanitation facilities 29.6%
IDPs (post 2006) 1,1 million
IDPs (post 2014 Anbar/Mosul crisis) 2.2 million
Slum Population as Percentage of Urban Population: 57%
Urban population with access to safe water: 79%
Urban population with access to improved sanitation: 73%

UN-Habitat in Iraq

- Total value of UN-Habitat investments (2013-2017): US\$ 62,080,937
- Total number of UN-Habitat projects (2013-2017): 11 projects
- Main donors: The European Union, Government of Iraq, Government of Japan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Government of the United States of America, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNOCHA,
- Implementing partners: IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNOPS, WHO, UNOCHA, UNHCR, Barzani Foundation, Peace Winds Japan

Synopsis

Iraq has an urban legacy. Cities started around 5000 years ago, when fertile land within some of the world's greatest river valleys such as the Tigris and Euphrates were successfully farmed to create agricultural surplus and became densely populated with settlements of 30,000 to 40,000 people. UN-Habitat, as the UN programme promoting sustainable urban development, is proud to work within this deeply historic context and has had a continuous presence in Iraq for over twenty years. The challenges of Iraq's cities today are very real. They accommodate more than 70% of the population and are growing rapidly. Many people, particularly the poor, live in sub standard housing and informal settlements and suffer the health impacts of polluted water sources and growing traffic congestion. Women and children, whose focus is predominantly the home, experience the reality of poor services and absence of local amenities most acutely.

Iraq has experienced various periods of conflict in the last decade. In 2006 the bombing of the Samara Shrine led to the internal displacement of 1.6 million Iraqis; the majority of whom settled in informal settlements and camps. In 2014 the invasion of the so-called "Islamic State" led to the further internal

displacement of 2.2 million Iraqis. In addition to this, the conflict in Syria has led to the movement of 350,000 refugees into Iraq.

UN-Habitat's programme over the last decade has focused in parallel on:

- alleviating the suffering of internally displaced families and supporting shelter and basic services provision to refugees;
- addressing urban challenges including the rapid spread of informal settlements;
- supporting national reforms that promote sustainable urbanization with a particular focus on urban policy, urban planning, local governance, land management, housing and municipal services.

Through a review of UN-Habitat's current activities in Iraq, the presentation aims to show how the three pillars of Sustainable Urbanization: namely Rules and Regulations, Urban Planning and Design, Financial Planning work hand-in-hand to not only promote sustainable urbanization, but also, applied to crisis recovery can set a course towards early recovery and development. The presentation will also highlight how UN-Habitat works closely with partners including local and central government, civil society organizations and UN Agencies, including UN jointly implemented programmes, and will acknowledge and thank donors for their generous support.

Initiatives discussed will include

Crisis Response:

- Community Based Approaches to support host communities to accommodate refugees
- IDP camps as Planned City Extensions, providing dignity to displaced families and preventing future slums
- The use of Social Tenure Domain Model to support Property Rights of displaced families to enable return
- The concept of Planning Back Better to ensure that reconstruction can lead to prosperous urban neighborhoods

Addressing Informal Urban Expansion:

- Pilot Neighbourhood: Kurani Ainkawa informal settlement upgrade including how engagement of local authorities with the community represented a paradigm shift in local governance, how tenure rights were resolved and how women became empowered
- City-Wide approach: integrating solutions for informal settlements into the revised Baghdad Master Plan
- National Programme on informal settlements and IDP camps:

Sustainable Urban Development:

- Reform roadmap for land management and administration
- Local Area Development Programme – urban planning and governance
- Urban Policy Development and National and Regional Spatial Strategies
- Urban Planning Capacity Support (Kurdistan Region)
- Reforms in urban service provision through introducing public private partnerships
- Revision of the Building Code (Kurdistan Region)