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UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



STRENGTHENING THE LONG-TERM RESILIENCE OF SUBNATIONAL AUTHORITIES IN COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE SYRIAN AND IRAQI CRISES



HEADWAY PROGRAMME | January 2019 – December 2021



HOUSING REHABILITATION COMPONENT

BACKGROUND

Since 2013, Iraq has been deeply affected by the conflict with the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). The displacement of over 6 million people and the influx of refugees from Syria has exerted extreme pressure on the Kurdistan Region, which has hosted the majority of the displaced persons and Syrian refugees. Many families lost their homes in acts of destruction by ISIL or during the military operations to liberate the occupied areas. UN-Habitat estimates that as many as 240,000 houses have been damaged or destroyed in the region.

Developed in 2018 in consultation with government partners and stakeholders, and implemented in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Headway Programme aims to strengthen the long-term resiliency of targeted subnational authorities and their host, displaced, and refugee populations affected by the Syrian and Iraqi crises.

The Programme addresses the urban recovery needs of local populations in five target cities – Erbil, Duhok, Sumel, Mosul, and Sinjar – with components that focus on strengthening the capacity of local governments, improving service delivery, and facilitating local economic development.

UN-Habitat worked with community leaders to rehabilitate damaged houses to provide safe and secure living environments for IDPs and returnees. The activities directly supported Sustainable Development Goal 11 of ensuring access to adequate, safe and affordable housing, as well as UN-Habitat's mandate of supporting the creation of inclusive and affordable housing for all. An investment of USD 2,745,060 million supported the direct costs of the house rehabilitation component.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

PROTECTION



Formal agreements were signed with owners of rehabilitated houses detailing rights and responsibilities.

TARGETED ASSISTANCE



A socio-economic vulnerability assessment tool (SEVAT) was used by a local NGO to ensure the selection of the most vulnerable beneficiaries.

COST EFFECTIVENESS



A competitive process was launched, inviting local contractors to submit bids. Average costs per rehabilitated shelter around USD 2,900.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



15 focus groups sessions were conducted with beneficiary groups, disaggregated by gender and age.

POLITICAL SUPPORT



Governors were briefed during the inception phase and written approvals obtained for targeted houses in each municipality, allowing for smooth implementation.

JOB CREATION



Field engineers, contractors, and labourers were hired from benefiting municipalities to enhance local capacities and ensure effective responses to evolving scenarios.

Activities were completed under the Headway Programme funded by the European Union through the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syria crisis, the 'Madad Fund.'

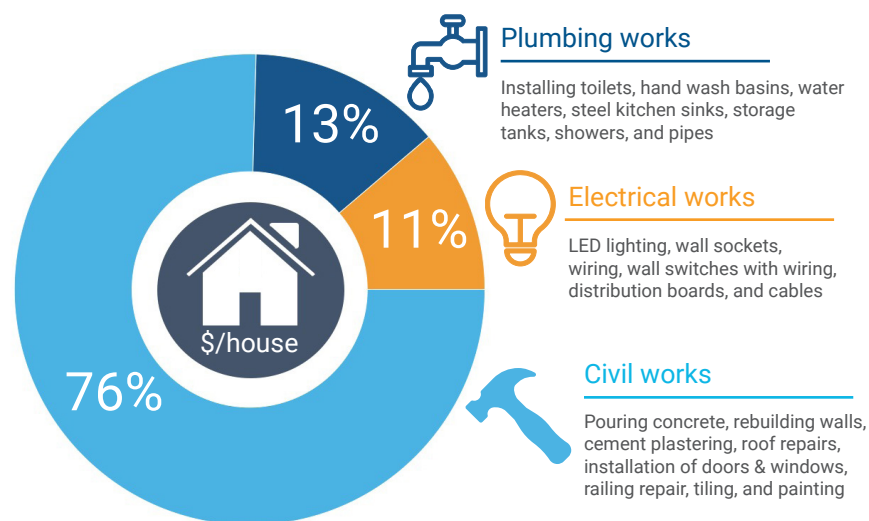


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METHODOLOGY

GIS mapping specialists reviewed satellite imagery of identified neighbourhoods in each of the 5 municipalities. Concurrently, field engineers collaborated with subnational counterparts and neighbourhood Mukhtar teams to conduct preliminary structural assessments of up to 400 houses per municipality. Based on this technical assessment, 1,835 households were prioritized for further analysis using the Socio-Economic Vulnerability Assessment Tool (SEVAT).

976 HOUSES REHABILITATED TO PROVIDE DIGNIFIED SHELTER, INCLUDING:



1 GIS REVIEW & STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENTS

2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS

3 SELECTION OF HOUSES

SEVAT is a standardized vulnerability assessment tool developed by the Cash Working Group of Iraq and adopted by the Shelter/NFI Cluster to ensure a uniform and systematic approach to identifying highly vulnerable households across all communities in Iraq. The scoring tool automatically calculates per capita consumption, a reliable metric of household vulnerability. The SEVAT proved to be very effective and transparent in ensuring a standardized assessment of target beneficiaries. Close coordination with local authorities and community leaders during the vulnerability assessment phase helped avoid tension between host communities and the targeted IDPs and refugees. Of the assessed households, 82% fell under the poverty line and 200 were prioritized in each municipality.

KEY OUTPUTS



5,682

People directly benefited from improved shelter through this project, including IDPs, Syrian refugees, and host community members

25,952

Working days created for skilled and unskilled workers in support of local economies



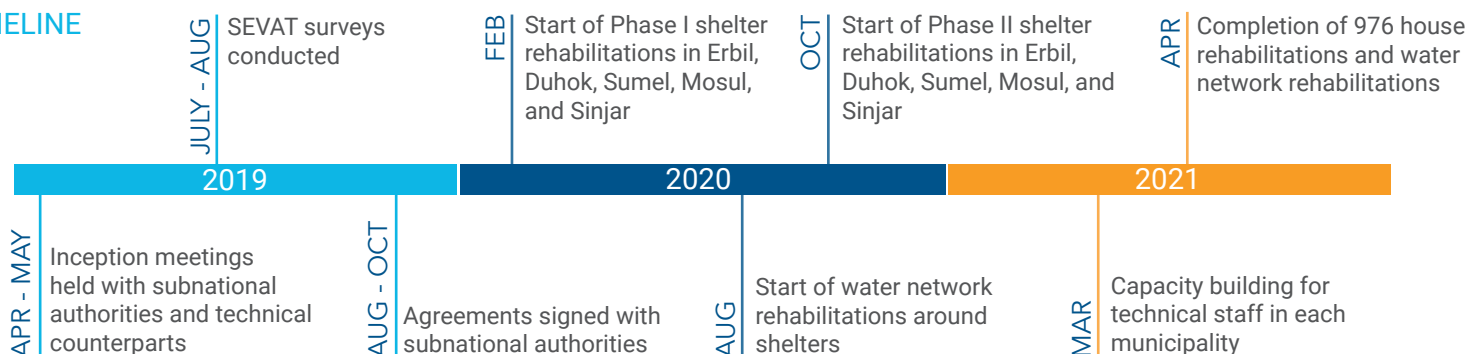
976

Agreements signed with owners of rehabilitated houses detailing rights and responsibilities

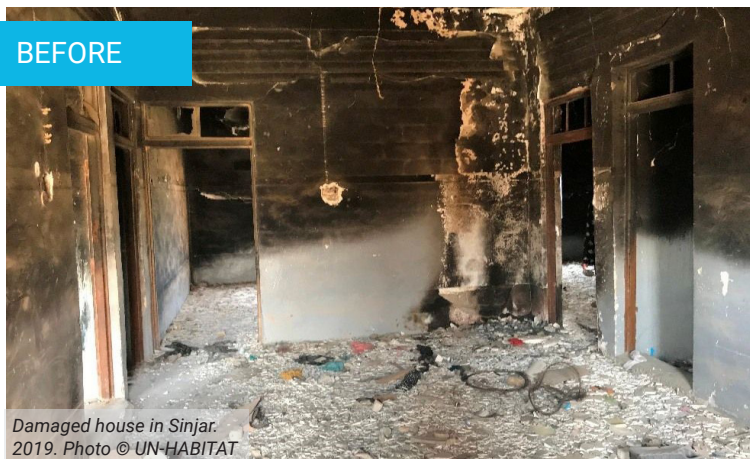
200

Agreements signed between owners and renters stipulating no rent increase for a minimum of 12 months

TIMELINE



BEFORE



AFTER

