

# COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT

2013–2015 IRAQ

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

**UN** **HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

# **COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT**

2013-2015  
IRAQ

November 2012

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

**UN  HABITAT**

# CONTENTS

Copyright © United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) 2012

All rights reserved  
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)  
P.O. Box 30030 00100 Nairobi GPO KENYA  
Tel: 254-020-7623120 (Central Office)  
www.unhabitat.org

HS/1026/08 E

## DISCLAIMER

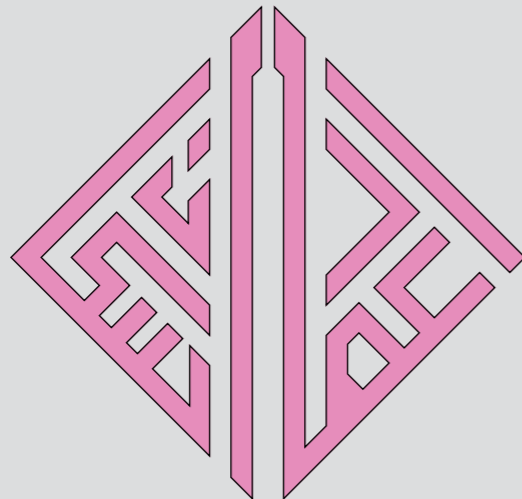
The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any county, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries regarding its economic system or degree of development. Excerpts may be reproduced without authorization, on condition that the source is indicated. Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations and its member states.

Consultant editor: Richard Forster  
Design and layout: Richard Boal

<b>FOREWORD</b>	9	<b>2.4 Selected projects requested by Iraqi counterparts</b>	23
<b>Istabraq Ibraheem al-Shouk</b> Head, National Committee For Human Settlements Senior Deputy Minister, Ministry of Construction and Housing, Republic of Iraq	9	2.4.1 Selected GOI projects	23
<b>Fiona McCluney</b> Chief Technical Advisor, Head of Office, UN-Habitat Iraq Programme	11	1. A City and Country Planning Act	23
		2. A housing land information system	24
		3. Establishing a housing market database	24
		4. Reforms in the land sector	26
		2.4.2 Selected Kurdistan regional government projects	26
<b>THE URBAN CHALLENGE IN IRAQ</b>	13	1. A model for public-private partnerships in school construction	26
<b>UN-HABITAT STRATEGY 2013-2015</b>	15	2. Environmentally sustainable sewage treatment	26
<b>2.1 Proposed strategy for urban areas</b>	15	3. Capacity building to support urban planning	27
2.1.1 Urban sector priorities	15	4. Khabat social housing pilot	27
Priority 1: Urbanization, urban planning and local governance	15	5. Safer cities programme	27
Priority 2: Land management and administration	16		
Priority 3: Pro-poor housing	17	<b>MAPS</b>	
Priority 4: Urban infrastructure and basic services	19	1. Number of electricity hours received from public network	19
<b>2.2 UN-Habitat country programme objectives for Iraq (2013-2015)</b>	20	2. Percentage of households that use public network for their drinking water source	20
<b>2.3 Implementation of UN-Habitat's strategy</b>	21		
2.3.1 Compliance with the UN-Habitat medium-term strategic institutional plan	21	<b>APPENDICES</b>	
2.3.2 National ownership	22	Table 1: UN-Habitat projects	28
		Table 2: Programme framework	30



Republic of Iraq



Ministry of Construction and Housing

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The formulation of the Iraq Country Programme Document (CPD) was based on close consultations with the Government of Iraq officials in the concerned Iraqi Ministries and members of the National Committee for Human Settlements to outline the main priorities and objectives for UN-Habitat's intervention in Iraq. The roles and contributions of Iraqi officials have been instrumental in the planning and successful completion of the CPD. UN-Habitat proposed to the GoI officials a list of programmes and components that are relevant to the areas of intervention and which are based on Iraqi needs and priorities. Drafts were reviewed by the GOI Officials who prioritized the programmes and selected 4 projects to be implemented during the CPD duration. The final CPD draft was finalized and presented to the National Committee for discussion, comments and endorsement before being finally endorsed by GoI and UN partnership steering committee.

A technical working group was appointed to work jointly with UN-Habitat on developing concept notes for the 4 selected projects.

The following individuals have contributed to the formation of the CPD.

**Mr. Istabraq Al Shouk**

Senior Deputy Minister of Construction and Housing, Chair of National Housing Committee

**Dr. Sami Metti**

Deputy Minister of Planning, member of National Housing Committee

**Mr. Riyadh Al Wazir**

DG of Planning and Follow up in MMPW, member of National Housing Committee

**Mr. Zaid Ezildin**

Ambassador, MoFA, member of National Housing Committee

**Mr. Ibrahim Mustafa**

Deputy Mayor of Baghdad, for technical issues, Amanat Baghdad

**Mr. Mohammad Jaber**

DG of State Commission of Housing, MoCH

**Ms. Huda Jaffar**

State Commission of Housing



Minaret at Samarra, Iraq

© iStockphoto.com/yuliang11

## NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The Iraq Government is seeking, through national development plans, to improve the situation of the Iraqi society and develop it at all levels, the most prominent ones being: physical, economic and social development. Since the housing sector is one of the three priority sectors, besides education and health sectors in the National Development Plan 2010- 2014, the Government has succeeded in achieving a number of important accomplishments in this sector, thanks to the approach adopted on the basis of examine priorities and consultation in sharing of plans and solutions in collaboration with local and international expertise.

The Country Programme Document 2013 – 2015, comes to reflect an advanced stage of the planning level for the country's development. The projects chosen by the Iraqi Government, in collaboration with the United Nations Program for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat), which are Planning Act and Cities Regulation, information system for residential land, establishment of ) a database for the housing market contains the scope of development (urban, economic etc..) on one hand, and allows the Iraqi Government on the other hand, represented by Ministry of Construction & Housing and ministries involved in the housing sector, wider ability to take advantage, and invest the opportunities and means available to achieve the goals set for sustainable urban development.

### **Istabraq Ibraheem al-Shouk**

Head, National Committee for Human Settlements  
Senior Deputy Minister/Ministry of Construction & Housing  
Republic of Iraq



The Standard of Ur 'Peace'

© Trustees of the British Museum

## UN-HABITAT

Iraq has an urban legacy. Cities started around 5000 years ago, when fertile land within some of the world's great river valleys such as the Tigris and Euphrates was successfully farmed to create agricultural surplus and became densely populated with settlements of 30,000 – 40,000 population. The BBC documentary series History of the World in 100 Objects selected Standard of Ur, a wooden box inlaid with exotic mosaics (shown below) and excavated from the royal cemetery in Ur to illustrate the governance structures of these early cities. It noted that organising groups of people on this scale required new systems of power and control such as taxation. The systems devised in Mesopotamia 3000 BC and illustrated on the Standard have, as the programme notes, set the urban model of today – “it's no exaggeration to say that modern cities everywhere have Mesopotamia in their DNA”.

UN-Habitat, as the UN Agency focused on cities, is proud to work within this deeply historic context. The challenges of Iraq's cities today are very real. They accommodate more than 70 percent of the population and are growing rapidly. Many people, and 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.

UN-Habitat's Programme focus for the period 2013-2015 is to work with central and local government partners to support them to strengthen all aspects of governance and management in urban areas.

- Effective urbanization, urban planning, and local governance;
- Improved land management and administration;
- Increased emphasis on pro-poor housing; and
- Improved infrastructure and basic services.

The UN-Habitat Country Programme Document (CPD) for Iraq, which covers the period 2013-2015, has been prepared in close collaboration with the National Habitat Committee and is closely aligned with the development priorities of Iraq as presented in the National Development Plan (NDP). The CPD provides the framework for greater partnerships with all the development players, and is equally considered a major tool to advocate UN-Habitat's mandate and to guide the implementation process.

**Fiona McCluney**  
Chief Technical Advisor and Head of Office  
UN-Habitat Iraq Programme

## THE URBAN CHALLENGE IN IRAQ

Iraq's population has tripled since 1970, growing from 10 million to over 33 million, with approximately 43 percent of the population under the age of 15. By 2030, it is estimated that the population will grow to almost 50 million.<sup>1</sup>

Rapid population growth and the movement of internally displaced persons (IDPs) have contributed to a growing housing demand in Iraq, particularly in cities, where 71 percent of Iraq's population live. According to the Iraq National Housing Policy, formulated with UN-Habitat's support in 2010, a minimum of 2 million additional housing units will be required by 2016<sup>2</sup> but the country has only a fraction of the capacity to meet this demand.<sup>3</sup>

Rapid urban population growth has not only led to a housing shortage but has also created overcrowding and poor living conditions. Ten percent of families and 11 percent of citizens occupy housing units that "lack the minimum health and environmental conditions that must be available in any proper house." Estimates have placed the percentage of Iraqis living in slum-like conditions as high as 57 percent.<sup>4</sup>

Service delivery has also been severely taxed by rural-urban migration and urban overcrowding. It is estimated that only half the Iraqi population has regular access to safe water, while sewage collection and treatment services are sorely lacking – 80% of the population of Baghdad

has access to such services, and only 9% outside of Baghdad. Poor quality municipal services and a significant shortage of decent housing have contributed to a deteriorating urban environment with growing air, noise and water pollution.<sup>5</sup>

A key issue in managing urban growth is the lack of a comprehensive land management and administration system that could ensure improved access to land and efficient property transactions.

In addition to housing and land issues, high urban population growth means a growing number of youth and adolescents in cities and unemployment, particularly among youth, is high due to rural-urban migration and urban overcrowding. Unemployment in Iraq is 8 percent but this figure is made more complex by several issues. First, 9 percent of those who are counted as employed are "underemployed" – working fewer than 35 hours a week or seeking to change their current job. Furthermore, a large percentage of women do not participate in the labour force, and therefore are not counted in the unemployment rate. Migration to cities and overcrowding has and will continue to have potentially negative effects on already scarce educational and economic opportunities. With the urban population in Iraq set to more than double from 23 million in 2011 to 48.2 million by 2050<sup>6</sup>, arguably the issues relating to housing, land and youth unemployment will only

get worse. But, in fact, as has been demonstrated in other emerging economies, urbanization can be a force for good in Iraq. Cities can be engines of economic, scientific and cultural development and appropriate urban development can also enhance rural development, as cities provide markets, services, and employment for the hinterland.<sup>7</sup> But such growth needs strong public institutions and clearly defined capacities for such institutions including devolved fiscal powers, which UN-Habitat is tackling through its own programmes as well as the joint programme to reform Iraq's public sector (see section 2.1.1.B below).

#### Basic Human Settlements Data on Iraq (2011 Iraqi Estimates)<sup>8</sup>

Total Population: 33,330,512  
Urban Population: 71%<sup>9</sup>  
Rate of Urbanization: 2.6%

Population of Major Cities:  
Baghdad: 5,521,721  
Mosul: 1,588,427  
Basrah: 1,175,868  
Erbil: 789,900

Slum Population as Percentage of Urban Population: 57%<sup>10</sup>

Urban population with access to safe water: 79%

Urban population with access to improved sanitation: 73%

<sup>1</sup> UN Population Division 2008

<sup>2</sup> Iraq National Housing Policy 2010

<sup>3</sup> "Section 8.3, Housing." *Gol National Development Plan 2010-2014 (NDP)*.

<sup>4</sup> UN-Habitat Iraq's definition of a slum has been adapted to fit available data from the Iraq Household Socio-Economic Survey (IHSES), 2007. A slum was defined as housing that meets one or more of the following conditions: 1) house walls are made of reed or non-stable materials or windows are made of non-stable materials 2) more than 3 persons per room (room includes bedrooms, living rooms, dining rooms, guest rooms) 3) subjective evaluation of the head of the household saying they do not have a sufficient water supply 4) 1 toilet per 10 or more persons 5) tenancy of the house is not owned, nor rented, not provided by an employer or household has no agreement with the owner.

<sup>5</sup> UNDAF Iraq 2011-2014, p.27

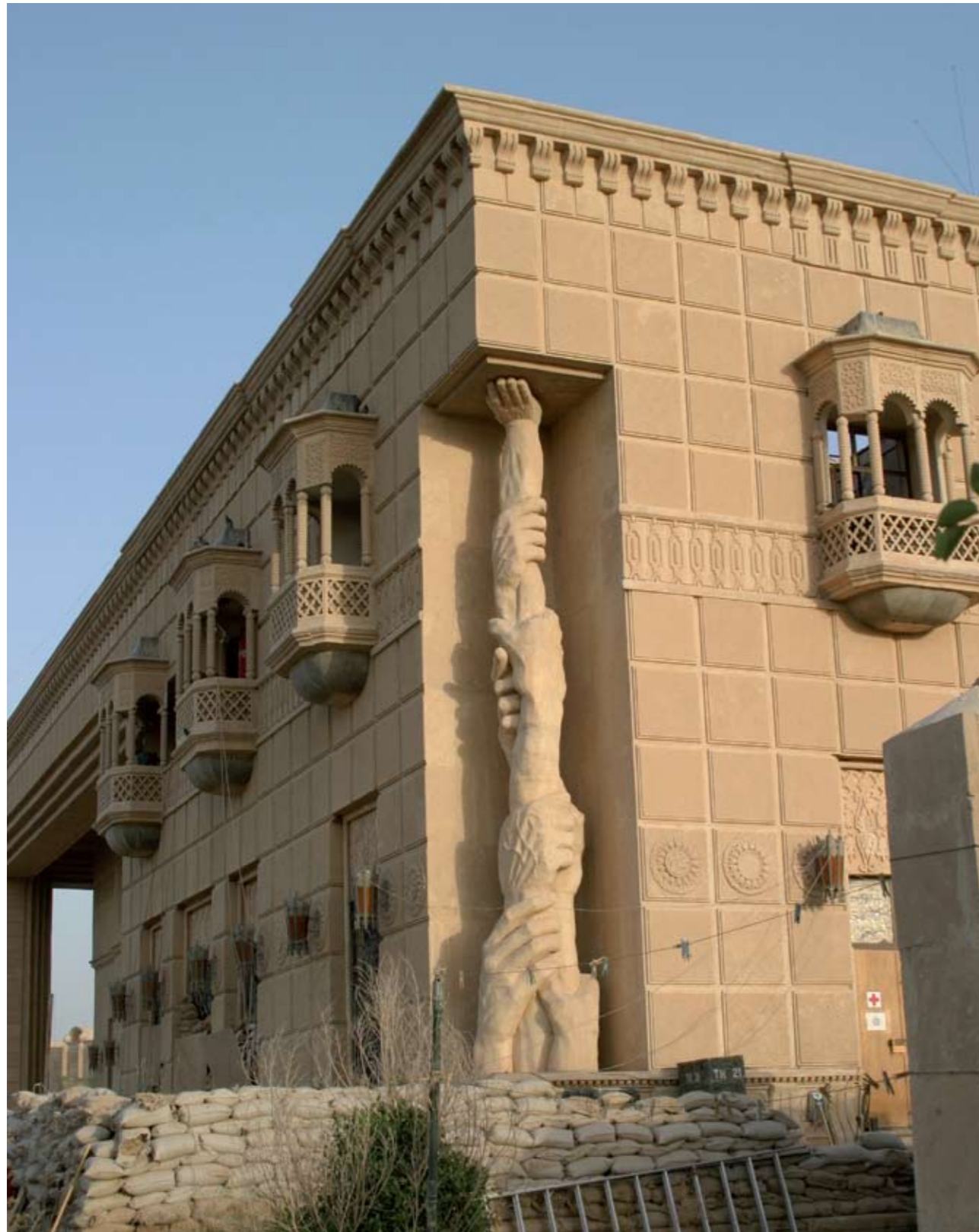
<sup>6</sup> Presentation by Professor Om Prakash Mathur at UN-Habitat's International Conference on Decentralization in Iraq (May 2011)

<sup>7</sup> *Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan 2008-2013 Focus Area Policy and Strategy Paper – Focus Area 2: Participatory Planning, Management, and Governance, UN-Habitat, 2011*

<sup>8</sup> Data derived from most recent census information provided by Iraq Central Organization for Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT)

<sup>9</sup> This statistic derived from UNDAF Iraq 2011-2014, p17-18. For all other statistics in table, see footnote 8.

<sup>10</sup> This statistic per modified UN-Habitat definition; see Footnote 6. For all other statistics in table, see footnote 8.



Tikrit in the Salah ad Din governorate: Iraq's cities can be engines of economic and cultural growth

© lestlej

## UN-HABITAT STRATEGY 2013-2015

### 2.1 PROPOSED STRATEGY FOR URBAN AREAS

Since 2003, the UN-Habitat Iraq Programme has been actively involved in Iraq's recovery process through the implementation of different programmes and projects to respond to Iraqi needs. Within its mandate, the UN-Habitat Iraq Programme has identified four main urban sector priorities for its work:

- **Priority 1** - Urbanization, urban planning and local governance;
- **Priority 2** - Land management and administration;
- **Priority 3** - Pro-poor housing; and
- **Priority 4** - Urban infrastructure and basic services.

These priorities have been outlined below in section 2.2 and align with the Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional plan of UN-Habitat (see box) and the norms and principles that guide the United Nations' response to Iraqi conditions, including sustainable

urban development, adequate shelter for all, improvement in the lives of slum dwellers, access to safe water and sanitation, social inclusion and environmental protection.

#### 2.1.1 URBAN SECTOR PRIORITIES

##### • **Priority 1. Effective Urbanization, Urban Planning, and Governance**

This priority covers capacity building and support to Iraqi counterparts in urban planning, management and governance.

Many cities have seen huge movements of people within and between cities since 2003 – in large part due to conflict. For example, in Baghdad more than one tenth of the city's population are displaced persons. Mosul, Basrah, Erbil, Kirkuk, Sulaymaniyah, Karbala, Najaf and Babil are some of the fastest growing areas of the country. The importance of successful cities as 'engines of growth' and a focus for innovation and learning in a country's development is now widely recognized. How cities are planned and governed for the future is

therefore a primary focus of the UN-Habitat Iraq Programme.

##### **A. Urban planning**

Since 2003, there has been a major effort by the government to update master plans for many of the key cities in Iraq. But due to limited capacity, the work involved has been contracted to external consulting firms. Few city master plans have been prepared adopting a participatory planning approach and in many cases there are weak links between their recommended land use distribution and the prioritization of infrastructure investment or the locations for future development. Iraqi counterparts acknowledge the growing need for exposure to more inclusive, comprehensive and up-to-date urban planning approaches and tools in Iraq.

UN-Habitat is supporting the development of an urban planning profession by providing capacity building to physical and land use planners and related professionals in Iraq, exposing them to new international best practices and tools and creating strategic links with planning institutions in the region.

#### UN-Habitat Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan (2008-2013)

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-Habitat, is the lead United Nations agency for cities and human settlements and is responsible for promoting sustainable urban development. UN-Habitat is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.

In 2007, the agency's Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTSIP) was approved and work began immediately to prepare for its implementation based on five focus areas. These areas have been identified globally as UN-Habitat's areas of technical expertise. UN-Habitat Iraq has designed its country programme in line with the focus areas of the UN-Habitat Medium-Term Strategic Institutional Plan (2008-2013) which are:

- MTSIP Focus Area 1: Advocacy, Monitoring, and Partnership
- MTSIP Focus Area 2: Participatory Urban Planning, Management, and Governance
- MTSIP Focus Area 3: Pro-Poor Land and Housing
- MTSIP Focus Area 4: Environmentally Sound and Affordable Basic Infrastructure and Services
- MTSIP Focus Area 5: Strengthened Human Settlements Finance Systems



The agency is working with the Iraqi Government and Iraqi Local Government Association (ILGA) in a national dialogue on the legal and institutional framework for decentralization and the training of elected local representatives in key competencies. More specifically, UN-Habitat is supporting the decentralization of planning functions through its engagement in a wider UNCT initiative to pilot participatory local area development planning in five governorates in Iraq.

Well-managed urbanization generates economic growth, social harmony, and political and scientific progress, while poorly managed urbanization generates social exclusion, poverty, uncontrolled urban sprawl, pollution, and the unsustainable use of land, water, and other natural resources. Good governance is therefore key to Iraq's development.

### B. Governance

The Republic of Iraq is a federal system made up of a federal-level authority, the federal region of Kurdistan (with 3 governorates), and 15 other governorates, which include Baghdad and over 250 municipalities.<sup>11</sup> The 2005 Constitution of the Republic of Iraq provides for a model of decentralized political and administrative government, with authority devolved to the governorates. In March 2008, the government issued the Law of Governorates Not Organized into a Region. However, the division of responsibilities between ministries, municipalities and governorates is unclear, particularly in the context of ambiguities around the implementation of the Law of Governorates not Incorporated into a Region No. 21 (2008). While local governments have received funds

under the Regional Development Fund, their ability to programme and deliver projects to meet local demand is constrained. There is confusion between the role and responsibilities for functions at different levels of governance, which in turn has impacts on the quality of local services and urban living conditions.<sup>12</sup>

A second weakness of the system of governance is the poor capacity of public institutions. At the subnational level, inefficient planning, administration, implementation, monitoring, and follow-up continue in the delivery of services. According to the August 2007 report *Nationwide Needs Assessment of the Capacity of the 18 Iraqi Governorates in Local Governance*,<sup>13</sup> this can be attributed to: (i) poor staff capacity; (ii) outdated management techniques and methodologies; and (iii) lack of coordination mechanisms among and within the central and local structures. Indeed, the governorates have clearly not met their responsibilities: in 2007, only 34 percent of the IQD 3.3 trillion capital budget (for the 15 governorates excluding Kurdistan) was actually spent.

To address these issues, the UN established a USD 55 million Iraq-Public Sector Modernisation programme in 2010 to support the Iraqi government in reforming the public sector. The programme has been drawn up in full consultation with the Government of Iraq and will focus initially on the three social service sectors of health, education and water supply and sanitation because they will have the greatest impact on achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and will provide tangible benefits for the population as a whole. The initial phase of the programme is 48 months though it

may take ten years to complete the modernization of institutions with the aim of reducing poverty and driving economic growth for better service delivery. UN-Habitat is participating in Phase 1 of the programme, which is led by the United Nations Development Programme, and will partner with other UN agencies in line with existing national mechanisms.

### C. Private Sector

It remains difficult for the private sector in Iraq to provide sustainable employment and alleviate poverty. Among the constraints are: limited land availability; inadequate services such as electricity and water; poorly developed financial markets, with little access to formal sources of capital; and a poor regulatory environment, which fails to exercise sufficient quality control.

Early government efforts to promote the Iraqi private sector have been limited to promoting foreign investment and have not created the required legislative and policy instruments. Much remains to be done to promote a reform package that will address land- and planning-related barriers to private sector development and create a role for the private sector in the delivery of urban services.<sup>14</sup>

#### • Priority 2. Improved Land Management and Administration

Successive regimes from the Ottoman era, to British rule and more recently the Saddam Hussein era, have left Iraq with an unresolved system of land management. This is characterized by overlapping responsibilities and a lack of coordination among ministries, together with confusing, poorly functioning procedures for

land administration. This significantly impairs the development of key sectors including housing, the public sector and the private sector, which currently experience bottlenecks in accessing land.

While the Iraq Civil Code provides a reasonably robust legal framework for the management of land, weak governance has led to problems that include the increasing informal occupation of state land and property and of vacant properties of thousands that have been displaced; the allocation of land by state bodies without regard for land use designations under master plans; and corruption which is damaging the way that state land auctions are conducted. A quasi-judicial system was set up to deal with the claims of those who were dispossessed, however, there is a backlog of claims as well as a lack of enforcement of adjudicated claims. Land administration is also inadequate. Information is unavailable as to the location of state land and which ministry controls it. The real estate registration system is paper-based, with no aggregated information. Registrations of transactions are complex due to fragmented ownership and transaction costs are very high. Consequently undocumented buying and selling of land is prevalent, including unapproved subdivision of land parcels as well as building without or contrary to permits. Municipalities have weak capacity and limited financial resources for land administration and for the enforcement of master plans and land use controls.

Critical needs include: (1) underlying land policies; (2) a means of addressing informal occupation of state land; and (3) an overriding system of state land management and administration. Since 2009, UN-Habitat has supported the Iraqi Government in addressing these issues with the establishment of an inter-ministerial working group within the Prime Minister's Advisory Commission, and the preparation of key studies to reach a consensus on key policy issues and the preparation of a statement on a



There is increasing informal occupation of vacant properties belonging to displaced persons

land policy process for the endorsement of the Council of Ministers. Through study visits and expert seminars, UN-Habitat has raised the awareness of the working group on relevant international practices that could be applied in Iraq. In the medium term, UN-Habitat's priority is to offer guidance to the Government of Iraq in the land policy process, in collaboration with World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization and other actors. The process will involve the establishment of a State Land Commission and the participation and consensus of relevant stakeholders in the development of policies in land management and land administration. The policies will act as a basis for legislative and institutional reforms. During the process, quick wins are expected, which will include improving the land information system in order to make state land more accessible for priority needs, enhancing institutional capacity in property disputes and streamlining the property registration system.

#### • Priority 3. Increased Emphasis on Pro-Poor Housing

Since 2005, UN-Habitat has provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Construction and Housing (MoCH)

in the preparation of detailed analyses of Iraq's housing market and building on the recommendations of these studies has supported the development of a National Housing Policy (NHP). This was endorsed by the Council of Ministers in 2010. The policy recognizes housing as a human right and seeks to address the bottlenecks outlined above by shifting the government's role from being a provider of housing to enabling other actors, particularly the private sector, to take a much more significant role in the sector. The policy focuses the MoCH role on priority programmes to address the housing needs of the poor. Key focus areas include: land for housing; housing production modalities; housing finance; infrastructure for housing; housing management and maintenance; and informal housing.

As indicated previously, the quality of housing has decreased significantly over the past 15 years due to overcrowding and inadequate maintenance. The average family size in Iraq is 6.7. There are 2.8 persons per bedroom in Baghdad, Al Anbar, and Salahaldin (least crowded) and more than 4 persons per bedroom in Missan and Karbala (most crowded). More than 60 percent of the population lives in dwellings that require major rehabilitation. People suffer from

<sup>11</sup> Municipalities comprise districts (qada'a) and sub-districts (nahiya) outside of the capital Baghdad. The term "municipality" refers then to the government unit below governorate. The term "local government" refers to governorate, district, and sub-district levels.

<sup>12</sup> Section II.B of Decentralization in Iraq (UN-Habitat, 2011)

<sup>13</sup> Conducted by the Iraqi Engineers Union in close collaboration with the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works, municipalities in the 18 governorates, and UNDP.

<sup>14</sup> UNDP Trust Fund Private Sector Development Project Document

adverse environmental conditions: stagnant water (56 percent), open sewage outlets nearby (36 percent), garbage and dirt nearby (36 percent), insecurity (30 percent), insufficient light (28 percent), and insufficient ventilation (15 percent).<sup>15</sup>

Returning refugees and the increasing number of internally displaced people in many areas only add to the problem. Sixty percent of internally displaced families (or 152,123 families) live in dilapidated rental accommodation, lacking basic services and amenities.

The above data has been compiled through a number of initiatives supported by UN-Habitat including the 2006 Housing Market Study; the 2006 State of Iraq Cities report; and data from the Rapid Urban Profiles for quick baseline information, the inter-ministerial slum-upgrading task force; assessments of land tenure, security, and housing informality (with a focus on 4 cities); and the 2010 Iraq National Housing Policy. The following key weaknesses have been identified, which the National Housing Policy seeks to address:

**A. State-Driven Housing Delivery**  
Housing delivery in Iraq has in the past relied on the State. The private sector has had limited involvement, though it is active in the construction industry. The government assumed the responsibility of providing housing and embarked on social housing projects designed to accommodate higher-level civil servants and military personnel. New modalities are sought with greater initiative given to the private sector, and greater emphasis on inclusive, demand-driven supply.

**B. Housing Finance System**<sup>16</sup>  
Iraq lacks a market-oriented housing

finance system. A strong system with adequate capital outlay and broadened lending could convert the massive housing need in Iraq to effective housing demand through long-term mortgage finance, and short- to medium-term housing improvement loans.

While there is a system for construction finance, there is no systemic housing mortgage financing in Iraq. The oldest institution in the sector, the Real Estate Bank (REB), after ceasing lending in 2003, only resumed making loans in 2007. Owing to a high default rate, most of its loans have been written off and it is now undercapitalized. The National Housing Fund began making housing loans in July 2005, but by the end of December 2008 only 6,560 loans throughout the country had been made.<sup>17</sup>

In response, the Iraq National Housing Policy sets out key principles for developing an institutionalized housing finance system with relevant counterparts from government and commercial banks from the private sector. A key feature of this housing finance system is sustainability: funds must be recovered efficiently from borrowers at all levels and then re-used to finance additional housing activities. It is envisioned that the legal framework would be updated including making the foreclosure system conducive to lenders; that government banks will backstop commercial housing finance providers, and that micro-finance institutions will be encouraged to provide pro-poor loan products to support incremental housing improvement and construction.

**C. Legislative and Policy Framework**  
The legal and judicial foundations for registering property ownership, titles, and transfers, and for conducting foreclosure processes in the event of

defaults are weak. The situation is exacerbated by the existing national and local legal frameworks, policies, and programmes, all of which need revision and updating in order to facilitate the transformation of Iraqi cities and towns towards a market economy and decentralized governance.

**D. Land**

Much of the land in Iraq is publicly owned, and the failure to release adequate quantities of this land at the appropriate locations has created an artificial shortage of land, resulting in inflated prices. There is a significant shortage of serviced land.

**E. Building Materials**<sup>18</sup>

Although a wide range of public, private, and state-owned industries produce the basic building materials used in residential construction, most of them have outdated production methods and consequently extremely low efficiency and poor quality products. As a result, most reconstruction needs are met through imports, which exposes the construction sector to severe price volatility. Both industrialized and local materials need to be developed and improved.

As the Government seeks to reach closure on the 1.5 million people displaced within Iraq since 2006,<sup>19</sup> advancing the production of housing to this target group is an important priority. In line with the housing policy, UN-Habitat has supported Erbil Governorate in piloting informal settlement upgrading and supported the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) in developing a national strategy to fast track the provision of housing for people affected by displacement.

UN-Habitat's medium term priorities in the housing sector include supporting the MoCH and

key housing institutions and sub-national entities to implement the national housing policy. This will involve providing technical support in legislative and institutional reforms, further pilot projects, special pro-poor housing programmes and addressing informal settlements upgrading at a city scale in Baghdad. Technical support will also be provided to MoDM in conjunction with MoCH in order to implement the Housing Strategy for people affected by displacement.

**Priority 4. Improved Infrastructure and Basic Services**

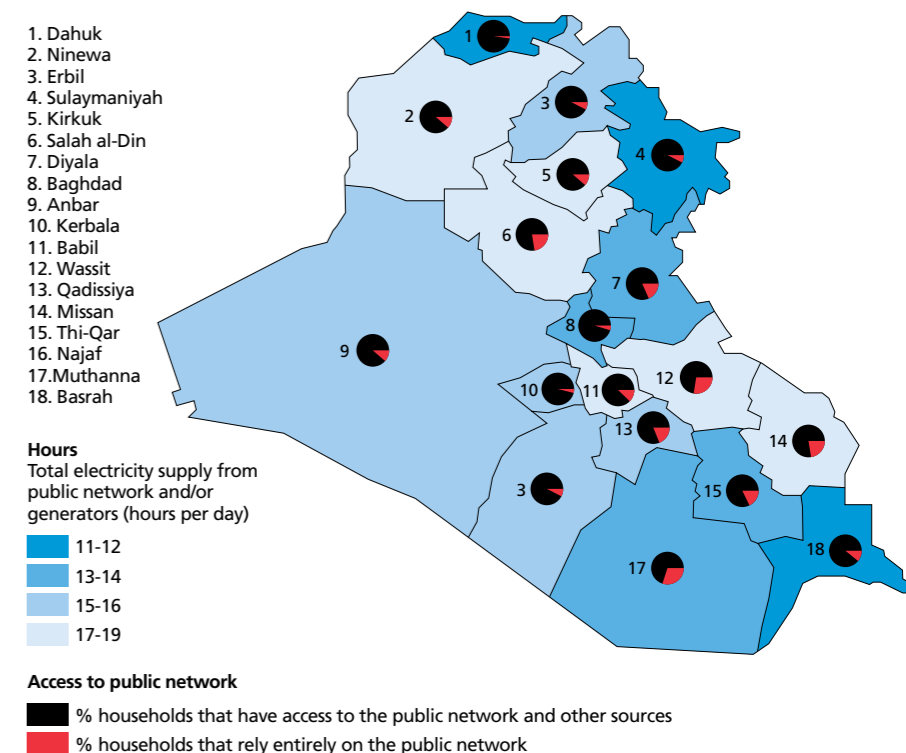
Many essential services have deteriorated significantly in Iraq, in the past thirty years, both in terms of quality and delivery. As identified above, chronic insecurity and financial instability have constrained efforts to restart provision of the basics – drinking water, nutrition, sanitation, electricity, transport, education, and health care. However, capacities to revive these services also remain far from sufficient.

**A. Electricity**

Electricity was the worst rated service in Iraq according to the Iraq Knowledge Network (IKN) survey undertaken in early 2011. The IKN survey is part of a Socio/Economic Monitoring system being developed by the Iraqi Ministry of Planning and the survey was undertaken with 28,000 households to provide statistics across different population centres of Iraq.

Although, according to the survey, 98 percent of households are connected to the public electricity network, this only provides 7.6 hours of electricity per day to households. So 90 percent of Iraqi households own a private generator or share one with neighbours. The result is that most households receive around 14 hours a day of power though in rural areas this falls to ten hours per day. (see graphic above)

**Number of hours received from public network and/or generators and reliance on the public network**



**B. Water**

A recent survey of 425 utilities in all of Iraq's 18 governorates revealed that 79 percent of the population has access to the drinking water distribution network, leaving one in five Iraqis without access to safe drinking water. In rural areas, those without access to safe drinking water doubles to two in every five Iraqis. In addition, it has been reported in several governorates that this network experiences several problems, including daily or weekly interruptions, and a weak water supply. Those without access to this network, including many IDPs, often rely on broken pipes, lakes, and streams as primary water sources and in some governorates, such as Thi-Qar, Babil, Baghdad, Wassit, Kirkuk and Diyala, over a fifth of the rural population rely on such sources.<sup>20</sup> Much of Iraq's untreated wastewater is discharged into rivers and canals – as

much as 50 percent by some estimates – and this represents severe health risks to those drinking from these sources.

**C. Sanitation and waste**

With regard to sanitation, only 30 percent of households have access to the public sanitation network according to the IKN survey with other households relying on septic tanks or a covered or open drain. Those with access to the public network tend to be concentrated in cities (66 percent of such households are in the Baghdad and Sulaymaniyah governorates) with access in rural areas dropping to just 4 percent.

Fifty-two percent of households have access to waste collection services but as with sanitation, the majority of these are in urban areas with only eight percent of all people living in

<sup>15</sup> Iraq Household Socio-economic Survey (2007), World Bank, Central Organization for Statistics and Information Technology.  
<sup>16</sup> Iraq Housing Market Study, UN-HABITAT (2006)  
<sup>17</sup> Iraq National Housing Policy 2010  
<sup>18</sup> Iraq Housing Market Study, UN-HABITAT (2006)  
<sup>19</sup> International Organization for Migration, Review of Displacement and Return in Iraq, February 2011

<sup>20</sup> Iraq Knowledge Network survey (2011)

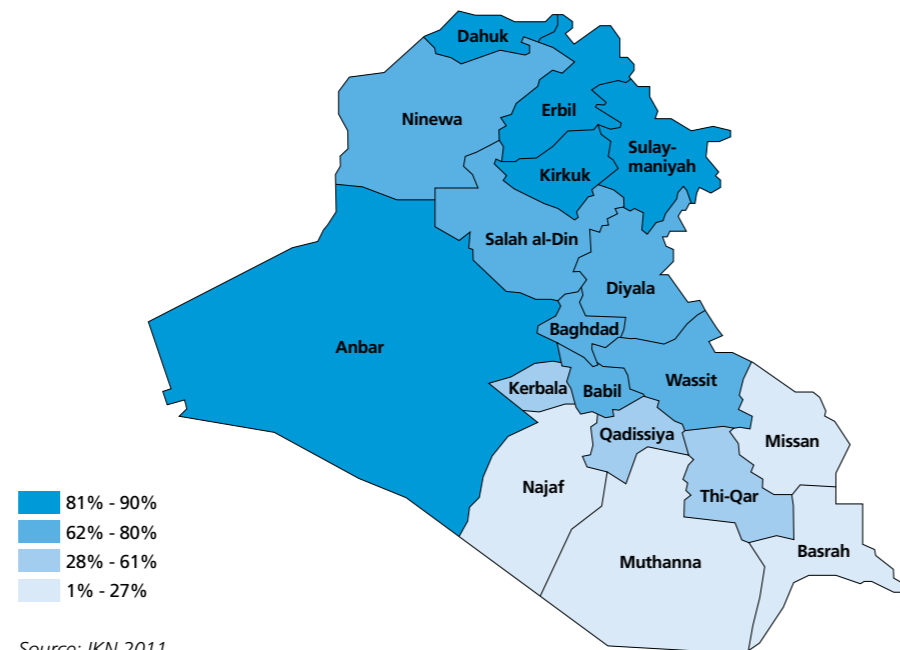
rural areas receiving garbage collection services<sup>21</sup>. With the lack of a public service for rural areas, 85 percent of rural households burn or bury their rubbish, or dump it in open areas.

The key challenges facing the electricity, water, sanitation, and waste disposal sectors are: fluctuations in the supply of electricity which cause inefficiencies in the operation of all utilities; shortages in equipment and machinery; the need for wider public awareness of the role of citizens to conserve water and improve sanitary waste disposal practices; and the need for enhanced capacity of technical and administrative officials to improve the overall provision of quality services.

Since 2003, UN-Habitat has contributed to Iraq's recovery process by rehabilitating run-down and damaged community infrastructure including educational facilities such as schools, water supply systems, sewerage networks, youth centres, public green parks and health facilities. Key achievements include the rehabilitation of 370 community based facilities, including hospitals, public health centres, youth facilities and technical and vocational education facilities; the rehabilitation of 2460 housing units and the reconstruction of 300 houses benefiting 19,300 people; and upgrading 23 water systems and six networks, which has benefitted 25,000 people. Capacity enhancement in this sector has included the training of 620 unemployed youth in construction-related vocations and the training of 160 small contractors in improved business management. UN-Habitat has also been working with the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works to develop modern legal and institutional frameworks to reform the solid waste management sector.

In the medium-term, however, UN-Habitat in line with the UN Country Team is shifting its emphasis from direct intervention in infrastructure rehabilitation, to providing technical

**Percent of Households that use the public network as their main drinking water source**



Source: IKN 2011

assistance and capacity building of the Government of Iraq and local authorities. This will improve service delivery as well as municipal financial management and the preparation of local and national investments plans. It is expected that this will lead to the effective use of resources to improve service delivery in line with local needs.

**2.2 UN-HABITAT COUNTRY PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES FOR IRAQ (2013-2015)**

UN-Habitat's key objectives given the Urban Sector Priorities outlined above are:

**Priority 1. Effective Urbanization, Urban Planning, and Governance**

- Objective 1. Improve city planning and governance.
- Objective 2. Provide capacity building to physical and land-use planners and related professionals in Iraq.

- Objective 3. Expose Iraqi urban planners to new, modernised planning methods and tools.

**Priority 2. Improved Land Management and Administration**

- Objective 1. Support Iraqi counterparts in the land policy development process.

**Priority 3. Increased Emphasis on Pro-Poor Housing**

- Objective 1. Support the Ministry of Construction and Housing and other key housing institutions to implement the National Housing Policy.
- Objective 2. Initiate pro-poor and slum upgrading programmes in Baghdad and other cities.

**Priority 4. Improved Infrastructure and Basic Services**

- Objective 1. Provide capacity building and technical support on effective resource allocation to improve local service delivery.

**2.3 IMPLEMENTATION OF UN-HABITAT'S STRATEGY**

To enable effective implementation of all programmes and projects addressed by this Country Programme Document, and to ensure alignment with the UN-Habitat head office, the UN-Habitat Iraq Programme will adhere to the following key principles:

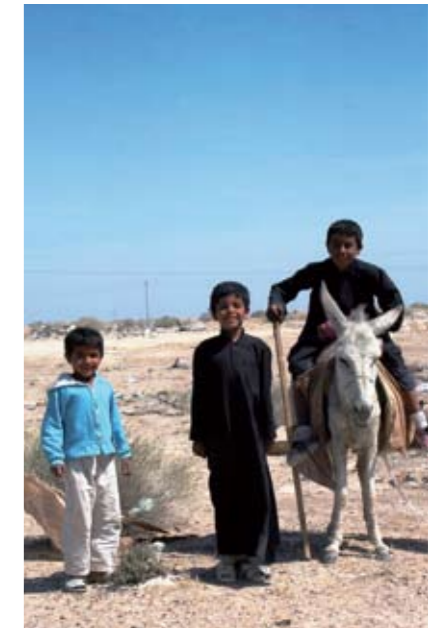
**2.3.1 COMPLIANCE WITH THE UN HABITAT MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGIC AND INSTITUTIONAL PLAN**

Sustainable urban development is the theme of UN-Habitat's 2008–2013 Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan and remains a key priority in the agency's normative and operational work until 2013. In this context, sustainable urban development

is an overall framework within which UN-Habitat is addressing more specific priorities and this will shape the UN-Habitat Programme in Iraq.

Through the medium-term plan, UN-Habitat aims to contribute to the achievement of the relevant Millennium Development Goals, which are to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation (Target 7C), and to achieve, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers (Target 7D).

In light of the factors shaping 21st century cities, the following seven new focus areas and corresponding subprogrammes will be prioritized from 2014 to 2019:



The UN-Habitat Medium-Term Plan is targeting the provision of basic urban services for all Iraqis

© bmichealis

**MTSIP Focus Areas (2014-2019)**

**New Focus/Subprogrammes**

**New Focus Area 1: Urban Land, Legislation, and Governance**

**New Focus Area 2: Urban Planning and Design**

**New Focus Area 3: Urban Economy**

**New Focus Area 4: Urban Basic Services**

**New Focus Area 5: Housing and Slum Upgrading**

**New Focus Area 6: Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation**

**New Focus Area 7: Research and Capacity Development**

**Strategic result for each new focus area**

National governments and city, regional, and local authorities have established systems for improved access to land, have adopted enabling legislation, and have put in place effective decentralized governance that fosters equitable sustainable urban development.

City, regional, and national authorities have implemented policies, plans, and designs for more compact, better integrated, and better connected cities that foster equitable sustainable urban development.

City, regional, and national authorities have improved capacity to implement urban policies supportive of local economic development, the creation of decent jobs, and enhanced municipal finance.

City, regional, and national authorities have implemented policies for increasing equitable access to basic urban services and for improving the standard of living of urban dwellers.

City, regional, and national authorities have implemented policies for increasing access to adequate housing and improving the standard of living in existing slums.

Cities are more resilient to the impacts of natural and human-made crises, in an equitable manner.

Knowledge of sustainable urbanization issues disseminated and capacity enhanced at international, national, and local levels in order to improve the formulation and implementation of evidence-based policies and programmes and to improve public awareness of the benefits of sustainable urbanization.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid



© iStockphoto.com/Muhammad Fala'ah

Oil and energy companies will provide the largest share of private sector financing for the National Development Plan

### 2.3.2 NATIONAL OWNERSHIP

All of UN-Habitat Iraq's projects will be developed, implemented, and monitored in partnership with the relevant Iraqi ministries to ensure they are in line with the Iraq National Development Plan (2010–2014) and the UNDAF priorities (2011–2014).

#### Iraq National Development Plan

The National Development Plan (NDP) is a localized plan to achieve the MDGs and UN-Habitat Iraq's projects will contribute to Iraq's implementation of these goals, particularly Goal 7, Target 11: "Making a significant difference in the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020." Its projects will also relate to the following goals and targets:

- **Goal 1:** "Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger" by providing significant employment opportunities.
- **Goal 2:** "Achieve universal primary education."
- **Goal 3:** "Promote gender equality and empower women" by offering equal opportunities for girls and boys in education.
- **Goal 7, Target 10:** "Halve by 2015 the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation."

The Iraq National Development Plan was developed to address difficulties faced by Iraqi ministries in crossing the divide between short-term and long-term development goals.

The plan was developed to strategize development approaches to meeting development challenges and to define the country's capabilities on general, sectoral, regional and spatial levels. The plan provides visions and sets quantitative and qualitative objectives in developing the country's economy and society over the five-year life of the plan from 2010 to 2014. The idea was proposed by the MoP to the Council of Ministers and the plan was formulated through conducting a comprehensive analysis of Iraq's economy for the past 40 years, with special emphasis on 2004–2008. During the preparation phase, 11 specialized committees were established under the leadership of the Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs.

In recognition of Iraq as a resource-rich nation and to further promote national ownership, UN-Habitat Iraq expects increased co-financing from Iraqi partners. Financing for the National Development Plan is expected to reach USD 186 billion. USD 100 billion of this is expected to come from the federal government, while the remaining USD 86 billion will be financed by public and private sector entities. Most likely, oil and energy companies will finance the greatest portion of the USD 86 billion, since they are the largest source of financing, at least for medium-term planning.

The objectives of the National Development Plan are as follows:

- Gross domestic product (GDP) to increase at a rate of 9.38 percent per year during the plan period;
- New jobs to be generated based on available capital for target areas identified by the plan;
- Diversification of the Iraqi economy through achievement of gradual increases in the rate of participation by different sectors in GDP;
- Role of the domestic and foreign private sectors to be strengthened;
- Productivity increased and competition promoted;
- Poverty rates to be reduced by 30 percent from 2007 levels by focusing on rural development, ensuring basic services, particularly educational and healthcare services, for rural areas and vulnerable groups;
- Spatial development trend to be established by a fair distribution of infrastructure services and public services among all of Iraq's provinces;
- Sustainable development will be promoted; and
- Roles of local governments to be strengthened.

#### The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2011–2014

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2011–2014 is the first for Iraq and is based upon and prepared in parallel with the National Development Plan. It provides a coherent and coordinated strategy for the delivery of UN assistance to the newly elected Iraqi administration in meeting its various obligations, including those in the Millennium Declaration and in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (to be met by 2015) and obligations under various international treaties to which it is a signatory. Most importantly, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework aims to create a sustainable, secure and inclusive development environment for the people of Iraq contributing to human security, human development and social justice.

The UN Country Team and the Government of Iraq have identified five development Priority Areas in line with NDP priorities and key development issues identified by the first Common Country Assessment (CCA) for Iraq. These areas and associated outcomes for the UNDAF 2011–2014 include:

- Improved governance, including the protection of human rights;
- Inclusive, more equitable and sustainable economic growth;
- Environmental management and compliance with ratified international environmental treaties and obligations;
- Increased access to quality essential services; and
- Investment in human capital and empowerment of women, youth and children.

In some ways, the UNDAF and the National Development Plan lack as strong a focus on Iraq's urban sector issues as may be needed, owing to

their efforts to address all development issues in Iraq. Addressing this gap is at the heart of the UN-Habitat Iraq Programme Strategy and in this respect, UN-Habitat will continue to work in close partnership with other UN agencies. It will continue to forge strategic partnerships with the Government of Iraq, UN agencies, the private sector, civil society, local NGOs, academic institutions and research institutes. UN-Habitat will increase its presence in Iraq, subject to decent security conditions. In the meantime, UN-Habitat staff will undertake frequent and extended missions to Iraq and UN-Habitat headquarters will provide backstopping.

#### 2.4 SELECTED PROJECTS REQUESTED BY IRAQI COUNTERPARTS

##### 2.4.1 SELECTED GOI PROJECTS

In detailed discussions with GoI counterparts, the following four projects have been discussed and prioritized for UN-Habitat Iraq to begin addressing its Urban Sector Priorities under this CPD.

#### Selected GoI Project 1. A City and Country Planning Act

- **GoI Counterparts** – Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works, and Amanat Baghdad
- **Situation Brief** – There is no national-level planning legislation in Iraq that governs or guides overall city and country planning, providing a framework for controlling and guiding development in line with approved spatial plans and ensuring consistent decision-making in locations throughout the country.
- **Expected Accomplishments** – UN-Habitat will support the Government of Iraq in drafting a comprehensive act or legislation for

the proper control and regulation of city and country planning. This act will assist with improved regulation of city and country planning in Iraq. It is also expedient that provisions be made to confer executive authority on the Federation over certain matters in relation to the control and regulation of city and country planning.

- **Approach** – UN-Habitat will work closely with relevant ministries as well as academic institutions in three project stages:

*Literature and Desk Review* – During this stage, UN-Habitat will assess if current practices comply with laws and regulations, to determine how planning is currently regulated at the national and city level in Iraq.

*Drafting of Legislation* – UN-Habitat will work closely with relevant stakeholders including ministries, government representatives, development professionals and academia to share recommendations and reach consensus on the criteria, requirements, and framework for this Act, and draft the legislation.

*Advocacy and Implementation* – UN-Habitat will support relevant Government representatives with efforts to build support for passing the draft legislation into law.

- **Key Issues To Consider** – The project would address the challenges and priorities outlined in the NDP 2010-2014, with specific attention to the following issues:

- Policy and Administration;
- National Physical Plan;
- Regional Planning Committee;
- Town planners profession;
- Town planning practice by corporate bodies;
- Development plans, Development Areas, Development Charges;
- Institutionalization of subdivision planning;
- Planning Control, permissions and approvals; and
- Appeal Board.

### Selected GoI Project 2. A Housing Land Information System

- **GoI Counterparts** – Ministry of Construction and Housing (MoCH) and other concerned ministries

• **Situation Brief** – The Berlin Declaration signed in 2011 between the Government of Iraq and UN-Habitat counterparts emphasized that land must be more effectively managed throughout Iraq, in a way that is economically productive and environmentally sustainable. Considered a key Government priority, efforts to address the way in which land is managed must also be accompanied by efforts to create an effective housing land information system for the country. Housing land is a key component of the discussions to formulate a national land policy for Iraq, which is an important step towards addressing the numerous challenges outlined in the Iraq National Development Plan (2010-2014), Poverty Reduction Strategy, National Housing Policy, and investment priorities in Iraq.

• **Expected Accomplishments** – UN-Habitat will support MoCH to develop a land information system in a pilot city (Baghdad). The system will include effective mapping and report-producing tools (GIS maps), and will be transferrable to other municipalities. The system will be able to instantly provide information to policymakers and planners as well as investors. Ultimately, this land inventory system would act as an essential, informative tool for housing and urban development.

• **Approach** – UN-Habitat will work with MoCH to develop this system through four project stages:

*System Development* – UN-Habitat will work with experts to develop an effective electronic housing land data management system for use in the pilot city.

*Information Gathering and Analysis* – UN-Habitat will support MoCH to undertake thorough housing land surveys in Baghdad, prepare thorough satellite map images, and enter this information into the system developed in Stage 1.

*Capacity Building* – UN-Habitat will train local officials, municipality employees, and government officials in the use of the developed system

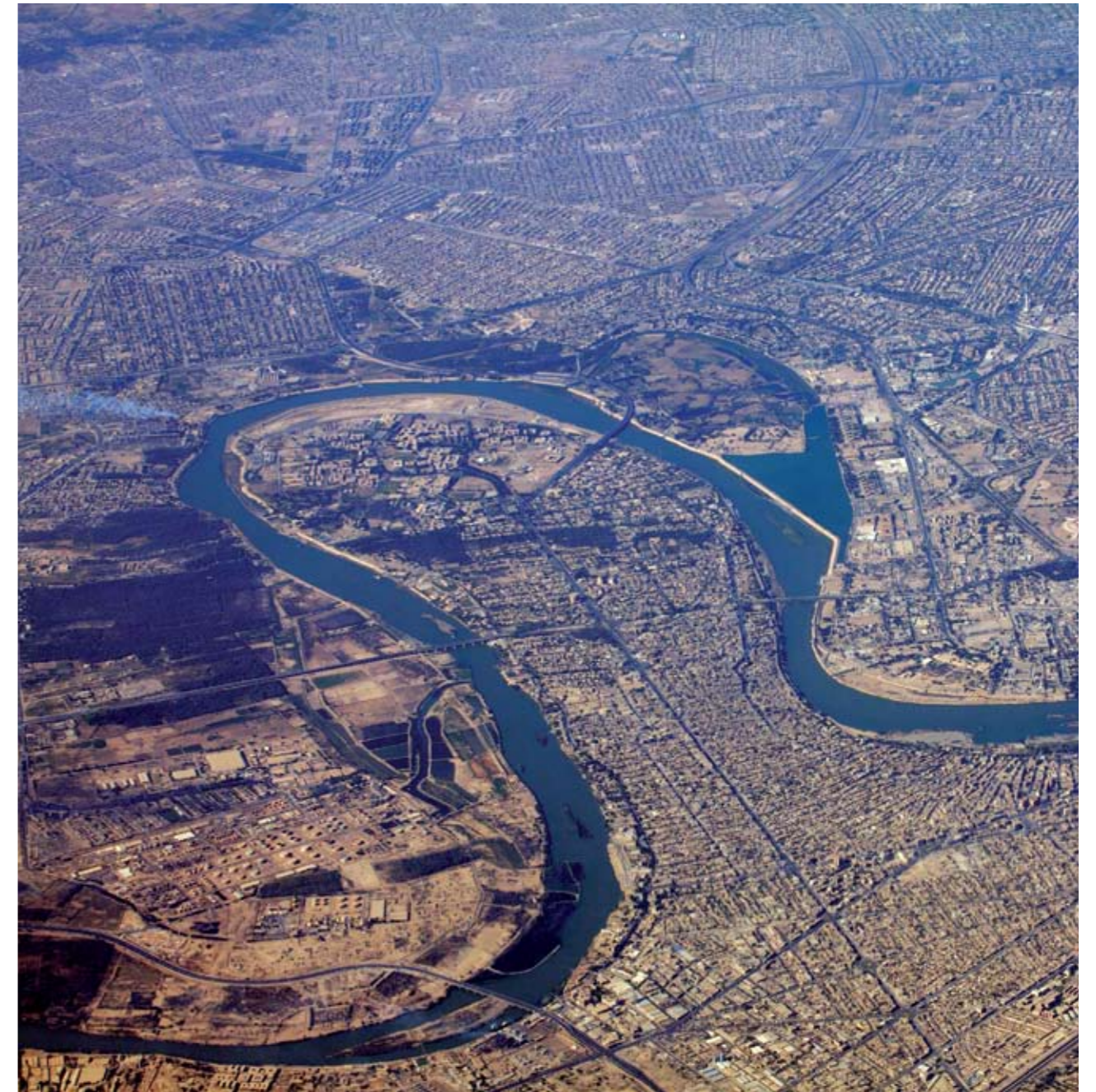
*Operation and Maintenance* – After a test period of operating this system, UN-Habitat will assess its strengths and weaknesses in order to improve the system for the pilot city, and to prepare the system for transfer to additional cities.

### Selected GoI Project 3. Establishing A Housing Market Database

- **GoI Counterparts** – Ministry of Construction and Housing

• **Situation Brief** – Though UN-Habitat and the Government of Iraq have forecast a large shortfall of housing units throughout Iraq (over 2,000,000 by 2016), there is a lack of comprehensive additional information. Housing provision – either by the public or private sector – cannot be effective without more reliable, current information on housing market conditions, performance and demand. A database that is able to more reliably inform policymakers about these conditions in various cities will lead to better housing strategies. This same database can also inform public and private sector housing delivery firms on optimal locations for housing provision to better meet the predicted housing shortfall with an eye to issues such as population density, availability of essential services, and proximity to centres of work.

• **Expected Accomplishments** – UN-Habitat will support MoCH to develop a rich database about



UN-Habitat is supporting the development of a housing land information system in Baghdad

the housing market in a pilot city or governorate. This database will be relevant to the Government of Iraq for issues of policymaking and public-sector housing delivery; private sector actors involved in the housing sector can use to better understand the opportunities and constraints that

exist within the various sub-sectors of housing and real estate development.

• **Approach** – To fully develop this database, UN-Habitat will partner with MoCH on five major stages: *Conduct Pilot City/Governorate Surveys* – In a pilot city or

governorate, UN-Habitat will commission surveys on: 1) households; 2) builders and developers; 3) building materials producers and suppliers; and 4) real estate brokers, to develop a comprehensive understanding of the housing market in that pilot

city/governorate from both the supply and demand perspectives. *Conduct Desk Research* – UN-Habitat will study the methods and literature relevant to housing databases in other countries. *Database Development and Data Entry* – UN-Habitat will work with database experts to build the architecture for a database that can hold, retrieve, and sort information for not only the pilot area but nationally. Given the information collected through the pilot surveys, this database will be customized for Iraq but with an eye to international best practices uncovered through research. *Capacity Building* – UN-Habitat will assist Housing Directorate staff in the governorates, as well as other relevant officials and housing providers, in the use of the developed database. *Operation and Maintenance* – After a test period of operating this database, UN-Habitat will assess its strengths and weaknesses in order to improve the system for the pilot city and to prepare the database to begin incorporating information from additional areas.

#### **Selected GoI Project 4. Reforms in the Land Sector**

- **GoI Counterparts** – Prime Ministers' Advisory Commission, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works, Ministry of Agriculture
- **Situation Brief** – Effective management of public land in Iraq has the potential to open up significant avenues to support private sector development and other forms of economic development, to improve housing production and to support the development of social infrastructure, including schools and hospitals. Currently, land management in Iraq is characterized by an overlapping and unresolved institutional and

legislative framework, developed as a result of successive regimes since Ottoman times, and affected by confiscation and reallocation of land under Saddam Hussein. The weak rule of law since 2003 and mass displacement following the 2006 Samara Bombing has led to significant growth of informal land uses. In addition to currently weak land management practices, there is increasing pressure to make land available for economic development projects, housing and social infrastructure. A high level Working Group for Regulating Land Tenure and Utilization was formed within the Prime Minister's Advisory Commission and prepared a vision statement which affirmed the need to undertake a national land policy formulation process and identified key interventions to improve land management in Iraq.

#### • **Expected Accomplishments**

- EA 1: Strengthened land governance
- EA 2: Improved effectiveness of public land management
- EA 3: Improved capacities of Iraqi land professionals in land administration and management.

#### • **Approach**

- EA 1: Establishment and capacity building of the Land Policy Commission, Completion of studies on land governance, formulation of comprehensive land policy green paper, communication campaign and formulation of a policy white paper.
- EA2: Preparation of a national public land inventory following initial pilots. Development of streamlined procedures for the acquisition, management and disposal of state land, including supporting the establishment of a high level Land Management Board that makes critical decisions on state land issues.
- EA3: Identification of Iraqi institutions that would host undergraduate and post-graduate degrees in land management and

administration; identification of an international partner university that would provide training to course directors and teaching staff; provision of training and development of curricula.

#### **2.4.2 SELECTED KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT (KRG) PROJECTS**

The following projects have been prioritized in discussion with KRG officials:

##### **Selected KRG Project 1: A Model for Public-Private Partnerships in School Construction**

There remains an acute shortage of school places at primary and secondary level in Kurdistan. Many schools are working a double and triple shift system. Planning estimates produced by the Ministry of Education suggest there is a substantial deficit of over 1000 schools required in the region. This proposed initiative will address this issue through public-private partnerships, with private sector firms assisting the government in the construction of schools. It will focus on the technical details, building specifications, construction and procurement process necessary to fast track the construction of schools throughout the region. The initiative will analyse the various options for public-private partnerships (PPPs) used in similar contexts, and result in a clear position paper recommending an approach to the introduction of public-private partnerships in school construction.

##### **Selected KRG Project 2: Environmentally sustainable sewage treatment and water reuse in deprived peri-urban communities**

Sanitation is a critical issue in Kurdistan. Currently there are no wastewater treatment facilities in the region and all effluents are discharged into the

environment with consequent severe health issues. Suitable wastewater management concepts are practically not in place and facilities for a suitable wastewater treatment are generally missing. Reuse concepts in support of applied drought preparedness and water resources' protection do not exist. To date, sustainability does not play any prominent role in the conceptual design of wastewater treatment facilities.

The KRG has plans to implement projects in larger urban conglomerates, but the problems in smaller, peri-urban and rural communities are not being addressed. Therefore, the proposed initiative will examine methods for treating wastewater and re-using it, for example via controlled artificial groundwater recharge, in agriculture or landscaping, or for industrial purposes. The project will result in the development of a clear approach for building and developing decentralized low-cost treatment facilities in local communities. It will establish pilots for community-based re-use of this treated water in landscaping and horticulture. In addition, a local Water User Partnership (WUP) will be set up with special attention to female-headed households

##### **Selected KRG Project 3: Capacity Building to Support the KRG Government in Urban Planning**

There are few qualified planning staff and limited capacity within the KRG Ministry of Municipalities and Tourism for managing urban growth. There are major pressures on limited staff to keep abreast of demands for new urban plans and to review and approve development applications in line with approved plans. Time, capacity, and personnel constraints provide major challenges.

The proposed initiative will support the Ministry of Municipalities and Tourism to improve its technical and supervisory

capacity to deliver new physical plans and to do so via participatory methods. By doing so, ultimately, such urban district and sub-district plans would better reflect the economic and social priorities of residents, and existing and future environmental issues in Kurdistan. Communication with the public on planning and plan implementation issues would be improved.

##### **Selected KRG Project 4: Khabat Social Housing Pilot**

Khabat is a relatively poor area of Erbil and a large portion of the population lacks adequate access to basic services such as health and education, as many cannot afford the cost connected with travel to the relevant institution or to pay for necessary treatment. IDP families make up over 20% of Khabat's population, attracted by comparatively low rents. They are particularly vulnerable and live with multiple deprivations in rented houses with appalling living conditions. Furthermore, unemployment is high and access to work is limited. The majority of the IDPs monitored in the district work as daily labourers and have unstable incomes. There are high levels of school dropouts among IDP children, as many are kept out of school to support their families. There are also approximately 223 extremely vulnerable female-headed households among the IDP population in Khabat; they live off charity, lack access to income opportunities and lack a support network.

The Ministry of Construction and Housing has recently developed an innovative social housing strategy with UN-Habitat, which will be tested through pilot projects. The proposed initiative seeks to test this strategy in Khabat, Erbil, to help address the above issues and support vulnerable populations.

##### **Selected KRG Project 5: Safer Cities Programme in Kurdistan**

There are many visible signs of peace and security in Kurdistan region cities such as newly built housing, commercial and retail developments, and areas of land under construction. A thriving economy and high quality roads, landscaping and parks all contribute to the impression of dynamism and growth. However, criminality and violence continue to exist in certain urban areas. It is within this fairly normal security environment, that UN-Habitat proposes to examine safety issues for women. Insecurity and the threat or reality of violence often prevent women participating fully in community life and local activities. UN-Habitat has been addressing this issue more generally in other parts of the world through the Safer Cities Programme, which was established in 1996 at the request of city mayors.

The safer cities methodology prescribes a number of steps in preparing a plan with interventions to address women's safety concerns in cities. These include: (i) defining and understanding the specific local problems (before taking this step a suitable area will be jointly selected); (ii) assessing the contribution to safety of existing policies and programmes; (iii) creating partnerships with stakeholders; and (iv) planning to implement particular interventions in the areas of urban planning and design; public infrastructure and services; policing; legal, justice and support to victims; education; and civic awareness and participation.

The proposed initiative will seek to pilot the Safer Cities Programme in selected areas of Kurdistan by targeting certain neighbourhoods and compiling a safety audit that defines and explains safety issues for women in these neighbourhoods. Then UN-Habitat will seek to develop policies, programmes, and interventions to improve women's safety in these areas.

TABLE 1: UN-HABITAT PROJECTS

The table reflects current projects being implemented by UN-Habitat Iraq.

Project Title	Donor or Funding Partner	Duration	Budget <sup>23</sup>	Objective
Supporting the Efforts of GOI in Developing the Capacity of the Iraqi Education Sector/ Enhancing the Learning Environment in Vulnerable Areas in Iraq for meeting EFA goals	EC	2008-2012	3,860,259	To develop the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Education and Departments of Education in policy formulation, strategic planning, service delivery, project design and management, school health & hygiene with a focus on gender and human rights approaches. To increase participation and completion rates in basic education including both formal and non-formal education via the provision of a conducive learning environment for primary and intermediate schools replacing old mud structures in the most deprived rural areas in Suleimaniyah, Salahaddin and Thi qar.
Improving the Housing Delivery System in Erbil	Republic of Korea & interest money	2008-2012	1,645,547	To support the implementation of the Erbil Housing Strategy by helping to strengthen local capacities through institutional reform measures. To demonstrate environmentally friendly and cost-effective approaches to housing design and area upgrading.
Private Sector Development Programme for Iraq: (Land Management and Administration)	Spain, Sweden, and EC	2009-2012	2,000,000	To create and enable an effective, coherent, and comprehensive framework for private sector development in Iraq at both the national and governorate levels in three priority Governorates. At the national level, to provide policy support in the land sector. At the governorate level, to provide construction skills training for unemployed youth and improving business practices of small construction firms.
Water and Sanitation Master Planning and Capacity Building Programme	EC	2009-2012	1,496,434	The programme consists of a dual approach where the governorates of Anbar, Suleimaniyah and Thi qar will benefit from direct physical and technical interventions leading to the formulation of sector master plans for water and sanitation (WatSan) and solid waste management. Specialized equipment and machinery will be procured for the use of the governorates and capacity building will be provided to all three governorates and three other adjacent governorates to be selected.
Support to Decentralization and Local Governance for Service Delivery - Preparatory Phase	non-earmarked	2009-2012	722,500	To prepare the groundwork for developing policies and frameworks to clarify and enable decentralisation and local government reform in Iraq by improving knowledge among national, regional and local government officials and civil society groups. To prepare a comprehensive capacity development strategy; developing civic education and participation and e-government strategies; and pilot improved business processes for increasing service delivery in selected municipalities.
Iraq Public Sector Modernization (I-PSM) Programme-phase I: (Urban Basic Services)	EC	2010-2013	2,000,000	To support the Government of Iraq (GoI) in modernizing its public sector by adopting a public sector reform strategy, and launching its implementation in three key sectors namely: health, education and water and sanitation. To establish synergies with existing UN programmes aimed at addressing corruption through active participation of civil society and integrating cross-cutting issues in relation to poverty, gender, social exclusion and environment.
Bridging for Local Area Development Programme (LADP) Phase II	EC, interest, unearmarked, SIDA	2010-2013	937,771	Knowledge of sustainable urbanization issues disseminated and capacity enhanced at international, national, and local levels in order to improve the formulation and implementation of evidence-based policies and programmes and to improve public awareness of the benefits of sustainable urbanization.
Strengthening the Capacity of the Housing Sector in Iraq: Bridge for Phase III	EC	2010-2012	465,000	To improve the living conditions of Iraqis, and to lay the ground for implementing the National Housing Policy through the provision of technical support in key institutional and regulatory reform processes.
Initiating Durable Shelter Solutions For Iraqi IDPs and Returnees	United States Department of State (DOS); Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM).	2011-2013	2,999,833	To demonstrate how the Government of Iraq and Baghdad Authorities can implement Long Term Shelter Solutions for IDPs and returnees that are currently living in unplanned settlements. To enable the GoI and selected Baghdad Districts to take concrete steps to implement the Shelter Strategy that was developed in conjunction with UN-Habitat, both by developing institutional capacity to do so, and testing this capacity in various pilot efforts.

<sup>23</sup> In cases of joint projects, this column refers only to the budget allocated to UN-Habitat.

TABLE 2: PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK

Results/resources by urban sector priority			
Results	Success Indicator(s)	Key Partners	Resources (USD)
<b>Priority 1. Effective Urbanization, Urban Planning, and Governance</b>			
<b>Priority 1, Outcome 1: Improved Capacity in Urban Planning, Management, and Governance (USD 10 million)</b>			
1. Research conducted on and development of urban planning and local government tools	Number of materials developed and tested, number and types of stakeholders included in the dissemination programme	Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works, Kurdistan Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works, district councils, governorates, mayors, Iraqi Electoral Commission, universities, and training colleges	3 million
2. City and Country Planning Act in Iraq enacted	Legislation endorsed by relevant policymakers and counterparts		
3. National Urbanization Strategy establishes strategic growth options and a guide for future investment decisions	Strategy endorsed by relevant policymakers and counterparts		
4. Oversight provided to the establishment of an Urban Training Institute for Iraq.	Institute established; number of institute staff/counterparts trained		
5. Support provided to Master Plan Review and Revisions	Master Plan reviewed; revisions drafted and/or approved		
6. Preparation of Development plan for vacant areas in different areas in Iraq to pilot the introduction of planning standards that promote higher, mixed uses of land development to promote economic diversity and environmental standards	Development plans developed		
7. Safer measures in place at city level (e.g. urban plans, protocols, improvements to build environment)	Number of improvements	Provincial Government, MMPW, Local NGOs, Women Groups, National Security Council	2.5 million

<b>Priority 1, Outcome 2. Local Governance Networks Promoted</b>			
1. Functional and territorial decentralization demonstrated in pilot urban centers.	Decentralized planning and budget authority increased	Governorates, districts, provincial associations, Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works, and UNDP	4.5 million
2. Local elected representatives prepared for representative and leadership role.	Number of elected representatives trained		
<b>Priority 1, Outcome 3. New Inclusive Planning Processes Supported</b>			
1. Enhanced capacity at district level to develop and implement strategies for accelerated achievement of localized NDP social priorities and MDG targets	Number of relevant staff trained	District governments, governorates, UN agencies, and national and local steering committees	
2. Improved capacity and mechanisms to integrate and mainstream NDP social priorities/MDG strategies into Local Development and Service Delivery	Number of relevant staff trained		
3. Improved capacity of civil society for advocating for citizens' rights, representation and participation and ability to partner with government	Number of civil society representatives trained		
<b>Priority 2. Improved Land Management and Administration (USD 5 million)</b>			
<b>Priority 2, Outcome 1. Land Management Policies Developed and Institutions Strengthened</b>			
1. Establishment of a high level land committee and supporting secretariat	Committee established	Prime Ministers Advisory Commission, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works, Ministry of Construction and Housing, Governorates	2 million
2. Land policies prepared and approved by Council of Ministers	Policy papers drafted		
3. Feasibility study conducted on new state land management regime by end 2012	Study conducted		
4. Adoption of laws and regulations	Laws endorsed by relevant policymakers		
5. Establishment of state land management regime by end 2014	Regime established		



**Priority 2, Outcome 2. Land Administration Systems Improved and Associated Institutional Capacities Strengthened**

1. Feasibility study conducted on legislative amendments related to land administration	Study produced		
2. Relevant institutions realigned in line with reformed land administration practices and capacities improved	Relevant institutions realigned		
3. Comprehensive land information system established	System established	Prime Ministers Advisory Commission, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works, Ministry of Construction and Housing, Governorates	2 million
4. System for addressing property claims and capacity of the Commission for Resolution of Real Property Disputes and Property Claims Commission improved in order to meet the level of demand	Number/types of improvements to system		
5. Special purpose vehicle established for the privatization of surplus state land	Privatization vehicle established		

**Priority 2, Outcome 3. Improved Knowledge of GoI and Public in Land Reform Process**

1. Public information and consultation system established	System established	Prime Ministers Advisory Commission, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works, Ministry of Construction and Housing, Governorates; Ministry of Higher Education	1 million
2. Education programme for land professionals established	Programme established		
3. Establishment of education centre for land management and administration.	Centre established		

**Priority 3. Increased Emphasis on Pro-Poor Housing (USD 9.5 million)**

**Priority 3, Outcome 1. Legal and Institutional Reforms Undertaken in Line with National Housing Policy and Governorate Housing Strategies**

1. Establishing a database for the housing market in Iraq	Database established		
2. Institutional realignment of MoCH and key Housing Institutions undertaken in line with the NHP	Realignment completed	Ministry of Construction and Housing, Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Displacement and Migration, Amanat Baghdad, National Habitat Committee,	3 million
3. Capacity building provided to MoCH and key housing institutions including Housing Commission and National Housing Fund, in line with new roles and functions	Number of MoCH and other relevant counterparts trained		
4. Support GoI and KRG to develop legislative and institutional regime to support housing finance	Scheme developed		

**Priority 3, Outcome 2. Private Sector and Community-led Pro-poor Land and Housing Development Programmes Implemented**

1. Building standards are rationalized to support access to adequate affordable housing	Building standards rationalized		
2. Pilot projects are implemented for participatory improvement of run-down neighbourhoods and housing in Najaf and Hilla	(#) of projects implemented	Ministry of Construction and Housing, Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Displacement and Migration, Amanat Baghdad, National Habitat Committee, US Department of State	3 million
3. Modalities developed to support community-based guided self-help housing	(#) of modalities developed		
4. Access to housing for the poor realized through internal cross subsidies within large investor-led housing developments	Number of and types of subsidies developed		

5. Availability of land for housing development improved through private sector led land wholesaling programmes	(#) of wholesaling programmes developed		
6. Commercial Banks enabled to invest in housing finance at scale	(#) of banks enabled to invest		
<b>Priority 3, Outcome 3. Early Recovery Strategies Developed and Reconstruction Support Provided for People Affected by Displacement</b>			
1. Longer term shelter strategy piloted in Baghdad including the initiation of a programme to address informal settlements at a city scale	Strategy piloted; programme initiated; (#) of informal settlements addressed;	Ministry of Construction and Housing, Ministry of Displacement and Migration, Amanat Baghdad, National Habitat Committee,	3.5 million
2. Housing Finance institutions able to invest in housing needs of the target groups	Proportion of loans available for poor and vulnerable households		
<b>Priority 4. Improved Infrastructure and Basic Services (USD 9 million)</b>			
<b>Priority 4, Outcome 1. Rehabilitation of Education Infrastructure Supported</b>			
1. Develop and implement a national strategy for schools maintenance and asset management	Strategy developed	Ministry of Education	750,000
<b>Priority 4, Outcome 2. Enhanced Water and Sanitation Infrastructure Planning and Management</b>			
1. Government empowered to implement short term actions in accordance with Water, Sanitation and Solid Waste Management Reform roadmap and Solid Waste Management Law.	Number of government representatives trained/ supported	Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works, Ministry of Water, Baghdad Provincial Council, Amanat Baghdad	7.5 million
2. At least 1500 people benefit from rehabilitated water supply networks in waterborne disease-affected governorates (Karbala, Baghdad, and Basrah)	Water supply rehabilitated; number of people benefiting from improved water		

3. At least 100 technicians from the General Directorate of Water in waterborne disease-affected governorates have improved knowledge on the operation and maintenance of water and sanitation utilities	Number of technicians trained		
<b>Priority 4, Outcome 3. Labour Capacity in the Construction Sector Strengthened</b>			
1. Capacities of 10 vocational and technical programme facilities enhanced for training of unemployed youth	Number of facilities with enhanced capacities; number of relevant staff trained	Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works, Ministry of Construction and Housing, governorate Directorates	750,000
2. 60 trainers from technical and vocational institutes have enhanced knowledge of new technical and educational methods.	Number of trainers trained		

**UN  HABITAT**

The UN-Habitat Iraq Country Programme Document outlines the main objectives and priorities for UN-Habitat in Iraq. Formulated in collaboration with the Government of Iraq and other national and international partners, including other United Nations agencies, the overall aim of this document is to promote the Habitat Agenda.

UN-Habitat in Iraq plays an active role in strengthening the housing, urban, and community infrastructure sectors. Through partnerships with various ministries, UN-Habitat has assisted in identifying key issues and areas of support to improve the housing and urban situations in Iraq. Through an analysis of key sectors such as urban planning and governance, pro-poor land and housing, and basic infrastructure and services, the Iraq Country Programme Document provides an overview of the national policy context and the intervention areas for the government to address urban development challenges.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme  
UN-HABITAT Iraq Programmes  
4 Abdulla Al-Jazzar Street, Zahran, North Abdoun  
P.O. Box 941864, Amman 11194, Jordan  
Landline: + 962 6 592 4889  
Fax: + 962 6 593 1448  
Web: [www.unhabitat.org.jo](http://www.unhabitat.org.jo)