Over 1.6 million people remain displaced in Iraq. They live mainly in the governorates of Erbil, Duhok, Sulaimaniyah and Ninewah, which are also home to over 253,600 Syrian refugees. Due to this influx and prolonged conflict, local resources and public services have been strained and economic opportunities dramatically compromised, thus impacting on the living conditions of host communities.

Against this background, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) launched the Headway programme in February 2019, with generous funding from the European Union’s (EU) Regional Trust Fund, MADAD.

The Headway programme aims at strengthening the long-term resilience of governorates and populations largely affected by the crisis of refugees and internally displaced people seeking refuge and shelter in Iraq, with the objective of:

- Enhancing the capacities of subnational authorities to effectively address the needs of target communities
- Increasing the responsiveness of service delivery to advance social stability
- Facilitating local economic development that will benefit the provision of safe public services and economic opportunities

"The support of the European Union and UNDP will help our societies recover much faster, and our local governance to be revamped in line with our local and national plans and priorities. This is what our people need, now."

Dr. Ali Sindi
Minister of Planning, Kurdistan Regional Government

"We want to assist the authorities in weaving back together the social contract of Iraq, to reconstruct cities and towns, to make areas safe for the return of those who have had to flee their homes and to allow communities to heal and prosper."

Ms. Sarah Spencer-Bernard
Programme Manager, MADAD
UNDP and UN-Habitat are jointly providing support via the following actions:

**C**onducting assessments to improve and update knowledge of vulnerabilities, damage and risks, and identifying sectors with potential for employment and local economic development

**R**ehabilitation of housing units and employment of members of target communities, where possible, while recognizing occupancy rights and providing societal evidence of land rights

**R**ehabilitation of small-scale community water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure to improve the access of host communities, internally displaced people and refugees to basic municipal services and social, public, and economic infrastructure

**L**aunching of a job creation grant scheme to finance intensive job-generating projects, in order to increase the self-reliance of vulnerable host communities, internally displaced people and refugees

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**Governorates in Iraq**

Sulaimaniyah
Ninewah
Erbil
Duhok
Baghdad

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**BENEFICIARIES**

Approximately 430,000 (direct and indirect)

**FUNDING**

€10 million

Provided by the European Union’s Regional Trust Fund, MADAD

**DURATION**

2 years

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For additional information, please contact:

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