UNDP Management Response
Small Scale-High Impact Self-Help House Rehabilitation in Jerusalem (00102747)
Date: 30 July 2019

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Overall comments: Overall, the evaluation provided comprehensive recommendations for enhancing policy and programmatic engagement in supporting House rehabilitation in East Jerusalem. These remarks will be further integrated and mainstreamed under the new project lifecycle which is under discussion with several donors, including Islamic Development Bank and OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID).

Evaluation Recommendation 1:
House maintenance and rehabilitation in East Jerusalem is considered as a positive form of the initiative which strives for fostering the steadfastness of Jerusalemite citizens as well as improving their standard of living in light of the weak interventions and increasing marginalization. Thus, we recommend encouraging financiers to proceed in implementing similar projects due to the immense need for them, and also to increase funding for such projects and expand their scope in several neighborhoods and regions of Jerusalem and old city.

Management Response:
House rehabilitation project is considered as one of UNDP flagship for reinforcing resilience of the Palestinian community in East Jerusalem. The project lies at the center of strategic and policy engagement at all levels, including UNDP PPF. Serious resource mobilization efforts are underway for securing additional resources to meet the existing demand. As for the house rehabilitation response, a review of small-scale rehabilitation will be initiated.

Key Action(s) | Time Frame | Responsible Unit(s) | Tracking
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1.1 Development and formulation of new concept notes for addressing the immense needs for improving the housing conditions in East Jerusalem | August 2019- April 2020 | Rania Nubani
May Daghshash
Motaz Dawabsheh | Planned

1.2 Embark on resource mobilization actions including resources of the Government | May 2019- April 2020 | Rania Nubani
May Daghshash
Motaz Dawabsheh | Ongoing

1.3 Facilitate resource mobilization interventions including site visits and awareness campaigns | August 2019- April 2020 | Rania Nubani
May Daghshash
Motaz Dawabsheh | Planned

Evaluation Recommendation 2:
Cooperation between several representatives who are similar in delivering such projects is considered an urgent need; as cooperation in all activities and efforts will increase the positive impact of such projects. The simplest form of this cooperation is providing a database of applicants to be administrated by UNDP as an international organization with the participation of concerned institutions, and UNDP may play a role in coordination between donors.
### Management Response:
The recommendation made by the evaluator is excellent point. UNDP is engaged with national partners and counterparts for the development of unified database that will serve the whole efforts, specifically in maximizing impact and avoiding duplication of efforts towards synergy and coordination. The administration of the database is a delicate issue that will be addressed at the level of the Government including Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs.

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<tr>
<td>2.1 Initiate discussion with counterparts for systemizing the data collection and assessing the feasibility of a unified database</td>
<td>September 2019</td>
<td>Rania Nubani, May Daghash, Motaz Dawabsheh</td>
<td>Planned</td>
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<td>2.2 Produce a proposal for database management for the review and endorsement of national counterparts</td>
<td>November 2019</td>
<td>Rania Nubani, May Daghash, Motaz Dawabsheh</td>
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### Evaluation Recommendation 3:
I think that it may be useful to search for a mechanism to expand beneficiaries’ participation in identifying their main priorities according to their economic and social problems. This means that it is not sufficient to prepare a questionnaire, but rather it is necessary to make long and extended discussions with beneficiaries; as I think that this will assist in finding solutions not only associated with the utilization of empty spaces or maintenance of buildings. Therefore, it is necessary to allocate longer time and wider space to carry out a sociological survey of the applicant families.

### Management Response:
Comprehensive review of the assessment and selection processes will be commissioned in line with the comments/remarks provided by the evaluator. Consultations will be made with national counterparts and verification will be initiated.

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<td>3.1 Review the assessment and selection process</td>
<td>November 2015</td>
<td>Rania Nubani, May Daghash, Motaz Dawabsheh</td>
<td>Planned</td>
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<td>3.2 Initiate consultations and in-depth discussion at internal and external levels (House Rehabilitation Consortium: Welfare Association, Abu Zahra, Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs)</td>
<td>December 2019- February 2020</td>
<td>Rania Nubani, May Daghash, Motaz Dawabsheh</td>
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<td>3.3 Review, validation and endorsement of the assessment and selection processes</td>
<td>March 2020-May 2020</td>
<td>Rania Nubani, May Daghash, Motaz Dawabsheh</td>
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Evaluation Recommendation 4:
Despite of the policy which aims to the preservation of buildings through rehabilitation and provision or improvement of services, it is not only adequate to renovate the historical buildings from inside to ensure the their sustainable viability, but it is also necessary to make a more comprehensive improvement of the building including the yard or several yards together; thus contributing to elevate the functional and historical value of the building and effectively ensure protecting buildings from external influences.

Management Response:
UNDP is taking note of this recommendation. The assessment and planning of house rehabilitation will be amended to look into comprehensive assistance rather than focused housing interventions, taking into consideration the need for validating such engagement with cultural heritage lenses.

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<td>4.1 Review the rehabilitation procedures and processes, with the engagement of a cultural heritage expert</td>
<td>January 2020</td>
<td>Rania Nubani, May Daghash, Motaz Dawabsheh</td>
<td>Planned</td>
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<td>4.2 Consultations/meetings with donors for comprehensive response including the focus on historical values of buildings being at World Heritage Site (Old City)</td>
<td>February 2020</td>
<td>Rania Nubani, May Daghash, Motaz Dawabsheh</td>
<td>Planned</td>
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