

Sustainable reconstruction: a framework for accelerating an inclusive & sustainable recovery in the Arab region

Thursday, 16 March 2023, 11.00 am–12.30 p.m. Beirut time



Background and objective

UNDP and UN-Habitat, in collaboration with Oliver Wyman, have developed a policy framework to guide Arab countries emerging from conflict or crisis and entering a process of infrastructure reconstruction. While cities are the *dominant organizing principle of human coexistence* and undoubtedly generate a variety of synergies and benefits, they can also become sites of magnified vulnerability in the case of conflict or crisis, especially if infrastructure is destroyed and residents are left without access to basic services. A sustainable reconstruction process builds on a robust, inclusive and holistic assessment of the current situation and needs, ensuring that conflict over scarce resources does not exacerbate simmering tensions and lead to protracted instability. It requires interventions targeting all sections of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus from the outset, ensuring a smooth transition from recovery to reconstruction and eventually to risk reduction.

This technical session will present the elements of the policy framework and discuss reconstruction experiences from across the Arab region. The aim is to generate dialogue and receive inputs and feedback from partners and relevant experts working on sustainable reconstruction in post-conflict contexts.

Questions to be addressed

- What constitutes sustainable reconstruction and is it possible to consider at a time of crisis?
- What is the economic and socio-environmental case for sustainable reconstruction in urban spaces in post conflict settings?
- Are there examples of sustainable reconstruction in the Arab region?

Moderator

- **Nagwa Lachine**, Programme Officer, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States

Opening Remarks

- **Rania Hedeya**, Regional Representative (a.i), UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States
- **Fumiko Fukuoka**, Partnerships and Communications Senior Adviser, Regional Bureau for Arab States, UNDP

Overview: Sustainable Reconstruction Framework

- **Renata Rubian**, Policy Adviser on Inclusive Growth, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS), UNDP

Panelists

- **Mr. Ahmed Riad**, Co-chair of the UAE ARISE network for Disaster Risk Reduction, UAE
- **Mr. Raed Jabbar**, Director General of Labour and Vocational training, Ministry of Labour and Social affairs, Iraq
- **Mr. Abdi Abdullahi**, Manager of Fragility and Resilience Department, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
- **Eng. Naim Hassan**, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Transport, Jordan

Country Discussions

- **Mr. Muhammad Sayed**, Manager of the Regional and Local Development Division, Ministry of Planning, Iraq
- **Eng. Jamal Itani**, Mayor of Beirut, Lebanon
- **Gonzalo Pizarro**, Regional Policy Adviser and Team Lead on SDG Integration, UNDP Regional Hub for the Arab States

This Special Session will be organized as a hybrid event. To participate over Zoom, please [register here](#).

Those physically present at the UN House can attend the session in Committee Room II (B1 floor).

