

# UN-HABITAT DONOR BRIEF

The final donor brief of 2019 shows the impact of our work in Iraq and gives a glimpse of the year's milestones and your support to UN-Habitat. Thank you. We wish you the very best for 2020!

UN-HABITAT  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



FEEDBACK

## HIGHLIGHTS

### 2019 – a year of milestones

The year 2019 saw the first meeting, in May, of the **UN-Habitat Assembly**, a universal body of 193 member states of the United Nations to meet every four years on to review and discuss trends, policies, norms and standards on human settlements and sustainable urbanization. At the Assembly, financial support of **USD 152 million** was announced for urban SDGs. Another first was establishment of the UN-Habitat's **Executive Board**, a new oversight body comprising 36 Member States elected by the UN-Habitat Assembly which met twice and approved UN-Habitat's work programme and budget for 2020 in November, at the meeting attended by 59 Member States. The Board also made decisions on implementation and reporting on the **strategic plan 2020-2023**; financial, budgetary and administrative matters; and the Board's own workplan methods of work. Also, in November, UN-Habitat's top donors met to discuss implementation of the agency's strategic plan, centered around reducing inequality and poverty, enhancing shared prosperity, strengthening climate change action and addressing urban crisis.



### World Urban Forum - save the date!

**WUF10** to be held from 8-13 February 2020 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates under the theme, *Cities of Opportunities: Connecting Culture and Innovation*, is expected, once again, to attract thousands of urban actors from governments, local authorities, businesses, banks, professional institutions, civil society and media from all over the world. The rich agenda of over 500 events range from dialogues, roundtables, and assemblies, to networking, training and side events and exhibitions. Partnerships and financing for sustainable urbanization will be discussed in a high-level dialogue on partnerships and initiatives supporting culture and innovation in cities; and 14 roundtables including the foundations and philanthropists roundtable.

Held every two years, the World Urban Forum is the world's premier conference on cities. WUF10 is convened by UN-Habitat and the Abu Dhabi Department of Urban Planning and Municipalities, Abu Dhabi Department of Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, General Secretariat of the Executive Council, and the ultra-modern Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre.



### Consultations with top donors

UN-Habitat held consultations with **Norway** and **Sweden**, major supporters of UN-Habitat's core normative work, and other top donors from 3-8 November 2019. The consultations began with a visit to projects in **Egypt** and meet with key partners, including the ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Sahar Nasr, Minister for Investment and International Cooperation, Mr. Mahmoud Shaarawy, Minister for Local Development, League of Arab States, Major General Khaled Abdel Aal, Governor of Cairo, Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Ms. Rola Dashti and Egypt's Resident Coordinator Richard Dictus. The visit showed how strong relations forged with partners and the wider UN System ensures a coherent and coordinated approach to support implementation of the SDGs. Consultations in Nairobi centered on UN-Habitat's strategic plan and stressed the importance of delivering results at scale and making a real impact on beneficiaries' lives.

### Regional highlights



In the **Asia Pacific region**, technology companies in **China** launched support for a new UN-Habitat's China Future Cities Council initiative on smart technologies for sustainable urbanization in China. In **Myanmar**, the **European Union** and Myanmar government approved continuation of the Myanmar Climate Change Action, while **Japan** provided support for return of refugees and displaced families in Rakhine State, and to rehabilitate the main solid waste dump site in Yangon and destroyed houses in Tbong Khmum Province. **Australia** gave support for the **Future of Asia and the Pacific Cities report** launched in October 2019. In **Afghanistan**, UN-Habitat played a pivotal role to formulate two important laws (Occupancy Certificate Law and Presidential Decree 305 - 'Land access to the Landless') which will help 600,000 IDPs and returnees families to integrate and get better shelter in Afghan urban areas, and provide Security of Tenure Certificates for an additional 700,000 families in informal areas.

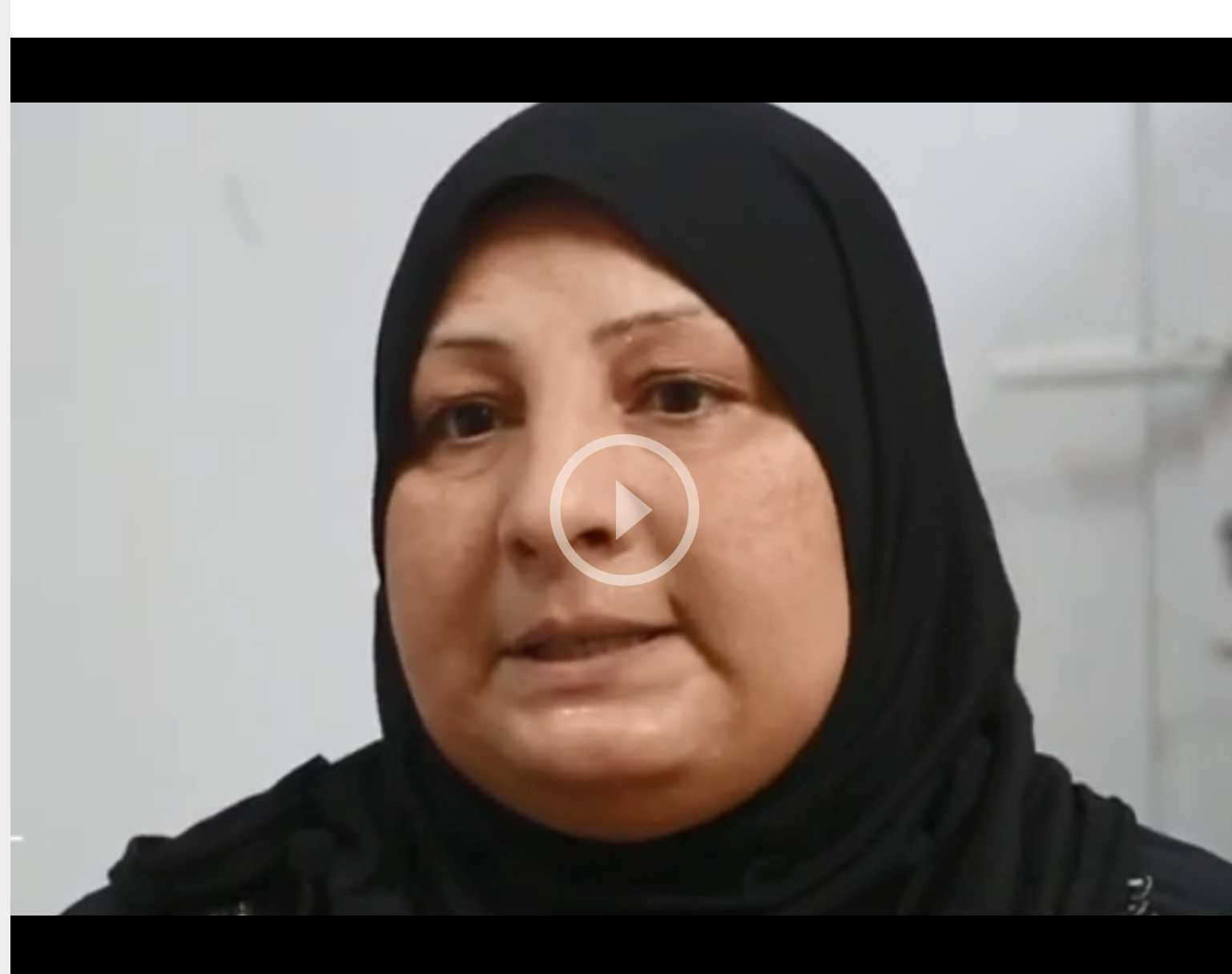


In **Arab States**, an **EU-funded** programme in **Iraq** *Supporting Recovery and Stability through Local Development in Iraq* was launched for sustainable returns in conflict-affected Nineveh, Anbar and Salah al Din, while the **United States** provided support to address housing, land and property rights violations affecting the Yazidi community in northern Iraq. In **Palestine** a new USD 4.4 million programme on *Achieving Planning and Land Rights in Area C, West Bank* launched with the **European Union**. For the first time in **Egypt**, Cairo installed bike racks and introduced demonstration bike lanes with support from UN-Habitat, while in **Sudan**, funding from **Japan**, supports the safe return of IDPs in South Darfur State through provision of basic services, public facilities, secure land tenure, and enhanced resilience. In **Yemen**, the European Union supported a programme on *Rapid City and Neighbourhood Profiling* to help reconstruction efforts and address large-scale displacement in the country.

### Global programmes

On the global front, UN-Habitat's Global Land Tool Network launched a gender strategy for 2019-2030 *Towards Securing Women's and Girls' Land and Property Rights* while **Norway** provided US\$ 3.3 million for work on land and property taxes to finance service delivery, reconstruction and peace in the fragile states of **Afghanistan** and **Somalia**. On monitoring the SDGs, UN-Habitat's revised language on indicator 11.a.1 on increasing the number of countries with national urban policies and regional development plans was accepted by the 10th session of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), and this will be fully adopted at the 51st Session of the UN Statistical Commission. Meanwhile, the **UK Foreign** and **Commonwealth Office** provided USD 8 million for a new phase of the *Global Future Cities Prosperity Fund programme* which works with 19 cities in middle income countries to improve, trade, prosperity, inclusiveness and quality of life. The 2019 report on the *Public Space Programme* was published; the programme is mainly supported by **Block by Block Foundation**, and by **Sweden**, **UNICEF** and **Inter-American Development Bank**. **China** provided support for the **First International Forum on Urban Rural Linkages (IFURL)** with participation from 17 countries and 18 international organizations in Songyang County, Lishui city, and Zhejiang Province. Germany was selected to host the *Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance Secretariat* in Bonn following an open international call host the Alliance which promotes safe water and sanitation.

## FROM OUR BENEFICIARIES

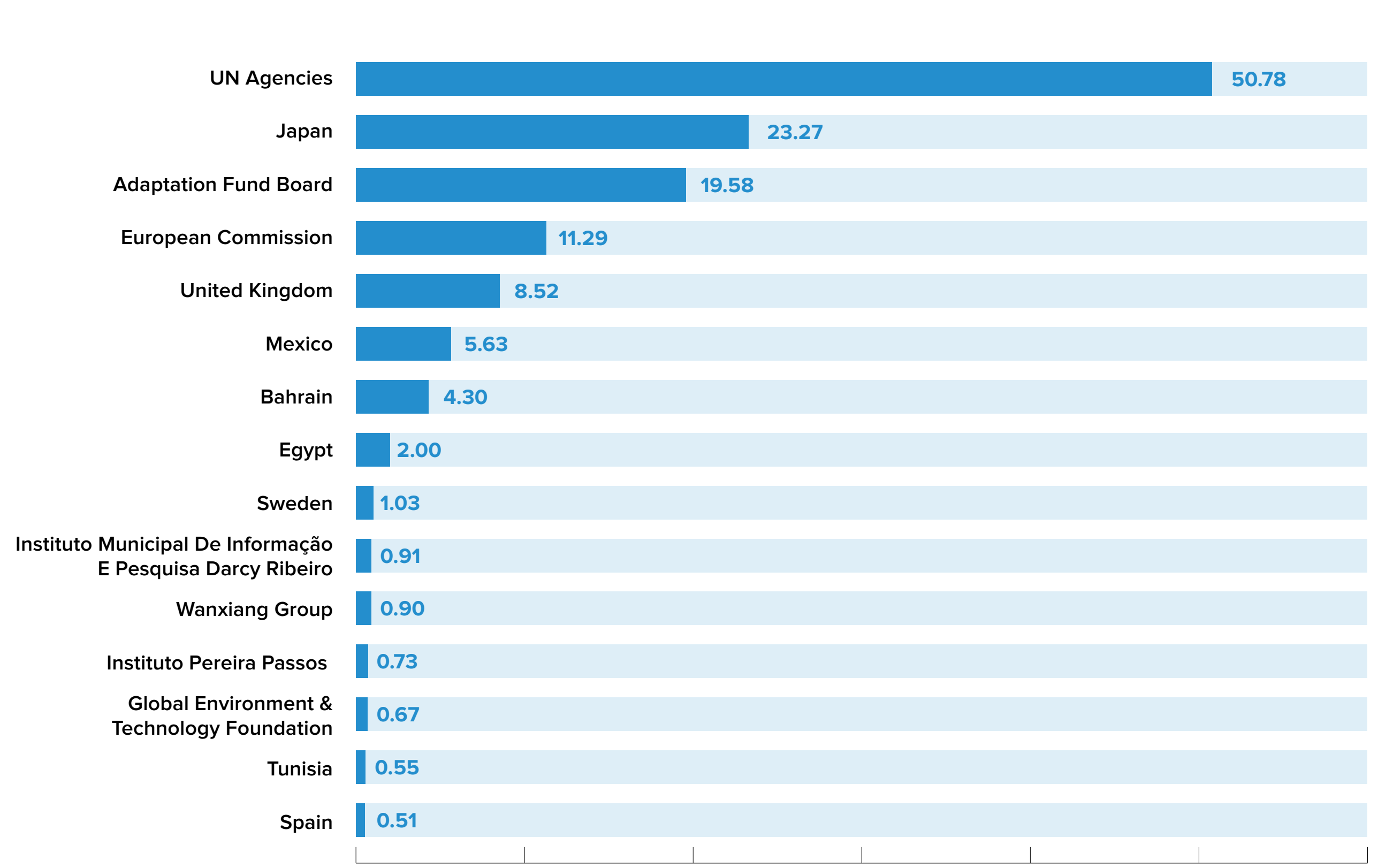


The massive number of IDPs in **Iraq** reached 2.1 million in December 2014 due to political unrest and crisis in Iraq arising from the conflict with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). While the city of Mosul still faces significant challenges that hinder the return and reintegration IDPs, former residents are finally returning home and they require support to improve the infrastructure and homes destroyed that have yet to be fully restored.

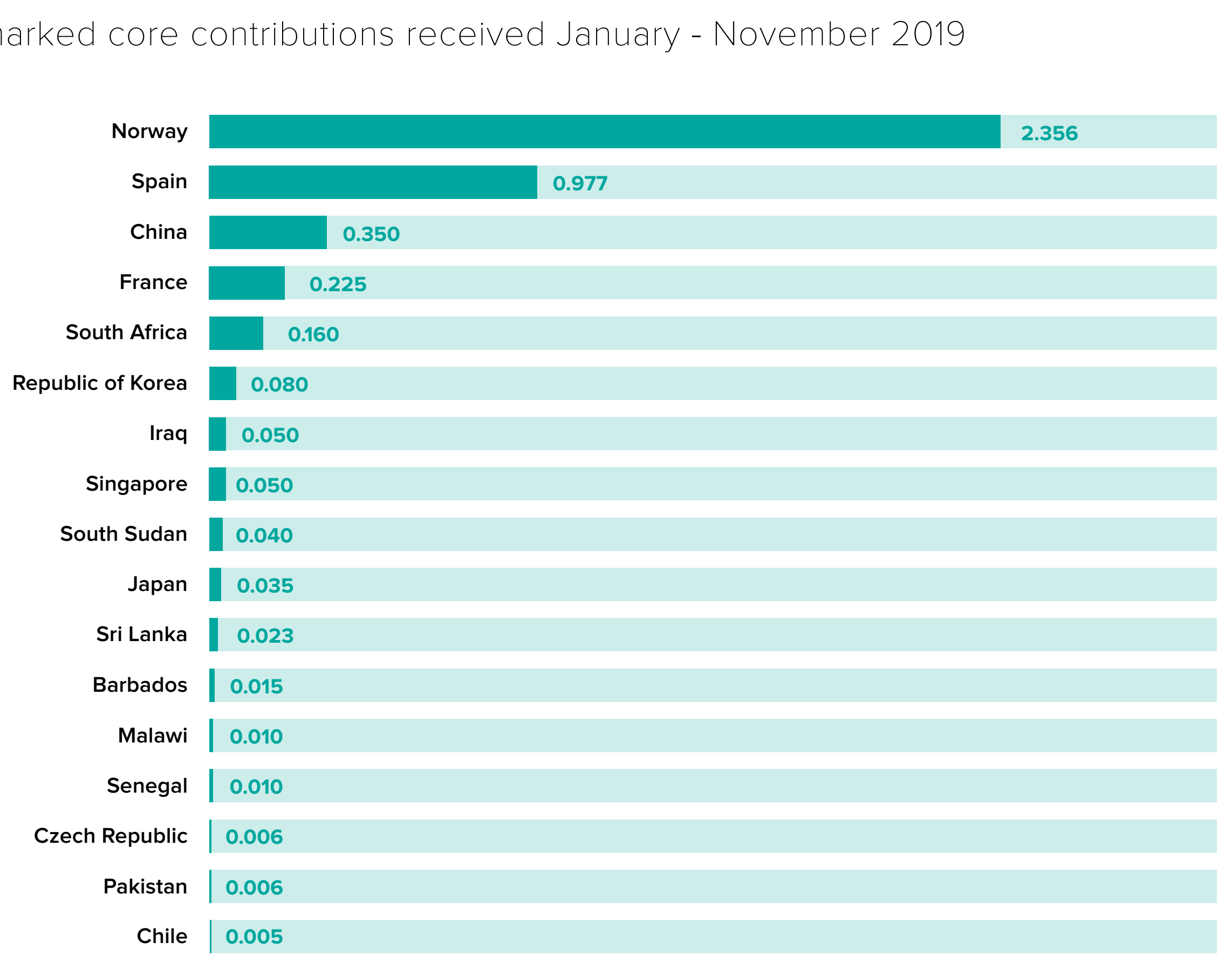
The Government of **Japan** has provided significant financial support for shelter recovery and peace building in Iraq carried out under UN-Habitat's urban recovery programme which rehabilitated damaged houses in Mosul in groups of 200-400 units; currently 770 houses are rehabilitated. The programme engaged community members with more than 100 returnees being trained and 1,400 returnees employed for rehabilitation activities such as builders, painters, plasterers, blacksmiths, cleaners, and electricians, among others. Click [here](#) to watch the story.

## FINANCIAL UPDATES

Highest value earmarked grants from January - November 2019



Non-earmarked core contributions received January - November 2019



\* Contributions do not include 2019 pledges that are yet to be confirmed

Since our last Donor Brief in October, UN-Habitat appreciates new earmarked support from government of **Sweden** towards the implementation of the UN-Habitat country programme for Ethiopia. UN-Habitat also appreciates earmarked support from other donors including the **Adaptation Fund Board** for urban climate resilience in South-Eastern Africa building climate as well as disaster resilience of vulnerable small towns in Lao PDR and the **Wanxiang Group** for China Future Cities Council. The current projection for earmarked funding in 2019 is USD 140 million.

UN-Habitat is most grateful for voluntary non-earmarked contributions received in 2019 for its core normative work from **Barbados, Chile, China, Czech Republic, France, Iraq, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malawi, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain** and **Sri Lanka** and appeals for early payment of pending pledges for core funding of around USD 1 Million. The current projection for voluntary non-earmarked contributions in 2019 is USD 5.1 million.