

In this month's UN-Habitat Donor Brief we welcome our new Executive Director, feature a story from beneficiaries in the Philippines and give you updates on the upcoming World Urban Forum, financial status and our key donors in 2017.



FEEDBACK

## HIGHLIGHTS



Happy New Year! We start 2018 by welcoming **Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif** as the new Executive Director of UN-Habitat following her election by the General Assembly and appointment by the Secretary General in December. A qualified town planner, she was Mayor of Malaysia's Penang Island before joining UN-Habitat. Green, safe, healthy cities and gender matters are some of the issues that are close to her heart.

- Also in December 2017, the **UN General Assembly** invited UN-Habitat to further develop the action framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and requested the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to establish an open ended working group to examine options for **strengthening Member States' oversight of UN-Habitat**. The work, to be completed by 30 June 2018 and whose results will be presented to the General Assembly's seventy-third session this year is important in helping to determine the nature of agency's oversight mechanism.
- We look forward to meeting with you at the forthcoming **World Urban Forum** which has a rich agenda of events; from dialogues, roundtables, assemblies, networking and training events, to exhibitions and technical visits. Sessions on **partnerships and financing sustainable urbanization** include a roundtable on investing on the transformative force of cities, business assembly, special session on creative investment and financing for local governments and business and industries roundtable.

Thank you to all of you for your support in 2017! We look forward to strengthening our partnerships to achieve our common goal of sustainable urbanization.

## FROM OUR BENEFICIARIES



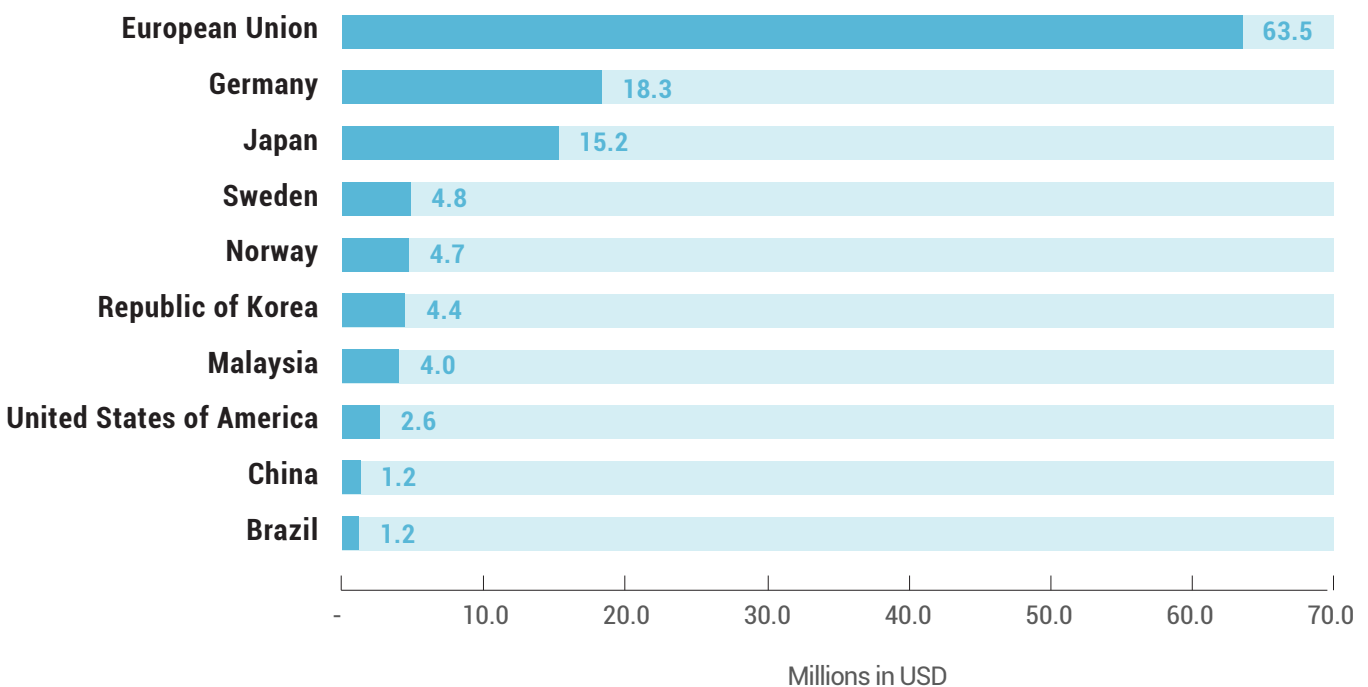
The Philippines experiences an average of around 20 typhoons a year. The poor and most vulnerable were pushed deeper into poverty by the catastrophic typhoon Yolanda of 2013 which forced thousands to leave their homes.

*"We did not know what to do, almost everything was washed out. Thanks to the project we are now happy, we have a bathroom, there no mosquitos and we are not afraid anymore when it rains."* Glory, one of the beneficiaries from the Post Yolanda Support for Safer Homes and Settlements narrates.

Thanks to funding mainly from the Government of Japan and the Philippines' Department of Social Welfare and Development, the programme was developed to help shelter recovery and rehabilitation using a community driven approach called the people's process. With the affected communities at the centre supported by local authorities and UN-Habitat, beneficiaries learnt to build back safer and better homes. The result is 660 houses for affected families, 54 community infrastructure projects, and training for over 300 local artisans and workers on disaster risk reduction construction for sustainability. Click [here](#) to watch

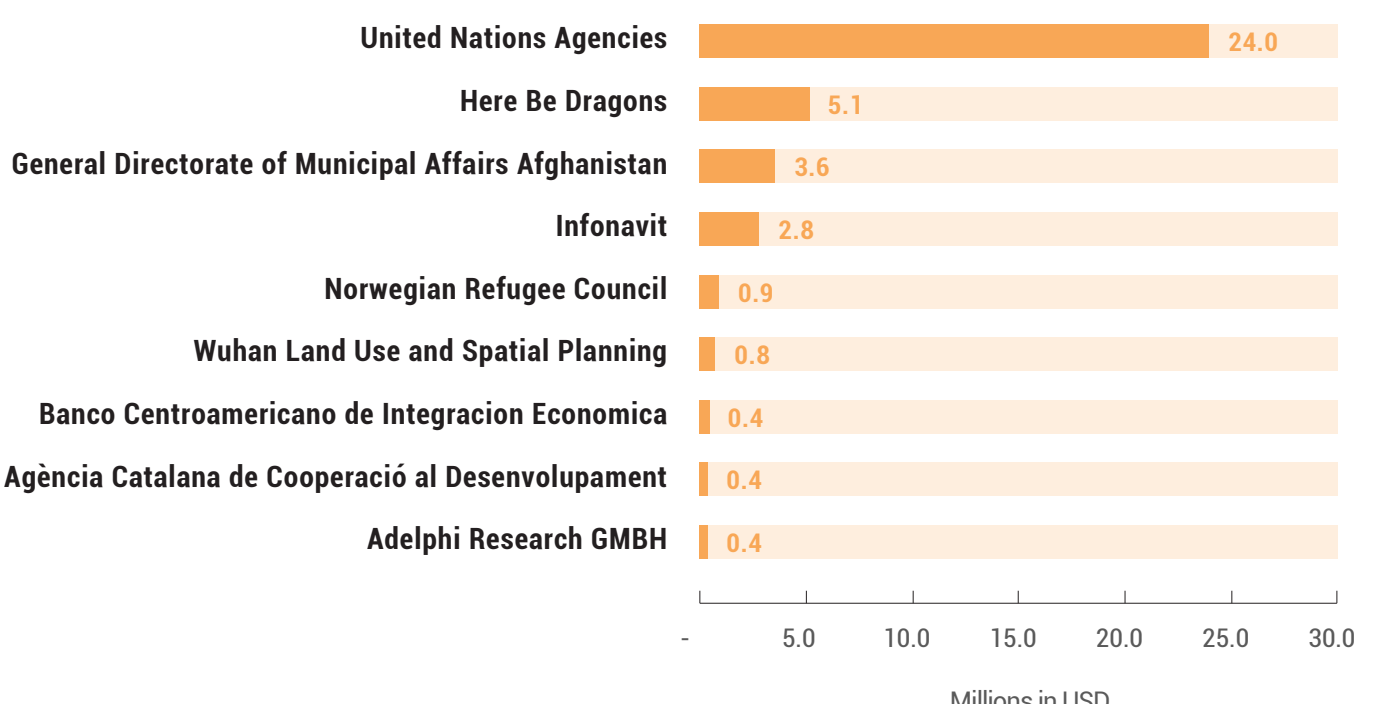
## FINANCIAL UPDATE

### Highest value grants from governments January-December 2017



\*Government of Germany contribution includes that from Kreditanstalt Für Wiederaufbau

### Highest value grants from local governments and other donors January-December 2017



Thanks to the generous support of our development partners in 2017, UN-Habitat signed agreements of almost **US\$ 170 million** for specific normative and operational programmes in over 53 countries and received US\$ 12.8 million of assessed and voluntary contributions.

Significant earmarked support came from the **European Commission** for the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme in the **African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States**, innovative durable solutions for IDPs and returnees in **Mogadishu**, greening **Afghan cities** and improving security of tenure and resilience for **Palestinian** communities. **Japan's** contribution was mainly for programmes on refugees, the internally displaced, planning, resettlement, youth and city resilience in **Afghanistan, Kenya, Iraq, South Sudan, and Zambia**, while **Germany** supported low carbon plans for urban basic services and climate resilience through better planning in **The Philippines** and **Kreditanstalt Für Wiederaufbau**, a German government owned development bank, supported restoration of infrastructure in urban areas of **Syria**. **Korea** continues to support capacity building for local governments, while **Sweden** helped foster inclusive development and governance in Northern **Kosovo**. The **United States of America** contribution went towards rehabilitation and regularization of informal settlements for IDPs in **Iraq**, and that of **Belgium** helped develop digital tools to improve human rights as well create public spaces in **Gaza**. **Brazil** invested in sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity in its State of Alagoas.

We are extremely grateful to Member States for the much needed support for the core normative work of UN-Habitat; there was a 18% increase in voluntary non-earmarked contributions from US\$ 2.2 million in 2016 to US\$ 2.6 million in 2017. Major donors to the core remain **Norway** and **United States of America**, while new donors in 2017 include **Côte d'Ivoire, Myanmar, Namibia, Sierra Leone and Zambia**. Those who resumed contributions or increased their level of contributions include **Barbados, Haiti, Japan, Kenya** and **South Africa**. As we begin the new biennium of 2018-2019, UN-Habitat would like to appeal for more core funding to support implementation of the new urban agenda – we need at least US\$12 million in 2018 for this work.

In 2017, UN-Habitat's engagement with other donors yielded 31% of the total revenue. The majority of this collaboration is with other UN agencies. As part of the UN system, we delivered as one on peace and development programmes in the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, on local governance and decentralized service delivery in **Somalia**, rehabilitation of shelter and urban basic services in **Syria**, and sustainable resettlement in **Zambia**, and on integrated approaches to address vulnerable refugee and host communities in **Lebanese** urban areas.

With the private sector, significant support came from **Here Be Dragons Investment Group** to improve living conditions on the Roça Sundry Príncipe Island in **São Tomé**, while our partnership with local governments included that with the **Afghan Government General Directorate of Municipal Affairs** for the Citizens' Charter Afghanistan project to strengthen governance of urban communities and **Wuhan Land Use and Urban Spatial Planning Research Center** to support implementation of the city prosperity initiative and create people oriented public spaces.

Other institutions that provided support include the Mexican **Instituto del Fondo Nacional de la Vivienda para los Trabajadores** (Infonavit), a federal institute for workers' housing, to put housing at the centre of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the **Norwegian Refugee Council** for early recovery and durable shelter for long term IDPs and refugee returnees in **Afghanistan**, **Banco Centroamericano de Integracion Economica** for studies of the central American metropolitan areas and **Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament** to support national and municipal authorities in urban planning and housing reconstruction in **Ecuador** and the **Palestine** people to develop planning in **East Jerusalem**, and **Adelphi Research GMBH** to help strengthen low-carbon development in Africa and Asia.

