



## Upgrading Informal Settlement through Community-driven Shelter Support



Photo: UN-Habitat



Photo: UN-Habitat

**House in construction with family members**



Photo: UN-Habitat

**Home sweet home together with neighbours**

Decades of the war destroyed a number of community infrastructure and houses in Kabul City. District 1, one of the most war-toned areas, is informal settlement where returnees, internally displaced persons (IDP) and urban migrants have been residing. The war left communities having resided in this area increasingly vulnerable and made them leave their homes since this area was a frontline of the fighting, and many rockets broke down houses. A family of Mr. Mohammad Hasyim, sixty-year old, is one of the returnees who came back to the original place after the war.

Mr. Hasyim heads his family with his wife and six children. He is the cobbler who repairs old or damaged shoes and sells them to make his living though the income is very little. When his two sons were little, sound of a heavy explosion led to their hearing loss and movement. Since this sad happening, his wife has been suffering from mental disorder. With vulnerable family members all family members had been living in the damaged house.

His family was selected as the most vulnerable household to be able to receive a full-shelter package to rehabilitate his house by the project of "Community Driven Settlement Upgrading to reintegrate returnees and IDPs" funded by the European Union (EU). With technical support from UN-Habitat, his neighbors helped build together and were able to bring back their home at last. Among the community, mutual supports and understanding have built linkages and trust so that the returnees and IDPs could be readily reintegrated into society.

The house had remained as it was destroyed with a tragic memory of falling apart, but welcomed them back to home. At the beginning when they returned, they were at a loss as to what to do and where to start. Mr. Hasyim very much appreciated for such great support to build back his lost house and community, and now realizes importance of living by helping each other in the community.