



Home, sweet home - *building back better together* -



Photo: UN-HABITAT

House destroyed by a rocket



Photo: UN-HABITAT

Hanifa, building back together



Photo: UN-HABITAT

New home in nearly completion

Around a decade ago, one rocket killed four brothers of Ms. Hanifa, currently living in District 6 of Kabul City. The war left her widow-mother, her sister and herself at the destroyed house. To find a safer place for living, they decided to evacuate their home and stayed in other informal settlement area of Kabul. Though three family members were displaced because of the fighting, they returned to their home for restarting their life in the same place where they had grew up.

The house had remained as it was destroyed with a tragic memory of the killing of four brothers, but welcomed them back. At the beginning when they returned, they were at a loss as to what to do and where to start. Ms. Hanifa and her sister have been supporting their mother by making a living from small agricultural activity and “*tapak*”-ing* of animal dung for neighbors to receive Afs100 (=US\$2) in exchange at one time.

Her family was selected as the most vulnerable household to be able to receive a full-shelter package to rehabilitate her destroyed house by the project of reintegration of Internal Displaced Persons and returnees funded by the European Union (EU). With technical support from UN-Habitat, two sisters helped build together and were able to bring back their home at last. Continued EU-funded project supports to recover their extended rooms, though they still have a difficulty in generating sufficient income and access to drinking water.

*“I thank EU and UN-Habitat so much for encouraging us to build back a new house, and we are brought home now,”
said Ms. Hanifa*



**tapak* (=to knead): Two sisters bring animal dung from neighbors to knead, dry and make dung-balls, and return to them. Dung is essential tool to burn for home heating.