



## Joint Press release

### **ICCROM (The International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) and UNESCO sign an agreement on capacity building for the reconstruction of Mosul's cultural heritage.**

12 April 2020 – ICCROM, through its Regional Conservation Office in Sharjah (UAE), will provide a two-year capacity building programme for professionals and craftspeople to contribute to the reconstruction of Mosul's Old City. This programme is possible thanks to the financial support of the Government of the United Arab Emirates and the European Union and is part of the UNESCO initiative to *Revive the Spirit of Mosul*.

This ICCROM-UNESCO partnership aims at strengthening the expertise of local young professionals and craftspeople in order to equip them with the required skills for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Old City and, as a result, ensure long-term livelihood opportunities.

The programme targets both young professionals from various disciplines such as architecture, engineering or urban planning, and craftspeople such as masons, carpenters, or stone carvers. Young professionals will be trained on heritage management and conservation, providing them with technical competencies needed to participate in the physical reconstruction of the city. The programme will also prepare a number of skilled building craftspeople to contribute towards the long-term reconstruction needs of the Old City, taking into consideration the protection, revival and evolution of Mosul's heritage values.

The capacity building programme will be implemented through a practical on-the-job training modality where trainees will actively participate in the reconstruction of the city's historic landmarks and houses, and will receive a stipend.

The institutional capacity building scheme falls into the framework of the *Revive the spirit of Mosul* initiative, UNESCO's response for the recovery of one of Iraq's iconic cities. The initiative aims at contributing to community reconciliation and peace building through the recovery of the living environment and rehabilitation of the city's heritage sites. The initiative places special emphasis in empowering the population as agents of change involved in the process of rebuilding their city through culture and education. This partnership between UNESCO and ICCROM will reinforce local expertise that can participate in the reconstruction, ensuring both ownership and long-term livelihood opportunities for the people of Iraq.



This ICCROM-UNESCO partnership will specifically support the UAE funded project *Reviving the Spirit of Mosul by rebuilding its historic landmarks namely the Al-Nouri Mosque and its Al-Hadba Minaret, as well as the Al-Tahera Church and Al-Saa'a Church* and European Union funded project *Reviving Mosul and Basra Old Cities*.

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Additional resources:

Read more: <https://en.unesco.org/fieldoffice/baghdad/revivemosul>;