Introductory Statement by Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director

Six-Monthly Report on the Country Activities

Agenda Item 6

HSP/CPR/42/6
Nairobi, 7 September 2011
Madam Chair,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today we are submitting to the CPR the first Six-Monthly Report on UN-Habitat country activities, in line with the recommendations made to the Secretariat by the CPR in March 2011.

The report is divided into two sections. In the first section, a selected number of new and closed projects is presented. The second section presents a table of all projects that have been initiated and completed in each region during the last six months.

We have closed and opened several projects, but for the sake of time, I will only highlight a few of them. In the Arab States, we have concluded activities under the ‘Improving access for internally displaced people and returnees to acceptable shelter solutions’ in Iraq. This project addressed the problem of lack of adequate and affordable temporary shelter options and the limited public sector capacity to respond effectively.

In Asia, we have finalized one strategic project: the ‘Jaffna Tsunami Recovery and Reconstruction Project - Phase II,’ in Sri Lanka. The project successfully completed 123 houses in Jaffna, in addition to the improvement of key infrastructure and facilities. This was the last of the many post-tsunami housing reconstruction projects in Sri Lanka.

UN-Habitat also continues to initiate new projects. In the period under review, new projects were started in Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific and in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In Africa and the Arab States, we have embarked upon four important new projects. The first is titled “Human Security Project for the Prevention of Violence and Vulnerability Reduction in Antananarivo, in Madagascar”. The second is “Capacity Building for Land Conflicts Management in South Sudan.” The third is “Strengthening Primary Health Care Systems in Three States in Darfur”, and the fourth is “Institutional Capacity Development in Darfur on Urban and Regional Planning and Land Management”. These projects are mainly funded by the Government of Canada, the European Commission and the Government of the United States of America.

In Asia, eight new projects have commenced, including the “Post-Conflict Assistance to West Timor” project; the “Support to Conflict Affected People through Housing in Sri Lanka” and in Myanmar, we have started the “Rakhine Settlements Support Project (RSSP)”. These projects are mainly funded by the Government of Australia, the Government of Norway and the European Union.

In the Caribbean region, we have started six new activities and I would like to highlight two. The first is “Supporting the Eastern Caribbean States to Improve Land Policies and Management” and the second is “Programme to Support the Reconstruction of Housing and Neighbourhoods in Haiti”. These projects are funded by the Government of Australia and multiple donors, respectively.

Based on the completed and new projects in the current reporting period, you will have noticed that, despite the challenges associated with field work and programme execution,
UN-Habitat keeps a highly dynamic portfolio responsive to regional and national needs and requests. Above all, our country projects are all in line with the priorities defined in the MTSIP.

Finally, Madam Chair, I would like to inform you that UN-Habitat stands ready to assist in the reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts of the Arab States affected by recent political changes. A Regional Office for Arab States in Cairo will soon be opened, with funding support from the Government of Egypt. Consultations with the Government of Egypt, the League of Arab States, and Arab partner institutions in the region are underway.

If you require more detailed information on the regional and country programmes and projects presented, please contact the Director of the Regional and Technical Cooperation Division, the respective Regional Offices, or the Directors of the relevant Divisions in UN-Habitat.

Thank you for your attention.