Item 8b:
Thematic/Country Activities Presentation:

HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE ON SOMALIA: THE WORK OF UN-HABITAT IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA (HSP/CPR/58/8b)
58 Regular Meeting of the Committee of Permanent representatives

High Level Special Dialogue on SOMALIA

Briefing Paper – September 2015

I. Introduction

The High-Level Dialogue on Somalia is part of the 58th Regular meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) that will take place on Wednesday, 16 September 2015 in Conference Room 1 at the United Nations Office at Nairobi. The Dialogue, expected to start at 2.00 p.m as Agenda item 8 of the CPR which will discuss thematic and Country activities.

UN-Habitat will use this opportunity to brief the CPR on the ongoing operations in Somalia and present the major programme activities which include water projects in Somaliland, United Nations Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery (JPLG), programmes in support of integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in host communities as well as new programme developments. Through the presentations and discussions, the CPR members will receive highlights of the impacts of the programmes in Somalia and interact adequately with the secretariat regarding the operations of UN-Habitat and partners in Somalia.

In order to maximize on the engagement with the Members during this particular occasion, there will be high level representation from the Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia as well as other UN Agencies working in Somalia. To aid the discussions, a background on the work of UN-Habitat in Somalia is provided below. In addition, an overview presentation of the Programme in Somalia is separately provided.

II. Background

Following almost 25 years of conflict and civil unrest, much of Somalia's economic infrastructure has been destroyed, whilst the livelihood asset base of the Somali people is severely eroded and unemployment rates remain amongst the highest in the world\(^1\). The country has experienced rapid informal urbanization and large population displacement which has led to the development of multiple and densely populated IDP camps and informal settlements\(^2\). Urban infrastructure and capacities are under considerable pressure whilst urban

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\(^2\) The UN estimates that there are 1.1 Million IDPs in Somalia today; close to 15% of the total population.
space is both limited and contested. Many city dwellers suffer from the absence of adequate urban services, livelihood and employment opportunities, education, and appropriate or durable housing solutions. This has culminated in direct adverse effects on economic and social well-being, limiting the cohesion essential for peace-building and development. The August 2012 transfer of power to the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) has grounded high levels of optimism for Somalia’s future, and with it cultivated a degree of political stabilization throughout the nation.

III Urban Challenges

- Destroyed public facilities and technical and economic urban infrastructure, such as ministry buildings, water networks, drainage systems, roads, power plants, public markets, and trade spaces
- Outdated legal framework that does not adequately address the current situation
- Ongoing insecurity, especially in crowded urban centres
- Inadequate economic development that does not match the job market
- Limited availability of skilled/qualified workers, leading to ‘importing’ of workers
- Limited local production and high levels of importation, leading to inflation and economic drain
- High levels of mistrust within government institutions and among stakeholders
- Illegal occupation of public land, hindering development of public services/facilities
- Insecurity of land tenure, hindering private investment in housing and basic urban services
- Limited access to IDP settlements, with difficulty providing basic urban services
- Limited resources and capacities of national government and local administrations to provide urban services and infrastructure

IV UN-Habitat’s responses to these urban challenges

UN-Habitat is active in all the Somali regions, with a current portfolio of approximately USD 43 million. There is a renewed focus on Mogadishu and south central Somalia, with two programmes currently running, and three in the pipeline. Presently, UN-Habitat has a small presence in Mogadishu through national staff, international consultants, and constant missions by international staff. Existing field offices, with a much larger presence, are in Garowe, Bossaso, and Hargeisa. The main programme office is in Nairobi. Excellent cooperation exists with all Somali administrations at central and local levels. UN-Habitat is an active member of the UN Country Team and works in support of the New Deal and the Somalia Government’s Six-point Programme.

At present, UN-Habitat is implementing, with the support of the European Union, Italian Cooperation, Japan, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, DfiD and the Somaliland Development Fund, projects in the following thematic areas:

Social Services
- Provision of land tenure, housing and improved livelihoods in support of reintegration of returnees and IDPs in host communities
- Urban Water Supply Upgrading
- Solid Waste Management
- Roads Infrastructure Upgrading

**Governance**

- Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery
- Urban legislation
- Capacity building

**Economic growth and livelihoods**

- Economic infrastructure rehabilitation
- Job Creation
- Community livelihood projects
- Vocational skills training

**V Current and Recent Projects**

1. **Participatory District Rehabilitation Project in Mogadishu** (Phase I and II, 2010*), funded by Italian Cooperation.
2. **Sustainable Employment Creation and Improved Livelihoods for Vulnerable Urban Communities in Mogadishu** (SECIL), 2011, funded by the European Union. The project has provided an enabling environment for investment and public-private partnerships to improve livelihoods through employment creation and improved delivery of social services.
3. **Port and Roads Infrastructure Upgrading in Bossaso** (2012), funded by Italian Cooperation. The project will decongest the port area through construction of 8.1 km of new roads, and assist in the overall planning and coordination of port-related initiatives by other agencies.
4. **Strengthening the Benadir Regional Urban Planning Department** (2012), funded by DfID.
5. **IDP Settlement Mapping, Planning, and Physical Improvement of IDP Settlement Areas in Mogadishu** (2012), funded by the Common Humanitarian Fund.
6. **Hargeisa Urban Water Supply Upgrading Project** (2012), funded by the European Union. This large-scale engineering and construction project replaces the existing water infrastructure and almost doubles the volume of water supply for Hargeisa, Somaliland.
7. **Improving Urban Water Service Delivery in Somaliland, Targeting Burao, Erigavo, Tag Wajaale, and Boroma Towns** (2013), funded by the European Union through UNICEF.
8. **Shelter Provision, Reintegration and Improved Livelihoods for Returnees and IDPs in Three Towns in Somaliland** (2013), funded by the Government of Japan. Under this project,
475 houses are being built, security of land tenure, basic social infrastructure, and skills training for longterm, vulnerable IDPs such as women-headed households and disabled persons provided.

9. **Integration of Long-term IDPs into the Host Community in Bossaso** (2013), funded by the Government of Japan. Under this project, a total of 650 houses are being built.

10. **Shelter Provision, Reintegration and Improved Livelihoods for Returnees and IDPs in Four Towns in Somaliland** (2014), funded by the Government of Japan. Under this project, 335 houses are being built.

11. **Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery** (Phase II, 2014), with five UN agencies (UN-Habitat with ILO, UNDP. UNICEF, UNCDF) for a five-year period. UN-Habitat’s role covers urban planning, land policy/land legislation/land conflict resolution, municipal finance, including GIS-based property taxation, solid waste management, and support to local government associations.


14. **Support to the Construction of the Teachers Training Institute in Hargeisa, Somaliland** (2014), funded through UNICEF.

15. **Joint Programme on Youth Employment** (Phase I, 2015) with four UN agencies (UN-Habitat with ILO, FAO and UNDP) for a 18-month period. UN-Habitat’s role is to establish One-Stop-Youth Resource Centers, lifeskills and vocational skills training in the construction sector.

**VI Pipeline projects/ funding gaps**


2. Economic Growth and Employment Generation through the Rehabilitation of Key Economic Infrastructure and Skills Training in South Central (Joint Programme with UNIDO)

3. Reintegration of returnees from Kenya into the host communities in Mogadishu, Kismayo, Baidoa and Afgooye through the provision of permanent shelter and settlement planning

4. 2nd phase of Hargeisa Urban Water Supply Upgrading Project

5. 2nd Phase of Youth Employment Programme
Proposed partner agencies to present projects in urban areas on social services, governance and economic growth/ livelihoods

1. UNOPS: Rehabilitation/ construction of ministry buildings, hospitals, police stations, roads, runways, etc.
2. UNIDO: Skills training at Kismayo airport, prison, etc.

*These dates indicate the projects’ start year*