CPR Briefing Note on Subprogramme 4: Urban Basic Services

Introduction

Focus Area 4 (Urban Basic Services) supports city, regional and national authorities to develop and implement policies for increasing equitable access to urban basic services and improving the standard of living of the urban poor within the context of the new urban agenda and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. The responsibility for implementation of FA 4 lies with the Urban Basic Services Branch (UBSB) in close collaboration with the Regional Offices and other implementing partners. It has four programmatic clusters: (a) urban mobility; (b) urban energy; (c) water and sanitation; and (d) urban waste management.

The Focus Area works towards achieving three expected accomplishments: i) improved policies and guidelines on equitable access to sustainable urban basic services implemented by partner local, regional and national authorities, ii) increased flow of investments into urban basic services catalysed by UN-Habitat programmes in partner countries with a focus on the urban poor, and iii) increased coverage of sustainable urban basic services in targeted communities.

Progress on the implementation of GC Resolution 25/4: Implementation of the strategic plan for 2014–2019 (The Omnibus Resolution)

Paragraph 23 of the Omnibus Resolution requests the Executive Director to continue the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on the provision of urban basic services, including water and sanitation, drainage, waste management, sustainable energy and urban mobility, as well as improving air quality, according priority to a shift towards the provision of sustainable energy and urban mobility and to support the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund and the Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative, and calls upon Member States to consider contributing to the Trust Fund.

Paragraph 24 also encourages member States to support initiatives aimed at improving access to sustainable energy and mainstreaming energy efficiency and sustainable energy systems into housing policies and regulations and to support the Urban Electric Mobility Initiative, while promoting hybrid and electric mobility as a priority in conjunction with urban policies in support of compact city planning, energy and resource efficiency, making the transition to sustainable sources of energy and better public transport systems and facilities integrated with safe and attractive non-motorized transport options;

Highlights of key results in 2016

1. **The Urban Electric Mobility Initiative**

UN-Habitat continues to promote the Urban Electric Mobility Initiative launched at the 2014 UN Climate Summit to reduce air pollution while promoting urban accessibility. The EU supported SOLUTIONS project has created a knowledge sharing network, through which examples of effective policies, good-practice cases and practical tools can be accessed for developing e-mobility solutions (http://www.uemi.net/cities.html).

UEMI was also promoted in events such as the “Urban Mobility Implementation Action Days” held in Berlin, Germany under the aegis of the SOLUTIONS project during 14-15 April 2016 and the Habitat 3 Prepcom at Surabaya, Indonesia during 25-27 July 2016.
2. The Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative (GEMI)

UN-Habitat has partnered with UNEP and WHO to develop a global expanded monitoring initiative for water and sanitation, integrating and expanding existing efforts to ensure harmonised monitoring of the entire water cycle. Focusing on aspects related to water, wastewater and ecosystem resources, GEMI complements WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) and UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) efforts on drinking water and sanitation. Its specific objectives are to:

- Integrate and expand existing monitoring efforts, to ensure harmonised monitoring of the entire water cycle
- Provide Member States with a monitoring guide for SDG targets 6.3-6.6
- Engage Member States and enhance their capacity in water sector monitoring
- Report on global progress towards SDG targets 6.3-6.6.

So far, the monitoring methodology has been developed and is being piloted in Uganda, Senegal, Jordan, Indonesia and the Netherlands.

3. Strengthening the capacity of Service Providers – Pro-poor water supply tariff introduced in Rwanda

In Rwanda, UN-Habitat conducted a review of the urban water supply tariff that has been in use since 2006. A new tariff came into operation in September 2015 and moves the utility towards full cost recovery and addresses the needs of the poor.

Since the implementation of the new tariff, quantity of water production has increased, the Water and Sanitation Corporation’s (WASAC) revenue has grown, and the level of non-revenue water in some of the urban centres has reduced. Above all, a new Strategic Business Plan for WASAC has been developed and approved by the Board.

Recognizing the positive changes that have occurred since the implementation of the new tariff, WASAC has expressed interest in conducting a full-scale tariff study taking into account all branches under its jurisdiction and setting branch specific water tariffs. Accordingly, WASAC has allocated financial resources from its own budget and officially requested UN-Habitat for technical support in reviewing and scaling up the water tariff system. The Contribution Agreement between WASAC and UN-Habitat was signed in October 2016 and the review of the water tariff is in progress.


The LVWATSAN-Mwanza project is supported through financial assistance by the European Investment Bank and Agence Française de Développement (AFD) worth 13.1 million Euros. The sanitation project will deliver over 300 sanitation facilities to meet the sanitation needs of about 250,000 persons, including 150 schools. UN-Habitat’s role include: i) coordination between the key institutional stakeholders on the project, made up of the Ministry of Water, the Mwanza Urban Water and Sanitation Authority, the Mwanza City Council, the Illemela Municipal Councils, as well as the councils for Magu, Misungwi, and Lamadi; ii) setting up management and coordination structures to include the preparation and operationalizing of MoUs between MWAUWASA and the Mwanza City/Illemella Municipal Councils; and satellite towns of Magu, Misungwi and Lamadi; a Sanitation Project Steering Committee (SC) and a Sanitation Task Force (STF) for the project; iii) preparation and facilitation for the adoption of a stakeholder engagement plan (SEP); as well as the set up and operationalizing of Multi Stakeholder Forums (MSFs).
5. Improving Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion in Peri-urban Areas of Mzuzu City and Karonga Town in Malawi

Following the signing of the grant contract in December 2014 between the European Union Delegation in Malawi and UN-Habitat, water supply and sanitation projects have been implemented in Mzuzu city and Karonga town of Malawi. The project tasks include provision of sustainable water supply in one settlement in Mzuzu city and two settlements in Karonga town, basic and improved sanitation facilities in 10 schools in Mzuzu and 8 schools in Karonga, community led total sanitation (CLTS) and school Led total sanitation (SLTS) triggering and awareness raising programmes in beneficiary communities and schools respectively, and capacity building for the local institutions and community organizations for the management and operation of water and sanitation services.

Key outcomes of the project include increased access to sustainable water supply for 21,000 people (11,000 women and 10,000 men) and 30,000 school children, increased access to improved sanitation to 51,000 persons (in 3 schools and 4 settlements in Mzuzu City; 8 schools and 4 settlements in Karonga Town), hygiene and sanitation awareness promotion and practice through CLTS approaches in 8 communities and SLTS approaches in 11 schools, strengthened capacity of four local institutions and communities to operate and manage WASH facilities, and boosting the financial standings of poor women and improve their livelihoods through adapting sanitation technological options and marketing approaches that focus on the sanitation value chain.

6. Building flood resilient WASH infrastructure in Disaster-prone Communities in Ghana

The WASH in DPC Programme, aims to strengthen community resilience in disaster-prone regions by building human and institutional capacity in disaster risk management and expanding access to resilient WASH services. The Programme is being implemented as a collaborative effort by four UN agencies, led by UN-Habitat. The main activities include the development of flood resilient water and sanitation technologies for incorporation into national standards, capacity building activities to enhance the capacity of national, regional and district governments and local communities, in disaster risk management, and the rehabilitation and construction of infrastructure and related training to expand access to resilient WASH services for over 200,000 persons living in 265 settlements. Results achieved include:

- Flood resilient water and sanitation technologies developed and validated by national water and sanitation institutions of Ghana for incorporation in national WASH technical standards;
- Disaster preparedness plans prepared and validated for 24 districts.
- Access to resilient water supply services provided to 103,000 vulnerable persons so far.
- School sanitation and hygiene education extended to over 8,000 children in 26 schools so far, which also provide safe havens during flooding
- Sanitation marketing and hygiene awareness programme delivered to 203 communities, of which 7 communities have already achieved open defecation free status.
- Over 104 community water and sanitation teams established and trained to manage community-based WASH services.

7. Water Operators Partnership (WOPs) strengthened in nine countries of sub-Saharan Africa

GWOPA finalized the implementation of a project in nine countries of sub-Saharan Africa, in which a series of WOPs were implemented to enhance the capacity of nine urban water operators in areas such as non-revenue water, human resource policy, GIS, extension of services, customer relations, billing, and many others. The WOPs also allowed the recipient utilities to work with their mentor partners to identify long-term priorities for the improvement of the overall performance of the utility, and to develop performance improvement plans (PIPs) that reflect these priorities. GWOPA is currently working with the utilities on the mobilization of the needed financial resources – with the African Development Bank
(AfDB), European Commission (EC), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and other donors – to implement these plans in follow up technical assistance and capacity building interventions.

8. **WOPs between Belize Water Services and Contra Costa Water District**

GWOPA also provided technical and financial support for the creation and implementation of a Water Operators' Partnership (WOP) between Belize Water Services (BWS), the national water and sanitation provider, and Contra Costa Water District (CCWD), a California-based water utility, in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF). The WOP helped strengthening the human, organizational, and institutional capacity of the recipient utility by adopting good practices, implementing new technology, reducing NRW and improving maintenance techniques. BWS is now in the process of becoming a WOP mentor to support other Caribbean water utilities, and pass on the knowledge and knowhow gained thanks to the partnership with CCWD. Finally, the WOP success led to the decision by IDB to provide a 5.5 million USD loan to BWS to help them extend their service network with a follow up capacity building component.

9. **“Reclaiming Space for pedestrians” in the town of Ruiru, Kenya**

Through collaboration with the local authority and the University of Nairobi, a “Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan” is being developed for this fast growing town in Central Kenya. The Plan targets improvements in walking and cycling facilities with the overall objective of making the town accessible for all. It looks at current parking policies and practice and overall promote a people-centered approach to improving mobility building also a supportive environment for local economic activities.

Participatory workshops with stakeholders including local government, transport service providers, businesses and residents identified the need to improve public spaces adjoining a busy *matatu* (informal mini-busses) terminal. A result is the agreed modification of a busy street that will incorporate safer walking facilities with space for attractive and better managed street vending to encourage local economic activities. While UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the Institute of Transport Development and Policy (ITDP) is supporting the participatory process and providing technical assistance in the design, the investment required for the transformation is being sourced by the local government through an on-going World Bank supported project. Such initiatives coupled with improvements in public transport, are crucial for improving accessibility and road safety while avoiding traffic congestion and air-pollution.

10. **“Road Map to Bus Rapid Transit” in the City of Bogor, Indonesia**

Building on its practical experience in East Africa in developing plans for BRT, In the first quarter of 2016, UN-Habitat worked in the City of Bogor, Indonesia to develop a “Road Map to BRT” -a preliminary plan for developing BRT. This provides the city a foundation for preparing investment plans and taking the key steps in the transformation of how public transport is managed and regulated in this city of over one million people.

11. **Energy efficiency in buildings – Rwanda adopts a building code with a chapter dedicated to sustainable use of energy**

UN-Habitat, through the project “Promoting Energy Efficiency in building in East Africa” (EEBEA), assisted the government of Rwanda to develop a legislative framework to mainstream energy and resource efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies into building policies. EEBEA aims at mainstreaming energy efficiency measures into housing policies, building codes and building practices in East Africa in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve economic gains and energy savings. In collaboration with partner countries, UN-Habitat reviewed national building codes and building policies to identify gaps of energy efficiency measures and suggest recommendations. EEBEA has
developed a charter for green building design for tropical countries which is a form of a check list that help architects to integrate environmentally friendly consideration. The charter also help house owners to request for more climate friendly and energy efficient buildings options.

Key results include: i) Rwanda building code adopted in June 2015 with a chapter on sustainable use of energy. Issues of proper building design that are adapted to the local climate are now required to be integrated in new buildings, ii) Resource efficiency – like rain water harvesting, use of solar energy, natural ventilation and lighting are now required to be integrated in new building design, iii) Guidelines developed for reviewing building codes in tropical countries developed to integrate energy and resources efficiency measures.

12. 8 universities in East Africa have adopted a handbook on sustainable building design for tropical countries as a training manual

8 universities in Kenya, Rwanda, Ugandan and Tanzania have adopted the hand book produced by EEBEA as a training manual. This is a positive development considering that most of modern buildings in East Africa are built by local architects. Most often, those buildings are not designed according to the local climate.

13. Solid waste management project with the Fukuoka Method in Kiambu, Kenya

In 2014, UN-Habitat and the County Government of Kiambu partnered to support innovative ways of managing solid waste in the urban areas of the County. UN-Habitat drew on the successful of Japan in dealing with the similar challenges of solid waste management in the 1950s and 1960s to establish the first semi-aerobic sanitary landfill in Africa using the Fukuoka method. The Fukuoka Method is based on a simple physical principle in which natural convention processes are used to enable aerobic action to take place.

Since completion of the landfill in November 2015, the World Bank, JICA, five African countries and at least seven County representatives have visited to learn from Kiambu’s experience. Key achievements include: i) An estimated 70 tonnes of solid waste disposed at the site each day, ii) Improved capacity to collect leachate and toxic heavy metals for safe disposal into leachate ponds hence reducing ground water contamination, iii) Improved decomposition of organic components in waste due to oxidation hence reducing volume of methane produced. Methane in landfills has the potential of causing explosions and fires.

Kiambu County presented on its experience in TICAD VI joint seminar on ‘Capacity Development to Achieve the SDGs on Waste Management Toward Clean and Healthy Cities in Africa’ which was held in Nairobi in August 2016.

14. Building small scale climate resilient rural infrastructure in Lao PDR

The project is aimed at improving existing water and sanitation infrastructure for the residents of Sanxay, Phouvong, Taoy, Samouay, Dakcheuang and Vilabouly districts of Attapeu, Saravane, Sekong and Savannkhet provinces of Lao PDR. It involves construction of new water supply and sanitation infrastructures, including a water treatment plant, expansion of distribution networks, gravity fed systems, boreholes, rain water harvesting systems, household sanitation facilities and decentralized wastewater treatment systems.

Key results include: 
- Safe drinking water and improved sanitation provided for 30,000 people in 1 town and 39 rural communities.
- Improved wastewater management - 2 decentralized wastewater treatment systems set up in 2 urban communities.
- Water supply and sanitation strategy developed for emerging towns.
• Water and sanitation database developed for policymakers and utility officials.

15. Global Sanitation Fund (GSF) Programme in Nepal

The GSF programme in Nepal, under implementation by UN-Habitat supports the national goal of achieving 100% access to sanitation by 2017. It specifically promotes elimination of open defecation and good hygiene practices through community-led awareness raising activities. It works in 17 out of the 75 districts in the country. As a result of the programme, more than 1.5 million people are living in open defecation free environments in the target areas. After the devastating earthquake in April 2015, the programme also mobilised volunteers to rehabilitate damaged toilets and to carry out hygiene awareness campaigns in the affected areas.

Urban Basic Services’ contribution to the Habitat III Process

During the Habitat III preparatory process, the Urban Basic Services Branch led the development of three of the 22 issue papers, namely, Issue Paper 18 on Urban Infrastructure and Basic Services, including Energy, Issue Paper 19 on Transport and Mobility and issue paper 21 on Smart Cities. The Branch also contributed to the Habitat III Policy Paper 9 on Urban Services and Technology.

Among the many preparatory meetings for Habitat III with diverse parties and experts that fed into the New Urban Agenda document, was an Expert Group Meeting organized by GWOPA in February 2016. The EGM resulted in a set of strategic recommendations on the inclusion of water and sanitation issues in the NUA, the essence of which are now apparent in the agreed document.

UBSB participated in the Abu Dhabi Conference on Sustainable Energy and Cities that took place in 20 January 2016. The Conference raised the issue of energy and climate change in cities in advance of the habitat III. High level participants from all over the world including energy experts, national and local governments, energy agencies, private sectors, academia and civil society actors emphasized the centrality of cities in promoting sustainable use of energy. The Branch contributed in the substantive preparation of the conference and 3 mains issues were raised during the meeting which later on influenced the outcome of the New Urban Agenda. The fact that world leaders should take advantage of the dropping of the cost of renewable energy technologies; the need to accelerate universal energy access in cities by empowering cities leader to get involve in the generation of energy using clean energy sources and the need to promote energy efficiency at all levels and economic sectors in cities. All these elements are well reflected in the NUA.

At the Habitat III Conference, the Branch co-led three special sessions on Urban Infrastructure and Basic Services, including Energy, Transport and Mobility and Smart Cities. In addition, GWOPA made a presentation at the Urban Dialogue on Urban Services and Technology. The Branch also organized a training event on transport and mobility and participated in 22 side events.

Key Highlights of UBS-related Habitat III commitments/outcomes

• Partner to “Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative” launched by Germany and partners at Habitat III in Quito
• MOU signed with the “Partnership on Low Carbon Transport” a wide coalition of about 90 members representing representing UN organizations, Multilateral and Bilateral development organizations, NGOs and Foundations, knowledge and research institutions and the business sector.
• Following the special session on transport and mobility a collaboration with UNECE on Road Safety was discussed and an MOU is under preparation;
• In collaboration with the International Road Transport Union, a publication on “Contribution on Smart Urban Mobility for Safe, Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Cities was launched;
Urban Waters Hub - UBSB held a meeting with the Global Water Partnership (GWP), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), World Water Council, International Water Association, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), Akvo, and University of South Florida to follow up on earlier discussions on collaborating on Integrated Urban Water Management issues. The meeting resulted in the decision to establish an Urban Waters Hub, as a network of partners with common objective of improving urban water management, that would be hosted by UBSB.

RENEWW Zones – The “Renewable Energy, Nutrition, Environment, Water, and Waste” (RENEWW) Innovation Zones in Peri-Urban Communities was unveiled by the US and the University of Pennsylvania at the Quito conference. UBSB participated in the event.

Islamic Development Bank partnership on Water – UBSB, through GWOPA, had a preliminary agreement with the Islamic Development Bank to cooperate on capacity building of public water utilities in the member states of IsDB through Water Operators’ Partnerships and common follow-up capacity building interventions.

Meetings were held with the African Development with a view to developing partnerships on mobility and transport.

Analysis of NUA and Agenda 2030 and its implications for UBS

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) which was recently adopted at the Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador responds to the massive challenge of providing basic services to a growing urban population. Results of a word search presented in Table 1 below demonstrates the crucial role of basic services in the achievement of NUA and Agenda 2030.

Table 1: Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Services</th>
<th>Relevant SDGs</th>
<th>Relevant NUA Paragraphs</th>
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<tr>
<td>SDG 1.4, SDG 11.1</td>
<td>2, 14, 29, 65, 70, 85, 91, 99</td>
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<td>Water and Sanitation (incl. Waste management)</td>
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<td>Air quality</td>
<td>SDG 11.6</td>
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<td>Public spaces</td>
<td>SDG 11.7</td>
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<td>ICT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smart city, grid,</td>
<td></td>
<td>66, 121</td>
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Both NUA and Agenda 2030, in our analysis, reaffirm UN-Habitat work under Subprogramme 4 of the Strategic Plan for 2014–2019 on the provision of urban basic services, including water and sanitation, drainage, waste management, sustainable energy and urban mobility, as well as improving air quality. It reinforces the UBS’s three expected accomplishments on policy, investments and access to basic services.
Urban Basic Services are, therefore, at the core of the achievement of the NUA and Agenda 2030. The Branch will continue its focus on the four thematic areas as follows:

i) **Water and Sanitation**
- A renewed focus on integrating water and sanitation into national urban policies.
- A holistic water cycle approach by integrating the different aspects of urban water management and linking it with other affected urban management sectors such as health, housing, drainage and energy and waste management,
- Planning for and developing climate-resilient infrastructure for water and sanitation.
- Optimising the productive use of water for various purposes (recognising the multiple roles of water),
- Promoting conservation and sustainable use/reuse, including treating wastewater
- Fostering synergies at the water-food-energy nexus
- Providing water and sanitation services to crisis-affected persons in urban settings, including internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants
- Strengthening the technical and management capacity of urban water and sanitation operators, through not-for-profit peer support partnerships through GWOPA.

ii) **Urban Energy**
- Assistance to local, regional and national authorities to increase access to modern, clean, affordable and reliable energy services in urban areas with particular focus on the urban poor;
- To promote renewable energy technologies in cities, including energy generation; and
- To mainstreaming energy efficiency measures in the built environment.
- Cities and national governments are assisted through advocacy, policy review and dialogue, awareness building and capacity development, technical advice on market transformation, development of tools and financial instruments and pilot projects to demonstrate technology innovations e.g promotion of improved cook-stoves, solar lanterns, waste –to-energy.

iii) **Urban Mobility**
- Policy dialogue on sustainable urban mobility at global, national and sub-national levels promoting an accessibility and people-based approach on mobility;
- Assist cities in developing participatory and inclusive “ Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans” as a basis for investments in conjunction with interventions to improve public transport and facilities for walking and cycling;
- Monitoring progress on sustainable mobility against the NUA and SDG commitments
- Promote “ Urban Electric Mobility” in the context of better and compact urban planning and a transition to clean sources of energy.

iv) **Solid Waste Management**
- Promoting environmentally sound waste management in all phases such as waste generation, collection & transport, treatment and disposal.
- Promoting Extended Produce Responsibility (EPR) and 3R – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.
- Fostering synergies at the waste-energy nexus through Waste to Energy technology.
- Supporting decentralized decision making on waste management for local authorities
- Providing waste collection services in the marginalized communities such as informal settlements and communities in emergencies to promote universal access to sustainable waste management.
- Decentralized waste management system with innovative financing scheme.
- Reuse of food waste (coordination with food security policies).
v) **Emerging area of ICT**

The NUA and Agenda 2030 emphasize the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to promote sustainable urban development for social inclusion and ending poverty by increasing access to equitable and affordable urban services, and relevant information related to modern and renewable energy, safe drinking water and sanitation, safe, waste disposal, and sustainable mobility, among others. UBSB will integrate the use of ICTs in its programmes.

As stated in the GC Resolution 25/4: Implementation of the strategic plan for 2014–2019 (The Omnibus Resolution), the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund remains the financial vehicle for implementing the Work Programme of Focus Area 4.