Introductory Statement by Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director

Quarterly Report on UN-Habitat Country Activities

Agenda Item 4

HSP/CPR/37/4
Nairobi, 14 June 2010
Mr. Chair,
Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

The Secretariat has been requested to provide quarterly updates to the CPR on UN-Habitat’s country activities. These updates are supplementary to the widely distributed biennial Country Activities Report submitted to the Governing Council.

The report is divided into two sections. Both sections are divided by region. The first section presents highlights of country and regional projects completed or initiated over the last three months that are particularly relevant to the MTSIP/ENOF action plan. The second section presents the tables of all country and regional projects of USD100,000 and above completed or initiated in the last three months reporting period.

Excellencies,

Among the recently completed projects we have highlighted three projects in the Asia/Pacific region. We have closed two projects in Afghanistan. The first one is Reintegration of Returnees and IDPs through Policy, Planning and Targeted Assistance, supporting the resettlement of IDPs and returnees in the Sheikh Mesri Township near Jalalabad City and in parts of Kabul, reaching more than 30 neighbourhoods and 450 vulnerable households.

The second completed project in Afghanistan is Community Empowerment and Development for Peace Building Areas, responding to the needs of newly settled families and supporting the planned development of Jalalabad by creating conditions that contribute to peace and stability in the region. The objective was to stabilize border areas through community empowerment and improvement of living conditions.

Both projects are fully in line with Focus Areas 3 and 4 of the MTSIP on promoting pro-poor land and housing and environmentally sound basic infrastructure and services.

The third project closed in Asia is the Jaffna Tsunami Recovery and Reconstruction Partnership Project, Sri Lanka. The project had four components: (a) Expert-Group Meetings (EGMs) on alternative, clean, reusable/renewable energy at city and community level in Asian cities; (b) follow-up workshops and pilot projects in selected Asian cities to implement and learn from technologies introduced at the EGMs; (c) Up-scaled follow-up projects focusing on water and waste management; and (d) dissemination of information and lessons learned. The project, funded by Salvation, contributes to Focus Areas 3 of the MTSIP.

Distinguished Delegates,

Among the new projects, I wish to highlight three new ones in the Africa and the Arab States region, three in Asia and two in Latin America.

In Africa, I would like to mention Capacity Building for Land Conflict Management in South Sudan, aiming at more effective management of land-related disputes and conflicts in Southern Sudan through interventions that strengthen the capacity of key institutions. The project, funded by Canada, will contribute to Focus Areas 2 and 3 of the MTSIP.

Two new projects in Iraq focus on improving public governance. These are: (i) Iraq Public Sector Modernization Programme, a USD 13 million programme to support the Government of Iraq in modernizing its public sector by adopting and implementing a reform strategy to address governance constraints that aims at (a) rationalizing institutional set up, (b) improving human
resources management, (c) enhancing administrative functionality, (d) developing services delivery models, and (e) improving on a sector-by-sector basis the decentralization and devolution of effective, transparent and sustainable service delivery with enhanced participation. The second new project in Iraq is Support to Decentralization on Local Governance for Service Delivery, a UN and Government of Iraq effort to realize decentralized governance structures through pilot activities in three governorates through reform of: (a) legal, policy and institutional frameworks, (b) local government systems and capacities, (c) civic education and participation, and (d) inter-governmental relations and networks of local governments. Both new projects in Iraq contribute to Focus Areas 1 and 2 of the MTSIP.

In Asia and the Pacific, projects have been initiated in Afghanistan, Myanmar and Pakistan.

In Afghanistan we have commenced Peace Building in Afghanistan through Consolidation of Community Solidarity, a Government of Japan-funded project assisting demobilized fighters, IDPs and returnees through strengthening of community solidarity and local government capacity while supporting rural communities’ livelihoods through community banking. The project will contribute to Focus Areas 3 and 4 of the MTSIP.

In Myanmar, we have initiated the Coastal Communities Livelihoods Assistance Programme, focusing on pro-poor investments through cash injections into the local economy that help equip the poor for rebuilding sustainable livelihoods in 250 villages and townships where UN-HABITAT is currently implementing projects through the People’s Process. The project contributes to Focus Area 3 of the MTSIP.

In Pakistan we have commenced the Shelter Assistance to Returnees in Conflict-affected Areas, a 25,000-unit shelter programme to which UN-HABITAT provides coordination, technical assistance and programme monitoring. We are also improving the living conditions of IDPs.

In the LAC region we have started two new projects, one in Costa Rica and one in Haiti. The Emergency and Recovery Response to the Haiti Earthquake, is a project providing technical and operational support to the Government of Haiti, the international community and individual families to enable the re-occupation, repair and rebuilding of earthquake-destroyed housing. An estimated 700,000 people, mostly in informal settlements, will reconstruct and/or re-occupy their damaged housing and the project aims at improving basic living conditions for earthquake-affected families and provide shelter, housing and land options for those who cannot return. This project contributes to Focus Areas 1, 2 and 3 of the MTSIP.

Mr. Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

In summary, our country portfolio is more and more aligned with the MTSIP focus areas while remaining dynamic and responsive to new demands. We are fulfilling our role in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee by providing value added support in our Focus Areas and our traditional areas of expertise to partners and agencies to build peace and achieve sustainable urban development.

More information on specific activities can be obtained by contacting the Director of our Regional Technical Cooperation Division.

Thank you for your attention.