

# sudp

urban  
development programme  
for the somali region

# newsletter



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*Bridging the gap between emergency and development*

## UN-HABITAT's role in complex emergencies

To adequately address this complex emergency, UN-HABITAT has been promoting an integrated approach that bridges the gaps between emergency responses, temporary solutions, and durable solutions. The UN and International NGO IDP Strategy, which incorporates protection, basic services and shelter issues into a rights-based approach, and a functioning Shelter Cluster, where emergency and development agencies are joining efforts, are clear indications of the need for and success of this integration.

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*Hargeisa*

## The World Habitat Day brings shelter to the IDPs

This year, World Habitat Day in Hargeisa coincided with the completion and inauguration of 87 shelter units, which were handed over to the municipality. Hundreds of Ayaha II residents turned out to witness the handover of the houses, giving a tangible reason to also celebrate World Habitat Day. Numerous representatives of the government, UN agencies, and international NGOs attended the ceremony.

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*Mogadishu two years later*

## A visit to the rehabilitated Abdul Aziz markets



In 2004/5, UN-HABITAT and local partner SAACID implemented the Good Local Governance and Leadership Training Programme in 16 Somali districts, providing training and small grants to refurbish high-priority infrastructure. Two years after the project completion, SAACID visited rehabilitated markets in Abdul Aziz, Mogadishu, to assess the long-term impact of the UN-HABITAT training and its practical results. The community and the authorities highlighted that the interventions had significantly added to the economic prosperity of the district and created job opportunities for many IDPs living in surrounding areas.

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*Hargeisa*

## 'The training that changed my life'

Ibrahim Bilal recently returned to Somaliland from a refugee camp in eastern Ethiopia, but limited housing options and scarce economic opportunities left him little choice but to move into an under-serviced IDP settlement.



*Mr. Ibrahim Bilal*

Fortunately, UN-HABITAT allocated Ibrahim and his family a permanent house in the Ayaha II settlement, and he underwent masonry training. This is the story of how the training changed his life.

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#### Garowe

Inauguration of the of 157 housing units for IDPs and urban poor built by UN-HABITAT with funds provided by the Government of Japan.



#### Burao

Inauguration of the Burao markets built by UN-HABITAT with the support of UNA and in collaboration with the local community and vendors.



#### Gardho

Ceremony for the handing over of the 203 houses and community facilities built in Xaafuun by UN-HABITAT with UNICEF and HRF funds.



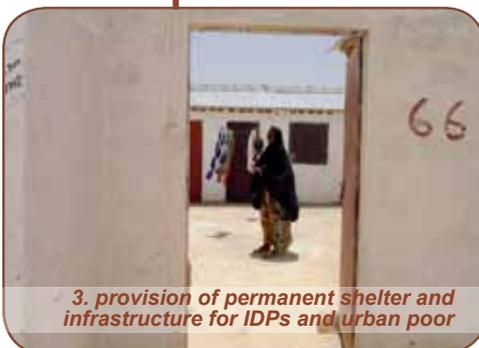
*Hargeisa, Ayaha II: the houses built by UN-HABITAT in collaboration with the local community.*

# editorial

## UN-HABITAT's role in complex emergencies

### *Bridging the gap between emergency and development*

The Somali region remains in a state of emergency. The renewed fighting and insecurity in south central Somalia, and recently in Sool and Sanaag, along with irregular rains and environmental degradation, have inflated the number of displaced to 850,000. The use of wood for cooking and temporary shelters accelerates desertification and further diminishes livelihood opportunities in an already fragile situation.



To adequately address this complex emergency, UN-HABITAT has been promoting an integrated approach that bridges the gaps between emergency responses, temporary solutions, and durable solutions. The UN and International NGO IDP Strategy, which incorporates protection, basic services and shelter issues into a rights-based approach, and a functioning Shelter Cluster, where emergency and development agencies are joining efforts, are clear indications of the need for and success of this integration.

To improve the conditions of the displaced population with an eye on long-term development, basic design principles were introduced to decongest temporary settlements, reduce fire and health risks, and create space for sanitation and basic services. Improved mobile shelter kits that reduce the use of wood are being distributed and a simple training toolkit for the upgrading of temporary settlements was developed.

At the same time, permanent resettlement options for displaced population are being provided in the broader framework of comprehensive urban development. Spatial planning and innovative land-sharing concepts, based on full integration of the displaced population into the host community, are part of the resettlement strategy. Services and infrastructure provision is planned in a way that benefits both the host community and the displaced. Incremental housing and appropriate tenure solutions for IDPs are worked out, and during the project implementation livelihood opportunities are being improved through on-the-job training in basic construction skills. So far, 673 families, roughly corresponding to 3,365 people, have been successfully resettled with the limited funds available.

To guide humanitarian interventions towards a meaningful short and long term improvement of the lives of the Somali population, a good understanding of the land and property situation is crucial. Different interest groups tend to promote evictions in an attempt to socially re-engineer the community, or manipulate interventions to add value to specific land. UN-HABITAT, in partnership with Norwegian Refugee Council and UNHCR, has initiated several studies focusing on innovative land solutions that take into account the limited rule of law, lack of legal instruments, and non-existent land administration.

UN-HABITAT is very active in another area essential for development: improved governance. Past and present programmes, done in partnership with local authorities and key local and international stakeholders, have shown that it is critical to strengthen local governance to increase the impact of interventions and promote bottom-up peace building.

It is our hope that UN-HABITAT's submissions to the Consolidated Appeal Process 2008 will mobilize additional funds to expand this key role of bridging the gap between emergency and development, in support of other participating agencies and to the long-term benefits of the Somali population.

*Filep Decorte, Programme Manager*

# planning for the future

## Gathering momentum: the UN Joint Programme on local governance and decentralized service delivery

This past August, the UN Joint Programme that integrates support to good local governance and decentralized service delivery saw its first draft programme document reach fruition. Given that many issues needed a common view among the partner agencies (ILO, UNCDF, UNDP, UN-HABITAT, and UNICEF), practical and principled visioning was required. This resulted in a more detailed document than is generally expected from UN Joint Programmes. Besides being a more practical guide for those directly involved, it will be more informative to outside readers.

With the draft Joint Programme document in hand, the partners and the Somali donor group discussed the initiative, closely and fruitfully examining UN approaches to local governance. As a result, the annexes and key sections in the document are subject to continued revision.

All key donors have reacted positively to this five-year initiative. Their interest in funding the programme reveals their ongoing interest in the joint good local governance framework. The UN is pleased to see that a significant share of the required first-year funds is already being secured.

UN-HABITAT has strategically reshaped the SUDP within the Joint Programme and Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) frameworks, to ensure its continuation after January 2008. From September to October, the UN conducted field missions to all the Somali regions to prepare common Annual Work Plans for the 2008 UN Transitional Plan. These plans define how programmes will be operationalized in 2008 and what joint outputs are expected by the end of the first year. The Joint Programme, which corresponds to Outcome 2 of the transitional plan, has been part of this effort.

*Paula Pennanen, Regional and Urban Policy Expert*

## success stories

### Hargeisa: “The training that changed my life”

Ibrahim Bilal fled his homeland in 1988 and lived with his family in UNHCR-supported refugee camps in eastern Ethiopia. In a repatriation exercise jointly carried out by UNHCR, Ethiopia, and Somaliland, Ibrahim and his family joined the last convoy of refugees to be returned to Somaliland. With limited housing options and scarce social services, the group settled haphazardly in Burta Kala Jeexan, a Hargeisa suburb.

Fortunately, Ibrahim and his family were moved to Ayaha II, where he entered a lottery process and consequently won one of the permanent houses built by UN-HABITAT in the settlement. As a beneficiary of UN-HABITAT's shelter project, Ibrahim was one of the 600 people who underwent masonry training, later participating in the actual construction work as a mason and on-the-job trainee.

Ibrahim has managed to secure employment outside the shelter project, earning an average of US\$10 every working day. Commenting on the difference the training made, Ibrahim said, “For decades, I have been idle and unable to feed my family, but now the training has turned me into a financially better off, productive member of society.” He added, “I am very grateful to UN-HABITAT for the great opportunity and the training they gave me.”

As indicated by a recent UN-HABITAT survey, Ibrahim represents hundreds of former refugees who have taken advantage of the agency's skills development training. These trainees provided inputs to the Ayaha II Shelter Project, but more importantly, the training helped them secure employment in the construction industry. According to the study, 67 percent of those trained got jobs in the local market; as a result, their socioeconomic status and living conditions greatly improved.

*Abdirahman Adan, Shelter and Community Development Assistant*



*Hargeisa, Ayaha II: beneficiaries of the UN-HABITAT Shelter Project for IDPs, returnees and urban poor trained in masonry skills during the project implementation. With funds provided by the Government of Japan, UN-HABITAT, has built 173 houses in collaboration with the local community and the local NGOs HAVOYOCO and SOOYAAL.*





## urban services

### Boroma

#### Three markets rehabilitated

On 11 September 2007, the Mayor of Boroma officially opened Ahmed Gurey and Hallane Markets after two months of extensive rehabilitation work carried out by the Boroma Municipality and UN-HABITAT. The Central Market is being completed. The three meat and vegetable markets were in disrepair for years, posing a threat to the health and well-being of local communities. With the help of UN-HABITAT, a committee of market vendors moved the vendors to a temporary trading site for the rehabilitation period, allowing a smooth and fast intervention. A total of 227 butchers, vegetable sellers, and general vendors will benefit from the markets' improved atmosphere and hygiene.

The Mayor, municipality officials, members of the local council, UN-HABITAT representatives, and implementing partner attended the inauguration ceremony at Ahmed Gurey Market. The Mayor expressed his gratitude to UN-HABITAT for the technical and financial assistance and thanked the local contractor (SRCC) and UNA, which was responsible for the technical supervision of the project. He also requested local vendors to make the best use of the reconditioned sites.

The UN-HABITAT representative addressed the crowd, urging the local vendors to take responsibility for the good management of the market and maintain its cleanliness and hygiene. Representatives of the market vendors and members of the local council made speeches on the occasion, all underlining the significance of the markets to Boroma and the need to maintain them in a hygienic manner.

*Abdirahman Adan, Shelter and Community Development Assistant*

*Boroma market: A woman selling meat on the floor before the market rehabilitation (above). The Mayor of Boroma cutting the ribbon at the inauguration ceremony. The rehabilitated market (below).*

## governance and service delivery

### Mogadishu:

#### Two years later: a visit to the Abdul Aziz market

In 2004 and 2005, UN-HABITAT and local partner SAACID implemented the Good Local Governance and Leadership Training Programme in Benadir and Middle Shabelle. Abdul Aziz District was one of 16 districts involved in the programme, which provided small grants to refurbish high-priority infrastructure.

On 14 July 2007, SAACID visited rehabilitated markets in Abdul Aziz to assess the durability and sustainability of the UN-HABITAT training programme. Together with local officials, the team first went to the meat and vegetable market. "Welcome, SAACID!" said enthusiastic vendors. "We are waiting for more projects from you."

A woman from Timirre IDP camp said, "I am very happy to sell in the rehabilitated market because before I was sitting in the open air and sun, feeling hot and then cold – and it made my vegetables rot quickly." A tailor from Marino IDP settlement indicated that he had been working at the market

since the mayor cracked down on street stalls. He added: "I am very satisfied doing business in this market."

In the nearby fish market, business was low, but only because it was monsoon season. Mr. Ayanle Ahmed Amber, chairman of a fishing cooperative, said that people were pleased with the rehabilitation, though vendors complained that some iron sheets from the roof had come off during the time of the tsunami.

According to SAACID, the visit was a success. Everyone they talked to indicated that the rehabilitation had significantly added to the economic activity and prosperity of the district. Many IDPs from the 57 IDP settlements spread among Abdul Aziz, Shingani, and Shibis Districts were working in the markets. They said they were extremely happy with the economic opportunity the markets had created for them.

*SAACIID and Edward Miller, SUDP Editor*

# urban management

## Boroma

### Property registration for improved urban management

Up till now, Boroma City Council has relied on outdated and incomplete paper-based land records, and only a few of the properties in the municipality are in the land register and property tax roll. In conjunction with the council, UN-HABITAT has developed a property registration system based on Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. The primary objective of this exercise is to provide information on location and physical characteristics of the properties to improve the municipality's urban planning process and property taxation system.

There are four main steps in the GIS development process: (1) acquisition of a geo-referenced, high-resolution satellite image; (2) on-screen vectorization of the image to create a base map (spatial database); (3) a property survey, including field verification of the spatial database and the collection of attribute data; (4) integration of attribute and spatial data to create a property database. The property survey was conducted between January and May 2007.

The property database is hyper-linked to a digital photograph of each property. The photographs help municipal staff update the database and also facilitate interaction with property owners.

Creating administrative units is necessary for thematic mapping, better urban planning, and improvement of service



*Digitized map of Boroma*

delivery. A full council meeting resolved to create new administrative boundaries for Boroma Municipality, which have since been established and mapped. A boundary delineation exercise was conducted in July and August 2007. The administrative units comprise three levels: the first level has 4 sections, the second level has 16 sub-sections, and the third level has 64 neighbourhoods.

Meanwhile, the second phase of the project (developing a GIS-based property taxation system) awaits the formulation of taxation guidelines from the Ministry of Interior. The existing taxation law was recently repealed through the enactment of the Regions and Districts Law.

*Asia Adam, GIS Expert*

# urban services

## Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

### Learning lessons on solid waste management and service delivery

Following the successful model of the ILO public-private partnership programme for waste collection and disposal in Dar es Salaam, ILO and UNA carried out sensitization workshops and training for various stakeholders involved in service delivery and waste management activities in Somaliland and Puntland.

To complement the theoretical activities, ILO and UNA jointly organized a study tour in Tanzania for selected representatives from seven Somaliland municipalities (16-21 September 2007), and four Puntland municipalities (1-6 October 2007). The participants were both decision makers, such as mayors, and technical people, such as sanitation officers and local NGOs workers who attended the training. The Puntland Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Mr. Ali Abdi Aware, was one of the participants.

The study tour was conceived as a platform to exchange information, learn experiences on the ground, and be exposed to practical solutions, possibilities, and problems related to the delivery of basic services. The visit included discussions

with Dar es Salaam municipal authorities, service providers and franchises, such as local NGOs, private companies and CBOs that have different contract arrangements with the local government for solid waste management activities. The participants were introduced to the practicalities of the system and had the opportunity to see different managerial and technical solutions, as well as get new ideas applicable to the Somali context.

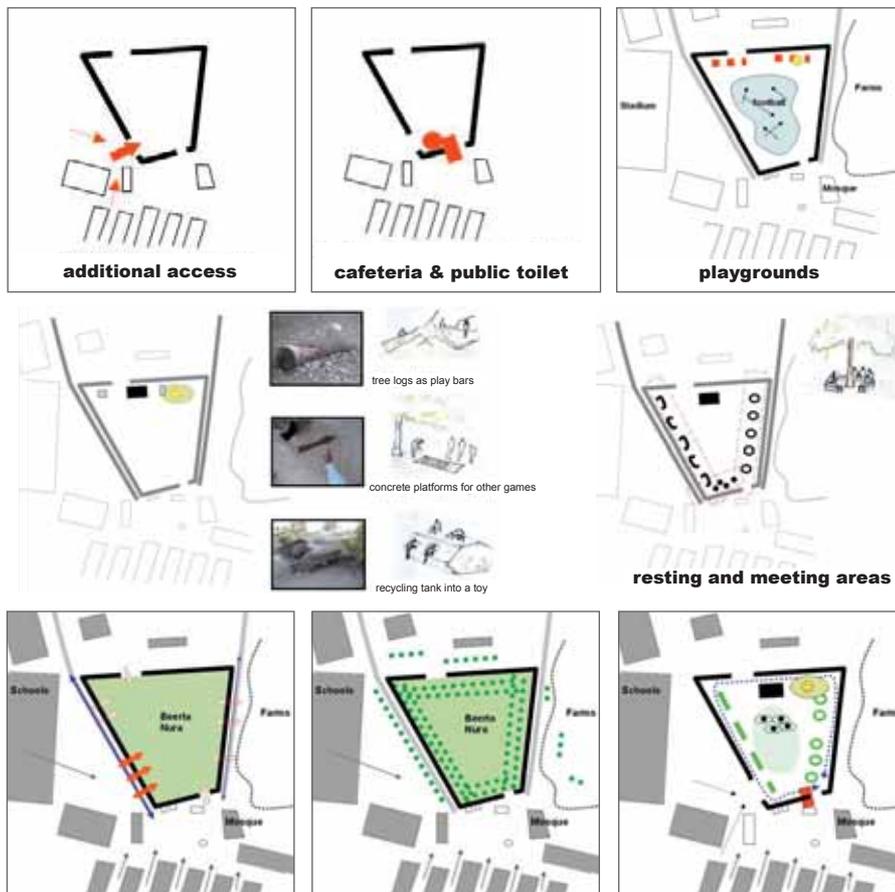
It has been pointed out that political support is the key to creating a sustainable public-private partnership for waste management. The importance of an appropriate legislative framework, and taxation and monitoring system has also been emphasized as a key element for setting up efficient waste management and service delivery systems.

The study tour was a time for learning and a moment to encourage the visitors to put in place public-private partnership systems, similar to the ones in Dar es Salaam, to improve the cleanliness and hygiene of Somali cities, through cost-effective agreements.

*Daniela Giardina, Project Manager*

# governance and urban planning

## Erigavo: Rehabilitation of Nura Garden



Nura Garden was always the central meeting place of Erigavo. The wide-open space lined with magnificent trees bestowed a peaceful atmosphere. Then neglect paid its toll: buildings turned to ruin, garbage crept in, and corners became informal public toilets.

During the Good Local Governance and Leadership Training Programme, UN-HABITAT offered the local councillors and a local team of stakeholders the opportunity to use the skills acquired with the training for the implementation of a priority action plan. The rehabilitation of the Nura Garden was chosen.

The initial idea for Nura Garden was limited to putting up a two-metre-high wall to protect it from intruders and keep it clean. UN-HABITAT facilitated discussions to broaden the team's insight. Using design, the garden's existing challenges and its potential were investigated. How to ensure that different age groups could use the space simultaneously? How to ensure cleanliness without limiting accessibility? How to ensure proper management? How to restore its image as the main public space in Erigavo?

Quiet meeting places for elders were separated from spaces for the youth, a cafeteria was added, and a

small building and stage were refurbished for public gatherings. The restaurant helps to manage the new public toilets and generally keep the place clean. The boundary wall was kept low, ensuring a visual link with the surroundings, and new access gates were added.

An MP from Erigavo recently indicated that, two years down the line, the place is still an attractive meeting place for young and old. He proudly stated that the garden has actually become the landmark of the town. It is clean, with adequate sanitation. The exercise demonstrates how urban design can play an important catalyst role in accommodating divergent views, and at the same time enhance management and overall sustainability.

*Betelehem Demissie, Urban Planner*

*Above left: preparatory drawings for the rehabilitation of Nura Garden. Below: Nura Garden rehabilitated.*



# EVENTS

## Hargeisa

### World Habitat Day 2007 brings shelter to IDPs

This year, World Habitat Day in Hargeisa coincided with the completion and inauguration of 87 shelter units, which were handed over to the municipality. Hundreds of Ayaha II residents turned out to witness the hand over of the houses, giving a tangible reason to also celebrate World Habitat Day. Numerous representatives of the government, UN agencies, and international NGOs attended the ceremony.

UN-HABITAT's representative welcomed the guests and spoke about the World Habitat Day theme: "A Safe City is a Just City". While lauding Hargeisa for its swift development and safe streets, he encouraged the creation of a truly just city. "We believe that the project has made an important contribution. Looking at Ayaha, it is clear that the population's livelihoods have greatly improved, and they have moved a step closer towards a safer and just living environment". After thanking the project's donors, the Government of Somaliland, the Ministry of Family Welfare and Social Development, and the Mayor of Hargeisa, he added that the project would not have been possible without UN-HABITAT's implementing partners – HAVOYOCO and SOOYAAL - and the involvement of Ayaha community organizations project beneficiaries. The head of WFP Hargeisa addressed the gathering, noting that WFP had provided more than 543 tons of food to the project over the last 2 years.

The Mayor of Hargeisa, Hussein Mohamoud Jiciir, officially opened the new settlement and thanked the Government of Japan for its generous funding and UN-HABITAT for implementing the project. He mentioned that the lease agreements for the completed houses had been finalized and that the project beneficiaries would very soon be signing their tenure certificates.

The director of HAVOYOCO explained to the crowd how the shelter project had produced skilled workers. Around 700 people have been trained under this project, and as a consequence of the newly acquired skills many managed to secure outside employment, earning around US\$10 per day.

The Vice Minister of National Planning and Coordination, the chairwoman of Cooperative Society of Ayaha, and the Minister of Family Welfare and Social Development also addressed the participants.

As part of the World Habitat Day celebrations, two football teams from the community – one playing on behalf of UN-HABITAT and the other on behalf of Ayaha – contested a well-attended match. Five leading newspapers – Jamhuuriya, Haatuf, Geeska Africa, Saxansaxo, and Ogaal – reported the function. Three well-known websites posted articles on the event. Somaliland National TV and Somaliland TV both aired special programmes. Radio Hargeisa also covered the ceremony, while BBC Somali Service aired an interview with UN-HABITAT's National Programme Officer Liibaan Hussein.

*Abdirahman Adan,  
Shelter and Community Development Assistant*



*Hargeisa, Ayaha II: some of the 173 houses built by UN-HABITAT and its partners.*



*The Mayor of Hargeisa officially opens the new settlement.*



*The participants to the inauguration ceremony (above), and the two Ayaha football teams who contested a match in occasion of the World Habitat Day (below).*

### World Habitat Day in Puntland

On 1 October, World Habitat Day, the UN-HABITAT National Project Officer, Abdullahi Dahir, presented the UN-HABITAT activities in Puntland on the popular SBC TV. A short documentary followed – produced in 2006 by Francesca Balbo, a young film-maker – about UN-HABITAT's upgrading work in IDP settlements in Bossaso.

## SUDP - funding agencies and implementing partners

**SUDP** - The SUDP is an umbrella programme for urban interventions in the Somali regions. UN-HABITAT is the lead agency, and its partners are UNA, ILO, Oxfam-Novib and UNICEF, each of whom contributing in their field of specialization. The three main components addressed are **(1) governance**, including legal and institutional reforms, strengthening municipal governance and the role of civil society; **(2) urban management**, including strategic planning and development controls, land management, municipal finance, delivery of basic services and local economic development; and **(3) the implementation of local projects**. The programme is funded by European Commission and UNDP, and co-funded by Government of Italy, Government of Japan, UNICEF, DFID, UNHCR and HRF. The programme receives support from WFP through food-for-work schemes.



**The European Commission** - The EC is the main donor of the programme. Through its Somalia Operations of the Delegation of the European Union in Kenya, the Commission gives technical guidance to the project activities.



**UNDP** - The UNDP component of SUDP is part of UNDP's Governance and Financial Services Programme, under which a long term cooperation with UN-HABITAT exists. UNDP is actively involved in the project as the key coordinating agency with regard to the overall political context.



**The Government of Italy** - The Government of Italy funds part of the core SUDP Programme and gives technical advice to the implementing organizations.



**The Government of Japan** - The Japanese Government funds the 'Emergency Assistance for Resettlement of Returnees and Internally Displaced People programme in Hargeisa and Garowe.



**DFID** - Through its Department for International Development (DFID), the Government of the United Kingdom funds a number of governance related aspects of SUDP. These were identified in the inception phase and consist mainly of strategic projects and programme support.



**UNICEF** - The United Nation's Children Fund financed the recently completed reconstruction of the tsunami-affected town of Xaafuun.



**UN-HABITAT** - The United Nations Human Settlements Programme is the lead agency in the implementation of the SUDP, and is responsible for the overall management and the main technical inputs.



**UNA** - The Italian NGO Consortium UNA represents three Italian Universities and a number of international NGOs. UNA takes the lead in the Urban Services component (including solid waste management and sanitation activities), with technical advice from the universities, whose experts will visit and give inputs to SUDP projects.



**ILO** - The International Labour Organization is the UN specialized agency for the promotion of social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights. It is responsible for the Local Economic Development component of the SUDP. The Local Economic Development activities are a continuation of previous work by ILO, but are more focused on urban areas.



**Oxfam Novib** - Oxfam - Novib has been strengthening Somali civil society organizations since 1995. Under the SUDP, Novib will extend their capacity building activities for local NGOs/CBOs.



**WFP** - The World Food Programme supports shelter activities by providing food for work at the construction sites of the shelter projects.



**UN-OCHA** - The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, which manages the Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF), released some money to build additional houses in the tsunami-affected village of Xaafuun.

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*The opinions in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of UN-HABITAT and of the SUDP partners.*