

sudp

urban
development programme
for the somali region

newsletter

issue no. 2, january 2006



DFID supports SUDP

The Department for International Development (DFID) of the Government of the United Kingdom has decided to join the group of donors funding the Urban Development Programme SUDP.

New activity components and additional staff will be added to the existing programme:

- additional funding for urban planning activities;
- assistance and equipment for municipal finance departments;
- strategic projects linked to currently ongoing initiatives such as the resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons in Bosasso, and the rehabilitation of markets in Hargeisa;
- strengthening the SUDP team to meet the growing number of activities;
- funding of a coordinator for the Somali Joint Needs Assessment.

Garowe

Rehabilitation Municipal Office building complete

In January 2006 rehabilitation work on the Garowe Municipal Building was completed and the building was handed over to the local authorities. The project was one of several rehabilitation



The Garowe Municipal Authority building

activities carried out under the Support to Priority Areas in the Urban Sector (SPAUS) Programme, funded by the UNDP Governance and Financial Services Programme. The Municipality of Garowe had requested UNDP and UN-HABITAT for support as their former building lacked even the most basic facilities and the Municipality had already outgrown it. An important element of the project was to ensure a transparent and clear tender process for the contractor of the building, and, to facilitate this, information on the tender was made



The hand over to the mayor

available to the general public. Several new rooms were added to the building and the entire compound was refurbished. Together with the municipal skills training which was also provided, the renovated building will give the newly elected councillors and the mayor a solid basis from which to tackle Garowe's growing urban problems.

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European
Commission



Government
of Japan



Integrated urban development

durable solutions for a volatile urban environment

The Urban Development Programme SUDP has the ambitious goal of tackling urban sector development within the fluid Somali context. The programme must operate in a volatile political situation, dealing with relative instability and the Somali clan system which still overlaps the nascent democratic system to a large extent. Rapid urban growth, made more problematic due to the lack of a traditional urban culture, limits the potential advantages that a solid and organized urban context can offer to activate the rehabilitation and development process in a disaster-torn society.

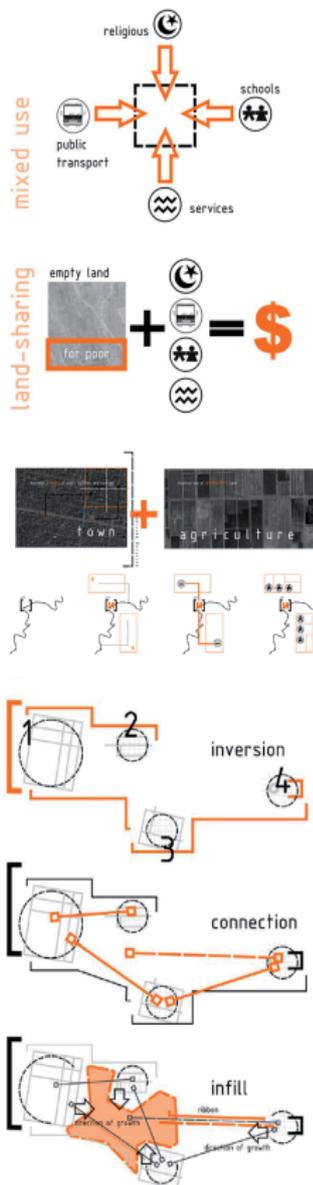
Somali society lingers in an indeterminate state of 'soft-emergency', 'soft-recovery' and 'soft-development', all of which persist, at different levels, at the same time. None of these situations is completely defined or accomplished, and, as a result, the entire society runs the risk of remaining in this precarious state, and indeed, of eventually sliding back into dangerous instability, if the society's institutions and their development do not attain self-sustainability.

The SUDP aims to support the development of a more stable, peaceful and prosperous Somali society through the sound development and growth of its cities and towns. At the same time, the SUDP introduces the normative and practical elements essential to the well-balanced development of the urban context within an integrated development system. The SUDP's strategy is very pragmatic, building capacities and making concrete changes in people's lives. It addresses the severe weakness in urban planning in the region, and the lack of basic understanding of its practice and concepts.

Somali urban settlements are characterised by land grabbing, speculation, a lack of urban services and infrastructure, and unsustainable city growth. The rapid spread of low density urban areas consumes enormous areas of land and increases the cost of providing administration and services.



Garowe city centre



Urban development strategies for a comprehensive and sustainable city growth

For the SUDP, this operating context presents as many challenges and opportunities as it does complications. Using spatial planning and design as a tool, the Programme has made important progress in the field of access to land for IDPs and the urban poor, and in the re-organization and upgrading of key infrastructure elements such as markets, which are essential for local economic development.

UN-HABITAT has also recently launched the first series of Strategic Projects in Somaliland and Puntland. These projects, managed by consortia of local stakeholders, will lead to visible improvements in people's lives, while at the same time longer term capacity building and strategic structure planning activities are initiated.

*Maurizio Pieroni,
SUDP Chief Technical Advisor*

*Filipe Decorte,
SUDP Programme Manager*

urban management

Somaliland and Puntland

Calls for proposals for Strategic Projects

A call for proposals for strategic projects was held on the 16th of November in Hargeisa for Somaliland, and on the 22nd of November in Garowe for Puntland.

The launches were attended by various representatives of the European Commission, the partners of the SUDP consortium, central authorities, journalists and Mayors and councillors of the different municipalities. Local consortia, formed by partnership between local authorities and other stakeholders (women and youth groups, private sector, local NGOs, etc.) were given three weeks to submit proposals to the UN-HABITAT offices in their region. Around 35 proposals were submitted by the various consortia in Somaliland and Puntland. A selection will be made in the coming weeks, based on the criteria that were included in the guidelines. The Strategic Projects consist of Thematic Projects and Area-Specific Projects.

Thematic Projects

Thematic Projects are not necessarily bound to a specific area and include improvements to basic urban infrastructure and services, creation of job opportunities and other related activities. They can be focused on:

- a **specific urban service**, or
- **assistance to the urban poor**.

Area-Specific Projects

Area-Specific Projects are focused on a specific urban infrastructure and are bound to a specific area of a district or city. An area-specific project is intended to upgrade an area by tackling problems and opportunities at the same time. The construction of a market, for instance, is related to the improvement of the whole area: re-organizing informal vendors, improving transportation, making space for formal and informal commercial activities, arranging solid waste collection in the area, setting up income-generating activities, etc. An Area-Specific Project can contain several smaller capital investment projects. The project can be centred around a market, a slaughterhouse, a road rehabilitation project, and so on.

The implementation of the strategic projects is meant to bring the participatory planning process to a higher level. The projects will become the central factor around which a number of events and activities will rotate. It is hoped that these interventions will be strategic in improving the functioning of the city, enhancing quality of life and the environment and stimulating local economic development. The projects are seen as stepping stones which will move the entire urban society one step closer in the direction of sustainable development.

shelter

Hargeisa, Garowe and Xaafuun

The housing projects in Hargeisa, Garowe and Xaafuun are materialising. In Xaafuun, three prototype houses were built for the inhabitants to choose from. The workshop for the project, which will be turned into a community centre after the construction, was also completed. Ground surveys were carried out in Xaafuun, Garowe and Hargeisa to provide technical inputs for the construction. In Hargeisa the first houses

have been erected, and are nearing completion.



*Hargeisa:
construction of houses
for IDPs in Ayaha II*

urban governance

Bosasso, Garowe and Qardho

Training for the new councillors

Newly selected councillors and Mayors in Puntland's major towns have participated in a training on Local Leadership and Management skills. The training is tailored to the Somali context and is especially designed for local leaders with little experience in governing. Bosasso was the first city to benefit from the training, which took place over two weeks from the 20th of September onwards. It was followed by Garowe on the 11th of December, and Qardho on the 14th of January. Among other things, the councillors learned how to arrange their finances, how to improve their communication skills and how to enable other stakeholders to play their role in local development.

urban land management

Hargeisa and Burao

Geographical Information Systems to support property registration and taxation

Following the completion of the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) property survey in Hargeisa, a similar survey was initiated in Burao in December 2005.

Property taxation and urban planning

The survey in Burao is expected to review all existing properties inside four months, using satellite images as its basic information source. The approach will be slightly different from that used in Hargeisa, as it incorporates lessons learned from the Hargeisa survey, and includes specialized requests made by the Municipality of Burao. The property survey will act as a tool for property taxation and will provide improved information about the urban area for urban planning purposes. During the survey the municipal staff will receive intensive training from the UN-HABITAT GIS staff on GIS systems and surveying methods.

UN-HABITAT is assisting the Municipality in the printing of invoices and in instructing the tax collectors on the new system, which includes a coding system with a unique cadastral



The GIS team of Burao in front of the UN-HABITAT office, located within the Municipality compound

code for each property. The number of properties which will receive a property tax bill will increase from 15,000 (2005) to 50,000 (2006) and revenues for the Municipality are expected to increase considerably, allowing the Municipality to invest in neighbourhood improvements.

Jan Turkstra
GIS Expert, SUDP

Municipality of Hargeisa, Somaliland
Invoice Property Tax 2006

Dear fellow citizen of Hargeisa,
The property tax which you are requested, and obliged, to pay is based on the property you are currently occupying and this tax will be used for the improvement of your neighbourhood.
Please pay this tax to your district office where you should obtain an official receipt.

The Mayor of Hargeisa

Property Code: 2 01 02 08 121

Date of Invoice	30 January 2006
District	26 June
Neighbourhood	Durya T
Property Occupant	Occupant
Use of the property	Residential
Total Building size	96 m ²
Total Plot Size	96 m ²
Number of floors	1
Property Quality	Class C
Registration Fee	10,000 Shillings
Sanitation Fee	10,000 Shillings
Stamp fee (2.5%)	1027 Shillings
Property Tax	41,088 Shillings
Total Tax	62,115 Shillings
To be paid before	30 March 2006



Hargeisa - an example of a property tax invoice

The Hargeisa experience

In Hargeisa, the Municipality, with assistance from UN-HABITAT, is finalizing the establishment of a tax collection system based on the GIS property survey. The survey has provided the data necessary to decide on tax rates for each property. Property tax rates for 2006 have been approved by the municipal council of Hargeisa.

The seeds for a SUDP strategy on land issues

In close collaboration with UN-HABITAT's Land and Tenure Section, SUDP has begun work on a road map for the establishment of an appropriate and innovative land management system. At the moment, land management is derived from a confusing mix of Islamic Law, Customary Law and outdated Secular Laws, further complicated by an anarchic land market where most land has been grabbed by individuals. UN-HABITAT is also responsible for the Land and Property sub cluster within the Governance cluster of the Joint Needs Assessment.



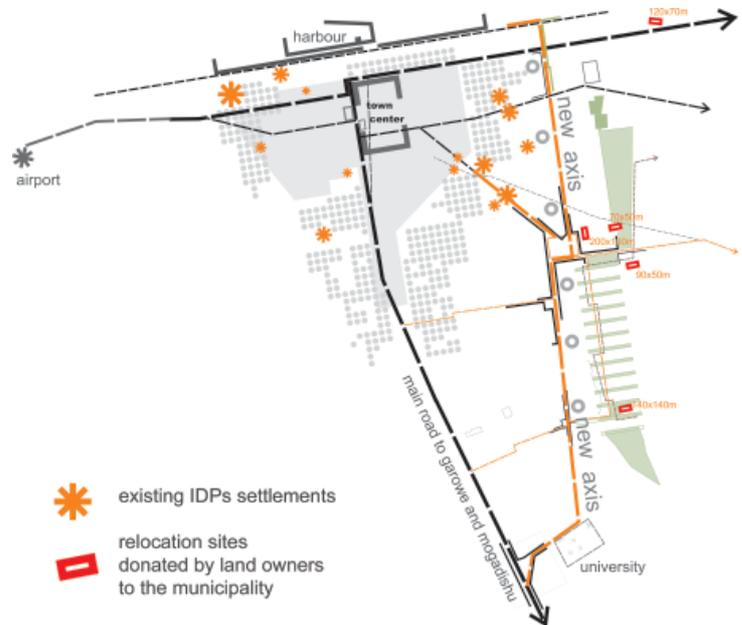
Land grabbing: people fence overnight plots of land, without any formalized registration

urban planning and design

Bosasso

Resettlement and social reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Efforts to improve the living conditions of IDPs in Bosasso are well on their way. A road map has been developed by a UN-HABITAT-led Task Force, in close consultation with all concerned local stakeholders. Two local committees were formed for its implementation: one for the improvement of the current temporary IDP settlement sites, and one for the permanent resettlement of IDPs to sustainable locations in the newly developing area to the east of Bosasso. Five parcels of land have been donated, and more land will be made available through land-sharing agreements in the future. The organizations involved, UN-OCHA, UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP and DRC are now detailing their commitments towards the first phase of resettlement activities. Discussions are also underway to develop a joint programme for the follow up phases.



Bosasso - proposed urban development strategy, elaborated by UN-HABITAT in collaboration with the municipality.

urban services - sanitation and solid waste



Environmental pollution in Hargeisa

UNA Consortium, ILO, and two Italian Universities tackle the problem of solid waste and sanitation

Over the last three months, the two Italian Universities working for UNA Consortium on the SUDP

Urban Services component – Milano Bicocca and CeTAMB from Brescia – have, together with ILO, carried out field visits, workshops and meetings with representatives of Local Authorities and civil society in Somaliland and Puntland. Visiting experts from the Italian Universities and ILO also conducted a joint assessment which looked in detail into sanitation and solid waste management aspects in both regions. Dedicated field missions allowed specific issues to be discussed in detail with the direct beneficiaries.

During the mission, and in close coordination with UN-HABITAT, two workshops on Urban Sanitation were held: one in Hargeisa from 16 to 17 November; and the other in Garowe from 23 to 24 November. The Garowe workshop was held within the Puntland Urban Forum, where the extensive participation of Somali stakeholders allowed the experts to receive a comprehensive vision of the main sectoral priorities of each Municipality. The workshops were also the venues for the launches of Local Projects in Somaliland and Puntland, a crucial SUDP element consisting of the implementation of tangible urban projects alongside the normative content of the Programme.

*Luca Ginoulhiac
UNA Project Manager*

urban services - water

UNICEF - urban water and sanitation programme

Enabling the municipalities to provide clean water in partnership with the private sector

The SUDP is working closely with a sister European Commission funded programme, the UNICEF-implemented Urban Water and Sanitation Programme.

The project is the result of several years of joint programme development between UNICEF and the EC. From its first project in 1996 in Jowhar, UNICEF has to date supported 14 urban water projects in the region.

Water and health

twin priorities for the urban environment

There is a clear trend towards urbanization in the Somali region, and, for UNICEF, which focuses on the wellbeing of children, support to urban services is crucial. In cities, families often live in closer proximity to each other than in rural areas, and insufficient access to water leads to a multitude of health problems, especially for young children. Increased access to safe water in urban areas therefore has a significant impact on quality of life and contributes substantially to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

To improve the urban water situation in the Somali region, UNICEF has combined funding from various sources into an evolving integrated programme for urban water and sanitation. UNICEF developed a strategic approach together with the European Commission, which has been supported with

additional EC funding since July 2005. The programme is integrated into a wider urban development strategy, as defined by the SUDP. In particular, close

collaboration between agencies in sanitation and solid waste management was agreed focusing on the particular strengths of each agency.

Public-private partnership for an efficient water management

The key to reliable, safe water and good sanitation services in towns is good management and skilled staff. Urban water supplies and sanitation systems are usually complex

installations and their operation requires significant managerial and technical capacities. Management capacity in the Somali region is best found in the private sector. In this respect the country has one clear advantage, a vibrant private sector that operates in a comparatively liberal market. Somali municipalities increasingly see the benefits of outsourcing the management of utilities to the private sector to better focus on their core responsibilities.

The Urban Water and Sanitation Programme purposely encourages Somali municipalities to explore options for private sector involvement in water and sanitation management, and focuses on the enabling framework of concession agreements, tariff structures and so on. It complements the management support with targeted investment in key infrastructure to establish economically viable systems that can support a well-run operator. It is expected that the programme will be a big step forward for lasting improvements in urban water and sanitation for Somali cities.



Boy at a water kiosk



Water cart - A vast percentage of citizens does not have access to public water, and it is obliged to buy it at a higher price from private vendors

Volker Hüls
UNICEF

events

ED visits the UN-HABITAT Somalia office

On the 13th of December, the UN-HABITAT Executive Director and Under-Secretary General, Mrs. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, visited the SUDP office at Gigiri Head Quarters in Nairobi. The meeting lasted for more than one hour, during which the Executive Director asked



From right to left: the Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka ED, Maurizio Pieroni CTA, and Eric Verschuur, PMO

many questions about the activities in this post-conflict area and was briefed on the main projects of SUDP.

The Somalia Programme has expanded rapidly in recent years, becoming one of UN-HABITAT's largest country programmes. Its integrated urban development approach – combining urban planning, governance, land management, urban services, shelter for the poor, IDPs and refugees, with a high component of community participation – has attracted funding from many donors and has made UN-HABITAT a key player in the development of human settlements in Somalia.

The possibility of replicating this approach in other parts of Somalia and in other countries, if additional funding is made available, was discussed in the meeting.

Mrs. Tibaijuka also had personal conversations with all the staff present in the office and was very interested to learn what everyone's role in the programme was. The meeting ended with some advice from the Executive Director on funding and donors.

World Habitat Day

The World Habitat Day was marked in Hargeisa and Garowe on October the 3rd with garbage collection activities in which local communities, representatives from authorities and UN-HABITAT staff participated.

A speech by the UN-HABITAT Executive Director Mrs. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, was broadcasted on Somaliland TV. In Hargeisa, inhabitants of Ayaha II appreciated the initiative, but explained that their area was greatly challenged by lack of sustainable garbage collection systems and water supply.

The Puntland Urban Forum

The Puntland Urban Forum was held in the capital of Puntland, Garowe, on the 23rd - 24th of November. The workshop was highly attended by regional and local authorities, and by a broad spectrum of local actors from civil society and private sector. The Minister of Local Government and Rural Development in his opening speech highlighted the need for planning, to address comprehensively the challenges of the urban development. Working group discussions raised the attention on the priority interventions needed in the field of urban planning, water and sanitation, and local economic development. The mayors of Garowe, Bosasso, Galkaio and Qardho attended the workshop, and a representative of the UN-HABITAT office in Fukuoka, Japan, shared with the participants the experiences of urban development and community participation in South-Asian cities.

upcoming events

- Selection of the strategic local projects in Somaliland and Puntland.
- Youth training by UNICEF.
- Support to CSOs by Novib.
- Introduction workshops on urban planning.
- Start of property tax collection in Hargeisa.
- The Joint Needs Assessment.

SUDP, its funding agencies and its 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, 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 by local consortia, building on the two capacity-building elements already mentioned. The programme is funded by European Commission, UNDP, Government of Italy, Government of Japan, UNICEF and DFID.



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 Resettlements of Returnees and Internally Displaced People' programme (ARRI) which has started with two pilot projects for the inhabitants of Ayaha II in Hargeisa and three sites in Eastern Garowe.



DFID - Through its Department for International Development (DFID), the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 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 (UNICEF) and UN-HABITAT recently started cooperation to rebuild the houses for the tsunami-affected town of Xaafuun as part of a new resettlement project. The project is implemented with UNICEF funding. UNICEF

also implements a training component for youth and is an important counterpart as the Implementing Agency for another EC-funded programme for urban water.



UN-HABITAT - The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), being the lead agency in the implementation of the SUDP, is responsible for the overall management and the main technical inputs. The UN-HABITAT Urban Planning framework forms the core component of SUDP activities and also gives inputs to activities from other agencies that are not part of the SUDP.



UNA - The Italian NGO Consortium UNA represents three Italian Universities and a number of international NGOs, of which Africa '70 is the best known in the area. 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.



Novib - Dutch NGO Novib is part of the Oxfam network and 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 is supporting shelter activities by providing food for work at the construction sites in Ayaha II, Hargeisa.

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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.