

sudp newsletter

urban
development programme
for the somali region



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First session of the SUDP Steering Committee

On the 20th of April 2006, the main SUDP partners participated in the first meeting of the SUDP Steering Committee, which took place at the UN-HABITAT headquarters in Nairobi. Representatives of the European Commission, UNDP, UN-HABITAT, UNA and ILO were present.

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United Nations and World Bank Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)

Reflecting the global call for improved aid coordination, donors are increasingly focusing on providing concerted, timely support to post-conflict recovery and peace building. UN-HABITAT has been closely involved in the UN and World Bank coordinated Somali Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) since July 2005. The JNA will provide the baseline data and strategies for a long-term Reconstruction and Development Programme for the Somali Region.

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HRF funds additional houses in Xaafuun

In April, the Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) for Somalia, which is managed by UN-OCHA, released funding to construct 31 more houses in Xaafuun, the tsunami-affected town on the Puntland coast. UN-HABITAT and UNICEF will include these additional houses in the ongoing construction programme.



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Hargeisa, Ayaha II



The construction of the first 170 houses for displaced people, returnees and returnees is advancing well. The beneficiaries, selected among the most vulnerable families, build their own houses and receive on-the-job training. The newly acquired skills will put them in a better position to find a job and integrate into society.

Somali cities need planning, but with flexibility

Somali cities face severe problems as they strive to cope with a growing number of rural migrants and returnees, coupled with the settling of sometimes large numbers of internally displaced persons. More than in other countries, such a rapid urbanisation process significantly affects not only the geography and economy of the country, but the very nature of Somali society and the institutional system it rests upon. The transition from a largely rural to a mainly urban society is likely to challenge the decision-making processes of the nomadic society and its clan-based system of governance.

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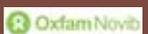
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European Commission



editorial

One year on: SUDP in review

The operational environment of the SUDP: improvements in governance

The environment in which the SUDP operates, although still volatile, has seen some encouraging improvements in the first year. The enhancement of local governance structures made during the 'Good Local Governance and Leadership Training Programme' (GLTP), which came to an end in June 2005, provides a good starting point for the SUDP. The recently selected district councils in key cities in Puntland were immediately given similar capacity-development support. The submission of proposals for local projects in Somaliland and Puntland reflected an improvement in the capacities of the participating local authorities. Project proposals, produced without external support, were of fairly good quality and were often based on broad-based dialogue with other key non-governmental stakeholders. The Transitional Federal Government also took an important step forward with its first parliamentary meeting inside Somalia, despite the fighting ongoing in Mogadishu at the time and the numerous difficulties they faced to get to this stage. UN-HABITAT initiated the first discussions with the TFG focusing on land issues.

Coordination: a growing umbrella for urban interventions

The founding donors of the programme, the European Commission and UNDP, are pleased to see that many others have added their contributions to the integrated core programme. The Government of Japan funded shelter-related activities in favour of IDPs, and UNICEF supported the tsunami victims in Xaafuun. DFID and the Government of Italy have further supported urban governance and management activities. This shows that the role of SUDP as an umbrella programme is

working, and that many countries actively support this new approach towards sustainable urban development. In the framework of inter-agency coordination, mechanisms are continuously strengthened and a growing number of activities are implemented in line with the strategy of the SUDP urban planning component, especially in the area of resettlement of displaced communities.

Benefits and complications of a multi-donor, multi-agency programme

The first series of activities organised jointly by the SUDP consortium have led to closer collaboration among the agencies. The organising of joint activities is of great advantage in terms of organisational costs and logistics, ultimately giving the programme more time to focus on the targeted beneficiaries: urban poor, women, children, displaced persons and other vulnerable groups. It is expected that through the sharing of offices, joint proposal writing and further coordination of activities, the benefits and synergies of the consortium will only grow in the coming years.

*Maurizio Pieroni,
SUDP Chief Technical Advisor*



Bosasso, May 9, 2006 - during the night, the fire destroys approximately 200 buuls in the '100 Bush' IDP camp. UN-HABITAT staff, after surveying the site, develop a the municipality and the landlords. Once the agreement on the future layout of the settlement is reached, the ground is marked, and people start to rebuild their houses,

local projects

Local projects: strategic choices for urban restructuring and local economic development

The selection of the SUDP strategic local projects was finalised in March 2006. Most cities opted to reorganise their market areas, which today are characterised by heavy congestion – due to the numerous informal vendors clogging the streets and unorganised public transport – and unhygienic conditions. The real challenge lies in incorporating the informal vendors (mostly urban poor and women) into the process and allocating them proper spaces so they too can improve their livelihoods. Livestock is another important economic component of local economic development.

The local projects will allow building high-standard hygienic markets and slaughterhouses and putting in place proper management structures. Since the selection, the SUDP partners have been providing on-the-job support to guide the different stakeholders in transforming the initial proposals into sustainable projects whereby the technical quality of the building components will be guaranteed. Construction is expected to start in the second half of 2006.



Markets as engines of local economic development

Selected Local Projects

Boroma:	market
Bosasso:	market
Burao:	market
Galkayo:	market and transport hub
Gardo:	slaughterhouse
Garowe:	slaughterhouse
Gebiley:	slaughterhouse
Hargeisa:	markets

shelter

Bosasso:

Fire causes severe damage to three IDP settlements

Unattended cooking fires and arson are the key causes of the fires that rage yearly in Bosasso's IDP settlements. High temperatures, strong seasonal winds, and congested settlements mean that fires quickly get out of control. In recent weeks, flames seriously damaged three settlements.

UN-HABITAT is taking a leading role in developing and implementing fire plans for such communities. Preventive measures ensure firebreaks, access lanes for firefighters, places to keep firefighting equipment for an IDP Fire Intervention and Protection Team, and safe places to bring personal objects in case of fire.

The destruction left by a fire is also an opportunity to develop more radical settlement layouts that clearly mark plots and provide space for communal areas and latrines, which are almost non-existent today. This also improves security for women, who will no longer be obliged to adventure in the night for long distances to satisfy their needs.

Agreements signed by the IDP committee, the municipality and the landowner elaborates and reinforces the plan, allowing access lanes, access to clean water, solid waste, sufficient pit latrines, management of services, and basic protection against ad hoc evictions.

Upgraded plans are ready for 100 Bush, Mingis, Adjuran, Shabelle and Absame. In the case of 100 Bush, where about 200 buuls were destroyed, implementing the agreed plan has been difficult. Landowner interference, disorganised communities, and coordination problems between organisations and the authorities have been constant challenges. However, the municipality has since taken stronger leadership and coordination is improving. Experience has shown that once the first structures go up, people start to understand better the intentions of the plan. Improvements in the shelter structures also relay a new sense of safety and ownership.

Bosasso: planning and reconstruction of the '100 Bush' IDP settlement after the fire



plan for the reconstruction of the settlement, foreseeing appropriate firebreaks and hygienic measures. The plan is discussed and negotiated with the local community, respecting planners' indications and firebreaks. Lanes allowing vehicular access are foreseen for emergency interventions.

land management

Land in Hargeisa: Source of disputes for a traditionally nomadic society

Historically, land was not a major issue for Somalis, who have lived in nomadic tribes for centuries, particularly in the northern areas. But urbanisation has put enormous pressure on this resource, especially in the absence of legal land administration systems. The situation is further complicated by a high rate of firearm possession among a large part of the population and a limited level of law and order. These days land is a major issue, as it is one of the few valuable resources present in an area lacking economic opportunities, with an average income per household around US\$290 per year.

Considered as a primary means to earn money, the problem is further aggravated by the massive return of displaced people and refugees. What generally used to be public and private land was grabbed during and after the war and, as land registration systems have been completely destroyed, it is difficult to determine who is the legitimate owner of a piece of land. This has created a very unstable situation where violent conflict can suddenly emerge with fatal consequences, as illustrated in this recent event:

“Around 09:30 in the morning in Hargeisa, shooting was reported in the area between the main bridge and the city centre. It was due to a land dispute about a plot next to a major warehouse. A local khat dealer had been authorised by the local government to use this warehouse and he wanted to build a house on a piece of land that he bought from the government. A woman from another clan claimed the plot and declared that her family has owned it for a couple of decades. The confrontation occurred in the street when the khat dealer brought his armed men. Two shops were burned down, many stones were thrown, three people died

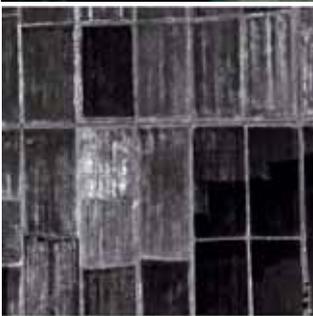
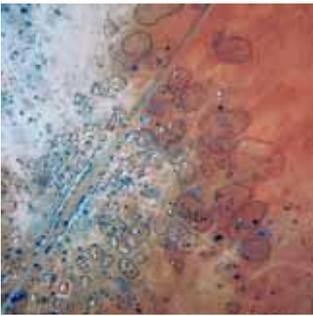


Grabbed urban land

and about thirty were wounded. A land dispute committee has been appointed to facilitate negotiations between the two clans.”

The example mentioned above is not an isolated case – the situation is more or less the same in other parts of Somaliland and Puntland. Land management systems are non-existent and the land situation remains chaotic. As a result, control over land has been concentrated in the hands of major clans. The real challenge for the authorities will be to rebuild a proper land management system with a legal framework that is capable of reconciling people and harmonising the coexistence among customary law, Islamic law and updated secular law. Otherwise, the land, which is the most basic aspect of subsistence, will continue to be the source of grief and fear for many Somalis.

Florian Bruyas
Land Expert



urban management

United Nations and World Bank Joint Needs Assessment (JNA)

The article continues from the front page - UN-HABITAT is the lead agency for two sub-sectors (clusters) of the needs assessment, Urban Infrastructure and Land & Property. The JNA process aims at defining a clear vision and targets for the development of Somalia over the next five years. To realise these, JNA partners identify and agree on a set of national development priorities that can be realistically achieved within the frames of available donor funding and existing absorption capacity in Somalia.

Over the past months, UN-HABITAT and World Bank have carried out intensive joint field assessment missions on infrastructure needs throughout Somalia, reaching many of the most interesting areas and peoples of the country. For the land and property issues, UN-HABITAT collaborates with the UNDP Governance and Financial Unit and with the Land & Tenure Section of UN-HABITAT headquarters, on the challenging task of developing an immediate action plan for land dispute resolution and a road map for a durable land management system in Somalia. In May, UN-HABITAT also met with TFG Ministers in their transitional seat in Baidoa to discuss UN-HABITAT's involvement in the development of the land sector. TFG passed on a loud and clear message of the need for UN-HABITAT assistance.

The first drafts of JNA Cluster Reports are now out for review and validation by the Somali stakeholders and involved donors. Preliminary outcomes of the

process indicate that urban reconstruction and development needs start from the most basic needs of the people in Somali cities. This is especially clear with regard to internally displaced persons and South-Central Somalia in general, where the start-up priority is to establish peace and security in order for any significant development investments to have a sustainable impact. In Somaliland and Puntland, the main task of the JNA is to agree with local stakeholders and international donors on the key strategic, high-impact projects that can be implemented immediately and that will lay the foundation for larger long-term reconstruction programmes.



*Paula Pennanen
Regional/Urban Policy Expert*

urban planning and design

Somali cities need planning, but with flexibility

The article continues from the front page - Yet since this transition is only at an initial stage, a major issue is to design urban planning tools fitted with the specific decision-making mechanisms that still characterise Somali society – above all land allocation. Public authorities' current weak capacity to preside over urban growth is certainly tied to their economic, technical and skills shortages.

However, it is also related to the limited legitimacy central and local governments have as representatives of the collective interest and as major actors in urban development. Planning legitimacy rests upon the notion that the city requires a regulatory framework for the benefit of the majority of its residents, and that only governments can provide it and are entrusted with the

authority to establish it. However, in present-day Somalia, notions such as collective interest or public good are only incipient. In the foreseeable future, customary institutions and norms will inevitably continue to play a pivotal role in shaping urban growth, and urban planning will have to tolerantly follow course with the presumably meandering transition from a nomadic to a prevalingly urban society.

The SUDP, supported by the Università IUAV di Venezia, intends to assist the local and regional authorities in developing these regulatory frameworks while taking into account the existent governance structures.

*Marcello Balbo
Università IUAV di Venezia*

events

UN-OCHA funds additional houses in Xaafuun

The article continues from the front page - The programme faced higher construction costs than expected due to accessibility problems and the lack of a community contribution, standard in other shelter projects in Somalia. This necessitated a downward adjustment in the number of houses that could be built under the available budget. However, with the new funding from UN-OCHA and additional fundraising efforts, the programme still aims at establishing the original number of 400 new housing units.

Meanwhile, the construction of houses in Xaafuun is proceeding at an increased pace, with the arrival of large stocks of building materials earlier this year (see page 6).

The 1st session of the Steering Committee has taken place



From left to right:
Anna Tibaijuka *UN-HABITAT Executive Director*, Alioune Badiane *R.O.A.A.S Director*, Mohamed El-Sioufi *Human Settlements Advisor*, Eric Verschuur *PMO*, Maurizio Pieroni *SUDP Chief Technical Advisor*, and Monique Sauced from the *European Commission*.

upcoming events

- Launch of Local Projects in the field of Solid Waste Management.
- SUDP to be featured in the Third Edition of the World Urban Forum (WUFIII) in Vancouver, Canada.
- Completion of the Joint Needs Assessment.
- Start of construction activities as part of the Local Projects selected in Somaliland and Puntland.
- Completion of land situation analysis and development of land management strategy.
- Re-planning of all temporary IDP settlements in Bossaso.
- Start of the Municipal Finance Training in Puntland.

The article continues from the front page -

The committee, which gathers once every six months, is the key body for reviewing results reached so far and suggesting changes to the programmatic approach and planned activities.

At the end of the day the participants had the opportunity to meet other important partners of the Urban Development Programme during a reception organised at the United Nations Recreation Centre. UN-HABITAT Executive Director, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, attended the event and praised the European Commission and UNDP for supporting Somali towns towards sustainable urban development.

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**. The programme is funded by European Commission and UNDP, and co-funded by Government of Italy, Government of Japan, UNICEF, DFID and UN-OCHA. 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 (ARRI) which has started with two pilot projects 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 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. 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 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.



UN-OCHA - The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs recently decided to release some money from the Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF), to build additional houses in the tsunami-affected village of Xaafuun.

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