



Participants of Hargeisa Urban Visioning Week discuss their urban vision © UN-Habitat, F. Tonnarelli



Land Law and City Planning consultation, Baidoa © UN-Habitat/F.Tonnarelli



Residents of Hargeisa and experts attend multiple workshops to map out the future of the city during Hargeisa Urban Visioning Week #Child FriendlyCity 2019 © UN-Habitat/F.Tonnarelli

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Property registration drive, planned city extension and integration of internally displaced persons in Somalia

States across Somalia want to increase domestic revenue sources to supplement insufficient budgets for the delivery of better services. In Baidoa district, Southwest State, more than 21,400 properties were mapped and registered through a United Nations Joint Programme on Local Governance in coordination with government counterparts and other stakeholders.

Local people have expressed their willingness to pay taxes and for municipal authorities to invest in social services to improve collaboration between public authorities and local communities.

The programme, concluded in February 2021, led to demarcating sub-zones boundaries, updating

district administrative maps, classifying and naming roads, and installing road signs. These improvements are expected to generate an estimated USD 500,000 per year in untapped revenue streams.

Two other initiatives have also been launched aimed at supporting local and state authorities to tackle protracted displacement in Somalia's Southwest State.

More than 55,000 households of displaced communities in 483 sites around the former agricultural centre of Baidoa were recorded in 2020. Under the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund supported Midnimo (Unity) project, implemented by UN-Habitat and the International

The new road also allows access to a planned city extension for more than 50,000 inhabitants. UN-Habitat together with IOM, the United Nations Development Programme and the Resident Coordinator's Office, has developed an upscaling project for durable solutions utilizing UN-Habitat's Social Tenure Security Model. Targeting 25,000 IDPs and host community members, the Saameynta project is supported by the Swiss Development Cooperation and the Dutch Embassy.

With support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, detailed area planning has started on an urban regeneration project in Baidoa's second largest cluster of IDP sites. The project aims to foster local reintegration and social cohesion with hosting communities by engaging with youth and other local action groups.

The case of Somalia demonstrates that:

- States have been exploring options to increase domestic revenue sources to top up budget shortfalls and provide better services. Technical support helped to improve revenue generation capacity.
- Local people expressed their willingness to pay taxes, challenging the municipality on the need to invest in social services and infrastructure development.
- Effective consultations and awareness campaigns are essential for property surveys to be conducted smoothly.
- The skills and experience necessary to maintain the property taxation system after transfer to the municipalities is lacking.
- The database variables and their acceptable values should be non-ambiguous, informative and as useful for wide application as possible.

“The locals were keen to register their properties in the hope that it will contribute to land security and provide unique identities to individual houses.”

Fowski Mohamed Nuur, local community representative

“Property registration, using Geographic Information System, will not only ease and increase property tax collections but will also enhance transparency and accountability in the revenue collection process.”

Ali Abdi Adem, the Director General at Baidoa's Ministry of Finance of Southwest State

Over **55,000** households of displaced communities in 483 sites around the former agricultural centre of Baidoa were recorded in 2020.

Country: **Somalia**
 Donor: **Peace Building Fund, Denmark, Dutch Embassy, European Union, Norway, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Swiss Development Cooperation, United States Agency for International Development**
 Implementing Partner: **Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation, Ministry of Finance Southwest State, UN-Habitat**
 Duration: **Midnimo I / II: December 2016-January 2021 / Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery: June 2018-June 2023**