

# UN HABITAT

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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REPRESENTATIVES TO UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS  
PROGRAMME**

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**Agenda Item 6:**

**Results of UN-Habitat's work in selected countries in Africa: the cases of Angola,  
Ethiopia, Mozambique and Rwanda**

*Presented by the Regional Office for Africa*

## **Background and Rationale**

The Regional Office for Africa has the responsibility to coordinate UN-Habitat country activities with all HQ Thematic Branches and to supervise UN-Habitat country teams in sub-Saharan Africa. This presentation shows the work done in four African countries during the past 5 years and how UN-Habitat has managed to obtain lasting results, which are having a real impact at the country level in both operational and normative terms, highlighting the challenges and opportunities.

UN-Habitat project development is aligned with the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan, the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework/Programme (UNDAF/UNDAP) at the country level, and with the donors' work plans and priorities in that given country. UN-Habitat presence at the country level depends on the level of the country project portfolio, hence successful fund raising is a precondition to country presence. This requires cutting-edge knowledge/expertise and flexibility to adapt to the countries on-going situation and specific Government requests based on their national development priorities.

To sustain a country programme, UN-Habitat must earn the trust at the country level in terms of delivery of results and through the establishment of strong partnerships. These partners include key central government institutions, local authorities, UN Agencies, bi/multi-lateral donors, civil society organisations, the private sector and academia.

This presentation focuses on the cases of four country programmes, namely: **Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Rwanda**, focussing on how UN-Habitat was able to achieve tangible results in several thematic areas.

### **Angola**

In Angola housing and urbanisation issues have been placed high in the national development agenda. This country of approximately 30 million people, also as a result of a prolonged civil war, is already 70% urbanised. Almost half of this urban population (8-9 million people) lives in Luanda, the capital city, where over 80% of the citizens live in informal settlements ("*musseques*").

During the global celebrations of the 2008 World Habitat Day organised in Luanda, the President launched the National Housing and Urban Development Programme which resulted in the construction of more than 350,000 housing units until now. However, due to the high prices of housing units produced by the real estate market, they are mostly unaffordable to the low-income class. It is also important to note that the country's economy was severely affected by the drop in oil prices during the second half of 2015, a primary resource representing 90% of its GDP.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between UN-Habitat and the Government of Angola in 2011. On this basis, a financial contribution of USD 683,000 USD was made by the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing to UN-Habitat in September 2014 to support the development of a National Urban Policy (NUP), among other technical advisory activities. It should be noted that UN-Habitat is the only UN Agency being funded by the Government in Angola. In addition, the Government provides an office free of charge plus accommodation to UN-Habitat staff/consultants which, considering the high living costs of Luanda, is a very substantive support.

UN-Habitat has established its presence in Angola in 2015 and since then has been working both in the development of the NUP and in raising other project funds, especially with UNICEF. The NUP provides a 20-years framework that provides guidance to the Government in how to implement the NUA through

its 5-years National Development Plans. The NUP has important legal, institutional and (spatial and socio-economic) programme implications for the country, for which UN-Habitat will continue to provide its technical assistance. Government is now planning to renew its contribution to UN-Habitat to support the development of a National Housing Policy (NHP) as a subset of the NUP.

The Regional Office's work in Angola, effectuated mainly through a young, experienced and dynamic country team, was supported especially by the Urban Planning and Design Branch (for the NUP development) and the Housing and Slum Upgrading Branch (especially for the NHP development, starting now). Importantly, the UN-Habitat Country Programme Document (HCPD) 2017-2021 was approved by the President's Office in May 2017 and, as a consequence, UN-Habitat is now eligible to receive funds through the national budget allocation. This is a very noticeable fact, since it shows the degree of trust and the vital importance of UN-Habitat work in this country.

In October 2017, the UN Joint Programme (UNJP) on Sustainable Urban Development was endorsed by the UN Country Team, being the first UNJP formally adopted in the country. In December 2017, The Ministry requested that the HCDP should remain the reference framework for implementing such a Joint Programme. This UNJP, combined with the Government contribution, has the potential to provide the financial stability for guaranteeing longer-term UN-Habitat's presence in the country.

## **Ethiopia**

Ethiopia, the 2<sup>nd</sup> most populated African country with approximately 100 million people, is urbanising quickly, despite having currently an urban population below 30%. A National Urban Policy was approved in 2005, followed by important investments, especially in the most important urban centres. Ethiopia has also undertaken since then a flagship housing programme through the construction of condominiums, targeting the low and middle-income social groups. In the past few years the country has embarked on a large investment programme to construct 7 industrial parks in strategic locations, with clear urbanisation effects.

UN-Habitat has re-established its presence in Ethiopia since 2013, and signed a 3-years cooperation framework MoU with the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MUDHo) that same year/ The MoU was recently renewed during a bilateral meeting between the UN-Habitat Executive Director and the Hon. Minister of Urban Development and Housing in February 2018 in Kuala Lumpur, during the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF9), having as key reference document the HCPD for Ethiopia 2016-2021.

In 2013 and in 2015 the Government of Ethiopia, through MUDHo, has been funding UN-Habitat cumulatively for a total amount of 500,000 USD, through which UN-Habitat has produced the following outputs, among others: (i) a key publication entitled "Structural Transformation in Ethiopia: The Urban Dimension", which informed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP2) that includes an urban pillar; (ii) technical support to the Ministry, including the organization of two National Urban Forums; (iii) high-level training to city leaders of the Oromiya region; (iv) publication of the State of Addis Ababa report (much appreciated by the Mayor and co-funded by Sweden with 200,000 USD); (v) establishment of the City Performance Monitoring Framework, linked to the City Prosperity Index, which will help the government in monitoring the implementation of its policies/strategic plans. The Regional Office's work in Ethiopia was supported mainly by all HQ Thematic Branches.

Thanks to the quality of these outputs, all contributing to the overall result of supporting the Government of Ethiopia in defining the tools and increasing the capacity to be better equipped for implementing the New Urban Agenda, this country programme is currently receiving a lot of attention by several donors

resulting in 3 projects for a total amount of 6 million USD are starting in 2018, i.e.: (i) “Support to the UN-Habitat Country Programme”, with focus on regional planning, urban resilience, local capacity building and coordination of the urban agenda in Ethiopia, to be funded by Sweden; (ii) “Urban Solid Waste Management using the Fukuoka Method” in Addis Ababa and Bahir Dar, to be funded by Japan, Bahir Dar and Addis Ababa City Administrations; (iii) “Support to the sustainable development of the Hawassa city cluster” to be funded by DFID, including the provision of technical assistance in urban/regional planning, solid waste management and housing.

## **Mozambique**

Mozambique, an almost 29 million people country according to the preliminary results of the 2017 census, is also urbanising very rapidly (approximately 35% of urban population today); however, it has not yet clearly defined its urban agenda. UN-Habitat has established its presence in Mozambique since 2002, and has developed since then a growing portfolio on risk reduction and resilience, considering the high exposure of the country to several types of natural hazards such as cyclones, floods, drought and earthquakes.

This said, UN-Habitat in Mozambique has been working during the past 15 years in all its thematic areas (NB: over 40 projects implemented for a total of approximately 30 million USD), including risk reduction and rehabilitation, urban resilience, urban and regional planning, housing, slum upgrading, local capacity building, urban economy, urban legislation, land management, urban basic services, among other aspects. Therefore, it has managed to develop one of the most comprehensive country programmes in the region and has got a high level of trust and credibility at all level, from government (at central, sub-national and local levels), the UN System, bi/multilateral partners, the academia and the civil society.

There is currently a very capable UN-Habitat team in Mozambique of 20-25 professionals, composed of both international and local experts. UN-Habitat has become a reference in Mozambique, well-known for its ability to provide high level technical expertise in many areas related to its mandate. In this way, funding is being regularly secured and thanks to its continuity, important results are being achieved, among which: (i) influencing the building codes for building resilient public infrastructure, mainly schools, including on-the-job capacity building and technical assistance at both central and local levels; (ii) justifying the need for developing a National Urban Policy aligned with the NUA, soon to be discussed in Cabinet, to better guide the urbanisation process in the future; (iii) developing a strategy to support the implementation of the national housing policy, including a housing profile and on-going technical support; (iv) being systematically be called upon for technical assistance by several municipalities of the most important cities in the country; (v) developing strategic and long lasting partnerships with key bi/multilateral donors, such as the World Bank, and UN Agencies (especially UNICEF). The work of UN-Habitat is receiving the full support of the UN Resident Coordinator, who attended WUF9 and would like to get the Agency’s support to streamline urban work over the whole UN System in Mozambique.

## **Rwanda**

Rwanda is a country that has placed sustainable urbanisation high in its development agenda, as a mean to reach the middle-income status by 2025. This 12 million people country registers the highest population density in Africa (450 people per hectare) and cannot avoid to be better urbanised in order to strategically face its spatial challenges. UN-Habitat established its presence in Rwanda after the genocide in 1994 to support the implementation of a reconstruction programme, and has since 2004

worked on a diversified country programme (from 2008 onwards under the Delivering as One UN reform) including the provision of urban basic services (especially water and sanitation), housing development for returnees, slum upgrading, environmental rehabilitation, sustainable resettlement, local capacity building and the management of the One Stop Youth Centre in Kigali.

In September 2012 a MoU was signed between the Ministry of Infrastructure and UN-Habitat to collaborate in the implementation of the global programme “*Achieving Sustainable Urban Development*” (ASUD) composed of 3 components: (i) development of a National Urbanisation Policy (NUP) including a Spatial Development Framework (SDF); (ii) providing technical support, especially in terms of urban planning, to its 6 secondary cities; (iii) provide technical support to Kigali, the capital city. Three overarching pillars defined this programme: urban legislation, urban economy and urban planning. Recently a second MoU was signed, linked to the HCPD which entails the work of all UN-Habitat Thematic Branches in Rwanda.

Importantly, the ASUD generated several results and is still creating a lot of momentum for UN-Habitat work in Rwanda:

- The NUP was approved by Cabinet in December 2015, and the Government contributed twice financially to UN-Habitat (for a total of 400,000 USD) to finalise the Spatial Development Framework (SDF) and its action plan, which will help harmonising budgeting/investments and spatial planning at the national and local levels, in support to the NUP implementation. These two instruments (NUP and SDF) are certainly helping Rwanda in better guiding its urbanisation process, in alignment with the NUA.
- City master plans for Rubavu and Nyagatare (2015-2045) and an urban planning guide targeting secondary cities technicians, as part of an on-the-job training strategy at the local level; a Green City Toolkit was also developed.
- The development of a city-wide informal settlements upgrading and prevention strategy for Kigali city, which can be linked to follow-up investment thanks to a World Bank loan.

In addition UN-Habitat, at the request of the Ministry of Youth and ICT (MYICT), has elaborated the Smart City Master Plan for Rwanda which was launched by the President during the Transform Africa Summit that took place in Kigali in May 2017. As a follow-up, UN-habitat is developing some concept notes for implementing key initiatives included in this master plan, to support the government in mobilising financial resources for its implementation. UN-Habitat is also implementing the Rapid Planning research project funded by Germany which aims to develop and test rapid trans-sectorial and integrated planning methodologies for urban areas.