

Somalia Country Programme

Annual Report 2019

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UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



Somalia Country Programme **2019 Annual report**

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Foreword

Somalia urban growth is complex due to the influx of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), regular migration and natural disasters that have caused an unprecedented spike in the urbanisation rates. This rapid influx has created a strain on critical urban services and infrastructure putting Somalia urbanisation needs at the core of UN-Habitat's work.

2019 marked the end of the Somali National Development Plan 2017-2019 which coincided with the conclusion of the UN-Habitat strategic plan 2014-2019. This provided an opportunity for reflection to synergize our work with the priorities outlined in the New Somalia National Development plan (NDP-9 2020-2024) while aligning with the new UN-Habitat strategy. Furthermore, the National Development Plan (NDP 9) showcases the increased government commitment in accelerating efforts towards actualisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2019, UN-Habitat paid attention to durable solutions through restructuring of the urban planning portfolio to include a holistic approach to the urban crisis

while addressing the various triggers and consequences of displacement. Working as a member of the UN County team, UN-Habitat interventions are underpinned by the agency's core normative programming on inclusive and sustainable development of cities.

This report highlights UN-Habitat's 2019 work with the federal government, and its Member States in responding to the Somalia national development plan priorities and contributing to the sustainable development goals (particularly SDG 11) and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA).

We acknowledge the support from development partners, UN sister agencies and our implementing partners. Additionally, we are grateful for the continuous support received from the federal government of Somalia and its member states in the delivery of these interventions. Equally, we thank the people of Somalia for owning the interventions and their cooperation. We look forward to continued partnership and successful implementation in 2020.

2019

marked the end of the **Somali National Development Plan 2017-2019** which coincided with the conclusion of the UN-Habitat strategic plan 2014-2019.



Ishaku Maitumbi
Office in Charge (OIC)
UN-Habitat Somalia Programme

UN-Habitat Somalia projects geographical coverage

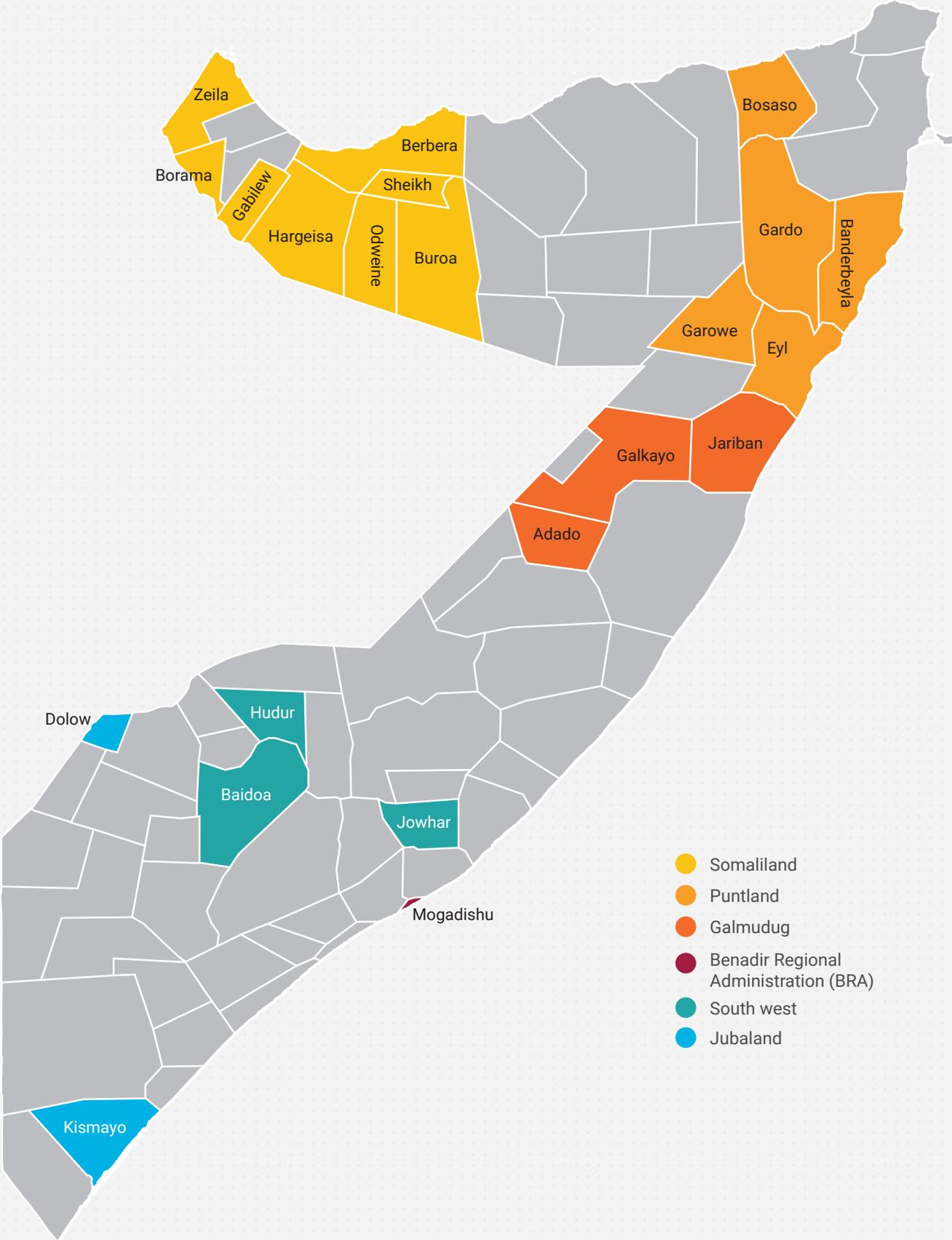


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Urban Planning

HIGHLIGHTS



Hargeisa Urban Vision 2020-2040 developed; 420 (156 female) people participated



36 staff from the Ministry of public works and local authority trained on GIS



10 staff from the Ministry of public works trained on urban planning

Spatial Plans in Somaliland and Puntland

In the past years, the program provided technical support to develop spatial plans, defining the future growth direction of the towns in Somalia, their infrastructure development needs and incorporating them in District Profiles as well as in the District Development Plans. In addition, the spatial plans were developed in a way to impart knowledge and transfer skills to local counterparts. In 2019, the programme maintained close collaboration with state ministries responsible for urban development and land management, focusing on the implementation of the District Development plans through assisting in road surveying and mapping, road opening and accompanying community information.

In Somaliland, the programme trained 36 staff from the Ministry of Public Works, Land and Housing and Hargeisa Municipality on application of Geographic Information System (GIS) and Surveying on Land Management for increasing inhouse capacity on GIS software application and surveying tools. This was to boost geospatial capacity of the government authorities for the implementation of the master plans. For instance one of the top priorities of the Ministry for 2019 was the continuation of the Gabiley Master Plan implementation, which continued with demarcation of a planned city extension of about 1 km², the upgrade of the main transport corridor of the city, and the construction of key facilities such as markets and health clinics.

In Puntland, the Minister of Public Works, Housing and Transport, Puntland State of Somalia, together with the Mayor of Garowe launched a new phase for the implementation of the Garowe Spatial Strategic Plan in August 2019. The planning unit from the Ministry, consisting of urban planners, GIS specialists and other engineers, and the Puntland Highway Authority worked on the city extension plans as per Urban Regulatory Framework and within the parameters of the cabinet-endorsed urban land management law. This included training of engineering students for land surveying and urban land management tools. To this end, new roads and residential areas are demarcated in Garowe as part of implementation of Spatial Strategic Plan. Further support to implement Bosaso City Extension Plan in currently ongoing under the leadership of MoPWH&T and close collaboration with Bosaso Municipality.

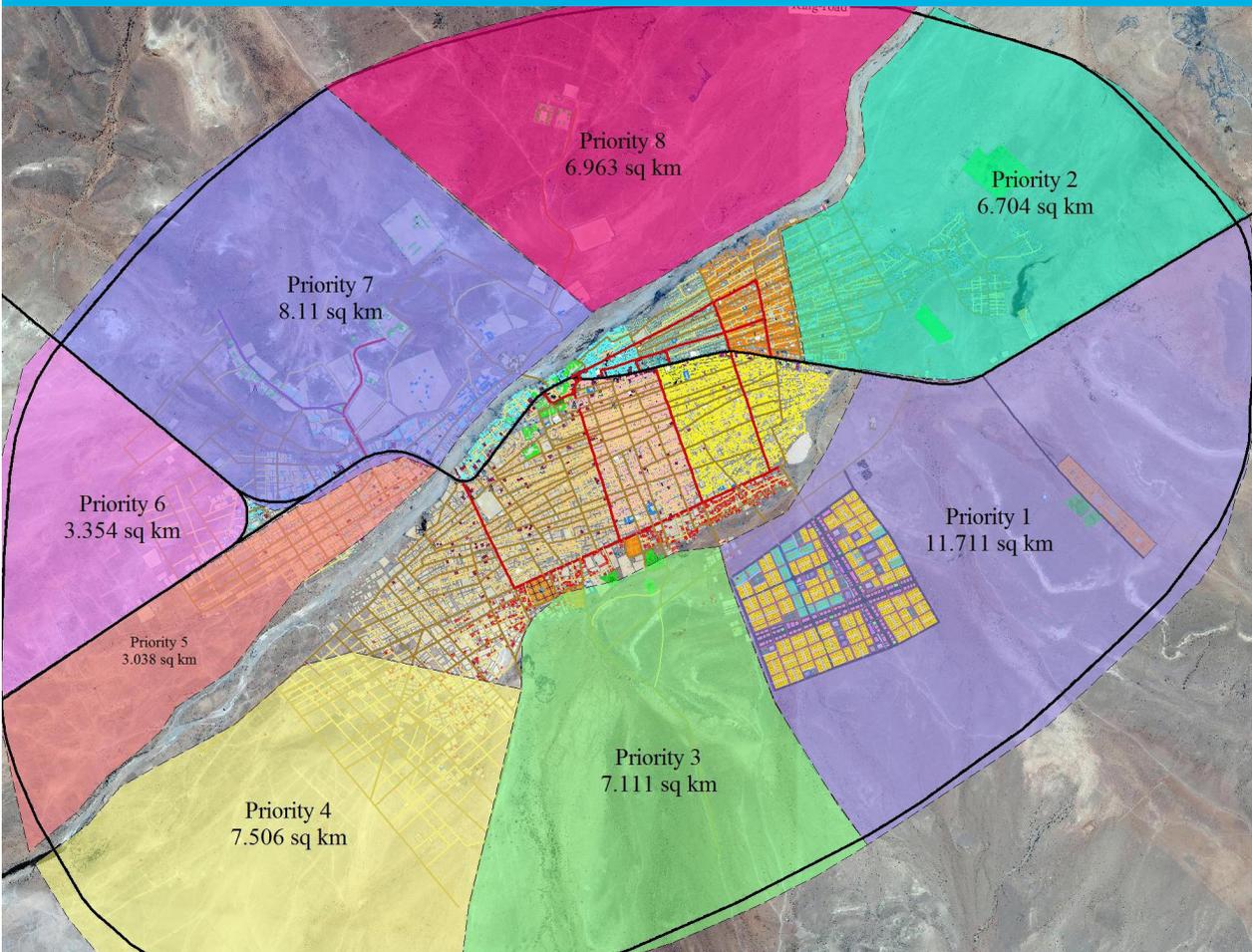


The Minister and the Mayor of Garowe visiting the extension area © UN-Habitat



Road surveying in Garowe © UN-Habitat

In Puntland, the Minister of Public Works, Housing and Transport, Puntland State of Somalia, together with the Mayor of Garowe launched a new phase for the implementation of the Garowe Spatial Strategic Plan in August 2019.



A map of the Garowe Spatial Strategic Plan highlighting the extension areas

Urban Profiling in Federal Member States

The unregulated growth of the urban centers makes it very challenging for newly established state institutions and local authorities in Federal Member States to cope with the humanitarian crises and to **“make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (Sustainable Development Goal 11)”**. Jubbaland and South West States of Somalia are both in their infant stages, but yet the Ministry of Public Works, Reconstruction and Housing (MOPWRH) in both states, are mandated to lead and promote rehabilitation of public infrastructure and executing public works. However, physical planning capacities within the ministries in general and on urban planning are still limited.

Building upon the achievements of the previous initiatives in Spatial Planning and Land Administration, the programme supported the MOPWRH in Jubbaland and South West State with the provision of human resources and technical support in laying foundation for the establishment of functional urban development department in the long run.

A core component is data compilation and data management for improved coordination in the area of urban planning and management. Technical support was provided for the drafting of a basic set of urban standards and guidelines as the base for an Urban Regulatory Framework to steer and direct urban planning. This was matched with continued support on selected technical issues for technical staff of local administrations from selected district, such as Rapid Urban Profiling, Land Use Mapping through GIS and understanding Urban Regulatory Frameworks.

Additionally, the programme delivered a training of trainers on Rapid Urban Profiling and Land Use to the ministry to help replicate the training and build capacity of the municipalities in South West State. Similarly, as part of an effort to strengthen urban planning capacity of ministries of public works of both states, 10 staff members were trained on basic urban planning in the Ethiopian Management Institute which included exposure to urban management practices in Ethiopia and forged peer to peer learning relationship.



Members of MOPWRH, MoPIED and Baidoa Municipality attending a training © UN-Habitat



2019
 launch of the Hargeisa Urban Vision 2020-2040 (In Somaliland) through a participatory process, **involving consultation of 420 (156 female) participants** with a special of focus on children.

Thematic Map Elaboraiton for vision statement and objectives © UN-Habitat

City Visioning in Hargeisa and Mogadishu

In 2019, UN-Habitat in partnership with the Municipality of Hargeisa, the Ministry of Public Works and the Government of Somaliland in general, launched the Hargeisa Urban Vision 2020-2040 (In Somaliland) through a participatory process, involving consultation of 420 (156 female) participants with a special of focus on children. The Urban vision was developed by looking back at ‘where we come from’, ‘where we are now’ and ‘where and what we want to be’ in 5, 10 and 20 years’ time from now. For the first time, the process involved the children of Hargeisa who envisioned their future city – applying the Child-Friendly City approach. The participants summarized their vision of Hargeisa in 2040 as a Creative, Caring, Child-Friendly, Clean, Connected, Climate Resilient and Cooperative City.

In parallel, 15 children from all the districts of Hargeisa were involved in a Block By Block Workshop, a digital participation methodology which helped them through a videogame to design the open space in front of the central Stadium of the city. The innovative suggestions and inclusive design ideas provided by children and gathered with the tool will be the foundation of a Public Space Design, hopefully to be jointly implemented by Hargiesia Municipality and JPLG.

Children developing a public space design through Block by Block, a digital participation tool © UN-Habitat



Governance

HIGHLIGHTS



5 Federal member states and BRA supported to **develop a Local Government Finance Policy**



Urban Land Management Law developed and approved in Puntland state



10 government officials trained on formulation of inclusive land policy



15 districts in Somaliland and Puntland trained on implementation of the internal audit charter



326 local council members administration trained in local leadership



Urban Land Management

With Somalia's current landscape, including recent trends of population growth, urbanization, displacement and return flows, desertification and land degradation, and climate change are putting additional pressure on the land governance system, further highlighting the importance to address issues of land administration, land governance and land policy. These issues must be addressed comprehensively with key engagement by Federal, Regional and Municipal governments.

During the year in Puntland, the Joint Program on Local Governance supported the development of Urban Land Management Law under the leadership of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport. It is the first time that Puntland administration has developed a law of its kind through a series of consultative sessions with land management stakeholders. The final version of the Urban Land Management Law was approved by the council of ministers and as per the constitution, the law was passed to the House of Representatives of Puntland Regional State. The Urban Land Management Law provides guidance on land management processes in Puntland, clarifies different roles and responsibilities of the relevant government agencies and advocates inclusive, pro-poor planning land use and land planning approaches.

Puntland council of ministers approving Urban Land Management Law © UN-Habitat

Municipal Finance

A strategic capacity assessment conducted earlier in the year established that there were no appropriate finance policies at sub-national structure throughout the country, albeit local governments are responsible for managing financial resources at sub-national levels. As a result, the programme supported development of Local Government Finance Policy for five Federal Member States, namely, Benadir Regional Administration Hirshabelle, Galmudug, Jubaland and South West State. The purpose of the policy is to provide a uniformed and consistent guide to manage financial resources of the local governments in order to provide public services in a more efficient, effective and accountable manner.

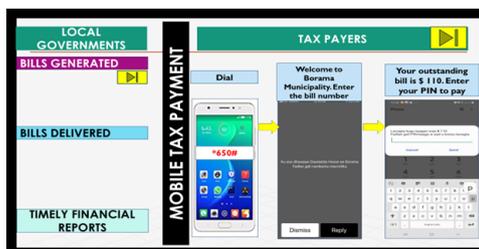
As part of an effort to strengthen accountability and transparency at sub-national level, the program assisted selected districts in Somaliland and Puntland to operationalize and strengthen the functions of internal audit units. Working closely with Ministry of Interior and other relevant stakeholders, the program supported development of Internal Audit Charter that clarifies roles and responsibilities of internal audit units. The development of Internal Audit Charter is informed by the prevailing Local Government Laws, Public Financial Management Act and by large constitutions. In Puntland and Somaliland, Internal Audit trainings were conducted in Hargeisa and Garowe, involving target districts, representatives from Ministries of Interior, Finance, Auditor General and Office of Accounting General. of Puntland and Somaliland.

As a result of the capacity enhancement, several districts for the first time submitted an internal audit report focusing on meeting revenue targets and implementation of district work plans in time and within the approved budget.



Policy Validation Workshop in Baidoa and Mogadishu © UN-Habitat

In the past years, the Somalia programme has supported the automation of local government financial system. In 2019, the government of Puntland as part of the government-led expansion strategy, extended the automated systems to 2 new districts of Burtinle and Galdogob. Through the JPLG program additional efforts was made in upgrading the existing systems as part of a wider effort to unify financial management systems. This is intended to maximize revenue and subsequently increase service delivery. Conversely, the JPLG program worked closely with relevant government institutions to introduce a mobile money payment system to ease payment of taxes for citizens. This mobile payment approach is now up and running in Borama, Somaliland and Garowe in Puntland.



An overview of the installed digital payment platform

Local Leadership Management

To strengthen the functions of local councillors and administration, the programme delivers series of training materials within the framework of Local Leadership Training Conflict Management trainings and Gender Mainstreaming. These trainings orient councilors and administration with their functions to better serve the public, consolidate peace and make practical contribution towards the realization of Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2019, the Local Leadership Management Trainings were delivered through Local Government Institute and in close collaboration with Ministry of Interior(Mol) in those regions. The program organized refresher Local Leadership Management for Burao and Borama District Councils where 48 Councilors were trained on leadership skills and conflict management. Similarly, 148 (33 female) Councilors in Garowe, Bosaso, Burtinle and Galkayo were trained on

Local Leadership Management in Puntland through the Ministry of Interior and Local Governments. In Mogadishu, the programme trained 85(35Female) participants mainly District Commissioners, their Deputies, members from women associations and Youth groups on Local Leadership Management. In South West State, where intensive work of district council formation is ongoing the program trained local council of Berdale. A total of 45 (14 F) local council members were trained on the different functions a local councilor should perform to better serve local community.

2019

The Local Leadership Management Trainings were delivered through **Local Government Institute and in close collaboration with Ministry of Interior(Mol) in those regions.**



The late mayor of Mogadishu opening leadership training for BRA Training participants in Mogadishu © UN-Habitat



Warsheikh and Berdale Local Leadership Management Trainings © UN-Habitat

Durable Solutions

HIGHLIGHTS



Development of the **2020-2024 Durable solutions strategy**



79 houses (i.e. 74 standard houses and five proto-type houses) and a **community Centre** constructed



30 government officials trained on land policy development.



Community and state land consultation forums held in 3 states: South West State, Jubaland and Johwar.

Urban Integration of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

UN-Habitat Somalia Programme takes a holistic approach to durable solutions, putting housing and sustainable urbanisation at the centre, as per the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11. This is expected to enhance the quality of life of IDPs in Mogadishu, through developing creative, plausible and durable housing solutions. The vision is to bring the focus back to housing sustainability issues that are broader than the emphasis on pure shelter and design.

In early 2019 UN Habitat supported the establishment of a Durable Solutions Unit (DSU) under the office of the Governor of Benadir and Mayor of Mogadishu. The unit is responsible for coordinating and consolidating various solutions aimed at supporting displacement affected communities in the nation's capital. Subsequently, a durable solutions strategy (2020-2024) was developed to provide a coordinated approach to displacement in Mogadishu.

In collaboration with BRA the programme led on the development of an affordable housing scheme for 300 IDP households. This included securing of land from the local government for construction of the housing units, the sustainable and participatory design approach towards the units itself, and the creation of a housing trust fund to secure the social and economic sustainability. During the year, research and market analysis of the rental market was undertaken in order to ensure suitability of the rent amount. Rental agreements were prepared and systems to protect beneficiary's tenure security designed. In addition, the site plan, housing designs and the housing scheme governance model were developed through consultative process with the district authorities and local communities for consultation.

During the year, UN-Habitat supported the development of specific area-based planning approach linked to the Kismayo Masterplan to define potential areas for the future development of three new constructed IDP settlements. 79 houses (i.e. 74 standard houses and five proto-type houses) hosting 444 IDPs and returnees and a community centre were completed and handed over to the community.

The linking of the site plan to the broader Kismayo master plan has facilitated reintegration of the IDPs with host communities and unlocked additional resources from development partners within the area.

A durable solutions strategy (2020-2024) was developed to provide a coordinated approach to displacement in Mogadishu. ▼



2019

In collaboration with BRA the programme led on the development of an **affordable housing scheme for 300 IDP households.**



This is home

Mohammed [name changed] is an IDP, who was originally displaced from Fanoole village of Jilib District after severe drought hit the area. Mohammed's family is composed of 10 children, 4 boys and 6 girls. And he provides for his family working as porter.

Before receiving the shelter, Mohammed was living with relatives in an IDP site of New Kismayo. Previously he could not afford to rent a house due to his economic status and his large household. During his stay with relatives, Mohammed lived in a congested room which forced him and his family to occasionally sleep outside; to make matters worse, his eldest daughter was also unwell. When Mohammed was selected as a beneficiary of the project, after presenting his case to the JRIA and government officials, things changed, and he was housed in a two-bedroom housing unit.

Since he moved to the new house, Mohamed agrees that there has been a great and visible difference for him and his household, as well as the community. "We went from nothing to something, there is a clear difference between living with a relative and having your own house. This permanent structure has meant an improvement in security and personal safety; protection from the harsh weather; and resistance to illness and diseases which are important for human dignity and the capacity to sustain family and community life."

In the new housing, Mohamed, like many others in his community, still face challenges which he is positive can be addressed by the government donor. He is however grateful for the housing intervention provided. "The housing unit both for my household and the community at large will be sustainable, due to the permanent structure built for the community. This is where we call home, we have no other shelter in any other place."

Land Tenure Security

Land, and enhancing land tenure security through reforming land governance systems is a cross-cutting issue and an important area for intervention in Somalia as it is a consistent source of disputes and conflict. UN-Habitat has developed programs working with the Federal Government and the Member States to engage with land disputes and conflict in a comprehensive, human rights centered and peacebuilding approach.

In 2019, the country programme conducted a thorough land conflict mapping study and capacity assessment of institutions related to land administration and governance. In addition, numerous consultations to support the establishment and strengthen grass-roots dispute resolution mechanisms were held.

During the year, the programme supported land policy development trainings and subsequently worked towards justice reform. The approach seeks to resolve land disputes in a sustainable manner by not only seeking to enhance the capacity of governments to address conflicts but aims to enhance community-based conflict resolution mechanisms as they have been proven to be effective, more accessible and trusted.

Thus, 30 key government officials were trained on how to develop inclusive land policy in Somalia based on the Global Land Tool Network's global guidelines. The guidelines outline a process that can be adapted as appropriate to the situation in each country and the specific aspect of land policy that needs to be addressed.

In addition, during the year, the programme conducted a learning workshop with the objective of exchanging information with different partners, organizations and agencies working in different areas in Somalia on Conflict Resolution and Justice Mechanisms. The workshop provided an opportunity to assess the current landscape, analyze trends and address existing gaps.

The programme conducted two rounds of community and state land consultations forums with various state officials and community in 3 different states South West State, Jubaland and Johwar. This was intended to ensure that the perspectives of the communities are captured in the recommendations and frameworks that will be developed and ensure awareness raised for these institutional processes.



Discussions during the land conflict mapping study

Infrastructure Development

HIGHLIGHTS



22,977M long water pipeline completed.



All **27 air-valve** and **washout chambers** fully installed and completed



Wellfield Collector LOT-1 installed with **6.7km of DI pipes** provided to Hargeisa Water Agency

Replacement and Capacity Enlargement of the Water Pipeline System

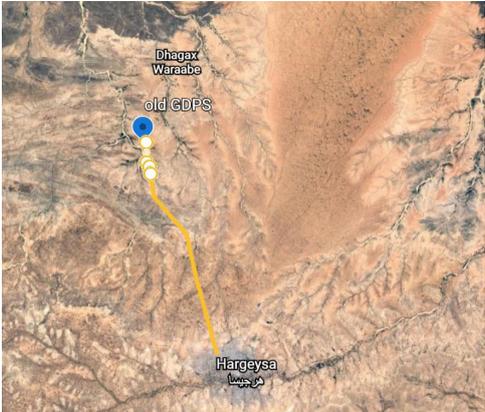
To secure water supply for Hargeisa City in the long term, UN-Habitat has been replacing the existing bulk-water transmission system that supplies water from the Ged Deeble wellfield to the so-called “Chinese Reservoir” in Hargeisa. This includes replacement of the 40-year-old existing system with a new 23km long water pipeline with a diameter of 600mm based on the Hargeisa Water Masterplan.

The groundwork provided by UN-Habitat work has acted as a catalyst for new investments in the Hargeisa water sector by other development partners, such as the German Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), Somaliland Development Fund, and Coca Cola. Since the start of HUWSUP in 2013, the overall investment in the

replacement and upgrading of Hargeisa Water Infrastructure has gradually increased to a multi-agency portfolio of almost 60 million USD, of which approximately 42% is implemented by UN-Habitat.

The upgrading of the distribution network, now implemented by HWA with KfW as the main development partner, will deliver water to new, previously unserved and underserved areas of the city. Preliminary designs for the distribution network were funded by SDF, following UN-Habitat’s active support to HWA in resource mobilization activities. In March 2019, work on the urban distribution network got underway, under a project supported by KfW.

In January 2019, SDF started with the construction of the new Wellfield Collector Lot-1. This important intervention, for which UN-Habitat provided the engineering design and the DI pipes, will connect the existing boreholes at Ged Deeble and the new boreholes at Hora Haadley to the new Ged Deeble Pumping Station built by UN-Habitat, thus enhancing the water production capacity.



The new 23km long main water pipeline from Hargeisa to Ged Deeble.

Rehabilitation and Improvement of Water Supply Facilities



Excavation of the final section of extremely hard rock took 6 months © UN-Habitat

In 2019, UN-Habitat completed the final meters of the main pipeline between the Ged Deeble wellfield, and the initial development of the Hora Hadley wellfield. A unique collaboration was fostered between UN-Habitat and Hargeisa Water Agency to execute finishing works on the pipeline, including final connections and installations, remaining 10km of pressure testing, emergency repairs after the disastrous floods of April -May 2019, and associated flood protection works and erosion-control features at critical sections along both the new and the old pipeline route. The works were carried out by pooling together financial resources, and the inputs by engineers and technical staff from Hargeisa Water Agency, the previous Contractor, the Consulting Engineer, and UN-Habitat.

During the year, the final connection of the pipeline at the Chinese reservoir was completed, and pipeline repairs, erosion control and flood protection works were carried out. This included the installation of gabions and construction of flood retention walls at river crossings and other critical locations where the floods of April and May 2019 had caused damages or where seasonal wadis posed a threat to completed infrastructure.

All required repairs at flood-damaged infrastructure had been carried out and the remaining connections

and installations had been completed by the “HWA-UN-Habitat Construction Team”. In addition, 5 vulnerable sites with new water infrastructure have been protected against floods and riverbank erosion, and a remaining 5.2km long section of the new pipeline has been pressure-tested.

As part of its previously expressed commitment to contribute funds towards the enhanced pipeline and pumping capacity established under HUWSUP, the Somalia government pledged a direct contribution of USD 1 million to the project towards the end of 2018. In 2019, USD 209,000 (channelled through HWA and co-managed by UN-Habitat) was availed from the Government contribution to support the completion of the pipeline works, as well as the associated flood and erosion protection activities.

A comprehensive review of the design for the “Supply and Installation of Electro-mechanical equipment at the New Ged Deeble Pumping Station and Related Works” was conducted towards end of 2019. The upgraded Hargeisa water system, implemented with support from the EU, SDF, KfW and UN-Habitat, will be managed by the Hargeisa Water Agency; the main partner during the implementation of the project.



Installation of the final meters connecting the new 23km long transmission pipeline to the Hargeisa Reservoir © UN-Habitat



Erosion and flood protection works along critical point of the new pipeline: installation of flood retention walls, gabions, and protection of pipeline sections © UN-Habitat



New Ged Deeble Pumping Station ready for the arrival of new pumps, generators and other equipment © UN-Habitat

Youth Empowerment and Livelihoods

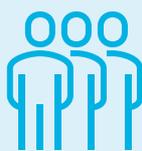
HIGHLIGHTS



2 Youth centers established (Mogadishu and Kismayo)



1,523 young men and women trained on construction, entrepreneurship and life skills



1,116 (73%) job placements for young women and men



Increased Youth representation in Parliament (Jubbaland 27% and Southwest 45% youth members in the parliament).

The training recorded positive outcomes and both the technical and soft skills training offered were sufficient for youth to find meaningful employment especially in the construction sector. Over 1,116 (73%) of the young women and men trained have been placed in meaningful employment across all project locations. A majority of the trainees were placed in the construction sector; one of the fastest growing sectors in Somalia. This was achieved through harnessed multiple strategies including job fairs, engaging the private sector on hiring youth and internship opportunities that cultivated the skills of the interns and integrated them into the organization.

As part of challenging gender norms in traditionally male dominated sectors, the youth employment program was able to achieve 55% female representation in their interventions. Furthermore, young women represented 54% of the youth employed, a majority of the young women found employment in the construction sector challenging normatively held perceptions on the employment opportunities available to young women in their communities.

Youth Skills Development

Skills development was essential for increasing the employability of the young women and men as well as increasing the productivity and sustainability of enterprises where they were placed. The programme trained 1,523 young men and women in Mogadishu, Kismayo, Bosaso and Berbera providing youth with the necessary skills to support them transit into the labour market and prepare them for business start-ups.

“Now I am able to support myself and help contribute to my family's income. I believe that since I studied the construction skills, even as a woman I can do the same work as the men do because I want to help my family and, in the future, to have a family of my own that I can support.”

23-year-old Jamila Abdilaqadir Adan



Trained youth working at a construction site © UN-Habitat

Cultivating Socially Generative Safe Spaces

Safe and generative spaces for youth are fundamental to the positive development of youth. In particular, the Somalia programme supported the development of youth-owned and youth-led centres that strengthen the capacity of youth to act as social, economic and political actors in their community.

Under the Youth Employment Somalia programme, two Youth Stop Centres were constructed to completion in Mogadishu and Kismayo. The construction of the youth centres was a critical component and represent a space that connects all youth in Somalia. It is a centre where youth can both watch and play a game of football, a centre that raises awareness for the place of youth in

society and has youth advocacy programs. It is a centre that trains youth on how to be economically, socially and politically empowered and most importantly, a youth friendly centre that is safe, peaceful and offers equal opportunities for both young men and women. Since their construction, youth have been utilizing the centres and proactively engaging with their peers and offering learning exchanges with other youth groups from different regions. The inclusion of youth in public space planning processes, in particular through the design of the youth centres, and the placemaking initiatives to ensure youth owned spaces has contributed to the sustainability, relevance and vibrancy of the centres.



Youth meeting at the One Stop Youth Centre in Mogadishu © UN-Habitat

“The One Stop Youth Centre is a first of its kind in Mogadishu and very important for youth. The centre will build the capacity of youth in construction skills and recreational activities among others. We will ensure the Centre is sustainable and mobilize as many youth as possible to maximize the opportunity the centre has to offer”

**Banadir Youth Association (BARYA)
Chairman Abdikafi Makaran**

Strengthening Youth Platforms and Amplifying Voices of the Youth

The Youth Political Empowerment project sought to enhance the capacity of youth associations and networks in Jubbaland and Southwest states. The formation of youth councils in Dollow, Kismayo and Baidoa with clearly defined roles and responsibilities, embedded in the local administrations was foundational in providing youth with experience in supporting local development issues, youth policies and advocating for increased youth participation in local governance processes. Consisting of 13 members in each district, the youth councils developed workplans relevant to their communities as a first step to providing youth with real opportunities to contribute to political processes and practical solutions at the local level which impact their communities.

Further support was provided to regional youth associations. The programme conducted a capacity assessment for the youth associations in the respective regions looking at the gaps and challenges that youth umbrella organizations were facing in their operational capacity in the states. Based on the findings of the capacity assessment and the gaps identified, the project helped in addressing the challenges identified through equipping the youth organizations and providing trainings on a myriad of areas including on strengthening their communication, leadership and office management skills. These tools and trainings placed the umbrella organizations in a much better position to engage on youth issues in their communities. Jubbaland and Southwest states were active in advocating for youth engagement in key political processes such as youth participation in the regional elections.



The programme conducted a **capacity assessment** for the youth associations in the respective regions looking at the gaps and challenges that youth umbrella organizations were facing in their operational capacity in the states.



Events and Networking

1 HOUSING CONFERENCE - Mogadishu

UN-Habitat supported and co-organised the first Mogadishu Housing Conference in November 2019. Theme **“Building smart cities and finding sustainable housing solutions”**.

The conference brought together stakeholders from both the public and private sector in 2 days of learning, collaboration, and finding solutions to issues relating to housing in the nation’s capital. The conference highlighted the UN-Habitat supported housing project-Heliwa Housing Scheme

2 URBAN YOUTHCONNEKT – Kigali, Rwanda

In 2019, UN-Habitat’s participated in the YouthConnekt Summit which is the second in a row. The aim was to provide a deliberate urban youth perspective to the Summit themed **“Boosting an Industrious Young Africa”** from an urban perspective. UN-Habitat spearheaded the Urban Youth discussion by focusing on youth innovations in fragile states towards peace and resilience in cities. Somali youth participation was facilitated by UN-Habitat and provided youth with the opportunity to engage in discussions on youth unemployment, enhancing mechanisms for youth in South-South Cooperation and the importance of placing equity at the centre of policy making.

3 NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE – Mogadishu, Somalia

Held at the beginning of December 2019, the theme of the national youth conference was to **“promote youth political participation, youth engagement in countering violent extremism and peacebuilding”**. UN-Habitat facilitated the conference in coordination with the Ministry of Youth and Sports to provide a national platform for youth and peacebuilding issues. As highlighted by the Prime Minister, Hassan Ali Khaire, at the conference, the foundation of every state is grounded on the empowerment of youth from which peacebuilding and statebuilding efforts can deepen and a stable future for Somalia can flourish.

4 THE WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS CITIES FORUM – Gwangju, South Korea

UN-Habitat Somalia Programme participated in the panel on Challenges and Opportunities for Human Rights Cities at the World Human Rights Cities forum. This was a global platform where discussions on human rights implementation and how the human rights agenda can be furthered within cities were held. The forum presented an opportunity to elaborate on how the programme utilizes the SDGs as a mechanism to achieve and deepen human rights work in fragile states. One key outcome was to plan a series of dialogues in 2020 that examine the nexus of development and human rights implementation in Somalia.

Lessons Learned

Investing in systems improvement and human development is key in unlocking resources and skills needed for sustained service delivery.

A case in point is one, systems used to generate revenue and how that is linked to improved services and second, how the government is using urban regulatory frameworks and other training materials to develop master plans, using government funds, in districts where the programme is not active.



Youth Voices, Public Spaces and Civic Engagement.

The voices of youth matter. The programme was able to observe the tangible links between increased access to public spaces and rising levels of youth civic engagement on a myriad of issues. The promise of youth participation is that it can be catalytic, innovative and support structural transformation and ensure the sustainability of programming and initiatives when youth development is placed at the core of programming.



Balancing Market Driven Livelihoods and Soft-Skills Development

Sustainable livelihoods can be achieved when we enable market orientated livelihood pathways for the vulnerable urban poor particularly youth and women. When we tailor skills development to meet the demands of the market, we can observe that the livelihood opportunities for beneficiaries becomes markedly improved. Sustainable approaches to livelihoods must also consider soft-skill development as a cornerstone for building the capacity of beneficiaries to not only access the labour market but to also be competitive and increase job retention in the workforce.



Building Synergies for Greater Impact

Building synergies between the various interventions implemented within the youth and livelihoods pillar has been a normative practice particularly with understanding the challenges youth face in Somalia as a cross-cutting issue. Our capacity to build synergies between the various skills development training programmes that sought to augment the knowledge, skills and confidence of youth to succeed in the labour market with our youth political empowerment programmes has been a defining feature of the youth and livelihoods approach to programming.



2020 Highlights

- 1 Mogadishu Urban Visioning Exercise
- 2 Property registration exercise in Baidoa to improve revenue generation and delivery of basic urban services
- 3 Train members of newly formed local councils on leadership skills in federal member states
- 4 Expansion of the mobile money payment system to more districts
- 5 Continuation of the implementation of urban regulatory frameworks, strategic spatial plans and update existing urban profiles
- 6 Construction of 300 housing units for IDPs in Mogadishu
- 7 Continued support to the development of youth and their skills set through the one stop centres

Key donors



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