

Country Brief

# SOMALIA

2023

A better quality of life for all in an  
urbanizing world



# A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL IN AN URBANIZING WORLD

We promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.



**UN-HABITAT**

# Table of Contents

02

Country Context

05

UN Habitat in  
Somalia

06

Guiding Frameworks

08

UN Habitat  
Projects in Somalia

09

Achievements  
and Lessons

## Somalia Context

UN-Habitat has been active in the Somalia urban sector for more than 30 years promoting sustainable and participatory urban development while responding to the implementation of Somalia National Development Plan 9 and Somaliland National Development Plan II. UN-Habitat's interventions in Somalia focus on local governance, durable solutions initiatives, shelter and protection in the context of urbanization, improved livelihoods, infrastructure and return and integration linked to durable solutions.

### Issues to be addressed.

- z Insufficient capacities (technical, financial, legal frameworks) to deal with continued high urbanization growth rates caused by natural population growth, rural-urban migration and migration due to conflict.
- z Displacement at scale as a result of effects of climate change and loss of livelihood opportunities.  
The "Youth bulge" – on one side a rising number of well-educated, creative and tech- and business affine young people; on the other missing good job opportunities and support mechanism manifesting in high levels of inequality and rampant urban poverty that cause new waves of migration and brain-drain.

### Our thematic areas of intervention are:

Good Governance I Infrastructure development I Sustainable and Durable holistic solutions I Youth and livelihoods development I Sustainable Urban planning I Waste management



## Our thematic areas of intervention

### SMART CITIES:

z Development of digital policies and strategies that respond to the needs of communities and tap into technological innovations to build the capacities of stakeholders.

z Use of ICT to improve the quality of life of urban communities and build inclusive urban societies

### GOVERNANCE

z Enhancing local and national level governance, by improving legal frameworks, reducing corruption, increasing efficiency in public service delivery incl. local revenue generation, development planning and effective finance management for better service delivery. It allows an enabling environment to better respond to the needs of the Somali society.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

z Construction and rehabilitation of sustainable infrastructure, to promote an inclusive and sustainable urbanization process and to initiate catalytic effects for settlement upgrading, planned city extension and urban regeneration.

### DURABLE SOLUTIONS AND STABILIZATION

z Essentially aimed at the spatial, social and economic reintegration of IDPs and returnees by applying a Human Security approach. Includes the management of mass displacements towards urban centers in Somalia, mostly due to violence and climate events.

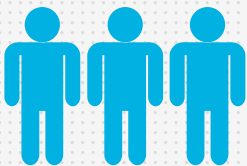
### YOUTH AND LIVELIHOODS

z Focused at the political and economic integration of the Somali youth in the society through education, free speech spaces, and vocational training.

## Country programme profile

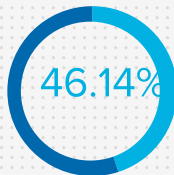
Total Population (2020):

15.69  
Million



Urban Population (2020):

7.3  
Million



Urban Growth Rate  
(2019-2020):

4.24%

No. of Projects  
(2023):

6

Total value of projects (2023):  
USD 43.74 Million

# SOMALIA PROGRAMME GUIDING FRAMEWORK

**Somalia National Development Plan 2020-2024**



**UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2023**



**Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021- 2025**








**The National Durable Solutions Strategy (Somalia) 2020-2024**



# UN-HABITAT'S WORK IN THE COUNTRY

## The Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralised Service Delivery.

|   |   |
|---|---|
|  | <b>Donor:</b> (MPTF) Danida, UK Aid, European Union, Norwegian Ministry of foreign affairs, Swiss, USAID, PBF, SIDA |
|  | <b>Duration:</b> June 2018-June 2023  |
|  | <b>Project value:</b> USD 17.5 Million  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  | <b>Location:</b> Somaliland, Puntland, Jubaland, Mogadishu, South West State, Hirshabelle and Galmudug |
|  | <b>Other UN Partners:</b> UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, UNCDF   |






This is a joint UN Project on local governance which improves the way government is run at the city and state levels in all five Member States in order to boost economic development and make

communities stronger in the face of conflict, climate disaster and other challenges.

This project has resulted in developing the necessary

policies and legal frameworks, strengthening capacity through systems and procedures and contributing to increased service delivery.





## EU Response to Health and Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 in Mogadishu.

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  | <b>Donor:</b> European Union   |
|  | <b>Duration:</b> May 2020 to March 2023  |
|  | <b>Project value:</b> EUR 5.28 Million   |
|  | <b>Location:</b> All districts in Mogadishu with a special focus on Dayniile, Kaxda, Dharkaynley, Hodan, Shangani and Abdiazis |
|  | <b>Other UN Partners:</b> BRA, SAVE THE CHILDREN, DRC  |

The aim of this project is to mitigate the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 crisis among IDPs and people living in vulnerable situations in Mogadishu and achieve early stabilization and recovery from effects of the pandemic.

This was done by enhancing the capacity of Banadir Regional Administration to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, improving access to WASH services and reducing the negative socio-economic impact of the most vulnerable, through the provision of cash-transfers.

## Youth and Urban Regeneration (YOURS) Somalia

|   |   |
|---|---|
|  | <b>Donor:</b> Embassy of Sweden             |
|  | <b>Duration:</b> May 2020 - May 2023        |
|  | <b>Project Value:</b> USD 4.6 Million       |
|  | <b>Location:</b> Baidoa, Kismayo, Mogadishu |

YOURS project contributes to reduced spatial urban inequalities by promoting sustainable urban regeneration, youth development and re-integration of marginalised communities.

In response to recent droughts, the project has been instrumental in providing water, subsistence and emergency shelters to over 550 IDP families in Baidoa and Kismayo.

In the end, this project will result in the construction of schools and a self-sustaining youth centre with capacity to deliver recreational and livelihoods, 200 permanent housing units with latrines in Baidoa and the rehabilitation of a sport centre for IDP communities.

## SAAMYENTA – Scaling-up Solutions to Displacement in Somalia



**Donor:** Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), Embassy of the Netherlands / Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), Italian Cooperation Agency (AICS)



**Duration:** Dec 2021 to Dec 2025



**Project Value:** USD 3.02 Million



**Location:** Baidoa in South West State, Beledweyne in Hirshabelle State, Bosaso in Puntland State



**Other Partners:** IOM (lead), UNDP, UN Habitat, Integrated Office of the UN DSRSG/RC/HC and Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development of the Federal Republic of Somalia.

Saamyenta (impact in Somali) seeks to encourage and identify major investments from private, government, multilateral sources in mixed-use land development packages and urban public works, primarily for basic services, and link these with durable solutions at scale through the resulting land value increments.

The programme aims at harnessing the latter to build the infrastructure benefitting IDPs and other vulnerable DAC members to create more sustainable and inclusive cities. That includes investments in functioning land administration and application of acknowledged tools to improve tenure security and other areas of sustainable land governance.

## Hargeisa Urban Water Supply Upgrading Project (HUWSUP)



**Donor:** European Union, Somaliland Development Fund



**Duration:** March 2014 to August 2023



**Project Value:** USD 25 Million



**Location:** Somaliland



**Other Partners:** Hargeisa Water Agency

This project lays a foundation for ensuring increased water supply to the people of Hargeisa. It has replaced over 23 KM of pipeline from the main wellfield of Geed Deeble, with a new high-capacity transmission main to bring more water to Hargeisa. Four additional boreholes have been drilled in the new well field areas of Hora Haadley and Laas Duur and the Geed Deeble wellfield collector has been extended by 7KM to connect the three new water sources.

## Berbera Urban Development Project



**Donor:** European Union



**Duration:** Jan 2020 - June 2023



**Project value:** EUR 7.5 Million



**Location:** Berbera, Somaliland



**Other UN Partners:** Somaliland Ministry of Planning and National Development, Municipality of Berbera

This project works towards achieving an inclusive local governance, contributing to urban waste management and promoting livelihoods and entrepreneurship.

The project will result in the development of the Batalaale Beachfront in Berbera, closure of the existing dumpsite and construction of a landfill, as well as the development of a Strategic Spatial Plan and Berbera Urban Profile.





## Upcoming Projects

### **BREACH**

A European Union funded project whose objective is to build resilience and promote social inclusion of the communities and governance institutions in Afgoye, Burco and Jowhar

### **JPLG IV**

Fourth phase of a 5-year Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralised Service Delivery.

# PROGRAMME MILESTONE - WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

## Main features of the HUWSUP Project



23 Km Main  
Pipeline



7KM wellfield\*  
collector Pipeline between  
new boreholes at Hora  
Haadley and existing Ged  
Deeble wellfield



Water  
Reservoir at  
Ged Deeble



4 new boreholes drilled, of which 3  
are fully equipped and connected  
to the system supply of DI pipes  
for Wellfield collector No. 1



New Pumping Station,  
installed with modern  
pumping equipment and  
power generators

*\*Wellfield means an area of land containing a group of wells that provide drinking water to a public water supply system.*

2022 marked the completion of the HUWSUP project which provides the foundation for improved water access for the entire population of Hargeisa city.

The project upgraded Hargeisa's outdated water production and transmission system with new augmented infrastructure.

Follow this link: [HARGEISA WATER VIDEO](#)



*UN-Habitat geara Hargeisa towards a permanent water solution - World Water Day 2023 (HUWSUP)*

## Main changes and impact of the intervention

- z Transmission capacity increased from **9,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day to 24,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day (on completion)** as the diameter of main transmission line was increased from 300mm to 600mm.
- z Increased lifespan of pipeline system and pumping facilities from a lifespan of 5 years of old infrastructure to the new lifespan on **40 years**.
- z **80 percent** reduction of water losses along pipeline route.
- z More than **14,500 households** that were previously not served by the piped system will have gained access to an improved water source operated by Hargeisa Water Agency.
- z UN-Habitat has linked the Hargeisa water agency with The Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA) with the **objective of strengthening their capacity, enhancing their performance and enabling them to provide a better service to more people.**

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF UN-HABITAT'S PRESENCE IN SOMALIA



Since the onset of the Pandemic, UN-Habitat has reached **over 44,660** beneficiaries with unconditional cash transfers, conducted COVID-19 community awareness campaigns, supplied Personal Protective Equipment -PPE kits to medical centers, front-line workers as well as IDPs and the most vulnerable. UN-Habitat also provided hand washing stations and soap in IDP camps as well as constructed the same in public offices.



**Developed systems**, processes and regulatory frameworks for financial management at the sub-national structures resulting in **increased local revenue generation up to 300%** (case of a town in Somaliland).



**More than 3,000 long-term jobs created**, skills training to more than 1,000 people and improved access to urban basic services for more than 200,000 households.



**5,500 houses constructed** providing shelter to 36,000 beneficiaries (since 2007).



**Nine urban profiles published** to unlock additional resources for the implementation of Community action plans and local projects to improve lives of displacement affected communities.



**10 community infrastructure projects** handed over to local authorities, among them clinics, schools, market structures and access roads to informal settlements.



**Promotion of the youth agenda** through development of regulatory frameworks that increase the democratic participation of the youth in politics, (45% youth in SouthWest state parliament and 27% in Jubaland), amplification of youth' voices where **over 350,000 youth across Somalia** have utilized innovative technologies to achieve this and creation of One Stop Youth centers in Kismayo and Mogadishu.



**Supported the drafting and approval process of the Urban Land Management Law** for Southwest State which incorporates human rights prospective for displaced people



**Endorsement of the approved Urban Land Management Law** by the Puntland Government which will for the first time establish clear guidelines on the governance, and management of urban land.

## 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS



**More than 14,000 households** in Hargeisa town previously not served by the water pipeline now have access to an improved water source-through installation of 23KM of main water pipeline, new pumping stations, installation of water pumps and power generators and drilling, equipping and connection of three new boreholes at Hora Hadley.



**Supported the formulation** and validation of the **Somaliland Urban Waste Management Policy**.



**203 solar powered streetlights installed** on the road leading to Batalaale public Beach in Berbera, Somaliland making it safer for all. To ensure sustainability, 10 technical municipal staff were trained on installation and maintenance of the panels.



**Promoted access of healthcare in Mogadishu** through the rehabilitation of 4 primary healthcare facilities (Abdiaziz, Waberi, Halane and Shibis Health Centers) and supply of general and specialized medical equipment.



**Provision of ambulance services** in Mogadishu where 1,556 patients with symptoms of COVID-19 were referred to the main referral hospitals in Mogadishu.



**Development and launch of the Baidoa City Strategy** which will guide the developments in the interest of all parties of the rapidly urbanizing city towards sustainable urban growth.



## LESSONS LEARNT

- z Secondary cities do not have sufficient attention at national levels even though they experience rapid growth.
- z Lack of sufficient funding to support implementation of tools developed such as development briefs, master plans, city wide strategies.  
Strengthening coordination mechanisms is critical at both horizontal and vertical levels to operationalize the Humanitarian-Development-Peace building nexus.
- z Own source revenue is a vehicle for increasing access to basic service delivery.
- z Joint Programming is essential to leverage UN-Habitat comparative advantage across the UN System.



| Geographical coverage   | We work with:  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>z Somaliland</li> <li>z Jubaland</li> <li>z Mogadishu</li> <li>z Puntland</li> <li>z South west states</li> <li>z Hirshabelle</li> <li>z states Galmaadug state</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>z Non-governmental organizations NGOs</li> <li>z International non-governmental organizations INGOs</li> <li>z Government: At federal, state and municipal levels</li> <li>z Other UN Agencies</li> </ul> |

## Programme Contact

**Oumar Syllar,**  
Regional Director, Regional Office for Africa  
[oumar.sylla@un.org](mailto:oumar.sylla@un.org)

**Ishaku Maitumbi,**  
Senior Human Settlements Officer/Head of  
Country Programme  
[unhabitat-som@un.org](mailto:unhabitat-som@un.org)

**Sebastian May**  
Head of Programmes  
[sebastian.may@un.org](mailto:sebastian.may@un.org)

## Programme Managers

**Abdirahman Mohamoud,**  
Joint Programme on Local Governance and  
Service Delivery, NORAD  
[abdirahman.mohamoud@un.org](mailto:abdirahman.mohamoud@un.org)

**Grace Lubaale,**  
Berbera Urban Development  
[grace.lubaale@un.org](mailto:grace.lubaale@un.org)

**Said Osman,**  
Youth and Urban Regeneration Programme  
[said.osman1@un.org](mailto:said.osman1@un.org)

**Asia Adam,**  
Human Settlements Officer  
[asia.adam@un.org](mailto:asia.adam@un.org)

A better quality of life for  
all in an urbanizing world

**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN  
SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME  
P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi 00100,  
Kenya T: +254-20-76263120  
E: [unhabitat-info@un.org](mailto:unhabitat-info@un.org)

[www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)

