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IN THIS ISSUE

Market rehabilitation • Mogadishu
Shaqeyso Training Programme •
Training Puntland’s new local councils
• Mogadishu Strategic Spatial Plan •
Staff collaboration • Habitat III municipal
finance presentation • Infrastructure
planning • Diaspora and donor visits •
‘The City Youth Need’

Updates on the latest urban interventions
World Cities Day: Mogadishu restructures urban planning and starts spatial strategic planning

On the occasion of World Cities Day 2016 (31 October), a booklet entitled Towards Mogadishu Spatial Strategic Plan was launched in Mogadishu. The launch was part of an event organized by Mogadishu Municipality to showcase achievements from its collaboration with the United Nations Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery (JPLG). The booklet is a toolkit that can guide further discussions towards a long-term spatial vision and action plan.

Mogadishu’s Mayor Yusuf Hussein Jimale acknowledged UN-Habitat’s role in supporting urban planning, solid waste management, and municipal finance in the Somali capital. He linked the aim of providing better services for residents to the recent functional review of the administration supported by UNDP. The Department of Urban Planning and Engineering has since been assigned to the Mayor’s office in an effort to scale up urban planning activities. UN-Habitat’s JPLG Programme Manager Ishaku Maitumbi commended the municipality’s efforts to develop a proper framework for managing urban growth and assured continued technical support.

Produced by a team of urban planners from UN-Habitat’s JPLG team/Somalia Programme and its City Extension, Design, and Planning Unit, Towards Mogadishu Spatial Strategic Plan contains various interactive elements adapted from the World Urban Campaign’s ongoing initiative The City We Need. Readers are encouraged in the Somali language to participate in discussions on ‘The Mogadishu We Need’.

The 48-page document contains an integrated spatial analysis of the Somali capital. It explores the main directions of current extension and spatial scenarios for one of the fastest-growing cities in the world. Using satellite images, diagrams, sketches, pictures, and socio-economic data, the brochure directs attention to Mogadishu’s hinterland to accommodate future urban growth. This region, known as Somalia’s breadbasket, has been severely affected by the civil war, displacement, and the decline of agriculture. Such a regional focus allows the rehabilitation and expansion of infrastructure to go hand-in-hand with the creation of economic opportunities for the local population, 70 percent of whom are below the age of 30.

The booklet suggests several urban projects that are aligned with the Somalia National Development Plan (2017–2019) and have a transformative character. One is to restructure the Afgoye corridor in combination with planned city extensions and durable solutions for internally displaced people.

In a special chapter, the document outlines the participatory process that will be used to formulate the Mogadishu Spatial Strategic Plan in the coming months and looks forward to strengthening the capacity of the Urban Planning and Engineering Department, established in 2013 with funding from the UK’s Department for International Development and technical support from UN-Habitat.

Sophos Sophianos, Human Settlements Officer/Urban Planner
PUNTLAND

Training for new local councils in Bossaso and Gardho

In 2016, most of the towns in Puntland elected new local councils as part of an effort to improve local governance in general and to sharpen improved, sustained service delivery in particular. UN-Habitat, being part of the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery, collaborated with the Association of Local Government Authorities in Puntland to train local councillors. The new local councillors in Bossaso and Gardho underwent training on their leadership, institution-building, decision-making, communication, negotiation, financing, and policymaking roles. Sixty-three local councillors and some key municipal staff from Bossaso and Gardho attended the training sessions.

MOGADISHU

New Shaqeyso employment programme at the One-Stop Youth Centre sees successful first phase

The UN-Habitat component of the UN Joint Programme on Youth Employment Somalia has successfully overseen the completion of Shaqeyso 1. At the end of 2016, 171 youths (50 percent female and 50 percent male) from six districts of Mogadishu graduated from the intensive three-month youth employment programme. Shaqeyso is a Somali word that means ‘to work’. The programme has four components designed to increase the capacity of vulnerable youth to acquire the skills they need to find work. See the full story on page 7.

SOMALILAND

Final draft of Gabiley Urban Master Plan presented

The final draft of the Gabiley Urban Master Plan was presented to the general public at a town hall meeting in Gabiley on 21 November 2016. Among the 42 participants were residents, councillors, and representatives of local institutions, the business community, the media, municipal departments, and the Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Transport. The planning process for this ten-year development plan started one year ago with technical support by a team urban planners and architects from the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery and UN-Habitat’s Design Lab. The Gabiley Urban Master Plan is the first master plan in Somaliland that follows the Urban Regulatory Framework adopted by the National Urban Planning Committee in April 2016.

SOMALILAND

Technology assists knowledge sharing among municipal staff in Somaliland

Local government employees have come up with an exciting capacity-related initiative that takes advantage of social media technology. After setting up a Facebook page for local government employees, they use the platform to discuss topics pertinent to local government functions. Participants share opinions, expertise, experiences, and practical examples on all manner of relevant topics, including municipal revenue and procurement practices. Technical experts, including municipal finance staff, then help to shed light on complicated issues. See the full story on page 9.
The City Youth Need: Mogadishu urban campaign wraps up

Youth in Mogadishu are passionate, ready to make changes, and ready to leave their imprint on the city. This was the consistent message delivered by young people throughout the urban campaign titled The City Youth Need, a series of round-table discussions that sought to cultivate ideas within the younger generation. The campaign is adapted from the World Urban Campaign’s ongoing initiative The City We Need.

Launched by UN-Habitat on 18 June 2016, the urban campaign was a prime opportunity for the youth to define a clear vision of what their ideal city looks like; it was also a platform to develop clear goals for achieving that vision.

Held at the Mogadishu One-Stop Youth Centre, the campaign brought together 700 youth from across the districts in Mogadishu and key stakeholders in the community to participate in sessions designed to empower youth economically, socially, and politically. The urban campaign sessions focused on the following concepts:

- The city youth need is economically vibrant and inclusive.
- The city youth need is collectively managed and democratically governed.
- The city youth need has a shared identity and sense of place.

Recognizing the immense role youth can play towards making substantive contributions to the development of their communities and society at large, the urban campaign was an opportunity for youth to be at the helm of discussions with political, economic, and social leaders.

The campaign’s vibrant closing ceremony on 13 October 2016 focused on social inclusion and ways for youth to build a shared identity for their city. Hundreds of youths thronged the Mogadishu One-Stop Youth Centre in Shangani District for the event, which was addressed by the Mayor of Mogadishu, Sheikh Yusuf Hussein Jimale, and the UN Youth Adviser, Joao Scarpelini, among others.

The Mayor of Mogadishu welcomed the views of the youth, but challenged them to join efforts to transform the city.

‘How can you have a peaceful city if you are not taking part in security? How can you want a beautiful city when you are not taking part in beautifying it? You want a city with clean water and cheap electricity. If that is what you want, we have to work together to make it happen,’ said Mayor Jimale.

In his remarks, Mr Scarpelini noted that young Somalis constitute the majority of the population and their views and aspirations should be heard and used as a foundation to build the kind of city they wish to live in: ‘We need to make sure that we create space for young people to become partners, not only beneficiaries. We need to create an opportunity for young people to be empowered, to gain economic means, to engage socially and politically, and to become change agents for building a Somalia they want.’

A culmination of the challenges and solutions presented by youth throughout the urban campaign, young people at the closing ceremony reiterated the need for a vibrant capital city capable of fostering economic prosperity as well as social and political inclusivity.

‘I want to live in a city that is peaceful, a city where I have access to free education, proper health services, clean water, and other basic things that will allow me to lead a meaningful life,’ said Fardowsa Hussein Ali, a young woman from Shangani District.

Abdikarim Ahmed, a young man, stated: ‘When the youth want to talk about the kind of city they want… they have to participate. I have to participate in the education, solid waste management, and health sectors, contributing and putting forward what I know.’

Falastin Omar,
Programme Officer,
Human Relief Foundation

#TheCityWeNeed
Swedish minister visits Mogadishu One-Stop Youth Centre

The Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation, Isabella Lövin, visited the Mogadishu One-Stop Youth Centre on 1 December 2016 along with a high-level delegation from the Government of Sweden. Mogadishu government and UN-Habitat representatives accompanied the Swedish visitors.

Mrs Lövin and her delegation met Somali youth participating in the Shaqeyso training programme, which UN-Habitat is implementing within the framework of Youth Employment Somalia (YES), an initiative funded by Sweden and other donors such as Italy, Denmark, and Switzerland. The three-month Shaqeyso programme offers vulnerable youth vocational skills, life skills, and build-your-own-business training, and also provides young Somalis with a safe place to meet and relax.

Mrs Lövin discussed with the Shaqeyso trainees the potential of employment in the construction sector for both female and male youth. In addition, the minister spoke to leaders of the Benadir Regional Youth Association about the needs of young Somalis. Together they discussed the kind of city the youth want Mogadishu to become, and what that might look like. The youth shared their opinions and raised their issues with the minister, also expressing appreciation for her visit and for the support of the Swedish government.
MOGADISHU

Laying the groundwork for an economic revival: outdoor stalls for Nagaad Market

Informal market vendors form an integral part of urban economies around the world, and their impact on sustaining the economy in Somalia has been no different. Flourishing in the absence of formal governance structures, informal vendors fill the public spaces of Mogadishu. They provide easy access to a wide range of goods and services for the general public, thereby contributing to economic development.

However, as Somalia moves along the path to stability, local development efforts by the regional authorities have focused on re-establishing formal systems that emphasize the important role of markets in urban economic development. Towards this aim, Nagaad Market in Karaan District was identified as a prime location for constructing outdoor market stalls.

Consisting of a first phase of 62 stalls funded through Sweden, the construction of these outdoor market stalls provided the opportunity for informal market vendors to sell their goods and services in formal market structures that offer more security. The outdoor environment provides healthier working conditions and a chance to interact more easily with consumers.

UN-Habitat and implementing partners Cesvi and the Benadir Regional Administration (particularly its engineers and Market Department) collaborated during all the stages of project implementation. The design of the market was the result of a series of consultations between the technical group and the Market Management Committee.

There are 5 market blocks, each consisting of 12 stalls. Each stall has more than five square metres of floor area, a lockable metal door, and a metal window. The design of the stalls emphasizes easy circulation and maintenance, and allows for future extension. Cross-ventilation ensures that interiors remain cool during Mogadishu’s hot days. The market design has also incorporated access for disabled and elderly shoppers by creating wide passageways and ramps. In the next phase, the design team has planned for an open area, specialist shops, retail stalls, and toilets.

As more informal vendors seek to operate in permanent structures managed by the local authorities, an inclusive approach is crucial for ensuring the full engagement of all stakeholders in the successful operation of the market upon the completion of construction in January 2017.

Sayed Yasir Ally Qadri, Construction Consultant
Falastin Omar, Programme Officer, Human Relief Foundation
UN-Habitat’s municipal finance work in Somalia featured at Habitat III

The high-profile, global Habitat III conference showcased UN-Habitat’s municipal finance portfolio in Somalia. An event organized during the three-day gathering in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016, presented the work done through the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery.

Improving local government finance systems and revenue generation capacity is key to improving the delivery of public services and also to complying with the principles of good local governance. The programme has a practical approach for mobilizing significant local revenue in post-conflict urban contexts, and for building a fiduciary system to improve accountability and transparency, one that potentially can be replicated in other fragile situations. The initiatives contribute to the objectives of the three-pronged approach UN-Habitat is promoting towards achieving sustainable urbanization. Participants at the Habitat III event especially appreciated the results from the property tax collection projects in Somalia. The presentation emphasized four key areas of municipal finance work:

1. Policy and regulation
2. Appropriate tools and systems for information management
3. Capacity development for local governments
4. Local revenue sources for local governments

The participants asked questions of the presenter and panel that centred on how a geographic information system–based building and property database can be used to improve land administration, and what the local governments’ incentives are for collecting property tax. Additional queries sought to understand how the system introduced by UN-Habitat in Somalia (with specific regard to geographic information system surveying) can be applied in a denser urban environment.

In their wrap-up, the presenter and panel reiterated that this is a process towards improving local governments’ ability to generate their own revenue sources, and towards improving accountability and transparency on the use of the revenue. For cities and local governments in fragile states such as Somalia, such a process is crucial to ensuring their own survival and improving public services; therefore, such efforts need to be supported. Improving services paves the way for building trust between citizens and local governments, and helps to extend state formation and authority, which is essential to the security of people and their properties. Expressions of interest to learn and borrow elements of the property taxation system the Somalia team demonstrated came from member states in Africa, professionals working in Latin American countries such as Brazil and Colombia, and international non-governmental organizations active in urban centres in the Amazon region.

Emrah Engindeniz,
Human Settlements Officer
After a year of planning, writing the curriculum, training staff, and training trainers, the UN-Habitat component of the UN Joint Programme on Youth Employment Somalia is proud to announce the success of Shaqeyso 1. At the end of 2016, 173 youths (50 percent female and 50 percent male) from six districts of Mogadishu successfully graduated from the intensive three-month youth employment programme.

Shaqeyso is a Somali word that means ‘to work’. The programme has four components designed to increase the capacity of vulnerable youth to acquire the skills they need to find work:

1. The life skills component is designed to help youth develop their communication, conflict resolution, first aid, computer, and other skills (e.g. resume writing and interviewing for jobs).
2. The vocational skills component is designed to teach youth how to build paving blocks and cement bricks while also learning about health and safety on the job.
3. Community works is a practical component in which participants work in teams on community projects. This is a win-win for the various communities of Mogadishu: the youth teams engage in projects such as cleaning and painting to help beautify the city, while at the same time learning important job skills, engaging with their community, and earning a modest stipend.
4. ‘Start your own business’ helps youth participants learn about entrepreneurship and what it takes to successfully launch their own business. Shaqeyso participants who do want to start a business get extra training after graduation from expert trainers.

In a mid-term evaluation, it was found that over 95 percent of participants either strongly agreed or agreed that the training was relevant, that the training met trainees’ expectations, and that the training was well organized. After conducting post-programme evaluations, the staff and volunteers look forward to sharing the results as UN-Habitat evaluates the Shaqeyso programme’s impact in the short and long term.

Shaqeyso 2 will start in early January 2017 with a new cohort of 180 vulnerable youths from six different districts in Mogadishu. The success of Shaqeyso 1 and the solid preparation for Shaqeyso 2 are thanks to the hard work of our staff in Mogadishu and Nairobi and our partners: Benadir Regional Administration, Benadir Regional Youth Association, the One-Stop Youth Centre Youth Advisory Committee, and volunteers. Overseeing such a complex programme in a place where youth unemployment rates are among the highest in the world is a major accomplishment.

Dave Farthing, Youth Expert, Human Relief Foundation
Sayed Yasir Ally Qadri, Construction Consultant

FIRST PERSON

Samira Ali

‘This training for tile production will completely transform my life. I believe I can produce a large number of tiles using my hands,’ Samira Ali said when asked how the Shaqeyso programme will affect her. Within Somalia’s traditional culture, females participating in the construction industry have been unknown. Yet Samira believes that she has the capacity to realize her dream: ‘In the near future, I believe that I can achieve great success in tile production and continue doing so throughout my life.’
Deputy Mayor of Mogadishu
Iman Icar

What major achievements have you made through working in partnership with the UN-Habitat Somalia Programme?

The Benadir Regional Administration has been partnering with various UN organizations in Somalia; one key partner is UN-Habitat, with whom we have been able to have substantial achievements through the various programmes they are implementing in Mogadishu. These successes include the construction of a market hall in Sinay and outdoor market stalls in Nagaad, as well as the construction of the Acquadotto Centre. Functioning as a training centre for the Shaqeyso programme, the Acquadotto Centre was the first material- and water-testing lab constructed in Mogadishu.

Why is it important to focus on youth as we work towards the development of Somalia?

This is a very good question because the youth are an African opportunity and also a Somali opportunity. Many of the challenges and problems Somalia faces are faced by the youth, as the majority of the population; therefore, focusing on them in the development process will enable us to address a lot of these issues. A widely held belief across Somalia is that the deep development and construction of Somalia will depend on how we educate the youth of this nation and what skills we instil in them. In the case of Mogadishu, sometimes we are importing skilled labour from outside the country. That means our youth, if they are given the opportunity and if they are given the right skills, will have access to economic opportunities and means to a livelihood. These developments will also positively impact the security and the development of the city.

How is the work of the Mogadishu One-Stop Youth Centre contributing to the development of peace and security in Somalia? What achievements have been made so far?

The contribution of the Mogadishu One-Stop Youth Centre has been immense. Youth come from across the city to the centre to discuss their future as well as the future they envision for their city. They have access to something they have not had before – a forum for engaging in issues that are important to them and the space to learn, have fun, and participate in the enrichment of their lives and the development of their city. Youth have organized countless activities at the centre, including football tournaments. They have utilized the space for cultural activities or simply to come together to listen to some music. The commitment of the youth to own the space and to acquire skills is unbelievable.

How will the work of the Shaqeyso programme, launched by UN-Habitat Somalia as part of the Youth Employment Somalia programme, contribute to the employment of vulnerable youth in Mogadishu?

I have had the opportunity to frequently visit the youth participating in the Shaqeyso programme. Despite their difficult and vulnerable backgrounds, the motivation of these youth is strong. With a strong attendance record, they participate in vocational skills training. For example, they learn how to make interlocking blocks, an input to the construction sector and a key product the city needs as it undergoes the process of reconstruction. Youth are learning market-driven skills, and there is a good future for entrepreneurship as the youth finish this training. One of the youth participants of the programme has already said that he plans to organize a business start-up with a team of youth for making interlocking bricks. So this ambition shows me that there is a bright future in the Shaqeyso and Youth Employment Somalia (YES) programmes.
Local governments are the sphere of government closest to the people. They provide vital services to communities in their vicinity. However, the quality of their services depends on the capacity of their employees; as such, regular capacity development is required for improved and sustained service delivery.

In Somaliland, local government employees came up with an exciting capacity-related initiative that takes advantage of social media technology. After setting up a Facebook page for local government employees, they have used the platform to discuss topics pertinent to local government functions.

Participants on this Facebook page, which includes live discussion, share opinions, expertise, experiences, and practical examples on all manner of relevant topics: maximizing municipal revenue, techniques for better management of public expenditure, procurement practices, bank reconciliation, and budget controls. Technical experts, including municipal finance staff, help to shed light on complicated issues.

Sahra Mohamed Abdi is a BIMS (Billing Information Management System) clerk in Burao District. She had difficulties securing a property database and maintaining reliable backup, and decided to post a question on how other districts are managing this issue. To her surprise, contributions came one after the other from local government employees regarding different ways of managing backups.

‘Colleagues in other districts were so generous in providing very relevant and practical examples,’ she said, noting that she then adopted one of the methods sent by her workmates. In addition, the UN-Habitat municipal finance expert prepared and posted a tutorial video providing a step-by-step procedure for securing municipal database backup.

In another instance, a local government employee in one of the districts encountered a problem when attempting to record multiple currencies in the automated accounting system. Like Sahra Mohamed Abdi, he put the question to colleagues via the Facebook page. The result was an engrossing discussion among local government peers, and the issue was sorted out through conversation and experience sharing.

Thanks to this social media technology, local government employees in Somaliland, particularly those with finance, administration, and IT-related tasks, are expanding their knowledge base through peer learning and critical thinking.

Abdirahman Adan Mohamoud, Associate Human Settlements Officer
Ahmedi Aden Yusuf, Senior Project Assistant, UNJPLG

To view one of the video tutorials posted online: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEk0_Lr42kA
Hargeisa water project organizes site visit for Somaliland diaspora members

Towards the end of August 2016, the Hargeisa Water Agency and UN-Habitat took members of the Somaliland diaspora on a site inspection of the ongoing Hargeisa Urban Water Supply Upgrading Project (HUWSUP). Sixty-five diaspora representatives visited the HUWSUP construction yard, the main reservoir, several pipe-laying sites, the newly drilled boreholes at Hora Haadley, and the new Ged Deeble pumping station.

Hargeisa Water Agency Manager Ibrahim Siyad Yonis and UN-Habitat Senior Project Engineer Mohamed Farah conducted the tour and paid tribute to the diaspora, noting that the three new boreholes in Hora Haadley were paid for by the families of diaspora members Mowlid Elmi Yonis and Abdilahi Haji Ahmed Ismael. At the end of the tour, the Hargeisa Water Agency hosted the 65 visitors for lunch under the famous giant trees of Ged Deeble, the main water catchment area for Hargeisa.

The Hargeisa Urban Water Supply Upgrading Project is jointly funded by the European Union and the Somaliland Development Fund to the tune of EUR 15 million and USD 8.6 million respectively. The project is implemented by UN-Habitat, in partnership with the Hargeisa Water Agency and the Somaliland Ministry of Water Resources.
### UN-Habitat Somalia donors and funding agencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Support</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Danish International Development Agency</td>
<td>DANIDA funds the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery, as well as the Youth Employment Somalia programme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>The EC is the main donor of UN-Habitat operations in the Somali region. The commission provides funding and technical and strategic guidance to programme design and implementation. The EC is an important donor to the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery, while the Hargeisa Urban Water Supply Upgrading Project is the largest EC-supported intervention by UN-Habitat worldwide.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government of Italy</td>
<td>The support of the Government of Italy, often through Italian Cooperation, has been consistent throughout UN-Habitat's presence in the Somali region. It funds shelter, rehabilitation, employment creation, and service delivery programmes, the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery, and Youth Employment Somalia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government of Japan</td>
<td>The Government of Japan funds durable shelter, resettlement, and improved livelihoods interventions in support of returnees and internally displaced people in Hargeisa, Buraas, Borona, Berbera, and Bossaso.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government of Norway</td>
<td>The Government of Norway funds the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency</td>
<td>Sida financially supports UN-Habitat in the implementation of shelter and education activities for internally displaced people and the urban poor in south central Somalia; it also funds Youth Employment Somalia, other employment creation programmes, and the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation</td>
<td>The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (also known as SDC), Switzerland's international cooperation agency within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, funds the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somaliland Development Fund</td>
<td>The Somaliland Development Fund is a four-year fund designed to support the Government of Somaliland in filling a critical gap by supporting government projects that are fully aligned to the National Development Plan. It is currently funded by the UK's Department for International Development, the Danish International Development Agency, and the Governments of Norway and the Netherlands. The fund focuses primarily on improving government capacity and enhancing citizen awareness about government activities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government of the United Kingdom</td>
<td>Through the Department for International Development (DFID), the Government of the United Kingdom funds the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery. The British Office for Somalia has also provided project funding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Children's Fund</td>
<td>UNICEF partners with UN-Habitat in various activities, including the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery, the Somaliland Urban Water Programme, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities in Mogadishu.</td>
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