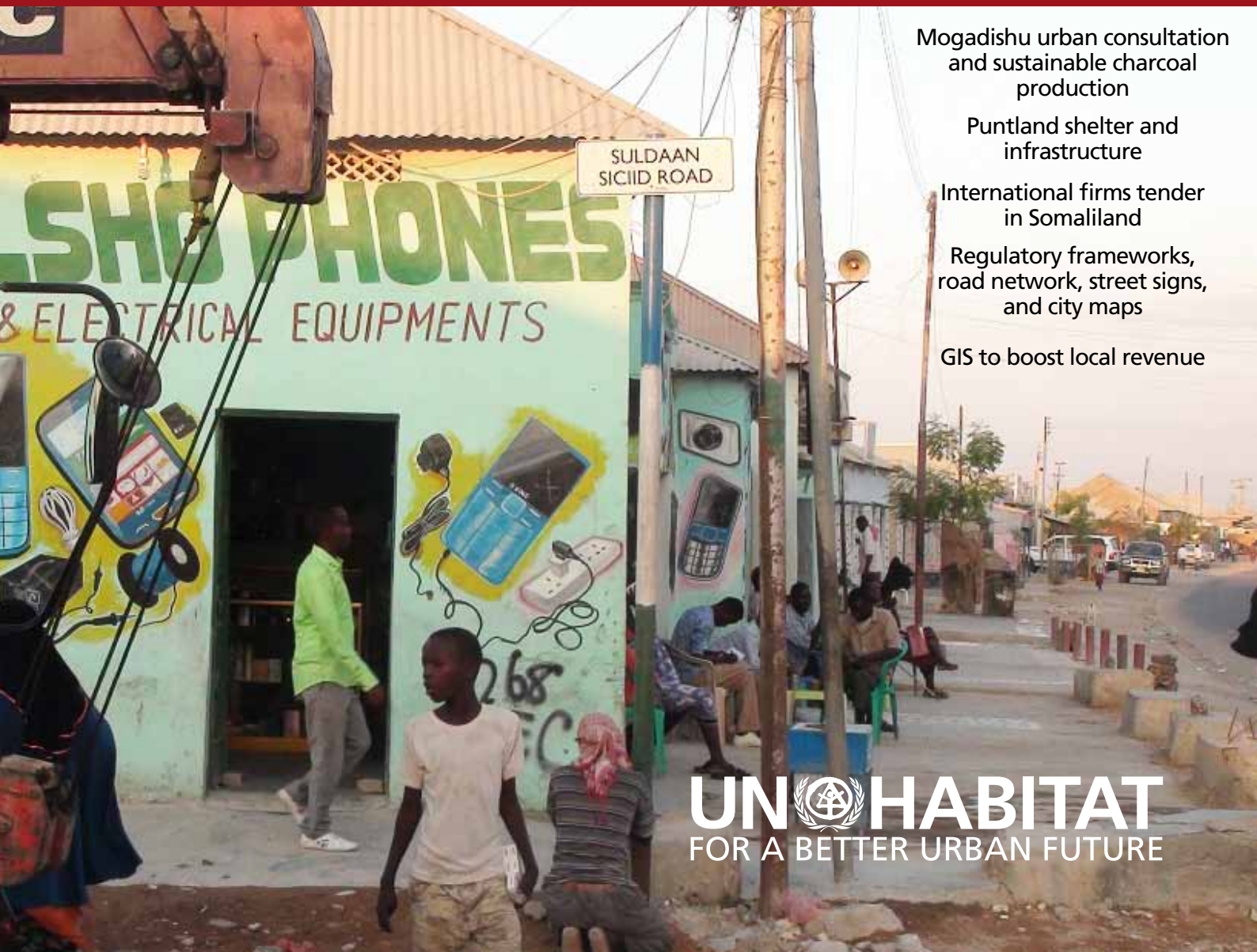


January–June 2014

# UN-Habitat in the Somali Region Newsletter

Updates on the Latest Urban Interventions – Issue No. 17



Mogadishu urban consultation  
and sustainable charcoal  
production

Puntland shelter and  
infrastructure

International firms tender  
in Somaliland

Regulatory frameworks,  
road network, street signs,  
and city maps

GIS to boost local revenue

**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

## Mogadishu holds urban consultation

A historic urban consultation took place on 19 and 20 January 2014 in Mogadishu, taking the first step towards a participatory urban planning and decision-making process that focuses on the city's urban rehabilitation priorities.

The two-day event was organized by the newly established Mogadishu Department of Urban Planning, the Benadir Regional Administration, and UN-Habitat, with the participation of key city stakeholders from the government and private sector.

The purpose of the event was to disseminate the results of surveys and urban mapping work conducted by UN-Habitat (in technical cooperation with the Department of Urban Planning) in order to raise awareness about urban problems and development challenges and to discuss solutions for urban planning, land management, and reconstruction. Most importantly, the consultation was a stage for discussing action points on the way forward for Mogadishu's urban development.

Around 120 participants from Benadir Regional Administration departments, central government ministries, and the education sector were in attendance. This included a pool of technical experts from civil society, the private sector, and UN and non-governmental organizations, including Turkish Cooperation, which is implementing numerous infrastructure activities in Mogadishu.

Various presentations were made on Mogadishu's main urban sectors to initiate a discussion on solutions to the main problems being experienced in the city's rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The key areas of discussion were Mogadishu's urban infrastructure development; solutions for the internally displaced persons and urban poor living in mass camps inside and outside of town; the overall security situation; and project proposals for the protection and reconstruction of cultural heritage sites and buildings. There were also discussions on the current urban land and property administration, the related property dispute resolution mechanisms, and the need for a national land policy and a strategic urban plan.

The two-day urban consultation resulted in six key resolutions that were then to be put forward to prominent Somali policymakers, the international community, and donors.

The participatory urban planning and decision-making process is being continued in 2014 through ongoing technical cooperation among the Benadir Regional Administration, the Department of Urban Planning, and UN-Habitat, taking action on three particular resolutions: the continuation of urban mapping and capacity building in geographic information systems (GIS), urban planning, and land management; the mapping and registration of all public properties to establish a GIS-based property database for Mogadishu; and the development of a strategic urban plan.

*Anna Sobczak,  
Associate Human Settlements Officer*



*Participants at the urban consultation listen to the opening speech by the former Mayor of Mogadishu, Mohamed Ahmed Nur.*

# What's New!



Puntland and Somaliland

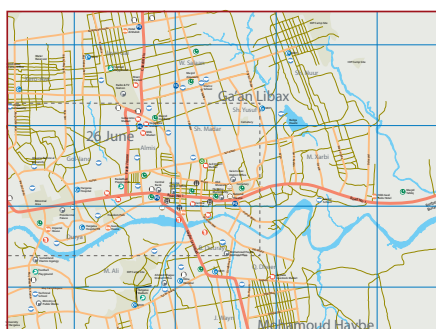
## **Draft urban regulatory frameworks for Somaliland and Puntland developed**

UN-Habitat has signed an agreement of cooperation with the Ministry of Public Works, Housing, and Transport in Somaliland and the Ministry of Public Works and Transport in Puntland to train selected technical staff in districts, line ministers, and mayors of districts supported by the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery in order to build and improve the capacity of local authorities and the central government to implement new urban regulatory frameworks. See **page 10** for the full story.

South central Somalia

## **Inter-district school waste clean-up competition**

On 20 February 2014, the Sustainable Employment Creation and Improved Livelihoods for Vulnerable Urban Communities in Mogadishu (SECIL) project commenced an inter-district school waste clean-up competition. The main aim of this competition was to instil good hygiene habits in students, starting with their school environment, which could then be translated into maintaining a clean environment in their respective communities. Over the course of a month, the school management assessed students' commitment to cleaning their classrooms and school compound, as well as properly using the on-site bins. A ceremony was held on 20 March to award the winning schools in each district. SECIL plans to continue this momentum by expanding the initiative citywide.



Somaliland

## **Hargeisa city map launched**

The first ever city map was developed for Hargeisa in 2013. The map features major urban landmarks, public offices, and urban elements such as commercial shops, hotels, and restaurants. The map will be utilized by tourists and visitors, providing a better understanding of the urban space in Hargeisa and improving orientation. The map will also potentially bring in revenue for Hargeisa Municipality. A formal launch of the map was organized in March 2014 to celebrate this achievement. A limited number of printed maps and the digital version have been handed over to the Mayor of Hargeisa. The Hargeisa city map will be available for purchase in the airport and major hotels in Hargeisa.

Puntland

## **Handover of houses, community centres, and new training centre buildings**

In November 2013, 150 houses were officially handed over as part of the ongoing project titled Integration of IDPs into the Host Community in Bossaso. In February 2014, a ceremony was held to mark the completion and handover of two community centres in Bossaso; informal social gatherings, meetings of community leaders, and conflict resolution and skills training will all take place inside their halls. Also in February, a celebration at the Bossaso Vocational Educational Training Centre marked the completion of five newly constructed buildings. See **pages 6, 7, and 8** for the full stories.

# Upgrading for Bossaso's port and roads

The Bossaso Port and Roads Infrastructure Upgrading Project is responding to the following realities in the city of Bossaso:

- Rapid urban growth, which contributes to congestion and problems related to service delivery and basic infrastructure
- Challenges in urban management, control, and planning
- Urban infrastructure and services that require improvement
- Urban transport shortfalls related to roads, port access, and parking (lorry terminal)

The Bossaso Port and Roads Infrastructure Project is funded by Cooperazione Italiana (Italian Development Cooperation) and implemented by UN-Habitat, in close collaboration with the Puntland Ministry of Maritime Transport, Ports, and Counter-piracy, as well as Bossaso local government bodies.

The first part of the project, the construction of the eastern bypass, started on 1 December 2013. After exactly six months, on 1 June 2014, UN-Habitat handed over the project to the people of Puntland, represented by the President, the Minister of Maritime Transport, Ports, and Counter-piracy, and the Mayor of Bossaso. The construction of the 5.9-km bypass was completed before its deadline. It is the first newly constructed bitumen road in Puntland since 1988.

The road is built in the same style as roads constructed in Somalia previous to 1988. As part of the bypass, two Irish bridges (also called Irish crossings) were constructed with reinforced concrete. A double surface dressing (macadam) was used to make the road.

In the second half of 2014, Lot 1 (the above-mentioned completed 5.9-km section) will be connected to the Bossaso Port through Lot 2, to complete the eastern bypass fully. Lot 2 will be an upgrade of an existing road.

*Olav Bock,  
Project Manager and Resident Engineer*



Above left: Placing bitumen. Above right: Signboard at the end of Lot 1. Below: June 2014 opening of Lot 1 by the President of Puntland.



# A new building for Galkayo Municipality

On 30 April 2014, a ceremony was held to mark the completion and handover to local authorities of a new building compound that will be the new main premises of Puntland's Galkayo Municipality. The project was done under the UN Joint Programme for Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery and consists of the following structures (with a total area of 750 square metres):

- One new building with an approximate area of 150 square metres, with offices for the mayor, deputy mayor, and other high-level staff of the Galkayo local government
- Three new buildings with an approximate area of 100 square metres each, serving as offices and work areas for the different departments
- A building with an area of about 150 square metres, accommodating a conference hall, two additional offices, and circulation spaces
- A sanitary block with a 50-square-metre area that has a storage room and sanitary facilities, including water installations and a septic tank
- A building for security personnel who control access to the compound, with an area of approximately 50 square metres
- A covered pathway connecting all buildings, 2.5 metres wide, with a total area of about 200 square metres
- Perimeter wall and landscaping



*The Mayor of Galkayo, Abdiaziz Jama Guled, and UN-Habitat staff with the handover note.*

The construction of the new buildings was done using a reinforced concrete beam and column structure, interlocking bricks, wooden doors and windows, and ceramic tiles for the floor surface inside the buildings.

The ceremony was presided over by the Mayor of Galkayo, Abdiaziz Jama Guled, who requested that UN-Habitat include in the project the provision of furniture and equipment, as well as additional drainage and landscaping works. UN-Habitat staff members were in attendance, under the lead of the project engineer, Mohamed Abdi Hirsi, who followed the project from the very beginning, travelling from his base in Garowe. Also participating in the ceremony were local government authorities from the municipality and other entities, plus representatives from UNDP, which had constructed a new marketplace next to the municipality building.

UN-Habitat is pleased to have participated in this project, which was expressly designed to reflect the new government structure recently set up in Galkayo – this includes a city council and other major changes in the way the municipality works and relates to the community.

*Juan José Tejada Viñas,  
Senior Shelter and Construction Expert*

## Exposure visit: Somaliland local government association goes to Tanzania

UN-Habitat and the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery facilitated an exposure visit of nine mayors from Somaliland towns to Arusha, Tanzania. Two senior officers from the Ministry of Interior and the secretary of the Association of Local Government Authorities of Somaliland (ALGASL) also accompanied the group. The delegation was hosted by the Arusha-based East African Local Government Association, an umbrella organization made up of national associations of local governments from Burundi, Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda.

Since Somaliland's ALGASL is in its infant stage, the need for 'hand-holding' had been noted. As a result, UN-Habitat facilitated partnerships with similar associations in the region, such as the Association of Local Government Authorities in Kenya. During the Arusha visit, the various parties had the opportunity to interact, discuss pertinent issues, and share experiences and lessons learned. The Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania played a pivotal role in these experience-sharing sessions.

The mayors of Somaliland, who also happen to be the highest decision-making authorities in ALGASL, had the opportunity to mingle with members of the Arusha City Council and discuss local governance issues. Specifically, discussions were held on public expenditure management, revenue maximization efforts, the development of an urban regulatory framework, waste management best practices, the construction or renovation of markets and their management, the development and maintenance of roads and drainage systems, and, most importantly, the delivery of equitable services to local communities.

In addition, members of the Somaliland delegation visited selected relevant projects. These included roads under construction, solid and liquid waste management facilities, a public health centre run by Arusha City Council, and Shanga-Shanga Community Centre.

Since all the mayors who participated in this visit were new to the functions of subnational structures, the visit proved to be a crucial, timely eye-opener. The mayors came back with an improved development vision and agenda on a number of fronts. It is expected that they will translate this into reality in the near future.

ALGASL was established in 2006, and most of the local government authorities in Somaliland are members. It advocates the interests of local governments and for the creation of an enabling environment for subnational structures. It is also a key partner in the efforts to improve local governance in general and devolve some central government functions to local government authorities.

*Abdirahman Adan Mohamoud,  
National Programme Officer*

## Two new community centres unveiled

On 5 February 2014, a ceremony was held at one of the two community centres built by UN-Habitat in Bossaso, to mark their completion and handover to the local government and communities.

The Mayor of Bossaso, Hassan Abdalla Hassan, gave the main speech at the ceremony, accompanied by members of Bossaso City Council who have closely followed the project under which the community centres were built, titled Integration of IDPs into the Host Community in Bossaso.

The buildings are part of UN-Habitat's efforts to upgrade infrastructure in the communities that host such housing projects. After many discussions with the communities, it was decided to have two community centres to serve the eight communities in the eastern part of town where the housing project is being implemented.

These centres will assist in providing services and facilities that contribute to communities' long-term growth and sustainability. Informal social gatherings, meetings of community leaders, and conflict resolution and skills training are all activities that will take place inside their halls. In this way, UN-Habitat contributes to 'building' communities by providing public spaces, which are sorely lacking.

*Adna Awil Mohamed,  
Project Assistant for Livelihood Development*



*Top:  
Corner view of  
one community  
centre.*

*Middle:  
The Mayor  
of Bossaso,  
Hassan Abdalla  
Hassan, speaks  
at the handover  
ceremony,  
accompanied by  
members of the  
city council.*



*Bottom:  
View of the other  
community centre  
with signboard.*

# Vulnerable families receive 150 houses funded by the Common Humanitarian Fund



On 26 November 2013, in a brief ceremony at the Office of the Mayor of Bossaso, 150 houses were officially handed over as part of the ongoing project titled Integration of IDPs into the Host Community in Bossaso.

Funds from the Common Humanitarian Fund allowed for the construction of these 150 houses, which have been added to an ongoing Government of Japan-funded project that is building 500 core housing units.

The project benefitted vulnerable families in Bossaso, providing them with solid shelter, minimizing the risk of destructive fires (which are common in Bossaso during the hot season), and formalizing their standing as legal residents of the town with certified land certificates from the municipality.

Hassan Abdalla Hassan, the Mayor of Bossaso, thanked UN-Habitat for providing sustainable houses for the vulnerable residents of the town, and gave some valuable advice for the improvement of the house design and how to integrate the units into the urban fabric.

The UN-Habitat Project Manager, Juan José Tejada Viñas, explained the project as a long-term proposition for Bossaso, which aims at the social, economic, and spatial integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable residents of the town, thereby providing an alternative to their status as IDPs or 'illegal settlers'.

He explained that the project also aims to improve the infrastructure of the settlements in which the houses are constructed, which will have a positive effect on the whole town, be it through small-scale projects such as community centres or bigger projects such as the bypass road currently under construction.

*Adna Awil Mohamed,  
Project Assistant for Livelihood Development*



*Top: View of some of the 150 houses in the Japan-funded project.  
Bottom left: UN-Habitat staff and city council members of the project committee after the handover ceremony.  
Bottom right: One of the beneficiary families – a female-headed household with numerous children.*

## Handover ceremony at Bossaso Vocational Educational Training Centre



*Top: The new buildings at the Bossaso Vocational Educational Training Centre.  
Bottom: Members of the public attending the handover ceremony at the centre.*



On 16 February 2014, a colourful ceremony was held at the Bossaso Vocational Educational Training Centre in the presence of community leaders, local authorities, international and local NGOs, and the local media, which made the event public to all of Puntland.

The celebration marked the end of training for 220 beneficiaries, who have been learning a variety of skills over the last 5 months, as well as the completion of 5 newly constructed buildings for the centre, with a total area of 750 square metres.

At the ceremony, the general manager of the Bossaso Vocational Educational Training Centre, Jama Osman Shibiin, expressed his appreciation for the activities of UN-Habitat and for the donation from the people of Japan that made the project possible.

In addition, teachers, students, parents, and the village communities were highly appreciative of the improved, more comfortable learning environment, as well as the quality of training received at the centre.

Juan José Tejada Viñas, the UN-Habitat Project Manager, praised the participation of the community and the work of the Bossaso Vocational Educational Training Centre, which UN-Habitat will continue to engage with as a partner.

One of the students who finished a computer course said: "I just wanted to thank you for the opportunity and your contribution. I would like to thank Allah, who allowed me to finish my course of training. Also thank you to UN-Habitat and the people of Japan. For me it was a great experience; keep up the great work."

*Adna Awil Mohamed,  
Project Assistant for Livelihood Development*

# UN-Habitat Somalia presents design of Hargeisa Teacher Training Institute

UN-Habitat Somalia has reached an agreement with UNICEF to provide assistance in the design and construction of a teacher training institute in Hargeisa, Somaliland. The project is being done at the request of the Ministry of Education, which is interested in raising the standards for the training of teachers throughout Somaliland.

It is projected that 600 students at a time will be able to attend the institute, which will have all the facilities required for a high-standard contemporary learning centre. It will include 8 classrooms, a library, laboratories, auditoriums, a gym, a cafeteria, a residential area for 200 students, plus an administration and teachers' area, for a total area of around 8,000 square metres.

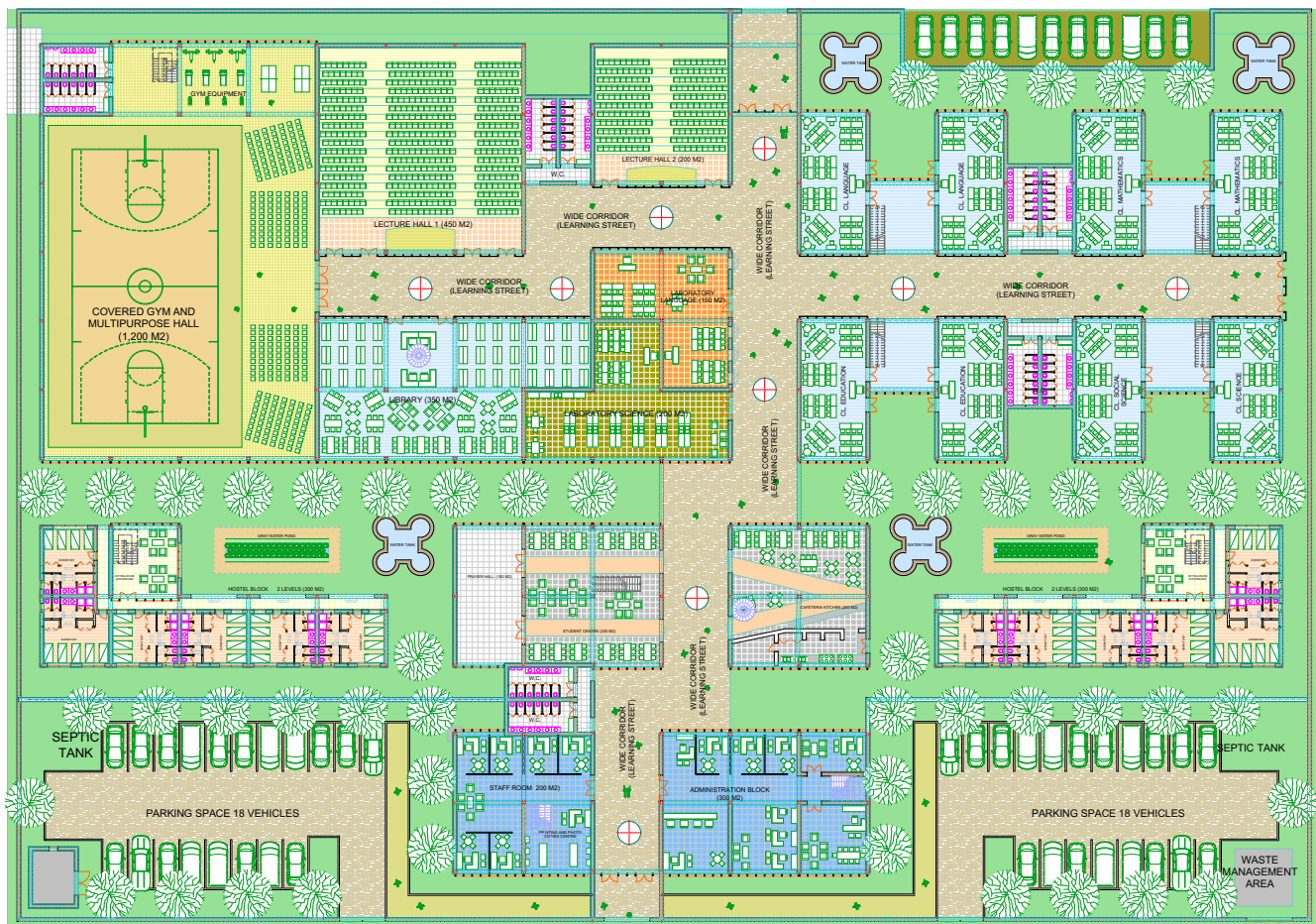
On 23 March 2014, the UN-Habitat project architect, Juan José Tejada Viñas, presented the preliminary design layout of the building to a task force set up by the Ministry of Education. It was well received, allowing UN-Habitat to work towards finalizing the design.

*Juan José Tejada Viñas,  
Senior Shelter and Construction Expert*



*Above: An isometric drawing of the proposed teacher training institute.*

*Below: The layout plan of the new teacher training institute.*



# Draft urban regulatory frameworks for Somaliland and Puntland developed

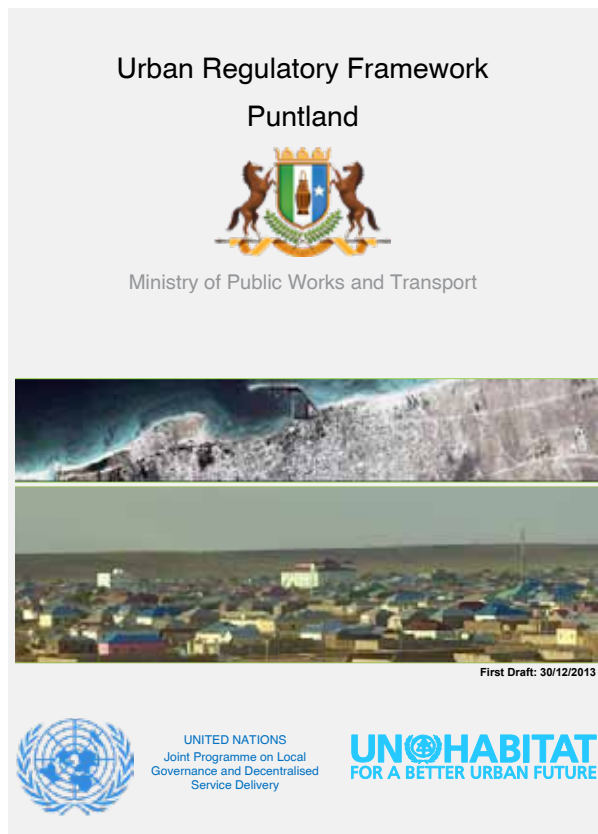
The draft urban regulatory frameworks for Somaliland and Puntland contain six sets of standards and guidelines for various urban development sectors:

1. Spatial planning and the plan-making process at the district level
2. Land use planning, including all public service facilities and recreation, commercial, and industrial uses
3. Building development – including building alignment, floor area ratio, building coverage, building layout, settlement upgrading, and detailed plot development parameters for residential, commercial, industrial, and mixed use, as well as public institutions – and procedures for building permits and other development management
4. Urban road planning, urban road uses, and road reservation for future expansion; this includes guidelines for traffic circulation and management, footpaths, and parking
5. Technical infrastructure, including the management of water resources, waste management, electricity supply (including renewable energy), gas and telecommunication services, and storm water control and management
6. Designing and managing the construction of a building, including construction material, building techniques and components, and safety at construction sites

UN-Habitat has signed an agreement of cooperation with the Ministry of Public Works, Housing, and Transport in Somaliland and the Ministry of Public Works and Transport in Puntland to train selected technical staff in districts, line ministers, and mayors of districts supported by the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery in order to build and improve the capacity of local authorities and the central government to implement the frameworks.

In Puntland, a three-day broad consultative workshop took place in Garowe in March; a technical working group was set up and had its first workshop in Garowe. The Puntland Urban Regulatory Framework document will be adopted to regulate urban development throughout Puntland. In Somaliland, the first broad consultation workshop took place in Hargeisa in May, and a technical working group is being established.

*Emrah Engindeniz,  
Human Settlements Officer*



*The urban regulatory frameworks for Puntland and Somaliland.*

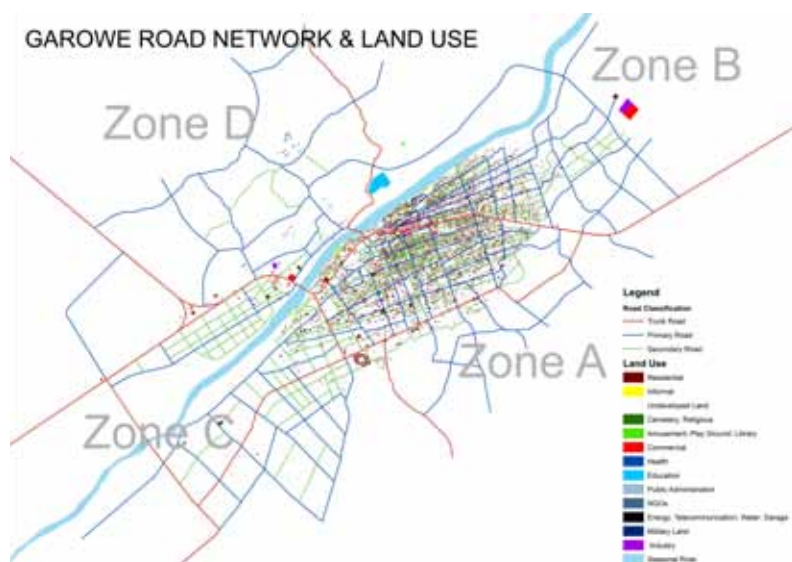
# Road network planning and street signs in Garowe



With technical support from the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery, UN-Habitat has assisted Garowe Municipality to develop a road network plan with road classification and hierarchy, name major streets, and also install street signs. A technical committee – assisted through on-the-job training by UN-Habitat – has developed the draft urban road network plan and submitted it to the district council for approval. The technical committee also conducted a road condition survey in Garowe and created a geographic information system-based database, which is being installed in Garowe Municipality.

Fifty-five major roads in Garowe (trunk, primary, and secondary) were named and approved by the local council. The technical committee has also been supported to develop street sign guidelines and specifications for Garowe to manufacture and install the street signs. An agreement of cooperation between Garowe Municipality and UN-Habitat was signed, and a local contractor is manufacturing and installing 173 street signs. The good quality, legible signs will improve orientation and order in the town.

*Emrah Engindeniz,  
Human Settlements Officer*



*Top and bottom:  
Garowe's new road  
signs.*

*Middle: A road network  
and land use map of  
Garowe.*



# Sustainable charcoal production comes to Mogadishu

From the beginning of 2014, UN-Habitat's Sustainable Employment Creation and Improved Livelihoods for Vulnerable Urban Communities in Mogadishu (SECIL) Project has been promoting sustainable charcoal production in Somalia's largest urban area.

Over the last 5 months, 12 charcoal burners have been busy systematically removing the dense *Prosopis juliflora* trees that have infested the land around the Dharkenley livestock market. Clearing the thorny trees from the site and opening up the public space is the first step in regenerating the market. The team works under the supervision of the district coordinator for the project and a representative from the district commissioner's office, who has the key task of ensuring the team has smooth access to all *Prosopis* sites in the district.

During the first phase, the team constructed 5 traditional earth kilns, all of which burned only *Prosopis* wood and produced 185 sacks of charcoal, with a value of USD 1,110. During this period, the emphasis was on group dynamics and developing the right technique for removing the tree to ensure that no regrowth from the root stem would occur. The team cuts down the whole tree before digging up the root stem itself, as this hard woody component is highly valued by the innovative charcoal burners.

In January, UN-Habitat and Human Relief Foundation staff from Mogadishu visited the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) at their training centre just outside Nairobi. KEFRI experts offered instruction on a range of charcoal production methods: portable metal kilns, drum kilns, and improved earth kilns, including the *casamance* kiln.

The next phase of the project saw the introduction of an improved earth kiln to Mogadishu, using the *casamance* kiln design, which was initially developed in Senegal and then modified at KEFRI. This design has been easily adapted to the Mogadishu context – existing traditional earth kilns in the city can be modified using a chimney and four air inlets, which are made from galvanized iron sheets that are locally manufactured. The *Prosopis* wood is cut and stacked carefully to minimize air pockets in the kiln. Air channels under the wood stack are also added, giving better carbonization and higher charcoal yields.

The charcoal burners of Dharkenley District are producing valuable energy close to the city from a tree that remains an urban environmental problem in Mogadishu. SECIL's new measures to improve kiln efficiency will certainly raise the standards of charcoal production in Somalia.

*Andrew Adam-Bradford, Human Relief Foundation*



*Prosopis charcoal yield ready for sale.*

# Briquette training for vulnerable communities in Hodan District



Members of the HIDWO community group.

In March 2014, the Sustainable Employment Creation and Improved Livelihoods for Vulnerable Urban Communities in Mogadishu (SECIL) project conducted training in the production of charcoal briquettes, a low-cost form of energy made from charcoal dust and waste paper, for 27 women from the HIDWO community group in the Hodan District of Mogadishu.

HIDWO was established in 2007 to bring together disabled women primarily so that they might support each other and their families. In most cases, the disabled women have no husbands and, therefore, as the heads of their households, take on the responsibility of caring for their children and elderly parents. This is a community that often does not receive equal access to humanitarian aid, and SECIL welcomed the opportunity to partner with HIDWO in this pilot project.

The first day of the two-day training session provided theoretical background on charcoal briquette production, which included strategies for sourcing raw materials and site selection. The second day of training sought to ensure that participants had a solid understanding of the briquette production process. This in-depth practical component focused on providing hands-on experience in producing the briquettes, while also engaging in cooking demonstrations to examine the effectiveness of different types of cooking fuels. A key aspect of the training was cultivating the business capacity of the participants to ensure the long-term survival and success of the production group.

The participants were actively engaged throughout all aspects of the training and demonstrated a keen interest in starting their own production of briquettes.

*Falastin Omar,  
Programme Support Officer*

## Forty firms submit tenders in project to improve Hargeisa water supply

The Minister of Water Resources and the Director of the Hargeisa Water Agency have revealed during a joint press conference that more than 40 firms from all over the world have submitted their tenders to expand the existing Hargeisa water supply grid.

The Director of the Hargeisa Water Agency, Mr. Ibrahim Said, speaking during the press briefing, said, "The visiting representatives of the 40 firms came to the country after UN-Habitat, which has been tasked to oversee the expansion of the Hargeisa water supply, advertised the contract on behalf of the EU, which will be providing the funds for the project. Representatives of those firms will be in the coming days visiting the main water sources that supply Hargeisa, and they will also visit the eastern and northern areas of Hargeisa, which are currently receiving little or no water at all. The representatives of the at least 40 firms from Africa, Asia, and Europe present here today are those which have placed their tenders and have been invited here to do assessments and evaluate the expansion work needed for Hargeisa's water supply."

The Minister of Water Resources, Hon. Hussein Mohamed Abdille, said, "Further, the additional water will see an increase of household connections and a sharp reduction in water trucking to the capital through unhygienic water tankers that pump water from contaminated shallow riverbed aquifers."

Hargeisa, the capital of Somaliland, has a rapidly growing population. The principal water infrastructure for the city was built in the 1970s, and is not only aged and dilapidated, but also cannot meet the growing demand for clean, potable water. Hargeisa's limited water availability is a critical shortcoming in essential service delivery and seriously impedes people's right to water access and local economic development.

The Hargeisa Urban Water Supply Upgrading Project (HUWSUP) will replace the current twin-transmission main that runs from the principal well field at Geed Deeble to Hargeisa with a high-capacity, single pipeline. This action will dramatically increase the capacity of Hargeisa's system of supply from the current average of 9 million litres to a maximum capacity of 20 million litres a day: a 122 percent increase.

Upgrading the pumping and booster facilities will put in place up-to-date and cost-efficient technology, further securing the system for the long term.

By re-drilling and rehabilitating the existing boreholes, and developing new ones, HUWSUP will increase the water supply by a minimum of 3.5 million litres every day, bringing Hargeisa closer to international minimum standards for urban water consumption. This water will be safe and affordable, improving the lives of Hargeisa residents.

*Adapted from Somaliland Press and Somali Diaspora News*



*The booster station at Geed Deeble.*

# Geographic information systems poised to boost local revenue in Bossaso and Gabiley

As part of the decentralization process and improved service delivery, local governments have been mandated to mobilize internal financial resources for the improved provision of community services and basic infrastructure development. Local governments in developing countries rely mainly on central government transfers and taxation within their areas of jurisdiction to generate revenue.

Property taxation forms a big portion of locally mobilized revenue, but remains largely untapped. The main reason for this is the lack of accurate, updated, and complete land and property data that can be used as a platform for revenue mobilization. Existing manual records remain largely outdated and therefore do not capture the existing property-related realities on the ground.

The UN-Habitat Somalia Programme has developed an innovative approach that combines spatial urban property information with improved revenue systems. Over the past eight years, the programme has been able to set up efficient tax collection systems – based on property taxation – in Somali cities where existing information on land and urban properties was at best incomplete, institutional arrangements were weak, and the capacities of local professionals needed to be built.

After successfully implementing spatial databases linked to automated billing information systems in some cities in Somaliland and Puntland, UN-Habitat recently developed a geographic information system (GIS) database capturing properties and buildings in Gabiley in Somaliland and Bossaso in Puntland. Bossaso Municipality had no database of properties and buildings within its jurisdiction; without knowing the location and size of properties and who owns what, it could not implement a property taxation programme.

The property survey consisted of four main steps:

- Acquisition of a geo-referenced, high-resolution satellite image for Gabiley and Bossaso (Quickbird)
- On-screen digitizing of the image to create a map that shows all existing buildings and other features such as roads, rivers, the airport, etc.
- Field verification of the spatial database and collection of attribute data in digital format
- Integration of attribute data and spatial information to form the geo-database

Attribute data collected and verified from the field survey is joined to geo-referenced spatial data. The variables in the property database include the following:

- Exact location, with coordinates derived from the geo-referenced image and Global Positioning System (GPS) technology in the field (where possible)
- Physical characteristics of the property (dimensions, use, building materials, access to social services, infrastructural details, waste collection, probable year of construction, roofing material, economic activities and livelihoods connected to the property, etc.)
- Main occupant (could be different from owner)
- Number of residents living in the building

The digital database attributes are linked one to one with the geo-referenced building and property spatial data in the ArcGIS platform. This is used to print property tax bills, which are to be delivered to the individual households. The spatial database and associated attribute information will also be used for thematic mapping to define land use and urban planning initiatives, and improve decision making in infrastructural development and service delivery. The enhanced municipal revenues obtained through the new property taxation systems will enable the local government to address service gaps and public infrastructure priorities.

*Gilbert Sosi,*

*GIS, Land, and Engineering Survey Expert*

## UN-Habitat donors and funding agencies

Danish International Development Agency	DANIDA funds the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery.	<p>UN-Habitat contacts:</p> <p>UN-Habitat Regional Office for Africa</p> <p>Axumite Gebre-Egziabher Director axumite.gebre-egziabher@unhabitat.org</p> <p>UN-Habitat Office for the Somali Region</p> <p>Dragan Tatic Chief Technical Adviser un-habitat.som@unhabitat.org Tel: +254 20 7625030</p> <p><a href="http://www.unhabitat.org/somalia">www.unhabitat.org/somalia</a></p>
European Commission	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, and funds the Sustainable Employment Creation and Improved Livelihoods for Vulnerable Urban Communities in Mogadishu (SECIL) Project, while the Hargeisa Urban Water Supply Upgrading Project is the largest EC-supported intervention by UN-Habitat worldwide.	
Government of Italy	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, and service delivery programmes, and funds the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery.	
Government of Japan	The Government of Japan funds durable shelter, resettlement, and improved livelihoods interventions in support of returnees and internally displaced people in Hargeisa, Burao, Boroma, Berbera, and Bossaso.	
Government of Norway	The Government of Norway funds the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery.	
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency	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, and funds the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery.	
Government of the United Kingdom	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.	
United Nations Children's Fund	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.	
The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	UN-OCHA, which manages the Common Humanitarian Fund for Somalia (previously the Humanitarian Response Fund), has supported district-based rehabilitation in Mogadishu. The Common Humanitarian Fund is funding specific activities related to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Puntland and south central Somalia. OCHA and UN-Habitat collaborate on both the planning and implementation of IDP activities in these regions.	
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UNHCR is a key UN-Habitat partner in the implementation of land-, shelter-, and IDP-related activities. UNHCR funds some IDP settlement-upgrading components and supports joint research on land-related issues; it also financed UN-Habitat action-planning activities in Mogadishu. In addition, UNHCR and UN-Habitat are co-chairs of the Somalia Shelter Cluster.	

*This newsletter was prepared and edited by Edward Miller.*

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*Cover photo: A new road sign in Garowe.*

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