

July–December 2014

# UN-Habitat in the Somali Region Newsletter

Updates on the Latest Urban Interventions – Issue No. 18



Rehabilitated Mogadishu market opened

Public spaces mapped in Mogadishu

IT, construction, finance, and water filter training

Waste management

More than 1,000 new IDP housing units

Boost for Puntland local government group

**UN HABITAT**  
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## Crucial waste management enhanced in Boroma, Berbera, and Hargeisa

Somaliland, which suffered devastation during the civil war, is trekking back to normalcy due to its internal resilience. Donor agencies are assisting it on this journey, and UN-Habitat has been supporting some critical development areas to enable Somaliland to regain its past glory.

The country severely lacks basic infrastructure for solid waste and biomedical waste management. The majority of citizens throw their domestic and trade- and industry-related waste on the street, and health-care institutions do not have any facilities for biomedical waste management. Both kinds of waste are partially collected, but even that which ends up at the open dumping sites poses a serious threat to public health and the environment.

With a view to helping local governments improve their solid waste management systems and helping health-care institutions improve biomedical waste management, UN-Habitat (through the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery) is providing technical assistance to enhance these services and develop municipal by-laws to regulate waste management. The agency is undertaking pilot projects for municipal solid waste management in Boroma and Berbera, and for biomedical waste management in Hargeisa, Boroma, and Berbera. The projects will demonstrate that the improvements can be replicated.

An international consultant has been hired, and standard by-laws have been duly prepared and shared with the local authorities of nine major cities. The modalities for the implementation of the pilot projects have been worked out, in consultation with the local governments, and a service delivery model and implementation strategy have been finalized. To enable implementation, financial support will be given to the pilot cities for the procurement of tools, equipment, and vehicles.

*Emrah Engindeniz,  
Human Settlements Officer*



*Municipal staff at a meeting to discuss waste management services and by-laws.*

# What's New!



Somaliland

## New city hall for Berbera

Berbera has an impressive new city hall on its skyline. Resulting from an agreement between the Berbera local government and UN-Habitat (under the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery), the construction project aimed to decongest the old municipality building by providing a larger meeting hall and additional office space for various public services. The new city hall was planned as a two-storey building, with the offices on the ground floor and the meeting hall on the second floor. A third floor was later added, paid for by Berbera Municipality. See the full story on [page 8](#).

South central Somalia

## Construction workers, foremen, and supervisors trained in Mogadishu

In September and October, for the first time ever, the Benadir Regional Administration Training Department and the Urban Heritage Centre conducted construction training courses. Based on the SECIL reference manual, which is now available in Somali, the programme developed two short-term training courses for (i) construction workers and (ii) supervisors and foremen. The former focuses on practical exercises and best building practices, while the latter concentrates on how to efficiently plan and manage a construction site, construction materials, and a labour force. There are currently 4 training courses being held for supervisors and 9 trainings being held for workers, with 193 supervisors and 184 workers trained to date. The demand for the course for supervisors and foremen is constantly increasing, as local universities have expressed an interest in sending students who are in their fourth and final year of study.



Puntland

## Local government body visits Arusha

In August and September, UN-Habitat and the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery (JPLG) facilitated an exposure visit by mayors from Puntland towns and directors from the Puntland Ministry of Interior to Arusha, Tanzania. The delegation was hosted by the East African Local Governments Association. Local government authorities in Puntland formed their own association in 2009, called the Association of Local Government Authorities of Puntland, after which UN-Habitat and JPLG sought partnerships for them in the region. During the Arusha visit, the various groups were able to discuss crucial issues and share their experiences and lessons learned. See the full story on [page 9](#).

South central Somalia

## Somalia delegation participates in World Water Week, Stockholm

In order to foster positive and constructive dialogue among actors at the local and federal level and to further reinforce their capacity to establish frameworks for water regulation, SECIL supported the attendance of a Somali delegation at World Water Week in Stockholm (31 August to 5 September). Members of the group were from the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, the Benadir Regional Administration, and the Somalia Country Water Partnership. In addition to presenting the challenges facing Mogadishu's water system at this global forum, the attendees were able to hear from other international delegates about their positive experiences with integrated water resource management and energy in the development context. By joining this global water partnership, the delegation has started building networks and cultivating a new, more resilient vision for the future of Somalia's water and energy sectors.

# New settlement projects provide 1,310 housing units to over 7,800 internally displaced people

Under UN-Habitat's Shelter Programme, with funding provided by the Government of Japan, an additional 1,310 low-cost housing units are being constructed for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees in 2014 and 2015 in Somaliland and Puntland. The new projects are focused on five towns and are a continuation of previous UN-Habitat projects, under which over 3,000 permanent housing units have been built for IDPs since 2008.

The interventions carried out under the new funding respond to UN-Habitat's mandate to 'build back communities' in a post-conflict situation and also respond to the continuous need to provide durable solutions for the reintegration and resettlement of displaced communities. The project goal is to create improved living conditions for displaced communities in four towns in Somaliland (Hargeisa, Boroma, Burao, and Berbera) and a key town in Puntland (Bossaso), through the provision of durable shelter, basic water and sanitation, and skills training for increased livelihood opportunities.

The site selection for the resettlement of IDPs and returnees is based on the availability of land, which is being provided for free by local governments and in negotiation with private landowners. Public urban land in Somalia is not easily available. Municipalities have therefore moved towards a practice of reclaiming land for public use by transferring privately owned rural land to urban land titles. UN-Habitat has criteria for excluding sites that are not suitable for permanent settlement: for example, the lack of land ownership transparency, security, transport, livelihoods, and access to water. The resettlement land is being planned together with access roads and space for community facilities.

## Community infrastructure

Public community infrastructure – a community centre, a small school, a health centre – will benefit both IDPs/returnees and the host community. These subprojects will be selected jointly through public consultations with the host and beneficiary communities at each location.

## Skills training for livelihood development

In addition to providing low-cost shelter and sanitation, the project improves the livelihood situation of the beneficiaries by providing basic skills training in income-generating activities (prioritized by the communities themselves). The project anticipates a range of possible areas: tailoring, cloth making, beauty care, catering, information technology, plumbing, electricity, and carpentry. A consultation process has selected 165 male and female participants for the skills training.

*Anna Sobczak,  
Associate Human Settlements Officer*

## Internally displaced persons in Somalia

Somalia has generally been in a state of pseudo-anarchy, ruled by warlords and clan leaders, following the collapse of the Siad Barre regime in 1991. During the early years of the war, the self-declared Republic of Somaliland – particularly its capital city Hargeisa, the second-largest town Burao, and the strategic port city of Berbera – suffered heavy attacks by forces from southern Somalia. Large portions of the population fled to neighbouring Ethiopia and Djibouti, or sought protection elsewhere.

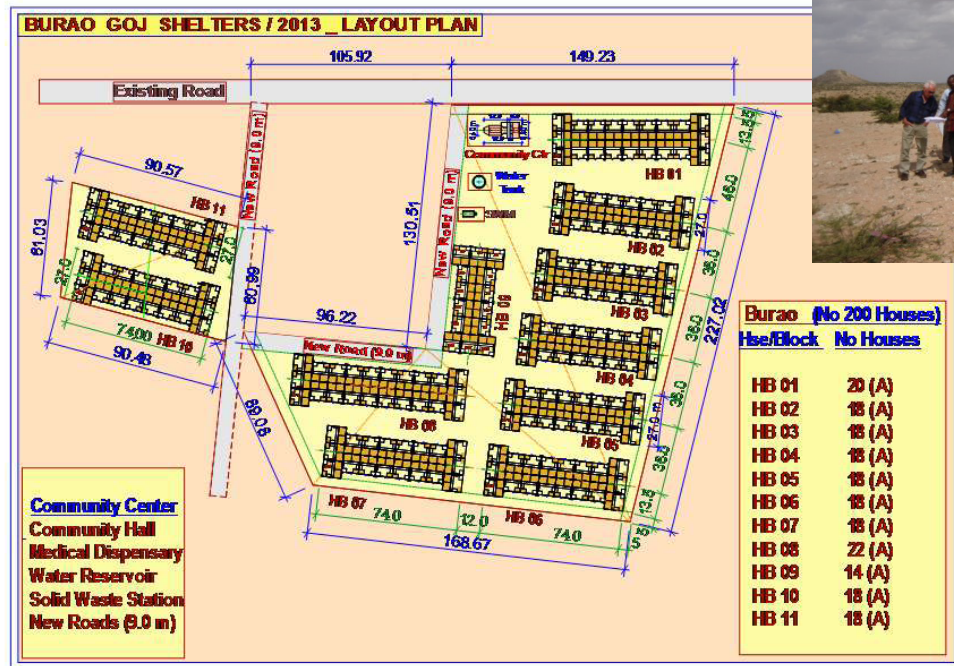
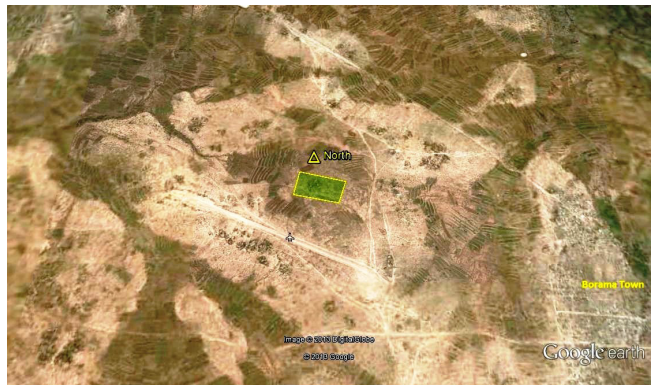
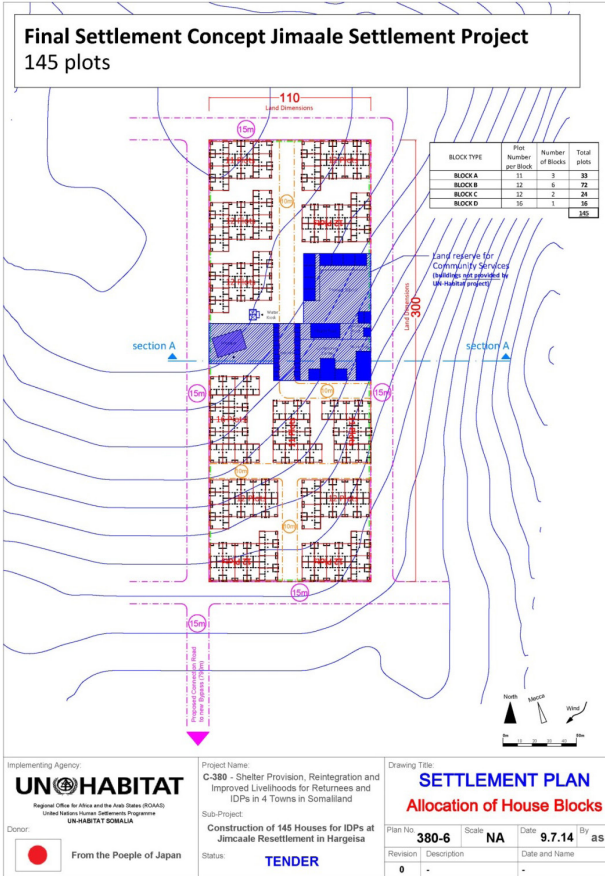
Ironically, the ongoing armed conflict and faltering attempts to establish governance and rule of law in the south contributed to the gradual stabilization of the northern regions. The relative stability of the northern regions acted like a magnet for IDPs from the south as well as those from rural areas all over Somalia, whose economies were ravaged by recurrent drought, environmental degradation, and blocked access to markets.

The UN estimates that there are still close to 1.1 million IDPs in Somalia today, representing close to 15 percent of the total population. These are chronically vulnerable people who lack even the most basic protection and essential services. Living conditions are among the worst in Africa, and poverty levels are extremely high. Most returnees and IDPs are 'long-term' displaced people. They have settled for many years in vacant spaces and at the fringes of urban centres with very limited livelihood opportunities, little access to basic services and education, and no appropriate or durable housing.



Top left: The 'Ayaha 4' housing settlement in Hargeisa, completed in 2014.

Top right: Architectural model of the housing unit design for Hargeisa.



Middle left: Plan for the settlement project in Hargeisa.

Middle right: Plans for Hargeisa and Boroma on Google Earth images.

Bottom left: Layout plan for the Burao settlement project.

Bottom right: Site visit for interested contractors in Hargeisa in September.

## Computer training comes to Hargeisa

Between June and August 2014, the Somaliland National Information and Computing Technology (ICT) Commission implemented a computer training course for 70 participants from 7 local governments – Burao, Hargeisa, Gabiley, Berbera, Sheikh, Odweine, and Boroma – as well as the Auditor-General's Office and the Ministry of Interior. The participants were training in basic computer usage, including Microsoft Office applications, the Internet, computer troubleshooting, AIMS and BIMS accounting software, computer hardware, and networking.

This training was in line with the Somaliland National Development Plan (2012–2016), through which UN-Habitat is developing the information technology skills of local government staff. The purpose of the training is to update employees about the latest developments in technology, allowing them to get the maximum value out of their software applications.

The training course was opened by the Somaliland National ICT Commission Chairman Eng. Ali Abdullah Tahir, who informed the participants about the benefits of the training and how the technology helps to increase efficiency, productivity, and capabilities. Asha Mohamed, representing UN-Habitat, discussed the positive collaboration among the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery, UN-Habitat, and the ICT commission.

The training was done over 28 days, in two sessions of 14 days each, and utilized lectures, demonstrations, group discussions, labs, and practical sessions. An evaluation at the end of the course found that 84 percent of the participants were happy with it, as it provided the ability to improve their work performance – now that they are able to operate the software applications they were trained on – and also gave a fuller understanding of the various applications available on their computers.

During the closing ceremonies of the two sessions, the participants were awarded Certificates of Participation by the Director of Peace and Security and the Director of Districts from the Ministry of Interior.

## Garowe hosts finance and accounting training

In May and June 2014, the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery (JPLG) and UN-Habitat conducted finance and accounting training workshops for municipality staff and mayors. The main objective of the finance training was to train 80 employees and 7 mayors and executive secretaries from Bossaso, Gardho, Bayla, Eyl, Jariiban, Garowe, and Galkayo in finance. The training aimed to effectively increase the knowledge of mayors and council staff regarding their duties and responsibilities in promoting accountability and transparency in financial matters.

The planned training outcomes were as follows:

- To improve the basic understanding of accounting principles
- To understand reports relevant to their work
- To learn how to interpret the relevant reports
- To appreciate public-private partnerships as a means for delivering services
- To understand governance, risk, and ethical issues

The training was delivered through lectures, group discussions, demonstrations, and role plays, using real world examples from the participants. The training curriculum was based on the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants curriculum. The subjects covered included Introduction to Accounting, Financial Accounting, Management Accounting, Financial Reporting, Government Taxation, Introduction to International Public Sector Accounting Standards, Public-Private Partnerships, and Procurement.

Puntland State University, one of the leading universities in the Puntland State region, did the training, which was done in three different sessions. The first session was designed for participants with university education or many years of experience in the accounting profession. It was opened by Osman Mohamed Osman from UN-Habitat and the head of the Ministry of Interior's Department of Local Government, Mr. Jama.

The second session was designed for students with no accounting experience or training – this session was 14 days. The third session was designed for mayors and executives from the different districts and was done over a period of four days. The participants were given a brief overview on the topics their staff had already covered, and emphasis was placed on the importance of accounting and reporting, as well as the interpretation of reports produced by accounting staff.

The final training workshop was officially closed by the vice-minister of the Ministry of Interior. UN-Habitat was represented by Osman Mohamed Osman, and JPLG was represented by the local team leader, Ahmed Said.

*James Mugambi,  
Information Technology Officer*

# Biosand water filter training for Mogadishu

Among the myriad challenges Mogadishu faces are the considerable deficits that exist in the basic infrastructure of many of its key institutions. Crucially, this extends to the provision of clean, safe drinking water for the people, forcing a large share of Mogadishu's population to rely on uncontrolled, low-quality shallow wells for their water supply.

It was with the aim of assisting low-income populations to access clean drinking water that, through SECIL, a Kenyan NGO called Pillar for Maasai Development trained potential biosand water filter producers in Somalia. Biosand technology consists of several carefully prepared layers of sand and gravel, through which water is filtered. The small size and adaptability of the product for intermittent use makes it suitable for households.

An initial training for the local producers was held in Kenya during April and May 2014 for the purpose of building their capacity and technical expertise. They would thereby be able to both produce biosand water filters and facilitate the training of other local producers in Mogadishu. In addition to production techniques, participants were taught how to create business plans. They were also taught marketing strategies that stimulate the consumer market for clean, inexpensive drinking water.

A subsequent training was held in Mogadishu over a five-day period in September 2014 for a larger group of biosand filter producers. The most motivated of these local producers were then selected and furnished with additional tools and equipment to commence biosand filter production on a larger scale for consumption by local households. Follow-up and essential marketing support will be provided to introduce this useful product to the Somali people more widely.

*Bruno Le Bansais,  
SECIL Water Consultant*



*Above: Biosand filter training by Pillar for Maasai Development.*



*Left: Participants in the computer training course in Hargeisa, after completion of the course.*

## Berbera's new city hall rises

Berbera, Somaliland, has a new city hall on its skyline. Resulting from an agreement between the Berbera local government and UN-Habitat (under the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery), the construction project aimed to decongest the old municipality building by providing a larger meeting hall and additional office space for various public services.

The new city hall was planned as a two-storey building, with the offices on the ground floor and the meeting hall on the second floor. Following a tendering process, Berbera Municipality awarded the construction contract to Tawfiq Construction Company. The actual construction work started in May 2013, under a newly elected local government administration. The new mayor and his councillors strongly expressed the need for an additional floor. Though UN-Habitat was unable at that stage to provide additional funds, it offered technical support for this upgrading.

Located near the existing local government compound, the new three-storey building was completed in July 2014. As the area is close to sea level, the construction took care to protect against salt water infiltration. The original two-storey project cost USD 41,000; the costs related to adding the third floor, which required significant modification and reinforcement, were willingly covered by Berbera Municipality.

*Paolo Pompili,  
Project Manager*



*The new city hall building in Berbera, at different stages in its construction.*

## Ansalooti Market officially opened

As part of reviving Mogadishu's vibrant economy, SECIL identified the rehabilitation of markets as key projects that have the potential to stimulate economic growth in the region and increase employment opportunities for surrounding communities. Located in the central Hamarjajab District, the historically significant Ansalooti Market was a hub of economic activity for 55 years, functioning as a central place for individuals to purchase their daily food, including meat, vegetables, and fish. Following the civil war, the market became yet another dilapidated building in Mogadishu's cityscape.

Construction related to Ansalooti's rehabilitation commenced in March. The action hopes to restore this market to the vibrant economic hub it once was and, more importantly, to offer vendors in the local and surrounding communities an opportunity to earn a living.

The official opening of the market was held on 13 September 2014 and was attended by Deputy Mayor Mohamed Aden Guled along with several District Commissioners, including Ahmed Dhore, the DC of Hamarjajab. With 100 stalls inside the market and another 100 outside, vendors are already busy, benefiting from a cleaner and healthier environment in which to sell their goods.

*Falastin Omar,  
SECIL Programme Support Officer*



# New offices for Puntland local government body

A groundbreaking ceremony for the office facilities of the Association of Local Government Authorities of Puntland (ALGAPL) was held in Garowe on 27 October. The land for the new offices was made available by Garowe Municipality, and the project is being funded by UN-Habitat through the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery (JPLG). A conference hall will be among the new structures.

The Vice-President of Puntland, Abdulhakim Abdullahi Haji Omar, presided over the ceremony. Other government dignitaries included the Deputy Minister of Interior and the ALGAPL secretariat. Representatives from UN-Habitat and JPLG also attended. Abdi Aziz Noor Elmi, the Mayor of Garowe and Chairman of ALGAPL, briefly discussed the history of the association and noted its vision of having a strong and united group that represents the best interests of local governments in Puntland. He thanked UN-Habitat/JPLG for being a long-term ally and reliable partner and welcomed their ongoing support in institutionalizing ALGAPL.

Towards the end of the ceremony, after others had spoken, Vice-President Abdulhakim Abdullahi Haji Omar laid the foundation stone. He said that he hoped that the association will contribute to the democratization process that the Puntland State of Somalia had embraced, and also praised the work of UN-Habitat and JPLG in Puntland.

*Abdirahman Adan Mohamoud,  
National Programme Officer*



*Left: The Vice-President of Puntland with the Deputy Minister of Interior at the groundbreaking. Right: Participants at the ALGAPL workshop in Arusha.*

# Local government association visits Arusha

In late August and early September, UN-Habitat and the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery (JPLG) facilitated an exposure visit by mayors from Puntland towns and directors from the Puntland Ministry of Interior to Arusha, Tanzania. The delegation was hosted by the East African Local Governments Association, an umbrella organization made up of various national associations of local governments – Burundi, Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda. The regional association has its headquarters in Arusha.

Local government authorities in Puntland formed their own association in 2009, called the Association of Local Government Authorities of Puntland (ALGAPL). Given the need to support this nascent association, UN-Habitat and JPLG sought partnerships in the region. During the Arusha visit, the various groups were able to discuss crucial issues and share their experiences and lessons learned. The Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania played a key role in the workshop. In addition to the discussions, the mayors from Puntland met the deputy mayor of Arusha and visited selected projects, including solid and liquid waste management facilities, markets, a public health centre, and a community centre.

This visit was timely, as it came after the approval of a decentralization policy by the council of ministers in Puntland. Under the new system, some subnational structures will be responsible for delivering certain services. The delegation's exposure to regional local governance issues and best practices will be of great value, despite the financial and human resource challenges in Puntland.

A number of local government authorities have joined ALGAPL since 2009, but it is expected to attract more districts. The association advocates the interests of local governments and aims to create an enabling environment for subnational structures. It also works towards improving local governance in general and devolving some central government functions and resources for better service delivery.

*Abdirahman Adan Mohamoud,  
National Programme Officer*

# Mapping public spaces and upgrading the public space around Sinay Market

## Background

Following 20 years of civil war, much of Mogadishu's economic infrastructure has been either destroyed or severely damaged. Public urban space is both limited and contested; land ownership is a dominant and controversial issue and continues to hinder the development of basic urban services and infrastructure. Land which does remain free and uncontested is generally undeveloped or is dilapidated or misused as a result of conflict and poor maintenance. This situation in turn results from insufficient political will, limited financial and technical resources, and unclear responsibilities among the various stakeholders.

The absence of adequate urban public spaces has had adverse effects on city dwellers' quality of life and their economic and social well-being. Citizens are deprived of space for recreation, mobility, and commercial exchange. This has substantial negative impacts, not only on individual well-being but also more broadly on social cohesion, cooperation, development, and peace.

Such negative social impacts are further accentuated by a general lack of employment and livelihood prospects. Civil strife has severely eroded the livelihood asset base of the Somali people. Urban populations in Somalia largely rely on an informal economy based on trade, subsistence, and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises.

Under the project titled Upgrading Public Space and Increasing Employment Opportunities in Warta Nabada, Mogadishu, UN-Habitat Somalia (with co-funding from the UN-Habitat Urban Planning and Design Branch) seeks to improve the quality of urban life and increase employment opportunities through rehabilitated public spaces and improved, more secure market and trading facilities in Mogadishu.

Under the economic infrastructure component of the SECIL project, the main Sinay Market building is due to be rehabilitated in February 2015. However, with a large surrounding area that has huge potential for contributing to economic growth, additional rehabilitation and development is needed. The Urban Planning and Design Branch funds will support this work.

UN-Habitat Somalia and the Benadir Regional Administration (BRA) Department of Urban Planning are jointly planning the activities.

The aim of this rehabilitation is to turn the area into an economic hub for the district as well as a central area for community meetings, gatherings, and events. The rehabilitation shall stimulate and maximize economic activity. The new plan will incorporate the existing vendors' society to ensure their ownership of the project. Upgrading and enhancing the diversity and utility of the wider market area will contribute to local development, the local economy, and increased social capital and peace in the area.

As part of the project, the capacities of the BRA and its Department of Urban Planning are being strengthened through technical trainings such as the completed Urban Planning Basics and Public Space Planning workshop and an upcoming intense course on geographic information system (GIS) mapping.

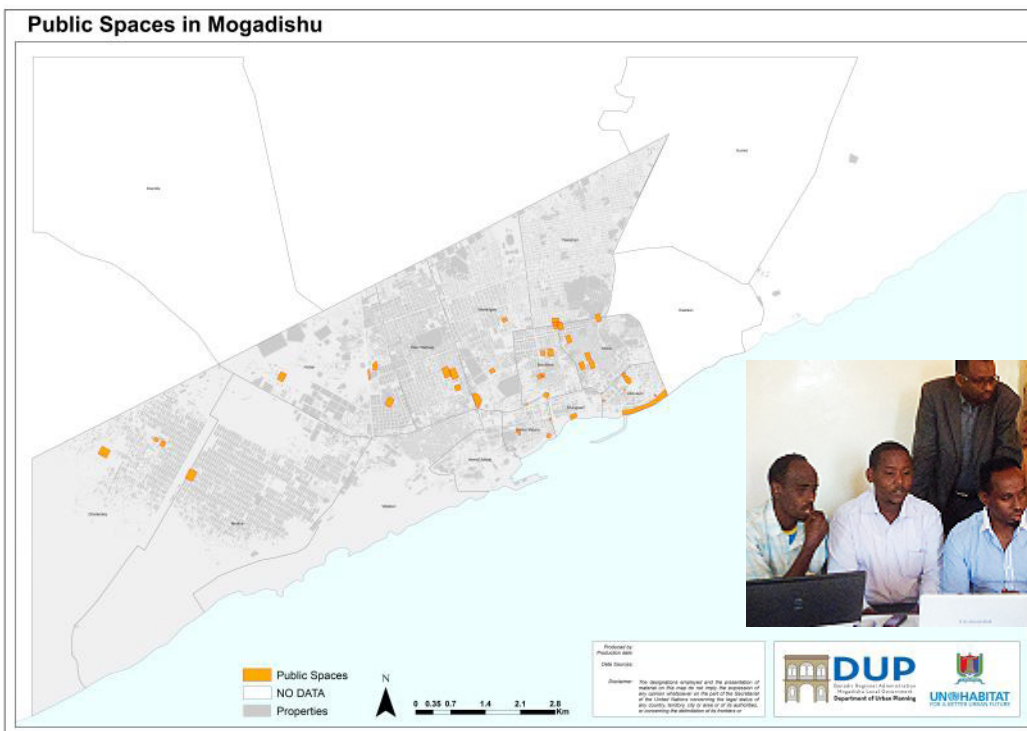
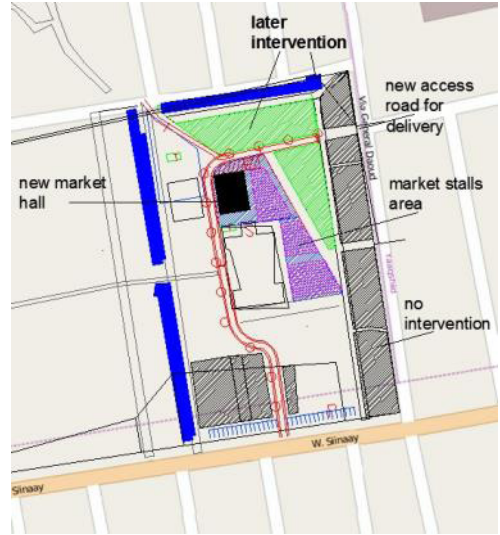
Using its acquired skills, the BRA Department of Urban Planning planned and organized a participatory, multi-stakeholder community planning workshop in August 2014 to establish users' needs and priorities with regard to urban public space, with a focus on the Sinay Market rehabilitation. Based on this event, a final draft plan for the integration of infrastructure elements around Sinay Market has been prepared. It considers existing and newly required spatial elements: existing pathways, needed access roads, garbage dumps that must be removed, and existing market stalls that will be incorporated.

Based on the above participatory planning, design, and budgeting process, UN-Habitat prepared the design for the new Sinay Market hall, which will be financed by the SECIL project and incorporated into the wider layout of the Sinay Market area.

## Citywide map

The project is also developing a citywide map of the current public spaces in Mogadishu; this will be the core building block for the larger-scale protection and development of Mogadishu's public spaces. The map can be used as a strategic planning tool for allocation, connection, and network planning. Most importantly, the map can serve as the planning and coordination basis for steering investments towards the rehabilitation of public spaces across the city.

*Anna Sobczak,  
Associate Human Settlements Officer*



Top right: Conceptual proposal by UN-Habitat used for the local consultation workshop for the Sinay Market area.

Top left: The Sinay Market area rehabilitation proposal prepared by BRA DUP based on the community workshop.



Middle left: The first map visualizations of the GPS data collected on Mogadishu public spaces by the BRA DUP, with technical support from UN-Habitat Somalia.

Middle inset: The DUP team during the Urban Planning Basics and Public Space Planning workshop.

Bottom: Four photos of Sinay Market.

## UN-Habitat donors and funding agencies

Danish International Development Agency	DANIDA funds the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery.
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.

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*Cover photo: SECIL construction training (photo by The Trail to Anywhere).*

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