

January–July 2015

UN-Habitat in the Somali Region Newsletter

Updates on the Latest Urban Interventions – Issue No. 19

Title deeds for internally
displaced persons

New shelter projects

Public spaces revamped in
Mogadishu

Municipal finance, GIS, and
solid waste management

Employment for youth



UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

SECIL project closes after 3.5 years

The European Union–funded project Sustainable Employment Creation and Improved Livelihoods for Vulnerable Urban Communities in Mogadishu (SECIL) officially closed on 1 April 2015. The project had been implemented since September 2011, in partnership with the Benadir Regional Administration, CESVI, and Human Relief Foundation, to support the design and implementation of activities geared towards improving livelihoods, stimulating enterprise development, and enhancing economic, social, and environmental sustainability. It achieved this by doing the following:

- Creating opportunities for growth and increased employment in medium-to-large-scale enterprises, establishing sustainable jobs, providing livelihood opportunities, and increasing employment options through technical and vocational skills training.
- Increasing access to basic urban services such as water, sanitation, energy, and solid waste management.

Towards these goals, the project targeted specific needs and opportunities in five strategic areas of the urban economy: 1) Economic Infrastructure Rehabilitation, 2) Solid Waste Management, 3) Construction, 4) Water and Sanitation, and 5) Energy and Environment.

The project worked in close partnership with the local authorities in Mogadishu, the Benadir Regional Administration, to ensure the sustainability of project activities. SECIL rehabilitated key markets in Mogadishu – Ansalooti and Sinay – and laid the foundation for the establishment of market management committees to manage and maintain these markets in the future. The project also established Mogadishu's first Handicraft Centre, where traditional crafts and goods are being produced and sold; it provides sustainable livelihoods and helps maintain Somalia's cultural identity.

In the solid waste sector, SECIL established a systematic, sustainable solid waste collection and disposal system through the introduction of public–private partnerships between the regional administration and private waste collection companies. The system, initiated in 4 pilot districts, has now been expanded to cover all 17 districts of Mogadishu.

Construction manuals and guidelines were developed in close collaboration with the Benadir Regional Administration and local stakeholders, and construction supervisors, foremen, and workers trained to support the regulation of quality and standards in the construction sector. A key outcome of the project was the establishment of the Acquadotto Technical Centre and Quality Testing Laboratory, which includes labs to test the quality of both construction material and drinking water. The project also introduced biosand water filter technology and developed a decree to regulate water quality. In addition, thousands of people benefitted from the desludging of pit latrines by hand-held Vacutug machines in high-density neighbourhoods (most often camps for internally displaced persons).



The SECIL project closing ceremony in Mogadishu on 19 March.

Various pilot projects were initiated by the project in the energy and environment sector: the introduction of charcoal briquettes, the establishment of community groups to sustainably manage (and produce charcoal from) the invasive plant *Prosopis juliflora*, and the introduction of new technology for the production of fuel-efficient cookstoves. SECIL created the equivalent of almost 5,000 work months through short-term jobs in the construction, solid waste, and environment sectors, as well as more than 1,000 long-term jobs spread over the project's 5 components.

The project held its official closing ceremony in Mogadishu on 19 March 2015, which project partners attended, including the Mayor and Vice-Mayors of Mogadishu and delegates from the European Union. The European Union, UN-Habitat, and the Benadir Regional Administration highlighted the unique approach of the SECIL project and praised its developmental outlook. They also emphasized the strong commitment of the local authorities to take over and maintain project activities into the future. The Mayor of Mogadishu thanked the European Union and UN-Habitat on behalf of the Somali people.

The SECIL project has produced two documentary films to raise awareness of the core issues that the project aimed to address, as well as the key outcomes and achievements of the project over the past three-and-a-half years.

Long Documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6YHTkpO-hw>

Short Documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDU4jl-oVE8>

What's New!



Somaliland

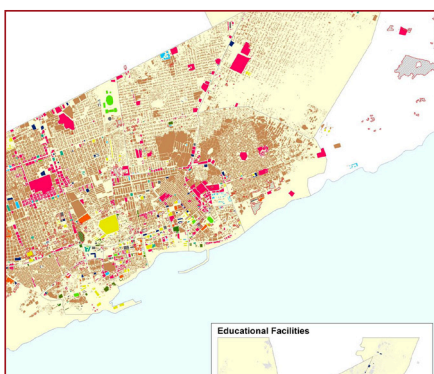
Water pipes arrive for Hargeisa water project

From April to June, 581 containers arrived at Berbera port for onward delivery to the Hargeisa Urban Water Supply Upgrading Project. The containers transported 600 mm ductile iron pipes that will be used to replace 23 km of pipeline from the main well field of Geed Deeble to Hargeisa. The project is upgrading key water delivery infrastructure for the city, responding to a situation in which demand for water has quadrupled over the last 25 years but capacity has remained the same. Representatives of actors involved in the project – Hargeisa Water Agency, European Union, and Somaliland Development Fund – made visits to the see the pipes.

South central Somalia

Cooperation agreement for Joint Programme on Youth Employment

In June, the federal Government of Somalia and UN-Habitat, UNDP, FAO, and ILO signed a cooperation agreement to tackle youth unemployment and underemployment. The programme contributes to Peace and State-building Goal 4 (Economic Foundations) and targets youth in all states of Somalia. UN-Habitat's contribution will focus on vocational skills training in the construction sector, as well as on establishing a One Stop Youth Resource Centre and two satellite centres that address the livelihood and psychosocial needs of Somali youth in a holistic manner. The 'one stop' concept provides young men and women with safe spaces in urban settings where they can undergo specialized vocational training, access information and resources critical to creating livelihoods and employment, and in the process strengthen social development and cohesion.



South central Somalia

Urban Analysis of Mogadishu published

Mogadishu's Department of Urban Planning, established with support from UN-Habitat, started its work with global positioning system (GPS) surveys in two central districts to establish a formal geographic information system-based database for the city of Mogadishu. The existent current data and analysis is now in a unified publication entitled *Urban Analysis of Mogadishu*. The cooperation between UN-Habitat and the Department of Urban Planning has been continued through 2014 and 2015 under the project Upgrading Public Space and Increasing Employment Opportunities in Mogadishu, which seeks to improve the quality of urban life and increase employment opportunities through rehabilitated public spaces and improved market and trading facilities. See [page 8](#) for the full story.

South central Somalia

Strengthening Somali government institutions and public works

A project proposal jointly developed by the federal Ministry of Public Works, Housing, and Reconstruction, UN-Habitat, and UNOPS was endorsed by the Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility Steering Committee on 7 May. The objective of this new programme is a) to improve and develop legislation for the public works and construction sectors; b) to develop the capacity of the Ministry of Public Works, Housing, and Reconstruction to effectively and efficiently deliver on its mandate; and c) to provide buildings and offices to the federal and state governments, as well as a limited number of offices to other national and regional authorities. The three partner organizations are now tasked with developing a full project document.

Inauguration of the Ayaha 4 project for 2,100 internally displaced persons in Hargeisa

On 1 February 2015, the President of Somaliland, Ahmed Mohamed Mahmoud, cut the tape to formally open the completed Ayaha 4 Settlement Development Project located in the south-east part of Hargeisa, the Somaliland capital. The new settlement consists of 350 housing units, as well as community infrastructure.

The Ayaha 4 project is part of UN-Habitat's Permanent Shelter Programme for Reintegration and Improved Livelihoods for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Returnees in Somaliland, which is being funded by the Government of Japan and implemented in collaboration with the Government of Somaliland. The Ayaha 4 low-cost housing project will house 2,100 IDPs in 350 one-storey housing units. Each unit has three rooms and a nine-by-ten-metre built-up area, inclusive of a covered kitchen area, a pit latrine with a septic soakaway pit, a household water tank, and an open courtyard surrounded by a perimeter wall. The beneficiary households have also been provided with property certificates from the Somaliland government, which secures permanent land tenure for each family.

The project has been coordinated through the Project Steering Committee, consisting of UN-Habitat; the Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction; the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; Hargeisa Municipality; and representatives from the beneficiary committee. The 350 beneficiaries of the Ayaha 4 houses were carefully selected from vulnerable IDP households that were living in IDP camps in 8 different public areas in Hargeisa.

In addition to the construction of the permanent housing units, 60 heads of households were provided with various types of vocational skills training through the non-governmental organization GAVO. GAVO also assisted the beneficiaries to move into their completed houses and to construct a community centre, a medical dispensary, and a communal water reservoir. Through the contribution of other shelter cluster agencies, a primary school and a police station have been established and the whole settlement has benefitted from tree planting and solar lighting.

The Ayaha 4 inauguration ceremony was attended by the whole beneficiary community, the President of Somaliland, and representatives from UN-Habitat, the Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Hargeisa Municipality, partner non-governmental organizations, and UNHCR.

In 2015, with funding from the Government of Japan, UN-Habitat and the Government of Somaliland will provide 4,860 additional IDPs in Somaliland with durable housing, basic infrastructure, and livelihood development support in Berbera, Boroma, Burao, and Hargeisa.

*Anna Sobczak,
Associate Human Settlements Officer*



The February inauguration of the Ayaha 4 housing settlement in Hargeisa, completed in 2014.

Background

Since 2007, UN-Habitat, with funding from the Government of Japan, has provided over 4,000 IDPs and returnees in Hargeisa with a permanent house. UN-Habitat's mandate is to 'build back communities' and to provide durable solutions for the reintegration and resettlement of displaced communities. The durable low-cost houses are handed over to the beneficiaries with an ownership title for security of tenure.

A settlement plan is always developed to integrate communal infrastructure and facilities into the new settlement, such as a community centre, a school, or a health centre. Over time and through contributions from other agencies, the new settlements receive additional communal facilities. Through its local partners, UN-Habitat is also providing skills training to the beneficiaries for increased livelihood opportunities. After a project, the former IDPs therefore have both permanent, secure housing and income-generating opportunities.

The strategy of UN-Habitat is to provide IDPs with a comprehensive solution, providing them with legal tenure rights to end their displacement permanently, and changing their status from that of an IDP to a permanent resident of Hargeisa.

Continuing to integrate the internally displaced into Bossaso: 524 housing units for 4,500 IDPs



The Bossaso IDP settlements, including original housing, new housing units, and skills training activities.

In May 2015, UN-Habitat completed the construction of 524 permanent one-room housing units for over 4,500 protracted internally displaced persons (IDPs) and urban poor in 8 settlements in Bossaso, Puntland: Aboo A, Aboo B, Ajuuran, Banadir, Biyo Kulule, Bulu Mingis, New Shabelle, and Raf and Raho.

The activities were part of the project Continuation of Integration of Long-term IDPs into the Host Community in Bossaso, and followed UN-Habitat's unique shelter programme approach, which was applied in Bossaso in 2013 when 500 core housing units for IDPs were constructed. That approach identified IDPs and poor families in Bossaso who had saved money to obtain the small plots of urban peripheral land on which they had been settled for over a decade, but were not able to invest in upgrading due to the absence of a legal title.

With this most recent project, the earlier approach has been successfully continued, and 524 beneficiary households have been provided with a secure land title for the new one-room core house on their ten-metre-by-ten-metre plot, together with a latrine and a water tank. The core housing unit has been designed to fit into the landscape of Bossaso and increase the local perception that these permanent units are an integral part of the current urban fabric. Both legally and spatially, the new houses have been integrated into the city and their inhabitants perceived as legitimate Bossaso residents – the IDP stigma has been removed.

The plots, which have been legalized in collaboration with the local government of Bossaso and the Ministry of Interior, will provide the poor families with permanent protection from the threat of eviction. Each housing unit has been built in a way to allow for future upgrades and additions.

Among the houses built in 2013, many families developed their plot further – some partially converted their units into shops. Similar transformations are expected with the new units. As part of the current project, UN-Habitat is also providing vocational skills training to 165 heads of households in tailoring, catering, textile tie-and-dye, carpentry, beauty services, and vehicle mechanics, through the Bossaso Vocational Educational Training Centre.

UN-Habitat plans to continue this work in Bossaso, supporting the spatial, legal, and economic integration of all long-term IDPs and vulnerable urban poor families into the host community, with a permanent change in their status towards productive, legal residents who are not dependent on help from international organizations.

Anna Sobczak,
Associate Human Settlements Officer

Geographic information system activities in Puntland, Somaliland, and Mogadishu

Garowe Municipality, Puntland

Garowe Municipality, in collaboration with UN-Habitat, is numbering all the properties in Garowe. The main aim of this activity, which commenced in December 2014, is to facilitate property tax collectors as they locate properties and deliver bills. Thus far, 2,000 plates have been fabricated and placed on the gates of properties. The plates contain the district, subdistrict, and property number of the taxpayer from the geographic information system (GIS) database.

Burao Municipality, Somaliland

UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the University of Burao and Burao Municipality, is currently undertaking a property survey in Burao. It will help create a GIS database that will be used by the municipality for property taxation, urban planning, and mapping, among other activities. Through the implementing partner, UN-Habitat is purchasing equipment to set up a GIS office at the municipality.

A property survey typically consists of three main phases:

1. Awareness: The community is sensitized on the importance of the property survey to the people and the municipality. In Burao, this was done through consultative meetings with religious and political leaders, community elders, and the general public.
2. Recruitment and Training: Enumerators, municipal assistants, data clerks, and the team leader are recruited and trained.
3. Property Survey and Database Entry: The property survey is carried out by the enumerators with the help of municipal assistants. This is done using a questionnaire to fill in the resident's details, a tape measure to get the property dimensions in metres, and a hand-held global positioning system (GPS) device to take coordinate readings of the property.

Data clerks then enter this information into the database. It is ported to the Billing Information Management System for taxation, while the municipality staff is trained on the various uses of the GIS database and its maintenance.

This year, the GIS team intends to carry out a property updating exercise in Hargeisa and Borama, property numbering in Gabiley, and a full property survey in Odweyne. Municipality staff will also be trained in GIS property updating, troubleshooting databases, map creation, and procedures for the transfer of property. The training will extend to Puntland and then Mogadishu, where a similar property survey is currently underway. Last year, a GIS survey was carried out in Sheikh Municipality, where 2,740 properties were surveyed, and an update survey was carried out in Berbera, where 500 new properties were surveyed.



Top: Map orientation and guidance of surveyors during the survey.
Middle: Awareness-raising meetings.
Inset: A property-numbering plate.
Bottom: An enumerator interviewing a property owner during the survey.



Integrated accounting software for municipalities

In Somaliland, UN-Habitat recently upgraded the municipal finance tools AIMS (Accounting Information Management System) and BIMS (Billing Information Management System) into one integrated accounting software package.

Initially, AIMS and BIMS were two separate packages. The new merged system performs both financial and billing transactions, and can generate a variety of reports – charts of accounts, bank statements, income and expenditure reports, and budget reports for comparative purposes. These boost accountability and transparency.

The system has the ability to generate segregated customer lists and customer credit worthiness information. System users can print all bills with ease and can segregate unbilled customer lists as well as billing summary reports. Similarly, and most importantly, collection status can be checked through detailed collection reports and checking generated bills.

Management of accounts receivable has long been a daunting task for municipal staff throughout Somaliland. However, municipal staff now have the ability to better monitor receivables by checking or printing out one of the following reports: outstanding balance reports, customer statements, or unpaid customer lists.

Sahra Mohamed is a Burao billing officer: “The new system provides effective and complete updates of all relevant fiscal information in a timely and systematic manner. We are now better organized and make informed decisions, as we know better who, when, where, and what is to be collected.”

The eight target districts of Zaila, Hargeisa, Burao, Boroma, Berbera, Gabiley, Odwein, and Sheikh have benefited from the AIMS and BIMS trainings provided by UN-Habitat. Through modern technology and these improved management methods, municipalities have improved their accounting, land management, licensing, and other systems, all of which are extremely important for sound, transparent financial management.

*Ahmedi Aden Yusuf,
Senior Project Assistant for Municipal Finance*



Accounting staff at Berbera Municipality.

Jariiban Municipal Council offices rehabilitated

As part of UN-Habitat’s technical support within the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery, the Jariiban Municipal Council project rehabilitated the municipal council offices in Jariiban, Puntland, while also fixing or supplying furniture and equipment. It is a joint initiative between UN-Habitat and the Jariiban Municipal Council and has been approved by Puntland’s Ministry of Interior and Local Government.

In addition to the offices and toilets, the training and meeting room was rehabilitated, as it was considered essential to the functions of the municipality. Due to the limited main supply of electricity, a solar system was installed. Laptops, a printer, and other office equipment were installed together with furniture. The town’s symbolic monument just outside the municipal office was also restored. It is envisaged that the rehabilitation will lead to better services and a more liveable town for Jariiban residents.



*Yasir Qadri,
Infrastructure Projects Manager*

*The rehabilitated
municipal council offices
in Jariiban, Puntland.*

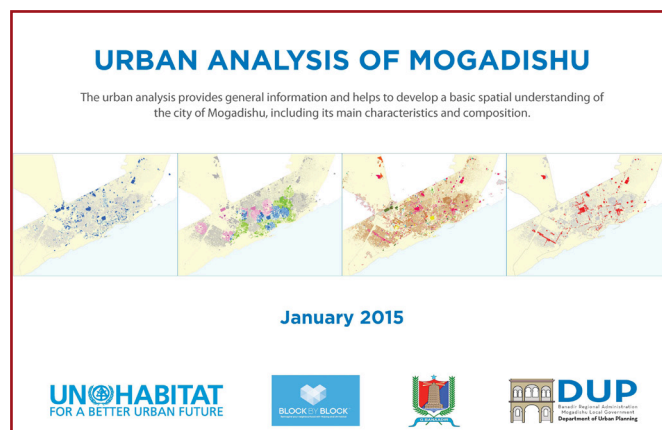
Touring Barcelona markets

A delegation from the Ministry of Public Works, Housing, and Reconstruction and Benadir Regional Administration, which is currently involved in the rehabilitation of public markets in Mogadishu, participated in the Ninth International Public Markets Conference in Barcelona, Spain, from 26 to 28 March 2015. The delegation learned how Barcelona succeeds as a market city and had plenty of opportunities to exchange ideas, views, and challenges with public market operators, developers, and managers from around the world.

Conference themes included interesting topics like 'Why markets matter – and why they represent one of the most cost-effective investments cities can make', 'Innovative ways markets are achieving a broad range of community benefits', and 'New trends in market design, infrastructure, and management'. The conference package also included one full day of visits to Barcelona's markets. Participants from Mogadishu agreed that the conference was an eye opener. The main learning point was that markets do not function by themselves, but need interventions to activate them to become not only economic hubs but also community meeting points. The participants adopted a conference declaration that reflects the value of markets and the need for increased policy support. Given their potential benefits and impacts, public markets receive vastly insufficient funding and policy recognition at all levels.

Back in Mogadishu, the conference participants met on 4 May 2015 to reflect on the conference findings and discuss how to apply what they had learned. As a result, a pilot project will be implemented at Sinay Market in Warta Nabada District, currently being rehabilitated with Swedish funding, to activate the market and turn it into a lively public space and community meeting point by conducting a series of public events and community activities.

Britta Peters,
SECIL Project Manager



Left: The delegation from Mogadishu in Barcelona. Right: Cover page of the Urban Analysis of Mogadishu.

Publication of the *Urban Analysis of Mogadishu*

In 2013, with financial support from the British Office for Somalia and in technical cooperation with UN-Habitat, the Department of Urban Planning was established under Mogadishu's Benadir Regional Administration. It is the first national urban planning institution (after the civil war). This urgently needed core institution enabled the authorities to collect data, produce maps, and plan and coordinate the reconstruction of the city.

In technical cooperation with UN-Habitat, the Department of Urban Planning started its work with global positioning system (GPS) surveys in two central districts and began the establishment of a formal geographic information system-based database for the city of Mogadishu. This work continued, and the existent data and analysis is now in a unified publication entitled *Urban Analysis of Mogadishu*.

The cooperation between UN-Habitat and the Department of Urban Planning has been continued through 2014 and 2015 under the project Upgrading Public Space and Increasing Employment Opportunities in Mogadishu, which seeks to improve the quality of urban life and increase employment opportunities through rehabilitated public spaces and improved market and trading facilities.

As part of this project, UN-Habitat supported the department in the collection of citywide data on public spaces. The project developed a comprehensive map of the current public spaces in Mogadishu that can be used as a strategic planning tool for planning and coordination and for steering investments towards the rehabilitation of public spaces across the city. The data has been analysed and added to the *Urban Analysis of Mogadishu*, which is now a key tool for the Benadir Regional Administration to use to better understand the city and initiate an informed planning process.

New project supports market rehabilitation and employment creation in Mogadishu

UN-Habitat, with the support of the Swedish Embassy, has introduced a new project entitled Economic Growth and Employment Generation through Rehabilitation of Key Economic Infrastructure in Mogadishu. The project, which began in December 2014, aims to generate sustainable employment opportunities and improve livelihoods through the rehabilitation and upgrading of public market space in Mogadishu. It is also preparing the ground for a second phase, which will incorporate a larger national employment programme.

Many city dwellers have inadequate services and public spaces for mobility, commercial exchange, education, and recreation. The situation has impaired quality of life, economic and social well-being, and the social cohesion that is essential to peacebuilding and development. The new project will work within the context of wider economic recovery and in line with the federal government's Economic Recovery Plan 2014–2015 and the Somali Compact. The project will contribute to the national Peace and State-building Goals, especially No. 4 (Economic Foundations), which, through rehabilitation of urban infrastructure, aims to revitalize and expand the Somali economy with a focus on livelihood enhancement, employment generation, and broad-based inclusive growth.

The project builds on UN-Habitat's recent initiative Sustainable Employment Creation and Improved Livelihoods for Vulnerable Urban Communities in Mogadishu (SECIL), which included public market upgrading. It will promote increased employment opportunities for the urban poor, women, youth, and persons with disabilities. It will also develop an improved market business management model through the physical improvement of a public market space and the capacity building of municipal authorities and market vendors as service providers.

More specifically, the project will:

- Upgrade the outdoor space and increase access to Sinay Market in Warta Nabada District.
- Stimulate a chain of economic activities around the market and increase access to sustainable livelihoods and employment opportunities for the urban poor and other vulnerable groups.
- Establish market management structures and build capacities to enable them to sustainably and effectively manage and maintain two markets and a Handicraft Centre in Mogadishu, thereby increasing job security for the future.
- Improve capacities in, and the quality of, Mogadishu's construction sector through on-the-job training and the strengthening of the laboratory for testing construction material quality.

*Britta Peters,
SECIL Project Manager*

Mogadishu gets exposure to international best practices in solid waste management

From 27 June to 2 July, a solid waste management training session was held in Mogadishu by UN-Habitat staff working with the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery. Twenty-five participants, including the director of the sanitation department, the head of training, the mayor's protocol officer, sanitary inspectors, and all public-private partnership contractors in the solid waste management sector participated in the training. The Deputy Mayor of Mogadishu attended the training session and shared his views.

The training emphasized the need for community awareness through information, education, and communication on a variety of topics. It also highlighted the importance of municipal by-laws that give direction to waste generators and service providers on how to handle waste effectively, and that provide for penalties in the event of failure to adhere to the direction given. The draft by-laws were discussed and fine-tuned through a consultative process.

The main thrust of the training was on various aspects of public-private partnerships. The participants were informed in detail about the partnership concept, its advantages and challenges, specific prerequisites, contractual issues, the procurement process, and management of the bid process. The training also discussed measures to be taken by the municipal authority and public-private contractors in Mogadishu to sustain existing contracts, attract new private sector partners to increase the coverage, and adopt international best practices.

Seven essential steps to improve solid waste management:

1. Segregation and storage of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste at source
2. Primary collection of segregated waste 'at the doorstep'
3. Street sweeping
4. Secondary storage
5. Transportation
6. Processing/treatment of at least 80 percent of waste, and deriving compost and energy from it
7. Using sanitary landfills for residual chemically inactive waste, and applying international best practices

Construction underway of 810 permanent low-cost housing units for 4,860 IDPs in Somaliland

As part of the Permanent Shelter Programme for Reintegration and Improved Livelihoods for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Returnees in Somaliland, which is being funded by the Government of Japan and implemented with the Government of Somaliland, UN-Habitat has started the construction of 810 low-cost housing units for 4,860 IDPs. The beneficiaries are divided among the 4 main towns of Somaliland: Berbera (185 housing units), Boroma (215 housing units), Burao (265 housing units), and Hargeisa (145 housing units).

The permanent housing units are being built on land donated by the local governments of the respective municipalities, with the purpose of permanently resettling internally displaced families from camps inside the towns into durable new housing units. Using the model of previous shelter projects by UN-Habitat, each housing unit consists of three rooms, a latrine, a household water tank, and a closed courtyard.

Most importantly, each housing unit is handed over after a process of land allocation and the preparation of land title documents for each beneficiary household. The local governments certify the new ownership to ensure permanent land tenure and formally end the displacement.

Each of the four new settlements is going to be provided with a community centre and a communal water reservoir that will be managed by the community through the beneficiary committee. Through local partner NGOs at each location, UN-Habitat has also started to provide skills training to 320 heads of households across the 4 towns to provide the newly resettled communities with the foundation to generate better livelihoods.

The ground-breaking ceremonies at the new settlement locations have taken place individually, and the construction of the 810 housing units is currently at 40 percent completion. The handover of the four new settlements is envisaged before the end of this year.

*Anna Sobczak,
Associate Human Settlements Officer*



*This page and the following page:
Ongoing construction of housing
units in Boroma.*



Land tribunals: meetings held with stakeholders in Somaliland and Puntland

UN-Habitat, in partnership with Legal Action Worldwide, has launched a series of round-table discussions with key stakeholders aimed at strengthening the land dispute tribunals that have been operational in Somaliland (Hargeisa) since 2010 and in Puntland since 2014.

With support from the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery, land dispute tribunals are now also present in Boroma and Berbera (Somaliland) and Garowe (Puntland). This innovative hybrid adjudicating mechanism aims at harmonizing customary jurisdictions with the formal judiciary, while strengthening the capacity of local institutions to deliver access to justice to populations that have emerged from 20 years of conflict and are now experiencing a variety of land conflicts.

Legal Action Worldwide held consultative meetings in Garowe from 19 to 21 May and a series of round tables in Hargeisa on 27 and 30–31 May. The Hargeisa round tables brought together a variety of stakeholders, namely members and chairs of the land dispute committees, members from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, key local government authorities, lawyers, professionals in the justice system, and UN specialists. These discussions have focused on the analysis of gaps that affect the current legislation on land in Somaliland and Puntland, some preliminary conclusions on how to enhance the performance of the land dispute tribunals, and hybrid adjudication models that have been successfully implemented in other countries.

These activities are expected to inform the work that the UN-Habitat Somalia Programme is currently carrying out in the area of land conflict resolution. Over the course of this year, UN-Habitat and Legal Action Worldwide will finalize an evaluation of the performance of land dispute tribunals in Somaliland and a strategy to expand the system in Puntland. In addition, UN-Habitat is supporting the production of two reports on the harmonization of customary and formal land jurisprudence in Somalia and on best practices in land dispute resolution.

UN-Habitat and Legal Action Worldwide jointly presented the outcomes of the meetings organized in Hargeisa and Garowe at the Second Close Housing, Land, and Property Round Table, to a forum comprising international organizations, the donor community, civil society groups, and academia. The round table was held in Nairobi on 2 June 2015.

UN-Habitat is involved in similar work in the south: as of 28 May, the agency is chairing the Sub-cluster Working Group on Housing, Land, and Property in South Central Somalia. This group supports the humanitarian coordination work of the Somalia Protection Cluster and is being looked at as an example of 'good practice' within the framework of the Global Protection Cluster.

*Teresa Del Ministro,
Land Programme Manager*

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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