

# urbanimpact



## Foreword

I am very pleased to launch the second edition of Urban Impact, the UN-Habitat bi-monthly newsletter.

Thanks to our donors and the collective efforts of our teams, we continue to promote sustainable urban development in the field, placing the well-being of people at the heart of our interventions.

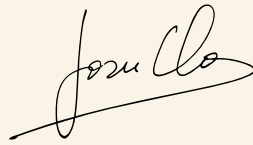
On this edition of Urban Impact, you will read about how UN-Habitat is supporting access to clean water for citizens of Hargeisa (Somaliland), Somalia, through the establishment of a new water system as well as constructing a new water supply and storm drainage system for the citizens of Kanyama, the largest informal settlement in Zambia. Our efforts in post-conflict and disaster recovery continue. In Sri Lanka we continued to provide technical support for the construction of pre-school facilities. Building these facilities has been key to restoring and re-uniting families affected by years of civil conflict. In Haiti, our teams have developed a long-term strategic plan for the northern area of metropolitan Port-au-Prince in our efforts to restore stability following the terrible earthquake in 2010. We must continue to keep people at the centre of our interventions.

I am also very pleased to note that the Government of Afghanistan, under the leadership of President Ashraf Ghani, has identified a number of priority areas – the establishment of a National Urban Policy, registration of all public and private land, planned city extensions and increased private sector participation in urban development – adopted by the High Council on Urban Development. This view goes to the core of both the vision of UN-Habitat and the New Urban Agenda, which consider good, well-planned urbanization as the driver of economic growth, social prosperity, and environmental sustainability.

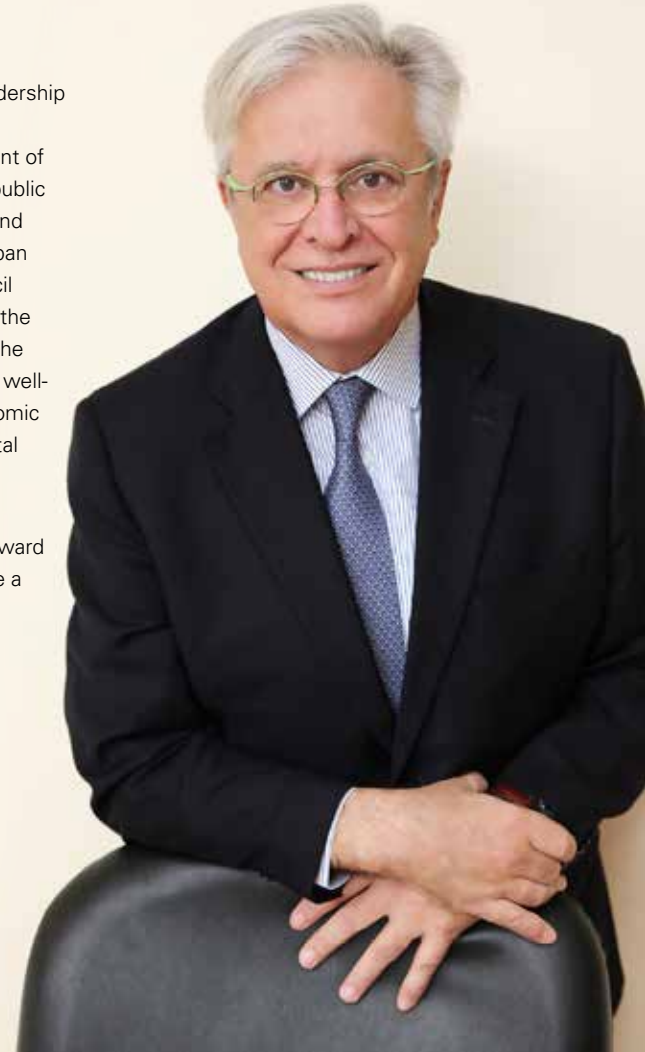
I hope you enjoy the reading and I look forward to our continued work together to promote a better urban future for all.

Thank you

Sincerely,



Joan Clos, UN-Habitat Executive Director



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# Afghanistan Sets New Urban Agenda with Urban National Priority Program

On May 30, 2016, President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan presided over the first meeting of the newly formed “High Council on Urban Development,” which brings together key urban ministries under the coordination of the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MUDH). Organized at the Dar-ul-aman Palace, the event was symbolic, as the palace was destroyed during the country’s civil war. The President inaugurated its reconstruction and rehabilitation to mark the advent of a new era, a new vision, and a new beginning for Afghanistan.

“Making cities drivers of economic development” captures the importance placed on sustainable urbanization in the National Unity Government’s reform programme for Afghanistan which will be implemented during the country’s transformation decade – 2015 to 2024. President Ashraf Ghani identified his government’s future priorities in the urban sector as registration of all public and private land; managing urbanization through planned city extensions; encouraging private sector participation in urban development; and fostering rural-urban linkages to balance the benefits of economic growth.

Urban-NPP presents a timely opportunity for Afghanistan to manage and overcome the challenges of rapid urbanization, and to align urban potential for economic growth with the government’s peace-building and poverty reduction efforts. UN-Habitat is supporting the Urban-NPP through the Future of Afghan Cities Programme (FoAC) funded by the governments of Australia and the United Kingdom. With one third of its population residing in urban areas, it is projected that by 2060, one in two Afghans

will live in cities. This urban transition is occurring alongside significant quality-of-life, demographic, economic, and territorial changes which must be adeptly managed to leverage the benefits of urbanization while minimizing its negative effects.

Urban Development and Housing Minister Sadat Naderi articulated the Urban-NPP vision of “achieving dynamic, safe, livable urban centers that are hubs of economic growth and arenas of culture and social inclusion.” Urban-NPP is founded on three key pillars, namely, strengthening urban governance and institutions; ensuring adequate housing and access to basic urban services for all; and harnessing urban economy and infrastructure.



**National and regional workshops were organized in the five main cities – Herat, Jalalabad, Kabul, Kandahar, and Mazar-e-Sharif with over 2,000 Afghans participating, of which over 30 percent were women**

Urban NPP is the culmination of seamless coordination between key government stakeholders in urbanization including the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, the Deputy Ministry of Municipalities, the Afghanistan Independent Land Authority, the Desabz City Development Authority, the Kabul Municipality and other regional municipalities. President Ashraf Ghani commended the government agencies for “good coordination among urban sector over last 18 months” which resulted in the preparation of a comprehensive document as the basis for sustainable, balanced and people-centred urbanization.

Public participation, based on UN-Habitat’s “People’s Process” approach was central to the design and development of Afghanistan’s Urban NPP. National and regional workshops were organized in the five main cities – Herat, Jalalabad, Kabul, Kandahar, and Mazar-e-Sharif with over 2,000 Afghans participating, of which over 30 percent were women. Focus group meetings were held separately with youth and women groups to ensure that their vision and aspirations were reflected in future urban policies and programmes.

Urban-NPP effectively combines a two-pronged strategy of a participatory and inclusive approach to designing and construction to enhance the people’s sense of ownership, and a technical approach which utilizes quantitative and qualitative data for realistic, practical and feasible prioritization of the country’s urban agenda. Government stakeholders have identified 19 objectives and 95 priority actions ranging from drafting a National Spatial Strategy to upgrading irregular settlements, to be accomplished by 2024. The final Urban-NPP document will be



officially launched at an international conference in Brussels in October 2016, sending a clear message to the international community on Afghanistan’s vision and priorities for sustainable, regionally balanced and inclusive urban growth.

In formulating the urban-NPP, data and analytics were derived from the *State of Afghan Cities* which was launched in November 2015 and marked the first-ever comprehensive assessment of Afghanistan’s urban areas. UN-Habitat provided the government of Afghanistan with technical assistance to develop an innovative, reliable and cost effective approach to collecting qualitative and quantitative data on cities in a post-conflict country with severe limitations on field surveys. The methodology employed used recent high-resolution satellite

images to extract key land use and dwelling unit data. *The State of Afghan Cities* presented a compendium of spatial, territorial and governance data on 34 provincial capitals, which set the tone for development of an “urban agenda” for Afghanistan.

Currently, UN-Habitat is providing the government with technical support to prepare a similar atlas which will present data on five city regions and 28 strategic district municipalities. The two atlases present an objective and evidence-based analytical resource which will inform urban planning and policy to shape the future of Afghanistan’s cities and peri-urban areas, helping to guide urban practitioners and policymakers to bolster economic development, expand social services and improve infrastructure networks in cities.



A series of discussion papers have been developed alongside the atlas to draw attention to key urban challenges and priority areas in Afghanistan. Building on the spatial data and analytics, each of the 10 papers in the series introduces the reader to either a currently not well-known topic in the Afghan context, or invites the reader to look at the topic through a different lens.

*The discussion papers can be downloaded from Future of Afghan Cities Programme publications.*



# Children in Sri Lanka Benefit from Disaster Risk Recovery Partnership

Over the last four years, the government of Japan has provided USD 7.2 million to support post-conflict recovery efforts in Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern provinces through the construction of vital community infrastructure facilities including internal access roads, storm water drainage systems, food storage facilities, community centres and preschool facilities.

The construction of preschool facilities has been a key catalyst in restoring and re-uniting families affected by years of civil conflict through provision of vibrant and healthy learning opportunities for early childhood education. Preschool facilities incorporating playgrounds and landscaping have been constructed in 53 different locations at an estimated cost of 24,000 USD each, initially benefiting over 1,500 children.

"We faced many challenges due to lack of facilities and were unable to function during rainy days as the building gets flooded. Most of the families in our town are poor and cannot afford to contribute financially and we are really looking forward to moving to the new preschool building which will provide enough space for children to play and learn," says Susanthi a preschool teacher in Mullaitivu town.

Community Based Organisations (CBO) have been involved in construction activities such as purchase of quality building materials, hiring skilled construction workers, quality control, monitoring progress of work, and ensuring transparent management of finances. The facilities, each of which consists of a main school building, a teacher's room, kitchen, and sanitation facilities have been customised by local communities and teachers to suit specific needs of their children.

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Disaster risk reduction features including roofs anchored to reinforced concrete framed structures and restraining plaster bands over clay tiled roofs designed to resist seasonal high winds have been incorporated into the design and construction. Taking into consideration annual flood levels and dampness due to high ground water levels during monsoon rains, plinth levels were raised and rainwater harvesting tanks have been incorporated. Each



of the facilities has a functional playground with standard preschool playground equipment such as swings and slides.

"Earlier I had to take my children to the playground in Mullaitivu town which is 30 kilometres away from the village. Now, as the preschool will have a children's playground, I no longer need to travel far," says Ms. Jeyarasa Tharini, mother of a five year old pre-schooler.



In addition to providing buildings and equipment, this programme has also improved the capacity of preschool personnel. Through a partnership with Save the Children Japan, teachers and members of management committees have been provided with specialized preschool teacher diploma courses, training on child friendly teaching methods and preschool management skills.

“Despite many difficulties, parents are very concerned about their children’s education. In my 15 year career as a teacher, I have seen many children not receiving a proper preschool education because of the conflict. There were

no facilities or trained teachers especially as our village had no financial resources,” says Ms. U. Janitha, a preschool teacher at the Vallipunam preschool in Mullaitivu district.

The determination and positive spirit of the communities in the North and East have been key factors in the success of the programme. Community members have been the key catalysts, working tirelessly to transform their villages into thriving human settlements. The parents of pre-schoolers are also providing continuous support for development of preschool facilities by participating in voluntary clean-up campaigns.

By providing children with a solid educational foundation, this programme is contributing significantly to the future development of Sri Lanka. The Government of Japan continues to support the programme through UN-Habitat and has provided a further grant of US\$ 4.2 million to improve the learning environment in Mannar district through a sustainable community-driven improvement of the learning environment.

*For more information on the Government of Japan funded Infrastructure project and the UN-Habitat Sri Lanka Programme, contact: Tim McNair, Chief Technical Advisor, UN-Habitat Sri Lanka, 202-204, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka. Email: [tim@unhabitat.lk](mailto:tim@unhabitat.lk)*







## Participatory Planning Approach Enhances Reconstruction Efforts in Haiti

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2010 Haiti was struck by a violent earthquake, resulting in massive and catastrophic loss of life and destruction of livelihoods, property and public infrastructure. The capital city of Port-au-Prince suffered the brunt of the earthquake, leaving hundreds of thousands of homeless and displaced people. In the aftermath of the earthquake, a large number of this affected population moved to Canaan, a northern suburb of Port-au-Prince which was declared public utility land.

With a rapidly growing population estimated at over 200,000 today, the Canaan settlement presents a serious challenge to the central government, municipal authorities, and community groups struggling to provide adequate housing, basic services, public infrastructure, and employment opportunities for its residents sustainably.

As part of these efforts, an Urban Development Initiative for the Canaan area has been developed as a collaborative effort between international and local stakeholders under the supervision and guidance of the Unité de Construction de Logements et de Bâtiments Publics (UCLBP). Financial and human resources provided by the American Red Cross, USAID and the Haitian Red Cross have been instrumental in development of the project as well as in mobilization of different community groups engaged in the planning exercise.

The UN-Habitat Office in Haiti and UN-Habitat's Urban Planning and Design LAB have developed a long term strategic plan for the northern area of metropolitan Port-au-Prince which includes the Canaan settlement.

The Urban Planning and Design LAB is designed to respond promptly to the urban planning needs of national and local governments by bringing together a wide range of expertise and coordinating economic, legal, social and environmental aspects of urban development in order to institute concrete, implementable and sustainable projects. In Haiti, the LAB's work is focused on preparing a long-term vision for the development of northern Port-au-Prince, an urban infrastructure plan for Canaan, and neighbourhood development plans for 15 different areas in Port-au-Prince.

The project has brought together participants from the national government, municipal government, international and local organizations, academia, community groups and planning experts to discuss these three key





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components of sustainable urbanization in the reconstruction of Haiti.

The proposed urban infrastructure plan creates a network of urban centers, streets and public spaces that would allow residents to access basic services, public facilities, businesses and working areas within 500 meters of their homes. The main boulevards and streets are designed in accordance with the existing topography. They take into account the existing grid in order to provide a comprehensive network of streets and public spaces that are essential not only in limiting urban sprawl, but also in contributing to a compact and connected city.

Implementation of the plan will benefit residents and the city as a whole as management strategies aimed at reducing erosion and flooding risks in streets and public spaces have been adopted.

The process also incorporates a strategy to identify priority interventions at the sub-metropolitan level and scalable projects at the neighborhood level, resulting in a list of specific actions that have been discussed with, and prioritized by the government and community groups. This approach will have a direct impact on the quality of life for residents by improving access to main streets, residential streets, public spaces and marketplaces. The project will also construct a one stop administrative center for the Canaan settlement.

Engagement of different stakeholders and prioritization of projects that respond directly to the priorities of the government and local residents has attracted funding for the improvement of streets and public spaces.



# Vulnerable Households in Hargeisa to Benefit from New Water Supply System

On 20 September 2015, the European Union, Somaliland Development Fund, UN-Habitat, and the Government of Somaliland inaugurated the start of construction for a new 23-km water supply pipeline from the Geed Deeble wellfield to Hargeisa city. On completion, the project will provide improved access to water for previously underserved and unserved residents of Hargeisa, ensuring more equitable distribution of basic services.

The Hargeisa Urban Water Supply Upgrading Project (HUWSUP) is jointly funded by the European Union and the Somaliland Development Fund with grants of EUR 15 million and USD 8.6 million respectively. UN-Habitat is the implementing partner, working in close collaboration with the Hargeisa Water Agency and the Somaliland Ministry of Water Resources.

Adequate water supply is a fundamental prerequisite for economic growth at the individual, household, enterprise, and collective level. The overall objective of the project is therefore to improve the quality of life for vulnerable households in urban and peri-urban areas of Hargeisa by providing them with better access to safe and affordable water, and enhancing their economic well-being through the associated creation of employment opportunities.

The project replaces the 40-year-old existing pipeline system with a new high-capacity single-transmission main line, thus increasing the overall volume of water flowing into the municipal water supply system. Development of the new water supply pipeline, coupled with the construction of a new modern pumping station at Geed Deeble (both to be commissioned within the next 16



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months) will deliver 20 million litres of water per day to Hargeisa, up from the current 9 million litres per day. As a first step towards increasing water production, four new boreholes have been completed at Hora Haadley, with very promising yields. These new boreholes are currently being installed with pumps and connected to the Ged Deeble system, with another 7km long pipeline that is being built by the project. In total, just under 40km of new water pipelines will be laid by HUWSUP by mid 2017.

At the end of the project in November 2017, a significant number of additional households will benefit from improved direct access to the Hargeisa municipal water system. Many more will be able to access safe and affordable water through 500 water kiosks in the city, providing a more sustainable and reliable supply to thousands of residents.

The infrastructure works developed by HUWSUP will lay the foundation for other ongoing and future water expansion works that will contribute to achieving the full potential of the new Hargeisa water system including drilling additional boreholes, connecting additional well fields, and upgrading the distribution network to deliver water to areas of the city that have so far been underserved.

During the ground breaking event in September 2015, President Ahmed Mahmud Silanyo symbolically joined the first pipes for the new Hargeisa transmission main line accompanied

**15 KILOMETRES OF WATER PIPELINE INSTALLED**  
**by the end of March 2016, this represents about two-thirds of the total pipeline length**

by members of the Government of Somaliland, donor representatives, UN-Habitat staff, and members of the public.

During the official launching ceremony held at Maansoor Hotel in Hargeisa, President Silanyo thanked the project donors – the European Union and Somaliland Development Fund – and implementing agency UN-Habitat, and reiterated his government's commitment "to availing sufficient and clean drinking water to citizens in all corners of Somaliland for their individual, household, enterprise, and collective use. And thanks to the support of our partners, today marks the beginning of the end of water shortages in the capital Hargeisa."

By the mid June 2016, 16 kilometres of the pipeline had been installed, representing about 70% of the total main pipeline length. This encouraging progress indicates that the dream of sufficient water supplies for Hargeisa residents will indeed become a reality by 2017.

# Kanyama Settlement in Zambia Benefits from UN-Habitat Disaster Risk Reduction Project

Over half the population of urban Zambia is concentrated in unplanned urban settlements with inadequate or no access to basic urban services such as clean water and hygienic sanitation facilities. The communities in these unplanned informal settlements are highly exposed and vulnerable to natural hazards.

With a growth rate of over 5 percent per annum, the capital city of Lusaka with a population of approximately 1.7 million inhabitants, is one of the fastest growing cities on the continent. The vast majority of the city's population is concentrated in informal settlements where flooding is a perennial problem during the rainy season.

Kanyama, the largest informal settlement in Lusaka is home to over 360 000 people and is prone to floods mainly due to geological reasons as well as its shallow water table. The floods cause havoc for the residents of Kanyama, destroying infrastructure, disrupting livelihoods and causing sporadic outbreaks of waterborne and water related diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera and malaria.

During the 2009-2010 rainy season, 565 houses were completely destroyed, some 8,423 partially damaged, and another 27,219 houses were completely waterlogged. 2 medical clinics and 5 schools were flooded and most of the roads damaged, with schools closing for three months due to flooding.

To alleviate the suffering of the people in this community, UN-Habitat, in partnership with the Lusaka City Council (LCC) and the People Process on Housing and Poverty in Zambia (PPHPZ), implemented pilot flood disaster adaptation measures in Kanyama as one component of the Disaster Relief and Reduction (DRR) project.

With donor support to the tune of US\$ 500, 000 made available through UNDP Zambia a participatory flood hazard and risk mapping exercise was conducted in Kanyama. With the assistance of technical staff from the joint team, members of the affected communities were engaged in identifying flood prone areas, with special focus on primary and secondary drains. The information collected from the mapping exercise was critical in helping to identify



**During the 2009-2010 rainy season, 565 houses were completely destroyed, some 8,423 partially damaged, and another 27,219 houses were completely waterlogged**

priority areas for intervention. Once areas of interventions were identified, GPS techniques were used to conduct a topographic survey which formed the basis for designing a proper drainage system for the settlement.

Construction of the flood drainage system commenced with full community participation, with 150 community volunteers being engaged in the physical works. To ensure effective and seamless involvement of the community at all stages of the process, local committees were formed for mobilisation, monitoring, operation and maintenance. Throughout the implementation process, PPHPZ was responsible for community organisation and mobilisation,





while the Lusaka City Council provided technical support through its engineering department, with input from UN-Habitat.

Three kilometres of drainage has been successfully excavated and lining of the drainage is in progress. This approach in construction of the drainage system in Kanyama has created a sense of ownership among the residents, while giving them hope for better flood management in future. "Kanyama has greatly benefited from this project and we now feel safe from Cholera as the water has a passage to flow through, as we have been having a lot of floods without any drainage system," says Nicodemus Kunda, a resident of Kanyama.





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