



UN-HABITAT

URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE SOMALI REGION

GAROWE

FIRST STEPS TOWARDS
STRATEGIC URBAN PLANNING



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INTRODUCTION

The city of Garowe has been undertaking, in collaboration with UN-HABITAT, a series of steps towards balanced urban development.

This publication presents the results of the **urban spatial analysis** carried out by UN-HABITAT experts under the guidance of municipal authorities. The analysis gives a basic spatial understanding of the town and highlights concrete challenges and priority areas of intervention. A proposed **strategic urban development plan** for the town is also presented.

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ABOUT GAROWE

CHRONOLOGY

around 1800

Garowe town is established, the settlement springing up largely due to its ideal location between two sizeable wadis that continuously supply water to the area

1948

Garowe is recognized as a district during the colonial period

1973

Garowe is recognized as the capital of Nugaal region

1998

Puntland declares its autonomy, seeking to become a federal division within a united Somalia. The town of Garowe is recognized as the capital of Puntland State

from 1998 onwards

In spite of growing instability in Puntland, the town of Garowe remains a key source of income for the region, as well as the educational and administrative capital



Garowe is the capital of the Puntland State of Somalia, and is located in Nugaal region. Garowe is also the location of the regional parliament, the presidential parliament, and the government ministries.

Garowe lies north-east of the intersection of Puntland, Somaliland, and Ethiopia and is traversed by a north-south highway that connects the major cities of northern and southern Somalia.

The provision of basic services is fairly good within the city, and Garowe's role as administrative centre during northern Somalia's time as a British Protectorate led to the establishment of quality education and health facilities. These continue to service the region, with the city hosting many schools, one major hospital, and Puntland State University.

population

Garowe is a medium-sized town. The population of Garowe is estimated to be between 30,000 and 40,000, including a difficult-to-verify number of displaced people. Some sources estimate the total population at 70,000.

climate

Temperatures in Garowe range between 18 and 34 degrees Celsius. In the cold months of December and January, the temperature drops to a low of 14 degrees Celsius. There is not much rainfall. The highest levels occur in the month of May, which has an average of 51 mm. The average annual rainfall is 10.8 mm.

topography

Situated midway between north and south Somalia, Garowe sits at an average elevation of 250 metres above sea level. The landscape around the town is semi-desert.

VISION

for the future of Garowe

"A city with well-developed social services, good environment and infrastructure, and successful business and industry"*.

*the slogan for Garowe's development as chosen by the participants of the Garowe City Consultation (see pages 26–27)

in the next pages:

SPATIAL ANALYSIS

The spatial analysis helps to develop a basic spatial understanding of the town, including its main characteristics and its potential. It is one of the most important tools for strategic planning, because it enables planning and positioning interventions according to an overall development strategy, thus maximizing the results of the investments to benefit the whole city.



SPATIAL ANALYSIS

image of the town and its surroundings



see detail of this area on the next page

Satellite image by © 2003 DigitalGlobe. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

The satellite images date back to 2003, but still constitute a valid base for the spatial analysis conducted.

RIVERBEDS

The town is situated between two *wadis*. To the north, the Togga-Garowe riverbed cuts through the town. Most of the urbanized area is on the south bank of the Togga-Garowe, leaving only a small portion of the town on the north bank.

The other dry riverbed, Lan Alifirin, is located on the southern extreme of the built-up area. This area is also locally known as the “Old Airport”, and it has been the focus of most of the town’s development to date. On the edge of this area, UN-HABITAT has completed the construction of two IDP settlements and is about to begin work on a third.

Lan Alifirin is in reality a seasonal local stream. The Togga-Garowe receives more water, being the larger river, and this is visible for some of the year. This happens after occasional rains in the upper regions of the river.

FLOODING AREA

Large parts of the territory are affected by rapid floods, especially from the Lan Alifirin stream. Areas to the east and south of the developed area are the most affected, though the risk of flooding is most serious in the east, where the development of the town is restricted.

SPATIAL ANALYSIS
image of the town



SPATIAL ANALYSIS

land use

PREDOMINANTLY RESIDENTIAL

Most of the land developed in the town is for residential purposes. However, mixed land use does occur, with small shops and workshops sited in residential areas. There are also religious centres and schools in the vicinity, as well as community buildings from which international organizations operate.

PREDOMINANTLY COMMERCIAL

This type of use encompasses all economic activities for production and warehousing. Retail activities maintain a strong presence within the town, especially along the main road. Other activities include vehicle maintenance and accommodation provision (hotels and parking lots, the latter mostly targeting the trucking industry). To a lesser degree, various companies, including mobile communications companies, make use of office space. In the oldest part of the town there is quite mixed land use, though there is a high density of shops, making it an important retail area.

IDP population uses makeshift tents, which in most cases are erected on leased land. Due to the IDPs' very dire living conditions, they are a principal target for international programmes.

INSTITUTIONAL AND PUBLIC

As the capital of Puntland, Garowe has a considerable number of sites used for administrative purposes. Some of the government buildings located in Garowe perform state-level functions and are unique in Puntland. There are a number of facilities used by international organizations, almost all of which are located in one part of the town, along the main road. In addition to this cluster, a military base and an orphanage are at the extreme northern edge of the settlement.

EDUCATION

There are several primary and secondary schools in the town, as well as one university. Puntland State University is located in the northern section of the town, on the other

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