



UN-HABITAT

SUDP - URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE SOMALI REGION

HARGEISA

FIRST STEPS TOWARDS STRATEGIC URBAN PLANNING



This publication was prepared by Ombretta Tempra, Khalied Jacobs, and Betelehem Demissie.
Important inputs were given by Filiep Decorte.

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Fax: +(254-20) 762 40 60, e-mail: unhabitat@unhabitat.org

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UN-HABITAT

HARGEISA

FIRST STEPS TOWARDS STRATEGIC URBAN PLANNING

a basic guide

INTRODUCTION

first steps

The city of Hargeisa has been undertaking, in collaboration with UN-HABITAT, a series of steps towards effective and integrated urban development:

- **a city profile**, undertaken by a team of local experts, prepared the necessary database for the city consultation and gave the opportunity to identify and mobilize key stakeholders for the participatory planning process.
- **a city consultation** (1) built a common vision for the desired future of the city, (2) identified priority needs and related strategic interventions, and (3) reached an agreement on the action plans to be implemented and on the roles of the different stakeholders.
>>> more on this on page 44
- **an urban spatial analysis**, carried out by UN-HABITAT experts, gave a basic spatial understanding of the city and condensed challenges and priority areas of intervention into a proposed strategic development plan.
>>> more on this on page 48
- **action plans**, agreed by the local stakeholders during the city consultation, aimed at testing and demonstrating the validity of the applied principles of strategic development planning. The projects selected involved the reorganization of the Wahan and Maroodi Jeex Markets in Hargeisa.
>>> more on this on page 46

objectives of the report

This document illustrates the first steps to city planning through a participatory strategic approach. It combines the results of the participatory planning process undertaken by the city of Hargeisa through city profiling and city consultation, with the spatial analysis of the city developed by UN-HABITAT. The main objectives of this publication are:

- **documenting the process** undertaken by Hargeisa Municipality using city profiling and the city consultation.
>>> more on this on page 44
- **recording the outcomes** of the first broad consensus on urban issues, priority urban interventions and action plans.
>>> see the 'planning strategies' section on pages 11-21
- **introducing spatial analysis** as a tool for strategic planning.
>>> see the 'spatial framework' section on pages 23-33
- **providing a comprehensive methodological tool for strategic urban planning.**
- complementing the documentation of the process undertaken with **teaching-learning techniques** and didactic tips for local authorities and technical persons involved in the urban development of the city.

structure of the report

- **background - the present:** general information about Hargeisa, the capital city of Somaliland.
- **vision - the future:** the slogan for Hargeisa's development, chosen by the participants of the City Consultation.
- **planning strategies (for action) - building the future:** during the Hargeisa City Consultation, local actors highlighted basic services, economic development, environment, IDP-related issues, and city planning as priorities to be addressed; precise operational strategies and action plans were identified in line with these priorities.
- **spatial framework - putting actions in place(s):** a spatial analysis of the city, which puts the priority interventions needed in the city into a spatial perspective.
- **desired structure - turning vision into reality:** a proposed strategic development plan for Hargeisa, to serve as an example and basis for discussion in the urban planning process.
- **towards implementation:** an idea of an indicative road map for the implementation of the strategies proposed by the participants of the Hargeisa City Consultation.
- **tables:** methodological information and further details on the City Consultation, Urban Spatial Analysis and Action Plans.

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BACKGROUND

the present

CHRONOLOGY

Report of first huts being built in Hargeisa 1910

A Major Rhine introduces town planning, and huts are replaced with stone buildings and trees 1922

The arrival of Ethiopian refugees fleeing the Italian invasion substantially boosts town's population 1936

The government's headquarters are moved into town 1941

Formalization of Hargeisa into a municipality 1953

Somaliland gains independence from the British Protectorate and merges with Italian Somalia 1960

Somalia enters into war with Ethiopia in an attempt to capture the Ogaden region 1977

Somaliland declares independence once again to become the Republic of Somaliland. Hargeisa is its capital 1991

Local elections see the birth of a multi-party democracy 2002

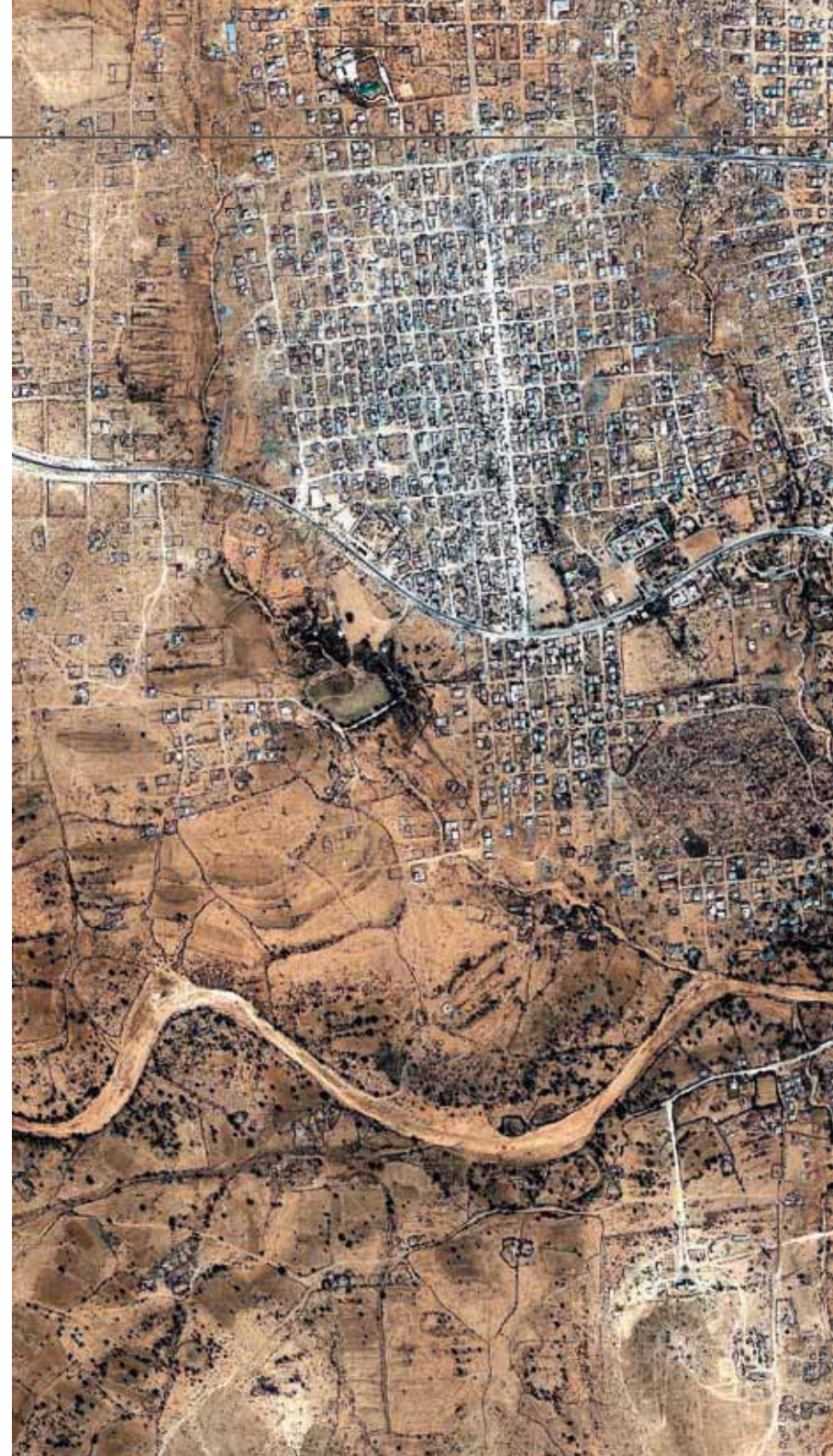


Strategically located in the centre of Somaliland and close to Ethiopia, Hargeisa is the seat of the government.

The city was recently the site of violent conflict and major instability; bombing raids levelled large parts of the town and caused major damage to the population.

Since then, Hargeisa has shown signs of rapid growth, democratic governance, and relative political stability.

Vast sections of the population, however, still struggle with crippling poverty and a lack of basic services.



**population**

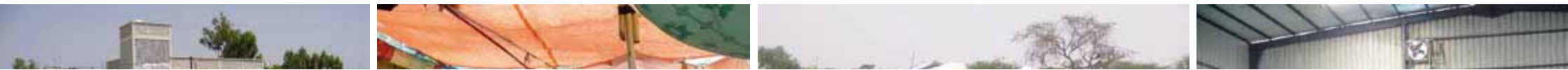
Hargeisa is the largest city in Somaliland. A recent UN-HABITAT GIS survey estimates around 450 000 inhabitants, including the hard-to-verify number of displaced, although other figures vary from 350 000 to 850 000.

climate

Semi-arid with high temperatures and low rainfall, mainly in summer - *average 34 mm.*

topography

The town is situated in a bowl formed by the escarpment, from which a number of rivulets trail down into the Marodijeh River, cutting a path from east to west through a dry, sparsely vegetated valley.



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