

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
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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.

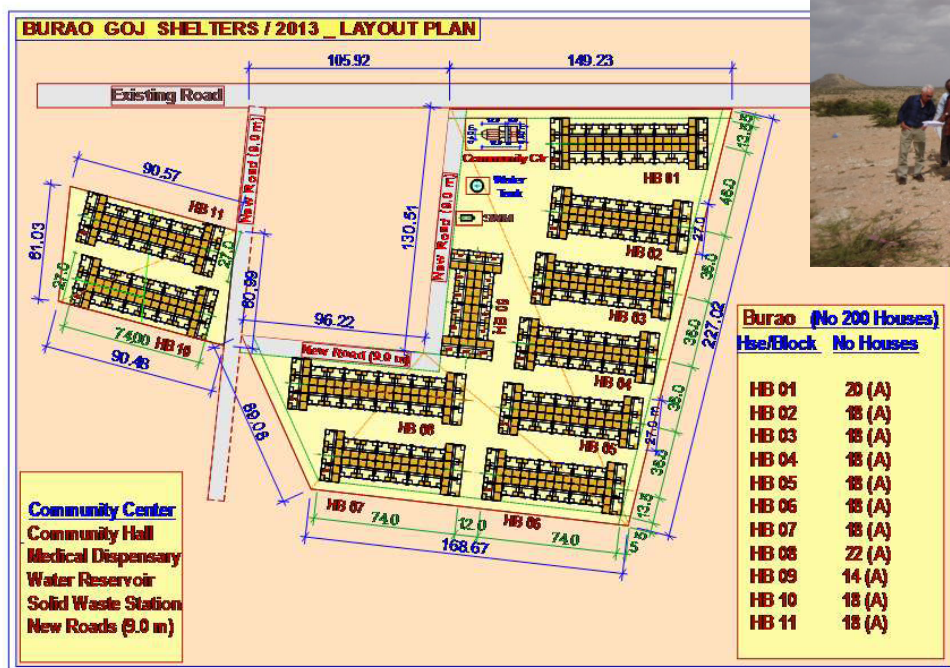
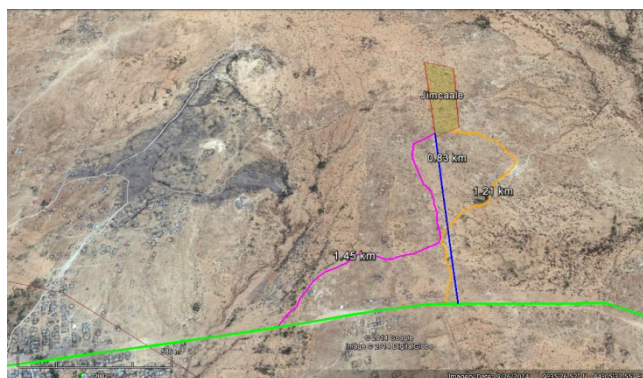
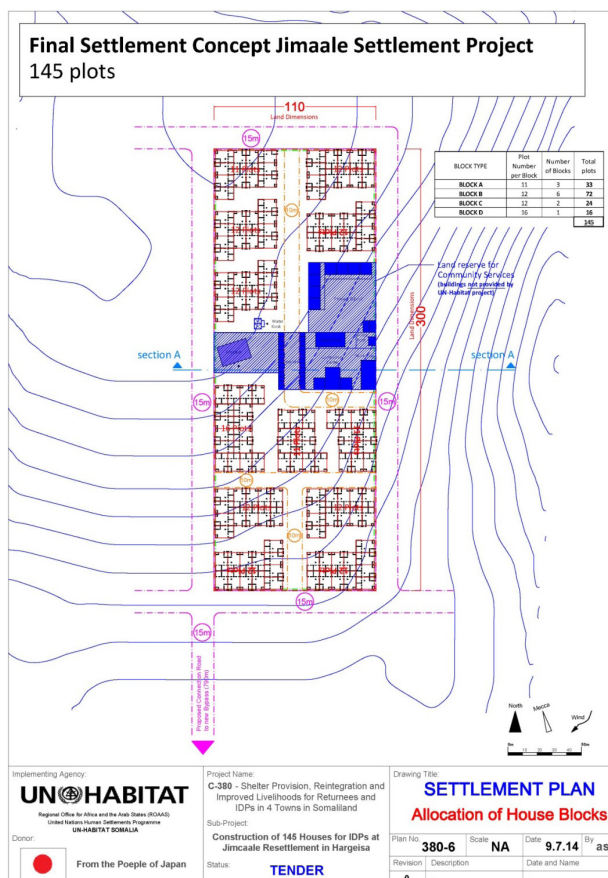
Ironically, the ongoing armed conflict and faltering attempts to establish governance and rule of law in the south contributed to the gradual stabilization of the northern regions. The relative stability of the northern regions acted like a magnet for IDPs from the south as well as those from rural areas 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

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_19484

