

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: 2005 to 2006

UN-HABITAT's mandate and operational activities daily contribute to providing strong support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), as they address at various levels, including operational, political, normative, institutional, monitoring and implementation, the crucial issues of sustainable urban development. Over the past three years, UN-HABITAT has embarked on intense lobbying and mobilization to sensitize African leaders of the fact that for NEPAD to succeed, they can not afford to ignore the rapid rate of urbanization of Africa, and its impact on the quality of life of citizens.

Support for areas relevant to the implementation of NEPAD

Through its Regional Office for Africa & the Arab States (ROAAS), UN-HABITAT has been carrying out technical cooperation and development activities in various African countries, which affect positively the implementation of the NEPAD objectives focusing on: (i) urban development and improvement of housing, (ii) support to good local governance and urban security, (iii) slum upgrading, (iv) training and capacity building for effective shelter delivery, as well as (v) decentralization and strengthening of local authorities. In order to ensure the success of its activities in the above highlighted countries, UN-HABITAT has recruited national officers called "programme managers" (Habitat-PMs), working closely with ROAAS, whose collaboration mainly focuses on: (a) promoting the integration of sustainable urbanization into the national development strategies and plans, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist; (b) promoting the global and normative mandate, programmes and campaigns of UN-HABITAT; and finally (c) supporting operational activities of UN-HABITAT at the national and local levels.

List of operational projects and 2005 budget:

Country	Project Title	2005 Budget (USD)
Cameroon	Appui au Programme de Mise en Oeuvre de la Gouvernance Locale	1,267,649
Chad	Urban Development and Improvement of Housing	8,490,754
Cote d'Ivoire	Appui à la Sécurité Urbaine à Abidjan (Phase Métropolitaine)	250,786
Egypt	Participatory Slum Up-grading in El Hallous and El Bahtini	101,671
Egypt	Preparatory Assistance proposal for Egypt Urban Sector, Slum Up-grading and City Development Strategies in Egypt	74,000
Eritrea	Housing/ Urban Development Policy and Housing Development Plan	105,868
Kenya	Sustainable Neighborhood Programme – Nairobi Pilot Project (Athi River)	378,470
Kenya	Safer Cities Project Nairobi	81,901

Liberia	Skills Training and Re-integration of Ex-Combatants into Local Community	56,112
Liberia	Capacity Building for Effective Shelter Delivery	74,127
Liberia	Skills Training and Re-integration of Ex-Combatants into Local Community (Phase II)	886,848
Libya	Institutional Development & Capacity Building of the Urban Planning Agency	2,608,422
Madagascar	Réduction de la Pauvreté et Promotion de modes d'Existence Durables	113,242
Madagascar	Gouvernance Urbaine et Sécurisation Foncière	409,500
<u>Regional</u> (BKF, SEN, BEN, CMR)	Cities without Slums in Western and Central French-Speaking Africa	105,640
<u>Regional</u> (KEN, UGN, URT)	Mashariki Innovations in Local Governance Award Programme (MILGAP)	283,371
Rwanda	Support Project to MINIFRA for Formulation of Urban Development Policy	100,000
Somalia	Good Local Governance and Leadership Training Programme	460,699
Somalia	Support to Priority Areas in the Urban Sector (SPAUS)	533,436
Somalia	Somalia Urban Development Programme (SUDP)	2,254,845
Somalia	Assistance to the Re-settlement of Returnees and IDPs in Hargesia, Galkayo and Bosasso	1,421,401
Somalia	Somalia Urban Development Programme	400,000
Tanzania	Action Plan to Up-grade all Informal Settlements in Dar es Salaam by 2015	143,000
Tanzania	Safer Cities – Dar es Salaam Project	18,587
	TOTAL	20,623,327

Note: ROAAS sources.

NEPAD Cities Programme (NCP)

The NEPAD Cities Programme is a major component of UN-HABITAT's efforts to address directly the NEPAD objectives. It was formulated as a means of achieving a quick-win for NEPAD and ground its ideals to the community level through the municipalities and urban centres. Within the interagency consultations coordinated by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), NCP was adopted as a product of cluster 4 with UN-HABITAT as the lead agency. Major activities undertaken within this context of Phase I included: (i) a concept paper developed and a proposal for selection of seven pilot cities, endorsed by the Heads of State Implementation Committee at their 8th meeting in Maputo, (ii) a flash publication of the concept paper, printed in both English and French, (iii) the amount of USD 125,000, provided from UN-HABITAT Foundation to start the programme in Bamako, Douala, Durban, Lagos, Lusaka, Nairobi and Rabat (called "initial NEPAD Cities").

Phase I was concluded successfully and its global report was launched at the Third Session of the World Urban Forum held from 19-23 June 2006 in Vancouver, Canada. A Special Session devoted to the NEPAD Cities is scheduled to take place in Nairobi during the upcoming AFRICITIES, building on the Vancouver momentum, to market the concept of a "NEPAD City" as an African city that is fit to deliver on the MDGs.

Implementing Phase II of the NEPAD Cities Programme

As mentioned in previous reports, UN-HABITAT considers it to be in the interest of African cities to capitalize on the momentum of Phase I of NCP. The Agency therefore has committed to intensifying efforts to continue building constituencies with the help of local authorities within the African region, considered key in improving the living conditions of the urban poor.

The proposed priority issues for Phase II of the NEPAD Cities Programme should focus on: (i) localizing the NEPAD objectives to speed up the process of ownership at the local level; (ii) promoting the NEPAD Cities (number to increase from 7 to 12) as engines of growth and as tools for regional integration; (iii) raising awareness and sensitizing local authorities and local communities to the relevance of the NEPAD objectives on the African development; (iv) enhancing the capacity of local authorities to assist national Governments in addressing the NEPAD objectives and managing the delivery of basic services in a manner that will contribute to poverty reduction and socio-economic cohesion in Africa; and (v) in addition, related advocacy work will be carried out by the cluster members at the regional, national and local levels in close collaboration with the NEPAD Secretariat and the African section of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA). However, Phase II of the NEPAD Cities Programme is still not funded. This remains an area of concerns as the expectations raised in the partner cities are high.

Challenges and constraints

- As UN-HABITAT is a small agency with limited financial resources, it is necessary to raise the issues of financial collaboration with the NEPAD Secretariat and other bilateral donors;
- It may be useful to explore ways of sponsoring selected innovative initiatives such as the NEPAD Cities Programme from the funds that are allocated by multilateral and bilateral donors to the NEPAD Secretariat (through consensual levy-arrangements), as such initiatives contribute directly to strengthening the NEPAD framework itself;
- It may be further recommended that joint fund-raising activities should be undertaken by the NEPAD partners, when appropriate, in support of pilot projects developed to speed up the implementation of the NEPAD objectives and allow for a timely delivery on the MDGs in Africa;
- Several concerns may be raised in relation to the participation of the NEPAD partners, coordination and implementation of cross-cutting activities, and the inter-linkages within the framework;
- As a result, momentum may be lost in follow up, if information is not regularly shared among all NEPAD partners, including UN Agencies working in Africa on new political and socio-economic trends that have the potential to effect the overall implementation process;
- Efforts must be intensified to reverse the trends of predominance of sector driven supply approach rather than a demand driven approach. The process of feedback and participation must be encouraged in order to improve the situation.

- In the context of the interagency consultations, the following actions need to be taken to improve the work and maximize the results of the clusters as per mandates and objectives: (i) secure agencies' commitment to coordinated and consolidated reporting; (ii) improve on the delivery of outputs and set a task force of few persons drawn from the agencies to deliver and follow up specific components of the programme output and report to the cluster; (iii) build cluster consciousness through improving on information and communication with each other about on-going activities, and through joint representation of missions, conferences, etc; (iv) engage with the RECs in a representational manner, i.e. agencies will inform each other of missions with dates for information sharing and coordinated discussion of cluster programs with the RECs.

Advocacy and awareness-raising

For NEPAD to succeed, African leaders can not afford to ignore the rapid rate of urbanization of Africa, and its impact on the quality of life of citizens. This message has been reiterated at several high-level political occasions, which lead to resolution 29 by the African Union on "Promoting the Development of Sustainable Cities in Africa". In line with this resolution, UN-HABITAT has been given the mandate to drive and coordinate the organization of an African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD), whose first session was jointly convened by UN-HABITAT and the African Union, and hosted by the Government of South Africa from 31 January to 4 February 2005, in Durban, South Africa.

The major outcomes of AMCHUD I included: (i) Establishment of a standing consultative mechanism, whose Bureau is composed of a Chair – South Africa; a Rapporteur – Kenya; Members: – Algeria, Senegal and Chad; (ii) Agreement on an "Enhanced Framework of Implementation of Housing and Urban Development in Africa"; (iv) Agreement on a common position on Africa's message to the 13th Session of the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD-13), and the 20th Session of the Governing Council on the Implementation Review of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). AMCHUD I also recognized the relevance of the NEPAD Cities Programme initiated by UN-HABITAT as one of innovative approaches towards an effective implementation of the NEPAD objectives and the MDGs in Africa. The Programme is now entrenched in the Declaration by African Ministers, who have resolved to support and strengthen its further activities.

At a Special Meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) held at the UN-HABITAT headquarters in Nairobi from April 3-4, 2006 on the theme: "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa: Strategies for the Realization of the Millennium Review Summit Commitment on Slums", it clearly transpired that the political will in Africa to address challenge of slums as one of the world's greatest shelter problems is increasing. In sub-Saharan Africa, 72 percent of urban dwellers (187 million people) live in slums; they constitute 20 percent of the global slum population. The NEPAD Cities Programme has the potential to assist local and national governments in addressing this challenge.