

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: July 2007 to June 2008

The main areas of focus of the partnership between UN-HABITAT and NEPAD include:

- (i) Advocacy and awareness building of the issues and challenges associated with rapid urbanisation;
- (ii) Promoting policies and strategies at the regional and national levels to face the above challenges;
- (iii) Implementing pilot initiatives at the country level upon the request of member States;
- (iv) Mobilising resources to bring pilot initiatives to scale.

UN-HABITAT's partnership with NEPAD was further strengthened in the course of 2007 through a second phase collaboration agreement for the NEPAD Cities Programme.

Advocacy

The main area of advocacy is on raising awareness on the fact that Africa, as a region, is undergoing a very rapid rate of urban growth and that most of this growth is resulting in the formation of slums and informal settlements. Currently, 72 percent of urban dwellers in Sub-Saharan Africa, or 187 million people, live in life-threatening slums. This "urbanisation of poverty" is becoming the single largest obstacle to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in the region. UN-HABITAT, in collaboration with member States and other UN organisations¹, continues to gather scientific evidence on the social, economic and environmental consequences of the urbanisation of poverty in Africa. Findings and their policy implications are systematically brought to the attention of African leaders, policy makers and researchers through various reports and publications. They also serve as the background to informing policy consultations at the regional level.

Support to NEPAD Cities Programme Secretariat

Under Phase II of the NEPAD Cities Programme, which entered into force in June 2007, UN-HABITAT provides substantive backstopping and technical support for three areas of intervention: (i) monitoring of progress of African cities in the attainment of the MDGs in urban areas; (ii) exchange of knowledge, lessons learned and best practices in pro-poor housing and urban development; and (iii) technical support for the implementation of pilot demonstration initiatives. It also provides direct support to the Secretariat of the NEPAD Cities Programme.

¹ Ongoing work in collaboration with, inter alia, national statistical offices, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNIFEM, World Bank and others

Support to policy development and institutional reform

A special meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) was organized in April 2006 on the theme of "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa: Strategies for the Realization of the Millennium Review Summit Commitment on Slums". The result of this meeting paved the way for mobilizing the necessary political impetus for African member States to engage in urban policy development and institutional reform at the country level.

UN-HABITAT Programme Managers in various African countries are currently working with African member States to promote the integration of the urban poverty agenda as an explicit chapter in national development strategies, plans and programmes including poverty reduction strategies, where they exist.

These efforts are being further assisted by capacity building programmes that focus on strengthening the ability of local authorities, public and private sector utilities and service providers, and urban poor communities to engage in slum upgrading and improvement initiatives and local economic development.

Direct support for policy development, institutional reform and capacity building is currently being provided to 20 African countries involving some US\$ 8.5 million for 2007-2008. Annex I provides a list of ongoing policy development and capacity building support in the region.

Scaling up of pilot initiatives in water and sanitation – collaboration with the African Development Bank

One of UN-HABITAT's main contributions to the NEPAD at the operational level has been through its Water for African Cities Initiative. This initiative works with member States, local authorities and water operators and utility firms to scale up pilot initiatives for attaining Millennium Development Goal 7 Targets 10 and 11.

Pilot initiatives, combining technical assistance, policy advice and small grants involving national and local authorities and urban poor communities provide the necessary institutional arrangements for improving access to water and sanitation by the urban poor. These pre-investment capacity-building efforts are then followed up with capital investment provided by the African Development Bank for the fast-track attainment of Target 10 on water and sanitation, while parallel efforts are engaged with the support of bi-lateral donors to pursue the attainment of Target 11 on slum improvement.

As of July 2007, UN-HABITAT's pre-investment packaging with the African Development Bank has involved over US \$1 billion in follow-up investment in six cities in five African countries.

Collaboration with other UN agencies: convening Cluster IV on “Environment, urbanization and population”

UN-HABITAT has been charged by UNECA to convene the “Cluster IV” within the interagency mechanism established to enhance the United Nations partnerships with regional and sub regional organizations in Africa.

During the last meeting of Cluster IV organized by UN-HABITAT in Nairobi, representatives of UNECA, UNEP, UNDP, and NEPAD Cities Network exchanged views on progress made so far in consolidating the collaboration among the cluster members. During that meeting, it clearly transpired that the respective clusters were facing similar challenges and remained dependent on the general cluster system, which itself needed to be revitalized. The meeting also recommended that the cooperation between the United Nations and the NEPAD secretariat at various levels needed to be improved.

Similarly, UN-HABITAT participated in the Eighth Annual Regional Consultation Meeting of UN Agencies and Organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union and its NEPAD Programme (8th RCM) held in November 2007, in Addis Ababa. The final report and recommendations of the 8th RCM, including inputs from Cluster IV made by UN-HABITAT, have been finalized and circulated by UNECA in its capacity as the coordinator of the interagency consultation on NEPAD.

Challenges and constraints

The main challenge facing the UN-HABITAT partnership with NEPAD remains the lack of funding to bring policy and capacity-building activities to scale. The pre-investment packaging arrangement with the African Development Bank is a good start but is so far limited only to water and sanitation. Similar arrangements need to be forged with other international financial institutions and domestic financial institutions to ensure follow-up investment in areas of land, transport infrastructure and urban mobility, urban energy, local economic development, etc.

Annex I: List of policy and capacity building support activities 2007

Country	Project Title
Central Africa	Cities Without Slum in Western and Central French-Speaking Africa
Egypt	Preparatory Assistance Proposal for Egypt Urban Sector, Slum Upgrading and City Development Strategies in Egypt
URT	Action Plan to Upgrade all Informal Settlements in Dar es Salaam by 2015
Mozambique	Improving Water and Sanitation in Quelimane City
Benin	Development Strategy for Greater Cotonou
Burkina Faso	Strategy for Development of Greater Ouagadougou and improvement of basic services for underprivileged areas
Senegal	Greater Dakar Urban Development Strategy
Cote D'Ivoire	Appui a la Securite Urbaine a Abidjan (Phase Metropolitaine)
Madagascar	Gouvernance Urbaine et Securisation Fonciere
Burundi	Support to the Formulation of a Housing and Urban Development Policy in Burundi
Kenya	Safer Cities Nairobi Programme
Rwanda	Support to the Ministry of Infrastructure (MINIFRA) for Formulation of Urban Development Policy
Somalia	Somalia Urban Development Programme ("SUDP"): Supported by the World Bank - LICUS initiative (Low-Income Countries Under Stress)
Liberia	Skills Training and Reintegration of Ex-Combatants into Local Community (Phase II)
Kenya	Provision of Basic Services in Related Slum Settlements in Nairobi (Kahawa-Kibera)
Regional – East Africa	Mashariki Innovations In Local Governance Award Programme (MILGAP)
Liberia	Settlements Planning - Information Systems Training
Somalia	Somalia Urban Settlements Programme
Nigeria	Establishment of HAPSO Abuja, Nigeria
Somalia	Assistance to the Resettlement of Returnees and IDPs in Hargeisa, Galyako and Bosasso
Somalia	Shelter Provision to Inhabitants of the TSUNAMI Affected Town of Xaafuun, Northeast Somalia
Somalia	Water Emergency Project in Xaafuun (TSUNAMI damage Rehabilitation Project)
URT	Safer Cities Tanzania Programme
Sudan	Rapid Urban Sector Profiling for Sustainability of Priority Location in Khartoum