

# UN HABITAT

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

67<sup>th</sup> REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVES TO UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

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**Agenda Item 6:**

**Thematic/Country Presentation (HSP/CPR/67/6)**

**UN-Habitat's contribution to the Humanitarian-Development-Peace  
(HDP) Nexus**

**67<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the CPR**  
**THEMATIC /COUNTRY PRESENTATION**

**UN-Habitat's contribution to the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP)  
Nexus**

**The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus**

The years between 2015 and 2017 have been marked by the establishment of major global policies relating to humanitarian, development and peace stabilisation goals.<sup>1</sup> Each of these global processes has built momentum to improve humanitarian action by strengthening linkages between the humanitarian-development and peace communities of practice. Most humanitarian operations around the world are protracted; the differing roles of humanitarian and development actors can be unclear, and their methods are not necessarily aligned or complementary, e.g. humanitarian planning cycles are typically annual, preventing longer-term development planning processes.

These challenges have been known for decades, and several attempts have been made to address the gaps between humanitarian and development responses including 'Linking Relief, Recovery and Development (LRRD)'; 'Early Recovery' approach and the 'Humanitarian to Development Continuum'. Following the World Humanitarian Summit, Secretary General António Gutierrez announced 'A New Way of Working' (NWoW) to address the humanitarian-development and peace nexus:

*"We must bring the humanitarian and development spheres closer together from the very beginning of a crisis, to support affected communities, address structural and economic impacts and help prevent a new spiral of fragility and instability..."* António Gutierrez, UN Secretary-General-designate, December 2016.

The efficiency and effectiveness of the UN was questioned in the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), December 2016. The paper '*Repositioning the UN development system to Deliver on the 2030 Agenda – Ensuring a better Future for All*',<sup>2</sup> delivered by the SG and elaborated on in his Reform Agenda, discussed operationalizing the Humanitarian Development [sustaining Peace] nexus in paragraph 77:

*"We must implement the New Way of Working across development and humanitarian activities, with a focus on collective outcomes at the country level... A comprehensive whole-of-system response, including greater cooperation and complementarity among development, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action and sustaining peace, is fundamental to most efficiently and effectively addressing needs and attaining the Sustainable Development Goals".*

**UN-Habitat Principles**

UN-Habitat's interventions following crises are guided by the 'Strategic Policy on Human Settlements in Crisis and Sustainable Relief and Reconstruction framework' ('Strategic Policy Human Settlements in Crisis'). The policy, endorsed by the CPR in 2007, defines important baselines and priority focus areas which are considered

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<sup>1</sup> These include: The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; Peace Operations and Peacebuilding Reviews; the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development; the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda; the COP 21 Climate Conference; the World Humanitarian Summit; the Summit for Refugees and Migrants; and the UN Secretary Generals Reform Agenda.

<sup>2</sup> Economic and Social Council, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017

necessary for the implementation of preventative, pre-crisis interventions, resilience building, risk reduction and post-crisis sustainable reconstruction and recovery activities. At GC 26 Member States passed resolution 26/2 Requesting the Executive Director to update the 'Strategic Policy Human Settlements in Crisis' to take into account the changing nature of crises and relevant new commitments made by Member States over the past 10 years; establish an Urban Crisis Response Fund to better support UN-Habitat's crisis response mechanism and also to continue to support innovative partnerships between humanitarian and development agencies (such as the Global Alliance for Urban Crisis). Also at the heart of the SDGs 2030 Agenda is the commitment to "leave no one behind" and to focus on the poorest, most vulnerable, the furthest behind and those who are often hardest to reach. UN-Habitat is further guided by multiple references in the New Urban Agenda to support Member States and it calls for 'special attention' to be paid to 'countries in situations of conflict' and challenged by crises and protracted conflicts.

### **Why is UN-Habitat's role important?**

UN-Habitat has a global presence, with 60 country offices or representatives, and has provided operational support (Technical, Advisory etc.) to over 80 countries. In relation to the HDP Nexus, UN-Habitat's comparative advantage is unique. While some other agencies have both humanitarian and development mandates and experience, few have strong urban expertise, including a peace stabilization programme targeting key drivers such as land conflicts. Added to this, UN-Habitat has both extensive operational programmes and capacity to support member States in countries affected by crisis, and where national capacity has been depleted by crises or protracted conflict.

Historically UN-Habitat has strong relationships with both national and sub-national governance staff (including Local Authorities, Mayors, Municipalities, and Ministries), which supports partnership-building. Additionally, UN-Habitat has strong convening powers, demonstrated by the number of active participants in events such as WUF and Habitat III. The agency chairs the Medellin Collaboration for Urban Resilience and hosts the Making City Resilient Campaign, with almost 4,000 cities currently subscribed.

UN-Habitat is one of only 10 UN Agencies to be a member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), a forum for coordination, policy development and decision-making involving key humanitarian partners. Under the leadership of the Emergency Relief Coordinator, the IASC develops humanitarian policies, agrees on a clear division of responsibility for the various aspects of humanitarian assistance, identifies and addresses gaps in response, and advocates for effective application of humanitarian principles. UN-Habitat is an active member in a broad range of IASC fora.<sup>3</sup>

### **UN-Habitat Approaches and Key Crisis-Related Programmes**

*The approaches mentioned below are further elaborated in Case Studies annex at the end of this briefing note.*

#### ***People's Process***

UN-Habitat's places crisis-affected people and communities at the centre of the planning process. From day one, we support families to build resilience, reduce vulnerability and dependency, and work towards durable solutions which help communities to recover and transform lives. The process prioritises supporting women, to reduce their vulnerability and increase their power within the community, by ensuring that they have decision-making power in committees and Community Development Councils (CDCs).

The humanitarian sector has traditionally approached crisis intervention through a linear process: the emergency phase is followed by the early recovery phase, then recovery and reconstruction. UN-Habitat has always viewed

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<sup>3</sup> These include the IASC 'Principals Group' the IASC policy related 'Working Group' and the operationally related 'Emergency Directors Group'.

this approach as inefficient, as it misses the opportunity for a ‘development gain’ to emerge out of the crisis. UN-Habitat has favoured a contiguous approach, where recovery and reconstruction begin immediately after a crisis. It is therefore a positive step that the SGs Reforms, the NWoW, and the approach to the HDP Nexus are pressing for improved planning, collaboration and (multi-year) funding by humanitarian and development actors from the outset of the crisis response.

### ***Neighbourhoods and local governments (LA, mayors)***

UN-Habitat advocates for integrated, localized approaches which enable comprehensive recovery, supported by local governance structures and UN-Habitat supports local government leadership in all recovery coordination mechanisms. In Lebanon, for example, responding to rapid movement of displaced people including refugees into urban host communities, during the conflict in 2007 and more recently the Syria Crisis, UN-Habitat has established and trained Regional Technical Offices (RTOs) within Unions of Municipalities. These RTOs comprise of experienced local technical experts that have normally worked in the private sector, and were selected and trained by UN-Habitat to undertake social and technical assessments, identify critical investments in infrastructure in order to provide adequate basic services for refugee and host communities. They also coordinated with UN Agencies, donors and beneficiary communities to provide oversight and follow up, and also received donor funds and implemented works.

By incorporating this expertise into Unions of Municipalities, mayors have been empowered to coordinate and lead assistance to refugees and local host populations. Local capacity has been strengthened to provide locally appropriate solutions in protracted crises.

### ***Cash Transfers***

The humanitarian sector has been shifting from provision of goods to cash transfer programmes. This is seen as an innovative approach, which saves money and increases effectiveness. However, UN-Habitat has used Conditional Cash Transfers for more than a decade to support and implement Humanitarian, Development and Peace initiatives, delivered through the People’s Process. The agency has considerable expertise and a highly efficient approach: One USD100million programme achieved more than 99% effective delivery, almost unheard of in crisis-affected environments. The approach puts cash directly into the hands of affected people, allowing them to make their own choices, thus providing dignity, reducing dependency and increasing resilience. Cash allocated to construction activities through community processes directly impacts local economies and employment, which accelerates economic recovery, stabilization and peace-building in crisis-affected areas.

### ***City Profiles***

In several countries experiencing conflict, UN-Habitat has developed a comprehensive map based analytical tool to assess the impact of crisis in cities. City Profiles in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Libya assess damage of houses and public buildings; functionality of urban services; demographic changes, including through displacement; local economic changes; and the needs and coping mechanisms of local populations. It enables government, urban actors (such as municipalities, private sector and local civil society) and humanitarian/development partners to jointly develop humanitarian/ recovery action plans and coordinate their resources and programmes.

Profiles also reveal the factors that contributed to a crisis. In the case of ISIL’s occupation of Mosul, Iraq in June 2014 City Profiles showed how decades of neglect, migration, and frustration with slums and poor services in certain areas of the city, created a situation of resentment that was exploited by the so-called Islamic State. After 2003, the number of informal settlements increased significantly. Some of these settlements became “self-ruled zones,” incubators for extremism and radicalisation. UN-Habitat’s City Profiles (now operated through a digital platform) have become an important guide for the UN System on how to work with the government, urban actors and donors to develop and implement targeted programmes.

### *Human Settlement Resilience*

UN-Habitat's urban resilience work supports Members States to understand multi-hazard risk and evaluate and plan mitigation measures with the end goal of 'planning out risk and building in resilience'.

**City Resilience Profiling Programme (CRPP):** The Programme works in three complimentary areas: advocacy, knowledge and technical cooperation. Advocacy efforts promote resilience at local, regional and global levels as a key ingredient to achieving global targets set out in the Sendai Framework, New Urban Agenda and Agenda 2030. The programme's knowledge products are developed with academia, practitioners and other stakeholders, to facilitate resilience, awareness and action. Technical cooperation is articulated through the City Resilience Profiling Tool, a robust methodology for local governments and their partners to evaluate cities' resilience and identify priority actions to address vulnerabilities. CRPP plays a key role in promoting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda among the principle networks on urban resilience, risk reduction and rehabilitation<sup>4</sup>:

The **Technical Centre for Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience (DiMSUR)** was initiated by the Governments of Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and the Union of Comoros with the support of UN-Habitat. DiMSUR provides technical assistance for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and urban resilience. The partnership will be expanded to the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The participatory **City Resilience Action Planning (CityRAP) Tool** builds capacity in small and medium-sized municipalities to understand, assess and plan practical resilience actions.

### *Land-tenure – Conflict Mitigation*

UN-Habitat aims to address land disputes early, and has created frameworks to stabilise and strengthen security of tenure in multiple countries<sup>5</sup>. In DRC, UN-Habitat is supporting the United Nations Stabilization mission to deal with land disputes in conflict prone areas, through dialogue and mediation; local community capacity development on conflict resolution; support to the land administration; and land reform processes. UN-Habitat launched a comprehensive urban recovery intervention in Sinjar, Iraq, using its **Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM)** to recognize land property rights of returnees of the Yazidi/Iraqi community and address four decades of housing and land ownership challenges. There is a growing awareness of how these programmes can prevent re-occurrence of conflict and sustain peace. UN-Habitat emphasizes the need to institutionalize prevention strategies, through settlement planning, housing policies, national building codes and city planning laws.

A concrete example of conflict analysis embedded in a broader project is the **Community Participatory Land Use Planning (CLIP)** project in DRC. The analysis conducted demonstrated that 'irregular' land allocations were a major driving factor in the upsurge in conflict and violence, which took on political dimensions.

UN-Habitat has led a system-wide engagement (across the UN pillars) to arrive at a more coherent and sustained engagement on land and conflict, under the leadership of Executive Office of the Secretary General (EOSG) This resulted in a Scoping Study and an advanced draft of a SG Guidance Note on land and conflict. UN-Habitat was an active member of the UN Working Group on Transition, and a key partner in the EU-UN Partnership on Natural Resources, Land and Conflict Prevention which is now continued through joint initiatives in the Great Lakes Regions working closely with the RCs.

### *Planning*

UN-Habitat employs spatial planning as a tool in the context of crisis to provide a more integrated approach to emergency scenarios. Without a plan or spatial strategy, coordination is extremely difficult to achieve, leading to

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<sup>4</sup> These include Medellin Collaboration on Urban Resilience, RESCCUE (Resilience to cope with Climate Change in Urban Areas), Risk Nexus Initiative, and the Global Making Cities Resilient Campaign, among others.

<sup>5</sup> Countries include Liberia, Somalia, DRC, Afghanistan, Liberia, South Sudan, ICGLR, Myanmar, Colombia, and Sudan.

not only ineffectual interventions but potential damage to already fragile environments, increased risk to peace and security and increased vulnerability. UN-Habitat supports authorities to adopt policies, plans and designs for compact, socially inclusive, better integrated and connected settlements. The agency's expertise in planning is increasingly being called upon in crisis and post-crisis environments (including in Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq, Haiti, Kenya and Bangladesh).

### ***Emergency Response***

UN-Habitat has an emergency response capacity, strengthened by emergency response rosters including Member States (Norway, Switzerland, Sweden and Canada) for deployment of technical expertise following a request by Member State experiencing a crisis event. Collaborating partners include UNHCR, IFRC, IOM and other humanitarian agencies.

### ***Global Alliance for Urban Crisis (GAUC)***

GAUC brings together over 65 organizations, including UN humanitarian and development agencies, networks of local authorities, built environment professionals and academic and knowledge centers, to better prevent, prepare for and effectively respond to humanitarian crises in urban settings. The Alliance was launched during the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016 to address the unique characteristics of urban crises, and will facilitate the implementation of prevention elements in the New Urban Agenda (NUA). Humanitarian actors have begun to recognise the need for a new approach to urban crises – through support and collaboration with municipal authorities to ensure they take a central role in crisis response. The focus is on restoring and bolstering existing city systems, rather than creating parallel services or providing short-term, unsustainable solutions for housing, water or healthcare.

#### *Some key GAUC Messages:*

The urbanisation agenda must recognise the growing intensity and frequency of urban crises. Achieving the urban SDG (no. 11) will be impossible if urban risks keep accumulating and towns and cities are not prepared to respond to humanitarian emergencies. Member States must commit to 'leave no city behind' and ensure that even the most at-risk cities are able to develop pathways to sustainable development by ensuring that crisis preparedness and response are adopted as critical components when implementing the NUA.

Urban resilience should be considered a common framework to align human rights, humanitarian and development goals, and efforts to increase it must incorporate capacity within and across the UN, national, and local governments. Responding to influxes of refugees and internally displaced persons in urban areas should be considered a common humanitarian and development challenge. The displaced must be integrated into urban development strategies, and refugees and IDPs should be seen as potential contributors to local development.

### ***Refugees and Settlements***

UN-Habitat, in partnership with UNHCR, has piloted a unique settlement for refugees in northern Kenya – Kalobeyei in Turkana County. The County authorities decided that refugees coming over the border from South Sudan should be provided with a proper human settlement rather than a traditional refugee camp. Part of the rationale was that once the refugees return home the settlement could be occupied by Kenyans. The settlement will accommodate 60,000 people once full (35,000 currently).

UN-Habitat provided urban planning services, in collaboration with UNHCR and consultation with all relevant stakeholders. The active participation of refugees and host communities was facilitated by UN-Habitat, and provided capacity-building opportunities. Host communities are now partially integrated into the settlement, and have access to schools and medical facilities. The host community has benefitted from livelihood development, although this remains a significant challenge, along with funding to support durable housing. Kalobeyei is a pilot

project, and the learning from both successes and challenges will be valuable for future projects globally. Knowledge management and the building of lessons learnt is a key element of the project.

## **Challenges and Opportunities**

### ***Challenges***

The changes being advocated by the SG (NWoW/HDP) will not happen overnight. Field-level operational staff will take time to change attitudes and behavior, even if HQ staff advocate for new approaches. In many cases, humanitarian imperative will take precedence over planning and consultation. A great deal of humanitarian planning and activity is based in Geneva and UN-Habitat's decision to close the Geneva office (on financial grounds) could make the agency increasingly marginalized, unless some Geneva presence is established. Similarly, New York office capacity is insufficient to contribute effectively to all the mechanisms, meetings and activities related to HDP and NWoW.

In GC26, Member States supported the creation of an 'Urban Crisis Response Fund' in order that UN-Habitat could provide effective emergency response capacity to Member States. The fund requires contributions from Member States to be activated. In recent months, we have experienced earthquakes in Iraq and Iran, flooding and mudslides in Sierra Leone and Nigeria and hurricanes across Central America and the Caribbean and a refugee crisis from Myanmar to Bangladesh. In all these cases UN-Habitat could have provided more support to the affected Member States if the Urban Crisis Response Fund had even a relatively modest funding – many of the missions only require flights and accommodation.

### ***Opportunities***

The NWoW, and Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus approach plays to UN-Habitat strengths in urban expertise/operational capacity/normative policy/existing partnerships with government ministries and sub-national governance structures. If the NWoW materializes, this is a significant opportunity for people affected by crises to be treated with dignity, while receiving support leading to durable solutions.

Key UN-Habitat approaches and services are increasingly in demand by partner agencies and will grow in conflict affected urban areas. This is reflected by Risk Reduction, Rehabilitation and crisis related responses, for Member States, accounting for around USD80 million (biennium 2018 – 2019), UN-Habitat's largest single budget area. With increasing demand, will come increased funding opportunities. This is especially true if development donors are engaged earlier and with less time-consuming bureaucratic processes.

## ANNEX – Country-specific Case Studies

1. Iraq
2. Afghanistan
3. Kenya
4. Democratic Republic of the Congo
5. Somalia
6. Sri Lanka

### Supporting Iraq through crisis

**Date** 2014-present

**Country** Iraq

#### **Main objectives**

- Supporting Syrian refugees integration in host communities in Kurdistan Region of Iraq
- Supporting internally displaced Iraqi people with camps that are integrated into urban areas
- Supporting the return of vulnerable internally displaced people that lack formal housing/land/property rights in the location of return
- Supporting Government of Iraq, the UN System and international community in strategic planning for reconstruction, prioritization and coordination of investments, through up-to-date, spatial, mulita-sectoral analysis of impacts of crisis in urban areas: City and Neighbourhood Profiling.

#### **Beneficiaries**

- 1,045 refugee families in improved host community shelter
- 232,200 individuals in refugee hosting communities benefitting from infrastructure upgrading
- 25,425 internally displaced families in safe, dignified shelter within eleven camps connected to existing urban areas
- 15,860 individual returnees with rehabilitated housing
- 3,000 returnees formerly with no land rights returning to properties with secure land tenure
- Urban Populations of Ramadi, Mosul and Sinjar district benefitting from sound data to plan recovery and reconstruction

#### **Contribution to the HDP nexus**

Camps are planned and built as city extensions to prevent slums from forming when temporary accommodation is replaced with bricks and mortar. They enable displaced communities to benefit from provisions of the host city, including employment, education and health, and in return the city benefits from investment its physical and social infrastructure. The approach also supports the central role of local government in planning and coordinating actions to respond to internal population movement, while building its resilience to future shocks.

By addressing Housing, Land and Property rights of returnees, we are tackling some of the causal issues of conflict and supporting peaceful return.

#### **The link between normative and operational project components**



Planning camps as city extensions is informed by principles of sustainable neighbourhood planning developed by UN-Habitat. Locally, City Profiling provides thorough analysis leading to strategic planning, in order to guide the reconstruction operations of government, UN System and international community.

### **Partnerships**

City Profiling is a tool that brings together all stakeholders, including local government, local civil society and private sector, service providers, international actors and UN System. It provides for collaborative multi-stakeholder planning for reconstruction and for the coordination and monitoring of the inputs of all in the reconstruction process.

### **The Transformative Change**

The programme has transformed the way we address displaced populations through integrating them in urban areas in a way that is of mutual benefit to both host communities and displaced persons. By ensuring the central role of local government, it provides an early exit strategy for the humanitarian community. This approach could be adopted as a model in similar contexts.

City profiling can be instrumental in changing the way the UN system addresses urban recovery and reconstruction, shifting from sectoral programming, to integrated, area-based approach that brings together all relevant actors on a collective understanding or priorities and coordinating investments.

## Local Integration of Vulnerable Excluded & Uprooted People (LIVEUP)

**Date** 01/01/2015 – 31/12/2017 (3 years)

**Country** Afghanistan

### **Main objectives**

- Contribute to the reintegration of uprooted Afghans
- Improve living conditions of uprooted Afghans (IDPs & Returnees) and their host communities

**Beneficiaries** 186,763 direct beneficiaries

### **Contribution to the HDP nexus**

The LIVEUP project employed a process of in-depth profiling of areas of high displacement followed by intensive evidence based advocacy to promote local integration. In a number of protracted IDP/returnee hosting sites, the approach was successful in addressing issues of tenure security and lifting a prohibition on development interventions. By improving tenure security, access to basic services, housing quality, community cohesion and participation in local governance, the project was able to bring a desirable conclusion to a number of open ended humanitarian situations.

### **The link between normative and operational project components**

The LIVEUP project involved a significant normative component; intensive data collection was the foundation for evidence-based advocacy that was instrumental to the project's operational components. Additionally two 'Provincial Action Plans' were created: costed action plans to facilitate durable solutions in areas of high return. Two knowledge products were also developed, examining the effects of the prevailing approach on displacement over the last decade, lessons learned and recommendations for ways forward.

## Partnerships

Key government partners Ministry of Urban Development & Housing were engaged in the urban design components of all developments. Municipal officials participated in the development and monitoring of all sub projects, and the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation was engaged with throughout project design and implementation.

## The Transformative Change

The LIVEUP project -through widely owned success stories of local integration-has been the catalyst for a fundamental change in the Government of Afghanistan's approach to displacement. Before the project's implementation the concept of local integration was rejected on principal by key government officials, and return to place of origin was discussed as the only feasible durable solution. In contrast, currently key government actors routinely propose their own local integration initiatives. The project also contributed to a recently completed comprehensive reform of the legal and policy framework surrounding land allocation to the displaced.

## Strengthening Planning for Integrated Refugee and Host Communities in Kalobeyei Settlement, Kenya

**Date** 2016 – 2018

**Country** Kenya

### Main objectives

- Establish planning support for the County Government of Turkana
- Formulate and adopt guidelines to develop and manage a sustainable human settlement that integrates refugees and host communities
- Promote socio-economic stability and support local efforts in countering conflicts between host communities and refugees

**Beneficiaries:** More than 50 local government members, 60,000 refugees, 10,000 host communities

### Contribution to the HDP nexus

UN-Habitat was invited to partner in the development process are developing a new settlement for 60,000 integrated refugee and host communities. UN-Habitat contributes with development of a spatial plan for the settlement, involving the relevant miniseries and local authority, and supporting refugee and host community to contribute to the implementation of the spatial plan.

### The link between normative and operational project components

The institutional capacity development was based on the three-pronged approach to urban planning and development and the Rapid Urban Planning studio. The People's Process was at the core of engaging the host and refugee communities. The spatial plan is based on the 5 principles for urban planning.

**Partnerships** UNHCR, WFP, FAO, International and National Organizations, Private Sector

### The Transformative Change

- Promoting an organized implementation for the new settlement. The UN agencies and other organizations are coordinating their programmes on the ground using the spatial plan;

- Seizing opportunities from the regional scale towards the sustainability of the new structure, linking the refugee needs with the capacity of the host community;
- Institutional capacity on urban management, to ensure involvement of the relevant governmental authorities in the future growth of the settlement;
- Ensuring the participation of all stakeholders including refugees and host communities for reducing the conflict between the communities;
- Deliver skill training to host and refugees to contribute to the implementation of the plans, being able to use their skills also in developing their countries upon return

## Global Land Tool Network Phase 2

**Date** 2017-2018

**Country** The Democratic Republic of the Congo

### **Main objectives**

- Support national land reform and coordination;
- Strengthen Land Information Management System (LIMS) in Eastern DRC;
- Strengthen land tenure security for vulnerable communities in Eastern DRC;
- Reduce land disputes in Eastern DRC.

**Beneficiaries** Communities and households: around 5,000 households mapped, enumerated and profiled.

### **Contribution to the HDP nexus**

The programme works to mitigate land disputes, therefore reducing violent conflicts among communities and increase land tenure security for vulnerable groups, including returnees. Local capacities are developed in land conflict resolution and in developing and maintaining land information management systems that can record the agreement reached and help reducing the relapse into land-related violent conflict. The results achieved at the local level are further institutionalized through national land reform and coordination.

### **The link between normative and operational project components**

The programme is highly operations-based, with around USD2.1 million dispersed through In-house Agreements between the Land and GLTN Unit (HQ) and DRC country office as well as agreements with local partners. UN-Habitat staff builds capacity of local partners and supervises the day-to-day operations of the implementation of pro-poor and gender sensitive land tools by the community, as well as supports national and local governments to design and implement land reforms.

### **Partnerships**

Local partners (e.g. UCBC) and communities of Luhobga and Beni are placed at the centre of all activities through capacity development and tool implementation. Local and national authorities take the lead in the land reform process which UN-Habitat supports. Strong long-term partnerships are developed through this which contributes to sustainability of the project results. Partnerships are also established DFID, Norway and the World Bank.

### **The Transformative Change**

The programme strongly supports the implementation of SDGs 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 5 (gender equality), 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and 16 (peace and justice). Around 5,000 households have been mapped, enumerated and profiled using GLTN tools which contributes to increased tenure security; more than 800 land disputes resolved; around 2,500 land administration archives digitised and stored; pro-poor and gender responsive

elements are integrated in the national land policy development process which will contribute to further improvement of access to land and tenure security of millions of people in the country.

## Midnimo (Unity) - Support for the Attainment of Durable Solutions in Areas Impacted by Displacement and Returns in Jubaland and South West States

**Date** 2016-2019

**Country** Somalia – Federal Member States – Jubaland and South West State

### **Main objectives, based on the Peacebuilding Priority Plan for Somalia to which the project is contributing**

- Government structures and institutions at federal, regional, district and community level are strengthened, more accountable and transparent and better able, to respond to the various needs of the population in South and Central Somalia.
- Communities in Southern Somalia generate the demand for, and benefit from local governance, security, justice, economic and social solutions.

**Beneficiaries** 23,306, estimated<sup>6</sup>. Additional 54,480 individuals are estimated to benefit indirectly from the project

### **Contribution to the HDP nexus**

Midnimo, meaning "Unity", is a three-year programme which aims to prevent conflict by strengthening the capacity of the newly formed government institutions in Jubaland and South West State to manage large influxes of refugee returnees and internally displaced persons. The project aims to enhance local leadership capacities and facilitate and coordinate inclusive planning and recovery programmes. Equally, it aims to empower community members in affected areas, including women, to engage in structured dialogue to analyse their circumstances and conflict triggers; prioritise their needs; establish systems for dispute resolution and peaceful co-existence; and ultimately take ownership for driving their own recovery processes through community-based projects. The project addresses critical and context specific needs to achieve durable solutions in areas impacted by displacement, by supporting local authorities build accountability; respond to the needs of their constituents; and empower communities engage with local governance, security, justice, economic and social issues and solutions.

### **The link between normative and operational project components**

The project has a balance of operational project components. Social infrastructure work accounts for two-thirds of the overall budget (USD 6m, funded by the Peacebuilding Fund and the UN Fund for Human Security).

### **Partnerships**

Government and community led co-facilitation teams are the backbone of the project implementation. With the support of UN Habitat and IOM, these teams have led on the formation of community action groups, who formulated community action plans that the government now uses as tools to coordinate and mobilize support from other partners.

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<sup>6</sup> Based on the Shelter Cluster mapping exercise for Kismayo (2014), 10% of the households living in settlements were reported to belong to the host community. The upgrading activities target a cluster of settlements in Kismayo north so as to reach larger numbers of beneficiaries to common service infrastructure and settlements upgrading.

The Project coordinates with three additional UN joint programmes: the Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery, the Rule of Law and the Youth Employment in Somalia. IOM and UN Habitat are also partnering with the Cluster System and other non UN projects such as the USAID funded project Transition Initiative for Stabilization (TIS).

### **The Transformative Change**

The programme supports the National Development Plan for Somalia (2017-2019), and the Wadajir Framework for Local Governance. It relates and refers to the Kampala Convention and the Nairobi Declaration. It strongly supports the achievement of SDG11 and SDG16.

## Post-Conflict Reconstruction Programme in Sri Lanka

**Date** 2010-2016

**Country** Sri Lanka

### **Main objectives**

- Deliver durable solutions for conflict-affected returnee IDPs;
- Improve access to safe and resilient housing;
- Improve access to community infrastructure facilities;
- Strengthen community cohesion through joint implementation of reconstruction activities;
- Livelihoods support programme including women's empowerment;
- Strengthen security of tenure for returnee households;
- Improve capacities of conflict affected communities to actively engage in the development process

**Beneficiaries** Communities and households: 31,350 homes and 520 infrastructure facilities rebuilt, supporting more than 450,000 people

### **Contribution to the HDP nexus**

UN-Habitat advocated for durable solutions in the immediate post-conflict period. Thousands of people who were displaced by conflict rebuilt their homes, developed new skills and improved their livelihoods. Families and communities experienced a 'Peace Dividend': their resilience was strengthened, local economy was developed through increased cash circulation, recurrence of conflict, and the need for humanitarian support was reduced. This was achieved through communities being at the center of decision making in the local reconstruction process, strong partnerships with key stakeholders, and the demonstration of good construction practices of new building technologies.

### **The link between normative and operational project components**

Although the programme was highly operations-based, with more than USD100 million dispersed in Conditional Cash transfers, it set the precedent for adoption of people centered processes as the main mode of implementation of housing and small scale community infrastructure reconstruction projects and helped build capacities of government officials at national and local level to mainstream people centered reconstruction.

### **Partnerships**

Communities were placed at the centre of all decisions and activities, through a 'People's Process' approach. Local and national authorities were engaged throughout programme, and strong, long-term partnerships were

developed. Multi-donor partnerships were established and strengthened, with the European Union, Australia, India, Switzerland, Japan and Korea.

### **The Transformative Change**

The programme strongly supports the implementation of SDG 11. Vulnerability in the affected communities was greatly reduced, as families were supported to build durable, permanent houses, in place of temporary humanitarian shelter. Resilience was strengthened through joint construction programmes, and women were empowered through skills training and project management activities. Livelihoods of householders were improved, as they could pursue new opportunities (including cottage industries and construction training) with the assurance of secure tenure, which has led to sustainable return for these communities in line with the requirement of providing durable solutions for IDPs.