

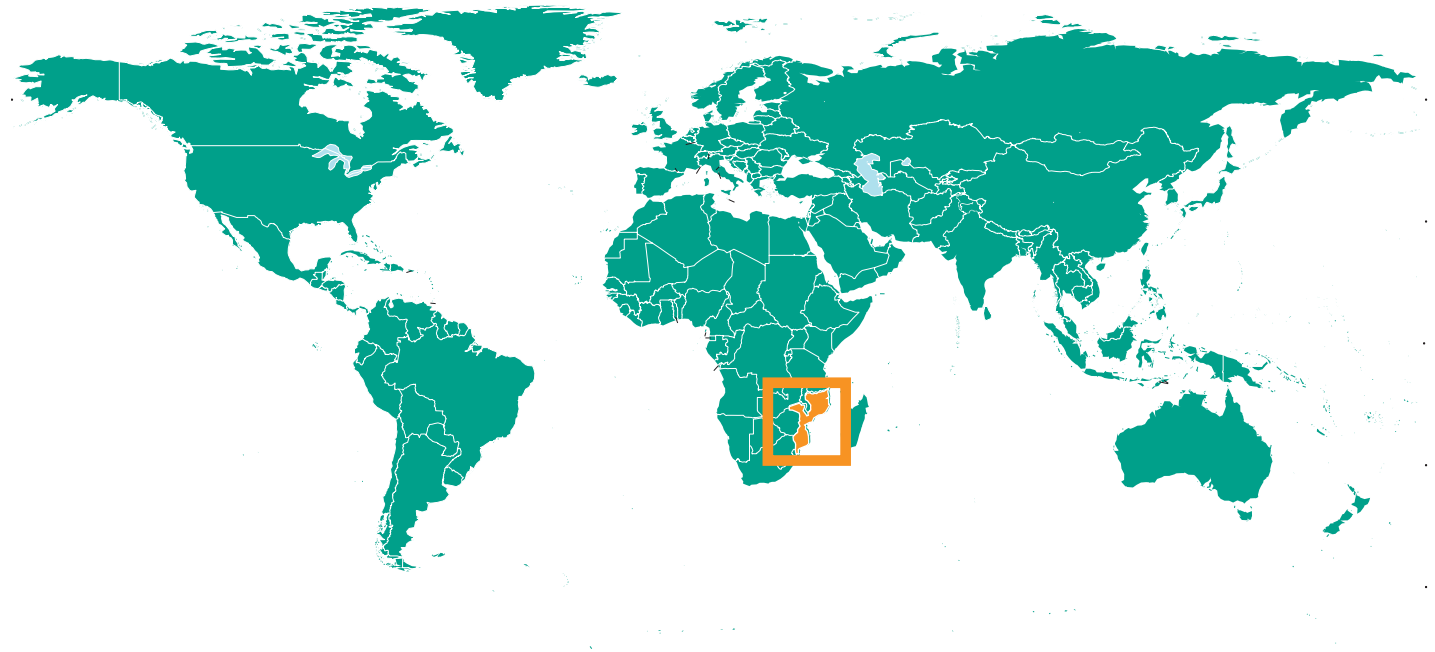
COUNTRY
PROGRAMME
DOCUMENT
2008 – 2009

MOZAMBIQUE



United Nations Human Settlements Programme
Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States

UN  HABITAT



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HS/1051/08E

ISBN:978-92-1-132030-5 (Series)

ISBN:978-92-1-132047-3 (Volume)

United Nations Human Settlements Programme publications can be obtained from UN-HABITAT Regional and Information Offices or directly from:

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Printing: UNON, Publishing Services Section, Nairobi, ISO 14001:2004-certified

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FOREWORDS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In April 2007, the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT approved our 2008-2013 Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan. This plan intends to promote the alignment of UN-HABITAT normative and operational activities at country level.

The UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents are tangible components

of this Plan as well as a genuine endeavour by UN-HABITAT to better coordinate normative and operational activities in a consultative and inclusive process involving UN-HABITAT's in-country focal points, UN-HABITAT Programme Managers, national governments, UN country teams, sister-UN agencies, development partners and all divisions of our Agency. The UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents are strategic tools designed to guide all UN-HABITAT activities over a two year period. A major dimension of the UN-HABITAT Country Programme Document is to advocate UN-HABITAT's mandate and address the urban challenges facing the world's developing countries.

The UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents identify national urban development goals and priorities including shelter, urban governance, access to basic services and credit. Important cross cutting issues such as the environment, gender, responses to disasters and vulnerability reduction are also addressed. The UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents focus on UN-HABITAT country programming.

They serve as a work plan for UN-HABITAT Programme Managers and as a reference tool for national and local actors involved in sustainable urban development. According to the Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Action Plan adopted by the UN-HABITAT Committee of Permanent Representatives on 6 December 2007, twenty UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents are to be completed during 2008, including the One-UN Pilot countries where UN-HABITAT is active.

In line with the United Nations reform process, UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents seek to strengthen the role of the United Nations and to demonstrate our commitment. I wish to thank our UN-HABITAT Programme Managers for their input and dedication and for putting together these UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents under guidance of the Regional and Technical Cooperation Division and with the support of all branches and programmes of the Agency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Anna K. Tibaijuka'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Anna K. Tibaijuka
Executive Director ,UN-HABITAT

MINISTER



The Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique establishes in its article 91 that every Mozambican has the right to a decent home. Since its independence in 1975, the Government of Mozambique has been striving to provide better housing to the people.

In pursuing the goals set forth, the Government has established

long standing partnerships with the relevant UN agencies, notably UN-HABITAT, whose historical ties go back to 1976, when Mozambique attended the inauguration ceremony of the then UNCHS, in Vancouver, Canada. In the late 1970's the UNCHS was instrumental in providing multifaceted assistance to the Government through the Ministry of Public Works and Housing. Together with the Government, UN-HABITAT has been instrumental in promoting better housing for all through various initiatives such as setting up the Fund for Housing Development and formulation of the Housing Policy, in compliance with the national priorities as set forth in the five-year Government Programme.

The 2005 – 2009 Government Programme has put human settlement issues at the top of the list of priorities,

The partnership between the Government of Mozambique and UN-HABITAT has a broad outreach and is materializing in other areas such as governance, environment and disaster risk management.

The Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs benefited from direct technical assistance from UN-HABITAT between 2002 and 2007.. In recent years UN-HABITAT has also delivered relevant inputs during the formulation of the PARPA II (phase II of the country's PRSP) and through its participation in coordinating the Donor Working Group for Municipal Development.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alcinda', written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Dr. Alcinda António de Abreu
Minister for the Coordination
of Environmental Affairs

SITUATION ANALYSIS

NATIONAL URBAN POLICY CONTEXT

Mozambique is particularly exposed to extreme climatic events because of its geographic location. This exposure is further exacerbated by the fragile socio-economic environment of the population and by the impact of climate change. Over the past decade the country has been frequently tormented by droughts, floods and cyclones. Recently, Mozambique was affected by an unprecedented 7.5 Richter magnitude earthquake contributing to a new vulnerability in the long list of natural disasters.

There is an urgent need to identify and implement resilience building, vulnerability reduction and institutional development strategies to establish response and recovery processes that will facilitate sustainable urban development. With the current reconstruction of its National Disaster Management Institute, Mozambique is proceeding in the right direction, but more needs to be done, especially in sustainable resettlement and in the implementation of coping mechanisms, such as the “living with floods” initiative.

The country, however, achieved one of the highest growth rates in the world in 1997-1998, and has experienced consistent economic growth since. Mozambique had one of the lowest Human Development Indexes in the world in 2004, occupying 168th out of 177 countries. Mozambique currently faces difficulties in finding adequate solutions to human settlements and addressing human needs in urban areas.

Concerns related to the development of human settlements are highlighted in different ways in the Agenda 2025 “the Nation’s vision and strategies”; in the Government’s Five year Plan (2005 – 2009); as well as in the Plano Para a Reducao da Pobreza Absoluta II. Often policy documents on human settlements issues are not clearly spelled out due to lack of funding and coordination.

Part one of the HCPD is divided into the mutually reinforcing focus areas of UN-HABITAT’s Medium-Term Strategic Institutional Plan for 2008-2013, as approved by the Governing Council in 2007.

FOCUS AREA 1: ADVOCACY, MONITORING AND PARTNERSHIPS

INSTITUTIONAL SET UP AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The framework for municipal development is based on several ministries sharing tasks and responsibilities pertinent to human settlement issues. However, poor cooperation between ministries often constrains capacity development. In order to coordinate departments more efficiently, and to ensure that they are accountable, in 2005 the government established the Inter-Ministerial Workgroup for Municipal Development. Learning from 8 years of experience setting up municipalities, the government was able to identify a number of objectives that needed to be achieved to secure sustainable municipal development. These objectives include the completion and improvement of a legal and institutional framework and the regulation of relationships between municipalities and local Government bodies.

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

Urbanisation (2008)

- Total population: 21 m
- Urban population: 8 m (38%)

Annual population growth rates (2005-2010)

- National: 2%
- Urban: 4.1%

Population of major cities (2008)

- Maputo: 1.4 m

Source: UN DESA

Slum indicators

- Slum to urban population: 79%

% population with access to:

- Safe water source: 69%
- Improved water sanitation: 40%
- Sufficient living area: 81%
- Durable housing: 56%

Source: UN-HABITAT, 2003

Despite the recently approved Territorial Planning Law, planning capacity remains weak at both government and local government levels. Although the planning dimension has gained more attention at a higher institutional level, there is a general lack of will to involve residents in the planning process, which often generates serious problems during the implementation phase. More needs to be done to ensure participatory physical planning mechanisms in Mozambique.

In spite of attempts aimed at better coordination among government institutions and development partners, the Ministry of State Administration has expressed concern over the prevalence of duplication in human settlement interventions. To avoid this in the future, it has been proposed that all actors should collaborate to formulate a Strategy for Urban and Municipal Development. It envisages 10 to 15 years for implementation, providing for a long-term resource mobilization/investment strategy for human settlements. However in Mozambique, it is important to remember that capacity shortages in human settlement planning is the result of a lack of finances and inadequate human resources, combined with weak institutional structures.

GENDER EQUALITY IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

According to the 1997 census, 52.1 percent of the Mozambican population consists of women, the great majority (71 percent) of whom live in rural areas. In urban areas, 21.6 percent of households are headed by women. Statistics also reveal that women have less access to education, health, employment and credit facilities.

According to the traditional Land Law, women run the risk of losing land and property to other members of their extended family in the event of a divorce or the death of a husband, even if she still has the responsibility to sustain children and other relatives.

The Government of Mozambique is busy adjusting this legal framework so that it complies with the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against women, the Government Five year plan 2005-2009 and the Plano Para a Redução da Pobreza Absoluta II all of which place gender as a cross-cutting issue. Both the government and civil society are engaged in ensuring greater visibility of gender issues and empowering of women at all levels.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND RECOVERY: POLICIES

The Plano Para a Redução da Pobreza Absoluta II acknowledges that natural resource management and preservation can reduce environmental degradation and help alleviate poverty.

Agenda 2025 outlines the most likely development scenario for Mozambique in the medium term. This document was prepared in a participatory manner in 2002-2003, advocating sustainable development through proper access to land, security of tenure and improvement of land management and community training in the sustainable use of environmental resources, while also creating areas for protection.

Mozambique's Master Plan for Prevention and Mitigation of Natural Calamities places emphasis on preventive measures: such as, advance warning systems for climate-related events, including floods, droughts and cyclones. The plan also identifies and maps out areas and zones at risk of natural disasters.

The National Adaptation Plan of Action to Climate Change highlights disaster preparation and management, as well as environmental management.

All stakeholders have learnt from the reconstruction challenges created by the floods of 2000, 2001 and 2007. In response, there was a surge in the production of building materials in Mozambique and several significant industrial projects were initiated (also known as mega projects.) However, in light of the work that needs to be done, building operations are limited and heavily reliant on obsolete technologies.





In general, critical efforts need to be carried out to develop more sustainable post-disaster strategies in Mozambique. They should take advantage of the reconstruction period in re-thinking the technological solutions that could be applied to reduce vulnerability and restore resilience among communities.

FOCUS AREA 2: PARTICIPATORY URBAN PLANNING, MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

Despite this positive decentralisation process, the government still faces several challenges: such as inadequate urban planning capacity, missing legislation, lack of trained staff in most municipal sectors and limited financial resources for allocation to municipalities. Acknowledging the rapid “slumification” trend in Mozambican cities, the government has initiated a proactive urban management system by devolving power and decentralising services to the municipalities.

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