





ETHIOPIA: AMBO URBAN PROFILE



Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries

Project designed and implemented by UN-HABITAT

and financed by European Union, Government of Italy, Government of Belgium and Government of the Netherlands

This report was prepared by Ethiopia UN-HABITAT Programme Manager Tewodros Tigabu and Consultant Girma Semu elaborating on information collected through interviews with key urban actors in Ethiopia.

This project and report were managed by Mohamed El Sioufi, Alain Grimard and Kerstin Sommer. Important inputs were provided by Alioune Badiane, Antonio Yachan, Farrouk Tebbal, Clarissa Augustinus, Mohamed Halfani, Lucia Kiwala, Eduardo Moreno, Raf Tuts, Gulelat Gebede and Gora Mboup.

Review, editing and graphic design: Ib Knutsen.

Photographs by Girma Semu.

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HS/1001/08E ISBN : 978-92-1-131980-4

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

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

P.O.Box 30030, GPO 00100 Nairobi, Kenya

Fax: + (254 20) 762 4266/7 E-mail: unhabitat@unhabitat.org Website: http://www.unhabitat.org



United Nations Human Settlements Programme Regional and Technical Cooperation Division

AMBO URBAN PROFILE

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FOREWORD

The annual urban growth rate in Sub-Saharan Africa is almost 5 percent twice as high as in Latin America and Asia. It also has the world's largest proportion of urban residents living in slums, which today are home to 72 percent of urban Africa's citizens representing a total of some 187 million people. As more and more people seek a better life in towns and



cities, the urban slum population in Africa is projected to double every 15 years in a process known as the urbanisation of poverty. African cities are thus confronted in the new Millennium with the problem of accommodating the rapidly growing urban populations in inclusive cities, providing them with adequate shelter and basic urban services, while ensuring environmental sustainability, as well as enhancing economic growth and development.

UN-HABITAT is the lead agency for implementation of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7, Target 10 (reducing by half the number of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water), and Target 11 (achieving significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020).

As part of our drive to address this crisis, UN-HABITAT is working with the executive Commission of the European Union (EU) to support sustainable urban development in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. Given the urgent and diverse needs, the agency found it necessary to develop a tool for rapid assessment to guide immediate, midand long-term interventions. In 2002, based on the European Commission's **Consultative Guidelines for Sustainable Urban Development Co-operation**, UN-HABITAT successfully implemented an **Urban Sector Profile Study** in Somalia for the first time. The Study resulted in the identification and implementation of three major programmes with funding from a variety of donors.

In 2004, UN-HABITAT's Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States took the initiative to develop the approach further for application in over 20 countries. This was achieved in collaboration with other departments within the agency – the Urban Development Branch with the Urban Environment Section, the Global Urban Observatory, the Shelter Branch, the Urban Governance Unit, the Gender Policy Unit, the Environment Unit and the Training and Capacity Building Branch. This new corporate approach is known as **Rapid Urban Sector Profiling for Sustainability (RUSPS)**. The implementation of RUSPS was launched thanks to contributions from the Governments of Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands.

The idea behind RUSPS is to help formulate urban poverty reduction policies at the local, national and regional levels through a rapid, participatory, crosscutting, holistic and actionorientated assessment of needs. It is also aimed at enhancing dialogue, awareness of opportunities and challenges aiming at identifying response mechanisms as a contribution to the implementation of the MDGs.

RUSPS addresses four main themes: governance, slums, gender and HIV/AIDS and environment. It seeks to build a national profile, and three settlements representing the capital or a large city, a medium-sized city, and a small town. The profiles offer an overview of the urban situation in each participating city through a series of interviews with key urban actors. This is followed by a city consultation where priorities are agreed. City-level findings provide input for the national profiling that is combined with a national assessment of institutional, legislative, financial and overall enabling frameworks and response mechanisms. The profiles at all levels result in supporting the formation of city and national strategies and policy development. Additionally, the profiling facilitates sub-regional analyses, strategies and common policies through identification of common needs and priorities at the sub-regional level. This provides guidance to international external support agencies in the development of their responses in the form of capacity building tools.

In Ethiopia, the profiling was undertaken under the leadership of national and local authorities. This initiative has been carried out locally in Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa and Ambo, as well as nationally. The Ethiopia National Profile focuses on the findings of a desk-study, interviews with key actors, and country-wide consultations with key urban actors and institutions. Consultation participants agreed to address the salient urban issues including poverty, insecurity, corruption, pollution and crime - all problems that negatively affect investments and economic development. A consensus was reached on priority interventions in the form of programme and project proposals to be implemented.

I wish to acknowledge the contributions of Mr. Mohamed El Sioufi, who developed the concept of RUSPS and is coordinating its implementation. I also wish to cite those members of staff for their role in helping produce this report. They include Alioune Badiane, Farouk Tebbal, Clarissa Augustinus, Mohamed Halfani, Lucia Kiwala, Eduardo Moreno, Raf Tuts, Gulelat Kebede, Gora Mboup, Alain Grimard, Tewodros Tigabu and Kerstin Sommer.

I would like to wish all those who have participated in and supported this initiative every success in its implementation. I also look forward to supporting further their efforts in the development of Ethiopia.

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Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

Ethiopia is one of the least urbanized countries in Africa, with some of the largest number of people living in cities. This apparent contradiction is owed to our agricultural heritage, where the majority has been working the land. Rapid population growth has since been countering this, ensuring that, of 77 million people, over 12 million are now living in cities.

The growth of Ethiopian cities presents enormous challenges to the nation. Not only are the markets in cities essential for the prosperity of rural areas, but they can also provide additional economic growth, opportunities, and improved access to education and health.

The Ethiopian government has therefore partnered with UN-HABITAT to fully review the status of the cities, and see how Ethiopia best can facilitate for vulnerable groups, improve urban services, and support future growth. This publication is the first step of this process, serving as both a base-line, and as an illuminator to what our areas of focus should be. The second phase will build upon these insights, and identify tangible projects and processes that municipal authorities, regional- and central government together with international partners can implement to improve the situation for Ethiopians in general, and reducing urban poverty in particular.

Ethiopia is in a favorable position to address these issues, due to a number of factors. It has taken steps to reform the administrative structure, by decentralizing government authority to regional and district level, simplifying the legal code and promoting small-scale enterprises. Ethiopia has also increased school enrolment and access to health care, stabilised HIV/ AIDS infection rates, improved access to clean water, and strengthened the rights of women. As a result, the economy has grown by an annual 9 percent the last five years.

Much remains to be done, however. The population size is only second to Nigeria in Sub-Saharan Africa, and it is growing by 2.9 percent per year. Many of these children will be born into poverty. Innocent as they are, they will increase the strain on our already stretched public facilities. The economy will eventually need to grow even faster, just to keep up. Given the huge challenges facing the nation, it may not be surprising that poverty eradication is Ethiopia's main development goal.

At the same time, the country's agriculture is still not selfsufficient, and is threatened at regular intervals by droughts and floods. The private sector, while encouraged and growing, is not expanding rapidly enough to absorb the increasing urban migration. Ethiopian cities are the fastest growing administrative units in the country, adding 4.2 percent per year. Creating enough jobs, shelters, schools and health facilities for the urban population is a task the government is already working hard at addressing.

Careful planning, transparent governance and effective implementation are essential tools for us to build on our progress, learn from the past, and work hard for the benefit of our country and our peoples. The main policy tool of the government is the Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (PASDEP). It follows up lessons learned from the first comprehensive poverty-reduction policy in 2002, the Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Programme (SDPRP). It has been developed in a participatory manner with national and international stakeholders under the auspices of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED). The final draft was shared again with line ministries and regional authorities, before being adopted by the Ethiopian parliament as a legal document guiding national development policy until 2010.

The Urban Profiling was handy to analyse policy thinking, focusing on urban sustainability through governance, institutions and services. The participatory approach adopted in the process is also important to highlight issues that may otherwise not come to be identified. The continued support from the Governments of Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, and the European Commission is welcomed as developing sustainable cities is one of the world's greatest challenges.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The urban profiling is a systematic and structured approach to the assessment of urban needs and response mechanisms at city and national levels in Africa and the Arab states.

The overriding aim of the study is to contribute to the ongoing efforts of countries in the region in poverty reduction at all levels - city, country and region.

In doing so it is hoped that the assessment would provide an opportunity to gage the gaps in implementing the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (*MDGs*) of countries in the region.

The urban profiling, initially implemented in over twenty countries, is now a global programme. It is expected to provide critical inputs and benefits to the implementing partners, enabling the management of sustainable cities, with adequate shelter, health and basic services.

Urban Profiling in Ethiopia includes the profile of Addis Ababa-the capital, Dire Dawa the second largest city and Ambo, a third level town each published as a separate report.

The themes included in the study are slum and housing condition, gender, urban environment and urban governance. This report comprises the profile of Ambo town.

Background

Ambo town is located in the western Shewa zone of the Oromiya region, some 100 kilometres west of Addis Ababa, the capital.

Established in 1889, Ambo is one of the oldest towns in Ethiopia. It is situated in the highlands at an altitude of 2 100 metres above sea level. The mean temperature is 18.6 degree centigrade.

Ambo is among a few privileged towns of its time to have its own municipal administration since 1931, and a master plan since 1983. It covers a total area of 1 320 hectares.

The town is serving as an administrative, commercial and transport centre of the western Shewa zone. The town was selected to be one of twenty in the Oromiya region to benefit from a federal reform programme.

Governance

Ambo town is governed through the Oromiya region municipal establishment proclamation no. 65/95. The city has two tiers of administration. The highest level is the municipal council, which is responsible for service delivery, administering funds and management of the city. The other tier of administration are the kebeles. The lowest administrative unit, kebeles are responsible for administering local issues including government owned housing, mobilising the community in development activities, and social and security issues. Ambo has a town administration and three kebeles.

Slums

The poor quality of housing and inability of the administration to increase supply could be taken as key indicators that a wide reform is necessary. The town does not even have adequate data on its housing stock and condition, making it more difficult to provide a clear picture regarding the state of urban land use and housing.

A National Urban Planning Institute projection from 1997 estimated the housing stock of Ambo to be 5414 units. 45 percent were owned by the government, and administered by the kebeles, and the remaining 55 percent were owner occupied. With a national urban growth at 4.1 percent, and a backlog from ten years ago at 4 586 housing units, the town is facing a critical housing shortage.

Gender

The situation of women in Ambo town is not different from that of the national and the Oromiya region. The challenges of women are thus structural, affecting their lives from birth, through schooling, health, work, marriage and death.

Women constitute the higher proportion of the unemployed, and, when active, it is usually in the informal sector. Oromiya region have the highest incidence of harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation and marriage by abduction, in the country.

While often carrying the highest health risks, women do not have adequate access to basic health services. According to the Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey of 2005, women in Oromiya are more than five times as likely to carry the HIV virus, at 2.2 percent vs. 0.4 percent, respectively. As the region is rural, the pattern is likely the same in Ambo, only with higher incidence rates. The Ethiopian Ministry of Health finds in its fifth report that Urban Antenatal Care facilities in Oromiya have a HIV/AIDS infection rate of 11 percent.

Environment

The environment of Ambo town has been in a constant decline. Most of the solid waste is not properly collected, there is no a sanitary dumping site, and half of all houses have no toilet facility. The municipality is not seen as in a position to address the problem due to resource and capacity limitations.

INTRODUCTION

The Urban Profiling

The Urban Profiling consists of an accelerated, actionoriented assessment of urban conditions, focusing on priority needs, capacity gaps and existing institutional responses at local and national levels.

The purpose of the study is to develop urban poverty reduction policies at local, national and regional levels, through an assessment of needs and response mechanisms, and as a contribution to wider-ranging implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

The study is based on analysis of existing data and a series of interviews with all relevant urban stakeholders, including local communities and institutions, civil society, the private sector, development partners, academics and others.

This consultation typically results in a collective agreement on priorities and their development into proposed capacity-building, and other projects, that are all aimed at urban poverty reduction.

The urban profiling is now being expanded from its initial 20 African and Arab countries, offering an opportunity for comparative regional analysis, at present, between 38 countries. Once completed, this series of studies will provide a framework for central and local authorities and urban actors, as well as donors and external support agencies.

Methodology

The urban profiling consists of three phases:

Phase one is a rapid urban profiling at national and local levels. The capital city, medium size city and small town are selected and studied to provide representative samples of the urban sector in each country.

The analysis focuses on four themes: Governance, Slums, Gender and Environment. Information is collected through interviews and discussions with institutions and key informants to assess strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and priorities (*SWOT*) of the national and local urban contexts.

The findings are presented and refined during city and national consultation workshops and consensus is reached for priority interventions.

National and town reports synthesize the information collected and outline ways forward to reduce urban poverty trough holistic approaches.

Phase two builds on the priorities identified through pre-feasibility studies and develops detailed capacity building and capital investment project proposals.

Phase three implements the projects developed during the earlier phases, with an emphasis on skills development, insti-

tutional strengthening and replication. This report presents the outcomes of RUSPS phase one of Ambo town.

Urban Profiling in Ambo

RUSPS in Ambo town has been developed in consultation with the lead Ministry of Works and Urban Development. A forum, involving key sections like gender, land and housing, policy planning road fund and federal urban planning institute were also organised to provide additional information and feedback.

At the city level, key institutions like capacity building, health, education, gender, housing, and micro-scale enterprise offices have participated in the consultation, which was chaired by the mayor of Ambo town.

At the national level, heads and experts of the key sections of the lead ministry, again including gender, policy planning, the federal urban planning institute, land and housing and UN-Habitat Programme Manager have commented and provided feed back.

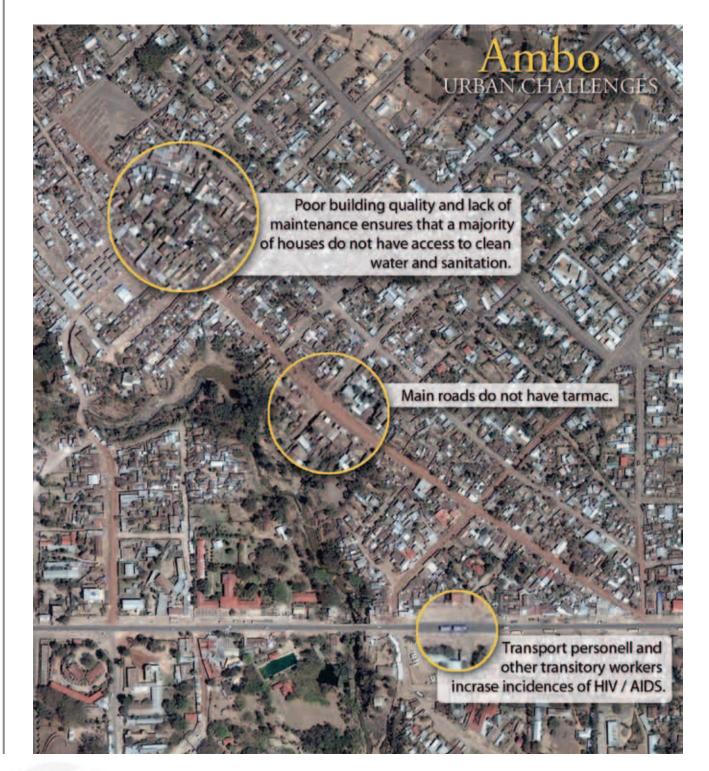
Report structure

This report consists of:

1 A general background of the urban sector in Ambo, based on a desk study, interviews, focus group consultations with key stakeholders. (See back cover for a list of participants in the city consultations and bibliography.).

The background includes data on administration, urban planning, the economy, the informal and formal private sector, urban poverty, infrastructure, water, sanitation, public transport, street lighting, energy, health and education;

- 2 A synthetic assessment of four main areas governance, slums, gender and HIV/AIDS and environment – in terms of the institutional set-up, regulatory frameworks, resource mobilisation and performance. This second section also highlights agreed priorities and includes a list of identified projects;
- 3 The third and last section includes a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats *(SWOT)* analysis and an outline of priority project proposals for each theme. The proposals include beneficiaries, partners, estimated costs, objectives, activities and outputs.



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