



UN-HABITAT



United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Programme des Nations Unies pour les établissements humains - Programa de las Naciones Unidas para los Asentamientos Humanos

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Briefing Note on UN-HABITAT Cooperation with Rwanda

UNHABITAT has very good co-operation relationship with the Government of Rwanda (GoR). The GoR is actively participating in UN-HABITAT main events such as Governing Council and WUF. For WUF 2004, the GoR had made a financial contribution. Rwanda is member of the Governing Council until 2008.

After the genocide in 1994, UN-HABITAT assisted the government of Rwanda (GoR) to implement projects on resettlements of returnees and on reconstruction of infrastructure and buildings destroyed during the war in the context of the UN and international community efforts to contribute to peace building.

- **Urgent Resettlements Programme of returnees and Reconstruction (10,114,747 US\$) funded by a Trust Fund managed by UNDP)**

The overall objectives of the UN-HABITAT support funded by a Trust funds managed by UNDP were to provide support to the Government in the following areas:

(1) Institutional support to the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Social Integration and the Kigali Municipality; (2) Rehabilitation of public buildings in Kigali and other urban centres, (3) Site development in Kigali and other urban centres for the resettlement of displaced people and returnees and (4) Repair of war-damaged houses and construction of houses in urban areas for displaced people and returnees. The programme has been completed in 2003 and the realisations has been handed-over to the GoR. The main results of the project can be summarised as follow:

- The programme assisted in the cleaning of the city of Kigali to protect the citizen from diseases such as cholera;
- The National Assembly and 3 Ministerial Building were rehabilitated, thereby contributing to the functioning of the administration;
- 110 communal buildings country wide were rehabilitated contributing to the functioning of local institutions and to peace building;
- 5,260 serviced plots were developed (roads and drainage systems as well as water and electricity supply) and 130 pilot houses were constructed for the resettlements of displaced people and returnees including widows and orphans of the genocide;
- Feasibility studies were carried out for new resettlements sites in Kigali and Butare and documents handed over to the respective local authorities for implementation
- A cost recovery mechanisms was set-up for the sustainability of the program
- Capacity building and human resources development of the Ministry in charge of Land and Housing were strengthened through institutional reforms and training of staff.
- Support to the Ministry of land to review the land law to include women concerns on access to land and property that led to the adoption of the Land and Property Act by the

UN-HABITAT has been also supporting the Government of Rwanda (Ministry of Lands, Environment Forestry, Water and Mines, Ministry of Infrastructure (MINIFRA), Ministry of local Government, City of Kigali, Ministry of Industry and Commerce), formulate and implement the following projects:

- **Kigali Industrial-Environmental Management framework (KIEM) (150,000 US\$).**

The project co-funded by UNHABITAT (50,000) UNEP (50,000) and UNDP (50,000) aimed to assess the environmental and socio-economic situation of the Gikondo valley and provide the government with a framework for building consensus and environmental protection in the Gikondo valley since its urban wetlands are affected and

destroyed by industry and settlements in Kigali. The programme also supports to the implementation of a cleaner production center assisted by UNEP.

The main results of the project are the followings:

- Three UN agencies pulled together expertise and financial resources to support the GoR
 - Two reports has been produced assessing the socio-economic and environmental impacts of industries and others activities in the valley on the wetlands,
 - A mapping of the wetlands has been prepared
 - An action plan for implementation has been prepared
 - The Rwanda Cleaner Production Center established in Kigali
 - A workshop took place in November 2006 comprising of national and local authorities as well as private sector, NGO's and local communities concerned and agreed on the situation analysis as well as on the Action Plan implementation
 - GoR is preparing a Donors meeting to mobilize resource for implementing the action plan.
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- **Support to the Ministry in charge of Housing and Urban Development (MININFRA) for the formulation of urban development policy (240,393 US\$) funded by UNDP**

The project will focus on the institutional development and capacity building of the Ministry in charge of urban development. The objectives of the project are to: (1) support the provide the Ministry with advisory capacity in urban development and housing policy; (2) support the formulation of a urban development policy and (3) strengthen the institutional capacity of a national training institution to develop training tools and train its staff with support from the Training and Capacity Building Branch in UNHABITAT.

Results achieved so far are:

- A document on access to land for the poor has been prepare and discussed during a workshop and recommendations to be considered by the government in implementing the new land law as well as for the launching of the two global campaigns on secure tenure and good urban governance
 - The existing legislation related to norms for building construction and urban development and management tools have been reviewed
 - A policy document on urban development has been prepared, discussed during a national workshop and endorsed by the Ministry in charge of urban development
 - The Rwanda Institute for Administration and Strengthen has been identified as an anchoring institution to develop training manuals on urban planning techniques and train districts urban planners
 - A Cooperation agreement was signed with RIAM (a national training and capacity building institution) to strengthen its capacity and support preparing the training manuals as well as undertaking the training sessions
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- **Global Partnership Initiative for Urban Youth Development in Africa (GPI) - Youth Programme in Kigali**

UN-HABITAT is implementing youth Programme through the Global Partnership Initiative for Urban Youth Development in Africa (GPI). This aims to mobilize and harness the resources of Africa's youth, to empower them and to improve their quality of life.

Through collaboration with the city of Kigali and the Ministry in charge of Youth, private sector, national youth organizations the initiative aims to create effective and sustainable models for urban youth development in Rwanda particularly in the area of urban youth employment.

A first mission took place in November 2006 and discussed with local and national governments as well as Youth organizations. The mission presented the objectives of the initiative, identified partners to be engaged and potential resources to be mobilized for project development and discussed the possible cooperation between UN-HABITAT and the GoR in that respect. A technical committee has been set-up and an action plan has been prepared and will be discussed during a workshop to be held on 21 February 2007.

- **Water for African Cities Phase II Programme for Kigali (1,626,000 US\$)**

The WAC II has undertaken preliminary missions and discussed with GoR and the Municipality of Kigali to implement a water and sanitation Programme in Kigali. The Programme amounting 1,626,000 US\$ (1,120,000 US\$) funded by UN-HABITAT and 506,000US\$ funded by the GoR).

The programme aims at developing not only water and sanitation infrastructures in urban areas but also at ensuring their durability in order to contribute to the development of human resources, the promotion of the private sector and the institutional capacity under the provision of WATSAN. The intervention areas are: (i) organisation and training of private actors in the selling of water for human consumption; (ii) development of innovative water demand management tools and improvement of the sanitation framework in Kigali City; (iii) an environmental impact assessment study in water catchments flowing into Kigali City; (iv) establishment of governance and promotion systems of investments in WATSAN; (v) information exchanges, partnership and capitalisation of experiences at regional level; (vi) public awareness campaigns on the social, environmental, economic dimension of drinking water and sanitation in the Kigali City; (vii) Values-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education and indicators for monitoring the implementation of MDGs.

During the Executive Directive official visit to Rwanda, an MOU will be signed with the GoR (Ministry in charge of Water).

- **HABITAT Programme Manager**

Habitat Programme Manager (Ms.Monique Sevumba) has been posted in Rwanda, UNDP office and he is helping in streamlining the relations between the Government, national partners, UN agencies and UN-HABITAT. For the time being, the HPM is not participating in regular meetings of the UNCT

- **New Request:** The Ministry of Infrastructures has recently requested UN-HABITAT technical and financial assistance for constructing shelter to accommodate about 15,000 Rwandans recently repatriated from Tanzania. UN-HABITAT will not be able to provide required resources for this Programme but is committed to assist the government to carry out an assessment of prevailing conditions, needs and priorities in anticipated places of return. The outcome of the assessment will be a formulation of a project proposal that identifies and plans necessary actions to address the priority needs. Such a project proposal will be submitted to potential donors and Government for funding and UN-HABITAT can support GoR for resource mobilisation and for its implementation.