"We have been working for more than 20 years in several countries in different areas: Housing, Shelter, Social Services, Infrastructures and Urban Development"

Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States (ROAAS)

Programme: 2001 - 2002

Inadequate shelter

Increasing rate of urbanisation

Degraded environment

Adequate transport system

Good governance

Self-help techniques

Alioune Badiane
Director
Tel: 254 2 623075
E-mail: alioune.badiane@unchs.org

Mohamed El - Sioufi
Human Settlement Advisor
Tel: 254 2 623219
E-mail: mohamed.el-sioufi@unchs.org

Joseph Guiebo
Human Settlement Advisor
Tel: 254 2 623574
E-mail: joseph.guiebo@unchs.org

Rainer Nordberg
Human Settlements Officer
Tel: 254 2 623109
E-mail: rainer.nordberg@unchs.org

Eric Verschuur
Programme Management Officer
Tel: 254 2 623213
E-mail: eric.verschuur@unchs.org

David Kithakye
Human Settlement Advisor
Tel: 254 2 623220
E-mail: david.kithakye@unchs.org

Eduardo Lopez - Moreno R.
Human Settlement Advisor
Tel: 254 2 623149
E-mail: eduardo.moreno@unchs.org

Mariame Lady Yunusa
Human Settlement Advisor
Tel: 254 2 623067
E-mail: mariam.yunusa@unchs.org

Gwendoline Mennetrier
Junior Proffesional Officer
Tel: 254 2 624597
E-mail: gwendoline.mennetrier@unchs.org

Fuaad Alkizim
Ass. Prog. Management Officer
Tel: 254 2 623984
E-mail: fuaad.alkizim@unchs.org

Natural disaster: erosion

Capacity building

Increasing poverty

Adequate shelter for all

Poor sanitation facilities

Over loaded community services

Poor access to water supply

Better waste management systems

Adequate sanitation facilities

Better access to water

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS-Habitat)
PO Box 30300, Nairobi, Kenya. Tel: 254 2 623221 Fax: 254 2 623904, 624266, 623328
E-mail: roaas@unchs.org
Web site: http://www.unchs.org/roaas/

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS-Habitat)

CHALLENGE

The rate of urbanisation on the African continent is currently the highest in the world. It is anticipated that the urban population will double, from 229 to 525 million, between 1996 and 2020. The challenges are formidable: increasing poverty, inadequate shelter and urban services, and the degradation of the environment and the natural resource base as well as natural disasters and increasing civil strife. Many of the national and local institutions in Africa and the Arab States are ill equipped to meet the challenges of rapid urbanisation. In some African cities 50-70 % of residents live in informal settlements.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of ROAAS is to promote the *Habitat Agenda* at the regional level through supporting preparation of Istanbul +5 and the implementation of the two global campaigns on Secure Tenure and Urban Governance. ROAAS provides country and city partners with policy options, technical expertise, information management and project implementation capabilities. ROAAS contributes to the strengthening of the normative capacity of the Centre and its visibility at the regional level. Social, cultural and gender issues are carefully considered in all ROAAS projects.

OUR GOAL

ROAAS provides advisory services and implements human settlements projects or programmes at the request of Member States. In doing so, ROAAS focus on strenghtening in-country capacity to achieve:

"*Adequate shelter for all*"
and
"*Sustainable urban development* "

as part of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The Regional Office helps to build knowledge through exchange of experiences to make cities and towns healthy, safe, equitable and sustainable.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES

HQ Support
ROAAS is housed within the global UNCHS (Habitat) Headquarters, in Nairobi, Kenya. It works closely with a pool of specialised experts and the Centre's Global Programmes.
Our Network
Established regional networks of partner institutions, experts and Chief Technical Advisors (international staff members in the field).
Location
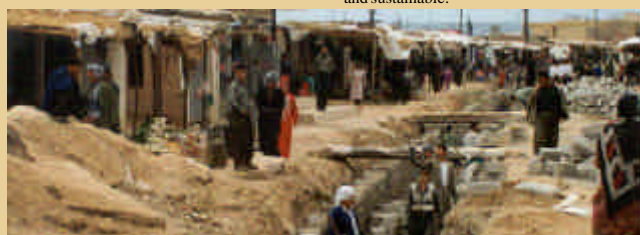The office is based in Nairobi, Africa, neighbouring the Arab States.

APPROACH

ROAAS's approach is to develop institutional capacity in Africa and the Arab States through advocacy, fostering and expanding partnership, institutional development and training and demonstration of operational activities. The office implements sustainable social, economic and environmental urban development, shelter and community projects and programmes funded by governments, bilateral and multilateral donors. ROAAS facilitates a process of urban development and management through updated sustainable methodologies. The office provides advisory services and project identification and formulation in the region at the request of interested Governments and local authorities. The Office is present in more than 35 countries, the majority of which are from Least Develeped Countries LDC.

STRATEGIES

ROAAS's strategies focus on the Centre's new priorities. These consist of undertaking normative activities at the regional, national and local level through providing substantive input and mobilising additional resources, while continuing to develop operational activities. ROAAS builds into its project development adequate resources and time for information management including documentation, evaluation of lessons learnt and dissemination.

PARTNERS

Within the Centre, ROAAS involves gobal and regional programmes including: the inter-regional advisors in technical co-operation programme design, the Risk and Disaster Management Unit (RDMU), the Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP), the Global Urban Observatory (GUO), the Urban Management Programme (UMP), the Safer Cities Programme and the Managing Water for African Cities Programme.
ROAAS's external partners include: Local and National Governments, UNDP, UNEP, European Commission, World Bank under the framework of the Cities Alliances and other international, national, and regional organisations.

Website: http://www.unchs.org/roaas

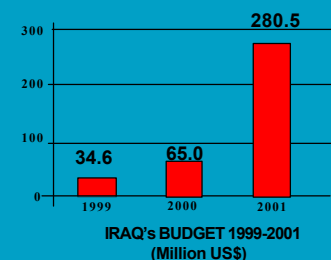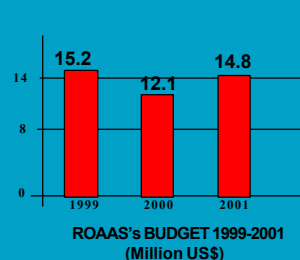# Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States (ROAAS)

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The drastic reduction of funding available to United Nations agencies has highlighted the need to identify alternative sources including multi - and bi-lateral and national funding.
ROAAS has consolidated its current portfolio of 66 ongoing projects and 31 pipeline projects including Support for Technical Services (STS) and Support for Policy and Programme Development projects (SPPD).

"**Adequate Shelter for All**" activities include 35 ongoing and 11 pipeline projects.
"**Sustainable Urban Development**" activities on the other hand include 31 ongoing and 19 pipeline projects.
New activities have been initiated at the city and national level, in line with the new work programme of UNCHS (Habitat), including monitoring and evaluation of programmes.

ROAAS's BUDGET 1999-2001 (Million US$)
- 1999: 15.2
- 2000: 12.1
- 2001: 14.8

IRAQ's BUDGET 1999-2001 (Million US$)
- 1999: 34.6
- 2000: 65.0
- 2001: 280.5

"ADEQUATE SHELTER FOR ALL"

Shelter and Housing

Support the formulation of National Housing Policies and the Preparation of Housing Programmes;

Improve access to adequate shelter by securing tenure;

Facilitate housing processes including the improvement of access to land, housing finance and technology;

Strengthen the construction sector through the promotion of energy efficiency;

Build local capacities in self-help and community construction techniques;

Promote housing conservation as well as restoration in traditional city cores rehabilitation and reconstruction of housing stock.

Community Services

Build local capacities to provide, manage and maintain community services effectively, and improve access by the poor to basic services (water supply, waste management systems, education and health facilities etc.);

Develop skills and awareness which enable communities to identify their own problems and priorities, and seek appropriate solutions.

Disaster Management

Enhance peace through reconstruction, rehabilitation and development;

Reintegrate returnees and accommodate internally displaced persons through a comprehensive planning approach.

"SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT"

Infrastructure for Poverty Reduction

Build local capacities for effective and efficient provision, management and maintenance of urban infrastructure;

Improve access to basic urban infrastructure (roads, drainage systems, street lighting etc.) for overall poverty reduction and socio-economic growth.

Environmental Planning and Management

Promote Environmental Information;

Support Environmental Decision Making;

Contribute to better Implementation Strategies;

Enhance Managerial Capacities;

Advocate more effective use of resources.

Urban Governance and Institution Building

Improve local policy / decision-making through broad-based participatory processes;

Promote effective and efficient urban management in both large and small agglomerations;

Build local urban institutional capacity to improve settlements management;

Establish transparent and accountable processes in local urban institutions.

Disaster Management

Reinstate governance in post disaster areas of rehabilitation;

Promote peace through reconstruction and rehabilitation process;

Improve urban management..

ONGOING AND PIPELINE PROJECTS ("ADEQUATE SHELTER FOR ALL")

Angola
★ Capacity building for the community rehabilitation and national reconciliation programme;
★ Rehabilitation of the new construction works for the Northern Region.
◆ Support to resettlement programme

Botswana
★ Chobe District Settlement Strategy.
◆ Implementation of District Settlement Strategies.

Burkina Faso
★ National Strategy on Local Building Material.

Burundi
★ Rehabilitation of social infrastructure in two secondary cities: Cankuzo and Karuzi.

Cent. African Rep.
★ Support to the formulation of a National Strategy on Housing.

Chad
★ National Shelter Strategy and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

Dem. Rep. of Congo
◆ Elaboration of a National Action Plan for Housing Development.
★ Preparatory assistance to the rehabilitation of infrastructure and public buildings.

Egypt
★ Upgrading informal areas in Ismailia Governorate.

Eritrea
★ Affordable housing in Asmara, Mossawa and Assab.

Iraq
★ Observation of the housing sector in Iraq;
★ Shelter rehabilitation and resettlement in northern Iraq.

Lesotho
★ Assessment of urban poverty in Lesotho.

Liberia
★ Programme for the reconstruction of rural housing;
★ Conducting a comprehensive study on poverty in Liberia.

Libya
★ Settlements planning programme and training.
◆ The Libyan Third Generation Planning Programme 2000-2020.

Madagascar
★ Poverty Reduction Municipal Programmes in Fianaratsoa and Tular.

Mozambique
◆ Resettling flood affected people

Nigeria
★ National Management of Socio-economic Development;
◆ Policy formulation and implementation for Federal Housing Authority.

Rwanda
★ Urban resettlement programme;
★ Rehabilitation and equipping communal buildings.
◆ Support to the Capacity Building of the Ministry of Housing;
◆ Municipal Cadastre of the City of Kigali.

Senegal
★ National Program on reduction of Urban Poverty.

Sierra Leone
★ Capacity building for effective housing delivery;
★ Framework document for human settlements development.
◆ Housing, Capacity Building Initiative and Mapping;
◆ Land Bank.

South Africa
★ Support to Capacitation Programme for Peoples Housing Process.

Sudan
★ Settlements Upgrading and Poverty Alleviation

Togo
★ Formulation of a National housing Strategy;
★ Improvement for housing conditions for women.

U. R. of Tanzania
◆ Effective Housing Finance Mechanisms for Tanzania
◆ Production and utilization of appropriate Building materials

Yemen
★ Support to Yemen National Poverty Alleviation Programme;
★ Site and Services for low cost housing in Madinat Al-Shaad/Aden.

★ **Ongoing projects**
◆ **Pipeline projects**

The boundaries shown on the maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United

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ONGOING AND PIPELINE PROJECTS ("SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT")

Bahrain
★ Support to the establishment of the Bahrain Urban Indicators Programme.
◆ Support to Formulate a National Strategic Framework for Urban Development.

Botswana
★ Capacity Building on Local Governance - Sustainable Gaborone City.

Cameroon
★ City Development Strategy for Yaoundé and two secondary cities;
★ Safer Cities Programe for Yaoundé and Douala.
◆ City Development Strategy and Upgrading (CA).

Côte d'Ivoire
★ Abidjan Urban Security Management.

Dem. Rep. of Congo
◆ Formulation of a framework programme to stop soil erosion in Kinshasa.

Egypt
★ Comprehensive development for the city of Luxor;
★ Sustainable growth and development in the Governorate of Ismailia;
★ Upgrading informal areas in Ismailia Governorate (CA);
★ National programme on environmental management policies and guidelines for Cities in Egypt.

Ethiopia
★ Capacity Building for Sustainable Development;
◆ City development strategy for Addis Ababa and two other major cities (CA).

Ghana
★ Support to National Poverty Reduction Programme through application of SCMP and ASP experience.
◆ Support to National Poverty Reduction.

Kenya
★ Enhanced Participatory Development M1g;
★ Formulation of a programme for collaborative UN System support to achieve sustainable livelihoods.

Madagascar
◆ City Development Strategy for Antananarivo (CA);
◆ Slum Upgrading and Community Development in Antananarivo (CA).

Malawi
★ Malawi Urban Agenda 21.

Morocco
★ Poverty reduction pilot programme in Casablance, Marrakech and Tangier.
◆ Support to the launching of the Social Development Agency;

Kenya
★ Victimisation survey on crime and violence Nairobi.
◆ City Development Strategies and Upgrading (CA).

Madagascar
◆ Slum Upgrading and City Development Strategy in: Antsirabe, Antsiranana, Mahajanga and Toamasina (CA);
◆ Strategy and action plan for crime and violence prevention in Antananarivo.

Morocco
◆ Local Agenda 21 in 3 cities;
◆ Slum upgrading in secondary cities - application to Tetuan (CA)

Nigeria
★ Planning for urban waste management.
◆ Urban upgrading in Karu (CA);
◆ National Programme for Local Governance;

Nigeria
◆ Streamlining operations and Capacity Building of the Urban Development Bank of Nigeria (UDBN);
◆ Housing and Urban Indicators Programme.

Somalia
★ Urban Settlements Governance and Management Programme;
★ Technical and Institutional Assistance Programme for the Municipality of Berbera.

South Africa
★ Capacity Building For Local Governance;
★ Johannesburg city assistance strategy programme;
★ Safer Cities Programme Durban.

Togo
★ Rehabilitation of urban community infrastructure.

UAE
★ Institutional Support to Dubai Municipality Phase III;
★ UAE University Campus Phase III.

U. R. of Tanzania
★ Support to Zanzibar Sustainable Project;
★ Promoting Environmentally Sustainable Development.
◆ Upgrading Programme for City of Dar es Salaam (CA).

Zambia
★ Sustainable Lusaka Programme.

(CA): Cities Alliance

★ **Ongoing projects**
◆ **Pipeline projects**

Secure Tenure

The two Global Campaigns on "Secure Tenure" and "Urban Governance" are the corner stones of UNCHS (Habitat)'s Work Programme.
ROAAS contributes to the implementation of both campaigns through follow-up in countries with ongoing projects or programmes. This support is in the form of inclusion of the campaigns' themes in the city/country projects or programmes, as well as working towards reinforcing the global norms and principles for secure tenure and good urban governance.

ROAAS's main contribution to the Secure Tenure Campaign is through in-country and city projects and programmes at national and local level. These are utilised as vehicles to advance the campaign issues as well as draw principles and lessons from the field to help and customise the campaign strategy in the region. The Office provides substantive inputs to the implementation of the campaign through workshops and meetings. Specific activities are being developed in post-conflict countries of Angola, Mozambique and Rwanda

Urban Governance

ROAAS promotes the Urban Governance campaign through workshops and meetings at the regional, national and local level, to initiate debate on concepts and norms relevant to Urban Governance and to outline a regional action plan. ROAAS addresses the campaign at the local level through demonstration process, institutional setup, indicators and identification of good practices and documentation of lessons learnt. The Office is instrumental in launching the campaign in several African and Arab countries.

Istanbul+5

ROAAS provides support to the preparation of the Istanbul+5 conference through the involvement of all field staff and assists national and local authorities to prepare and submit reports to the Preparatory Committee for Istanbul+5. During its in-country missions, ROAAS's staffs disseminate information about the Istanbul+5 preparatory process.

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS-Habitat)