



31 DAYS OF PROMOTING A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Urban October Celebrations in Ethiopia

2019 Report



URBAN OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

UN-HABITAT ETHIOPIA PROGRAMME



CITY: BAHIR DAR

Block by Block workshop for Community engagement to re-think One public space
06 - 10 October 2019



Experts meeting for a public space design
06 - 10 October 2019

CITY: MEKELE

Block by Block workshop for Community engagement to re-think Two public spaces
07 - 11 November 2019



Experts meetings for Two Public spaces design
07 - 11 November 2019

CITY: DIRE DAWA

City Resilience Action Planning Crash Course
01 - 03 October 2019

Block by Block workshop for Community engagement to re-think One public space
01 - 03 October 2019



Experts meeting for a public space design
29 - 03 October 2019

CITY: HAWASSA

Block by Block workshop for Community engagement to re-think One public space
06 - 10 October 2019



CITY: JIGJIGA

Launch of revised Jigjiga City Structure Plan
31 October 2019
Sponsors: Regional Government of Somali

CITY: ADDIS ABABA

Photo Exhibition
4 October 2019

Meeting with the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction
4 October 2019

Meeting with the Addis Ababa River Basins and Green Development and Administration Agency
4 October 2019

New Urban Agenda Partners Platform Launch
30 October 2019



Ras Mekonnen River Side Rehabilitation & Seba Dereja Restoration Project Community and involved stakeholder's recognition Ceremony
31 October 2019

High level Meeting on Public Space with the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction
31 October 2019

Urban Dialogue & Radio Debate
October 2019



Urban Cinema
October 2019

Sheger Visioning High-Level workshop
29 - 30 October 2019

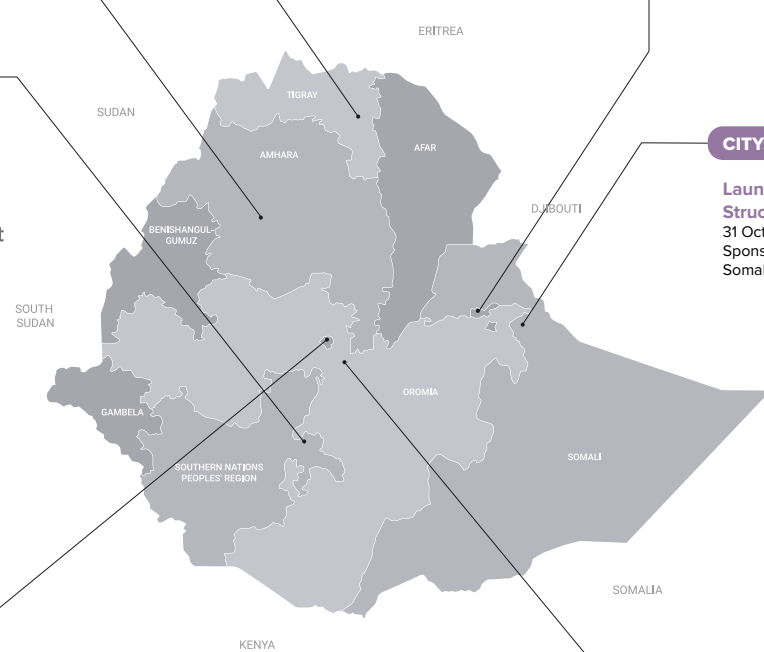
CITY: ADAMA

City Wide Public Space Assessment training
07 October 2019

Block by Block workshop for Community engagement to re-think One public space
7 - 11 October 2019



Experts meeting for a public space design
7 - 11 October



Introduction

Every October, the United Nations invites governments, organizations, individuals and the general public from around the world to take part in activities and raise awareness on urban issues, and generate knowledge to promote sustainable urban development.

The United Nations has designated the first Monday of October of every year as the World Habitat Day. The purpose of this day is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right to adequate housing for all. World Habitat Day aims to remind the world that we all have the power and the responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns. This year, 07 October marked this special day under the theme *“Frontier Technologies as an innovative tool to transform waste to wealth”*.

We end the month World Cities Day which is celebrated on 31 October 2019. The day seeks to promote the international community’s interest in global urbanization, push forward cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges of urbanization, and contributing to sustainable urban development. Under the general theme *“Better City, Better Life”*, every World Cities Day has a different sub-theme aimed to either promote successes of urbanization, or address specific challenges resulting from urbanization. For 2019, the theme was *“Changing the world: innovations and better life for future generations”*.

In Ethiopia, UN-Habitat organized a series of events and activities to celebrate the Urban October under these themes in different cities for the first time. The Urban October celebrations brought together public institutions, civil societies,

academia, professional associations, international organizations and all stakeholders interested in the urban development of Ethiopia. It aimed at raising awareness on the importance of sustainable urbanization for the development of Ethiopia while discussing the urban opportunities and challenges in the country. UN-Habitat showcased the ongoing work done by different partners in the urban sector.

To this end, some high-level events were organized, but a wide range of activities were also planned to target a larger audience including municipal technicians, urban professionals, local communities and the broader civil society.

In September 2019, UN-Habitat Ethiopia Facebook page was launched to provide updates on the ongoing Urban October activities throughout the month. Key partners who participated in these events include the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction, Addis Ababa City Government, the City Administrations of Adama, Bahir Dar, Hawassa, Mekele and Dire Dawa, as well as the Urban Centre, the Association of Ethiopian Architects and the Ethiopian Urban Planners Association. The execution of these events was made possible with the funding from UN-Habitat donors in Ethiopia, namely the Embassy of Sweden (SIDA), the Embassy of Japan, and DFID.

The celebration of the Urban October has been particularly relevant in Ethiopia. While the level of urbanization is estimated to be one of the lowest in the world (21%), the country registers a high annual urban growth rate of 5.3%, driven by rural-urban migration, and the urban population is expected to triple between 2010 and 2040.

City Resilience Action Planning Crash Course in Dire Dawa

Dire Dawa, 1 - 3 October 2019: UN-Habitat organized a City Resilience Action Planning (CityRAP) project crash course in Dire Dawa from 2 to 4 October 2019. This brought together around 24 municipal technicians as well as community representatives, the local university, police and NGOs to develop a common understanding of urban risks and resilience concepts. The course

was organized as a series of interactive sessions which included group exercises, games, audio-visual material, debates etc. and it was run by local focal points that had previously been trained on the tool by UN-Habitat. At the end of the CityRAP crash course, participants produced a risk map of the city of Dire Dawa in a participatory manner.

City Resilience Action Planning Crash Course in Dire Dawa © UN-Habitat



Urban Dialogue and Radio Debate



Urban Dialogue Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia © UN-Habitat

Addis Ababa, October 2019: UN-Habitat Ethiopia organized a series of events open to all throughout the month of October to discuss urban opportunities and challenges in Ethiopia, as well as to present practices and lessons learnt from abroad. These events were organized in collaboration with the Urban Center, the Association of Ethiopian Architects and the Ethiopia Urban Planners Association. Each week, an urban theme was defined and discussed at the events. The themes included housing,

transportation, solid waste management and urban planning.

An Urban Dialogue and a radio debate were organized to discuss the theme of the week. The Urban Dialogues were driven by a panel including representatives from the government, the civil society and UN-Habitat. They were selected for their expertise in the different themes and for bringing different perspectives. The panel presentation was followed by a discussion with the audience that strongly engaged, raising questions and suggesting policy improvements. The events drew an enthusiastic response from the residents who attended the four Urban Dialogues in good numbers.

The radio debates were the occasion for a representative of UN-Habitat to exchange on the theme of the week with the host of the “Kebet Eske Ketema” (From houses to cities) radio show. It was the first time that UN-Habitat organized a series of events of such type in Ethiopia and it was a great means to engage with the civil society.

Urban Cinema



Dire Dawa, Ethiopia © Shutterstock

Addis Ababa, October 2019: Two Urban Cinema sessions related to the theme of the week were organized to complement the discussions held during the Urban Dialogues and the radio debates. The Brazilian documentary “Waste Land” and the movie “Citizen Jane: Battle for the city” were screened to further inform on the challenges of solid waste and urban planning respectively. It was meant to reflect on the experiences of other countries related to urban challenges that are also faced in Ethiopia. There was free entry to the events, attracting good crowds.

Public Space Design



Public Space in Mekelle, Ethiopia. © UN-Habitat

Ethiopia, 1 – 11 October 2019: UN-Habitat is working with residents of six cities in Ethiopia to make sure cities are for people themselves. UN-Habitat is also working with the National Government, Local Governments and with other stakeholders to make sure the vast urbanization in the country considered the most vulnerable elements in urban centres, urbanization with a better focus on public space to tackle various challenges in the urbanization process. The Urban October 2019 celebrated widely in different cities in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa the capital and most of the regional capital cities.

Digital tools

The city-wide public space assessment tool to map the public spaces and the BlockByBlock Methodology using Minecraft software used for engagement of the citizens to identify and weight their public spaces' quality and to re-imagine their public spaces for their better living conditions.

Over 350 residents, youth and experts from different disciplines participated in using the digital tools as part of the Urban October 2019 celebrations. The events were held in Adama, Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, Hawassa, Mekelle and Bahirdar cities. Hawassa and Adama city mapped their public spaces using smartphones while Dire Dawa, Adama and Mekelle cities engaged their residents to redesign their public spaces.



Digital Tools for Public Space Design © UN-Habitat



Public Space Design using digital tools © UN-Habitat



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Inauguration of the National Urban Agenda Partners Platform

Addis Ababa, 30 October 2019: The Ministry of Urban Development and Construction (MUDCo) in collaboration with UN-Habitat inaugurated the National Urban Agenda Partners Platform. The establishment of this platform helped maximize the impact and synergies of sustainable urban development projects in Ethiopia by improving the coordination among stakeholders working to promote the urban agenda in the country. About 60 partners working in the urban sector were invited to join the platform, among them

government agencies, international organizations, donors, NGOs as well as universities. During the inauguration, different presentations were given by the World Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa and UN-Habitat. In addition, the Ministry presented its sector wide 10-years perspective plan (“MUDC 2030”) that has been developed with the support of UN-Habitat. This sector plan will inform the Ethiopian government that is currently in the process of formulating a 10-year perspective plan covering the period 2020-2030. This session was the occasion for MUDCo to receive constructive feedback from the partners present. This event attracted a wide national media coverage.

Launching of the Jigjiga City Structure Plan Revision on the World Cities Day



Jigjiga, Ethiopia © Shutterstock

Jigjiga, 31 October 2019: The official launching meeting of the Jigjiga City Structure Plan Revision was held at the Regional President's Office, at the invitation of the Regional Government of Somali. It brought together close to 35 participants (officials and key staff members) representing the regional cabinet, Bureau of Urban Development and Construction, Jigjiga City Administration and community as well as the Bureau of Urban Plan Preparation and Implementation. There was a follow up from the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction (MUDDCo) and UN-Habitat Ethiopia Country Office.

This event kick-started the preparation of the structure plan for Jigjiga City Administration (JCA) with the technical support of UN-Habitat. This initiative seeks to integrate the planning practices related to the preparation of strategic urban development plans at city level (Structure Plan) and those related to the preparation of local development plans (LDPs) in order to achieve multifaceted developmental objectives including ensuring higher economic growth rates, inclusiveness and social justice, optimal utilization of natural resources, appropriate solutions to environmental concerns, and spatial integration of Jigjiga City with its hinterlands and accommodate displacement-affected communities fleeing to the City.

Experts Group Meeting

Addis Ababa, 31 October 2019: On the World Cities days "Better City, Better Life", Addis Ababa recognized its residents, as well as experts and High-level Decision makers who were part of the Ras Mekonnen River and River Front Rehabilitation and Seba Dereja Historical Site Restorations Project. These public space champions were awarded certificates and diploma as proof of acknowledgements and as appreciation of their contributions. On the same day (on 31st of October) the city opened a Photo Exhibition in the newly rehabilitated public space to showcase the transformation of the site, what's steps taken and how residents involved in all the process of the project.



Experts Group Meeting © UN-Habitat