Urbanization across Somalia continues at a high rate, driven by high natural growth, migration, conflict and impact of climate change.

Somalia is also a young country.

Engaging children and youth is crucial to develop a Shared Vision for the future cities they will have to manage.
UNICEF and UN-Habitat, under the Joint Programme for Local Governance and Decentralised Service Delivery (JPLG) are working to build local government capacity in integrated urban planning processes and strengthen inclusive citizen engagement.

**JPLG Outcome and Output:**

**Outcome 2** Local governments have the capacity to deliver equitable and sustainable services, promote economic development and peace

**Output 2.4** Target districts have well defined development strategies, plans and systems to accommodate rapid urban growth

**UNICEF contribution**
Citizen engagement in urban planning/visioning - introduction to children’s participation

**UNHABITAT contribution**
Technical support to develop and implement a strategy to improve land management and administrative systems to guide and regulate urban development including visioning exercise.
Urban Visioning Initiative in Hargeisa (and Mogadishu)

- To **inspire**, focus the attention and mobilize all residents, communities, stakeholders, politicians in **creating the desired future** for their city;

- To **build up consensus** and provide a **solid foundation** for the approval and elaboration of formal **spatial plans**;

- To **mobilize investors** to invest in the desired future developments.
Urban Visioning Initiative in Hargeisa

• **Urban Analyses and Report**: urban development challenges, status of basic urban service delivery and opportunities for future development.

• **Community Consultations**: broad consultation of all relevant stakeholders in five districts, with a special focus on women, youth, and children.

• **Urban Shared Visioning Workshop**: community-based envisioning of Hargeisa city-region for the next up to 20 years. For the first time, this involves Somaliland children to envision their future.
Planning for and with Children

**Pre-Visioning**
- 26 June
- Ga’an Libaah
- Mohamoud Haybe
- Hamed Dhegeh
- Kood-Buur

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS**

**CHILDREN CONSULTATION**

**Visioning Week**
- **CITY VISIONS**
  - 2.5 days
  - 50 people
- **district-VISIONS**
  - 1 day
- **metro-VISIONS**
  - 2.5 days
  - 10 people

**PLACEMAKING**
- 3 days
- 15 children

**SHARED VISIONS**
- Memory Mapping
- Tea Session
- Hargeisa World Cafe

**CLOSING CEREMONY**

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS**

**CHILDREN CONSULTATION**
Pre-Visioning Activity: District Consultations

One workshop for each of the 5 district of Hargeisa mapping:

- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Opportunities
- Threats
- Child Friendly Prospective.

Discussion focused on:

- Urban serviced provision
- Jobs and livelihood opportunities
- Urban Environment
- Mobility and transport
- Urban Culture
Pre-Visioning Activity: Children Consultations

- 2-day workshop
- 47 Children from all five city districts
- discussing what they like and dislike about their city
- Children consulted for first time ever by local government/municipality
Pre-Visioning Activity: Children Consultations: Tool – Likes

Likes:

- Green and clean open space
- Safe and publicly accessible places
- Space to play
Pre-Visioning Activity: Children Consultations: Tool - Dislikes

Dislikes:
- Bad and unsafe roads
- Street robbery
- Harassment of girls in public spaces
- Lack of playgrounds and recreational spaces
- Garbage
- Open defecation
Pre-Visioning Activity: Children Consultations
Pre-Visioning Activity: Children Consultations

District Consultations
- Child Consultation
- Children Workshop – Placemaking

Main Workshop – City Wide
- Pre-Visioning Week
The recommendations from the community and children consultations provided an important contribution to the Urban Visioning Week and are captured in the Shared Vision Declaration.
During the Visioning week, citizens of Hargeisa and experts were engaged in multiple discussions to map out how the future of Hargeisa could look like.
The discussions around five urban thematic topics (Urban Basic Services, Urban Economy, Urban Spaces, Urban Cultural and Social Issues, Urban Transport and Mobility) ensured that both child friendly and inclusive elements were incorporated.
The results of the Urban Visioning Week - Urban Vision Declaration - were presented to the Mayor on 5 September 2019:
A CREATIVE, CARING, CHILD-FRIENDLY, CLEAN, CONNECTED, CLIMATE RESILIENT AND COOPERATIVE HARGEISA.
As a parallel session, 15 children from the city-wide children workshop were engaged in a **Block by Block** Workshop to "design" a public space of the city as agreed with the municipality.
The issues that they raised during the two-day workshop along with what they witnessed during an exploratory walk fed into the different models developed by each group.
The innovative suggestions and inclusive design ideas provided by children and gathered with this tool were presented to the plenary and the municipal leadership.
The final model will be the foundation of the first **Public Space Design** implemented by the Hargeisa Municipality taking into account children prospectives.
Next Steps:

- Integrated Shared Vision for Hargeisa 2040 and Roadmap for Hargeisa Urban Plan

- Implementing the Placemaking Proposal for Hargeisa Stadium Park

- Child Friendly Principles in Planning Process and Monitoring

- Monitoring & Evaluation of planning process and project implementation

- Hargeisa Urban Forum with Children Board as advisory to District Council and Action Plan

- Apply methodology to new districts

- Somaliland Urban Policy with a Child Friendly Component
Thank you!
Mahat Saneed!