

KABUL METROPOLITAN PROSPERITY PROGRAMME: WISE URBAN GROWTH MANAGEMENT AND TRANSFORMATIONAL PROJECTS THROUGH METROPOLITAN PLANNING AND LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Afghanistan, Kabul Capital Region (Kabul city and surrounding villages and towns)

THEMATIC SCOPE

Sustainable urbanization linked to pressure arising from migration, fragile cities, food security, metropolitan planning and governance, national urban policy, urban basic services, (urban mobility, water, waste management and green infrastructure)

TARGET BENEFICIARIES

Primary beneficiaries are the population of the Kabul city region (6 million) and secondary beneficiaries will be the entire population of Afghanistan since Kabul is the growth engine of the country and trend setter for all Afghan cities. Kabul's central and local governance structures.

PARTNERS

- Office of the President
- Ministry of Urban Development Affairs (MUDA) as the lead Ministry
- Other relevant line Ministries including Transport, Environment, Agriculture, and Institutional Reform
- Independent Directorate of Local Governance / Deputy Ministry for Municipalities (IDLG/DMM);
- Afghan Land Authority (ARAZI);
- Kabul Province and neighboring provinces within the metropolitan area;
- Kabul City Municipality and neighboring municipalities within the metropolitan area;
- Kabul University and other academic, research and development centers;
- Business Community and Civil Society (including Youth and Women NGO's).

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Background: The Kabul capital city region is the engine and trend setter for all other Afghan city regions and the entire country. With an estimated 6 million people, KCR is estimated to be home to 20% of the total Afghan population. Although Kabul city remains the centre, around 40% of the 6 million live in towns and villages around the centre and although Kabul city accounts for half of the residential (51%), institutional (71%) and commercial (72%) land use in the KCR, Kabul city depends on the periphery for agricultural and green spaces. Thus there is a growing interdependence between Kabul city as the engine and the surrounding city region. As most Asian city regions, Kabul City Region is grappling with how best to manage its rapid and uncontrolled growth and economic transformation, growing social complexity and fragmentation, and environmental impact.

This proposal is developed upon the request of the President to foster spatial planning assistance for the greater Kabul area and under the President's comprehensive *21 point agenda* for the regeneration and future more prosperous development of Kabul Capital City within a city-regional or metropolitan perspective, to offer more and better space for internal migration, as well to reduce and reverse the outward migration. In addressing the needs of urban development it is essential that new forms of collaborative governance emerge, supported by national urban policies that will enable and strengthen decentralized decision making and urban management. There is currently little or no capacity for multilevel planning and governance in Afghanistan and Kabul in particular. UN-Habitat already conducted preliminary partner consultations, resulting in a Joint Kabul Metropolitan Declaration (8 March 2016).

Goals and objectives: The vision of the Kabul Metropolitan Area is to develop a compact

and well-connected Kabul in a fertile agricultural region surrounded by resourceful mountains and complementary specialised towns, for and by the people living in the Kabul metropolis.

The objectives the programme are:

- to promote Afghanistan's capital city-region to become a hub of economic growth that reduces urban, peri-urban and rural poverty;
- increase employment opportunities, especially for youth and women through private sector investment;
- foster food security through urban agriculture;
- provide better urban services (in particular water, waste, green infrastructure, roads and public transports);
- strengthen environmental sustainability (air, water, soil and climate change impact mitigation);
- contribute to improved multi-stakeholder city-regional and local governance and stabilization.

Main activities: The achievement of these goal and objectives will be achieved by:

- Development and implementation of an urban recovery and development strategy for the Greater Kabul Area under the umbrella of the Urban National Priority Programme of the Government of Afghanistan;
- Selecting and implementing short and medium-term Metropolitan Flagship Actions aligned with other planned and ongoing urban investments and framed within the Metropolitan Vision, with Quick Impact Demonstration Projects to lay the foundation of more complex urban renewal and development programmes;

Establishing effective Metropolitan Governance and Civic Involvement by establishing a Kabul Metropolitan Presidium and Forum assisted by a Metropolitan Secretariat which will also support related working groups and conduct capacity strengthening to foster Metropolitan Governance.



UN-Habitat is already assisting the Afghan Ministry for Urban Development and the Deputy Ministry of Municipalities, two key partners, mainly to develop the Urban National Priority Programme and subsequent programmes and actions. The Kabul Metropolitan Initiative (KMI) has been selected as national Flagship Project of the Urban National Priority Programme. Under the joint Programme *Future of Afghan Cities*, UN-Habitat delivered preparatory work for KMI, tacitly endorsed by the President as foundation of the Kabul Metropolitan Flagship Programme.

Working in partnership with communities across Afghanistan since 1992, UN-Habitat has invested in providing basic services, including shelter, potable water and skills training. It has worked closely with the Government of Afghanistan and local authorities on a wide range of ambitious projects, strengthening institutional capacity, policy support and addressing clear priorities.

In December 2015, the Government of Afghanistan and UN-Habitat launched the *Future of Afghan Cities Programme*. The programme, supported by Australia and the United Kingdom focuses on the development of a National Urban Priority Programme (U-NPP) and undertaking a detailed analysis of five main city regions and 20 strategic district municipalities.

In March 2016, UN-Habitat launched the second Kabul Metropolitan Conference aimed at assisting Afghan key partners to foster spatial metropolitan planning and governance for the greater Kabul area or Kabul City Region. The Conference was jointly chaired by the Minister of Urban Development Affairs and the Deputy Minister of Municipalities. UN-Habitat presented preliminary findings on land use mapping, population estimates, and a city-region traffic and mobility survey.

The main role of UN-Habitat will be in the form of technical support, capacity building and training for the development and implementation of an urban recovery and development strategy for the Greater Kabul Area.

 **MAIN
OUTPUTS**

Outputs include:

- Selection and implementation of short- and medium-term metropolitan flagship actions aligned with other planned and ongoing urban investment- Development of detailed Metropolitan Plans for Urban Mobility, Water, Waste and Green Infrastructure;
- Development and implementation of Quick Win Impact Demonstration projects, including grant schemes for civil society, to lay the foundation of more complex urban renewal and development programmes;
- Technical support and advice to set up the Kabul Metropolitan Presidium and Forum, assisted by a Metropolitan Secretariat;
- Advisory/Discussion Notes prepared by Secretariat for Forum and Task Force Groups;
- Draft policy agreements by the Secretariat for endorsement of the Presidium / Forum.
- Awareness campaigns, information sessions, city-hall discussions, etc.;
- Tailored capacity strengthening activities and training for five key national counterparts (MUDA, IDLG, DMM, ARAZI; Kabul Municipality)
- Metropolitan Capital City Atlas/Interactive Digital Platform;
- Report and magazines on the Metropolitan Vision and Growth Management Plan;
- Workshops, conferences, site-visits, international benchmarking, peer-learning;

Information and publications relating to the initiative

 **MAIN RESULTS /
IMPACT**

The project is expected to produce the following outcomes for the primary beneficiaries, the inhabitants of Kabul city region estimated at around 6 million, and the governance structures at the metropolitan level:

- Kabul City Region becomes a hub of economic growth, reducing urban sprawl and fragmentation, foster urban-rural linkages and balance growth and income within the City- region.
- Cohesive and well-connected Kabul City region with better urban basic services and infrastructure corridors to bring prosperity to the primary beneficiaries.
- Enhanced multilevel planning, urban governance and institutional capacity and accountability through to improved multi-stakeholder city-regional and local governance of the Kabul City Municipality and neighbouring Municipalities in the Metropolitan area
- Four other national city-regions inspired to initiate similar multi-scale and multi-stakeholder cooperative platforms
- Closer urban-rural linkages to minimise migration from rural to urban areas
- Reduced inequalities between the urban and surrounding rural populations including poverty, polarization in income of both urban and rural populations of the Kabul Metropolis.
- Improved stability and security in the Kabul city region
- Improved agribusiness sector and supply chains to the city increasing food security in the Kabul City region and promoting growth and job opportunities of the populations of both Kabul City and surrounding towns and villages.

Given that the Kabul capital city region is the engine and trend setter for all other Afghan city regions within the country, the entire population of Afghanistan will be the secondary beneficiary of this national flagship programme selected by the government of Afghanistan which will inspire the other Afghan cities and regions.

 **PROGRAMME
DURATION**

18 months with an expected start date of July 2016, one month after President's Launch of Urban National Priority Program

**\$ TOTAL PROJECT
BUDGET**

US\$ 2.5 Million