



WORKSHOP REPORT

# Climate Sensitive City Development Strategy for the City of Garowe

WORKSHOP REPORT OF THE HANDING OVER CEREMONY

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

MARTISOOR HOTEL, GAROWE, PUNTLAND, SOMALIA

Partners of Connective Cities



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## Background

Connective Cities developed the Climate Sensitive City Development Strategy (CSCD) for Garowe, Puntland, as part of the GIZ project "Promotion of Social and Economic Inclusion of Extreme Poor IDPs and Residents of Host Communities in Puntland, Somalia" (SEIPP). The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) commissioned the strategy to address climate challenges through an integrated climate protection framework focusing on adaptation and partial mitigation strategies while emphasizing a bottom-up, participatory approach. From February 2023 to May 2024, local and regional experts conducted intensive fieldwork in collaboration with diverse stakeholders to formulate the CSCD. The strategy outlines actionable initiatives in four critical areas: Mobility, Waste Management, Water Resources, and Green Spaces. This approach addresses Garowe's pressing challenges and offers potential solutions for climate impacts. As the first Somalian municipality to join the Connective Cities Network, Garowe benefits from a vast network of cities across Sub-Saharan Africa and globally, enabling the exchange of knowledge and best practices in climate-sensitive urban development.

The Municipality of Garowe will utilize the CSCD strategy to guide future urban interventions and collaborate with local stakeholders to implement proposed initiatives. The established network will support the city in exploring new funding opportunities and learning from the experiences of peer cities. Central to the strategy's development, the RACCA (Rapid Appraisal of Climate-Sensitive Advantages) methodology emphasizes local ownership and the active involvement of stakeholders in defining development priorities. This methodology empowers local actors to shape their agendas, enhance local knowledge, and take the lead in implementing climate-sensitive strategies.

## Workshop program

The Climate Sensitive City Development Strategy (CSCD) handing-over ceremony, held on September 25, 2024, in Garowe, Puntland, marked a significant milestone in the city's efforts to address climate change and promote sustainable urban development. Developed between February 2023 and May 2024 by local and regional experts, the CSCD followed a bottom-up approach involving diverse stakeholders under the leadership of the Municipality of Garowe. The primary goal of the ceremony was to officially transfer the CSCD Strategy from GIZ to the Garowe Municipality, introduce the RACCA Working Group as the lead expert team, provide an overview of the strategy's key elements, reflect on progress made since January 2024, and collaborate with local government officials to determine next steps for implementation.

The event included presentations on the RACCA methodology, which is crucial in developing the strategy and empowering stakeholders to influence climate adaptation and mitigation efforts within their communities. GIZ SEIPP distributed comprehensive

documentation, including background information on the CSCD and detailed descriptions of the RACCA methodology. Participants received materials designed to deepen their understanding of the strategy and support their advocacy and implementation efforts. At the end of the workshop, GIZ officially handed over the CSCD Strategy to the Garowe Municipality, initiating a new phase where local leadership, supported by the RACCA Working Group and other stakeholders, will lead the strategy's implementation. This pivotal document will guide future climate-sensitive urban planning and interventions in Garowe, providing clear pathways for immediate and long-term actions.

The report captures the agenda, key presentations, discussions, and outcomes of the ceremony, serving as a valuable resource for all stakeholders involved in Garowe's climate-sensitive development. Collective efforts from these stakeholders remain essential in addressing the city's climate challenges and advancing sustainable urban development in the region.

## **Participants of the workshop**

Participants included officials from the City of Garowe, Somalia Urban Resilience Project, Federal Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, GOLIS, Office of the President, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Jubba Water Bottling Company, Puntland State University, East Africa University, University of Bosaso, Somali Women Vision, Kaalo - Aid and Development Organization, Puntland Information Management Center, Hantiwadaag Ward, and GIZ/SEIPP. The full list of participants is available in Annexe 2.

## **Workshop overview**

The workshop, held on September 25, 2024, at Martisoor Hotel in Garowe, aimed to formally engage local stakeholders in the Climate Sensitive City Development Strategy (CSCD) process and highlight its critical role in addressing Garowe's climate challenges. The event focused on reflecting on the collaborative efforts that led to the development of the CSCD, the progress made to date, and the lessons learned during its creation. A key objective was establishing a framework for the next phase of the strategy's implementation, involving discussions around local governance mechanisms, sustainable development initiatives, and ongoing stakeholder partnerships. Participants were expected to contribute to developing actionable steps for the CSCD's implementation while reinforcing partnerships between the Municipality of Garowe and other actors.

## **Opening remarks**

The Deputy Mayor of Garowe Municipality, Mohamed Ahmed Ali, officially opened the Climate Sensitive City Development Strategy (CSCD) handing-over ceremony, and a warm welcome was given to all attendees. In his opening remarks, Mohamed underscored the importance of the event in furthering the efforts toward climate resilience and sustainable



development of the city of Garowe, characterizing the CSCD as an action-oriented plan focused on strengthening the city's resilience across economic, social, and environmental dimensions in the face of climate change. He explained that the strategy provides a clear framework for addressing climate challenges while actively engaging local stakeholders in initiatives centred on resilience, adaptation, and mitigation, which is key to ensuring that the city of Garowe takes ownership of its climate-sensitive development. In addition, Mohamed emphasized the CSCD's opportunity-driven and business-focused nature, highlighting practical short—and medium-term initiatives that can be implemented immediately. He stressed that this proactive approach is designed to build a climate-resilient city while maintaining economic inclusivity, thus setting the city of Garowe on a path for long-term sustainable growth.

In her opening remarks, Dr. Purnima, head of the GIZ SEIPP project, emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement and local ownership in developing a strategy that would serve as a foundational guide for the city of Garowe's climate resilience efforts. She highlighted that the initiatives outlined in the CSCD form the central pillar of the strategy and explained that the immediate goal is to begin implementing short-term actions utilizing the resources currently available. She noted that this approach aims to foster collaboration among local stakeholders, build knowledge-sharing networks, and strengthen implementation efforts throughout Garowe. Dr. Purnima also offered an overview of the project's



inception and execution. In partnership with Connective Cities, the SEIPP project developed an integrated climate protection concept for Garowe, focusing on adaptation and partial mitigation. She explained that the bottom-up strategy employed a participatory methodology to identify areas for action. Between February 2023 and May 2024, the project team and local stakeholders conducted extensive fieldwork that culminated in a comprehensive strategy outlining clear and actionable initiatives for short- and medium-term interventions.

## Workshop Proceedings

### Objectives, methodological and timeline overview

During the workshop, Paulina from GIZ outlined the objectives of the Climate Sensitive City Development Strategy (CSCD) handing-over ceremony. She introduced the RACCA Working Group as the lead team responsible for guiding the development and implementation of the CSCD for Garowe, emphasizing their pivotal role and ongoing technical support. Paulina also highlighted the workshop's primary goal: to provide an overview of the CSCD strategy, focusing on four critical areas: mobility, waste management, water resources, and green spaces. She noted the progress made since the initial public workshops in January 2024, which helped gather input from local stakeholders and align the strategy with Garowe's needs.

A key objective was to foster collaboration with the local government, establishing a shared vision for implementing the CSCD through strong partnerships. Paulina concluded that the official handover of the CSCD Strategy marked the transition from development



to implementation, serving as a comprehensive guide for Garowe's climate resilience efforts. Furthermore, a brief video on the RACCA (Rapid Appraisal of Climate-Sensitive Advantages) methodology was shown to deepen understanding, highlighting its participatory nature and role in the CSCD. In addition, Frank Wältring and his team from Mesopartner provided an overview of the RACCA timeline and development process. They discussed the formation of the RACCA Team, training, fieldwork involving key stakeholders, and the workshops that led to actionable short- and medium-term initiatives tailored to Garowe's climate resilience needs. Frank emphasized the importance of collaboration and local engagement for the strategy's success.

## RACCA team group presentations

During the presentation of the Main Findings from four Key Areas, each of the four groups—Mobility, Waste Management, Water Resources, and Green Spaces—presented their findings, entry objectives, and both short- and long-term initiatives, all of which are critical urban challenges for Garowe requiring coordinated interventions. The Mobility group highlighted the need to improve urban transport infrastructure for smoother, sustainable movement, emphasizing the importance of efficient public transportation along with non-motorized options like walking and cycling. Additionally, they stressed the need for developing well-connected roads to reduce congestion and suggested integrating smart traffic management systems to enhance mobility.

The Waste Management group identified the pressing waste management issue, emphasizing the need for immediate and long-term solutions. They presented an effective waste collection system and public awareness campaigns for proper disposal and recycling as essential initiatives. Moreover, they noted that current unsustainable methods necessitate a shift toward environmentally friendly processing technologies and proposed public-private partnerships to involve local businesses in recycling and composting efforts.

The Water Resources group addressed water scarcity as a significant challenge, emphasizing sustainable water management practices. They discussed improving distribution systems, harvesting rainwater, and increasing access to clean drinking water as essential entry objectives, and some attendees proposed investing in water treatment plants and desalination technologies to meet growing demand while fostering community involvement in water resource management.



Finally, the Green Spaces group underscored the importance of green spaces for climate resilience, advocating for expanding parks and gardens to enhance aesthetics, air quality, and biodiversity. They highlighted the limited availability of public green spaces in Garowe. They recommended integrating green infrastructure in urban planning, suggesting initiatives such as rooftop gardens and tree-planting projects to mitigate heat and pollution effects.

The following issues, questions, and commitments emerged during the discussion:

#### Key issues raised during discussion

- One participant emphasized the need for improved urban transport infrastructure, advocating for efficient public transportation systems and non-motorized transport options, such as walking and cycling. They also suggested integrating smart traffic management systems to enhance mobility.
- Another participant highlighted the necessity of establishing an effective waste collection system and stressed the importance of public awareness campaigns to promote proper disposal and recycling practices. They recommended involving local businesses in recycling initiatives through public-private partnerships.
- A participant addressed the pressing issue of water scarcity, emphasizing sustainable water management practices, improved distribution systems, and increased access to clean drinking water, along with recommendations for investing in water treatment plants and desalination technologies.
- The importance of expanding green spaces was underscored by one participant, who focused on enhancing aesthetics, air quality, and biodiversity. They recommended integrating green infrastructure into urban planning through initiatives like rooftop gardens and tree-planting projects.

#### Key questions asked by participants

- How can Garowe Municipality ensure continuous public engagement and community ownership of the Climate Sensitive City Development Strategy (CSCD)?
- What plans are in place for securing long-term financial support for the implementation of the CSCD, particularly from international donors?
- How will the municipality address capacity-building needs, especially in recruiting specialists and partnering with development agencies?
- How can the monitoring and evaluation process be strengthened to ensure accountability and allow for real-time adjustments?

#### Commitments made

- Garowe Municipality committed to providing strong leadership and establishing dedicated teams or units within the administration to oversee each focus area of the CSCD.



- The municipality will focus on capacity-building efforts and seek partnerships with development agencies and training centers to equip staff with the necessary skills to manage the CSCD effectively.
- The municipality pledged to engage the local community through awareness campaigns and regular consultations, ensuring transparency and fostering community ownership.
- It was committed to pursuing innovative financial approaches, including local revenue mobilization and engagement with international donors, to support the long-term implementation of the CSCD.
- The development of a detailed implementation roadmap with clear timelines and milestones was agreed upon, along with a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track progress and ensure accountability.
- Lastly, Garowe Municipality committed to integrating the CSCD into its long-term urban planning efforts, focusing on sustainability and climate resilience goals.

## Panel discussion summary

The panel discussion titled "Climate Strategy Garowe - Chances, Challenges and the Way Forward" focused on the significance of a climate-sensitive strategy for Garowe and the pressing challenges posed by climate change. Panel members included the Deputy Mayor, the RACCA team, and two experts who highlighted various initiatives undertaken



since January 2024, such as tuk-tuk transportation and green plant projects. They shared perspectives on the progress made and emphasized the critical role of community engagement in supporting these initiatives. The RACCA team specifically addressed how these projects align with the broader Climate Strategy while identifying key challenges encountered during implementation. Panel members explored the next steps for advancing the Climate Strategy, prioritizing specific areas, scaling up existing initiatives, and ensuring their sustainability. The Deputy Mayor outlined the local government's main priorities for climate resilience and sustainable growth. Meanwhile, the RACCA team discussed how the Climate-Sensitive City Development (CSCD) aligns with broader strategic goals, pinpointing areas where conflicts might arise or opportunities for better alignment exist. Budgeting for climate action was a significant topic, with discussions on how the city plans to fund future initiatives. Panel members examined existing financial mechanisms and partnerships that could be leveraged for climate-related projects. As the discussions concluded, the panel reflected on integrating the climate strategy into ongoing efforts, identifying significant challenges and opportunities for Garowe's future. They emphasized the importance of communicating key messages to citizens about the Climate Strategy, ensuring broad community awareness and involvement.

## Gallery walks summary



Following the panel discussion, participants engaged in a gallery walk, which provided an opportunity to explore the key findings of the Climate-Sensitive City Development (CSCD) strategy. This interactive session featured boards displaying information on core initiatives, including visuals, data summaries, and strategic goals. As participants moved

between boards, they gained insights into critical areas such as community resilience, sustainable infrastructure, and climate adaptation measures. The walk encouraged open dialogue and collaboration, with attendees discussing the presented information and sharing perspectives on climate-sensitive practices. The GIZ SEIPP project team at each station guided discussions, answered questions, and collected feedback, helping clarify initiatives and encouraging participants to voice potential challenges and opportunities related to the CSCD. Overall, the gallery walk was essential for knowledge sharing and community engagement, reinforcing collaboration in addressing climate change challenges. Participants left with a deeper understanding of the CSCD's goals and a renewed motivation to contribute to the city's climate action efforts.

## Conclusion Remarks

### Closing Remarks by Dr. Purnima

In her closing remarks, Dr. Purnima highlighted the four key focus areas of the Climate-Sensitive City Development (CSCD): mobility, waste management, water resources, and green spaces, emphasizing that these represent the most pressing challenges for Garowe. She noted that the strategy provides specific solutions for each area and proudly mentioned that Garowe is the first municipality in Somalia to pilot the CSCD methodology as part of the Connective Cities Network. This membership allows Garowe to access a broad network of cities across Sub-Saharan Africa and globally, fostering valuable knowledge exchange in climate-sensitive urban development.

Dr. Purnima underscored the strategy's importance for the Municipality of Garowe as a guiding document for future interventions in collaboration with local stakeholders. She encouraged the municipality to leverage established networks to explore funding opportunities and learn from peer cities facing similar climate challenges. "There is a shared recognition of the need to work together to improve the quality of climate resilience in Garowe," she stated, reaffirming that the CSCD equips decision-makers with the tools necessary for implementing effective policies. Dr. Purnima concluded by expressing confidence in the CSCD's potential to address climate-related challenges across Puntland and Somalia, stating, "The CSCD strategy offers our best hope for addressing these issues. It provides a unified technical approach to climate action, leading to context-specific solutions and greater stakeholder buy-in."

### Closing Remarks by the Deputy Mayor of Garowe

In his closing remarks, the Deputy Mayor reaffirmed the Garowe local government's commitment to leading the city's transformation through the CSCD. He noted that the strategy provides a framework for uplifting local communities and fostering climate action-based economic opportunities, ensuring transparency and accountability in decision-making. The Deputy Mayor expressed deep gratitude to the GIZ SEIPP project and the RACCA team for their extensive efforts in developing the CSCD, emphasizing that their

collaboration and insights are critical to the strategy's success and sustainable development in Garowe. He concluded with a call for continued local ownership and stakeholder engagement, reinforcing the CSCD's potential for meaningful, long-lasting change in Garowe's development trajectory.

## Recognition of the RACCA Team

A special moment during the workshop was dedicated to recognizing the RACCA team's exceptional contributions to the development of the Climate-Sensitive City Development (CSCD) Strategy. The team's hard work, dedication, and outstanding performance were pivotal in shaping a comprehensive framework for Garowe's climate resilience and sustainable urban growth. In appreciation of their efforts, each member of the RACCA team was presented with a certificate of recognition. This gesture not only celebrated their invaluable role in the project's success but also underscored the importance of collaboration in addressing complex climate challenges. The certificates served as a tangible symbol of their commitment to creating a more climate-resilient future for Garowe. The recognition ceremony highlighted how the RACCA team's expertise and persistent efforts were instrumental in aligning the CSCD with Garowe's broader strategic objectives. Their work has laid a strong foundation for the municipality to move forward with concrete, climate-sensitive initiatives.

## CSCD Strategy Handover to Garowe Municipality



The workshop concluded with a significant milestone marked by the official handing over of the Climate-Sensitive City Development (CSCD) Strategy. Dr. Purnima from GIZ formally presented the strategy to the Municipality of Garowe, symbolizing the transition from planning to action as implementation commenced. This ceremony represented a collaborative effort involving various stakeholders who contributed to developing a comprehensive framework for enhancing climate resilience and sustainable development. During the ceremony, Dr. Purnima emphasized the importance of the CSCD Strategy in addressing Garowe's unique environmental challenges, articulating strategic goals focused on fostering sustainable urban development, promoting community engagement, and enhancing climate adaptation measures. She highlighted local governance's critical role in implementing these initiatives, underscoring the Municipality's commitment to a climate-sensitive approach in urban planning. The RACCA team was also honoured during the event, with each member receiving certificates recognizing their contributions to the CSCD Strategy. This acknowledgment celebrated their hard work and reinforced the significance of collaboration in tackling climate-related issues. Photographs captured the occasion, reflecting the enthusiasm and dedication of all involved in the project.



The handing-over ceremony concluded with a call to action, encouraging stakeholders to engage actively in implementing the strategy. Participants were reminded that the success of the CSCD would depend on continuous collaboration, resource mobilization, and a shared commitment to achieving the outlined objectives. The event was a powerful

affirmation of the collective vision for a sustainable and climate-resilient Garowe, setting the stage for concerted efforts in realizing the strategy's goals.

## IMPRINT

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