

JINJA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

JINJA URBAN FORUM

REPORT ON THE EXPOSURE STUDY VISIT TO ARUA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL FROM 15TH JANUARY TO 17TH JANUARY 2014

Background information

Jinja Municipal Council is among the Five Municipalities participating in the TSUPU project funded by cities alliance and other partners of which establishment of a functional Municipal Wide Development Forum is one of the subcomponents in the project. The Jinja Urban Forum was established in the year 2010 and officially launched by the Minister of Lands Housing and Urban Development.

With funding from World Bank and other partners, the Municipal Development Forum in its work plan planned to have an exposure study visit to Arua as one of the activities to be undertaken. Therefore the Municipal Development Forum left Jinja for Arua on a three days tour starting from 15th January to 17th January 2014.

Objectives of the exposure study visit

The objectives of the exposure visit to Arua were follows:

- a. To share experiences on the way the Arua Municipal Development Forum is run.
- b. To share experiences on the relationship between the stake holders (community) and the Municipal Council.
- c. To have a field visit to look at the projects that were undertaken in phase 1 of the TSUPU project
- d. To learn the good practices in Arua municipal development forum.
- e. To share experiences on how Arua Municipal Council managed to disburse funds to the community groups under the

community contracting framework in phase 1 of the TSUPU project.

- f. To share experiences on the involvement of private sector initiatives in development of the town.
- g. To share experiences on the process of identifying projects under TSUPU
- h. To share experiences on how TSUPU projects and MDF activities shall be sustained.

15th January 2014 –Departure

Wednesday 15th January 2014 was the day of departure to Arua Municipal Council where twenty one members assembled at Jinja Municipal Council premises at 6.00am and boarded a coaster to Arua.

The delegation comprised of the following members.

1. Mr. Muledu Henry
2. Mr. Waiswa Ivan
3. Mr. Muganza Geoffrey
4. M/s Musingo Doreen
5. Mr. Ofwono Wycliffe
6. M/s Samia Edith
7. Mr. Kasedde Michael
8. Mr. Mudamba Umar
9. Mr. Mukama Ahmed
10. Mr. Mulondo Moses
11. Mr. Ngobi Felix Willy
12. Mr. Kirunda Abubaker
13. Mr. Kitto Rajab
14. M/s Muwanga Fred
15. Mr. Walusimbi Haruna
16. Sheik Bullo
17. Mr. Muzusa Geoffrey

18. M/s Kayongo Christine
19. Mr. Obbo Jimmy Ivans
20. Mr. Lwalanda James

Stop over at Migyera

The first stop over was at Migyera where members had to refresh themselves and also have breakfast at around 11:30 am. The stoppage lasted about 45minutes and they had to proceed with the journey.

Stoppage at Pakwach

There was a brief stoppage at Pakwach for the delegation to refresh themselves and also buy some delicacies from that side of the country. There was also a view of Karuma Falls and there after the game park where members enjoyed looking at animals going about their business in the park.

Arrival in Arua town

The delegation arrived in Arua town at 7:15pm and were welcomed by some members of Arua Municipal Development Forum who helped in guiding members where they could get decent accommodation.

16th January 2014 in Arua Municipal Council

- a) A delegation led by the president of Jinja urban forum at 9:00am paid a courtesy call o to the office of the Town Clerk and that of the mayor and were warmly welcomed to Arua Municipal Council. The members introduced themselves and there after the president of Jinja urban forum briefed them about the purpose of the visit to Arua. Her worship the deputy mayor in her remarks said she was happy that Jinja had chosen Arua as a destination to share experiences as far as implementation of the TSUPU project was concerned. She added that Arua was a bit dusty since there a lot of civil works going on with the roads. She added that there were also challenges of intermittent

power supply and the involvement of underage children in commercial sex. However, that they were making strides in ensuring that these girls undergo rehabilitation so as to leave the vice.



Jinja delegation leaving Arua Municipal Council after courtesy call to Mayor and Town Clerk Arua

Sharing of experiences between Jinja Municipal Development Forum and Arua Municipal Development Forum.

After a courtesy call at Arua Municipal Council Offices, the delegation was led to desert breeze by the Chairman Arua Municipal Development Forum where discussions/ sharing of experiences was done.

a) Remarks from the chairman Arua municipal development forum

The chairman of the forum welcomed members to Arua Municipal Council and specifically to Arua Municipal Development Forum. He added that for Arua, they had in their charter decided to have the

head of the forum to have title of chairman and not president. He thanked Jinja Municipal Development Forum for choosing Jinja to as the area to visit and share experiences as far as the TSUPU project and MDF activities are concerned.

He however stressed that Jinja had not simply come to learn but to share with Arua on a number of issues even outside the TSUPU project. He wished members a warm stay in Arua and a safe journey when they choose to go back to Jinja.

b) Remarks from the president Jinja urban forum

The president of the forum in his remarks thanked Arua Municipal Council for accepting to host the Jinja delegation adding that the reason for choosing Arua as the destination was because they were doing well in a number of issues to do with the TSUPU project such as empowerment of the communities to execute their own projects through community contracting. He therefore said they were ready to share as much as possible with Arua.

The chairman of Arua municipal development forum however added that he would love to hear from Jinja how they have handled the issue of urban housing since they have a number of projects to do with housing.

Presentation from Arua

A representative from Arua Municipal Development Forum led members through a number of issues.

➤ **Participation of the community in projects identification**

On this he said that identification of projects is done at community level where community meetings are conducted to identify the issues/ community needs and proposals are there after generated and subjected to a technical appraisal.

Parameters are set so as to guide in prioritization of the proposals. The municipal development forum also has a role in endorsing which projects are to be undertaken.

➤ **On their experience with community contracting**

He informed the delegation that Arua was able to disburse funds to the communities in phase 1 of the project. He added that they advised that community to open project accounts where the funds were disbursed so as not to confuse any of their savings with the project funds. Further, that a list of prequalified firms was availed to them so as to help in choosing which one to give through a competitive process. Basically the entire process is managed by them.

Emerging issues on this subject matter.

❖ Mr. Muledu Henry inquired about whether the funds were disbursed in phases or one to the community Accounts. On this he said that funds were disbursed once to the community accounts and that standing instructions were given to the banks by the town clerk not to release any funds from the said accounts until there is clearance by certificates endorsed by the town clerk, engineer, community development officer and the secretary of the MDF.

➤ **Contribution of the community towards TSUPU projects**

Members were also informed on the subject of community contribution towards the project that for Arua, some community members have contributed land where the projects are located. He added that there is a memorandum of understanding signed with the person offering land so that he

or she does not change later. This memorandum is signed with the benefiting community.

➤ **Sustainability of the projects and MDF activities**

The members were informed that in order to sustain the projects that are in place, Arua was charging user fees for projects to do with provision of safe water since they need to pay the water bills and also make any repairs that may arise. Further, that the community has been made to appreciate that these are their own projects and after all it's them that identified that community need.

Further, that there is also a Memorandum of Understanding with Arua Municipal Council to maintain some projects like those of roads and culverts.

➤ **Relationship between Arua Municipal Council and the community**

Jinja was informed that there is a good working relationship between the Municipal Council and community of Arua. This he said was evidenced by the fact that all leaders of Arua are conversant with TSUPU activities and also participate in the Municipal Development Forum meetings whenever they are convened.

➤ **Private sector initiatives in the activities of the forum**

The delegation from Jinja was informed that there has been little progress in bringing the private sector on board as far as activities of the forum is concerned. This he added that it was because of existence of few private firms where funding could be sought from.

On this however for Jinja Municipality, the President of the forum informed Arua counterparts that Jinja had not made much progress as far as bringing private sector on board.

However, that there was a plan to organize a breakfast meeting where the private sector having been mobilized by the representative shall be made to appreciate the importance of the forum.

The Chairman of Arua Municipal Development Forum also requested the Jinja team to share with Arua their experience in Urban Housing.

The President Jinja Urban Forum informed them that Jinja has a number of housing schemes which include the following:

1. Danida women project. This he said was through funding from the Danish Agency and also an initiative to empower women through housing. That the women did or vide the labor and land was contributed by Jinja Municipal Council.
2. City community challenges partnership (C3project). This he explained that it was also a women empowerment initiative through housing with funding from UN habitat. That 300 houses were to be constructed and some are already completed and occupied.
3. Kawama housing scheme. On this he said that 7.3 acres of land were offered by Jinja Municipal Council and funding for the project is through savings of members and Slum Dwellers International.

Brief on STUPU activities in Jinja

The Coordinator TSUPU for Jinja Municipal Council briefed the Arua MDF that Jinja was able to implement six projects under phase 1 of the project which included the following:

- Construction of a water borne toilet at Masese
- Construction of a water borne toilet at Rippon
- Installation of street lights along Magezi road
- Installation of street lights along Lake Site primary school to Masese landing site.
- Extension of power at Kawama

Further, that preparation are underway to have phase 11 of the project done with the MDF having approved the projects to be undertaken and the community groups having been trained on issues of community contracting.

He also highlighted about the good working relationship between the communities and the municipality where constant consultations are held as and when need arises. Further, that the council has contributed greatly to the success of the TSUPU project since it has made land available where the projects have been placed and that there has also been some co funding towards the project.

Brainstorming on quick win project/ activities

The Host President of the forum suggested that members come up with quick win activities that may not require a lot of money but can create impact and cause awareness in society about the existence of the forum that both Jinja and Arua can do. The following were suggested and agreed upon.

1. Once a month cleaning of the town.
2. Do charity walk.
3. Tree planting.
4. Establishment of a recreation park.

Way forward

Members agreed on the following as way forward;

- a) Wider Awareness of the TSUPU projects to the community should be done during budget conferences.
- b) There is need to encourage experience sharing visits so as members get exposed to what is happening elsewhere.
- c) The Ministry of Lands should hold a joint meeting of all executives of the forums from the Municipalities to share their experiences in the project.
- d) Municipal MDFs of Arua and Jinja must devise strategies to sustain their activities outside funding from the project.
- e) Explore possibilities of getting free labor to maintain the projects from the prisons service through the community service programme for minor offences.
- f) Barazas must be encouraged as a platform for discussion of issues.
- g) MDFs should open independent accounts to mobilize funds for their activities.

Closing Remarks from the chairman Arua Municipal Forum

The Chairman Arua Municipal Development Forum thanked members for the fruitful deliberations and sharing and reiterated the need for more exposure visits. He promised to organize a similar visit to Jinja. He also invited his guests for lunch at the hotel and that field visit was to follow.

Remarks from the MDF president Jinja

The president thanked Arua Municipal Council and the MDF for the hospitality accorded to the Jinja team and vowed to accord the same when Arua decides to visit Jinja. He added that a lot has been shared and will certainly lead to improvement on a number of areas. He said that the team was looking forward to moving to the field to look at the projects that were undertaken by Arua in phase1.

Lunch

At around 2:00pm, the team had its lunch at the hotel and there after left for the field to look at the projects.



Jinja and arua MDF enjoying a meal at desert breeze hotel, Arua

Field visits

The following projects were visited by the team from Jinja and the MDF Chairman Arua was the lead person to the various projects:

1. Supply of clean and safe water for community in Wadri, Nsambya South Cell. The team was given a background to the said project where the community in Wadri was experiencing intermittent water supply and that the women and children were the most affected by this challenge. That they used to wake up late in the night to go the

tap and get some water since the water used to flow late in the night there by pausing a serious security threat to the women and children.

It was against that background that the project was conceived and implemented under TSUPU. Two water tanks of 10,000 liter capacity were installed and a care taker to manage the project was appointed. Land was contributed by members of the community. Water is sold at shs100 a jerican in order to pay water bills and maintenance of the project.

Benefits of the Project.

- ✓ The community no longer has shortage of water since its stored in the tanks and available
- ✓ There is no more security threat to the community since they don't move in the night to looking for water
- ✓ There is some income that is generated from sale of water



Clean and safe water for community in Wadri, Nsambya South Cell

Lessons learnt from the project

- Community contribution towards the projects
- There is a sustainability plan for the project since some money is generated.
- There is community ownership of the project since its themselves managing the project

2. Construction of a bore hole

This bore hole arose from the water shortage experienced in Arua Municipal Council. Therefore the Nyaruba women association came up with the proposal to solve the water shortage in that community.

Project cost was estimated at shs 21,750,000 and its 75m deep. That project serves the neighboring school and each family pays shs 5000 every three month to access water. Each family that pays gets a card that is used to access water.

The community there shared with the team the challenge of time taken to draw water at the borehole when there is a shortage.

As a way forward Mr. Obbo from Jinja proposed that they could motorise the bore hole sp that water can be kept in tanks and shorten on the time taken to draw water under the current arrangement.



Borehole project for Nyaruba Women Association

3. Fencing of Bibia Community School, Pangisa Ward

The background to this project according to the MDF Arua was because of the vandalisation of school infrastructure and destruction of windows in the classroom. Further, that the children were not concentrating because they could go out in the neighborhood and come late to school. As a result there was poor performance and parents started withdrawing their children from school. There was also insecurity of the children.

Therefore the project helped to fence the school and a gate was also installed.



Fence around Bibia Community School, Pangisa Ward

Effects of the project

We were informed that as a result of the project being undertaken, enrollment rose from 300 pupils to 500. For the first time in many years, the school got 5(five) first grades in the previous Primary Leaving Examinations.

Observations from the Jinja team

- That the space at school is too small and there is no play ground for the children yet they need to play.
- Advised the school management to talk to the community members to avail more land for the school

- In the interim, they can take children to a neighboring school where they can have some games and sports activities

Lessons learnt from this project

- That a project can lead to a change in fortunes like seen from the school getting 5 first grades in many years.

4. Construction of a community access road joining oli A and oli B

The proposal was made by a richen women's group as a result of having a challenge in accessing the two villages. There exists a swamp in between the two villages and storm water used to made the area inaccessible



An access road and culverts installed along the road joining Prison Cell to Adriko Cell, Kenya Ward, Oli Division

Observations made

The Jinja team observed that the road needs to be maintained since it was being eaten away by water. Further, that there is need to disilt the drainage channel so that water can flow. This was noted.

5. Construction of an access road and installation of culverts along the road joining prison cell to Adriko Cell, Kenya Ward, Oli Division.

The Jinja team was informed that the said road used to be a foot path and inaccessible since there is a water stream in the areas and quite a number of people reside in the said area. That the community there felt it necessary to have the road fixed so that the school going children could access the school and the community too could do their business normally. The project was estimated to have cost shs 20million.



An access road and installation of culverts along the road joining prison cell to Adriko Cell, Kenya Ward, Oli Division

6. Community led waste management project

This was a project for the women and some men under the umbrella organization called Arua Municipal Environment and sanitation watch. This group made a proposal with the objective of improving sanitation in the area. Interaction with the members of the group revealed that they procured 10 carts, 10 wheel barrows, 20 dust bins, spades and hoes to deal with the garbage. That each shop that has accepted to pick its garbage is charged shs 1000 each time garbage is picked from the business area. Environment scouts have also been deployed to ensure cleanliness of the town 30million was estimated to be the cost of the project. Shs 40,000 is paid per month to the employees of the group and that every end of month has been gazzetted as a day for cleaning the town. That there is also a community contribution towards the welfare of the women who collect the garbage.



Women and Men who participate in the waste management project

Emerging issues

Members from Jinja inquired from the group whether there is a bylaw in place to enforce compliance. They were told that the bylaw is being finalized.

Lessons learnt from the project

- ✓ Need to set a day aside for the cleaning of the town in Jinja.
- ✓ Need to have a bylaw to enforce cleanliness in the town.
- ✓ Projects like this one can be a source of employment to the many unemployed youth and women.
- ✓ There is need to sensitize the community to appreciate the need for community contribution towards the projects.
- ✓ There is more community participation in the project since women are largely involved in this.

17th January 2014 Departure

After concluding with the field visits, the team left for Jinja after being wished a safe journey back by the chairman of Arua Municipal development forum.

OVERALL LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE EXPOSURE STUDY TOUR TO ARUA

The following were the lessons learnt from Arua

1. There is community participation in TSUPU projects as seen from the garbage collection project.
2. Community contribution is paramount in the success of the TSUPU projects. For example land was seen to have been offered to set up community projects.

3. There is need to have a sustainability plan for the TSUPU projects by for example charging user fees where applicable and the municipalities taking on some like maintenance of roads
4. There is need to have information shared between the technical staff, political leaders and the community as far as TSUPU activities are concerned.
5. Jinja could also venture in construction of open drainage channels as seen from one of the projects funded under LGMSD.
6. Communities can be in position to manage the TSUPU project funds as seen from the community contracting under phase 1 of the project.
7. There is need to have standing instructions to the bank when project funds are disbursed to the accounts as a control measure against any potential misuse of funds.
8. There is need to bring on board the private sector to contribute towards the activities of the municipal development forum

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