



Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Program



Acting Permanent Secretary of the MoLG, Mr. Patrick Mutabwire

The Japan international Cooperation Agency (JICA) Reconstruction Assistance Programme (REAP) in Northern Uganda was developed to support post conflict peace building in Acholi Sub-Region in July 2008. JICA's initial support to the Local Governments was geared towards helping Internal Displaced Persons (IDP) return and resettlement in their original villages after 20 years living in IDP camps.

In the relationship of the second objectives of REAP, the Programme later progressed in to a Project for Capacity development in planning and implementation of community development in Acholi Sub-Region. It is called "**Acholi CAP**" project as short name. The main objective of the project is

"the mechanism for planning and implementation of community development in Acholi sub-Region is strengthened". The Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) has been the counterpart agency to the Japanese project team and also the coordinating agency to ensure smooth running of the implementation of the Project.

JICA support has been timely, Acholi CAP project activities such as training of district officials and implementation of pilot projects lead to improvement in performance and ultimately service delivery. The MoLG is gratified by the contribution JICA has made in the Acholi Sub – Region and looks forward to continued partnership.



Meeting in the office of MoLG in Kampala

OUTLINE OF THE ACHOLI CAP PROJECT

The Objective:

The mechanism for planning and implementation of community development in Acholi Sub-Region is strengthened

The Expected Outputs:

- ① Capacity of local governments in development planning is strengthened in selected districts
- ② Capacity of local governments in the implementation of community development plan is enhanced
- ③ Systems and guidelines of development planning are strengthened.

By accomplishing the outcomes and project objective, it is expected that community development projects are continuously planned and implemented, leading to the long-term goal that decent living conditions are achieved for sustainable and stable resettlement of people.

To achieve the expected outputs, Acholi CAP targets 7 districts in Acholi Sub-Region of Northern Uganda for implementing its activities with focus on 4 districts for some of the activities in order to draw good practices and extend them to other 3 districts.

The Project's period: November 2011 to October 2015 (4 years)

The Project Office: located in Gulu town

STUDY TOUR

Acholi CAP project organized a study tour in Masaka, Lwengo and Kalungu Districts with a total of 7 participants from Amuru and Nwoya districts from 20th to 24th August 2012. The study tour aimed at providing opportunities for district officials to be exposed to different/similar situations in districts outside Acholi Sub-Region and sharing experiences with officials as well as site visits in those districts. The main focus of the study tour included areas such as the district planning process, resource mobilization, community development, and so on.



From the beginning of the tour, atmosphere in a bus which took participants to the central region was sociable and their expectation was so high. They visited Masaka on the second day, Lwengo on the third day and Kalungu on the fourth day. After the warm welcome by the host district, presentations were made by Amuru and Nwoya respectively with extensive data which shows those current situations of districts and their challenges in terms of planning, community development, etc. Members of the host districts responded with full of information, and discussions with those districts were fruitful and constructive and continued for a long time.

Through the field visits in these host districts, participants were so impressed by significant level on community contribution and their projects are so visible. The community projects were also used as the basis for securing funding from government and development partners but after the project succeeded the members diversify their activity by forming their own sub projects that eventually benefits their members. We learnt that success of any community development projects depends on the level of cooperation and participation of those community members/beneficiaries.

(Reported by Michael, Field Coordinator)



ON-THE-JOB TRAINING IN PROCUREMENT

In April 2012, Acholi CAP project brought an expert in Procurement and Supervision Management from Japan named Dr. SUGIYAMA Kyoichi to carry out a survey in the districts of Amuru, Kitgum, Nwoya and Pader and the report pointed out so many challenges in procurement and supervision process. The expert then recommended capacity building of Local Government officials involved in procurement and Supervision of Community Development projects in order to improve their services.



From July to September 2012 the expert came out with the five programs below and conducted trainings for capacity buildings in procurement and supervision in the above four selected districts, in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government.

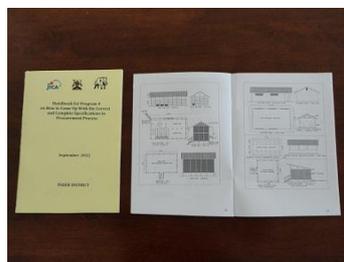
Program 1: Seminar on Roles of Stakeholders in Procurement

Program 2: Seminar and OJT (On-the Job Training) on Flow Chart of Procurement Procedure

Program 3: Seminar and OJT on Procurement Plan

Program 4: Seminar and OJT on How to come up with the correct and complete Specifications in Procurement Process

Program 5: Seminar and OJT on Contractor Performance Check List



These trainings did not end up in soft wares only but Acholi CAP also put the materials in hard copies by printing them in three Hand books each, for districts of Nwoya and Pader. These handbooks are expected to be practically used for the procurement and supervision of pilot projects selected by Acholi CAP.

(Reported by Martin, Engineer)

SOCIAL SURVEY AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

by: Ms KATAYAMA Yumiko - Japanese Expert

As an expert of social survey / conflict prevention, I have been engaging in Acholi CAP project since January 2012. Following my work for the previous JICA project in Amuru, I spent about three years in Acholi land.

First of all, the social survey was conducted for understanding a whole picture concerning vulnerable people, especially IDPs (internal displaced persons) and EVIs (extremely vulnerable individuals) in Acholi sub-region. In this social survey, although it had been said “There are no IDPs. The people who are still remaining in former IDP camps or transit sites are due to their own interests”, a certain number of IDPs with a desire to return home were found. Some local government officials have not been aware of the fact that IDPs are still in the former IDP camps or transit sites before these survey.

Following preliminary survey, additional survey was conducted for getting a clearer picture. Although the surveyors sometimes faced the difficulties such as disturbance by drunken informants or inconsistency in the data between the informants from the same community, a lot of key persons such as LC1 chairperson and “Rwot Kweri” (sub-village chief), IDPs and EVIs were interviewed.

In this additional survey, it was found that the hindering factors for the people who are still remaining in the former IDP camps or transit sites to return home were different such as “land issues”, “unable to construct huts”, “lack of infrastructure” and “loneliness and un-safety” was also sometimes added because of being accustomed to settle together during the camp period. Moreover, it is also a fact that some are remaining by their own interest such as business and preference to urban life. At the same time, EVIs such as elderly people, orphans, widows and disables without support by the communities were also found.



Discussion in the Workshop held in November 2012

In the workshop which was organized by the project, Community Development Officers from four districts discussed the ways of handling these issues under their departments’ circumstances of “insufficient budget and manpower”. Then all the participants agreed on taking further steps for the data collection.

Improving the capacity for mainstreaming vulnerable concern was just started and on-going.

INTRODUCTION OF OUR PROJECT STAFF

Dr. KUBO Yusuke
(Chief Advisor)



Q: Your Speciality?

A: Regional development

Q: Before coming to Uganda?

A: Working as a Chief Advisor in a JICA project of Myanmar for 5 years

Q: Your first impression about Uganda?

A: Rich in nature such as weather, land and lake as well as the smile of children

Q: Any word to your readers?

A: Since the start of the project one year ago, we made many trials and shaped / reshaped the ways that the project works. Through this experience, I realised that commitment of people is the key for the success of the project.

ACTIVITY SUMMARY for the Last One Year



Acholi CAP Project officially commenced from the day of Project Coordinator Mr. OISHI Tsuneo's arrival in Uganda on 24th November 2011 and office acquisition and setting-up began.

1st Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting was held at Acholi Inn Hotel on 7th December 2011 as a kick off meeting of Acholi CAP project.



Chief Advisor, Dr. Kubo, presented the project outline and work plan for first 6 months. Meeting was attended by 30 participants invited from Ministry of Local Government, JICA offices and 7 districts in Acholi Sub-Region.

Chief Advisor, Dr. KUBO Yusuke arrived in Uganda on 13th February 2012 for programme to stay for 2 years.

Expert Team arrived in Uganda at the end of January and capacity assessment conducted in February and March 2012 in areas of governance and social survey in former IDPs and Original home/village



Equipment support was done in March and April 2012 to improve working environment of 7 districts offices in Acholi Sub-Region. 70 Filing Cabinets and 70 Bookshelves supported to 7 districts, Solar battery system to Amuru, Nwoya

Agago and Lamwo districts, Invertors power back-up system for Gulu and Pader districts, back-up generator to Kitgum district.



On-the-Job training conducted in Community Development Planning with Mr. SATO and Ms. HATTORI from March to May. Also an assessment on procurement and supervision conducted by Dr.



SUGIYAMA in April and May and social survey continued from May to November with support from an Expert from Japan, Ms KATAYAMA.

Record Management training conducted in April and May 2012 in all the 7 districts of Acholi Sub-Region. A total of 203 district officials participated in the training programmes.



The 2nd TWG held at multipurpose hall in Amuru district on 22nd May 2012. Main theme was to see an over view of project activities of the last six months. Also proposed revision of Project Design Method (PDM) and Plan of Operation (PO) of the FY2012 were presented by Project Team.

The 1st Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) meeting held at Fairway hotel in Kampala on 30th May 2012 presented by team from MoLG, OPM, JICA and all CAOs of Acholi Sub-Region.



Study tour to Masaka, Lwengo and Kalungu districts was conducted from 20th to 24th August 2012 with a total of 7 participants from Amuru and Nwoya districts.

On-the-Job training in procurement and supervision was conducted by Dr. SUGIYAMA from July to September and produced Handbooks in collaboration with Pader and Nwoya districts LG.

The 2nd On-the-Job Training on community Development Planning commenced from September by Mr. SATO and Ms. KOBAYASHI and planned to continue till December 2012.



The 3rd TWG was held at Bomah Hotel in Gulu on 7th November 2012. Main theme was to review project activities From May to October 2012, report on Study Tour conducted in August 2012 and plan for next term from November 2012 to March 2013.