



SUPPORT for the IMPROVEMENT of WORK ENVIRONMENT: In order to strengthen the mechanism for planning and implementation of community development in Acholi sub-region, Acholi CAP Project provides equipment to Local Government to improve their work environment.

The Project conducted an assessment on work environment and identified challenges of Districts and Sub-counties. The equipment support covers power, office furniture/equipment and mobility. Handing-over of equipment support in 2012/13 was completed in July 2013 and in this volume, we report on it.

[Power equipment] Before the equipment support, most District officers were experiencing un-stable power or had no power at their office though they needed to do some computer work such as producing documents and data analysis. The equipment was meant to provide stable power to District office.

- Solar panels power system → AMURU (planning unit), NWOYA (Admin block), LAMWO (Planning unit), PADER (community department) and AGAGO (Admin block)
- Invertor & battery power back-up system → KITGUM (Admin block)
- Replacement of Batteries → GULU (Admin block)

[Office furniture / equipment] Newly created districts (NWOYA, AGAGO and LAMWO) were facing shortage of office furniture and equipment. Furniture provided to these districts helps them organize huge amount of documents/files in good order.

- 10 (ten) Filling Cabinets and 10 (ten) Bookshelves to each of the 3 districts
- 3 Laptop Computers & 3 Media Projectors (1 to each of the 3 Districts)



[Motorcycle HONDA XL125] Community Development Officers (CDO) are required to go to field and meet communities for planning meetings, consultations and so on, but they were unable to do so because of lack of means of transport.

The Project provided a total of 32 units of off-road type motorcycles to sub-county CDOs and town council.

- Motorcycles → AMURU (5 units), NWOYA (5 units), KITGUM (10 units) and PADER (12 units)

Each District Local Government has signed an agreement with the Project on this equipment support and promised to take full responsibility to maintain and utilise them.

The Project will continue to support District Local Governments to utilise these equipment so that the public get maximum benefit.



<SELECTION CRITERIA, INVENTORY SHEET AND MONITORING FOR BETTER PLANNING PROCESS>

One of major targets of JICA Acholi CAP is strengthening capacity of local governments in development planning especially related to (a) data management through inventory sheets, (b) selection of projects based on standard criteria, (c) feedback of the result and reasons of the selection to lower local governments and communities and (d) monitoring by local governments on development activities. Prior to the planning process for fiscal year 2014/2015, Amuru, Nwoya, Pader and Kitgum district local governments and JICA Acholi CAP started to accelerate discussion and necessary steps involving staffs of pilot sub-counties which completed creation of inventory sheets.

■ Inventory sheet and standard criteria for selection of projects.



As concrete steps, the four Pilot District local governments conducted one day training of standard criteria for project selection in each

district head quarter together with JICA Acholi CAP in the second and third weeks of August 2013.



Participants were members of Sub-County Technical Planning Committee (STPC), consisting of Sub-county Chief, Community Development Officer,

Assistant Community Development Officer, Parish Chiefs, Health Assistant, Centre / Zonal head teacher and In charge of Health Centre from two pilot sub-counties of each district.

The training was to train members of STPC so that they can select projects based on the criteria. This was facilitated by District Planner, District Community Development Officer (DCDO) of each district and also by Field Coordinator of JICA-Acholi CAP.

Pilot sub-counties which sent participants to the



training were Acholibur and Ogom (Pader), Omiya Anyima and Orom (Kitgum), Amuru and Pabbo (Amuru), Alero and Koch Goma (Nwoya). Those eight sub-counties have already created inventory sheets as record of basic facilities for primary schools, health centres, boreholes and roads to utilize the mechanism.



In each district, the training started with general explanation of the mechanism by either District Planner or DCDO followed by group exercises to practice the mechanism to decide the

most prioritized project. Group exercises were very effective to deepen the understanding of participants, especially, some S/C Chiefs and CDOs enthusiastically explained how to use the mechanism to their colleagues by themselves.



Two words were often used during the trainings, which were “evidence” and “accountable”. Selection process requires logical thinking but it should not be just based on individual opinions but based on evidence from the ground. When the selection is done based on evidence against standard criteria, the result of the selection will be accountable, so members of STPC can explain the reason of the selection to anybody by using the evidence against the criteria.



The standard criteria has been developed by District Planners and DCDO through discussion and some workshops with JICA Acholi CAP. There are seven criteria such as consistency with district

and sub-county development plan, fulfilment of national service standard, size of beneficiaries, additional impact, potential risk, and so on.



The most recent workshop was held on the 15th of July 2013 at JICA Acholi CAP office to discuss the standard criteria and mechanism to put into practice and it was attended by 3 District Planners, 1 Senior Planner and 4 DCDOs from the 4 pilot districts.

■ Monitoring on development activities including planning process.

During the workshop on the 15th of July 2013, another topic was also discussed, which was “monitoring”. Short term expert, Dr. Keiko Watanabe led discussion on current practices and issues on monitoring and introduced basic tools to record progress of planning and also the implementation stage.



As a result of the discussion, participants agreed to utilize “check list on planning process on development planning at sub-counties as well as district levels. This monitoring action is considered very important to obtain lessons learnt from the pilot sub-counties, so that the mechanism of selection of projects based on standard criteria can be revised later and also tried out in other sub-counties in the next planning process.

In the meantime regarding implementation stage, participants came to notice that they need to identify key indicators to see not only the progress of implementation but also the progress of outcome of the project. Therefore, they agreed to start list up of the key indicators for major sectors such as water and sanitation, health, education, production, roads and community services.

After the workshop, Dr. Watanabe revised the check list of monitoring based on inputs from the district planners and district community

development officers and visited each district.



This time, not only receiving explanation from Dr. Watanabe, but also district planners and district community development officers

explained by themselves how to utilize those tools to pilot sub-county chiefs and community development officers, so that they would start using the check list from this coming planning process.

Dr. Watanabe left the country at the end of July and she will come back at the end of October 2013. District planners and DCDOs agreed to start using the check list of planning process and also creation of key indicators for result-based monitoring.



Staff Introduction

Name: Mwaka Michael

Position:

Field Coordinator



Q: What is most interesting working as a field coordinator in Acholi CAP?

A: My capacity has greatly developed as a result of working with key district officials particularly District Planners and District Community Development Officers in areas of development planning process, community development practice/approaches, monitoring of development planning process.

Q: Some good Practices that you would like to share with your readers?

A: Objectivity, multi-tasking, equal treatment of employees at work place and above all, good time management.

Q: Any special message to your readers?

A: The communities in Acholi sub region should discover their potentials and use it to cause sustainable development.