

ACHOLI CAP NEWSLETTER



Vol.12: Issued on 1st November 2015



Terminating the Project

After 4 years of its operation, ACAP project terminates its activities in November 2015. In the last 4 years, the Project tried to support Local Governments in Acholi Sub-Region to strengthen their capacities in planning and implementing community development projects. As End-line survey that we conducted recently shows, community people realize that performance of Local Governments has improved in the last 4 years. This is also confirmed with our observation at District Headquarters or Sub-county Offices. When we visited them 4 years ago, not many officers were in those offices. Today, Local Government Officers are visible both at their offices and also in communities compared to 4 years ago. The question here is how far the Project has contributed to strengthening capacity of Local Governments in Acholi Sub-Region.

The Project focused on planning and implementation of community development projects. After the armed conflict had ended, various needs arose in communities. As IDPs went back to their own communities, those needs became huge and Local Governments could not respond to all the needs. Prioritization of needs is indispensable with clear/transparent method and outcomes that should be informed back to communities. The Project tried to introduce some formats to be used by Sub-county/Town Council Officers for effective and transparent selection of community needs. Also, through introducing pilot projects, we tried to support Local Governments to strengthen their capacity to implement community development projects, focusing on community infrastructure (borehole drilling and formation/training of Water Users Committee in communities) and livelihood im-

We believe that communities in Acholi Sub-Region have capacity to develop on their own, if peace is sustained. We sincerely hope that Local Governments will continuously make efforts to strengthen their capacities in order to deliver effective services to communities and lead communities for socio-economic betterment. Although the Project is terminating, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Government of Uganda, represented by the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) has a plan for launching the 2nd Phase of ACAP project in Acholi and West Nile Sub-Regions in year 2016.

Abbreviations

HQ– Head Quarters
JICA– Japan International Cooperation Agency
CAOs– Chief Administrative Officers
DCDOs– District Community Development Officers
CDOs– Community Development Officers
S/C– Sub County
CDD– Community Driven Development
VSLA– Village Savings and Loan Association
MoU– Memorandum of Understanding
LLGs– Lower Local Governments

Mission for the Detailed Planning Survey for ACAP Phase 2

Mission for the Detailed Planning Survey for ACAP Phase 2 was conducted from 12th October to 21st October 2015 by Ms. Komukai Eri and Ms. Kimura Misaki from JICA HQ. Acholi Sub-Region Stakeholder Workshop was held in Gulu on 14th October and West Nile Sub-Region Stakeholder Workshop was held in Arua on 16th October. CAOs, District Planners and DCDOs from each District attended on workshop and discussed eagerly about Phase 2. ACAP Phase 2 is scheduled to start next year in May.



Group presentation at workshop in Gulu



Group discussion at workshop in Arua

Training Course in Japan

Following the training on the same topic organized in 2014, a training named "The Project for Capacity Development in Planning and Implementation of

Community Development in Acholi Sub-Region" was conducted in Japan from July 12 to August 1, 2015 in Japan, and 8 Ugandan government staff participated. Report meeting for training was held on 3rd September at Acholi CAP office. All ex-trainees showed their motivation to utilize experience obtained during training course for their own work.

Support for the improvement of working environment

Acholi CAP project provided S/C CDOs of Gulu District with 12 motorcycles to improve the work environment of district and S/C offices. The handover of the equipment was completed on 9th September 2015.



Lecture by Senior Advisor (Ms. Komukai Eri) in JICA Tokyo



Handover ceremony



LC 5 chairman is making a speech at ceremony

Roll out of the Planning tools to the three districts.

The LLGs started utilizing the planning tools such as Feedback sheets, Inventory Sheets, Village Proposal Sheets, Parish Priority Sheets, Basic Information Sheets and Scoring Sheets.

During the last few months, the project staff together with the staff of the district planning unit made follow up visits to some of the LLGs and confirmed the utilization of the planning tools.

Workshop for Developing planning and the planning Tools for the district Planners.

On the 15th October 2015, the district planners from the districts in Acholi sub region participated in the workshop at the project office.

During the workshop, the district Planners amongst other issues shared their current progress of the planning process, lessons learnt in the last planning cycle and how to improve the planning process and its management.



Photo of District Planners

Livelihood Improvement

Pilot projects were implemented in the districts of Amuru, Nwoya, Kitgum and Pader from April 2015. Two Sub Counties per District were selected to pilot the project and each Sub County piloted 2 projects in total 16 projects were piloted [15 animal tractions and 1 heifer]. Groups received their oxen and ox-ploughs from June to September 2015.

Pilot Project Review workshop report

After the implementation of the pilot projects, the project conducted a review workshop on 1/10/2015 during which the participants shared their experiences and lesson learnt as stated below:

- After assessment there is need to examine the group further to establish their readiness to handle the project.
- Group members are cooperative and united as seen from the participation in group meetings and group activities like training of the oxen



Review workshop on livelihood improvement in Bomah Hotel, Gulu

- Groups appreciate the joint procurement method and are satisfied with the animals and this has reduced blame on the Sub County CDOs that they buy low quality items.



Training oxen in Koch Goma

- CDD pilot project supported by the project is doing better than government funded CDD because of good preparation and frequent visit. Districts have limited facilitation to CDOs in term of fuel for frequent visit.
- Construction of animals shed is a good practice and other communities should be encouraged to pick it up.



Animal shed–Wang Cayo Women Group in Koch Goma

- VSLA should be encouraged to all groups
- CDD tracking form has helped the Sub County to learn the status of the project and satisfaction level of the community as well as the performance of the group.

- Land agreement had not been in practice or emphasized so much but now through the project it has been enforced and is working very well enabling groups' members to keep the group active.
- Development of work by group is a good practice which should be encouraged and replicated in other projects.
- Communities that succeed in their project are those in viable activities like VSLA.
- Community has resources and can use it well when guided.



Group members of Otam pi Anyim in Purongo re-straining the ox during treatment

Updates

- In total 90 oxen, 8 heifers, 45 ox-ploughs, 15 sprayers were provided for 16 groups through the pilot projects.
- 3 groups have trained their oxen fully and using it for cultivation.
- 14 groups still training the oxen and hope to start using them for cultivation in the first rainy season 2016.

Website (in English):

<http://www.molg.go.ug/projects/achca>

JICA website (in Japanese):

<http://www.jica.go.jp/project/uganda/001>