



WACAP NEWSLETTER

Vo.2: November 2017 Issue

**The Project for Capacity Development of Local Government for Strengthening
Community Resilience in Acholi and West Nile Sub-Regions (WACAP)**

1. Greeting from Chief Advisor

Greetings from Arua and Gulu!

It has been already over four months since I touched down in Uganda at the end of July to replace my predecessor Dr. Kubo. I am Atsushi Hanatani (preferred to be called "Hana" to avoid your tongue twisting), and am



honored to be given this opportunity to serve as the second Chief Advisor of this WACAP project jointly implemented by the Ministry of Local Government and JICA.

By way of introduction, I was born in 1959 in a rural town of Western Japan, which is called Izumo-no-kuni, an ancient kingdom ruled by founding deity of Japan according to the Japanese myths. I have served as a JICA official for the past 28 years and have enjoyed overseas assignments in Liberia, Kenya, Tanzania and South Sudan before coming to Uganda. I am married with three children, who, together with my wife, remain in Japan as they have their own things to do!

I am a student of Common Pool Resource Management and Development Policy in Africa. I think I am aware how collective action for common good and trust among people is difficult to develop not only in Africa but in human society in general. But this project of WACAP is an attempt to help nurture and strengthen such human action and attitude



in a highly fragmented society impacted by long conflict and large influx of refugees. This is already a hugely challenging task that our input through WACAP alone cannot do much about, but I am very much optimistic and determined that we can work together to make a little step forward towards achieving a more united and cohesive society in the regions of Acholi and West Nile. Looking forward to seeing you soon in the field!

(Atsushi HANATANI, Chief Advisor)

2. WACAP Project Profile

【Implementation of the Project】

- **Project Areas:**
Acholi and West Nile Sub-Regions (17 Districts)
- **Implementing Agencies:**
Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) and
All DLGs in Acholi and West Nile Sub-Regions
- **Project Period:**
June 2016 to June 2020 (4 years)
- **Target Group:**
People in Acholi and West Nile Sub-Regions
- **Project Office:**
Arua and Gulu

【Outline of the Project】

- **Project Purpose:**
To strengthen the capacity of local governments for planning and implementation for inclusive and accountable community development in Acholi and West Nile Sub-Regions.
- **Project Outputs:**
 - (1) Utilization of planning tools is promoted in all districts in West Nile Sub-Region.
 - (2) Utilization of planning tools is sustained in all districts in Acholi Sub-Region.
 - (3) Community development activities aiming at social cohesion and inclusion are implemented in Acholi and West Nile Sub-Regions.



3. Strengthening LG Planning (Output 1&2)

Our first edition of WA-CAP Newsletter talked about the Planning Tools, which have been inducted and utilized by Local Governments (LG) since 2014/2015 in Acholi sub-region and more recently since the current financial year in West Nile sub-region. In this edition, we would like to update our readers on how WA-CAP member districts in both sub-regions are proceeding in the midst of LG annual planning and budgeting cycle.

Planning Tool Utilization Embarked in West Nile

West Nile District Planners are excited about the tools adopted by their sub-counties (S/Cs) for the first time in the actual planning process. Kato Alfred, Maracha Planner, is one such example moving around with his motorbike from one S/C to another to guide his LLGs about the tools. Monitoring Check List (to monitor annual planning activities) and other prints (to sensitize annual bottom-up planning cycle), for example, are well displayed in Maracha S/C offices.



For inventory to collect data on public facilities, follow-ups for quality assurance and back-support for LLGs were initiated and materialized by the two enthusiastic planners of Bada Fred and Edward of Koboko District.

During the recent planning process, another strong team work was also demonstrated by Moyo District Planning Unit in guiding LLGs. Two Georges, both planners, supervised LLGs to ensure effective utilization of the planning tools and the outputs for LLG planning & budgeting for FY 2018/19.

Openjuru Godwin, and Humphrey of Zombo District Planning Unit also



closely monitored and provided technical buck-support to LLGs for planning activities and their tool utilization. These are among the notable engagements underway as part of WA-CAP implementation in this year's LG planning and budgeting cycle. The experiences emerging so far from West Nile are very encouraging. One important lesson learned already is that district's follow-up and technical guidance is a vital element for LLGs' effective planning tool utilization in the planning process.

District Initiatives in Acholi Sub-Region

Districts in Acholi sub-region are equally busy engaging in planning and budgeting for FY 2018/19. Earlier in September 2017, WA-CAP organized a forum for District Planners from Acholi sub-region to gather and share how things were



proceeding with LG planning in their respective districts. Planners frankly discussed key issues and exchanged ideas to sustain the planning tool utilization in their sub-region. Among the noteworthy actions decided by the planners themselves was to form an association of planners of Acholi sub-region. The association, once well established, is expected to facilitate more interactions and cooperation among the planners across districts and municipalities to achieve their common goals as regard to LG planning and budgeting.



Among the initiatives taken by Acholi sub-regional districts is orientation training organized by Nwoya District Planning Unit of Opira Francis and Godfrey. Since Nwoya District recruited a notable number of LLG personnel this financial year, Planning Unit trained both new and

existing LLG technical staff about annual planning & budgeting cycle as well as the planning tools.

To refresh LLGs about the annual planning cycle and the tools, similar initiatives were also taken by the team of planners, David Omal



Livingstone and Ceaser Komakech, of Gulu District. In addition to refresher, Gulu LLGs were well guided by DPU to allocate FY 2018/19 budget for planning activities. Meanwhile, Kitgum District Planner, Kilama Christopher, enthusiastically distributed the updated monitoring and sensitization tools to a wide range of stakeholders, including political leaders. Our sole female (!) Senior Planner, Ochan Stella, of Omoro District is making extra efforts in strengthening DPU supervision over LLGs' planning activities. There is an encouraging case from Amulu District where one S/C Chief prioritized planning and facilitated necessary planning activities by using local revenue due to delayed Q1 budget release. From Acholi sub-region as well, significant lessons are emerging. To sustain tool utilization by LLGs still requires close attention and technical supervision from districts. Equally important is that planning process requirements must be budgeted and committed by every LLG so as to be accountable for their resource allocation.

(Satomi KAMEI, Planning Expert)

FOCUS ON DISTRICT PLANNERS:

Ceaser Komakech, Gulu Population Officer

David Omal Livingstone, Gulu Senior Planner

Ceaser Komakech was born and grew up in Gulu, more precisely in a small village called Unyama. His family lived in a communal house with his extended family and many children including Ceaser's own siblings. At a young age, he sadly lost both of his parents. As a result, his uncle took care of young Ceaser then onward. He described himself as a playful child who liked to make cars out of fibers extracted from sorghum (Ceaser must have been a very creative boy as well!).



As growing up, Ceaser wanted to become an engineer. But when at secondary school, he began to wish to be a teacher just like his own father. Math and science were his favorite subjects at school. Despite his desire, he had to stop schooling at Senior 4. This shattered many things he was envisioning as a youth. Interestingly, though, this particular year turned to be the last year when Senior 4 leavers were still recruited by the Police. Ceaser successfully got his first job and served as a police officer for 8 years, which he remembers as enjoyable.

In 2011 Ceaser enrolled at Gulu University for development studies. At the same time, he left the police service and started his new job with Gulu Municipal Council as office attendant. 3 years later he was already promoted to Town Agent and served the post for 2 years. By the time of graduation from the university, his passion in career was moving more towards what he is engaging in today. January 2016, Ceaser officially joined Gulu District Local Government. About his district work, "Experiences I have been gaining here are quite exiting and my exposure to actual district operation is just amazing!" remarked Ceaser..

Inquired what he likes about Gulu, Ceaser does not hesitate to point that Gulu has provided him with various opportunities to enable him to have achieved where he is today. He implies that Gulu has made him who he is and said, "I cannot leave Gulu for other districts!"

Lastly, he shared his vision around LG planning. As far as planning is concerned, he is envisioning to make the planning department be where all data will be available needed for District to perform effectively. He did not forget pointing out, "How is the question and a big challenge, of course." He continued to touch upon some specific challenges such as data storage, documentation, filing, and the like that need to be tackled. "There is still much to do to realize



David Omal Livingstone shares a similar passion for Acholi sub-region. David was born and grew up in Amuru until age 11. Due to the war, however, his family had to move to Kampala where he completed his secondary and university education. David started his career in teaching when he was still at university and continued teaching at different school levels for some years. Then, he transitioned his career into working with a NGO, OPM, and the private sector.

Finally in 2017, David joined Gulu District Local Government as Senior Planner. "Back then [at university] we were all trained to be district planners!" responded David with a big smile when inquired whether he wished to work at LG. His attachment and passion for his native region is also obvious; "All my work has been engaged in here in Acholi because I want to bring about changes to this region!" David's wife works in Kampala while their children are schooling there as well. Despite this hardship, David enthusiastically addresses the need to revitalize agriculture in Acholi sub-region so that economic improvement can enforce children's schooling and the quality of education provided locally. "Education is the foundation for local development after all!"

(Interviewed by Satomi KAMEI)



Ceaser & David

This article intended to introduce Gulu District Planning Unit, which is composed of David and Ceaser featured in this article. Following David's joining Gulu DPU last year, they are teaming up nicely in guiding district departments and LLGs for more effective LG planning. Positive changes are anticipated to be generated from this enthusiastic team of Gulu District! Keep up with your good work, David and Ceaser!!



4. Livelihood Improvement (Output 3)

Workshop at Gulu, Acholi Sub-Region

On 4th October 2017, WACAP held a workshop in Gulu, Acholi Sub-region. The purpose of the workshop is to develop the draft of Operational Manual for Livelihood Improvement Support Programme under DDEG, which is expected to be a supplementary document of Uganda Government's 'Discretionary Development Equalisation Grant (DDEG) 2018/19 Grant Budget and Implementation Guidelines'. DCDO's from 15 districts in Acholi and West Nile Sub-regions participated the workshop.

The review of the Manual by WACAP and its counterpart DCDOs was a request from the Office of Prime Minister (OPM) after the DDEG implementation Guidelines was found to be inadequate for the people in the communities and LLGs to use. At the end of the workshop, Chief Advisor Dr. Hanatani thanked the participants for their technical input and acknowledged that their contribution has quickened the presentation of the document based on good practices and lessons learnt in the field. A series of discussions with DCDOs and OPM to finalize the document is going to continue so as to have the Manual officialized for the fiscal year 2018/2019.



Pilot Project for the Livelihood Improvement

Output 3 of the WACAP is to support the local government, particularly Sub-County, for the capacity enhancement in implementing community driven development activities. In the first year of the project, WACAP carried out 36 pilot projects in Acholi Sub-Regions. Furthermore, in the second year, WACAP will carry out pilot projects in West Nile Sub-Regions.

【OJT1: Group Assessment】

The CDOs assess groups who apply for the pilot projects. Assessment includes such items as the feasibility of the pilot project.



【OJT2: Action Plan Making】

The CDOs organize three meetings with group to make action plan and rules for the pilot project. Through the meeting the group can build their consensus.

【OJT3: Monitoring】

CDOs and WACAP follow up the group to monitor how the group is working for the improvement of their livelihood.

(Fumiko SAKON, OJT Trainee)

5. Supports for the Improvement of Work Environment

WACAP project also supports improvement of work environment of district and sub-county offices. From September to October 2017, solar power systems for 11 sub-counties in 6 districts, and motorbikes for 26 sub-counties in 4 districts (Maracha, Koboko, Nebbi, Pakwach) were delivered to the respective district.

【CA's visit to Koboko district】

Dr. Hanatani visited Dranya sub-county and Abuku sub-county, both Koboko District, to check the condition of the provided power equipment.

In Dranya sub-county 100% of electric power is covered from their solar panels. The provided solar system has enabled computer work for the sub-county officers.



(Left) An Inverter and solar batteries in a battery rack in Dranya S/C



(Right) Putting JICA sticker on an inverter in Abuku S/C



【Motorbikes to Maracha, Koboko, Nebbi, and Pakwach district】

Motorbikes were provided to 26 CDOs in Maracha, Koboko, Nebbi, and Pakwach districts. The provided motorbikes will enable them to improve their mobility to the field.

(Fumiko SAKON, OJT Trainee)

6. Introduction of Our Project Staff

1) Name and position in WACAP project.

My name is Satomi KAMEI. Satomi is my given name while KAMEI is my family name. I am a technical advisor in charge of Output 1 & 2 concerning LG planning.



2) Your specialty?

Academically, I have obtained higher education degrees in Development Studies, Environmental Geography, and International Education. Professionally, though, I have extensive experiences and insights related to development policies and sector management (including planning). In private life, my specialty is to enjoy food, especially pasta and vegetables (no fish/meat for me, please!), wine, coffee, music, art, and traveling.

3) What was your assignment before coming to Uganda?

My immediate previous posting was with JICA Rwanda as Education Program Advisor. The tasks mostly involved supervision and advisory on education programs (JICA supporting technical cooperation projects) funded by the Government of Japan, development of new programs in education sector as well as participation in aid coordination with other development partners in the sector.

4) What is your first impression about Uganda?

I came to Uganda for the first time about 20 years ago. Back then, I



The Republic of Uganda
Ministry of Local Government



had an impression that Ugandan people are very diligent despite the terrible hardships the country was going through at that time.

5) What has been your best moment in WACAP project?

I had the best moment so far when my Ugandan district colleagues warmly welcomed me to West Nile Planners Association while indicating that they look forward to working together with me as their Planning Advisor.

6) Anything special for the readers?

Something very special about WA-CAP is that we are always putting our Ugandan counterparts in the center of this project implementation. WA-CAP is their program, not ours, which requires their own thinking, dialogues, practical initiatives, local stakeholder participation, leadership, and ownership for generating fruits on the ground. Those fruits, once cultivated successfully, should entice local development stakeholders and strengthen their confidence with the country systems in a long term.



7. Report from Trainee



From 1st to 13th October 2017, I participated in WACAP project for on the job training from JICA headquarters. This is my first time to visit Northern part of Uganda. In my term of training, I visit Arua, Yumbe, Adjumani and Gulu. WACAP project has activities in two areas with different characteristics from the Acholi and West Nile Sub-Regions. Before I came here I heard that the response is different even if we take a same approach. Actually, at the workshop (held on 4th October at Gulu) that DCDO's from Acholi and West Nile Sub-Regions participated, I can easily find that which area they are from even it was my first time. WACAP is the same project, but I felt we have to change the approach for each area. I thought that this is the interesting point of technical cooperation project and at the same time it is a hardship point.

And also I learned the difficulty of activities in the area where the form of support has move from humanitarian aid to development aid. Upon transition from emergency aid and humanitarian aid to development support, it is not easy to change the mentality of people who received things in free. I need to think about "How do we get them to make understood." From now on.

After I back to headquarter, I will be engaged in work that not related to WACAP (I will engage in Secretariat of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers), but I would like to look at the trends.

Thank you very very much for your support for these two weeks! I can learn and felt a lot of. I will take time to organize what I learn and felt at my stay in Northern Uganda. Thank you again.

(Fumiko SAKON, OJT Trainee)



8. What's New?

JICA President Visit

President of JICA Mr. Kitaoka visited Uganda from August 23rd to 26th. And he visited Agjumani District and meet with Mawejje Andrew, Chief Administrative Officer on August 24th. CAO explained the outline of Agjumani District, the status of refugee acceptance, and the outcome of WACAP project. It was able to cultivate deepen understanding of the actual situation of refugee-accepting areas and the activities of WACAP project.

Personnel Transfers

2017. Jul Dr. Kubo, Chief Advisor leaves.

2017. Jul Dr. Hanatani, Chief Advisor arrived.

2017. Sep Mr. Katsumata, Project Coordinator leaves.

2017. Sep Ms. Kimura, Project Coordinator arrived.

New District in West Nile

Pakwach district is newly established from Nebbi district in July. As a result the West Nile Sub-Region became a 9 district.

9. WACAP Project Office

1.WACAP Project Office in Arua

Plot 17, Odaa Road, Arua

P.O. Box 484, Arua

Contact: +256-393216293

※WACAP Project Office in Arua has been relocated as of November 1, 2017!

2.WACAP Project Office in Gulu

Gulu District Local Government Production/Agriculture Department

Plio 6, Princes Road, Gulu

P.O. Box 817, Gulu

Contact: +256-393275358