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MBARARA MUNICIPALITY URBAN PROFILE



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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

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FOREWORD



According to research published in UN-Habitat's flagship report, *The State of the World's Cities 2010-2011*, all developing regions, including the African, Caribbean and Pacific states, will have more people living in urban than rural areas by the year 2030. With half the world's

population already living in urban areas, the challenges we face in the battle against urban poverty, our quest for cities without slums, for cities where women feel safer, for inclusive cities with power, water and sanitation, and affordable transport, for better planned cities, and for cleaner, greener cities is daunting.

But as this series shows, there are many interesting solutions and best practices to which we can turn. After all, the figures tell us that during the decade 2000 to 2010, a total of 227 million people in the developing countries moved out of slum conditions. In other words, governments, cities and partner institutions have collectively exceeded the slum target of the Millennium Development Goals twice over and ten years ahead of the agreed 2020 deadline.

Asia and the Pacific stood at the forefront of successful efforts to reach the slum target, with all governments in the region improving the lives of an estimated 172 million slum dwellers between 2000 and 2010.

In sub-Saharan Africa though, the total proportion of the urban population living in slums has decreased by only 5 per cent (or 17 million people). Ghana, Senegal, Uganda, and Rwanda were the most successful countries in the sub-region, reducing the proportions of slum dwellers by over one-fifth in the last decade.

Some 13 per cent of the progress made towards the global slum target occurred in Latin America and the Caribbean, where an estimated 30 million people have moved out of slum conditions since the year 2000.

Yet, UN-Habitat estimates confirm that the progress made on the slum target has not been sufficient to counter the demographic expansion in informal settlements in the developing world. In this sense, efforts to reduce the numbers of slum dwellers are neither satisfactory nor adequate.

As part of our drive to address this crisis, UN-Habitat is working with the European Commission and the Brussels-based Secretariat of the African, Caribbean

and Pacific (ACP) Group to support sustainable urban development. Given the urgent and diverse needs, we found it necessary to develop a tool for rapid assessment and strategic planning to guide immediate, mid and long-term interventions. And here we have it in the form of this series of publications.

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme is based on the policy dialogue between UN-Habitat, the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission which dates back to the year 2002. When the three parties met at UN-Habitat headquarters in June 2009, more than 200 delegates from over 50 countries approved a resounding call on the international community to pay greater attention to these urbanization matters, and to extend the slum upgrading programme to all countries in the ACP Group.

It is worth recalling here how grateful we are that the European Commission's 9th European Development Fund for ACP countries provided EUR 4 million (USD 5.7 million at June 2011 rates) to enable UN-Habitat to conduct the programme which now serves 59 cities in 23 African countries, and more than 20 cities in six Pacific, and four Caribbean countries.

Indeed, since its inception in 2008, the slum upgrading programme has achieved the confidence of partners at city and country level in Africa, the Caribbean and in the Pacific. It is making a major contribution aimed at helping in urban poverty reduction efforts, as each report in this series shows."

I wish to express my gratitude to the European Commission and the ACP Secretariat for their commitment to this slum upgrading programme. I have every confidence that the results outlined in this profile, and others, will serve to guide the development of responses for capacity building and investments in the urban sector.

Further, I would like to thank each Country Team for their continued support to this process which is essential for the successful implementation of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joan Clos'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Joan Clos

Executive Director, UN-HABITAT



With the annual urban growth rate in Uganda standing at 5.2 percent, the urban population is projected to increase to 50 percent by 2050. There is urgent need to prioritize the urban development agenda in the country. The high rate of urbanization is attributed to the high natural

population increase, increasing rural-urban migration and the creation of new districts whose headquarters automatically become urban areas.

Mbarara Municipality is strategically located as a major economic hub along the highway to Rwanda. It is the most prosperous business centre in the region, attracting many people to the Municipality in the search for better livelihood opportunities. The increase in population has led to the mushrooming of slums such as Biafra, Kizungu, Kasanyarazi, and Lubiiri.

The town faces various challenges such as air pollution, growth of informal settlements, poor provision of basic urban services, uncollected solid waste, poor waste disposal, and pollution of water sources. These factors result in premature death, disease and associated economic burdens disproportionately affecting the poor and the vulnerable.

It's against such a background that the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development in partnership with UN-Habitat, the lead agency for implementing the MDG 7, Target 10 (reducing the number of people without access to safe drinking water), and target 11 (achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020), carried out an urban sector profiling study in Mbarara Municipality among other towns as the first phase of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Program.

This study covered the following nine critical thematic areas: Disaster Risk, Safety, Environment and Climate Change, Governance, Slums and Shelter, Land, Basic Urban Services (BUS), Local Economic Development (LED), and Gender and HIV/AIDS. These issues formed the basis of the Mbarara Urban Profile.

The urban profiling study sought to help Mbarara Municipality formulate urban reduction policies through a participatory, holistic and action oriented assessment of needs. It also aimed at enhancing dialogue and awareness of opportunities and challenges for purposes

of identifying response mechanisms as a contribution to implementing the Millenium Development Goals.

The Mbarara Urban Profile was undertaken with the participation of both national and local authorities within Mbarara Municipality. The findings were basically hinged on the various desk- studies and interviews with key urban actors and stakeholders.

I would like to acknowledge the support of the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, UN-Habitat, the European Commission, the ACP (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific) Secretariat, Makerere University, and all the stakeholders who made everything possible to ensure that this whole process was successful.

I wish to encourage all stakeholders to fully support the implementation of the priority projects identified. I look forward to the second phase of this process which will translate the plan into reality. On behalf of the Mbarara Municipal Council, I pledge my commitment and support for the implementation of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme in Mbarara.

For God and my Country

Wilson Tumwine

Mayor

Mbarara-Municipality

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Program (PSUP) is an assessment of needs and capacity building gaps at City, Municipality and Council levels. It is currently being implemented in 20 countries in Africa. The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme uses a structured approach where priority interventions are agreed upon through consultative processes.

PARTICIPATORY SLUM UPGRADING PROGRAMME METHODOLOGY

The methodology consists of three phases;

Phase One; consists of participatory urban profiling of urban conditions of the three medium towns of Mbale, Mbarara and Kitgum which are studied to provide a representative sample of other such towns in the country.

Phase Two; builds on priorities identified through the workshops and develops detailed capacity building and investment projects.

Phase Three; implements the projects developed during the earlier phases with an emphasis on priority areas which have been chosen.

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme focuses on nine thematic areas; Disaster Risk, Safety, Environment and Climate Change, Governance, Slums and Shelter, Land, Basic Urban Services (BUS), Local Economic Development (LED), and Gender and HIV/AIDS.

BACKGROUND

The Municipality of Mbarara is believed to have picked its name from a tall grass locally known as Emburara (*Hyperemia ruffa*) that covered the whole area. Its real commercial growth began with the appearance of the Asian trader and by 1950, there were about 15 commercial premises. More commercial enterprises were set up in 1950 and 1960. In 1957, it was declared a township authority under the British Administration at Kamukuzi, and elevated to Municipality Status in 1974.

LOCATION

Mbarara Municipality is 266 Kilometres (Mbarara Municipality Three Year Rolling Development Plan, 2019/10-2011/12) from Kampala city on Kampala-Kabale road and is in the south-western region of Uganda. Its exact location can be geographically determined as longitude 300371 East and latitude 00361 South. The Municipality houses the political and administrative headquarters of the Mbarara District.

ECONOMY

The economy of Mbarara Municipality is predominantly based on businesses, social services sector, informal sector activities, trade, and industry. Mbarara is the biggest town in the western part of Uganda and the second transit town between Rwanda and Uganda. Majority of people derive their livelihood from employment income (54.3 percent), business industry (26 percent), farming (7.1 percent), property (1.6 percent) and other incomes (10.9 percent). ((Mbarara Municipality Three Year Rolling Development Plan, 2019/10-2011/12).

ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

The Municipality comprises of three Division Councils, six Wards and 52 Cells. The Division Councils that make up the Municipality of Mbarara include; Nyamitanga, Kakoba and Kamukuzi. Mbarara Municipal Council boundary encloses a total land area of about 51.47 square kilometres.

TOPOGRAPHY

The Municipality is built on hilly areas separated by short, small and shallow valleys. It lies on an elevated basin forming part of the East Africa Rift Valley.

ALTITUDE

The Municipality generally lies at an average altitude of 1,432 meters above sea level.

CLIMATE

The Municipality experiences two rainy seasons which are separated by two dry seasons in a year, while the average annual temperature is 25°C. The average annual rainfall is 1,125 millimetres. (Mbarara Municipality Three Year Rolling Development Plan, 2010/11-2012/13)

DEMOGRAPHY AND HUMAN SETTLEMENT

In terms of human settlement, the Municipality is fairly densely built with low and medium income houses dominating, followed by commercial premises especially in the Central Business District (CBD) and then high-income housing. A series of industries have sprung up and contributed to the growth of informal settlements. Just like other developing towns in the Country, the Municipality is experiencing a rapid growth of informal settlements.

WATER

There is sufficient and reliable water supply by the National Water and Sewerage Corporation that is serving the majority of the population. Other sources of water include; streams, rivers, boreholes, and shallow wells in some homes. Vending of water by private individuals is also a common practice in the Municipality.

EMPLOYMENT

Commerce, trade, industry and public service are major sources of employment in Mbarara. However, majority of the residents are engaged in informal sector activities among which are petty trading activities like food vending, hawking and operating small retail shops within their houses while others depend on manual work for their survival. Quite a number of women often stay at home when men go out to look for food to sustain their families.

HEALTH SERVICES

According to the Mbarara Municipality Three Year Rolling Development Plan, 2019/10-2011/12, the Municipality of Mbarara has eight Government health units and four non-governmental run health units. There are 25 privately owned clinics, seven pharmacies and 30 drug shops which provide Medical Care. There is one National Referral Hospital, and one private hospital which belongs to the Anglican Church.

EDUCATION

The primary school enrolment rate in Mbarara is still low. There is a high rate of harassment of pupils in schools, especially of the girl child. Boys are still given a higher priority over girls when it comes to enrolment in schools and therefore have a higher chance of being educated than girls.

GOVERNANCE

The provisional Municipal Government has largely kept the administrative structure. It has the political and technical government structures. The Municipality has three divisions which are Kakoba, Kamukuzi and Nyamitanga, six Wards and 52 Cells. The administrative structure comprises of the technical and political structures as provided by the Local Government Act of 1997. Division Councils are governed by the Senior Assistant Town Clerks together with other governing committees. These are mandated to administer matters in their jurisdiction and provide support to the Municipal Council. However, the Division Councils are still away from full decentralization of power and they still rely on the Municipal Council for much of the services like personnel.

The ward Villages and Wards are not mandated to implement their plans, rather they are supposed to submit it to the Divisions and Municipality, to collect local taxes but not use them and prepare budget, but not approve it. This delays service delivery and general development.

DISASTER RISK

Between 2000 and 2005, approximately 65.7 percent of households countrywide experienced at least one type of disaster (UNHS 2005/2006). The Municipality of Mbarara has been exposed to disasters related to fire outbreaks, drought, transport accidents, epidemic outbreaks, and climate related disasters that have cost the Municipal Council and Relief Agencies a lot of funds. Droughts have in particular affected ground water tables and farmers.

SAFETY

Mbarara Municipality is experiencing typical urban safety related problems due to factors such as population explosion, high unemployment, and

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