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KITGUM URBAN PROFILE



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UN-Habitat Regional and Information Offices or directly from:

P.O. Box 30030, GPO 00100 Nairobi, Kenya.

Fax: + (254 20) 762 4266/7

E-mail: unhabitat@unhabitat.org

Website: <http://www.unhabitat.org>

This Kitgum report and project was prepared and managed by Hannington Sengendo, Moses Banduga, Julius Obita and Wilson Awuzu, who analyzed the information collected by Richard Busaule, Prisca Auma Imat, and Flavia Zabali for Kitgum Town Council through interviews with key urban actors in Kitgum Town. Further the team was assisted by the following focal persons: Albon Onywaroja, Canwat George, Local Council I Chairman, the community of West Land and those of Kitgum Town Council, and Doudou Mbye, Kerstin Sommer and Florence Kuria in Nairobi.

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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, reading "Joan Clos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Joan Clos

Executive Director, UN-HABITAT



U g a n d a i s experiencing high urban growth rate of 5.2 percent per annum. This is attributed to the high population growth rate, rural to urban migration, gazettement of new urban centers, and expansion of the intermediate growth centers. This high urban growth is not matched by

corresponding increase in the provision of the necessary basic urban services such as affordable housing, roads, clean water, drainage, and sanitation.

UN-Habitat as the lead agency for the implementation of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7, target 10 (reducing by half the number of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water) and target 11 (achieving significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020), is supportive of efforts to improve the living conditions of the slum dwellers.

It is against this background that the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development in partnership with UN-Habitat launched the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme in Kitgum Town Council, starting with an urban sector profiling study to involve all stakeholders in identifying opportunities and challenges and proposing priority programmes for implementation in the second phase, to improve on the conditions of living of the people in the slums.

The urban profiling study is intended to help formulate urban poverty reduction at the local, national and regional levels through participatory, crosscutting, holistic, and action oriented assessment of needs.

The approach addresses nine thematic areas: Disaster Risk, Safety, Environment and Climate Change, Governance, Slums and Shelter, Land, Basic Urban Services, Local Economic Development, and Gender and HIV/AIDS.

I wish to acknowledge the contribution of UN-Habitat, the European Commission and the ACP (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific) Secretariat in funding this project, the Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development for coordinating the activities of the project, Makerere University for their efforts in data collection, analysis and coming up with the complete profile, the other participating Municipalities of Mbale and Mbarara and the technical team from Kitgum Town Council who offered technical support and guidance to the success of the exercise.

I further appeal to all development partners to support the implementation of the priority projects identified in this report in order to realize total transformation of the slums and the conditions for the urban poor in Kitgum.

I pledge my full support to the implementation of the Action Plan agreed upon by the stakeholders in this report.

For God and My Country

Ojara Okwera Richard
Chairman Local Council III
Kitgum Town Council

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) is an assessment of needs and capacity building gaps at City, Municipality and Council levels. It is currently being implemented in 30 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme uses a structured approach where priority interventions are agreed upon through consultative processes. The Programme's methodology consists of three phases;

Phase One; consists of participatory urban profiling of urban conditions in the three medium towns of Mbale, Mbarara and Kitgum which are studied to provide representative samples 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; Urban Risk, Safety, Environment and Climate Change, Governance, Shelter, Land, Basic Urban Services, Local Economic Development, and Gender and HIV/AIDS.

BACKGROUND

Kitgum Town is located in Chua County in Kitgum District. The town has been affected by the long civil war which displaced many people but it is steadily recovering from the war.

Kitgum houses the district headquarters and is the major commercial hub of Kitgum district. The town is experiencing typical urban problems associated with development, such as over population and unemployment, lack of basic urban services and poor waste management.

GOVERNANCE

Kitgum Town Council is governed through a system of decentralization through the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. Through this System, Lower Local Governments were empowered to make key decisions without seeking permission from central government. Kitgum is governed by the Mayor who is part of the Executive Council, and the Speaker as the head of legislation. Four members of the Executive are secretaries of different sectoral committees of the town council, which are Finance and Administration, Social Services, Works, and Gender and Community

Development. There is also the technical staff headed by the Town Clerk.

DISASTER RISKS

Kitgum town is prone to disaster risks due to its high population and dilapidated infrastructure which is mainly as a result of the prolonged civil war. Kitgum is vulnerable to disasters such as floods, droughts and fire outbreaks especially in the slum areas. Kitgum town however lacks the capacity to manage disasters when they occur.

SAFETY

Security in Kitgum is provided by various organs among them the police force, Uganda People Defence Forces (UPDF) and local security agencies. As a growing town, the most common crimes are muggings, robbery with violence, burglary, drug abuse among the unemployed youth, and rape. In Kitgum Town, crime is mainly as a result of poverty.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Serious environmental challenges are being faced in Kitgum. These include poor disposal of waste, poor sanitation, pollution of water sources, deforestation, prolonged famine and drought, and reclamation of swamps/wetlands. The uncontrolled dumping of waste has had a negative impact on the town's environment and human health for it has destroyed the aesthetics and health of the town.

LAND

Kitgum is currently facing land shortages due to the increasing population. Poor land use practices on the existing land is also a major challenge and this has resulted in the degradation of land. The main challenges include haphazard developments on the existing land, over population, land disputes and pollution of land.

BASIC URBAN SERVICES

Residents of Kitgum lack adequate provision of basic urban services. This is due to inadequate financial resources. The major challenges in the town include poor drainage system, lack of solid waste management facilities, inadequate water supply and financial mismanagement of funds meant for the provision of basic urban services.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Kitgum is strategically located which makes it attractive and competitive. The town is steadily recovering from the long civil war and its growth is based on the fact that it is in close proximity to Sudan, thus enabling cross border business. The neighbouring districts of Pader, Lira and Gulu also contribute to Kitgum's steady growth for they provide ready market for agricultural produce. Kitgum is also a link to other countries like Sudan and districts like Lamore, Kotido and Lira.

Kitgum is surrounded by a rich agricultural region which provides the town with food like rice and bananas. The main economic activities in Kitgum include trading, telecommunication services, restaurants, lodges and hotel services, car repairs, food processing industries, and agriculture. In slum areas however, there is still a high level of unemployment, especially among the youth.

URBAN SLUMS AND SHELTER

In Kitgum Town Council, informal settlements are on the increase and are caused by rural-urban migration.

These slum areas are also characterized by absolute poverty, poor housing conditions, inadequate waste management, lack of essential infrastructure, and inadequate access to clean water.

GENDER AND HIV/AIDS

Women in Kitgum town constitute the higher proportion of the unemployed and are mainly involved in the informal sector. Women carry the highest health risk and do not have access to basic health services.

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