



MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

54 Independence - Achievements Registered



H. E. President Yoweri K. Museveni,
President of the Republic of Uganda



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Government



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CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

The Minister, and the Staff of the Ministry of Local Government

Congratulate the President of the Republic of Uganda, H. E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, The Vice President, Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi, The Prime Minister of Uganda, Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament and All Ugandans on this occasion as we celebrate our 54th Independence Anniversary of Uganda

1.0 Introduction

As part of its long-term policy to enhance political and social harmony, enhance growth and alleviate poverty, Government embarked on a far-reaching program of decentralization reform. The reform initiative, as introduced in 1993 was intended to make local governments effective centres of local decision making, planning and development. Government's commitment to decentralized governance was strengthened and entrenched in the 1995 Constitution, and further elaborated on under the successive versions of the Local Governments Act. Over the last couple of decades,

the decentralization policy has been one of the major cornerstones of the NRM Government's efforts to deliver on socio-economic transformation of the country. The following key achievements have been registered.

(i) Institutional strengthening of Local Governments

Robust Local Government administrative machineries are pivotal for efficiency and effectiveness of decentralized service delivery. In this regard, a range of initiatives have been implemented in a bid to improve the performance of local governments,

including re-tooling; reviews and rationalization of institutional structures; recruitment of qualified personnel and building of their respective capacities in the various functional areas.

(ii) Local Democracy

Local democracy is at the core of the national effort to establish and strengthen the democratization process in the country. Since the promulgation of the 1995 Constitution, the country has already had successful sets of local council elections, in 1998, 2002, 2006 and in 2011. In a way, the decentralization policy has permitted localization of democratic

practice with local councils making decisions in response to locally determined priorities.

(iii) Local Administration of Justice

Effectively functioning mechanisms for delivery of local justice are pivotal for consolidation of the legitimacy of local democracy. Local Council Courts have particularly been recognized as important organs within the overall justice system in the country and are of particular relevance to the poorer sections of society. They have contributed to efforts to bring about social stability by facilitating the dispensation of local administration of justice.

(iv) Financing of local service delivery

Fiscal decentralization is one of the most fundamental facets of Uganda's decentralization policy, and any form of success in this area largely hinges on the adequacy of resource transfers from the centre and the capacity of local governments to mobilize own revenues. Over the years, there has been considerable growth in the volume of resource transfers to local governments for financing decentralized service delivery, to the extent that they now account for about 13% of the national budget. At the same time, Government has been committed to rationalization of the inter-governmental fiscal regime so as to ensure vertical and horizontal equity considerations in resource transfers. Considerable effort is also being devoted to improving the capacity of local governments to mobilize and automate revenues from devolved sources, under Tax payers Reformation Expansion Programme (TREP).

(v) Urban Planning and Management

Rapid urbanization is one of the major challenges facing many nations in the world today, and careful management of this phenomenon is essential for efficient urban planning and development, and effectiveness in the delivery of administrative and other urban services to the people. In this regard, Government has been pursuing a conscious policy to ensure that deserving fast-growing Urban Councils are elevated to more viable and better planned entities. Urban local governments have also been supported to develop and implement approved structure plans.

(vi) Improvement of Urban Markets

Markets play an important role in the economy by linking the producers of agricultural products and indeed other goods and services to the consumers. In Uganda majority of urban markets were constructed before or soon after independence in 1962. With the expansion of the population, the growth of the economy and overall development of the country over the years, newer markets located in upcoming suburbs of urban centers have emerged, albeit operating in makeshift temporary structures which at the moment are heavily congested and in appalling state. In this regard, Government has already embarked upon implementation of the Market and Agricultural Trade Improvement Programme (MATIP) aimed at improving the work environment in a total of 85 Markets (19 Central markets & 66 auxiliary markets), across the country.

The implementation of the programme is being done in a phased manner, the recently completed MATIP-1, reconstructing and settling of 13,000 market vendors in the 7 urban markets of Lira Central, Jinja Central, Mbale Central, Wandegaya, Mpanga, Gulu and Hoima Central. Procurement process for construction of markets to accommodate 14,000 market vendors is on going for: Kasese, Mbarara, Masaka, Entebbe, Lugazi, Busia, Tororo, Soroti, Moroto, Kitgum and Arua under MATIP-2.

(vii) Rural infrastructural development

Agricultural commercialization is at the core of Government's effort to ensure growth and socio-economic transformation of the country. The Ministry of Local Government has been executing two strategic interventions designed to contribute to poverty reduction and economic growth through enhanced commercialization of agriculture, namely the Community Agricultural Infrastructure Improvement Project (CAIIP) and the District Livelihoods Support Programme (DLSIP).

Some of the major achievements under the above interventions have included rehabilitation of over 12,000 Kms of rural roads with a view to facilitating market access, establishment of over 292 agro-processing and value addition facilities, rehabilitation of 134 water points to serve both the population and livestock, and community mobilization with a view to ensuring local participation in construction and maintenance of infrastructural facilities.

(ix) Monitoring of Government Programmes at Grassroot levels

Government has been committed to strengthening of monitoring of programme implementation at local levels. In this regard, motorcycles were provided to Chairpersons of Sub-counties/Divisions to facilitate them to supervise Government programmes. For the same purpose, Parish/Wards and Village Chairpersons have been facilitated with bicycles.



Rehabilitation of Sekereni-Nambutte-Kiryokya, 28.2Kms in Bulera S/County. It has opened up the area to businesses, access to schools by pupils and reduced transport costs for agricultural goods



Installed Rice Mill in Kachonga sub county, Butalejja District under CAIIP



Installed 750kg/hr Maize mill in Seeta Numuganga subcounty, Mukono District under CAIIP

PROJECT FOR THE RESTORATION OF LIVELIHOODS IN THE NORTHERN REGION (PRELNR)

PRELNR is a seven year project whose overall goal is to increase income, food security and reduce vulnerability of poor rural households in the project area. It's funded by the Government of Uganda, IFAD loan, ASAP Grant and contributions from the beneficiaries in cash & in-kind.

The project covers the district areas of Adjumani, Agago, Amuru, Gulu, Kitgum, Lamwo, Nwoya, Omoro and Pader which constitute 2.3M people and 1.76M of these are rural. It's estimated that 38% of the Uganda's poor population live in Northern Uganda. The Project Development Objective is increased sustainable production, productivity and climate resilience of small holder farmers with increased and profitable access to domestic and export markets.

PRELNR design is based on an integrated development approach to support the re-establishment of the region as a major agricultural production area. Without any significant changes and adoption of new technologies, there will be no substantial growth in production to increase household net incomes and to supply domestic and regional markets.

Project Components:

A: Rural livelihoods, focusing on improving agricultural production and productivity,

especially of selected crop enterprises and climate resilience.

- B: Market linkages and infrastructure development, focusing on supporting Farmers' Organisations to engage in organised marketing and also improving on market infrastructure (Community Access Roads and Market places).
- C: Project Management and Coordination to ensure that the project is efficiently and effectively managed to achieve the expected results.

Who are the targets?

- i. Food insecure households, who do not have enough land or resources to produce enough to cover their food needs;
- ii. Food secure households who are still vulnerable to climatic or other shocks to their livelihoods but want to improve their agricultural productivity;
- iii. Market oriented households with adequate land and some skills which they wish to use to increase their surplus production available for sale;
- iv. The vulnerable households who lack the capacity and self-confidence to join community groups, to build their food security and self-reliance to enable them to join groups and benefit from development initiatives.

Geographical scope:

The 9 of Adjumani, Agago, Amuru, Gulu, Kitgum,

Lamwo, Nwoya, Omoro and Pader, covering 25 sub-counties, 100 parishes and 600 villages which have already been selected by the participating DLGs. About 1,800 farmer groups will be targeted in the 600 villages and up to 64,000 households will be targeted. Affirmative action on women, youth and the very poor households is clearly mainstreamed in the project.

What are the expected benefits?

The estimated direct benefits from the project investments will reach a total of at least 140,000 rural households (40% of the rural households in the region). An estimated 1,550Kms of community access roads will be constructed and 10 sites, with improved infrastructure for agricultural marketing to increase volumes of quality agricultural produce traded and to facilitate fair market prices.

Implementing partners:

The implementation partnership has MoLG as the lead Implementing Agency, the Project Policy Committee (multi-sectoral committee bringing together the relevant Ministries (MoLG, MoPED, MoWT, MAIF, MWE, MGLSD, MTIC & UNMA) for policy guidance, the 9 DLGs, PMU, DFAs & Traders associations where they do exist and have the capacity to provide extension, NARO institutes & others to provide specialized skills and training.

SOME COMPLETED MARKETS BY MATIP FROM 2012 - 15



Outside Mpanga Market



Jinja Central Market



Wandegaya Market