



## ACTED - UNDP Quick Impact Project – Lango



### Introduction

Northern Uganda has experienced profound suffering and displacement of the population as a result of prolonged armed conflict between the Government of Uganda (GoU) and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the last two decades. This has not only slowed down the social and economic development of the country in general, and Northern Uganda in particular, but also created significant regional disparities within the country. The current on-going peace talks in the Southern Sudan which culminated into signing of the historic Cessation of Hostilities Agreement created optimism amongst different stakeholders.

Improved security, greater freedom of movement and increasing access to land has sparked off large-scale voluntary movements within the region. The GoU has restated its commitment to recovery and development of the Northern Uganda through accelerating the launch of the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) which is the overall strategic framework for interventions in the Northern Uganda for the next three years.

Consequently, the area is now undergoing a process of transformation within the overall time frame of transition from relief to development.

Displacement in the region caused large-scale loss of social and economic infrastructure, property, land and livestock and has contributed to an erosion of the social capital (e.g. local administrative structure, associations, social cohesion and

coping mechanisms) and financial capital (e.g. access to saving facilities and credit) of the population, forcing those displaced to be dependent on the service provision of government, international and national organizations. Despite the on-going and prospective large scale of return, it is regrettable that there has not been a proportionate increase in service provisions for the population in their transit or places of return and the capacities of the Local Government to deliver those basic services have not been fully developed.

Given the almost complete return process in Lango sub-region and the anticipated massive return in Acholi sub-region, government with the support of UNDP underwent an exercise of determining district priorities and the development of an early recovery plan which would provide a surge capacity to the districts' existing District Development Plans within the framework of the PRDP. The government deems it necessary to respond to the prioritized early recovery needs in each district which would lead towards sustainable community recovery.

Implementing early recovery activities is crucial in order to provide the "pull" factors for those still displaced to return to their communities of origin and opportunities for sustainable community recovery.

To this intent, 100 Quick Impact Projects were implemented in Lango Sub-region. The Quick Impact Project covers the 5 Districts of Amolotar, Apac, Dokolo, Lira and Oyam. Each District received 20 projects which were divided into 10 projects for 2 sub-counties. Within these sub-counties, 5 parishes received 2 projects each.

The \$595,000 project is being implemented by local community groups who will apply for funds to be administered by ACTED, with oversight from UNDP, Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the District. The District Vetting Committee decided on the projects. Each District was to have 85,830 USD for the 20 projects. Community groups can apply for between 1,000 - 5,000 USD.

## **Goal**

The main goal of this quick response initiative is to quickly respond to the prioritized recovery needs identified by communities in Lango sub-regions.

## **Objectives**

The Quick Response Initiative aims to achieve the strategic objectives under the CMR Programme which are:

- (1) To empower people to participate in inclusive decision-making processes; and
- (2) To uplift the quality of life of returning IDP households through the building-up of institutional structures and amenities for communities.

## **Project outcome(s)**

People affected by conflict and other disasters especially women, children, and other vulnerable groups, effectively participate in and benefit from planning, timely implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes. National policies, strategies, capacities and programmes are strengthened for recovery in conflict affected areas.

## **Achievements**

### **1. Roads:**

Nearly all of the road projects have been completed pending some minor works such as some ditching work on a few of the longer roads to be completed. The community members have been paid at a rate of 30,000 Ugandan Shillings for every 30 meters that they have ditched and cleared.

It was deemed important that compaction should be undertaken following the ditching and camber formation of the roads. This is in order to ensure that the roads will have increased sustainability following handover to the local government authorities. ACTED has hired 7 pedestrian rollers that have been used for compacting the roads. The compaction process is still ongoing and should be completed by the end of February.

The remaining works on the roads will be the installation of culverts, for some sites, culverts have already been installed whilst others are ongoing. We were unable to budget for some culvert crossings due to budgetary constraints but the communities have managed to overcome this with contributions of materials such as sand and stones, which has helped to reduce on some of the anticipated costs.

We have also received contributions of culverts from the District of Amolatar (20) and Aboke Sub-county (28), enabling us to continue with the installation of these crossings. We are continuing discussions with both the Sub-county and District authorities about further cooperation on the roads such as more culverts and the addition of Murram in swampy areas and we anticipate further contributions towards this cause.

### **2. Water Projects**

All water projects have been completed; shallow wells, borehole installation and rehabilitations were completed as was water testing and the creation of drainage and fencing as part of the communities' contribution. Results of water tests show that water is safe for consumption. For some of the projects, the rehabilitation consisted of drilling to depths of 60 meters. One borehole in Apac required fishing and had not been used for 18 years; the District authorities, local CBOs and NGOs had all tried to rehabilitate the borehole in vain. The borehole has since been rehabilitated and its location in the school and next to the community centre in Aboke means that it is being used by a large number of the local community and has made a real difference to people living in the area.

The Training Sessions for the Water Maintenance Committees have included Roles of the Water User Committees, Roles of the Community, Basic Health and Hygiene Practices at Household/ Institutional Level, Minor Repairs of Hand pumps, Major Repairs, Preventative Maintenance, Key Operational and Management Issues (such as replacement of non-functional committee's), Financing the maintenance, Supply of Inputs/ Spares, Gender and Ownership.

### **3. Building Renovation (Schools, Health Centre's and Community Halls)**

Building renovation started at the beginning of January following the arrival of cement deliveries; this has been going on well and some of the projects in Apac (which received the first consignment of cement) should be finished before the end of January. The remaining sites should be completed by the last week of February.

Due to the fact that the projects were designed by local community groups, the involvement of the community, the school authorities (for classroom projects), and local government has been very high. Contributions of materials have significantly helped ACTED to reduce costs enabling more work to be conducted, whilst the presence of the PTA and headmasters has helped with overseeing the work, providing water for construction work and providing food for the workers free of charge. The presence of the school authorities has also meant that they have overseen the arrival of materials and storage of materials on site and have been able to work together with the community groups and ACTED Field Officers to ensure that the project is tailored to the communities needs.

Masons working on the building reconstruction projects have been contracted and will be paid per task completed. For instance separate payments are made per task such as flooring, brickwork, plastering, creating the apron, roofing etc. This was seen as prudent as it encourages faster working times as opposed to the per-day method of payment.

For some sites such as Alapata Primary School in Alapata Parish, Batta Sub-county in Dokolo District, the PTA and headmaster have mobilised the community for more contributions of sand, stones and bricks so that the QIP's project can be undertaken over a larger amount of the school (from two classrooms to four). This should be possible as we can use extra cement without incurring any other extra costs. With the provision of water and food for the labourers this also has helped to reduce any extra overheads.

### **4. Other projects**

Other projects such as bridges and latrine construction are proceeding well and should also be completed by the end of February. For the bridges some Districts and Sub-counties have provided culverts whilst the communities have provided stones and

Marram in order to cut the costs of the project and enable more work to be carried out. The classroom desk project was completed in Oyam and the desks are currently being used by the pupils.

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