



IOM, FAO & NRC - UNDP AREA BASED INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (ABID) – NORTHERN UGANDA

Introduction

The overall objective of the Northern Uganda Area Based Programme is to restore and strengthen the capacities of communities and authorities for sustained recovery, reconciliation and peace-building with a view to achieving sustainable development.

The primary beneficiaries from the interventions in this area based programme include the most vulnerable, such as the elderly, HIV/AIDS victims, widows, child-headed households and people previously abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

Objectives

Targeting particularly women and youth, the programme will aim to:

- i. Strengthen capacity of local authorities to manage recovery and reintegration processes;
- ii. Enhance community security and social cohesion;
- iii. Revitalize community livelihoods and create conflict sensitive income generation and employment opportunities;
- iv. Build peace and promote reconciliation;
- v. Promote gender equality;
- vi. Strengthen the capacity of the UNDP, UNCT and RC Office on recovery coordination

Total funding to date

Of the total programme requirement of USD 20,759,862, BCPR was requested to allocate USD 7,898,766 in the first year (2009). An initial allocation of US\$ 4,273,000.00 was granted. The first tranche of US\$2,672.000.00 was released in September 2009.

Achievements

This brief reviews the progress made in the programme implementation of the programme to date. Preparations are under way for its full scale implementation in 2010.

1.1 Expected Outputs

For 2009, resources were allocated to selected expected outputs from the first tranche and grouped as followed:

- i. Local Economy Recovery – Livelihood
- ii. UNDP technical support to ABID programme implementation
- iii. Community Based Re-integration
- iv. Support to Local Government Infrastructure and Equipment
- v. Support to OPM for Needs Assessment, Capacity Development, Information Collection and Management
- vi. Data Collection on Gender and Women Participation in Decision Making Processes
- vii. Strengthening Capacity of Local government in ICT
- viii. Assessment of Market Development and Livelihood.

2.2. Implementation Progress

UNDP entered into agreements with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and FAO to implement two livelihood sub-projects in six districts in Northern Uganda (Gulu, Amuru, Pader, and Kitgum in Acholi, and Oyam and Lira in Lango sub-region). Both sub-projects were selected on the basis of their potential to build on ongoing and/or completed early recovery activities, including the UNDP supported quick impacts projects (QIPs) with emphasis on sustainable recovery and development consistent with the GoU Peace, Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) for Northern Uganda. They are underpinned by principles of enhanced participation and ownership of beneficiary communities and strong partnership with district local governments and other relevant agencies.

The NRC sub-project has a total budget of USD 393, 092.00 of which USD 150, 000.00 was released in 2009. The planned activities under this project will contribute to enhancing capacities of 13 income generation groups (260 beneficiaries, comprising 109 males and 151 females) to effectively and efficiently manage and sustain their apiary enterprises. This includes support towards self-reliance of existing tree nurseries for continuity of an agro-forestry programme, the establishment of four nursery sites for raising 20,000 fruit trees and 60,000 wood tree seedlings, and two pilot nursery sites for raising 10,000 grafted fruit tree seedlings, as well as six nursery sites supported with assorted seeds. A total of 5,401 beneficiaries will be supported with equipment, drying

and storage facilities and trained in Post Harvest Handling (PHH) and Farming as a Business (FaaB). Currently, one agro forestry nursery site has been established with 2000 avocado seed transplanted, 1895 orange seed been nurtured and 5000 orange in a seed bed. A produce buying and selling group is also established in Pabbo.

The FAO sub-project has a total budget of USD 300,000.00 of which all was released in 2009. The project is to support beneficiaries of 30 Farmer Field School (FFS) networks with 9000 members in Gulu, Amuru, Oyam, Kitgum, Pader and Lira districts through the establishment of durable post harvest storage facilities for agricultural products. On average each of the networks comprises equal number of male and female (50:50) beneficiaries with some groups predominantly women. Other vulnerable community members outside the FFS network will also benefit indirectly from the project as the FFS network will be able to purchase additional grain stocks from communities during harvest. FAO has signed letters of agreement with Pen costal Church of Uganda (PCU) and Cooperation International (COOPI) to respectively construct 10 storages in Lira and Oyam and 4 in Pader. The organization is in discussion with other NGOs for construction of 4 or 5 storages in Kitgum.

UNDP's presence in Gulu and Kitgum project offices has been strengthened with the recruitment and deployment of two short-term international consultants as programme managers and one national programme analyst. The office operations were also strengthened with the recruitment of an additional driver and procurement of IT and other office equipment. The recruitment of a Recovery Advisor is complete and the incumbent will be deployed soon. The recruitment of a Programme Manager is ongoing.

On 13 July 2009, UNDP signed an 'Agreement' with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to implement a 12 month community-based reintegration (CBR) project for a total amount of USD 650,000. The ABID programme contribution is USD 450,000 or 69% of the total funding. A total of 484 have been screened and selected vulnerable youths (mainly former LRA combatants aged 18-30) from across 62 high-risk parishes in the two project districts (Gulu and Pader) were registered for reintegration support. A total 424 vacancies and three small and medium enterprise partners were also identified with 80 vacancies, 15 of them already filled by qualified ICRS clients). Those already placed in jobs are expected to earn on average UGX 40,000 -80,000 per month per person, which shows significant cost-effective potential of the project.

2.3 Preparation for full scale Area Based programme implementation

The UNDP Country office is planning to strengthen its presence in Northern Uganda through the Area based Programme. The Recovery structure for Northern Uganda and Karamoja is prepared. Local government capacity will also be strengthened to implement the programme. Following requests from district local governments, recruitment is ongoing for three fully funded¹ National UNV Specialists to support the implementation information management component of the programme. The UNV

¹ UNVs funded by the Irish Government

Specialists will be deployed in Gulu, Pader and Lira. They will contribute primarily to capacity development in data/information management at the district level.

Partnership Strategy

To ensure successful implementation of the Northern Uganda Area Based Programme, UNDP is working closely with the Government of Uganda (GoU). Key government ministries include the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development and the local authorities in six Northern districts; Gulu, Amuru, Kitgum, Pader, Lira and Oyam. In addition UNDP has entered into agreements with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and FAO to implement the livelihood component of the programme. UNCDF and UNIFEM are expected to support the implementation of the programme.

Challenges

The main challenges during the implementation of the programme include:

- Managing high expectation among local government counterparts and donors of UNDP in the recovery process in Northern Uganda,
- High expectation of return communities *vis a vis* limited programme resources.
- Generally weak local government capacity in all districts and insufficient commitment among district leadership in some of the districts;
- Strengthening of UNDP offices/presence in the north while at the same time managing expectation of UNDP to deliver quick results

Conclusion

This brief focuses on the achievements of the Northern Uganda Area Based programme to date. The Implementation structure has been finalized, recruitment and deployment of staff is underway. The draft copy of the annual work plan 2010 is available. It has been aligned to the UNDP CPAP 2010-2014 and should be fully implemented in 2010.

Contact address:

United Nations Development Programme
15B Clement Hill Road
P.O Box 7184 Kampala
Tel: +256-414 233440/1/2/5
Fax: 256-414-344801
e-mail: registry.ug@undp.org
Website: <http://www.undp.or.ug>