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Katwe urban pilot project (KUPP) [Discussion paper]

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SUSTAINABILITY OF WATER AND SANITATION SYSTEMS

Katwe urban pilot project (KUPP)

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THE OBJECTIVE OF this project is to help GOU design and develop appropriate and sustainable mechanisms for providing low-cost water, sanitation, and waste disposal services to urban informal settlements. To do this a pilot project has been developed between the Kampala City Council, the implementing agency, and The World Bank's RWSG-EA, the Executing Agency, whereby mobilization strategies and low-cost technologies have been tested in a peri-urban community of Kampala, called Katwe. More specifically, the project was designed to obtain information on the community, sensitize the residents about the water and sanitation conditions in their area, and formulate and test replicable and sustainable community-based approaches for the provision of such services, with special emphasis on the role of women. In addition, the project will examine how well communities can provide their own environmental services if empowered to do so.

This 2¹/₂ year project, funded by UNDP, began in May, 1993. The UNDP input is US\$ 720,000. However to augment the drainage component, a cost sharing agreement was signed with Irish Aid in August 1994. In April 1995 a supplemental grant was approved by the Irish making their contribution to the project US\$ 112,514.

Results to date

Following a ranking of environmental problems by the Katwe community, 6 stable groups have evolved from the mobilization process. These groups have been directly involved in the development of appropriate technologies in each of the four sectors of intervention i.e. drainage, waste disposal, water supply and sanitation respectively. Each group has been provided skills training and business management training and are now capable of functioning as small-scale enterprises. The community mobilization group, charged with social and product marketing is responsible for sustaining and expanding the project's investments, by generating interest in the technologies and services being provided and by promoting appropriate maintenance schemes to safeguard what has already been put in place. The newest group to join the project is the Monitoring and Evaluation Team which provides management with information on new ways and means of improving operations from the communities perspective. They are also members of the Advisory Committee which meets monthly.

Low-cost drain pipes (Using ferrocement technology) are being sold at 50% of the market price. These are used by the Katwe I Allied Progressive Association (KAPA) for

the construction of secondary drains. In addition, several light weight drainage components designed by the project, made of precast concrete are used for tertiary drainage construction. As a profitable small-scale industry, KAPA (25 men & 4 women) produces and installs secondary and tertiary drains and has provided labour for the maintenance and rehabilitation of the main drain. To date nearly 150m of secondary 'below ground' drains and 78m of open secondary drains have been installed

A charcoal briquette manufacturing process using carbonized organic waste has been developed with the Katwe I Women's Club.

There are several technical innovations associated with this project such as a charcoal crusher, a modified brick press for making the briquettes, a solar drier and a carbonizer. Although marketing has been a problem, sales of the product, which competitive in price, burns cleaner and lasts longer, is picking-up.

Two standpipes connected to the public water supply have been installed on a cost recovery basis by community management groups. These sources supply clean water to more than 200 households thus eliminating the need for outside vendors who not only supply water from questionable sources but at a higher price.

The design of traditional vault latrines has been modified to withstand the high water table of the area. Members of the Katwe I Community Child Care association (KCCC) were trained in the technology and have established a small-scale enterprise to construct this design for profit. Thus far they have been successful in constructing several units for the International NGO, Goal, operating in a similar slum area in Kampala. A low-cost manually operated portable sludge pump has been developed which allows access to the highly congested areas of urban slums.

A revolving fund has been introduced to recover up to 45% of the initial equipment investment from the established groups. These funds are in full community control and will be used for short-term loans and to subsidize the cost of additional demonstration facilities.

The project has full support from the local political leadership, with the Resistance Council (RC) II Chairman being a member of the community mobilization team and monitoring and evaluation group. Plan International and Project Concern have discussed possible future collaboration with Katwe's groups concerning exchange of information on the technologies developed and employed. Replication of project results by the Kampala City Council (KCC) is expected.

The successful establishment of the community based monitoring and evaluation group is the first step towards transfer of control directly to the beneficiaries. To ensure long-term viability of the income generating groups, which are now technically competent, an increased effort is to be put into the transfer of small-scale business skills (from successful Katwe businesses to the projects' groups).

With these concrete actions presently being undertaken, it is expected that, at the end of the project, the people themselves will be maintaining and managing the facilities on a cost recovery basis and the businesses established to provide these facilities and services will be self-sustaining.