

Partnership for Building Urban Resilience in Zimbabwe

UNDP Zimbabwe

Budget: \$500,000 (UNDP), \$100,000 (UNICEF)

Component: Poverty and Governance

Project duration: November 2018 – December 2019

Strategic Plan Outcomes:

1. Immediate improvements in urban environment to build practical evidence- access to basic public services, WASH, employment, livelihoods opportunities for youth and women in unserved and underserved urban areas improved.
2. Evidence based framework / strategies for building urban resilience developed

Atlas output 2:

BACKGROUND

In line with the Country Office mandate, The Government of Zimbabwe, UNDP and UNICEF are jointly implementing a pilot programme called Partnership for Building Urban Resilience in Zimbabwe with objective to improve urban resilience to promote economic recovery, the basic social services delivery for the poor and vulnerable urban population in Zimbabwe. Specifically, the focus is on WASH, Basic Social Services and Local Economic Development (LED) to contribute towards urban resilience in Zimbabwe.

This initiative will help to create evidence and models that will build the resilience of urban populations to withstand shocks and stressors, poverty, unemployment, recurring chronic epidemics (e.g. cholera, typhoid) and other environmental issues. By focusing on shocks and stressors faced by the urban population the Programme also aims to address the inadequacies in local governance.

With an increasing pace of urbanization, youth will contribute most to population growth in the next decades. The potential of a growing share of youth can be harnessed to benefit the economic momentum and revive the economy. However, if not properly addressed, youth population growth presents a challenge to city infrastructure which might be unable to accommodate growing urban population, as well as contributing to unemployment issues.

The overall Goal of the Programme is to improve economic recovery and access to the provision of basic social services of unemployed youths, women, and vulnerable groups in urban areas of Zimbabwe. The Programme approach recognizes the synergistic relationship between a WASH, LED and Basic Social Services Sectors.

The programme adopts one of the approaches to address youth unemployment and well as livelihoods of the most vulnerable groups, which is linking provision of basic social services (including WASH) with generation of employment opportunities: by providing better access

to WASH services, developing enterprise opportunities, while at the same time generating jobs in the sector of WASH infrastructure development.

This Programme is being initiated in 2 phases: The Inception Phase of 12-18 months in which evidence is built, assessments are completed and initial support to critical urban challenges is provided. This will be followed by Phase 2 ensuring that the broader urban and peri-urban aspects become an integral part of the national resilience building framework and may include a significant urban / community infrastructure component managed by UNDP while building local capacity.

RESULTS

The Project commenced officially in early December 2018. The delayed start was aimed at facilitating sufficient consultative process with the Government counterparts, stakeholders and other partners, as well as to avoid implementation disruption due to the national electoral calendar (31 July 2018) and appointment of new Cabinet (7 September 2018) events which coincided with envisaged commence period. The delays in the commencement of project has necessitated need for an accelerated implementation modality of the all the planned actions starting from January 2019. This will be done by launching two sets of activities simultaneously in February: the comprehensive study on urban resilience and prototyping the social enterprises. At the same time, convening brainstorm meetings with the private sector, local authorities and NGOs in January with a goal to facilitate partnership building and accelerate the delivery of results.

The following achievements have been carried out up to this date:

1. Local Project Appraisal Committee was conducted

Preliminary consultations led to the formulation of a Preparatory Support Document following the approval of the initiative by the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) at meeting on the 1 November 2018. An LPAC meeting was attended by UN Agencies, Government, Private Sector, Civil Society and Donors who welcomed and approved the new initiative, given the high levels of urban food insecurity and new outbreaks of Cholera and Typhoid in the targeted areas.

LPAC Decision

Overall the programme would build on previous lessons learned coupled with a strong evidence and knowledge-based component, strong partnerships and a modest resource envelop to leverage other past and future investments. The LPAC endorsed the Project and AWP.

The discussions highlighted the following suggestions for the consideration in the programme implementation:

1. Principle needs a balanced approach- piloting and demonstrating model
2. Incorporate Service Level Benchmarking Model in monitoring and management
3. Strengthen linkages with rural livelihood interventions
4. Be pro-active and draw in private sector partnerships
5. Build on lessons learnt and existing programmes and not just implement another pilot but build on existing experience and create framework for longer term vision.

2. Approval of project documents

Based on the CIF Concept Note, and LPAC feedback, a preparatory support document covering the pilot phase has been developed which will contribute to the crafting of the medium and long term urban resilience programme.

- An Annual Workplan (AWP) was approved by UNICEF, UNDP and Government while a funding decision from AfDB (\$ 1 million) is still pending due to the Bank's internal process.

3. Terms of Reference were formulated for the sub-contracted programme components:

- ToRs for the Call for Proposal for the International/ Local NGOs to create social enterprise and jobs were developed and advertised. The selected NGO is expected to commence the assignment in late February 2019 in selected programme locations.
- Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the Comprehensive Urban Resilience Study were developed and advertised. The Consultancy on the Study will commence in early 2019 which provide the evidence generation and knowledge building on urban resilience.

4. Field visit to Gwanda

A joint field visit comprising UNICEF, UNDP, and the Ministry representatives was conducted to Gwanda Municipality on 5-7 December 2018 to engage the Local Authority (LA) and identify the needs of the local communities. Consultations in relation to basic social services, employment creation, and private sector partnership were held with Gwanda Municipality and stakeholders to identify areas of collaboration. A field visit resulted in the Gwanda Town Council passing a Resolution in support of the



urban resilience programme, paving the way for the implementation of the planned actions.

Conducted activities:

- Presentation of the Programme outline and the Annual Work Plan to the Municipality of Gwanda and the Steering Committee of the Community Health Clubs,
- Presentations / inputs from the MoG and the relevant stakeholders,
- Site visit to the landfill under construction,
- Meeting with the Community Health Clubs Members and U-reporters: