LAND,SERVICES AND CITIZENSHIP FOR THE URBAN POOR IN GHANA: CORE PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES.

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12TH JULY, 2011

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Outline of Presentation

- Introduction

- Background- PDG/GHAFUP

- Urban challenges

- PDG/GHAFUP's responses to urban challenges.

- LSC Programme

-Objectives

-Core activities

- Lesson learned from programme design process.

BACKGROUND: PDG/GHAFUP

- Community-based NGO that works in partnership with Ghana Federation of the Urban Poor(GHAFUP) to find permanent solutions to urban poverty and development in Ghana.

- PDG has been working in slums and informal settlements in 7 regions of Ghana since its establishment in 2003.

- GHAFUP membership currently stands at 12,000 and has about 125 savings groups operating in 90 communities throughout Ghana.

- GHAFUP made up of four sub-groups : Ghana Homeless People Federation, Railway Dwellers Federation, Youth in Slums Assoc. and Kayayei Youth Association.

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Background cont'd

- Members of GHAFUP are organized around savings for improved shelter, infrastructure and livelihoods.

- Affiliated to Slum Dwellers International- a loose network of people's organizations from 32 countries across the Global South.

- SDI believes that micro communities however organized cannot substitute large federated networks of the urban poor who build skills, resources and confidence among the leadership of the urban poor to facilitate transformation of cities.

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WORKING METHODOLOGY

- Group formation through community-led savings and loans

- Community-to-community exchanges

- Community-led mapping and enumerations

- Partnership and collaboration

- Secure tenure and shelter improvements

- Advocacy and policy influence through participation in national and international fora.

- Women's central role in development process.

SITUATION OF URBAN POOR IN GHANA

- Increasing urban poverty manifested by slums and squatter settlements.

- Limited up-to-date information/data on diverse typology of urban settlements for development planning by MMDAs within GAMA

- Absence of vibrant urban civil society to promote constructive dialogue and engagements between communities, local governments and service providers(i.e. lack of voice).

- Lack of access to grants/ formal credit facilities by slum-based community organizations to finance development initiatives.

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SITUATION CONT'D

- Increasing urban insecurity e.g. threats of eviction (Old Fadama, Railway dwellers).

- "Politics" of urban space.

- Thus, the need for a comprehensive programme involving all key urban stakeholders.

- Draw on Ugandan experience as part of SDI network

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

- **Water and sanitation**: construction of mechanized boreholes, community-managed water points and bathhouses, social accountability in urban water supply.
- **Land and housing**: Slum Upgrading Facility project, emergency shelter project at Old Fadama and Women Land Link Africa Program
- Providing information for planning and advocacy through community-led mapping and enumeration
- Pioneered sharing and learning cross-fertilization of knowledge and best practices in urban development through exchanges
- **Access to credit**: establishment of community-led savings and loans schemes and Urban Poor Fund.

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RESPONSES CONT'D

- **Climate change**: community-led response to climate change adaptation in slums.

- Partnership building(Government, City Authorities and communities)- e.g. participation in urban policy formulation

- HIV/AIDS and women economic empowerment in slums.

- However, these responses have been of small scale and need to be institutionalized, expanded and sustained through initiatives such as LSC initiative.

LSC- OBJECTIVES

PDG's component of LSC focuses on community empowerment and has three broad objectives namely:

- To increase the public knowledge and information available on the magnitude and characteristics of settlements of the urban poor in Greater Accra Metropolitan Area (GAMA).

- To strengthen the capacity of communities to actively engage in constructive, results-oriented public community dialogue.

- To prepare for the establishment of a Community Social Investment Fund for GAMA.

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Public knowledge and information on slum settlements

- Develop a profile of different settlement typologies within GAMA with focus on AMA through action research.

- Validate profile through consultations with selected urban stakeholders.

- Publish profile and disseminate information captured in the profile through various media and public platforms (including the Ghana Urban Forum)

Strengthen capacity of communities

- Formation and capacity building of settlement-level urban poor organizations.

- Identification and training of a cadre of community leaders in effective engagement with government and urban stakeholders.

- Organize exchanges to enable the trained leaders to network, report back to communities and to engage with other urban stakeholders.

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Community Social Investment Find

- Mobilize and federate savings groups

- Develop an Operational Manual agreed by the eight municipalities, SDI, UDU and Cities Alliance

LESSONS LEARNED FROM PROGRAMME DESIGN PROCESS

- Created space for active participation by target beneficiaries i.e. urban poor

- Process helped applicant to align program objectives with those of CA and donors/partners.

- Inputs from CA representatives and partners into process helped broaden perspectives of program proposal.

- Strengthened partnership between CA and country program team prior to implementation.

Thank you