PARTICIPATORY URBAN PLANNING:
Supporting Provision Of Access To Basic Services For The Urban Poor

A Case Study Based On Practical Action (PTING) Experience in Kitale, Kenya, a Secondary Town

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Practical Action is an international development agency working with poor communities to help them choose and use technology to improve their lives and make sense of change. Our work in Africa, Asia and Latin America is in partnership with poor people and their communities, building their own knowledge and ability to come up with constructive, sustainable and practical solutions.

Introduction

It is evident that urban poverty is caused by poor urban planning and management approaches.

In Kenya, LED is unable to cope with the exorbitant growth of informal settlements with:

- inadequate water,
- poor sanitation conditions,
- poor roads,
- insecurity etc.

Part of urban growth in Kenya is one of the highest in the world at 70.2%.

- Urbanization rate: 4.2-7%
- Urban growth: 29%
- 60% of the urban population live in slums.

In Nairobi, only 5% accounts for the planned residential area.

Rate of urbanization in Kenya is one of the highest in the world at 70.9%.

About Kitale Town

Migraion to Kitale town due to decreasing economic opportunities has stretched the capacity of Kitale Municipal Council (KMC) to design, plan and deliver infrastructure and other services.

45% of the estimated population of 200,000 live in informal settlements and slums.

Participatory Urban Planning

Participatory Urban Planning and partnership building are innovative approaches to local development based on three pillars of local participation, neighbourhood planning, and building partnerships.

It aims to achieve: locally appropriate development, which is economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable, and which is driven by the communities and businesses that will continue to function in the long term.
**Participatory planning Process:**
- Focuses on empowerment of communities who are key stakeholders.
- Brings together community members, development specialists, and community leaders to work.
- Understands development challenges, needs, and explores opportunities.

**The Participatory Planning Cycle:**

**Why Participatory Planning?**

- Enhances project effectiveness,
- Promotes project efficiency,
- Empowers project beneficiaries,
- Promotes equity and social justice.

**Problem(s) Identification, Verification of Objectives, Resource Assessment and Mobilization**

**Formulaion of Action Plans**

**Implementation of Prioritized Projects, Monitoring and Evaluation**

**Participatory Urban Planning Methodology in Kitale**

**Participatory Urban Planning in Kitale**

Practical Action formulated a unique partnership with the Kitale Municipal Council. The project demanded a partnership approach that worked with existing governance structures and involved a range of stakeholders in the participatory urban planning processes that were also tested and used. The project approach on the ground was implemented through the use of sustainable livelihood approach and participatory urban appraisal methods.

**Partnership Process and Roles**

This project brought on board over 20 different stakeholders with various roles to play during the whole process. The stakeholders involved and their roles were as follows:

- Donor community
- Grassroots organizations
- Professional bodies
-椅观式 movements
- Private sector
- Church based organizations
- NGOs and civil society organizations
- Academic and research bodies
- Government departments
- Actors and planners

**Project Achievements**

1. Contribution to knowledge: a review of lessons on participatory planning raised much documentation.
2. Participatory surveys: provided input to the DHS to carry out a citywide scan survey.
3. Neighborhood planning: from the results of surveys conducted in 20 civic wards, the most needy areas were identified.
4. Strengthening partnerships: strong and effective partnerships forged between various partners.

**Project Achievements**

1. Delivery of services through partnerships - high institutional response and involvement.
2. Preparation of Kitale Environmental Development Plan - a project in the Kitale Environmental Development Planning Approach was implemented with strong partnerships and available financial resources.
3. Information and dissemination - clear and effective exchange of information between partners and promotion of participation and debate on social development issues.
Actual Outcomes

- Slum dwellers self enumeration for land allocation and titling
- 350 TOTs trained on PHAST
- 17 primary schools with an average of 600 pupils received training on CTC hygiene
- 21 community managed water points with 3 boreholes, 15 water springs, shallow wells and 3 water kiosks serving about 6,000 people
- 3 bio-latrines, 3 VIP latrines and 3 shallow wells in 3 primary schools serving 2,000 people with safe water and sanitation
- Community managed sanitation blocks with separate gender segregated toilets serving 2,000 people
- Training on alternative & affordable building materials e.g. SSBs, which were used in the construction of sanitation blocks.
- 1600 people joined saving schemes, with over £18,000 savings to date.
- 1400 people have benefited from the construction of on-plot toilets using community sanitation revolving funds.
- Setting of shelter and WATSAN enterprises
- Integration of grassroots groups in municipal planning process
- Greater recognition of slum dwellers and needs
- Akceptor land and provision of services

Challenges

Participatory Planning may suffer from the following setbacks/weaknesses:

- Increasing urbanization of poverty
- Poor coordination of community and private sector participation in urban
- Lack of transparency with different partners hindering implementation.
- Different partners have different interests and it's always not easy to harmonize.
- Partnerships can be a challenge where no direct monetary gains are evident

Conclusion

Overall, Kitale participatory planning has shown that it is possible to plan and implement a working participatory partnership process and deliver remarkable amounts of development in terms of physical infrastructure and amenities, social infrastructure and personal development.

There is a great deal of enthusiasm for the formation and maintenance of CBOs and enterprises.

There is a community movement who were not consulted/involved in the planning process have gained appreciation of its value to their community.

Thank You