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Project identification in Tanzania

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Project identification in Tanzania

Eddie James, UK



IN RESPONSE TO a request from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the author went to the Kagera region of Tanzania as a member of a team of three in December 1991.

The object of the mission was to identify and formulate a series of development orientated project proposals in order to improve the levels of living and earnings of both the Rwandese refugees and the nationals of the host country, aiming at better integration of the refugees in the host areas. (Ref 1) The emphasis was to be on sustainability and minimal hard currency input.

In total 15 projects were identified ranging from potable water supply to AIDS orphans assistance. The area included the whole of the Kagera region.

The paper will outline guidance for project identification based on this mission. The project identification stage of sustainable development is very important, expectations should not be raised, but the local community should be encouraged and motivated. Also existing work should be networked, to strengthen structures and avoid duplication.

Implementation:

Figure 1 shows details of fifteen projects.

The following check list was used to identify and select projects:

1. Do not raise expectations, always hold enthusiasm in check.
2. Build onto existing projects and development (see para. 11).
3. Link and network existing N.G.O's and local government bodies working on similar, complimentary, or integrative projects.
4. Phase out external advisors as soon as possible, hence a high priority should be invested in training for: facilitators, technicians, managers/administrators, and professionals to evaluate and appraise projects.
5. Always plan for more time rather than less to achieve goals.
6. Have a flexible approach with constant revision and replanning by the people themselves.
7. Work within the existing organisations.

An ad hoc group formed with a specific project in mind may find confidence and lay foundations for

Project No.	Description	Location
1	Medical Facilities: Rehabilitation & Enhancement	Kimuli, Nkwenda and Burigi
2	Secondary School	Mwesi
3	Tsetse Fly Eradication and Control	Muleba & Karagwe districts
4	Potable Water Supply	Ngando, Bukoba district Kaninya, Ngara district
5	Carpentry Workshop	Kashai, Bukoba town
6	Extension of Library Services	Karagwe district
7	Emergency Relief Planning Project	Ngara district
8	Road Rehabilitation	Mwesi, Mpanda district
9	Banana Improvement	Ngara and Karagwe districts
10	Community Development	Burigi, Muleba district
11	Secondary Education Assistance for Girls	Karagwe district
12	Strengthening of Maize Production	Ngara and Karagwe districts
13	AIDS Orphans Assistance	Bukoba, Ngara and Karagwe districts
14	Road Rehabilitation	Kimuli, Karagwe district
15	Rwandese Naturalisation Assistance	Kagera region

Figure 1

further participation on a wider scale. Hence identify an area of need in which quick success is likely.

8. Every project should be evaluated for its effect on women, e.g. literacy training of adult women who have missed earlier schooling through sex discrimination. Some projects need to specifically consider women, e.g. day-care centres for women to leave their children to work in the fields - (this is very important in areas of high numbers of A.I.D.S. orphans) - hostels for girls to attend boarding school etc.
9. Formal education often cuts off the pupils from their traditions and cultural practices.
Education needs to be sensitively combined with on the job training, learning by seeing and doing.
10. "Primary health care programmes require the participation of a highly motivated population.
Unless they are accompanied by effective methods of mobilising the people, there is a tendency for participation to slacken as soon as health has improved even marginally." (Ref. 2 J Beauclerk)
11. Evaluate the individual projects within a programme not just in terms of viability but also for their potential in increasing the confidence and autonomy of the local group.
Be sensitive to investing resources into such projects hence the evaluation and identification stages are often interlinked.
12. Encourage technology that is locally available; avoid importation of spares from overseas, encourage stand-

ardisation of spares that may be purchased in the local markets.

13. Ask open-ended questions
e.g. What are your major problems farming?
Are there ever problems obtaining water?
or specific questions with no bias.
e.g. Have any adults in your family been ill in the last month?
Do not ask questions that may steer an answer in the survey.

Conclusions

The author was impressed with the initiative of the Kagera people to help themselves in spite of lack of finance from both central and local government.

The survey was done prior to the 1994 civil war in Rwanda however the data for the Eastern side of Kagera will be still accurate and the solution to development problems are relevant even though the scale is now larger.

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