

The Canadian High Commissioner Visits Mikocheni Participatory Development Project

The Canadian High Commissioner to Tanzania, Mr. Robert Orr visited Mikocheni Participatory Development Project on the 5th of August 2010 to familiarise himself with our CIDA funded project in Dar. He was accompanied by the CIDA Senior Development Officer, Ms. Victoria Mushi, and Gender Equality Advisor, Ms. Margaret Rugambwa. The team visited Sustainable Cities PLUS Network Africa Program offices and had a briefing from our staff on program activities and projects.

The delegation then visited Mikocheni Participatory Development Project, located on the southern side of Shopper's Plaza along Old Bagamoyo Road. Sustainable Cities PLUS Network Africa Program works with the municipalities in Dar es Salaam to influence policies and practice and at the same time implements practical community demonstration projects at grassroots to catalyze community empowerment, improve livelihoods and promote environmental sustainability. The demonstration projects



Canadian High Commissioner to Tanzania Mr. Robert Orr in Mikocheni A; led by Hussein Nagave (Mikocheni A Mtaa Committee member), Gideon Mandara (ENVIROCARE) and Chairman Maulid Mdoka (Darajani Mtaa)



Ardhi University produced an Environmental Profile and Development Strategies in 2007 and pledged assistance to produce a Settlement Plan to guide housing upgrading.

serve as seed funded initiatives to incubate an idea with a small group that will develop the idea and then extend the benefits to the larger community. They are implemented in line with municipal and city council priorities such as solid waste management, unplanned settlement and infrastructure upgrading, and income generation and livelihood improvement.

The Sustainable Cities PLUS Network Africa Program began implementing four community demonstration projects in June 2010. The Mikocheni Participatory Development Project promotes development of Mikocheni A and Darajani Mitaa through a participatory

approach. A multi-stakeholder group in the settlement developed a Community Action Plan. The Action Plan prioritises settlement planning and upgrading, infrastructure improvement and housing improvement. The community through a community based organisation, SAFINA, mobilises local savings for financing project components.

Many unplanned settlement upgrading initiatives have tended to depend largely on outside funding, however, this approach mobilises local savings for housing development. The result is community empowerment and ownership, which reduces displacement of local residents. From priorities identified by the Action Plan, community leaders reached a consensus to start with solid waste collection which is most critical. The solid waste collection began in both Mikocheni A and Darajani Mitaa, however waste separation and composting started at Mikocheni Vocational School, as a learning centre for the community.

The SAFINA chairperson, Agnes Daniel welcomed the High Commissioner and his delegation to their offices and explained how they started with a few women who wanted to mobilise their savings to improve their community. She explained their current priorities and how they are organizing the waste collection in the community. They use passable streets



Mrs. Agnes Daniel (Chairperson of SAFINA) presenting the Solid Waste Collection project that SAFINA started in Mikocheni A and Darajani Mitaa

in the settlement for collection and trucks are hired to transfer garbage to the Pugu dumpsite. Residents are notified in advance through the Mitaa and the ten cell leaders. On the day of collection, SAFINA members blow a whistle along the streets to alert residents of the coming truck. Residents line their garbage along the roads and hired youths loads the trucks. Each of the 3450 house plot owners pays Tsh 5,000/= [Can



Bruce Downie (Senior Advisor, Africa Program and Founding Director, Kesho Trust) with Victoria Mushi (CIDA Senior Development Officer) discussing progress on the Mikocheni Project

\$4.00] that is shared cost among the plot tenants. Restaurants, hotels and bars pay more depending on their size.

SAFINA is confident that the community will pay for solid waste collection. Mr. Seffu, Secretary of SAFINA, noted that ‘we have lined up awareness programmes through the community leadership, influential people and using a microphone to inform residents. We have also prepared an accurate register of residents for follow up and have created a good rapport with the Mitaa leadership of Darajani and Mikocheni.’ While the project just started recently, SAFINA has been invited to collect solid waste in

nearby Regency Estate and Ally Hasani Mwinyi Mitaa because of their success. The High Commissioner commended SAFINA for their efforts on organising waste collection and plans to mobilise community savings for housing upgrading.

The delegation then walked through the settlement from Shoppers Plaza to Mikocheni Vocational School where Mr. Kilongo, Headmaster, briefed the visitors on the school's waste separation and composting initiative. The project is a learning centre for the whole of the Mikocheni A and

Darajani Mitaa for eventual community waste separation and composting. The project will reduce organic waste that is transported to the dumpsite and create wealth by using organic waste for gardening. Mr. Kilongo is excited about the project. He said, 'The school has a home economics department that teaches cookery lessons,



Mr. Haji (Mikocheni A Mitaa vice Chairman); Mr. Godwin Kilongo (Headmaster for Mikocheni Vocational School) and Mr. Maulidi Mdoka (Darajani Mtaa Chairman); and Victoria Mushi (CIDA Senior Development Officer) listening to the project presentation



Mr. G. Kilongo explains solid waste composting plans to Mr. Orr. Mr. Seffu (Secretary of SAFINA) is listening

horticulture that teaches skills in gardening and carpentry students who produce sawdust. This project provides a good link between the 3 departments where the gardening uses waste for the school to produce vegetables for the home economics department'.

Ms. Rugambwa, CIDA Gender Advisor, appreciated the high percentage of women

beneficiaries of this project - 57 out of 79 students are girls and 5 out of 10 teachers are women. The High Commissioner, Mr. Orr commented that the private public partnership relationship in the Mikocheni Project was very important for the community development and aligns well with the Canadian Government's efforts to implement integrated economic cooperation projects.

Mr. Mandara, Director of Envirocare, is optimistic about the Mikocheni Participatory Development Projects. 'The private – civil society – public – community partnership is key to community development. Full partnership where stakeholders contribute toward development projects unlocks community potential, unlike the outsourcing model that limits private sector and civic society roles'. Mr. Mandara is inspired by social entrepreneurship because it empowers communities to create wealth and invest in development initiatives. This approach allows replication and encourages communities to look inwards on their potential rather than outwards for development intervention.

It is envisaged that this form of partnership offers an important model for urban re-development, especially in unplanned settlements. Community supported initiatives cultivate ownership and mobilise local capital that is crucial for replication in many parts of Dar es Salaam.



Bruce Downie (Senior Advisor, Sustainable Cities PLUS Network Africa Program and Founding Director, Kesho Trust) explains the importance of protecting public open spaces. This school playground is the only open space in a settlement with about 11,000 people. Listening is Mr. Robert Orr, (Canadian High Commissioner), Margaret Rugambwa (CIDA Gender Equality Advisor), Maulid Om-ary Mdoka (Mtaa Chairman, Darajani) and Mr. Haji (Acting Mtaa Chairman, Mikocheni A)

The Sustainable Cities PLUS Network Africa Program is a 3 year program implemented in 3 African cities of Dakar, Dar Dar es Salaam and Durban, funded by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). In Dar es Salaam the program is implemented by the International Centre for Sustainable Cities and the Kesho Trust in partnership with the City of Dar es Salaam and the three municipalities of Ilala, Kinondoni and Temeke. The program aims to catalyze urban sustainability through practical demonstration projects and peer learning exchange networks. The program activities relate to the three main components:

- improve governance through capacity building
- address urban poverty and environmental degradation through practical community demonstration projects
- accelerate transfer of learning from city to city through peer exchange visits.

The tour of the Mikocheni Participatory Development Project was appreciated by all who participated. Mr. Orr was impressed with the community initiative and commended the members of the groups on their contributions and vision. The community members appreciated the interest by Mr. Orr in the work they were undertaking. Having a High Commissioner visit their community was a most unusual event and they were pleased that he made the effort to come and learn about their organizations and their work.

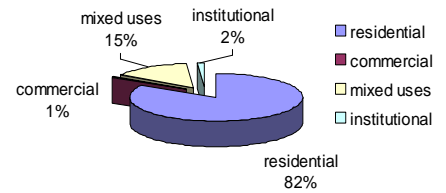
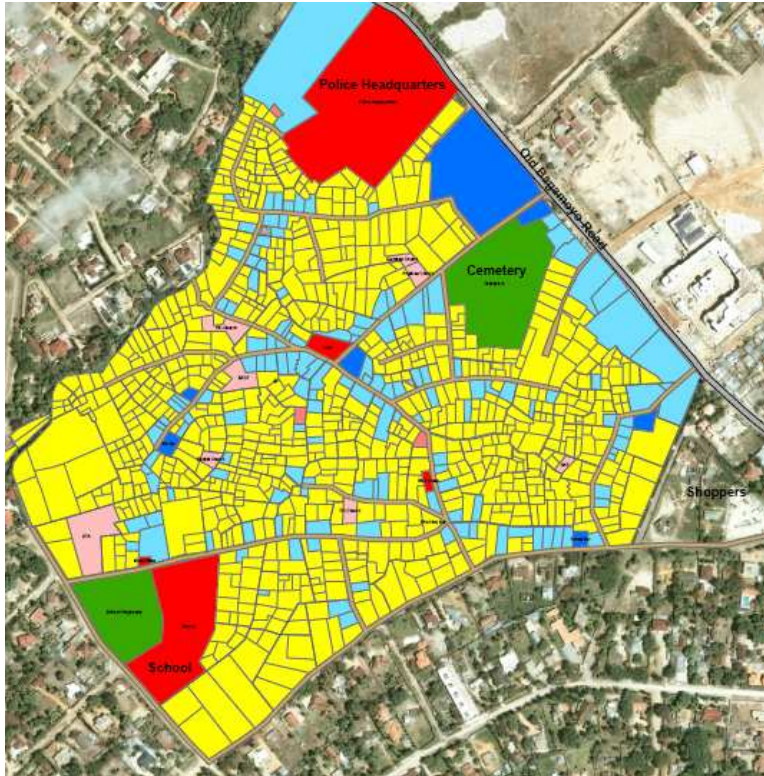
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Mikocheni Participatory Development Project Location



-  Open Spaces
-  Residential
-  Mixed Use
-  Commercial
-  Religious Inst.
-  Institutions
-  Earth Roads