

# MANAFWA – ÅMÅL PARTNERSHIP NEWS LETTER

**Manafwa District Council and Manafwa Town Council, Uganda, in partnership with the Municipality of Åmål, Sweden are involved in various initiatives to protect and restore environment in Manafwa and to build capacity in education and municipal administration**

## Background

In September 2006 the local governments of Manafwa, Uganda and Åmål, Sweden signed an agreement on Municipal Partnership. The agreement aimed at making the two local governments eligible for financial support within the new Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) programme for Municipal Partnership North – South (MPNS). The objective of MPNS is to support the local governments in joint capacity building for mutual benefit and to improve service delivery. The two local governments agreed to focus the initial efforts on the fields of municipal administration, education and environmental issues.



## Projects

The partners agreed on presenting four initial projects for funding:

- ⇒ Introduction of solar energy,
- ⇒ Improvement of safe drinking water,
- ⇒ Comprehensive environmental strategy
- ⇒ Municipal administration

The solar and water projects were implemented as capacity building projects with focus on teachers and students at the pre-university schools in Manafwa and Åmål. Solar energy was installed at the Red Cross



Resource Centre in Bubulo, later followed up by further installations and capacity building with the support from Chalmers School of Entrepreneurship (CSE) in Gothenburg, Sweden. The water project included the rehabilitation of a protected well in Mayenze village, Manafwa and capacity building in water management.



The environmental strategy project engaged elected and nominated politicians, local government technicians and representatives of NGOs and CBOs. A Manafwa delegation visited Åmål for general discussions of environmental policies and strategies. Field visits were made, related to solid waste management, water and sanitation, agriculture and forestry. Methods for awareness raising and information were discussed.



The response visit to Manafwa by an Åmål team resulted in a joint identification of key areas and issues (water and sanitation, solid waste management, erosion control, farming and forestry activities). The needs of action in the field of information and awareness efforts have been identified and the decisive role of NGOs and CBOs in that process recognised.



### **Funding**

The exchange activities are financed by Sida. The project budgets have had some limited provision for key equipment necessary for the capacity building in schools and municipal administration in Manafwa. External Swedish sponsors have financed the technical installations in the fields of solar energy and

water. Private Swedish companies, CSE and individuals have completely financed the heavy investments in solar energy and its application. Donations from individuals and Red Cross branches in Sweden financed the rehabilitation of the Mayenze well.

### **Way forward**

The three initial projects are finalised and in the process of being reported to Sida. The municipal administration project waits for approval by Sida. If approved, the project will initiate at the beginning of 2008.



Preparations are going on for design of new projects in the field of education and culture. The parties have agreed to follow up on the first phase of environmental management. Joint efforts of elaboration of the Manafwa environmental strategy is supposed to be one future component as well as support to information and awareness raising activities. Initiatives are taken to involve Rotary and other NGOs in the municipal partnership. Based on the preparations made by the technical staffs, the political administrations have to decide on how to continue implementing the partnership and which projects should be presented for future Sida support.

*THIS NEWS LETTER IS PRODUCED IN COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ÅMÅL AND MANAFWA DISTRICT AND TOWN COUNCIL*