SETTLEMENT RESEARCH 2019
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CHAPTER 1: OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Lilongwe Urban Poor Peoples Network (LUPPEN) has been working as a Malawian grassroots organization since 2007. It was established in order to strengthen the voices of urban poor residents in Lilongwe to demand improved living conditions and enable them to actively participate in the development of their city. The vision of LUPPEN is to have a society living in a free, safe, inclusive and democratic Lilongwe City where residents from all settlements live a life of dignity. The main focus of LUPPEN is to promote participatory urban governance through empowering rights holders to hold duty bearers accountable.

Mobilizing and Uniting Development in Africa (MUD Africa) is a Swedish organization that works to promote development in alliance with and for vulnerable and marginalized people living in African developing countries. MUD Africa supports and initiate activities that aim to raise awareness for the necessity to fight poverty. It collects funds and receive donations from private and public sources in Sweden and other parts of the world. Undertake research, formulate and hand over suggestions to accurate organizations concerning poverty reduction worldwide.

MUD Africa and LUPPEN formulated their partnership since 2012 and has been working together. The topic “Equal Land Rights for All” between LUPPEN and MUD Africa led through a number of projects that targeted urban and peri-urban settlements all which have improved the relationship of LUPPEN and community members. The number of members in LUPPEN has over the years increased with several hundreds and as a result, the executive members have gained trust in the communities to a larger extent. However, resources to reach out to all the settlements and identify the different needs on the ground in a gender sensitive manner are limited. In 2018 MUD Africa mobilized resources to work with LUPPEN to conduct a settlement needs assessment research project.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The settlement research 2019 is a needs assessment project funded only by MUD Africa and its members by private person’s donations on monthly basis as well as specific fundraising activities and sporadic initiatives. The project is to strengthen LUPPEN as an organization and the community members they work with.

In the short term LUPPEN will identify the needs in the selected settlements and hence create a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing women and men in the selected settlements. The medium term the goal is that LUPPEN has gained knowledge about the current situation in the selected settlements and that the activities in the project have strengthened the relationship between LUPPEN and the inhabitants. As the inhabitants get the opportunity to raise their opinions LUPPEN can, after having
identified the respective needs in the selected settlements, work more effectively to promote participatory urban governance through empowering rights holders to hold duty bearers accountable. In the long-term women and men in Lilongwe urban and peri-urban settlements will be able to hold duty bearers accountable and have been able to influence and change their living conditions.

1.2 Project aim
The overall goal of the research project is to contribute to an improvement in living conditions of the targeted population in urban and peri-urban settlements of Lilongwe. This needs assessment project aim was to increase LUPPEN’s understanding of the current situation in urban and peri-urban settlements. It created a dialogical space where women and men have the ability to raise their voice. Through the research, LUPPEN got a better understanding of diverse needs in different settlements which will be used to facilitate future projects that will vie for improving the living conditions of communities in the settlements.
CHAPTER 2: METHODOLOGY

2.1 Scope of the Study
The settlement research was undertaken in settlements of Yepa, Chakhutamadzi, Chigoneka and Mphonde in Lilongwe. Yepa settlement is located to the North-West of Dzenza Secondary school while Chakhutamadzi is located to the North-West of Kanengo Turn-off. Chigoneka is located a few kilometers from Mtandile market to the West and Mphonde is located to the North-East of Kanengo Turn-off and the settlement is serviced by the tarmac road from Kanengo to Salima.

Two community meetings were conducted in each settlement comprising of traditional leaders, religious leaders, Chiefs and community members to identify the different needs among the settlements. The relationship between LUPPEN and community members within the settlements, were strengthened through the committees that were formed in the interaction.

2.2 Data Collection Methods and Analysis
Data was collected through administering of well-structured questions to community members and a checklist (Appendix II). The checklist was used to analyze the physical condition and needs of the settlements.

To collect data community meetings comprising different groups were conducted explaining the aim of the meeting and highlighting the importance of the interaction. To get open views of the different groups within the community focus group discussions were conducted where women, men and the youth were put in different groups. Well-structured questions (Appendix I) were used by LUPPEN facilitator during the focus group discussion to get data from the different groups. From different groups the community came together to bring out the findings and come to consensus on the present condition and needs of the community.

Pair-wise ranking was used to analyze the needs of the community from the findings that were highlighted from different groups. Together with the community priority needs were agreed upon and discussed.
CHAPTER 3: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the results from the research together with a discussion of the findings. A checklist and well-structured questions were administered in focus group discussions to identify the needs in the different settlements.

3.1 Settlement needs and assets

3.1.1 Basic Services

All settlements need basic services like education, portable water and health. Lack of these services brings serious development challenges to residents in these settlements because they spend a lot of time to access the services instead of engaging in more productive activities.

Lack and insufficient education facilities have increased the school dropout rate among the youth and early marriages. Mphonde settlement cited the long distance students have to walk to access education especially the risk it puts on girl child. Yepa settlement cited lack of sufficient school blocks and staff houses which causes some teachers not to report or report late at school. This has affected the delivery of education in the area. Chigoneka and Chakhutamadzi are also faced with the need for education facilities because they also travel a long distance to access the service.

Portable water is a need in all settlements as there insufficient water sources. The picture below shows a discussion with Chakhutamadzi women who expressed the challenges they face due to in sufficient water sources.

There is one borehole in Chakhutamadzi that was constructed by funds from community members themselves but it is not sufficient to carter for the needs of the whole community or when it is damaged. Mphonde settlement access water from the well present in the area but during the rainy season usage is affected. Chigoneka also faces the same challenge as the well that is present is not safe for human usage because
it is contaminated. Women from the settlement cited water from the Kiosk present in
the settlements as unaffordable and at a distance to access. Yepa community has one
borehole which is not adequate for the community.

Such difficulties to access water bring non productivity especially among women as they
spend a lot of time looking for water. There are also increases in waterborne disease
from some of the contaminated water sources that they use.

There is lack of Health facilities in all settlements. Community members travel long
distances to access health services which causes deaths/maternal deaths of community
members. The community highlights the need for at least a health post where they can
access minimum health services rather than relying on those that are far.

3.1.2 Land and Environment
   i. Pollution

Yepa, Chakhutamadzi and Mphonde face serious challenge of pollution in their
settlements. This is likely due to illegal waste dumping that occurs within the area.
Chakhutamadzi lies to the west of Central Poultry Factory which produces animal feed
and engages in animal farming, however the orientation of some of the factory
buildings are not incoherent with the wind pattern within the area which causes dusty
and smelly air to residents of Chakhutamadzi. The factory fence also has holes which
produces contaminated liquid waste to some farms of residents.

Figure showing liquid waste flowing from the factory to farm lands

In some cases the liquid is exerted with pressure to the farms which also causes crop
destruction. Dialogues to curb the situation between the community members and the
factory have proven unfertile and some people have lost land as they are not able to
use the land productively due to these challenges. This scenario brings the need of the
residents to ask for proper disposal of such waste for improved livelihoods.
Mphone and Yepa are also faced with the same need to end pollution. Illegal waste operators dump waste in the area which causes land degradation along where it is dumped and diseases within the settlements.

ii. Environment Conservation

There is lack of environmental conservation in all settlements of Yepa, Chakhutamadzi, Mphone and Chigoneka. There tress present among few household but usage is controlled by the owner and not part of community conservation. In Chakhutamadzi the community notes the need and importance of having trees within the settlement but have challenges to acquire tree seedlings that they can plant.

iii. Waste management

There is no designated area for waste dumping in all settlements. Notably is also the uncontrolled disposal of waste among individual households which bring the need for proper waste management in the settlements.

3.1.3 Economic needs

All settlements expressed the need for economic activities within their areas as one way to improve livelihoods. In Chigoneka the youth expressed the need for electricity so that the youth can be engaging in small scale businesses that are supported by electricity. Women also expressed the need for financial institutions that can empower them to conduct small scale businesses so that they can support themselves.

3.1.4 Accessibility

Mphone settlement is serviced by a tarmac road from Kanengo to Salima, this makes the area easily accessible. However there is need to improve movement within the area because of lack of bridges. Chakhutamadzi, Chigoneka and Yepa are all accessed by non-paved roads. This brings accessibility challenges especially during the rainy season. There is need to improve accessibility within all settlements. The picture shows the road condition of the main access road to Chakhutamadzi settlement.
3.1.5 Community assets

Regardless of the challenges that the communities face, there are assets within the community that can be maximized to improve development. The location and accessibility of the settlements are positioned at locations that cannot be difficult to access developments.

The presence of already existing social groups and structures within the areas is also an opportunity that can be used to spur development. The community members are willing to contribute labour and provide other materials in their capacity that can be used in bringing development.

There also existing operational women groups within the settlement that can be productive but are limited because of lack of knowledge on how to advance themselves and the various efforts they put in place.

3.3 Gender and development inclusion

Women are not usually included in development and leadership positions in the settlements except for Chigoneka. In Chigoneka at the household level women are victimized which leaves them with lack of support for children. Ownership of land among women is also hindered because of cultural aspects that restrict women ownership. Most of the development needs within the settlements directly affect women and not including them further brings challenges.

The state of development in the area is not of standard as many facilities and services are lacking. Notably, when relevant authorities are bringing development in the settlements, community members are not well consulted. Communities are not aware of the Local Development Fund that there authorities are allocated to spur developments in their areas. The members also lack knowledge that it is their responsibility to hold and ask for various developments from the appointed authorities.
CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

4.1 Summary of findings
The results from the research show that Chakhutamadzi, Yepa, Mphonde and Chigoneka are in need of basic services, economic needs, accessibility needs, gender and development inclusion. The assessment also shows that the settlements have community assets that can be used as opportunities in addressing some of the required needs.

4.2 Conclusions
Overall there is need for basic services, gender and development inclusion, economic needs and improving of accessibility in all settlements.

4.3 Recommendations
Basing on the conclusions, the following recommendations are made to ensure improved livelihoods in settlements of Chakhutamadzi, Yepa, Chigoneka and Mphonde:

i. Capacity building and sensitization of community members

Facilitating provision of vocational skills among the youth will help in empowering them economically since they will learn different skills they will enable them to engage in economic activities. Capacity building in the existing women groups will help in empowering on how they can facilitate sustainable small scale business among themselves. Notably women lack the knowledge on how to facilitate their business and how they can access/approach different financial institutions for support.

Sensitization on the way of life among community members will help in eliminating the culture of making poverty normal. Most residents in the settlements view lack of basic facilities as they way of life and normal. Sensitizing communities on the standard of the way of life will spur community members to drive for development from their duty bearers.

Sensitization on various laws and policies especially the land law will help in facilitating coordinated development. Sensitizing the communities on the land law that they are not aware of and it’s guidelines on development will help coordinating development. Such guidelines can include the need for land registration especially to strengthen women ownership to land and zoning principles that can provide a background of how they should allocate land for various developments that are to come.

ii. Mainstreaming development responsibilities at the local level
Mainstreaming development responsibilities at each local level will help in improving the participatory structures present in the settlements. Most people holding positions do not know their responsibilities as such delivery is affected. Such lowest committees include; Neighborhood Committee, Ward Committee and Town/City Committees. The committees that directly work with the grassroots should know their line of responsibilities so that they can request for various developments and general information from the duty bearers they elected.

iii. Dialogue with relevant stakeholders

Dialogue among the grassroots and the elected duty bearers will help in closing the information gap that is present in all settlements. In a participatory manner, grassroots will be able to request for development and the duty bearers will also be able to timely provide them with information which is a key to development.

Communities should also request for dialogue from various stakeholders that are hindering their living conditions. From such interactions, ways on how such stakeholders can conduct their activities in a coherent manner within the settlements will be deduced.
Appendix I: QUESTIONS FOR FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

Area:......................

Date:......................

1. What is the state of development in this settlement?
2. As residents of this settlements what are your needs for a liveable settlement?

a. Needs Assessment template

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Need</th>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Causes</th>
<th>Consequences</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY</th>
<th>TO</th>
<th>CRITICALITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CORRECT</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(low, medium, high)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b. Pair Wise Ranking Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEED</th>
<th>1.</th>
<th>2.</th>
<th>3.</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Ranking to determine criticality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>1.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3. How do you address the challenges that are faced in this community?
4. How does development reach this area from relevant authorities?
5. How is gender issues addressed in this community?
6. What are the challenges that women face in land and property ownership?
7. Are you aware the new Land Law? If yes, how is it been implemented in this area?
8. What are other challenges that are faced by women for being residents of this settlement?
**Appendix II:** Checklist for observing physical condition of the settlement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very bad</th>
<th>bad</th>
<th>good</th>
<th>Very Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drainage</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Road Condition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
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<td>Water</td>
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<td>Environment</td>
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<td>School</td>
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<td>Hospital</td>
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<td>Waste Management</td>
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<td>CBCC (Child Based Care Centre)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mode of Earning</td>
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