

# **UN Millennium Project - Tanzania Program**

## **Quarterly Progress Report: June/July – September 2006**

### **1. Introduction**

Mbola Millennium Villages Cluster one of the millennium cluster implementing Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at village level. The Cluster is located about 36 km from Tabora town in Uyui district of mid-western Tanzania and is one of the poorest villages in Tanzania. The economic base of Mbola is subsistence farming, mainly rain-fed agriculture and production of local livestock breeds. Mbola villages host the Miombo woodlands, a unique Africa savanna forest type. It has two distinct seasons, a rainy season between November and April, and a dry season for the rest of the year. However, persistent drought over the last few years has withered crops and continues to threaten the health of the villagers. Generally, women and children spend most of the day and night fetching water from very far sources.

The official launching of the Millennium Villages Project in Tanzania was conducted by Prof Jeffrey Sachs towards the end of May 2006. During the launching ceremony at the Mbola Villages Cluster in Ilolangulu Division, Uyui District in Tabora Region, over 500 people attended and these included senior Government officials, such as the Minister for Planning, Economy and Empowerment (who is also in-charge of the nationwide implementation of MDGs), representatives of NGOs and CSOs as well as senior UNDP Country Team officials.

Most activities during the period under review centered on the recruitment of staff, procurement of goods and services, short-term training of staff, sensitization of various stakeholders, including local communities in the Mbola Villages Cluster as well as support to MDAs on MDG-related aspects, particularly at the national level.

### **2. Project Staff Recruitment**

The recruitment of staff was carried-out by the UNDP Country Office at different times between March and September 2006. Project staff have been issued with standard UNDP one-year service contracts, which are renewable on annual basis depending on performance.

Completed Recruitment:

Project staff on board<sup>1</sup> and their reporting dates as of end September 2006 is as follows:

- √ Database Manager, Miss Sia Lyimo -- 01 June 2006;
- √ Science Coordinator, Dr Gerson Nyadzi -- 01 July 2006;
- √ Agriculture/Environment Coordinator, Mr Ferdinand Mgaya, -- 01 July 2006;
- √ Health Coordinator, Dr Deusdedit Mjungu -- 01 July 2006;
- √ Country Coordinator, Dr. George Sempeho -- 15 July 2006;
- √ Community Development Coordinator Mr. Joseph Kakunda -- 01 August 2006;
- √ Finance and Administration Officer, Mr. Richard Mfugale -- 14 August 2006;
- √ Cluster Manager, Dr Flora Nyambo-Minja -- 01 October 2006.
- √ Infrastructure Coordinator, Eng. Stanley Kayabu – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2006

A total of 26 enumerators,<sup>2</sup> which were drawn from different administrative villages within the Mbola Villages Cluster have been engaged. These have been trained on project principles and objectives as well as the enumerators' guidelines and were engaged in the recently concluded demographic census.

The team of 12 facilitators was engaged from 20<sup>th</sup> November 2006. The Uyui District Local Government Authority has agreed to second their 12 staff to the project and they went through the competitive recruitment process as per UNDP Special Service Agreement (SSA) contracting guidelines. One project driver has also been offered a one year UNDP SSA contract starting from 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2006. Five data entry clerks have been recruited and engaged.

All the recruited senior project staff (the Coordinators, Cluster Manager and Science Manager) have been issued with business cards and UNDP identification cards will be issued in the coming few days.

Pending Recruitment:

The staff recruitment process will continue in the next quarter. The position of the Enterprise Coordinator is still pending subject to overall budget revision, which is currently underway. Pending is the recruitment of a secretary and two drivers under SSA contracts. Advertisement for these positions has been done and short-listing followed by interviews will be held in the next few days.

The identification of 29 Community Health Workers (CHWs) has been completed and training (one week seminar) was conducted in the period on 25 - 30 September 2006. Modalities of modest remunerations of CHWs are currently being worked-out by Drs. Mjungu (MVP Health Coordinator) and Sonia Sachs (MVP New York).

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<sup>1</sup> The Infrastructure Coordinator designate, Mr. Fred Honsiah, was recruited in August 2006, but declined to take the offer after formalizing all contract procedures with UNDP. The Project Management and UNDP Country Office has decided to offer the position to the second placed applicant, one Eng. Stanley Kayabu, who will now report on duty in early November 2006

<sup>2</sup> Additional 14 enumerators were hired and engaged from 20<sup>th</sup> November 2006 --making a total of 40 – as per work plan and budget of MV1 and MV2.

### 3. Procurement of Goods and Services

The procurement of goods and services is supposed to adhere to UNDP procedures and MVP guidelines. Office space for the project has been obtained from Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) premises, along Airport Road within Tabora Municipality at government subsidized rate. The office has nine offices and a conference hall and these are adequate for all project activities<sup>3</sup>.

Materials and equipment, which have been procured as of end September 2006 include: eight desk- and two-laptop computers, three motor cycles, various office furniture items for the Tabora office, such as tables, chairs, etc.

One vehicle is being cleared by UNDP at the Dar Es Salaam port. The remaining two project vehicles are expected by the mid and end of December 2006, respectively. Currently, the project is using hired two vehicles after the one vehicle, which was kindly offered by the Uyui Local Government Authority, was withdrawn towards the beginning of September 2006 after using it for over six weeks.

Internet connectivity for the project office i.e. both VSAT and LAN were in place by mid-October 2006. The office has also been connected to the fixed line network and the project telephone No. is +255 26 2605573. A 30 KVA generator has been procured and installed.

The security of the office is in the hands of a private company -- M/S Alliance Day & Night Security Guard Ltd of Tabora.

The 120 MT hybrid maize seeds was donated by Monsanto International and was shipped from Uganda by 21<sup>st</sup> November 2006. The procurement of fertilizers (300 MT of Diammonium phosphate -- DAP) for basal application was done well in advance before the start of rain season. Farmers are now busy planting hybrid maize with fertilizers. The procurement of fertilizers for top dressing (300 MT urea and CAN: 300 MT) at a subsidized rate is at an advanced stage.

The Government, through the Tabora Regional authorities, has provided the permit to enable the project to buy the fertilizer at subsidized price. The procurement of the fertilizers is to be staggered – starting with DAP by mid-November, followed by Urea in December 2006 /January 2007 as the rainfall intensity has been promising in this season compared to last year.

Pending procurement include additional desk tops and laptops, motorcycles, bicycles (for enumerators and community health workers), air conditioners, office furniture for MVP Cluster office at Ilolangulu, fire extinguishers for the project office, etc.

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<sup>3</sup> The process of acquiring an office at Ilolangulu village within the Mbola village Cluster has started. This office will be used to accommodate the field team (Facilitators, Enumerators, CHWs).

#### **4. Sensitization of various Stakeholders**

Initial sensitization of village leaders and the entire community in the Mbola villages cluster in Ilolangulu Division was conducted between mid-July and mid-September 2006. The UNDP Country Office in close collaboration with the Ministry of Planning, Economy and Empowerment (MPEE), organized a one day sensitization seminar towards the end of September 2006<sup>4</sup> involving key officers involved in policy and planning (including MDG/MKUKUTA – related aspects) in selected MDAs such as the Ministries of agriculture, health, infrastructure, education, water, natural resources as well as the Treasury and Foreign Affairs. The aim of the seminar was to enlighten officers about the UN MVP and the role it intends to play in supporting MDG – related activities, including the costing of MKUKUTA (the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty – NSGRP) and other strategies.

#### **5. Other Project-related Activities**

The assessment of crop harvest survey for 2005/06 cropping season as a baseline yield estimates in all the MVP villages was conducted towards the end of July 2006 in the three administrative villages of MV1, namely Mbola, Mpenge and Isila. Preliminary results indicated that farmers' priority food crop was maize followed by sweet potatoes and groundnuts. Tobacco is the main cash crop widely grown in the area but MVP in anyway is not involved in the cultivation of tobacco. Maize and tobacco are the two crops occupying large area of cultivated land. However, the yields were extremely low with only 160 and 269 kg per acre for maize and tobacco, respectively. The main reasons for low yields include farmers lacking ability to buy fertilizers and the principles of agronomic practices and unreliable rainfall in the area.

Demographic census was also conducted simultaneously for MV1 and MV2 villages. Preliminary analysis on census indicates that MV1 (Mbola research village) village has 1,083 households with 6,043 people and MV2 villages (Mbola scaling up villages) have 4,616 households and 23,300 people. Thus the total population for MV Mbola Village Cluster is 29,343. This indicates that MV1 has 1,043 more people exceeding the 5,000 people which are the requirement for the millennium village.

IRB approval by the Ministry of Health and the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) was approved by mid November 2006. This allows research on health related activities such as taking blood samples, stools, etc. to start. The UNDP country office is following up on non health related IRB from Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH).

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) to all the 15 administrative villages in the Mbola Villages Cluster has been concluded and the draft report has been prepared.

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<sup>4</sup> The seminar was planned for 27 September 2006, but was postponed to 3 October 2006 to enable key participants to attend.