

SDI 5-Cities Harare Conference Report 20-21 March 2012



Epworth Ward Development Committee presenting their in-situ upgrading layout plan during the field visit

Recently, the Zimbabwe affiliate of the Slum Dwellers International (SDI) hosted two workshops which drew participants from the southern hub namely Zambia, Malawi, Namibia and South Africa. The first workshop was centred on the SDI 5-Cities Programme which is geared towards documenting and sharing experiences with cities that have large informal settlements that are under siege across Africa. The second workshop focused on 'Affordable Finance for Low-income Housing', and was being held under the auspices of the Harare Slum Upgrading Project - a joint project by City of Harare, Dialogue on Shelter and Zimbabwe Homeless People's Federation. The three Harare partners under the Slum Upgrading Project had invited stakeholders from the low-income housing and finance sectors to share experiences and map out strategies for addressing finance gaps within the low-income housing sector.

Day 1

SDI 5 Cities...

The two-day SDI 5-Cities workshop followed the hosting of similar workshops by Uganda and Malawi. The meeting started with a background to the 5-Cities Programme from the SDI Secretariat and an update on Harare progress from City of Harare. In addition, the participants were also given a background of the Uganda workshop and how it had led to the creation of action plans by the cities in attendance. Harare, for example, had selected the Dzivarasekwa Extension Site as the learning ground using the housing, water and sanitation interventions being implemented by City of Harare, Zimbabwe Homeless People's Federation and Dialogue on Shelter. Whilst in Uganda, the Harare team set out to undertake the following among other activities;

- Construction of 100 eco-san toilets
- Installation of 2 additional boreholes

However, besides these quantitative targets, the Harare team also set out to kickstart a process of learning, monitoring and evaluation as a key element embedded in the whole project. After the background, Mayor of Harare then presented the welcome remarks which also touched on how the relationship between the alliance and the City of Harare had evolved over the years. This was then followed by site visits to three projects as shown below;

Project	Partners	Description
Dzivarasekwa Extension	CoH, DOS and ZIHOPFE	Slum Upgrading (in-situ) for 480 families
Epworth Ward 7	ELB, DOS, ZIHOPFE and WADCO	Slum Upgrading (in-situ) for 6636 households
Budiriro	CoH and Current Housing Consortium	Greenfield Low-income Infrastructure and Housing Development for 11 co-operatives with 700 households

WADCO - Ward Development Committee, ELB - Epworth Local Board

Reflections from Site Visits

Dzivarasekwa Extension - the visit highlighted the significance that the Dzivarasekwa Extension community attached to the partnership that had been established with the City of Harare Harare. The concept of alternative water and sanitation facilities in the form of eco-san toilets and boreholes before the installation of reticulated infrastructure emerged as a topical issue during the reflections. The whole concept was well-received by a majority of the participants and many of the local authorities in attendance were ready to pilot it in their own contexts.

Epworth Ward 7 - the field experience in Epworth centred on the work around the upgrading exercise that was being spearheaded by the Ward Development Committee led by the local councillor. The development committee outlined the process they had followed through during the exercise emphasizing the role that the enumeration had played in catalyzing the process by rallying together the entire community and more significantly by generating the socio-economic and spatial information required for upgrading.

Budiriro Current Housing Consortium - the visit to the project highlighted the challenges that poor communities go through when apart from constructing their houses, they are expected to install conventional infrastructure. It emerged from the visit that it had taken over 5 years for the consortium to develop the basic reticulated infrastructure and meanwhile superstructure development remained 'frozen' until completion of the basic infrastructure. Therefore, such a model prevented communities from occupying their plots and direct all their resources on the plot development.

Day 2

The following day was mainly presentations from the wide cross section of participants that were in attendance. The Harare Federation profile and enumeration team gave a summary of the work they were currently doing in terms of profiling, enumerating and mapping slums

and how this was linking with the current upgrading efforts in Harare and Epworth. It was pointed out in the presentations that all these exercises were being undertaken jointly with the respective local authorities in Epworth and City of Harare. In the latter, for instance, it was highlighted that the profile team had profiled and mapped 37 slum settlements dotted in and around the City and this included areas like Mbare, Hopley and slums along Mukuvisi river. A detailed presentation of the Epworth process was then made by MACDOH Planning Consultant and Epworth Local Board noting all the steps that had been followed throughout the entire process. The involvement of various stakeholders was mentioned as crucial factor that had made the process richer. In particular, the participation by central government through the Department of Physical Planning at the various early stages was also commended as they were ordinarily engaged at the layout approval stage. The first step that had been taken by the Ward Development Committee by crafting a strategic plan had also proved to be the crucial catalyzing agent for the whole process and also helped to ensure that the community visions were at the centre of the entire exercise.

The Harare presentations were then followed by SDI experiences with the affiliates that were present reporting on how they were partnering with their respective cities. In particular, the South African presentation focused on the Sheffield Road Upgrading Project in Cape Town among other experiences. Sheffield Road is an informal settlement situated on a road reserve and the upgrade was inspired by the need to improve living conditions as well as minimizing the spread of fires in the event of a blaze in the informal settlement. The exercise therefore entailed use of community-mapping and enumeration to inform installation of additional infrastructural facilities and re-blocking and re-alignment of shacks. The Namibians talked about the partnership that had evolved between poor communities through the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia, City of Windhoek and central government via the Ministry of Housing. The growth of such a partnership had culminated in allocation of an annual grant to the Federation by central government amounting to N\$2million. In addition, the establishment of finance mechanisms for the poor (Build Together Programme) and adoption of pro-poor strategies by City of Windhoek in the form of the 'Development and Upgrading Strategy' bears testimony to the support coming both local and central government. The Malawians shared their experiences around the current Slum Upgrading Project being run under the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 5 African cities including Harare. The meeting observed that there is need for the Harare and Lilongwe to regularly share notes around the project.

Action Plans...

After the different experiences from the presentations, the various groups, including City officials and Federations, were now tasked to prepare joint action plans which would help to define concrete next steps and promote mutual learning, monitoring and evaluation. Therefore, the action plans were important as a benchmarking tool with respect to lessons, challenges and progress.

South African delegation

- community capacitation/mobilization
- Establishment and consolidation of partnerships (MOU)
- Negotiate around by-laws and policies that promote informal settlements upgrading
- Replication of current informal settlements upgrading programmes

Namibia delegation

- Revisit current city systems for allocating land to the poor and establish clear steps for allocating land to the poor.

- Documentation of the Federation experiences access to land and use this to inform policy
- Establishment of clear guidelines on the engagement between City of Windhoek and urban poor communities (Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia)

Malawi delegation

- Re-engage Lilongwe City Council around the Informal Settlements Upgrading Project
- Undertake a joint pilot cluster development in collaboration with Blantyre City Council and Blantyre Polytechnic
- Establish a waste management center in Blantyre modelled around the Ntandire system in Lilongwe
- Finalize and mainstream informal settlement upgrading issues into the new Blantyre City Council building by-laws

Zambia delegation

- Undertake a joint presentation by Lusaka Council and Federation to the Ministry of Lands around allocation of land for low-cost housing development.
- Undertake a joint exercise focusing on city-wide enumerations and mapping of informal settlements in Lusaka
- Sign an MOU with Lusaka City Council
- Submit bids for Constituency Development Funds and Ward Development Funds and channel them towards community-led drainage, sanitation and roads improvement projects
- Identify and declare informal settlements as statutory housing and improvement areas
- Undertake exchange visits to capacitate Zambians around enumerations and mapping (GIS) processes

Kenyan delegation

- Broadening of the collaboration between the stakeholders (Government, Municipalities and Universities) through MOUs
- Strengthening of local Federation and co-ordination of NGOs working in informal settlements
- Implementation of the new national land policies to address land tenure issues through upgrading
- Strengthening the collaboration between AAPS and SDI

Association of African Planning Schools delegation

- Encourage AAPS members to sign MOUs with their local authorities on the implementation of SDI/AAPS programmes
- Use AAPS as a vehicle for promoting inclusive city governance and management

Chinhoyi delegation

- Submit a formal land application for more land to Council
- Upgrade the current water and sanitation systems at Brundish (Federation Site).
- Improve existing water and sanitation systems in existing settlements (e.g. Alaska, Single Quarters and Shackleton) with challenges using the SHARE project
- Broadening and deepening of engagement with other stakeholders around the SHARE project

Epworth Ward 7 delegation

- Continue follow-up on the layout through the Ministry of Local Government
- Construction of eco-san toilets at the identified sites in Ward 7

- Construction of footbridges to facilitate smooth travel and accessibility within the ward
- Electrification of Ward 7 home industries site.
- Construction of Ward Development office

Epworth Ward 4 delegation

- Presentation of enumeration and mapping results to the community
- Engaging town planning consultant to prepare layout
- Implementation of approved plan

Bulawayo delegation

- Establish a steering committee that includes City/DOS/Federation to meet regularly and confront issues that the city is grappling with.
- Strengthen the existing partnership and use it to better manage and learn from current projects e.g. Garikai project in Cowdry Park
- Launch a slum upgrading exercise for Iminyela flats
- Implement an incremental development approach around the Silethemba project making it possible for Federation members to move on site temporary services
- Undertake joint mobilization of financial resources for slum upgrading programmes

Harare delegation

- Establish a joint city-level fund for land development for the poor
- Review of prohibitive regulations and standards to promote speedy land delivery and housing development for the poor
- Deepen and widen engagement of Harare policy-makers to increase buy-in and enactment of pro-poor policies and building by-laws.
- Increase engagement of central government and private sector around slum upgrading
- Negotiate for council commitment through budgets for land provision

Kariba delegation

- Develop a master-plan to enable release of land by the Ministry of Wildlife to enable subsequent allocation of poor communities
- Implement jointly the existing upgrading plans for Mahombekombe suburb
- Completion of the outstanding 43 superstructure shell units at Batonga site
- Completion of the infrastructure project for the additional 50 plots allocated to the Federation at the Garikai site - Batonga
- Initiate regular tripartite meetings between Federation/DOS and Kariba municipality
- Negotiate for the waiver of council rates for undeveloped plots to allow the communities to channel more resources to construction priorities

Kadoma delegation

- Avail affordable land to the Federation through joint land identification - this follows an offer of land to the Federation by Council which was under a contractor-driven project
- Conduct exchange visits especially involving policy-makers to generate deeper understanding of the Federation process
- Sign an MOU resulting in a tripartite arrangement to facilitate regular interaction around the issues that Federation members and the majority of the poor face.
- Negotiate for co-financing of low-income housing development projects through the council estate fund
- Promote the adoption of specific pro-poor policies that address the poor's plight in accessing housing

Conclusion

The SDI 5-Cities conference managed to heighten discussions around informal settlements upgrading and highlighted the opportunities that exist when cities and their communities start to interact and learn from upgrading experiences. The interesting stories around eco-san toilets and boreholes help to illustrate the small steps that Dzivarasekwa Extension communities have taken in their journey towards addressing security of tenure. On the other hand, the willingness by City of Harare to embrace and learn from such experiences has provided the much-needed support for incremental informal settlements upgrading. The experiences from Namibia (City of Windhoek/NHAG/SDFN) also reminded the participants that the role of both local and central government is crucial through the provision of additional funds and the requisite pro-poor policies in order to realize the scale that is needed.