

ASPIRE/ Small Towns Conference 21-22 October 2010

Small Towns Development Initiative
and Readiness for implementation.
Some reflections.

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GTZ Strengthening Local Governance
Programme



Presentation outline

- SLGP/ GTZ and Partnerships
- Background to the Small Towns development initiative
- Emerging themes
- Next steps

Strengthening Local Governance Programme:

***A partnership programme of the South African –
German Development Cooperation***

Phase III: March 2010 – December 2012



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Why Partnerships and Collaboration

Rational

- **Strong legislative context development partnerships**
- **Clear acknowledgement that “local governance is everyone’s business”**
- **Given history, the challenge is how to foster strategic alliances, facilitate partnerships and ensure a common vision and purpose.**
- **Emphasis on horizontal accountability, joint determining of visions, flexibility and extensive stakeholder engagement**

Focus area

Implementation of **municipal development partnerships** through **innovative cooperation models** between municipalities and private and public sector entities for better service delivery

**“Local governance is everyone’s
business”**

DCoG

**THE SMALL TOWNS DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE**

THE SMALL TOWNS DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Background

- DCoG/ AHI ongoing collaboration on topic
- Strong acknowledgement that no one partner can proceed alone in addressing socio-economic challenges
- All stakeholders have a vested interest in successful locality development
- All can benefit from a stable and sustainable socio-economic environment
- Key economic, social, administrative role

Challenges



- Infrastructure neglect
- Irregular service provision
- Uneven development
- Unhealthy competition amongst towns
- leadership void
- Exclusivity and gate-keeping
- Trust and track record
- Political challenges

Opportunities

- Local identity
- Building on local potential (comparative and competitive advantage)
- Favourable location factors
- Committed stakeholders
- Platforms for the discovery, engagement
- Development of local leaders



The Concept

FOUR Strategic pillars

- 1. Dialogue for change** between community, state and the private sector;
- 2. Finding common ground** amongst partners by identifying a joint vision for the town and facilitating process of strategy development
- 3. The identification of quick wins and catalytic projects.**
- 4. The promotion of local leadership**

THE PARTNERS



cooperative governance
& traditional affairs

Department:
Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SAAM SKEP ONS VOLHOUBARE WELVAART
TOGETHER WE CREATE SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY

gtz

Local Specific Partners
Cacadu DM, DBSA LEDI
programme, IDASA- British
Council, etc

Guiding Principles

- Use and compliment existing instruments, institutions and processes
- Be consciously guided by the LGTAS
- Commit to working with local chambers, universities, etc
- Use the most appropriate instruments for the promotion of local dialogue
- Respect different interests but commit to 'common ground'.
- Encourage innovation
- Find ways to encourage leadership development
- Cast the net wide

Institutional arrangements

- A national Steering Structure
- A project management team to drive, partner, support and co-manage
- A small town steering structure/ action teams

“Local ownership key”!!!!

Approach of Steering team

- A Phased Approach starting with 6 towns
- Engagements, resource mobilisation, process support and implementation.
- Build on/ use local intelligence
- Different towns have different processes
- Inter-town/ municipal learning encouraged
- Document learning

Small Towns development
initiative gives effect to LED!

...an ongoing process



Involvement of various stakeholders



Working jointly to achieve unique advantage



Building on local potential



Removing bureaucratic obstacles



Local Trader, Limpopo



Small Business
is key to small
Towns!



HARRISMITH ...

1. Township Guest House Project (G5)

- 130 rooms required and support initiative in place for local township B& B's

2. Freight and logistic hub catalytic project

- potentially create 6500 jobs (4-5 years)

But:

- Dependent on decision by SA roads Agency on N3 By-pass
- More than 3500 jobs at risk

3. “Need to strengthen our dialogue with the municipality”



Emerging issues from engagements

- Water / Infrastructure
- 'Linking local / developmental businesses and existing chambers
- Tourism Promotion
- Skills development
- Enhancing LED capacity
- Strengthening Municipal links
- Identifying local champions
- Follow up/ Implementation support on specific project ideas



Emerging issues (2)...

Communication and Information

- Provincial and National developments.
- Innovative projects like renewal energy, solar Farm, museums, tourism, investment promotion, etc.
- Public forums (e.g. weigh-bridge , SDF, roads)
- municipal contact and communication



Municipal Readiness for implementation?

- Different towns have **different capacities** for LED / implementation
- **Balancing** Service delivery backlogs with economic development priorities
- **Confidence of LG** to address formal businesses
- **Willingness** from both public and private sector to work together and find ways to build bridges
- **Different 'support' institutions** open to collaborate, support
- **Business Chambers** as active citizens
- Municipalities key as facilitators, coordinators, stimulators
- Different **institutional arrangements** to be explored.
- Need for strong **leadership from other spheres**

Conclusions/ Next steps

- Facilitating public- private dialogue
- Linking non- formal and formal businesses
- Gathering “town intelligence”
- Joint planning and Identifying quick-wins
- Getting different support partners on board
- Institutional arrangements
- Technical expertise
- Promoting, enhancing local leadership
- Documenting learning

Finally...

‘You may never know what results may come from your actions. But if you do nothing, there will be no results! ‘

M. Gandhi

