

Urbanization and Development

A critical examination of an urban health and sanitation Situation in Kampala, Uganda



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Introduction

This paper offers a critically examination of important issues relating to urbanization and development. The paper considered the issue of urban health and sanitation taking the case of Kampala the capital city of the Republic of Uganda. The key focus of the paper is to discuss the role of public, private and Not-for-profit organizations on sanitation in Kampala and how their involvement will reduce the affects urban health and sanitation and improve their positive outcomes. Due to both national and local government's inability to support and provide basic services in urban centers throughout Uganda Not for Profit organizations and private sector has assumed the burden of service provision (Tukahirwa, 2010). It is increasingly becoming accepted that, effective sanitation and health in African cities can only be achieved through collaboration of private sector, Not-for-profit organizations and governmental authority (Oosterveer 2009).

Kampala is regarded as agglomeration of a number of different ethnic groups. It has a population of 1.9 million people, situated in hilly zone suitable for better planning. The city has an altitude of 1300 meter above sea level (Brinkoff, 2010). According to the World Bank (2007) the city does experience frequent and severe flooding. An urban health and sanitation concern in the city includes industrial pollution, mainly from textiles and food processing. These problems need an agreeable solution to prevent chronic and health crisis (Charles, 2015). To address it, public, private and Not-for-profit organizations need to contribute collectively or individually in addressing the urban health and sanitation crisis.

Discussion

The provision of health and sanitation in the city of Kampala is highly deficient as it is also the case witnessed in most cities of Sub Saharan Africa (Hutton et al, 2007). In Kampala the sanitation problem is largely connected to issues concerning access to hygiene toilets throughout the city, especially in poor neighborhoods. Waste is discharged into the environment without adequate and proper treatment. The government, private sector and the Not-for-profit organizations have tried to address this problem but it still persists. This issue has an impact on quality of life, productivity or dignity of the people of Kampala. The problem of sanitation also brings infectious disease burden to the city overall (Hutton et al, 2007). To examine this problem further, internationally the sanitation and health issue is likely to affect 2.5 billion people as it is expected that a wider population will move to cities in the coming three decades (Charles, 2015). Industrial pollution is also an issue that impacted urban dwellers.

The foods produced are affected by contaminated industrial waste (AfDB, 2006). Kampala has only 10-15 percent sewerage connections; also 60-70 percent Kampala residents live in low income informal settlements (Charles, 2015). The Population in Kampala is projected to grow from current levels to 15 percent in the coming years (Charles, 2015). Uganda in general and Kampala in Particular also missed the 2015 sanitation target set by the Millennium Development Goals 7, which seek to achieve adequate sanitation for all (United Nations, 2015).

It has been established that more than 62 Not-for-profit were recognized to have carried out sanitation and solid waste management activities in the city of Kampala. The Not-for-profit participation in such venture highlighted the important role they play in addressing the urban health and sanitation problem (Tukahirwa, et al, 2010). This paper also makes the case that, in countries such as Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Zambia, partnering with Not-for-profit has increased access of urban poor to basic services such as sanitation and health and also have expanded the quality and quantity of public services beyond those levels possible below real private or pure public arrangements (Jones 2000, Ayee and Crook 2003). Such an arrangement is necessary to overcome Kampala's sanitation crisis.

In Kampala the government is the major provider of sanitation and health management which is provided free of charge. However, the provision of such service could not be extended further due to increased population caused by rural migrant to congested areas. The quality of urban health and sanitation service deteriorated, calling for the need for private, and Not-for-profit organizations to work with government to improve them (Tukahirwa, et al, 2010). Some emphasis was also made by Environment and Health Project Report (2004) that an imperative and workable model for addressing urban health and sanitation issue in Kampala is by working with Not-for-profit organizations. The role of Not-for-profit organizations in working with informal settlers in poor slum areas is also needed as such populations are not able to receive and access services due to the fact that where they live is regarded by government as illegal areas (Mulenga et al. 2004).

The Uganda government has recognized the low capacity and weakness of public institutions and authorities in sanitation and health service delivery especially, as the case of Kampala do suggest (Tukahirwa, et al, 2010). Both the national and the city authority designed a policy and strategic framework for reforms with one specific shift in the issue of service delivery to the Not-for-profit organizations and the private sector. As indicated by Tukahirwa, et al (2010) the policy reform delineated the function of the urban authority to that of specification, planning, supervision and monitoring. The government role was to ensure great quality of service delivery and also ensure adequate access and coverage. The critical role that, the private sector and Not-for-profit organizations played with government agencies was to develop an action plan for health and sanitation and also solid waste management. Various stakeholders recognize the role of Not-for-profit sector in advancing health and sanitation services delivery.

The Not-for-profit also played a critical role in working with urban authority in Kampala to implement the action plan for health and sanitation and solid waste management. The government also identified opportunities for Not-for-profit and private sector to participate in in urban sanitation, solid waste management and planning. The remarkable outcome of these efforts led to introduction of new solid waste ordinance 2000 (El-Karawy 2006)). Not-for-profit organizations and private sectors need to expand their work through modernizing the technological sanitation and solid waste management. Legally in Kampala the Not-for-profit organizations role are also recognized in the Uganda Constitution 1995 and the Local Government Act 1997. These two sets of law bring the important role of Not-for-profit in urban service delivery and especially on sanitation and

health related issue to forefront of public knowledge. The recognition of Not-for-profit has formalized their work and made Not-for-profit collaboration with government more institutionalized (Serageldin et al. 2000). Partnerships with private sector and Not-for-profit are also found in areas of garbage collection and recycling. Some private companies provided finances for purchasing equipment for collection of garbage, construction of pilot sites for recycling. Others supported community mobilization and sensitization activities (Tukahirwa, et al, 2010). Such partnership gives as sense of why the role of Not for profit and private sector are important in working with government.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This paper contended that, there is growing evidence, which suggest that Not-for-profit organizations and private sector are no longer standing on the margins of sanitation and health management issues in Kampala. Not-for-profit organizations and private sector are not even waiting to be called to play a role on urban sanitation and health provisioning but they are actually already fully involved in the sector. As discussed above Not-for-profit organizations have moved beyond just implementing real project that target poor residences in Kampala areas and are now playing a leading role in developing a comprehensive strategy for urban sanitation in the city.

The paper also point out that, a successful urban health and sanitation management strategy cannot be achieved by only one single entity but rather it requires collective actors. As many experts and authors asserted, urban health and sanitation can only be achieved by a partnership paradigm. Such paradigm according to Linder, Rosenau, Poncelet (2000) and Glasbergen et al (2007) provide a useful framework to understanding how multiple actors such as Not-for-profit organizations and private sector can partner and collaborate in providing collective services. Collaboration has the potential to be incredibly effective if is done through the angle of public, Not-for-profit organizations and the private sector with high purposes of solving emergent urban health and sanitation issues (Glasbergen et al. 2007).

The role of Not-for-profit organizations, private and government can easily be promoted through partnership. Partnerships in many instances have been seen to promote the expansion in the quantity and quality of public services beyond levels possible under bi-lateral agreements between private and public (Jones 2000, Ayee and Crook 2003).Not for profit organizations also work with government agencies on issues concerning accountability. The role of Not for organizations in ensuring government accountability in service delivery is also necessary in improving efficiency. Additionally, other authors assert that a mixture of different players is more likely to meet the differences in demands from the populace living under distinctive conditions (Muller and Hoffman 2001).

What can support the Not-for-profit organizations, private sector and the government to play a critical role on issues of urban health and sanitation in Kampala is through modernizing the technological sanitation and solid waste management. This will

help these sectors to advance on their strategic role. For the Not-for-profit organizations and private sector to expand health and sanitation service they should also implement bigger projects, which results into large urban impacts. Such project should also target unplanned poor neighborhoods in Kampala. The stated roles need to be strengthened further in order to increase accountability and efficiency.

It should be recommended that in order for a successful operationalization and implementation of urban health and sanitation projects and programs in Kampala to take place division of responsibilities, tasks and power should be clearly spell out between Not-for-profit organizations, private sector and the governmental authority. As it need to be highlighted achieving join development through partnership comes with major constrains and hurdles. For example one of the issues is conflicting ideologies of government agencies. Strategies for minimizing such constrains and hurdles need to be shorted and promoted.

The ability of public, private and Not-for-profit organizations to contribute collectively or individually towards addressing urban health and sanitation will also largely depend on resources and the way they are allocated, whether through government sources or donors. The public, private and Not-for-profit organizations should work together in securing sustainable funding and resources for addressing the urban problems. Also where policies favor large-scale private companies within the private sector it will likely impact the level of contribution of these actors. Thus, it should also be address through policy reforms and have service delivery prioritization.

Finally, it should be mention that, problem of urban health and sanitation does exist in Kampala and necessary attention is needed prevent such problem to become a crisis. For Not-for-profit organizations to successfully become partners in the implementation and development of sanitation and health services, reform is necessary of the legal framework and policies that makes the overall process of collaboration much easier for public, private and Not-for-profit organizations to be able to contribute collectively or individually towards urban health and sanitation. Such legal framework and policy should have an enforcement mechanism to ensure what is proposed actually works and also promote increased efficiency and accountability

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