

## Chapter Three

### 3.0 DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES FACING THE DISTRICT.

#### 3.1 Health and Nutrition

Health is one of the basic human needs. It is also one of the basic and fundamental rights of human beings. Every body should be able to have access to adequate and quality health care services.

The health status of a country or society, amongst other things determines its level of development; for health is wealth. The healthier a given population is, the more productive it is. It is therefore imperative that every country and society should strive to ensure that its population gets access to quality health care services.

#### Health situation in Arua District

##### *Health status indicators*

The health status of the people of Arua is poor compared to the rest of the country. A self-explanatory comparative analysis presented in table 1 below attests to this.

**Table 14: Arua district compared to National health status indicators**

Indicator	Arua District	Uganda National
IMR/1000 LB	100	97
CMR/1000 LB	240	203
MMR/100,000 LB	736	506
Annual growth rate %	2.7	2.5
Wasting %	5	5
Stunting %	47	38
Fertility rate	6.7	7.1
ANC attendance %	90	
Health Unit deliveries %	17	40
Assisted deliveries <sup>4</sup> %	29	
DPT 3-HEP + HIP for infants %	69	
Fully immunized infants %	40.9	47
Safe water coverage %	54	25.8

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<sup>4</sup> “Assisted deliveries” here includes deliveries conducted in health facilities plus those conducted by trained TBAs

Latrine coverage %	52	41
Total literacy	61	
Male literacy rates %	77	65
Female literacy rates %	46	45.7

Source: Population and Housing Census 2002

### ***Mortality and morbidity patterns***

The common causes of morbidity and mortality are the same as in the rest of the country. These include peri-natal and maternal related conditions, Malaria, ARI, AIDS, diarrhea. These constitute over 60% of the burden of disease in the district. Yet these diseases are easily preventable or death from them can easily be averted. Other important diseases include Tuberculosis, Malnutrition (under nutrition), Anemia, Helminthiases, Trauma/ accidents, Skin infections, Mental Health, Cardiovascular diseases. Incurable diseases like measles continue to cause significant morbidity and mortality. Endemic to Arua diseases like Plague, Schistosomiasis, Trypanosomiasis, Onchocerciasis and Burkitt's lymphoma continue to exert a significant disease burden on the district.

### **District Health System**

This is co-ordinated by the District Director of Health Services. It comprises of 7 Health sub-districts, each of which has a number of health units. In addition to these health units, there is the community based health care services. These are represented by the traditional birth attendants (TBAs) and other Community Resource Persons (CRPs) like the Traditional healers, community health workers etc. Each Health Sub District is headed by a Deputy Director of District Health Services (DDDHS).

The district is supported by a number of Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that include local ones like the Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau, the Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau, Here Is Life; bilateral organisations like CUAMM, SC - UK, Medicus Mundi, MSF(F), World Vision, DED, ACAV; AIC, TASO, Mild May Centre, multilateral organisations like UNHCR, UNICEF.

### ***Personnel***

The ratio of trained to untrained personnel have been rising steadily through sponsorship for upgrading and personnel recruitment

However, there is still a problem of lack of equitable distribution of these cadres in the district.

Services offered include: curative OPD (in all health facilities) and inpatient services; maternal and child health including immunization services; investigative services include laboratories in 20 health units, X-ray service in offered in four hospitals and Ediofe health centre. Arua Regional Hospital also serves as the only blood bank in West Nile. It provides blood to hospitals, the only transfusion centers in the district. A limited number of facilities also provide HIV testing and counseling services. TB and

leprosy control, condom distribution, and syndromic management of STDs.

### **Referral**

With the exception of Imvepi and Rhino refugee camps, the district does not have a functional referral system to talk about. Unfortunately, even the two camps above which have an ambulance and radio communication network the radio is not linked to referral facilities. The district has just received 3 maternal ambulances, a donation from UNFPA. But these are unaccompanied by the much needed communication system. Nor are they adequate to cover all the health sub-districts. Neither is there a deliberately instituted fee for service structure favoring referred over self-referred cases. Provision of feedback from referral to referring facilities is also an exception rather than a rule. Nor are referral forms always availed to patients.

### **Community awareness**

Community awareness or rather lack of it is one of the key determinants to low, particularly preventive, service uptake. This could in turn be due to low literacy rates, and to cultural beliefs that do not accommodate the scientific explanations of causation therefore of cure and prevention of disease. Presumably, the low service uptake and late health-seeking behavior are largely responsible for the high morbidity and mortality rates.

## **3.2 HIV/AIDS**

### **Magnitude of the problem**

Arua district has experienced the epidemic for over a decade with number of interventions geared at prevention and control, care and support, mitigation of social impact as well as capacity building and treatment

The district does not have comprehensive information on the prevalence and trends of HIV/AIDS.

Most of the people tested at AIC and Kuluva hospital is within the age range of 15-35 years. Though VCT still covers few sub-counties, the prevalence rate seems to be high in the urban areas and Rhino Camp being the lowest with 2.7 % (Source AIC Arua Office)

Though everybody is at risk of to HIV infection, in Arua district the following categories are identified to be more at risk population:

- i) Young people (Adolescents) – a study conducted in June under UNICEF shows that the young people or youth assess themselves as being particularly vulnerable and susceptible to HIV infection especially female youth
- ii) Women are considered more at risk from AIC testing sites, whereas more males than females go for VCT, more females than males are tested positive
- iii) Fishermen located along the shores of Lake Albert in Ogoko sub-county
- iv) Refugees and displaced people
- v) Drivers
- vi) Professionals

- vii) Armed forces

### **3.3 Education**

Education is an indispensable tool in human development. It is also determinant pointer in the productive capacity of a nation's economy. It influences all human activities right from birth to death and these coupled with good level of Education improves the standard of living of society.

#### ***Literacy Levels.***

Literacy in Uganda is defined as the ability to read with understanding and to write meaningfully in any language. In the 1991 Population and Housing Census the literacy rate in Arua district was at 46% compared to a national average of 54%. Perhaps beyond expectation, the Arua district socio-economic survey report (2000) indicates that the literacy rate is now at 61% showing an improvement of 15%. On a gender disaggregated basis, while in 1991 the literacy rates were 65.4% for the male population and only 28% for the female population, these figures are now 77% and 46% for men and women respectively. However literacy is not all there is to education, acquisition of skills is important. The latter is indicated by the proportion of the population that proceed to higher levels of education. As the following table shows, out of those who can read and write, very few have attained education levels higher than primary seven. Moreover as the same table shows, only 4% and 2% of men and women respectively have attained senior six levels.

Illiteracy and low educational attainment is still a problem in the district and this has adversely affected success of many programmes.

Firstly, high literacy means the level of labour productivity in the district is low. It also means that the rate of adoption of new innovations is low. This is especially so as most instructions are usually written. Besides it has negative implications for health care delivery among other things.

#### ***Schooling Status***

According to the Socio-economic conditions survey report, only 41% of the eligible school going population aged 6 – 24 are in school; 3% are temporarily out of school, 28% have left school while 28% have never attended school. This is a very disturbing revelation. It shows that the levels of school attendance in the district are very low.

#### **Educational Institutions**

Arua District has a total of 311 Government Grant aided primary schools and 48 Licensed Community Schools. Registration at the beginning of the year stood at 362,000 pupils but by the end of year, attendance dropped to 227,000 pupils causing a net Non attendance of 135,000. At the beginning of the year, boys stood at 185,000 while the girls stood at 175,000. Of the 175,000 girls, 121,000 were from the lower classes of P1-P4. Of the 135,000 children that dropped out, the percentage drop out stood at 68% for girls and 32% for boys.

Arua District has a total of 480 permanent classrooms. Taking 40 pupils per classroom. We can only accommodate 193,000. If 362,000 pupils remain a constant, we are in shortage of 400 classrooms. Arua District has a total of 32,000 desks that means we can only sit 96,000 pupils. A total of 266,000 pupils sit on the floor. Most of the schools say 98% have no staff houses. The 2% of the staff houses are of a temporary nature. To-date we have 30 permanent houses. This means 5,337 teachers are not staying in permanent houses. The latrine stance pupils' ratio stands at 1: 170 and the pupil book ratio is 1:5.

### ***Quality of Education***

Besides getting children into schools, there are major constraints in giving them the right quality of education. At primary level, the heavy enrolment in schools means that the available facilities in schools have been overwhelmed. The furniture, reading and learning materials, teachers are all in short supply. Sustained efforts are therefore required in these areas to improve on the quality of education. Alongside the above, school inspection also needs to be stepped up.

As shown in the table above, school infrastructure is still grossly inadequate. Concerted effort should therefore be made to redress the huge variance that currently exists. Additionally, the high enrolment in primary schools has also put a serious strain on water and sanitation facilities. The majority of primary schools presently have insufficient water and sanitation facilities for the children. In general heavy investment in the whole range of school infrastructure is required in light of the UPE policy. Priority needs to be accorded to providing an enabling environment for learning for children in schools. That means classrooms; desks, school sanitation and water are needed as a matter of urgency.

Apart from infrastructure, availability of reading and learning materials in adequate quantities and trained teachers also contribute immensely to improving the quality of education. The next table shows the current situation.

### ***Challenges in Planning***

While significant achievements have been made in improving the planning functions in the district and sub-county level, a number of challenges remain to be overcome.

Decentralized development planning within the Ugandan context is as young as the country's decentralization programme itself. A number of local government staffs are yet to come to grips with the concept, let alone translate it into practice. Many district level staffs including the staff of the Planning Unit are insufficiently versed with the basic skills required for effective planning. More over integration of key thematic issues such as poverty, gender, environment, HIV/AIDs issues remain very challenging.

The Ministry of Local Government recently spearheaded the formulation of a Harmonised Participatory planning Guide for Lower Local Governments. The Guide is currently under review and will soon be the main tool for local government planning. There is a need to internalise and operationalise the guide at all levels

### **3.4 Agriculture**

Agriculture is the most important economic activity in the district. 96% of the households depend on subsistence farming as their principal sources of livelihood. The sector provides employment to over 80% of the active rural population.

#### **Structure of the farm sector**

Most farms are small in size and production is mainly for subsistence, plus very little modest excess for sale. Most farm sizes are below 1 ha. Over 70% of landholdings are less than 1 ha. (Deloitte and Touché Consulting Group, 1996). However in areas of Madi County where population is relatively sparse, holdings go up to 5 ha.

#### **Land ownership and tenure arrangement**

Like in many rural districts of Uganda, land is communally owned and governed by the customary system of tenure ship. Under this tenure ship arrangement, land ownership is vested in the lineage and is allocated by a father to his sons, who in turn, assign it to their wives and children for cultivation.

While in theory, it sounds as if no single individual or household owns land under such tenure ship arrangement, in practice; the ownership is actually vested in the users. In every community, it is clear which portion of land belongs to which household, and usually the head of the household is recognized as the defacto owner.

It is also the head of the household (land owner) who has the responsibility to rent or sell out portion of such land in case of need; though this is usually done after consultation with and the consent of the larger members of the lineage is obtained.

As indicated above, land acquisition under the customary tenure ship is through inheritance. This being a patrilineal society, it is the sons of the father and not the daughters who inherit the land. Women therefore tend to be excluded from owning land, although they are allowed the right of use.

Those who want to have private ownership of land can also apply for lease offer from the state. However, before the state can grant private lease to any single individual, it has to ascertain that there is no customary claim over the land in question. Usually, it has to consult with the elders, neighbours and all opinion leaders in such an area.

#### **Farming systems**

Farming systems in Arua are mainly based on a few traditional cash crops- tobacco, coffee in some areas, and cotton in the past and a wide range of food and oil crops.

Production is done using rudimentary tools (hoes, stick, etc.) and family labour is the single most important source of agricultural labour. It is occasionally hired and some times on communal rotational basis. There is hardly any use of ox-plough and tractor for cultivation. Even in counties where there is reasonable number of cattle like Madi, cattle are hardly used for ploughing. The system means that there tends to be a positive relationship between the amount of land that can be cultivated by a household and the number of labourers in the household.

Except for tobacco and coffee, seeds are mainly of traditional varieties and are saved from the previous harvests.

Mixed farming is generally practiced. Animals are kept along side crop cultivation. Cattle, goats, sheep are some of the animals kept. Poultry is also practiced.

As indicated in the table above, the farm yields are still substantially lower than those obtained by research. The ability of both poor men and women farmers to improve crop production and productivity is severely constrained by the lack of modern production inputs (information technology and practices) and supportive services such as Education, Technical training, Technology Development, organized Markets, Credit facilities and even Health Care which particularly hamper both men and women's use of production resources. Rural farmers have resorted to their own local ways of collecting information and are adopting coping strategies to satisfy their need for food production requirements.

The poor yield can be attributed to a number of factors including poor and degraded soil due to soil erosion, pests & vermin, unreliable weather, poor seeds (local) etc. The household labour relations for production of crop commodities are very unsatisfactory. The labour arrangements for food crop production are a crucial factor and it is a limiting factor.

### **Opportunities for enhancement of production**

The current (PMA) policy is intended to lead to a transition away from predominantly subsistence to modernized and commercialised farming for adequate food security situation and stable household income. The NAADS Programme is seen as the first and probably most crucial manifestation at national level of this process. The policy intends to achieve:

- Competitive, with lower unit costs of production and marketing in order to overcome disadvantages of being a landlocked, high transport cost economy.
- Technology-based, by adoption of appropriate improved husbandry and farming practices.
- Diversified with commodities of high value and higher income elasticity of demand especially fruits, vegetables and livestock products.
- Intensified, through agro-processing for value addition to raw commodities.
- Export oriented, with increase trade in basic cereals into regional markets and food aid contracts, traditional exports of Coffee, Tea and Cotton, and new exports of Horticultural crops and Spices with quality reliability of supply and standards required for export.
- Capable of increased total factor productivity for both land and labour.

Arua District is one of the districts in Uganda implementing the NAADS programmes. Field level activities under the programme are now operationalized since from fiscal year July 2001.

Apart from NAADS, there are other programmes that the district is benefiting from and these include:

**The Small Holder Agricultural project.** This is a multi-sectoral programme financed by ADB and IFAD.

**Cotton Sub-Sector Development Project.** This is government's effort to promote cotton industry in the Country. The implementing agency is Cotton Development Organization through MAAIF.

Both food and cash crops are grown. The major food crops grown include cassava, beans, groundnuts, simsim, matoke, millet and maize.

Tobacco is the major cash crop and is the main source of livelihoods for the majority of the people in the district. It is grown mainly in the fertile highlands. Arua district actually grows much of the tobacco produced in Uganda

The biggest problem associated with tobacco cultivation is its adverse impact on the environment. Cutting of trees for tobacco curing has depleted a lot of local forest reserves. Tobacco itself also has negative effect on the food security since it is quite labour intensive and the production process takes not less than six months. Because tobacco is so labour intensive, it tends to draw away family labour from food production. Available information also indicates that years of production of tobacco have not impacted positively on the incomes of tobacco farmers. Farmers need to be educated and supported to diversify their activities instead of relying exclusively on the production of tobacco.

Cotton used to be grown in the lower and drier plains, but due to marketing problems, it has long been abandoned although vigorous efforts are being made to revive it. There is also an insignificant growing of coffee, which is done mainly in the temperate areas along the borders of Arua and Nebbi district. Currently there is an on going effort to expand coffee production in the entire district.

In order to increase production and productivity, a number of impediments have to be addressed. These include:

- Poor farming methods and practices;
- Inadequate adoption of improved technologies (high yielding and high value) of seeds and other yield enhancing inputs;
- Adverse environmental conditions (e.g. unreliable climatic conditions), soil degradation (e.g. soil erosion) and over exploitation of the natural resource base (continuous cropping);
- High incidence of pests, diseases and vectors;
- Inadequate access and poor utilisation of credit facilities;
- Inadequate rural infrastructure;
- Inadequate market outlets.



### 3. 5 Livestock

Although livestock is not a dominant activity in Arua, its significance can not be underestimated. Animals play major roles in the district's socio-economic activities. Animals kept include cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits and poultry.

Most cattle owned are traditionally part of the mixed farming system, where they provide supplementary income (milk, meat and hides) and organic manure. There is a huge unmet demand for cattle to replace the animals lost during the war in the 80s.

The district had 113,727 herds of cattle as at 13th September 2002. The cattle are mainly of the local zebu type. These local varieties are very poor in breeds and most of them are small in size. There is need to improve on the breeds. On average, cattle productivity level in terms of milk ranges between  $\frac{1}{4}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$  litre per animal per day. The average weight ranges between 30-50 kg. This is very low.

The biggest problem-affecting cattle rearing in the district include diseases and poor feeding. The infrastructure for cattle production including dips, drugs, and spray equipment has broken down. With privatisation of veterinary services, it has also become difficult for most cattle keepers to get access to the veterinary services that hitherto used to be provided by government especially routine vaccination and treatment. Contagious Bovine Pleura Pneumonia (CBPP), rinderpest, black quarter, tick borne and internal parasites are some of the commonest diseases.

**Table 15: Live stock in Arua District as of 2002**

Type of Livestock	Number
Exotic Cross Breed Cattle	3,424
Indigenous Cattle	110,303
Goats	278,275
Sheep	48,270
Pigs	12,978
Donkeys	109
Rabbits	5,921
Other	73,539

Source: Population & Housing Census 2002

The rehabilitation of communal dips and making available the necessary equipment and chemicals would offer opportunity for improving cattle production in the district.

Water for the cattle is also a problem in some parts of the district, especially during the dry seasons.

There is considerable interest in procurement of cattle for mix farming and to be used as ox-ploughs. However before this potential can be realized, there is need to give due attention to disease control and improve animal productivity.

Other animals kept in the districts include goats, sheep, pigs etc. Poultry are also an important activity. Most of them are kept for domestic consumption although a significant number sold in the local markets.

### **3.6 Fisheries**

Fish production constitutes one of the important activities in the district. Most of the fish produced in the district is mainly for domestic consumption and for sale in the local markets within Arua. Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo however provide high potentials for the fish market.

Fish production in the district is categorized in to two i.e. artisan fisheries and Aquaculture or fish farming.

#### **Artisanal Fisheries**

The river Nile provides the bulk of the fish requirements of the district with 3 major landing sites at Fundo, Rhino camp and Pawor. The major species harvested include Tilapia, Nile perch, mudfish, and lungfish. Catches are better during the rainy seasons when the water volume increases with nutrient supplies from the tributaries. Fish poisoning hit recently fishing in the Nile waters; however, the situation has now been contained.

#### **Aquaculture**

NGOs like the Arua Catholic Diocese and CARE International introduced this. It is estimated that the district has up to 615 ponds all over the district. The annual output is estimated at 27 tons. Available information from the fisheries department indicates that some of these ponds were abandoned when the respective NGOs that started the programmes wound up their activities. Most fish farmers had not been provided with enough skills on how to manage the ponds. There is however expressed a lot of need in the district to support fish farming.

### **Agro Processing Small Scale Industries**

These have largely remained unexploited due to various reasons. One major factor is lack of power. The few are mainly concentrated around the urban centers like Arua Municipality. Diesel engine generators are often used. Isolation cases of juice processing enterprises are coming up besides a number of small-scale artisan factories/workshops involved in woodwork, handcrafts, pottery and clay works, not forgetting the local breweries and distilleries.

### **3.7 Trade, Industry and Cooperatives**

Trade is one of the largest economic activities in the district. The most common is retail trade where imported manufactured goods are supplied for consumption.

Another category is where the business communities deal a wide range of agricultural products whose nature is of course seasonal. There is also cross boarder trade with the Republic of Congo and Sudan.

### 3.8 Water and Environmental Sanitation

The safe water coverage trend since 2001 to the end of June 2004 is as tabulated below.

**Table 16: Safe water sources developed under different funding programmes:**

S/no.	Type of water source	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005 as at 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2005	Total no.
1	Deep boreholes	15	34	26	36	110
2	Shallow wells	38	32	14	0	84
3	Borehole Rehab.	19	0	21	0	40
4	Protected Spring	40	16	18	0	74
5	GFS taps	8	11	10	20	49
7	Rain Water Tanks	21	34	0	0	55
<b>Total No.</b>		<b>141</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>412</b>
<b>Cumulative Coverage</b>		<b>59.3%</b>	<b>58.04%</b>	<b>60.03%</b>	<b>61.557%</b>	

**NB: 1. NUSAF has drilled additional 13 boreholes in 2004/2005.**

NB: 2. The no. Of facilities developed above reflect only those implemented directly by the district. Many more have been developed under UNHCR and ACAV.

#### **Rural Growth Centre Water Supply and Sanitation programme**

Arua has benefited among other 10 pilot projects in the country in the implementation of rural growth centre water supply scheme. The construction of 6.31km running length of pipe work is expected to serve the growing centre and neighbouring institutions with clean water extracted from a production borehole. The contracts for the work have already been signed and work at the stage of excavation.

### Small Town Water Supply and Sanitation programme.

A number of Rural Growth Centre (RGC) has been classified under small town.

**Table 17: Arua district Water Coverage by Sub-County**

													Coverage.
		PSF	PS N	BH F	BH N	SW F	SW N	RWT I	RWT N	GF S	GF T		
<b>AYIVU</b>	<b>193848</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>134150</b>	<b>69.204</b>
Adumi	46152	136	0	15	1	7	0	4	1	0	0	34300	74.320
Aroi	21493	34	11	18	2	7	0	5	0	0	0	15100	70.255
Dadamu	28906	31	5	17	3	5	0	6	1	0	0	14100	48.779
Manibe	26334	64	3	16	3	7	0	7	1	0	0	21100	80.125
Oluko	31738	29	5	27	3	4	0	8	0	1	8	18300	57.660
Pajulu	39225	95	5	29	5	5	0	9	0	0	0	31400	80.051
<b>MADI</b>													
<b>OKOLLO</b>	<b>107432</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>47500</b>	<b>44.214</b>
Offaka	20843	1	0	27	7	0	0	5	0	0	0	9800	47.018
Ogoko	15430	0	0	23	9	2	2	2	0	0	0	7900	51.199
Okollo	13466	0	0	27	7	2	0	5	1	0	0	10000	74.261
Rhino camp	17834	0	0	22	11	0	0	4	0	0	0	7800	43.737
Rigbo	32411	0	0	14	0	0	0	5	2	0	0	5700	17.587
Uleppi	7448	0	0	13	2	3	0	6	0	0	0	6300	84.586
<b>VURRA</b>	<b>110062</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>88050</b>	<b>80.000</b>
Ajia	21915	21	0	30	4	0	0	4	2	0	0	14400	65.708
Arivu	18169	33	7	25	10	6	0	10	2	1	3	18750	103.198
Logiri	26849	71	31	15	0	6	0	5	2	0	0	21400	79.705
Vurra	43129	99	47	34	0	7	0	7	1	0	0	33500	77.674
<b>ARUA M.C.</b>	<b>51315</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28100</b>	<b>54.760</b>
Arua Hill	17265	12	0	37	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	14700	85.143
River Olli	34050	14	0	31	0	5	0	1	1	0	0	13400	39.354
<b>Total</b>		<b>131</b>											
<b>Dist.Popn.</b>	<b>956922</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>589050</b>	<b>61.557</b>

**Functional**

83.

**ity:** 77 23 1 20 95.9 5 84.1 15.9

**Total** 170

**Techn.** 5 951 145 227 29

Popn served per source (Source Man-Ratio): PSP PSP-200; BHM, BHP-300; RWT-300  
HAW/MSW-200; GFS-300.

**KEY:** popn = population RWTN = rainwater tank not-installed; PSF = protected springs functioning

SWF (HDW, MSW, HAW) = shallow well functioning; PSN = protected springs not-functiong

District water Office 2002

**Table 18: Terego/Maracha District Water Coverage by Sub-County**

														Coverage.
		PSF	PS N	BH F	BH N	SW F	SW N	RWT I	RWT N	GF S	GF T			
<b>MARACHA</b>	<b>168416</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100200</b>	<b>59.496</b>	
Kijomoro	31479	43	7	16	0	4	0	7	1	0	0	16300	51.781	
Nyadri	24257	47	17	15	4	4	0	4	1	0	0	15900	65.548	
Oleba	25799	25	3	15	2	5	0	3	1	0	0	11400	44.188	
Oluffe	19242	24	4	16	3	2	0	5	1	0	0	11500	59.765	
Oluvu	27740	53	6	22	2	5	0	10	2	0	0	21200	76.424	
Tara	17690	22	3	14	2	2	0	4	1	0		10200	57.660	
Yivu	22209	34	7	17	11	3	0	4	2	0	0	13700	61.687	
<b>TEREGO</b>	<b>178663</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>94600</b>	<b>52.949</b>	
Aiivu	33262	35	2	24	7	6	1	5	2	1	0	16900	50.809	
Bileafe	16396	11	0	37	16	0	0	5	2	0	0	14800	90.266	
Katrini	31287	37	9	25	3	9	0	4	1	0	0	17900	57.212	
Odupi	43236	18	4	28	11	7	0	7	1	0	0	15500	35.850	
Omugo	35284	31	6	25	6	4	0	7	2	0	0	16600	47.047	
Uriama	19198	6	1	36	8	0	0	3	1	0	0	12900	67.194	

*Popn served per source (Source Man-Ratio): PSF PSP386; BHM, BHP-300; RWT-300 HAW/MSW-200; GFS-300.*

**KEY:** popn = population RWTN = rainwater tank not-installed; PSF = protected springs functioning

SWF (HDW, MSW, HAW) = shallow well functioning; PSN = protected springs not-functiong  
District water Office 2002

### ***Constraints encountered during 2005/06 financial year.***

- \* Inadequate staff for the Department especially the Extension Staff in the Counties.
- \* Late release of funds to the Sub Sector.
- \* Central Remittances from the Centre do not match with the Budgets. i.e. often realised releases are less than budgets.
- \* Coordination with other actors still a problem (e.g. for soft ware activities as well as activities undertaken in some areas e.g. in refugee settlements by some NGOs).
- \* The low (financial and technical) capacity of most contractors affects the timely implementation of activities.
- \* Ownership and maintenance of developed water sources by the beneficiaries is still a very big problem due to low-income levels. There is need to improve upon income levels of the beneficiaries through initiating micro finance projects.
- \* The limited Safe water abstraction technology along the Nile Belt makes it very difficult to construct other water sources there apart from Deep boreholes. This has considerably made most of the Sub Counties along this area to have poor safe water coverage figures.
- \* Drought periods seem to increase on annual basis leading to reduction in yield of water sources
- \* Late releases of funds from the centre make it difficult to implement activities on schedule
- \* The Nile belt region ground water abstraction poses a great challenge of encountering dry wells due to sedimentary nature of the grounds. The need to employ other options of water supply technology is paramount e.g. abstraction of River Nile and or motorizing the few productive wells to supply the community through piped water system.
- \* Inadequacy of locally available spare parts for hand pumps seriously jeopardizes the operation and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities. There is need for government to subsidize and avail the hand pump spares nearer to community.

According to the information presented above, the majority of the population in the district relies on the open water sources (springs, wells etc.

Through the WES programme and DDP/LGDP, funds have been made available to the district currently for spring protection. Nevertheless, efforts will continue to be required to ensure that all the springs are protected. Other important sources of water in the district include boreholes, gravity flow scheme and hand augured wells.

At sub-county level, pump mechanics, paid by communities have been trained and equipped to carry out minor repairs. However, in most cases, the pump mechanics are overwhelmed by the amount of work. The pump mechanics cannot also handle major repairs. Major repairs require more competent personnel and replacement of parts, which are not available with the pump mechanics.

Other sources of water supply needs to be explored and developed, especially in areas along the Nile River where springs and wells are not available and boreholes are difficult to sink due to the low water level and poor underground yields.

With respect to maintenance and management of the water sources, the biggest challenge now is the lack of community management structures. Many water sources still do not have water source committees to manage and maintain them. Considerable effort still need to be made to establish and strengthen water source committees to manage the sources.

The other problem is that there is still very low involvement of communities and the private sector in the supply and maintenance of water sources. Most people still look at government as the sole provider of water. Supply of water in a sustainable manner requires much more involvement of communities and the private sector.

In Arua Municipality, management of the water supply has been handed over to the National Water and Sewerage Co-operation and the coverage has improved considerably. However, lack of a constant power supply, inadequate and decaying reticulation system remains the major teething problems that must be addressed urgently. Also the sanitation situation still requires a lot of effort.

### **3.9 Roads and Bridges Sector**

Arua District has a road network of 714.14km of which 298.23km fall in new Terego & Maracha District and 415.91km in mother District. There are 35 bridges of which 6 are in good Condition, 5 timber decked are fair condition and 9 in very poor condition and need urgent replacement. Road unit machinery, plants and equipments is broken down. The bull dozer is in fair condition. Tyres of tippers are old and major repairs are required. The overall staffing position is 21%. The only positions filled are District Engineer, Senior Engineering Assistant (Roads), Engineering Assistant (Building) and four Road Inspectors two of who are for studies. The position of Senior Engineer and all mechanical section is vacant.

## **Road Net Work**

Arua District has a road network of 791.59km. With creation of two new Districts, the distribution in Terego & Maracha (**TEMA**) Counties is 310.94km and Vurra, Ayivu & Madi (VAM) Counties is 480.65km.

The District feeder Roads are maintenance using PAF funds. There are 3 classes of feeder roads in the District namely, Class I roads which serve national interests and are upgradable to Trunk roads, class II roads which connect internal District, County admin centres, health units, educational, marketing and admin facilities. They carry on average more than 20 vehicles @ day. Class III feeder roads are low traffic roads and extend to lightly populated peripheral regions. They carry less than 20 vehicles per day and have earth surface. Another category, community access roads are dry weather roads and tracks. These are maintained by Sub Counties.

## **Bridges**

Bridges are structures for crossing on rivers, streams & dry valleys. There are 35 bridges of which Reinforced Concrete deck in good Condition are 16, Timber decked in fair condition are 5 and Bridges in very poor condition and need urgent replacement are 9 namely Ollufe on Okokoro-Oluvu road, Osu on Arua Biliafe road, Enyau Katrini-Kijomoro road, Nyara Koya Bondo road, Linya on Ullepi-Alijoda road, Imvio Aroi-Micu road, Aji Adraa-Atiak road, Alla Eruba-Logiri road, Enyau on Awindiri-Ajono road.

## **Road machinery, plants and equipments**

The complete road unit is broken down. The bull dozer is in fair condition. The O&K grader is broken down with transmission system. It will be boarded off. The komatsu grader is for major repair in Gulu regional workshop. The wheel loader needs major overhaul. The tippers are old. Tyres and major repairs are required.



## **Staffing position**

The overall staffing position is paltry 21%. The only positions filled are District Engineer, Senior Engineering Assistant (Roads), Engineering Assistant (Building) and four Road Inspectors two of who are for studies. The position of Senior Engineer and all mechanical section is vacant.

The road network in the District falls under four categories namely, trunk roads (558 km), feeder roads (1178 km), community roads (550 km) and urban roads (tarmac, 6.4 km and murrum, 34.2 km).

The Ministry of Works, Housing and Communications, feeder roads by the district, community roads by LCIIIs and communities and urban roads maintain trunk roads by urban authorities.

### ***Present Situation***

The feeder roads network is spread throughout the district though with greater concentration in the central and southern parts of the district. The conditions of the feeder roads fall under three main categories:-

*Good and passable requiring only routine maintenance.*

The entire 1,178 km network are contracted out annually and supervised by two road inspectors and verified by technical team consisting of the district Executive Engineer, the CAO, the Auditors and Road Inspectors.

*Shapeless.*

### **Major constraints faced in implementing the last year's plans:**

#### **(i) Staffing**

- ✚ Current staffing after restructuring is paltry 21.4%. Out of 42 substantive posts, 9 are filled, 33 vacant
- ✚ Contract staff in water, roads
- ✚ Need to urgently fill all key positions

#### **(ii) Road Plants and Equipment**

- ✚ No full functional road unit. Grader is in Gulu, dump trucks require tyres, major repairs
- ✚ Funds should be availed to work on road equipments
- ✚ Tools and improvement of Workshop for repairs

#### **(iii) Road Reserves**

- ✚ Encroachment on road reserves poses very big risk. Offshoots/mitres, catch water drains are covered.
- ✚ Causes erosion and silting.
- ✚ Local Authorities should act.

#### (iv) Road funding

- ✚ This FY 2005-06, no funding for Rehabilitation (PAF III), Periodic maintenance and spot improvement. Road conditions are expected to deteriorate
- ✚ Personnel problems due to lack of capacities

#### (v) Transport

Roads under this category were rehabilitated about ten years ago and have been badly eroded thus destroying the shape. These will need periodic maintenance with equipment to restore the shape;

*Impassable or with major bottlenecks.*

These have neglected for long periods and require rehabilitation.

Another key component of the feeder roads is bridges. Arua has 52 bridges and major culverts but most of these bridges are wooden and generally weak for a fully loaded 10 metric tone lorry. Some bridges are normally flooded during rainy seasons making it difficult for vehicles to pass. It is important that the timber-decked bridges are reinforced using concrete decks.

Watercourses that may be easily crossed during dry season may become completely impassable during the rainy season. These are usually the main bottlenecks on the otherwise acceptable roads. Other major constraints/issues affecting the performance of the road sector include:

- Old and incomplete road equipment sets
- Lack of spares for road equipment;
- Inadequate capacity of the local contractors; and Inadequate capacity of the engineering department to effectively supervise the on-going works taking place across the district.

### 3.10 Environment

#### Environment Constraints/Challenges

- High levels of environmental degradation particularly Poor Sanitation, deforestation, declining soil fertility and destruction of Wetlands and Riverbanks.
- Low levels of environmental awareness at community and household levels
- Inadequate level of integration of environmental issues in development plans
- Inadequate staffing. There is only one Environment officer, there is need to recruit two more environment Officers. At the sub county level, Sub county chiefs need to designate one of the extension officers as the focal point person on environment matters,

In adequate funding. Not all the planned funds are released

Given that the majority of poor people depend on the environment for the livelihood, the state of the environment has huge implication for poverty reduction.

- 91.4 percent of the population of the district lives in the rural areas and depend heavily on the natural resources for their livelihood.
- 80 percent of the population is employed in the agricultural sector.
- 99 percent of the population rely on wood fuel for their domestic energy needs. However limited attempts have been under taken to replenish the natural resource base we depend on.

### **Present Situation**

Despite the fact that Arua district has high natural resource potential such as fairly fertile soils, forests, wildlife, water and wetland resources and favourable climate,. Several factors have led to the degradation of the environment. These factors include high population increase and unsustainable utilization of natural resources, low levels of environmental awareness, poverty and low levels of technology, intensive tobacco growing and influx of refugees among others.

The major environmental problems in the district are:

#### **Soil (land) degradation**

Soil degradation is one of the leading environmental problems affecting the district. The main degradation process is soil erosion, which is caused by poor land management and agricultural practices. As a result, soils have over time lost their nutrients and yields are generally declining.

##### **(a) Deforestation**

The district has 37 forest reserves totalling 39 579 hectares. Between 40 to 60% of the forest reserves have been depleted. Deforestation is also common on communal lands.

##### **(b) Poor waste disposal / sanitation**

Despite the fact that waste is inevitable, human activities such as wasteful resource utilisation, lack of reuse and recycling of waste, lack of waste disposal places and facilities have enormously increased waste in our environment. This increase of waste in the environment is causing pollution of water sources, soil and air. Sanitation coverage in the district is also low. Latrine coverage is about 51% while safe water coverage is about 58.74% as per March 2004.

##### **(c) Wetlands & riverbank degradation**

Wetlands cover approximately 2.8 percent (215km<sup>2</sup>) of the total land area of the district. This allows water to stay in one place long enough to maximize infiltration. The water holding capacity and buffering effects of wetlands ensure that rivers and streams continue to flow during the dry season and ground water is sustained.

There has however been a lot of wetlands and riverbanks degradation through drainage for cultivation, brick laying, sand mining and burning of vegetation. Unless the above trend is reversed, the district's wetlands will be completely destroyed in future.

#### **(d) Loss of biodiversity:**

In 1960s the district had a variety of wildlife including white-rhinos, elephants, buffalos, kobs, bushbucks, baboons, various species of birds and animals. This is because of the various habitats ranging from swamp vegetation along the Nile to wood Savannah towards the west. Due to poaching, encroachment for agricultural land, lawlessness of 1970s, white rhinos and elephants were extinct.

#### **.( f ) Other environmental issues**

Other environmental problems confronting the district include over grazing, poor fishing methods leading to indiscriminate catching of fish, frequent bush fires especially during the dry season.

#### **Opportunities**

- Institutions for Environmental management are in place though not sensitized enough
- National laws and regulations for environmental management are in place.
- Several sectors are addressing environmental issues. The level of integration of environmental issues in DDP has increased.
- Initiatives for environmental protection exist. There are many communities taking part in environment management (Nursery rising, tree planting, soil conservation though the scale is still low).
- The District is implementing Environmental Management Capacity Building Project II that is contributing to improving of the environmental conditions in the district.
  
- conditions in the district

### **3.11 Community Based Services**

This Sector consists of Sub-sectors. These include Community Development, Probation and Social Welfare, Youth, Culture, Gender, Labour and Rehabilitation & Elderly. The Activities of the different Sub-sectors under these sectors are almost closely related so they work very closely.

Community Services are also very much needed for the activities in Health, Water & Sanitation, Education, Works and Agriculture. The core issues that are currently the focus of the sector include the following.

#### ***Community mobilization for Service delivery***

There are a number of development programmes that are running on in different parts of the District and nearly all of them have community services aspects. In the

area of Social infrastructure Development, community participation and involvement at all levels is crucial for sustainability of the investments. A lot of mobilisation and sensitisation is therefore required. Communities are also required in the maintenance and management of the investments. In that regard creation and strengthening of Community management structures is crucial.

### ***High Illiteracy rate in Community.***

According to the UBOS and A DLG Survey of 2000, 61% of the Arua population aged 10 years and over was literate. Although this was a significant improvement over the 46% during the 1991 Population and Housing Census the 39% illiteracy rate is still unacceptably.

The survey further indicates that more women are illiterate when compared to their male counterparts. Whereas 77% of males were literate only 46% of females were literate. The major causes of the low literacy level among the population include rampant household poverty, ignorance, and cultural biases towards girl Child education as well as early marriages. Functional Literacy must therefore be a crucial aspect of the development process in the district.

### ***Adolescent Reproductive life***

Many girls have dropped out of schools due to unwanted early pregnancies. The educational system of Uganda does not permit continuation of all pregnant girls in upper and Post Primary Schools.

### ***Household Sanitation***

House hold sanitation is quite poor. Statistics shown under the water and sanitation Sector indicate very low coverage of pit latrine coverage and clean and safe water sources. Community involvement in water and Sanitation Programmes is very low. Concerted efforts are needed to change people's attitudes. Women and Gender

According to the 2006 projections of the 2006 census, 51.3% of the total population of Arua are Women. In spite of their number, women's status is generally very low. Within the economic sphere, women are majority engaged in domestic work with few professionals and none in the industrial related Occupations. Majority are food producers, home caters (child-care, windows, single mothers, and daughters caring for sick relatives). These are activities that are usually never valued in monetary terms, meaning that their economic status is usually very weak.

While women are the major agricultural producers, they hardly own and control land, which is the single most important asset in the district. In essence, women are thus alienated from the products of their own labour. They have no control over the crops they produce. When they need to sell part of the produce, they need permission from their husbands. Inversely, men do not need any permission from women to sell the products. Women's economic position in the households are therefore relegated to decisions of their spouse, a situation that weakens their bargaining power in the households further and thus making them vulnerable to abuse by men.

Because of their weak economic positions, their participation in Public life is quite limited. In the political and leadership positions, women are few. This means that their voices are hardly heard of and their concerns rarely captured in policies and programme designs.

There are programmes that are currently targeting women with the view to empowering them through functional literacy programmes etc, so that they can be able to take charge of their own destinies. However, it must be realized that the problem is quite monumental compared to the efforts on the ground. Concerted and sustained efforts are required for effective and meaningful women's empowerment. Changing the attitude of men and society in general should form part of the strategy for women empowerment. Vulnerable Children (Orphans, Street Children, Child headed Households and abuse children).

According to 2002 census report, 10.5% of children aged between 1 – 17 years in Arua district are orphans. Out of this, 0.8% has lost both parents and 9.7% have lost one of the parents. With the prevalence of HIV/AIDs, the percentage could have risen up.

Orphan hood leaves children in crisis lacking the very basic necessities such as food, healthcare education and adequate adult care amongst other things. Child headed households are not unusual in the district any more. In some instances, these orphaned children have been subject to defilement and early marriages and extreme hardships.

### ***The Girl Child.***

With the implementation of the UPE Policy, enrolment of the girls to school has been addressed. The retention of the girls in schools up to the level when they are able to compete favourable with boys in life still remains a challenge. Girls are still vulnerable and this affects their education. Early marriage, defilement etc. are some of the issues that need to be addressed.

The 1991 census indicates that at the time of census, 14,622 of the girls aged 10 – 19 years in Arua were already married and 79 in the same category were already widowed. Divorce rates are also high for those girls. According to the census report, divorce rate was highest for females in the 20 – 29 years age group with a total of 3,108 cases.

Therefore this reveals that the Girl child is exposed to many dangers like defilement, child marriages, early contraction of diseases including HIV/AIDs exploitation (Child labour) unequal opportunities in education, rape etc. Table 15 below indicates the situation of child marriage between boys and girls of age bracket 1- - 14 and 15 – 19 by 1991.

### ***Youth and Culture***

The 2002 census report reveals that 22% of the district's population consists of the Youth aged between 18 – 29 years. Most of the Youth like else where in Uganda

live in the rural areas with very limited access to employment opportunities and exposure.

This has resulted to high incidence rural urban migration by the Youth. Consequently there is reduced labour force at the Countryside, which affects agricultural output. In the urban areas, these redundant Youth are bound to engage in unlawful activities.

There is an urgent need to design appropriate programmes targeting the youth that are already in town to restrain them from engaging in unlawful actions.

### ***Disabled Persons***

The disabled persons in the District constitute that disadvantaged group in Arua. Many cases of disability remain unattended to due to lack of awareness among the population about the rights of the disabled persons.

The Government, having given recognition of the disabled persons in the 1995 Constitution has put in place a framework to address the plight of the disabled persons. However, the disabled still face a number of problems and include the following:

- Voluntary Conciliation
  - Consultations with the undertaking
  - Freedom of Association
2. Basic Human rights:
- Freedom of association (The Right to organise)
  - Forced Labour (abolition of forced Labour)
  - Child Labour (Which is exploitative and threatens the Health, Safety Physical, moral and intellectual Development of a Child)
  - Equality of opportunities (e.g. Discrimination equal pay.
3. Employment opportunities:
- Skills development available job vacancies
  - Self-employment prospects
  - Unemployment benefits – job creation.

other mash rooming Workplaces in various Towns, which have been identified as places of likely highest risk. The purpose of this Inspection is to ensure compliance with the Factories 1964 act and the Employment Decree No. 4 of 1975.

There is an increasing number of Workplaces both formal and informal, number of workers of various Cadre and Work related problems issues and concerns. Unattended.

### **3.12 Council Operations:**

1. Limited local revenue for Council activities coupled with the 20% limitation imposed by the Government Act 1997.

2. Difficulties in and failure to implement some Council policies, decision and ordinances e.g. Produce Fee Ordinance, 2000
3. Shortage of local revenue as the major source funding for council activities
4. Some element of conflict between the major stakeholders of Arua District Local government



**Chapter4.0**  
**THREE YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2006/07\_2008/09)**

**4.1 THE VISION AND MISSION OF THE DISTRICT**

Poverty has been identified as the major obstacle to achieving meaningful and sustainable development in Uganda. To that effect, poverty eradication is the major objective of Uganda’s development agenda for the next two decades and as such, the Government has resolved to reduce the proportion of people living in absolute poverty to 10% and relative poverty to 30% by 2017 (Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development, **UPAP** 2000, page 2).

Arua District is committed to support the government’s primary objective of poverty eradication. The overall objective of this three-year development plan is therefore the quest for poverty eradication in the district.

**Table 19: District Strategic Objectives**

<b>Strategic Objectives</b>					
1. Promote and sustain good governance	2. Increase access to social services	3. Improve household food security	4. Increase household incomes	5. Reduce environmental degradation and use the natural resource base sustainably	6. Reduce the HIV/AIDs burden on the people of Arua District.