

Application Form

CATEGORIES IN WHICH YOU WANT TO APPLY THE EXPERIENCE

1: TYPE OF EXPERIENCE: *choose the most important element (choose only one element which you consider the most outstanding of your practice).*

A) Deliberation Citizen assembly / deliberation workshop / lottery / legislative theater / participatory planning	Deliberation
B) Decision Participatory budget / referendum / consultation / participatory process with vote	
C) Citizenship Citizenship / community action / permanent council / civic education / associationism / other initiatives to reinforce local democracy	

2: TYPE OF GOVERNMENT: *choose one only.*

A) Up to 50,000 inhabitants (towns, small cities, rural areas).	✓
B) Cities between 50,000 and 250,000 inhabitants.	
C) Cities between 250,000 and 1,000,000 inhabitants.	
D) Large cities or urban areas of more than 1,500,000 inhabitants.	
E) Supralocal, regional, provincial governments	

Experience data: *complete the information below in a clear and concise manner.*

Title of the experience: Citizenship and Participatory Engagement
Name of the city or region: Mpika Town Council
Inhabitants of the city or territory: Inhabitants of the city of Mpika
Country: Zambia

Application Form

Institution presenting the candidacy: (name of the municipality, department, government, institution leading the candidate experience) Mpika Town Council , Planning Department , Ministry of Local Government and a Rural Development		
Website of the experience or institution : http://www.facebook.com/mpikatowncouncil		
Profiles in social networks of the experience or the institution: http://www.facebook.com/mpikatowncouncil		
Start date of the experience: 2020		
End date of the experience: (if operational, indicate "ongoing") ongoing		
Budget of the experience: (indicate the budget of the experience or the resources mobilized for its development and implementation)		
Type of candidacy <i>(mark with an X in the right column)</i>	New experience	
	Innovation on an existing experience	X
	Continuity of an experience	
Type of experience <i>(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)</i>	Participatory budgeting	X
	Participatory planning	X
	Standing council	
	Workshop / meeting for diagnosis, monitoring, etc.	
	Public hearing / forum	
	Poll / referendum	
	Assemblies / Citizen juries / Deliberation spaces	

Application Form

	E-government / Open government / Digital platforms		
	Citizen initiative		
	Other (specify):		
<p>Objective of the experience</p> <p><i>(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)</i></p>	To achieve higher levels of equality in terms of participation		X
	Including diversity as a criterion for inclusion		X
	Community empowerment		X
	To empower non-organised citizens		X
	To increase citizen's rights in terms of political participation		
	To connect different tools of participation within a participatory democracy "ecosystem"		X
	To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the mechanisms of participatory democracy		X
	To improve the quality of public decision-making through the mechanisms of participatory democracy		X
	To improve the evaluation and accountability of the mechanisms of participatory democracy		X
	To improve any public policy through the active participation of the public		X
Territorial area	All the territory	Local	X



Application Form

<i>(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)</i>		
		Regional
	District	X
	Neighbourhood	
Thematic area <i>(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)</i>	Governance	
	Education	
	Transport	
	Urban management	
	Health	
	Security	
	Environment / Climate change and/or urban agriculture	
	Civic associations, grassroots and new social movements	
	Culture	
	Housing	
	Job creation	
Decentralization		

Application Form

	Local development	
	Training / learning	
	Economy and/or finances	
	Legal regulations	
	Social inclusion	
	All	X
	Other (write the topic)	
<p>Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) associated with the practice</p> <p><i>(mark with an X in the right column, more than one option can be chosen, you can also add the specific target)</i></p>	SDG 1 - No poverty	
	SDG 2 - Zero hunger	
	SDG 3 - Good health and well-being	X
	SDG 4 - Quality education	
	SDG 5 - Gender equality	X
	SDG 6 - Clean water and sanitation	
	SDG 7 - Affordable and clean energy	
	SDG 8 - Decent work and economic growth	
	SDG 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure	
	SDG 10 - Reduced inequality	X

Application Form

	SDG 11 - Sustainable cities and communities	X
	SDG 12 - Responsible consumption and production	
	SDG 13 - Climate action	
	SDG 14 - Life below water	
	SDG 15 - Life on land	
	SDG 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions	
	SDG 17 - Partnership for the goals	

PART 2: DESCRIPTION OF THE EXPERIENCE

Fill in the following fields clearly and concisely. You can add links, images or graphics if you consider it appropriate.

Context:

*In a **maximum of 300 words**, present the cultural, geographical, historical, institutional and socioeconomic context of the city, region or territory in which the experience takes place.*

The Mpika Township began with the formation of Mpika District in 1901 and the re-siting of the sub-Centre on a convenient rise which is now called Mpika Boma. The area is protected by a higher range of hills. Mpika district is one of the 10 districts in Muchinga provinces of the Republic of Zambia with a population of **149,063** with Males 73,396 and Females 75,667. The district shares its boundary with Lavushimanda district in the south west and Shiwangandu district in the south west. Kanchibiya district in the north-west and chama in north east. Lundazi and Mambwe on the south-Eastern Part.

Mpika District lies between 11° 54' S (Latitude) and 31° 26' E (Longitude). Rivers in the east run from the spectacular Muchinga Escarpment and flow via the Luangwa and Zambezi rivers into the Indian Ocean. Drainage in the West gives rise to the Luangwa and its extensive adjacent swamp before proceeding via the Zaire River to the Atlantic Ocean. The Luangwa Valley is about 600m above sea level but is overlooked by the Muchinga Escarpment rising to 1800m along the edge of

Application Form

the main Zambian Plateau which is around 1500m near the town of Mpika sloping gently towards the west to Lake Bangweulu at about 1 160m.

Mpika economy is based on agriculture, Trading, Caterpillar harvesting and limited value addition to agriculture products which includes but not limited to; dairy processing, maize processing and gold mining on a small scale. Though much of the crop produce is transported in raw form to Lusaka for processing or exported to neighboring countries.

The Miombo Woodland is of major importance in protecting the steep terrain from accelerated soil loss. The Miombo thins out towards the Bangweulu Swamps into regional swamp edge parklands comprising small pockets of Woodland into inter-spaced with open grassland. Mpika District has three (3) recognised chiefdoms Namely, Chikwanda, which is of the Bemba speaking ethnic group while Mukungule and Nabwalya are of the bisa speaking ethnic group.

Precedents:

*Explain the precedents and origins of the experience: if it is the innovation of an existing experience, what are its origins; if it is a new experience, what are the antecedents in participation in your city, region or territory. You can also indicate if you have been inspired by experiences in other cities/countries. (In a **maximum of 300 words**).*

Over the past years, municipalities have been faced with challenges of providing equitable public service delivery throughout the Country to its communities, and as such inefficiency has led to inefficient service delivery and Mpika district just like any other municipality has faced the same challenges. And one would ask what might have triggered the inefficient service delivery as well as poor public participation in the municipalities across the country especially in the ward governance system? The answer is that from a variety of reasons ranging from improper local governing structures to the lack of public participation by the community members in decision making and non-motivation to the sub –structures who are ward development committees and who are at the center of development in the community. The planning, implementation and monitoring of programs and activities in the district are done in a bottom up approach where the sub district structures that is Ward Development Committee (WDCs) are involved in the planning and monitoring of activities. During the budgeting process there is engagement of the different stakeholders in the district for input from them.

However, the Government of the Republic of Zambia is committed to actualizing a devolved system of governance as prescribed in the **Constitution (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2016** which Mpika Town Council is also following together with other circulars. Article 147 of the Constitution provides that the management and administration of the political, social, legal and economic affairs of the State shall be devolved from the National Government level to the Local Government level with an intention of improving service delivery by bridging the gap between the respective communities and the Municipal structures. Among others, ward committees, should be able to enhance participatory government, by collectively Organizing communities in as far as ward jurisdiction is concerned.

Application Form

Objectives of the experience:

What is the objective listed in Part 1 that you think is the most important, and indicate other outstanding objectives of the experience. (In a **maximum of 100 words**).

- ❖ To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the mechanisms of participatory democracy so as to improve service delivery

Ward Development Committees provide information on the implementation of various programs and projects in their respective wards in line with the ward development plan for that particular ward and that the municipality is responsive to the needs of its citizenry by adopting modern ways of service delivery and embracing latest information and communication technology. People or the community are only central to policy decision only if we have an effective ward governance system and a good feedback system as a way of being accountable as leaders and for sustainability.

Methodology:

Describe the methodology of the experience: phases of the process, participation channels. (In a **maximum of 300 words**).

It is in this vein that as long as the ward governance system remains ineffective the set vision of the organizations will not be achieved to respond to the welfare of its citizens. When roles and responsibilities are well defined people become accountable whether to their superiors or their juniors and in this case the municipal is accountable to the community needs and the community are accountable to the municipal by presenting their needs/challenges the list goes on. This can be done by giving feedback to the people, providing a service with no political gain, using the bottom up approach, involving other key stakeholders It could be argued that the role and the responsibility of the ward committees should be to convince the municipality to secure proper, efficient public service delivery as in the vision of the municipality which is actually true and undebatable. Regardless of the municipal challenges, ward committees should be able to encourage the community to formulate programmes that promote public participation, so that the municipal council can be in a better position when making decisions that will ensure better service delivery.

Public Participation and service delivery is enhanced when the members of the public participate in it, unlike when they are passive and await government to provide it for them without their involvement. It is all in the past now as Zambia since the introduction of national Decentralization policy which advocates for the formation of ward development committees. It is therefore important to acknowledge the needs of society in order to ensure regular, sustainable and effective public

Application Form

service delivery. Public participation in municipalities could be facilitated by the municipal council, through ward committees, and a well-functioning ward committee should be able to serve as a municipality's point of access and ensure the strengthening as well as the accountability of ward Councillors to the local residents.

Innovation:

*Explain what you consider as the most innovative aspect(s) in the practice. (In a **maximum of 150 words**).*

What is considered to be the most innovative aspect in the practice is giving power to the people where they are able to make their own decision when it comes to the implementation of programmes in the areas where they come from. The inhabitants themselves understand their problems best and know what need to prioritize in order of what affects them most. It is just amazing how they are able to identify their problem up to an extent where they are able to prioritize their own problems through the provided tools by the Municipality. This whole process is done with the help of their zonal representatives in each ward.

Inclusion:

*Point out the importance of including as many groups and diverse populations as possible, and how you have achieved it. (In a **maximum of 150 words**).*

The Government of the Republic of Zambia has prioritised Decentralization as a major driver for attaining development, reducing poverty and supporting job creation through citizen engagement and participation at the local level. To actualise decentralization in line with the Constitution, Government decided to take significant resources from the National to the Local Government level. In this regard, the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) has been identified as a major tool to take resources closer to the people.

The empowerment component of the CDF has adopted an inclusive approach. The empowerment Fund has prioritized the youths, women, people living with disability and other vulnerable persons in the community. Empowerment beneficiaries shall be equipped with seed money in form of grants given to Organized Groups, Clubs and Cooperatives.

This has been achieved through the Communities need to participate in Local Governance through sub-district structures (WDCs) to ensure sustainable development and in these communities you find different groups. WDC are based on the rationale that development can best be sustained if managed in a decentralized government. Ward Development Committees are legal platforms for people's participation in the development process at Sub-district level .

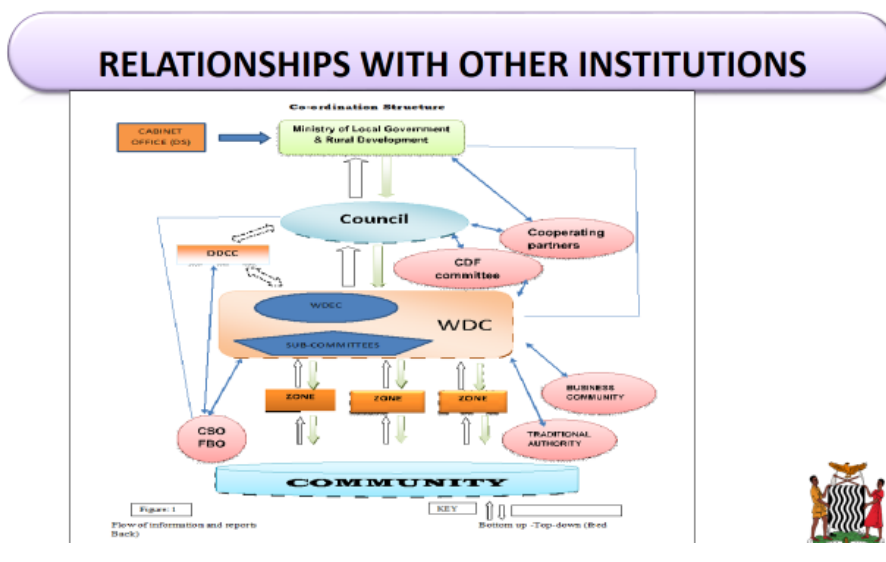
Application Form

Communication:

What has been the strategy and communication channels of the experience for engaging the population. (In a **maximum of 150 words**)

Ward Committees play an important role in local government. They work with the political structures and the councilors, to ensure that the municipality responds to the needs of the community and delivers the services that the community needs. They also work with the community to ensure that the community participates in the processes of local government in a way that helps the council to meet their needs. Ward Committees are required to build constructive relations between the local community and the council.

Public participation in local government is considered a basic democratic right of the people. Participation has been planned for at each level of government, and integrated in policy-making. Whose responsibilities are aimed to; Monitor and evaluate ward development projects; Promote community engagement in ward development planning, Council budgeting process and provide a forum for dialogue and coordination. Information shall flow from the Community to the WDC, then to the CDFC up to the Local Authority, and Ministry.



Application Form

Articulation with other actors:

*Explain how the experience was articulated with different actors and simultaneous or pre-existing processes. What roles did these participants assume? Explain the degree of success of this articulation. (In a **maximum of 150 words**)*

Municipalities need to use their resources and annually allocate funds in their budget for the purpose of achieving effective participation of local communities on the affairs of the council, and creating an environment for this culture to thrive. Ward development committees are entry point when it comes to developmental programmes in the various wards and they do not work in isolation but with various stakeholders in the wards to ensure that programmes are executed according and with the right audience or population and for the intended beneficiaries. Different stakeholders play different roles in the community;

Councilors

- Provide feedback to WDC on issues presented to the Council
- Represent interests of the Ward in the Council
- Raise and present motions from the Ward in the Council

Traditional Authority

- Provide cultural and traditional advice
- Lobby and advocate for support from stakeholders on developmental issues

Municipality

- Planning and budgeting;
- Accounting and Pre-Auditing;
- Procurement; and
- Project implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation

Other Stakeholders

- Provide sectoral policy guidance and Provide technical advice
- Lobby for support from stakeholders on developmental issues related to WDC operations
- Advocate for developmental issues on behalf of the WDC

Application Form

Evaluation:

*What evaluation mechanisms have been implemented? Develop whether the citizenry has participated in the evaluation of the practice. (In a **maximum of 300 words**).*

The municipality came up with six key performance indicators to evaluate the mechanism to establish the efficiency in the participation of the public through the ward development committees who are a link between the municipality and the community. The Monitoring and Evaluation function will facilitate reporting at various levels and intervals. This is done through generation of progress reports on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annually and annually. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is undertaken at National, Provincial, District and Ward Levels to ensure that the developmental objectives of the are achieved.

1. Municipalities should put as much information as possible about the functioning of the municipality and programmes and projects at the disposal of ward committees;

- Number of programmes being implemented by the Municipality every quarter
- Number of projects implemented under Constituency Development Fund every quarter
- Number of projects implemented under Ward Development Fund every quarter
- Number of projects being implemented by other key stakeholders every quarter

2. Information needs to be carefully packaged to be as accessible as possible;

- Number of public notices every quarter
- Number of community engagements by the municipality every quarter
- Number of community engagements by the WDCs every quarter

3. Documents especially public notices should be written in appropriate language, translated into local languages where possible, and should not use technical jargon

- Number of public notices every quarter
- Number of Regular radio engagements with the community
- Number of Regular public forums with the community

4. Continuous involvement in terms of administrative and financial support by the municipalities;

- Monthly secretarial and financial reports.
- % of money from own source revenue on WDCs activities

5. Impact on council decision-making

- Number of resolutions by councillors in council meeting and feedback to the community

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- Progress made on matters of concern brought to the attention of the Councillor,

6. Communities participation in decision making and offering checks and balances in the works of WDCs.

- Number of WDC meetings held every quarter
- WDEC meetings held every month
- Number of WDC and WDEC in attendance
- Number of reports submitted to the council in terms of ward annual plans and budget process.

Impacts and results

*Describe the impacts and results of the process. How many people have participated, and what are their profiles? What have been the impacts on public policies, the functioning of the administration, and the citizenry? (In a **maximum of 300 words**).*

The engagement of public participation in the district is something that has been appreciated by the citizens in the district of Mpika. Especially with the introduction of decentralization by the Government to give power to the people to make their own decisions when it comes to development. This motive by the government has been appreciated and welcomed by the Public despite some political challenges. In order to achieve this the government is working with the Ward Development Committees as well as other stakeholders who are supporting the process in order to actualise the decentralization process.

Transforming Landscapes for Resilience and Development Project (TRALARD) is making significant progress in deepening and widening empowering the communities especially women cooperatives. The project, funded by the World Bank and run by the Zambian government under the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, has completed approximately above 60% of the work, which has already begun to make a positive impact on the lives of the residents.

Since the introduction of empowerment programmes which are meant for the vulnerable members of the community by enhancing their livelihood and to reduce poverty at total of fifty cooperatives which include women and youth clubs benefited under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF). The youths alone constitute a large proportion of the Country's productive age group and this empowerment will target programs that address youth related challenges such as limited access to education and skills development, limited access to factors of production including finance, limited employment and empowerment opportunities. Empowerment of the women and other vulnerable persons will contribute towards the reduction of vulnerability and improving livelihoods of the community.

Application Form

PART 3: EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

*A summary of the experience: origins, objectives, operation, results, monitoring, and evaluation. (Do not hesitate to repeat aspects that have already been written before. This summary will be shared on the digital platform for open evaluation and in the publication of the award). (In a **maximum of 500 words**).*

A fundamental democratic right of the populace is regarded to be public engagement in local administration. At every level of government, participation has been planned for and included into the formulation of policies. whose duties include providing a venue for discussion and coordination, monitoring and evaluating ward development projects, and encouraging community involvement in ward development planning. The CDF was first established in 1995 to support micro-community projects as part of the wider decentralization and local development policy. The fundamental objective was to provide resources to bridge the financing gap arising from non-existence sources of funds to finance micro-community led projects in all the Constituencies across the Country. The Government of the Republic of Zambia is committed to actualizing a devolved system of governance as prescribed in the **Constitution (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2016** which Mpika Town Council is also following together with other circulars. Article 147 of the Constitution provides that the management and administration of the political, social, legal and economic affairs of the State shall be devolved from the National Government level to the Local Government level with an intention of improving service delivery by bridging the gap between the respective communities and the Municipal structures. Among others, ward committees, should be able to enhance participatory government, by collectively Organizing communities in as far as ward jurisdiction is concerned. You can not talk about participatory planning minus talking about ward development committees and inclusion of them in the budgeting process. ward development committees as well as other stakeholders play a vital role in the participatory budgeting of the district.

The residents of the Mpika district have expressed appreciation for the district's engagement of public participation especially in the budgeting process and in developmental decision making . Especially, now that the government has implemented decentralization to empower the populace to decide for themselves what kind of growth to pursue. Despite certain political difficulties, the public has supported and embraced the government's goal. In order to actualize the decentralization process, the government collaborates with the Ward Development Committees and other process supporters to achieve this goal.

When the public participates, as opposed to when they are passive and wait for government to supply it for them without their involvement, public participation and service delivery are improved. Since the adoption of the national decentralization strategy, which supports the creation of ward development committees, all of that has passed in Zambia. In order to achieve regular, sustainable, and efficient public service delivery, it is crucial to recognize the requirements of society. A well-functioning ward committee should be able to serve as a municipality's point of access and ensure the strengthening and accountability of ward Councillors to the local residents. The municipal council could facilitate public participation in municipalities through ward committees. It becomes a challenge for communities to make decisions if they are not involved especially through participatory activities and community engagement meeting forums. The bottom

Application Form

up (decentralized process) approach that is being practiced through our governance system in Zambia is a good platform for communities to responds to their current needs and plans so as to foster development.

We invite you to share annexes that allow you to better illustrate your experience: videos, photographs, documents... These can be sent through a file transfer service, such as WeTransfer, Dropbox or Google Drive.

Thank you for participating!



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Annex 1

Success stories about the Experience

Story 1

(Press statement for immediate release)

17 TH February, 2023

KACHAMU WOMEN'S CLUB COOPERATIVE IN MPIKA DISTRICT MUCHINGA PROVINCE FUNDED.

Transforming Landscapes for Resilience and Development (TRALARD) has injected about K626,847.50 towards the Kachamu women's club Cooperative in Mpika District Muchinga Province.

The project is a brain child of 19 women and 3 male adults running a successful piggery, Maize, sunflower and soybeans production.

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Green Economy and Environmental Permanent secretary John Msimuko has praised (TRALARD) members under Mpika Town Council for funding the project which has helped reduce poverty levels among vulnerable families.

Mr. Msimuko encouraged women to continue working extra hard adding that they are among the luckiest to be given such kind of money to start up vegetable production and piggery projects.

The Permanent secretary said Agriculture is one of the surest ways to end poverty in Zambia and women have set up an example of how they can contribute to development of the country through such projects.

He was speaking when he inspected the project, in company of Muchinga Province Permanent secretary Henry Mukungule, Mpika District Commissioner David Siame and Mpika Town Council Secretary Samuel Musenga among other senior Government officials.

Meanwhile TRALARD National Coordinator Chunga Chitembo was happy that Kachamu women's club Cooperative has set up a water reticulation system which will supply water into the Soyabeans field, maize, sunflower and piggery projects.

Ms Chitembo further said the water scheme will be of great benefit to the community in the area too. Earlier Kachamu women's club Cooperative Chairperson Lister Mulenga thanked the Government for giving them resources to start up a business which is helping them fend for their families. Ms. Mulenga explained that when the project started they only had five pigs which later multiplied to 58 pigs. She further said out of the 58 pigs, 19 were sold and raised about K15,600.

Meanwhile Ms Mulenga thanked officials from TRALARD for undergoing training on how to grow Soyabeans, maize, sunflower and venture piggery projects.

End.

Issued by Mpika Town Council

Public Relations officer

Mushota Mpundu

Source: :<http://www.facebook.com/mpikatowncouncil>



17th AWARD
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IN CITIZEN
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Story 2

(Press statement for immediate release)

The Transforming Landscapes for Resilience and Development (TRALARD) has set up a water reticulation system for Kachamu women's club Cooperative in Mpika District Muchinga Province.

TRALARD has further set up another borehole Fort hares Tailoring Project. The system will help both Cooperatives have sufficient water for Soyabeans, maize, sunflower and piggery projects. The water scheme will be of great benefit to the community in the area too.

Issued by Mpika Town Council

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Source: :<http://www.facebook.com/mpikatowncouncil>



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