Introduction
Kampala is the only city in Uganda with approximately 2 million people. The city accommodates 30% of the urban population countrywide. Coupled with availability of basic services, Kampala’s dominance has affected the growth of other towns around the country as it attracts most of the investment opportunities. Consequently, this has sprawled beyond its administrative boundaries into Wakiso, Mukono and Mpigi districts.

Inadequate capacity in these neighbouring Local Governments to plan, guide and manage urban growth has resulted into haphazard developments. The creation of new districts has also given rise to new urban centers that serve as both district headquarters and towns.

Political upheavals, conflicts, insurgency and rural poverty have forced many people to migrate to urban areas in search for employment opportunities. Unskilled rural poor to urban area migrations have contributed to increased urban poverty. This has made the urbanization process unproductive as the rural-urban migrants have not been effectively absorbed into the formal employment sector due to lack of skills and the current limited job market.

It is estimated that 60% of the urban dwellers find shelter in slums and informal settlements characterized by lack of basic services, over crowdedness, homelessness, makeshift dwelling units, crime, and poor sanitation.

In a bid to uphold the rights and needs of the marginalized slum dwellers, LWF commenced its humanitarian work under the ‘Kampala Tugende Project’ (Let’s go Kampala) in January, 2014 and will be finalised in 2018. To implement the project, LWF partners with Comic Relief, ACTogether and DRT.

Project goal: Organized slum dweller communities collectively drive an inclusive development agenda in Kampala by 2018.

Strategy
LWF, DRT and ACTogether believe that lasting change for the urban poor is only possible if they are capacitated to organize and collectively define, implement and monitor their own agenda.

The project components were determined by organized slum dwellers under the National Slum Dwellers Federation of Uganda (NSDFU) and will support the project to generate a critical mass that is self-governing, able to collect data on slum settlements, negotiate with governments, plan sanitation and livelihood interventions. This shall help the urban poor shift the power imbalances that deny them their rights as urban citizens.

The strategy also focuses on the centrality of professionals’ support rather than control of the implementation process to create a deeper and sustainable impact. The poor urban dwellers have to demonstrate that government must engage them directly as well.

Sustainable development areas

- Ensure availability and sustainability of water and sanitation for all.
- Promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth as well as productive descent employment for all.
- End poverty in all its forms in urban places.
- Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development
- Provide access to justice for all.
- Build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all.
Project expected results

- Slum dwellers engaged in institutionalized spaces for participatory urban governance in all Kampala divisions.
- Comprehensive data on all slum settlements to guide participatory planning in Kampala.
- Improved livelihoods for approximately 57,750 slum dwellers.
- Improved living conditions for approximately 11,600 slum dwellers.
- ACTogether is fully capacitated to efficiently and accountably manage countrywide slum dweller programs.

Activities being implemented

- Profiling and enumerating the 57 Kampala slum settlements.
- Issuing sanitation and livelihood loans.
- Supporting communities in project proposal preparation.
- Public expenditure analysis.
- Development of policy briefs and fact sheets for lobbying and advocacy.
- Project management committee trainings for sanitation and livelihood loan beneficiaries.
- Conducting settlement, municipal and city urban poor forums.

Challenges being addressed

- Continuous evictions to create room for major infrastructure developments.
- 2016 presidential campaigns and elections slowed the project activities as implementers had to avoid the possibility of providing a political platform for political aspirants.
- 58.6% of all loans disbursed have not been repaid which presents a major problem; this being a revolving fund.

LWF achievements so far

- 52 sanitation loans have been given out.
- 1,481 slum dwellers have access to safe water and sanitation.
- 3,835 slum dwellers have accessed 140 small business/small interest loans for livelihood improvement; indirectly benefiting 14,070 individuals across 5 divisions of Kampala and limited areas in Wakiso.
- 95% of loan beneficiaries had increased their incomes by the end of 2016.
- 57 slums have been profiled and enumerated.
- 7% increase (from 55% to 62%) access to data by communities for influencing planning and budgeting.
- Slum dweller groups have become more competitive in receiving CDD funds from government of Uganda (GoU).
- 50.2% (from a baseline of 37.2%) of the slum dwellers feel they are effectively influencing government policy and practice.
- Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA) actively seeks out community priorities to be included in the city plan.
- 25 people have been trained in community resource tracking (WASH, Livelihood, Education, Health and Governance).
- Significant improvement in coordination of slum cleaning exercises between authority and slum dwellers.