

Country Brief

GHANA

2023

Achieving sustainable
urbanization



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A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL IN AN URBANIZING WORLD

We promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.



UN-HABITAT

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COUNTRY OVERVIEW

The Republic of Ghana with Accra as its capital is a West Africa nation with a population 30.8million. The Anglophone country was the first to attain independence in Africa and share borders with francophone countries with Burkina Faso on the North, Togo to the East and Cote D'ivoire on the West.

Over the last 30 years, Ghana's urban settlements have tripled in population, rising from 4 million in 1984 to nearly 14 million in 2020. Ghana's urban population has increased from 50.9% in 2010 to 56.7% in 2021 with an urban growth rate of 4.6%.

UN HABITAT IN GHANA

The UN-Habitat office in Ghana was established in 2004 even though the agency has been supporting the country since the early 1990s in both normative and operational work towards socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. The agency works mainly with two key ministries, Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development and the Ministry of Works and Housing whiles drawing in other ministries as needed. Other partners are UN Agencies, city/local governments, NGOs, private sector and academia.

UN Habitat supported the Government of Ghana in formulating the Ghana Housing Profile, National Housing Policy, National Urban Policy, National Slum Upgrading Strategy, supported in the Slum Upgrading Programmes in SUF-Ashaiman, Sekondi Takoradi; PSUP- Ho and Tamale, Accra also Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Programmes (WASH)-(Water for African Cities-Accra, Water Sanitation and Hygiene in Disaster Prone Communities in Northern Ghana among others.





OUR APPROACHES

At the National Level

SDG Cities Approach through Policy Advice, Strategic Spatial Planning and Enhanced Urban Data Management and Monitoring

At the City Level

Improved Urban Planning and Management through Smart Cities and Innovation

At the Community / Neighbourhood Level

Reduced Urban Poverty through Transformative Actions (WASH, Adequate Housing, Women & Youth Empowerment, Climate Adaptation Measures, etc.)

With the UNSDCF

Programming principles as in United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework(UNSDCF) in addition to capacity building and urban safety

About Our Projects



RESOURCE EFFICIENT HOUSING PROGRAMME/TRANSFORMING BUILT ENVIRONMENT THROUGH BUILDING MATERIALS

Donor: UNEP

Project Duration: 2023-2024

Project Value: \$82,500

Location: National

Partners: UNOPS, Ministry of works and Housing

The objectives of this initiative is to support Ghana in promoting circularity in buildings through the creation of an enabling framework for the responsible acquisition of building materials while developing a sustainable materials market for the buildings and construction sector. Enable the country in further raising the climate ambition of their NDC targets in this sector by 2025. Specifically integrating actions and targets to reduce embodied carbon. Underline the importance of sustainability in high level international processes such as UNFCCC COPs and the G7.

The purpose is to develop a systematic and comprehensive approach including guidance tools for developing GlobalABC roadmaps to be used by national or local governments to support decarbonization objectives and foster a stakeholder participatory engagement for both developing the approach and its implementation.

REVIEW OF GHANA URBAN POLICY AND SLUM UPGRADING STRATEGY

Donor: World Bank; EU; UN-Habitat

Project Duration: 2023

Project Value: 100,000 USD

Location: National

Partners: Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development, Ministry of Works and Housing

The support to the development of the National Urban Policy was to promote sustainable urban development in Ghana. Responses were fragmented and at best pursued within the framework of a few development plans. The revision of the urban policy is to align with the New Urban Agenda and incorporate changing trends in the urban sector for effective implementation.

The Slum Upgrading strategy was developed in 2013 with UN-Habitat's support to complement government's efforts of ensuring the implementation of sustainable urban programmes and respond to the proliferation of slums. As a step towards fulfilling policy guidelines and improving the draft strategy, major stakeholders are engaged to solicit inputs and finalization of the draft document alongside the urban policy review.

SMART SDGS CITIES PROGRAMME

Donor: Government of Norway

Project Duration: 2022-2025

Project Value: 5 Million USD

Location: National and Local/City Governments

Partners: UNCDF, Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development; Ministry of Finance, Local/City Governments, National Development Planning Commission, Academia

In line with the New Urban Agenda, the initiative aims to harness the transformative potential of cities to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals. It recognizes that the world continues to urbanize rapidly with Ghana's urban population at 56.7%. The Smart SDGs Cities accelerates the achievement of SDGs in cities through systematic processes of data collection and analysis; developing city development strategies that incorporate smart cities approaches; strengthening key local institutional capacities in areas of planning, governance, revenue and service delivery as key to promoting sustainable urban development; and advancing the implementation of high impact local initiatives, through supporting their preparation and financing. Cities are recognized for their exceptional achievements through SDG Cities Certification.

REVISION OF GHANA HOUSING PROFILE – REVIEW

Donor: UNOPS

Project Duration: 2023-2024

Project Value: 100,000 USD

Location: National

Partners: UNOPS, Ministry of Works and Housing

The Ghana Housing Profile was first developed in 2011 as a diagnostic tool to provide the Government of Ghana and other stakeholders to help disclose bottlenecks, identify gaps and opportunities in the housing sector, inform the Ghana Housing policy development and support the formulation of appropriate recommendations and policy responses.

After more than a decade, there is the need to revisit the analyses to inform housing and slum improvement approaches in the context of present-day realities to promote investments that are well informed, evidence-based and responsive to demands and real needs, as well as social problems relevant to housing.

It is envisaged that that revised National Housing Profile will inform the planning and programming of investments, and the management and maintenance of activities in areas of housing slum upgrading and prevention. This will help to integrate the policy into broader urban planning strategies and governmental actions, aligning them with other social, economic and environmental policies. The updated profile will ultimately inform the country's work towards the realisation of the right to adequate housing, the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

About Our Projects



DIGITAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH LEARNING FOR BOYS AND GIRLS IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

Donor: lamtheCODE, UN-Habitat

Project Duration: 2022-2024

Project Value: 100,000 USD

Location: Gamashie-Accra, Sabon Zongo, Ashaiman, Elmina

Partners: UNFPA, UNHCR, Accra Metropolitan Assembly, Ashaiman Municipal Assembly, Ablekuma Central Municipal Assembly, Komenda,Edina-Eguafo Abirim Municipal Assembly

Objective: This initiative is a collaboration with an NGO called lamtheCODE foundation through the DSG's office as part of the organization's focus on getting one million women and girls' coders by 2030 in alignment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is to help bridge the ICT gap and infuse computer literacy into community-initiated development projects has become critical to advance Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, Entrepreneurship and Design (STEAMED) education. Due to the poor Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) outcomes and inadequate SRH knowledge on areas such as teenage pregnancy, HIV and STIs, SGBV and intimate partner violence in the informal settlements it was necessary to address the SRH needs of these young people to ensure the holistic development of the young people and to reduce attrition because of teenage pregnancy, early fatherhood, or child marriage.



Pipeline Projects



Enhancing coastal communities in Ghana and Cote D'ivore with funding from Adaptation Fund.

Partners: Ministry of Environment Science and Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Local Government, Decentration and Rural Development, Land Use Spatial Planning Authority.

This project aims to respond to the main challenges in these coastal zones: coastal inundation, flooding, drought, salinization, coastal erosion and accelerated sedimentation of the small lagoons, and livelihoods' resilience



Skills, livelihood and wellbeing development for Youth and women to improve living conditions and livelihood opportunities for women and youth

Partners: UNFPA, Accra Metropolitan Assembly, Secondi - Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly



Zongo Development through building the resilience of women and youth in Ghana

Partners: UNESCO, UNFPA, Zongo and Inner Cities Secretariat

By extensively involving beneficiaries in community development and decision-making processes, the programme will implement a comprehensive approach that is targeting the full spectrum of threats and vulnerabilities to the survival, livelihood and dignity of Zongos and help accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in Ghana.

Our Achievements

Strengthened flood-resilient water supply in 265 communities reaching 323, 416 people in the 5 Northern regions

Over 60 youth involved in the DeclarACTION on sustainable urban development

280 youth and women beneficiaries of Community Managed Funds established in Gamashie in Accra for livelihood and community improvement

Subsidized water connections for 100 properties in Shukura in the Ablekuma Central Municipal Assembly

Policy Development

- Supported the development of the Ghana Housing profile in 2011
- Supported the development of the Ghana Urban and Housing Policies in 2012 and 2015 respectively
- Supporting the review of of the Ghana Housing Profile, the Urban Policy and the Slum Upgrading Strategy





Slum Upgrading Programmes

Two finance facilities were established under SUF namely Tema/Ashaiman Metropolitan Slum Upgrading Fund (TAMSUF) and the Sekondi/Takoradi Local Finance Facility (STMA-CSUF), TAMSUF- Amui Djor Housing project has completed a mixed used residential commercial facility which is occupied by the community: 31 residential units, 15 stores and commercial bathrooms and toilets.

STMA-CSUF has also completed 2 market sheds to accommodate 60 women. The women have also benefitted from livelihood and housing improvement loans some of which have been used to acquire land for housing. STMA-CSUF has also in the constructed a 16-seater WC in Effiakumah Zongo and upgraded a 45-bedroom accommodation for 60 households in New Takoradi.

A Community Managed Funds is established under Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme in the Gamashie community to support improvement in the housing and livelihood conditions of people in the area. There was also the renovation of the community centre (GAMADA) which hosts homework centre(library) for children, basketball court, sewing for single mothers and arts centre and boxing gym. There is also a conference area for community meetings and trainings for women and youth. The capacities of community members, local and national government officials involved in the programmes have been built through the participatory approach and capacity building components, development of neighbourhood plans, and principles of the programmes have also been adopted by other cities. The National Slum Upgrading strategy was initiated following PSUP lessons and outcomes.



WASH in DPCs: Access to water by women and youth in the Gumani community



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Programmes (WASH)

The WASH interventions focused on improvement of health and livelihood in schools and communities in the various areas by increasing access to good drinking water and proper sanitation facilities on a sustainable basis through pro-poor water and sanitation governance, water and sanitation for the urban poor, urban catchments management, water demand management, water education, and awareness-raising and information exchange among the participating local authorities/communities. Lessons from these programmes are validated to inform the necessary policies including for Water and Sanitation. The WASH in DPCs focused on 24 districts in Northern Ghana and was jointly implemented with UNICEF, WHO and UNDP.



African Clean Cities Platform/Waste Wise Cities Programme

The tool application under the Waste Wise City Initiative (WWCI) to promote sustainable solid waste management system and has supported the city of Cape Coast in project development using Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT) to inform sustainable interventions which can incorporated in the development plans. Sekondi-Takoradi joined UN-Habitat's waste management initiatives, Waste Wise Cities programme (WWC) and African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP) on 9 November 2022. UN-Habitat has conducted SDG Indicator 11.6.1 monitoring utilising WaCT in Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana with the support of the Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AtEPW) , to identify policy and infrastructure gaps for the improved solid waste management, and plastic leakage from the Municipal Solid Waste Management (MSWM) system of Sekondi-Takoradi to water bodies, using Waste Flow Diagram (WFD).

Other Urban Programmes



Ningo Prampram Planned City Extension

A framework for the planned city extension of Ningo-Prampram was developed to ensure the protection of the land allocated for urban development and avoid urban sprawl and encroachment. Under the oversight of the Ministry of Local, Decentralization and Local Government, framework is being promoted to be adopted by other local authorities. In collaboration with the private sector, the local authority is pursuing different residential development options (including rent to own) for the city extension.



Strengthening Partnerships for a New African Agenda

The project supported sub-Saharan African countries to involve their people in the preparation of their National Reports for Habitat III and build consensus around identified priorities in context of the socio-economic experiences and local development processes as a means of informing advocacy and lobbying at national and international levels. The Governments of Ghana and Nigeria championed and financed this initiative. The President of Ghana attended the World Urban Forum in Medellin to reinforce Ghana's commitment to promote sustainable urban development in the region



COVID-19 Response and Recovery Activities in Urban Areas (Accra, Ashaiman, Ablekuma Central Assemblies)

With the impacts of COVID-19 in slums/informal settlements, With funding from SIDA, UN-Habitat is supported communities and local authorities/cities help improve the overall environmental sanitation in the community by providing WASH facilities while supporting the livelihoods of women and youth by facilitating the employment opportunities with private sector partners and supporting production centres. This has helped to sustain the beneficiaries who are known to highly depend on daily income with limited or no savings capacity.

Other Urban Programmes



Ghana Youth 2030 Cities Forum

Ghana is one of the six countries including Colombia, Ecuador, India, Senegal and Vietnam, selected across Africa, Asia, and Latin America to host the 2030 cities initiative to meaningfully engage youth groups toward sustainable urbanization at all levels and in alignment with key global events between 2021 and 2030.

Over 60 youth were drawn from NGOs, youth groups and networks of cities to be part of the Youth 2030 Cities Forum. The DeclarACTION after the forum was integrated into the World Urban Forum (WUF 11) held in Katowice, Poland in June 2022; It will also inform policy dialogues, regional activities, and global high-level meetings on sustainable urbanization. The DeclarACTION becomes the roadmap for urban youth action in Ghana, relating to the achievement of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda (NUA).



Urban Health and SLCP Reduction Project

Implemented together with WHO, ICLEI and other partners, the project specifically emphasized short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs), by seeking to mainstream air quality management measures into urban planning frameworks in Accra. This pilot project was part of CCAC's Urban Health Initiative and since 2016 has been engaging key stakeholders in the health, transport, waste and energy sectors as priority sectors for the intervention.



Participants at the forum sharing issues facing their local community with solutions



IMPACT STORY

UN-Habitat supports Ghana's vision to upgrade slums and informal settlements and reduce urban poverty

Ramatou Quaye is a 21-year old boxer and a member of Ghana's National Boxing Team, the Black Bombers since 2014. Ramatou lives in the Ga Mashie area, an indigenous Ga community of about 200,000 population in the Greater Accra region in Ghana. "I love boxing and that is my job" she says.

Ramatou trains regularly at the boxing centre, one of the facilities of the Ga Mashie Development Agency renovated under the UN-Habitat Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP), an initiative of the African Caribbean Pacific Secretariat and funded by the European Commission. The facilities include a dress making centre, homework centre for the children, basketball court, boxing gyms and an open area where meetings are held by the various groups in the community including women and youth, and an art gallery.

As a beneficiary community of COVID-19 response from the UN, Ga Mashie is also benefiting from UNFPA and UN-Habitat Water, Sanitation and Hygiene facilities and services that seek to reinforce measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and improve livelihoods in the community. The PSUP programme is a support towards Ghana's vision to upgrade slums and urban settlements and reduce urban poverty.

During her visit to Ghana, the UN Deputy Secretary-General Ms. Amina J. Mohammed toured the facilities in Ga Mashie where she and her team had the opportunity to experience the reality of overcrowding, lack of social services especially in this era of COVID-19 in the slums/informal settlements and to witness the impact of the PSUP and the COVID-19 socio-economic response and recovery implemented by the UN in Ghana.



One of the stand pipes constructed in the Gamashie community in Accra, Ghana as part of provision of water and other COVID-19 prevention measures provided by UN-Habitat

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2022-2025) and Country office thematic focus.

The UNSDCF is a compact between the United Nations and the Government of Ghana to work together, and in partnership with broader society inclusive of civil society, faith- and community-based and non-government organizations, trade unions, think tanks, academia, the private sector and development partners towards an increasingly resilient and prosperous Ghana. The UNSDCF, in this context, focuses on the wellbeing of people, particularly those most disadvantaged and marginalized, and their ability to enjoy their fundamental rights and opportunities. At the core of our commitment is the priority to leave no one behind (LNOB) and to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable in Ghana.

The UNSDCF is the United Nation's central framework for planning and implementation of development activities at the country level. It articulates the United Nations' collective framework of support to Ghana in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national development priorities.

UN-Habitat is adopting a systemized methodology for sustainable cities approach in the implementation of the UNSDCF and contributes to two of the three outcomes namely;

Outcome 1: By 2025, People in Ghana particularly women, youth, persons with disabilities and those furthest behind will enjoy an inclusive and transformed economy that creates decent jobs and sustainable livelihood reducing inequality.

Outcome 2: By 2025, people in Ghana particularly those furthest left behind will have access to and use of quality, resilient, inclusive, equitable, innovative and digitized social services supported by well managed and accountable institutions and governance systems.

DONOR AND PARTNERS



Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY



Global Affairs Canada
Affaires mondiales Canada



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Livelihood empowerment (soap making) for women in Old Fadama



Household waste generation survey in low-income area



Increasing access to youth managed water supply systems in Ga Mashie community



Recoverable collected by waste pickers at landfill



Presentation of certificate to youth participant Godwin Doe at the Youth 2030 cities Forum in Accra

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