

WHAT IS THE GHANA COUNTRY PROGRAMME?

The Cities Alliance Ghana Country Programme is a partnership initiative that started in 2011 with the objectives of supporting the **capacity and resources available to the urban poor**, strengthening the **capacities of local governments** to inclusively plan and manage urban growth, supporting **national and local policy dialogue** to promote pro-poor urban systemic change. Programme implementation has been focused in the **Greater Accra Metropolitan Area (GAMA)**, with some activities having **nation-wide** outreach. The main themes of the programme are **urban policy, participatory urban governance, capacity development, and urban infrastructure**.

Urban dwellers account for **54 per cent** of Ghana's total population, which is urbanising at a rate of **3.4 per cent per year** (2010-15 estimate). GAMA has an urban population of **4.3 million** inhabitants which is **projected to double in the next 20 years**. Before the conception of the Ghana Country programme, urban development was facing dire challenges including the absence of the policy and institutional framework needed for planned urban development, rampant slum-dwelling in urban areas, and climate risks especially flooding. The Country Programme has intervened with a set of activities including **urban advocacy** to change policies and mindsets, **participatory mechanisms** to involve the urban poor in planning, and supporting the **provision of basic infrastructure and services**, especially WASH. Through its projects the Country Programme has been successfully supporting the adoption and implementation of Ghana's national urban policy, promoting participatory urban planning mechanisms, building the capacities of urban stakeholders at the national, city and community levels, and creating partnerships between stakeholders in urban development.

Programme cost: **USD 3,022,905**

Start: **November 2010**

The Partners

- Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
- Municipal/Metropolitan Assemblies of the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area
- Institute of Local Government Studies
- Slum communities in partnership with People's Dialogue on Human Settlements
- Ghana Federation of the Urban Poor
- Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI)
- Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
- Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI)
- World Bank
- Energy Sector Management Assistance Program
- Global Communities (formerly CHF International)
- Nimba Community Support Services
- Department of Geography and Resource Development & Regional Institute for Population Studies, University of Ghana

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME

- A robust **national urban advocacy campaign** to put Ghana's urbanisation in the spotlight of policy-making and to change the mindsets and behaviours of urban dwellers towards their environment. The **'Fixing the Urban Mess'** documentary series was an exemplary product of this campaign, in addition to other **radio/TV broadcasts, workshops and social media activities**. The establishment of a **Housing and Urban Advocacy Network/Platform** is underway
- An **assessment of the WASH needs of GAMA** and plans of suitable WASH infrastructure options was prepared. On the back of the assessment and plans, the **World Bank** further invested **USD 150 million** for WASH infrastructure projects for the urban poor in GAMA.
- **Participatory enumeration/mapping and profiling of informal settlements and trade in GAMA** has been carried out through a **learning-by-doing approach** with community members. In the process, **50 communities** have been **mapped, 41 trained and federated into savings groups** and **796 community leaders trained on participatory community upgrading mechanisms**. The knowledge generated and the cooperation mobilised have empowered poor communities of GAMA to engage local governments on their community development issues.
- Promotion of **Ghana's National Urban Agenda** by establishing and strengthening the institutional capacity of the **Urban Development Unit** of the Ministry of Local Governments and Rural Development. The Urban Development Unit has successfully convened the **Ghana National Urban Forum**, a platform for policy dialogues among key actors in the country's urban development. The Urban Development Unit has also been active in the international platform on urban policy dialogues such as PrepComm2 for Habitat III and Africities 2015.
- The institutional capacity of the Ghana **Institute of Local Government Studies** has been strengthened in providing training to local government officials. The Institute of Local Government Studies has been carrying out training activities including lectures and workshops, and producing training material on participatory urban governance.
- The construction of an environment-friendly **biophil system** in Amui Dzor communal sanitation block in Ashaiman, **alley pavements with drains** in poor settlements in Ashaiman and Ledzokuku Krowor, and a **resource centre** for Old Fadama.

SYNERGIES WITH FUTURE CITIES AFRICA (FCA) PROJECT

The FCA project is a partnership initiative launched by Cities Alliance and the Department for International Development (DFID) in November 2014 to support selected African cities¹ as they transform themselves into **resilient, inclusive centres of economic growth**. The FCA project consists of **rapid city resilience assessments (RCRAs)** of target cities, an in-depth **feasibility study** to assess the challenges in African cities, **research studies** on urban resilience themes as incorporated in the five dimensions of the FCA normative framework (governance, economy, services, citizenship and the environment) and prioritised through the RCRAs, and the development of a set of **innovative tools** and **knowledge platforms**.

The FCA project in Ghana has been designed and implemented in close synergy with the Cities Alliance Ghana Country Programme. The established partnerships of the Country Programme with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and the Metropolitan and Municipal Assemblies of Greater Accra Metropolitan Area provided the **platform for take-off** of the FCA project and **ready buy-in** by the local stakeholders. These partnerships were further strengthened during the implementation of FCA, and **new partnerships** such as with the Ghana Ministry of Environment were built.

The Ghana National Urban Forum provided a **multi-stakeholder platform** for the FCA project to engage.

The diagnostics through the **RCRAs** carried out in the FCA project are relevant for the participatory preparation of 12 Medium Term Development Plans with focus on resilience in the Metropolitan and Municipal Assemblies of intervention in GAMA. The FCA project also developed **Resilience.io** - a tool for evidence-based decision-making on urban infrastructure - and pilot-tested it on the provision of WASH services in GAMA.



Resilience workshop in Accra



Picture from documentary film 'Fixing the Urban Mess: Solid Waste The Ticking Time Bomb'.



South-South Knowledge Exchange between Ghana and Brazil.



Traditional Queen Mothers at the Ghana Urban Forum in Accra, 28 March 2013. Photo: Sebastian Sunderhaus/GIZ



Construction of an environment-friendly biophil system in Amui Dzor communal sanitation block.



Community members drawing their map during Focus Group Discussions in La Nkwantanang.

1. Target cities of the FCA project are 14 secondary cities in Uganda, 2 regional capitals in Ethiopia, the Nampula-Nacala-Tete urban corridor in Mozambique, and the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area in Ghana.