



THE GHANA LAND, SERVICES AND CITIZENSHIP FOR THE URBAN POOR (LSC) PROGRAMME

Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development



Makola market in Accra, Ghana. Photo: Priscilla Ofori-Amanfo/Cities Alliance

Ghana LSC at a Glance

The LSC programme is a partnership initiative undertaken by the Government of Ghana and its partners to align urban development efforts at the national, city and community levels. It aims to:

- ★ Support national and local policy dialogue to promote sustainable urbanisation, ensure the empowerment of local governments, and reinforce the importance of active community participation.
- ★ Strengthen the capacity of local government to inclusively plan and manage urban growth.
- ★ Empower organisations of the urban poor to actively engage in local development.
- ★ Focus particularly on GAMA (Greater Accra Metropolitan Area), strengthening national policies promoting the metropolitan wide approach.

WHAT IS THE GHANA LSC PROGRAMME?

The Land, Services and Citizenship for the Urban Poor Programme (LSC) is an initiative undertaken by the Government of Ghana to align urban development efforts at the national, city and community levels. It also aims to include the urban poor in the planning and decision-making processes.

LSC activities centre on the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area (GAMA), the country's largest urban agglomeration. The programme is designed to evolve into a national initiative through the systematic sharing of experiences and expertise within all urban local governments in Ghana. At the national level, the LSC supports the Government of Ghana in developing and coordinating an inclusive national agenda in partnership with stakeholders.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF LSC?

LSC seeks to build the capacity of Government – both national and city – and urban poor communities to manage growth more effectively. It also seeks to improve citizens' access to services and formulate more inclusive urban development policies that benefit the poor.

It aims to:

- **Improve coherence of effort** by creating an institutional framework that allows stakeholders to align their activities and financing towards common objectives. This leads to greater coordination in urban development efforts.
- **Build effective partnerships** among the national government, city governments, urban poor communities and other stakeholders. These partnerships will be based on rights and responsibilities that are clearly defined and negotiated.

WHO ARE THE PARTNERS IN LSC?

The Government of Ghana is implementing LSC through the Urban Development Unit (UDU) and the Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS), both under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD). Local partners include the Ghana Federation of the Urban Poor, People's Dialogue.

These partners are supported by international organisations including Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI), the World Bank, UN-Habitat and Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO).

The programme is facilitated and supported by Cities Alliance, a global partnership for urban poverty reduction and the promotion of the role of cities in sustainable development. LSC is supported under Cities Alliance's Country Partnership Programme approach, which emphasises a long-term commitment to mobilise the different drivers of urban development in a country and to improve both dialogue and coherence of effort among them.

Cities are proven poverty fighters and engines of economic growth.



Women making masa to sell in Old Fadama, Accra, Ghana.
Photo: Andrea Zeman/Cities Alliance

Urbanisation in Ghana

- ✦ Today more than half of Ghana's population lives in urban areas.
- ✦ An estimated 60 percent of Ghana's national output is produced in urban areas.
- ✦ With an annual growth rate of 3.6 percent, Ghana's urban population will more than double between 2000 and 2025.
- ✦ Some 51 percent of urban residents live in slums.
- ✦ GAMA is the largest and most densely populated urban agglomeration in the country, with a population of 2.7 million that is expected to grow to 7.5 million by 2030.



Street scene in an informal settlement in Accra, Ghana. Photo: William Cobbett/Cities Alliance

WHAT ARE THE MAIN ACTIVITIES OF LSC?

The LSC programme adopts a three-pronged approach that aligns activities at the national government, city and community levels to foster a more coherent urban agenda focused on inclusive, pro-poor cities.

At the National Level

LSC activities at the national level aim to support the Government of Ghana as it focuses on inclusive urban development policies and strategies, in partnership with stakeholders. These activities are coordinated by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) with the support of GIZ.

They include:

- **Institutional capacity support to the Urban Development Unit (UDU).** Established by the MLGRD to coordinate urban efforts by various stakeholders, the UDU will be strengthened so that it has the capacity to lead the process of promoting an inclusive approach to urbanisation.
- **Ghana Urban Forum (GUF).** Initially launched in 2009 as the Ghana Urban Platform, the GUF became a permanent forum for all stakeholders in Ghana's urban sector to establish a national consensus on dealing with the challenges and opportunities of rapid urbanisation. Ghana held its fifth National Urban Forum on Spatial Planning and Land Value Capture in 2015.

At the Local Level

LSC supports activities that deepen the knowledge base and strengthen the capacity of urban local governments and other urban stakeholders to develop inclusive, sustainable cities.

They include:

- **Capacity Development.** The Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS) will develop and deliver a municipal training programme to build the institutional leadership of both the operational and political areas of local government. The goal is to systematically improve urban management skills and engage in more effective community outreach and communication.
- **Metropolitan Environmental Sanitation Strategy.** Leveraged from a World Bank investment of USD 150 million to address critical sanitation issues in GAMA, this activity will develop a metropolitan approach to environmental sanitation and ensure community involvement in identifying alternatives to address their sanitation needs. It will also facilitate better coordination among donors working on water and sanitation.

“Before Cities Alliance we were focusing more on rural issues. However, now the importance of cities and the need to take advantage of urbanisation in building resilient cities is clear.” - Sylvanus Adzornu, Head of Ghana's Urban Development Unit

At the Community Level

The LSC programme seeks to mobilise communities of the urban poor, primarily through the establishment of slum dweller federations in the municipalities of GAMA. Federations provide communities with a platform for collective action and enable them to organise around activities such as savings groups, enumeration and mapping. These activities in turn help communities obtain the knowledge and information they need to engage with city and national governments on local development. Specific activities include:

- **Conducting an urban poor typology.** This includes profiles of the different types of informal settlements within GAMA, which will feed into enumeration and registration activities. The typology process also helps communities mobilise.
- **Mobilising and federating savings groups.** Savings mechanisms enable the urban poor to build their own capacity and increase their organisational ability while gaining access to affordable finance.
- **Cultivating community leaders.** A group of community leaders will be trained on methods of effective engagement with government and other stakeholders.
- **Establishing a Community Social Investment Fund.** The Fund allows community organisations to apply for grants for small-scale projects – such as painting a school – so that they can experience visible progress quickly and build participatory planning skills.
- **Small infrastructure projects** such as waste collection, toilet facilities and community pathways in informal settlements.



Toilet facilities with buckets in Old Fadama, Accra, Ghana. Photo: William Cobbett/Cities Alliance

