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.

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.

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
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 cities 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.