

Achieving the SDGs through LED in Ghana



Strengthening local government's Role as a partner in development - Localising the SDGs using Local Economic Development - GHANA

Local Economic Development (LED) focuses on responding to local needs through a process of joint visioning and interaction with local actors. It is aimed at generating sustainable local economic opportunities and quality of life gains through improved economic governance. As such, LED offers a comprehensive framework for 'integrating' and 'localising' the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Local and regional governments play a crucial catalytic role in initiating and driving LED, fostering participation, the creation of decent jobs, and the economic empowerment of women, youth and vulnerable groups. LED contributes to social trust and cohesion, helping to build societies that are more stable and resilient to growing, complex and widespread risks, contributing to conflict prevention and ensuring sustainable development. LED is also a clear mechanism to work towards the "leave no-one behind" commitment of the SDGs.

In 2013 Ghana introduced a Local Economic Development Policy. In 2016, in further support of LED the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD), issued a directive that all MMDAs in Ghana should include LED activities in their Medium Term Development Plans, linking these activities to funding from the District Common Fund.

CLGF has been actively supporting LED in Ghana since 2013 through project support from both DFID and the EU. Since 2016 CLGF has been working with four MMDAs (local councils) on LED. This flyer presents the key highlights of the Local Economic Development pilot projects that showcase how local governments can effectively lead in the localisation of the SDGs hence advancing the effective role of local government as development partners in achieving national agendas.

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Nadowli-Kaleo District Assembly, Wa, Upper West Region - Climate Smart Demonstration Gardens

Nadowli-Kaleo is one of the nine districts in the Upper West region, whose climate is generally dry. Agriculture is the main economic activity accounting for approximately 85% of the district's labour force. However, due to the effects of climate change and in particular the reduced rainfall, agricultural productivity has reduced affecting food prices and employment for commercial and sustenance farmers.

Targeted Beneficiaries: The project aimed at targeting organized community groups consisting of women, youth, and unemployed men.

Key Objectives: In line with the national government's climate change agenda, the heart of the project was to promote community based planning through the growing of vegetables for economic development in a number of identified community groups. The assembly anchored this project on SDG 1 (no poverty); SDG 2: (zero hunger) and SDG 13 (climate action). The district identified a total of 10 community groups that they partnered with in order to implement an innovative climate smart demonstration gardens project. The different community groups were provided with technical support on climate smart agriculture techniques and provided materials for construction of



Climate-smart demonstration gardens, set up, planted and maintained by community groups



Community groups from Nadowli - Kaleo engaging in community based planning to establish location and crop type for demonstration gardens

demonstration gardens. The assembly conducted community needs assessments in a total of 10 community groups in the district.

Key Outcomes: The project has been implemented in 8 out of 10 communities where the assessment identified an acute need for agricultural development. The assembly also conducted training with community leaders, heads of departments, units and agencies in the district on the SDGs, the assembly's initiatives for localising SDGs and how these initiatives are linked to the national SDG commitments and agendas. Nadowli-Kaleo has also supported the establishment of partnerships between market groups/enterprises and community groups to sell produce from the demonstration gardens to major markets in the area.

Innovative Partnerships: In promoting local economic development partnerships, the Assembly has been collaborating with a local NGO, the Women Integrated Development Organization (WIDO). Working to upscale the Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) the partnership has been exploring tangible ways in which women can access credit for small enterprises, thereby empowering women economically.

Asunafo North Municipal Assembly, Brong Ahafo Region - Economic Empowerment of women, youth and small and medium Enterprises (SEMs) through rice and cocoa production

Asunafo North municipality is one of the larger municipalities in the Brong Ahafo region. The region is known for mixed crop farming, with 81% of its economic activity in agriculture. Cocoa farming is an important source of income for farmers in the region.

Targeted Beneficiaries: Women and youth from the four different communities

Key Objectives: In line with the national government's ambitious policy 'Planting for Food and Jobs' which aims to enhance food productivity and food security, the municipality identified SDG 2 (zero hunger) and SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) as their focus, and built a partnership with four large community groups in the area. A key activity the assembly undertakes is LED sensitization and training on SDGs to community groups and key stakeholders such as the private sector. The assembly has been using LED as a tool to not only develop bankable projects but also as an entry point to increase the awareness of local citizens in how they can play a role in the achieving local SDG targets.

Key Outcomes: The revenue collected from the rice production, will go into a revolving fund that will

be used as a credit service for women and youth to set up other businesses and income generating activities. The assembly is also working to build capacity of elected officials, assembly staff, the private sector and community groups on localising the SDGs. The project showcases the role of local government as a critical development actor, and stresses the linkages between national policy and local decision making and action.

Innovative Partnerships: The assembly has partnered with private sector groups and small-scale industries to ensure that beneficiaries in the project have a ready access to markets.



A local economic development stakeholders forum being led by Asunafo North Municipal Assembly



CLGF LED focal point at Asunafo North MA handing out rice farming equipment to project beneficiaries

Ayensuano District Assembly, Eastern Region - Establishment of Gari and Cassava Dough Processing Centre at Amanase Aboabo

The Ayensuano District Assembly, is one of the newer assemblies in Ghana and is known for its fertile soils, producing cassava, plantain, cocoa, pawpaw and oil palm amongst others. The district is mainly agrarian but includes other small-scale industries such as commerce, transport, small-scale mining and a vibrant informal economy.

Targeted Beneficiaries: Women and men active in small scale agriculture

Key Objectives: The main goal of the project is enhancing pro-poor economic inclusion. The Assembly's project is looking to increase employment and employability amongst disadvantaged groups such as women and youth whilst harnessing the agricultural potential of the region through providing adequate infrastructure. The assembly has focused on SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) and SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure). The district is setting up a set of processing centres for palm nuts and cassava processing that will add value to raw products and increase the income of small producers. The district aims to link into the national policy of "one district one factory" to provide additional supporting infrastructure and further boost the local economy.

Key Outcomes: The project will provide the community with key infrastructure to produce palm oil and gari and cassava dough. These processing centres will consist of store room, milling room, peeling, washing, grating, squeezing and frying area and are managed by the assembly. In addition, the assembly is working to build awareness of the SDGs and has been holding seminars with targeted assembly members, staff and citizens on the SDGs and the role of district assemblies in achieving them.

Innovative Partnerships: The Assembly has partnered with Agona Bank, (a rural bank serving the community), and worked with project beneficiaries to open accounts and establish a culture of saving with the project proceeds. The assembly is also in dialogue with Agona Bank on increasing local access to credit.



Ayensuano District Assembly staff member leading community members from Amanase Aboabo in a planning meeting for gari and cassava dough facility



On-going construction of the gari and cassava dough processing facility at Amanase Aboabo, at Ayensuano District Assembly

Tema Metropolitan Assembly, Greater Accra Region - Development of Metro wide local economic development strategy and support to local industry.

Tema Metropolitan Assembly (TMA) is a coastal district situated 30 kilometres east of Accra, the capital of Ghana. At the 2010 Census, Tema's population was 292,773. While the city serves as a major strategic industrial hub for Ghana, it has poverty pockets around the Tema Newtown, Bankuman and parts of Community 1.

Targeted Beneficiaries: The project is focused on supporting indigenous women groups, school dropouts, economically active groups, business associations, artisans, fisher folks and vulnerable groups.

Key Objectives: The overall goal of the project is to promote inclusive development through the provision of income generating jobs for the poor and vulnerable groups in the Metropolis. This work is linked to SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) and aligned with the Mayor's Restoration Agenda. One of the major activities the metro has undertaken is the development of a four-year Local Economic Development strategy (2018-2021) developed as part of the Assembly's Medium-Term Development Plan. The city's LED strategy places emphasis on i) tourism and hospitality development, ii) fish processing and value addition, iii) talent and skills development and iv) auto mechanic base establishment.

Key Outcomes: The combined support of the CLGF project and the Assembly's Internally Generated Fund (IGF), led to the provision of training, equipment and tools as well as small financial packages to small business that have been identified, vetted and assessed for support in order to promote growth and scaling. The activities are in line with the national government's policies to create decent work for the growing youth population in the country. TMA has been working directly with private sector groups primarily in the fishing and small-scale business industries to build their capacity through training workshops on business development, revenue management, customer acquisition and business strategy in a bid to strengthen the role of business in the local economy. The Assembly also targeted trade

associations as well as other key stakeholders within the Metropolis. Through the organization of LED awareness workshops, the Assembly led in sensitizing and educating industry workers on how it employs LED as a tool to achieve the localisation of the SDGs by enhancing the city's local economy.

Innovative Partnerships: The Assembly is currently working with selected NGOs, the Association of Small-Scale Industries (ASSI), Canoe Owners Association and Dot.com Freight Ltd to promote the LED agenda and sensitise them on the role of the assembly in achieving the SDGs.



Tema Metropolitan Assembly officials conducting local economic development sensitization to community groups, trade associations and small to medium enterprises



Participants registering for a training and capacity building workshop on business skills development led by the Tema Metropolitan Assembly

CLGF West Africa Programme Office

Since it was established in 1995, CLGF has been active in West Africa, supporting the implementation of decentralisation, strengthening inter-governmental relationships, and building the capacity of local governments.

CLGF is a membership organisation, it is unique in bringing together local government, ministries of local government, national associations of local government and individual councils from across the 53 countries of the Commonwealth. It also has research, training and professional organisations as members. Its work focuses on promoting local democracy, exchange of experience and good practice, and capacity building to improve policy making and localise the SDGs, strengthen local government institutions and building sustainable cities through strong and focused partnerships.

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