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At Takoradi Atlantic Hotel
On Thursday 17th February, 2022

TWIN-CITIES IN SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

EUROPEAN UNION
SEKONDI TAKORADI METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY (STMA)

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS
PROGRAMME
LINE UP

9:00 – 9:30 am
Arrival of Invited Guests and Cultural Performance

10:00 am
Open Prayer

INTRODUCTION OF CHAIRMAN & CHAIRMAN’S RESPONSE

WELCOME ADDRESS
Regional Minister & Ag. Mayor of Sekondi-Takoradi,
Hon Kwabena Okyere Darko-Mensah (MP)

STATEMENT BY MAYOR OF PALERMO
Leoluca Orlando

STATEMENT BY HONORARY CONSULATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA, PALERMO
Francesco Campagna

CULTURAL PERFORMANCE

PRESENTATION ON THE PROJECT
Mr. Isaac Aidoo (Project Coordinator)

STATEMENTS FROM PROJECT PARTNERS
► Mario Zito, Assessore alle Culture, Palermo Municipality
► Sergio Cipolla, President of CISS/South-South International Cooperation
► Viviana Corso, Ghana Sicily Business Forum
► Ing. Prof. Osei-Wusu Achaw, Vice-Chancellor, Kumasi Technical University

CULTURAL PERFORMANCE

ADDRESS BY THE HEAD OF LOCAL GOVT. SERVICE
Ing. Dr. Nana Ato Arthur

GUEST OF HONOUR’S ADDRESS & OFFICIAL LAUNCH
Hon Daniel Botwe (MP), Minister for Local Govt., Decentralization & Rural Development

CHAIRMAN’S CLOSING REMARKS

CLOSING PRAYER
ACTIVITIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED

- Organize public consultations with local communities on climate resilient policy
- Prepare an eco-Disaster Risk Reduction Management Plan
- Plant 5,000 ornamental trees to address environmental degradation and adverse effects of climate change on livelihoods at community level
- Organize climate-resilient schools' educational campaign
- Develop an urban lab to serve as Skills and Entrepreneurship Training Centre on Climate-Smart Production Technologies
- Skills development training for 150 unemployed youth and women in green social enterprises
- Pilot community-based production of 100 eco-friendly ovens

KEY INFORMATION

THEMATIC AREA
Sustainable Development

PROJECT OBJECTIVE
Promoting Sustainable and Integrated Development in the Twin-Cities of Sekondi-Takoradi and Palermo (Italy)

LEAD IMPLEMENTER
Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly (STMA)

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS
- Municipality of Palermo (Italy)
- Cooperazione Internazionale Sud Sud (CISS)
- Ghana-Sicily Business Forum
- Kumasi Technical University

FUNDING SOURCE: European Union (EU)

BUDGET & CONTRIBUTIONS
- TOTAL BUDGET: EUR 3,000,000.00
- EU CONTRIBUTION: 95%
- STMA CONTRIBUTION: 5%

DURATION: 2022-2024 (3 years)

BACKGROUND
The growth of Sekondi-Takoradi in the last decade has been spurred by the discovery and production of oil and gas in the Western Region of Ghana. As the Metropolis increasingly becomes urbanized with its attendant growth in population, management of urban-space for development has become challenging to regulate. Climate resilience is being tested and excessive pressure is being exerted on municipal services.

Equally, grassroots participation in decision-making is hampered by insufficient resource provisions to the sub-structures resulting in shrinking of social safety nets and focus on issues confronting the vulnerable, deprived and marginalised groups.
The Twin-Cities in Sustainable Partnership is a 3-year project being implemented in the cities of Sekondi-Takoradi (Ghana) and Palermo (Italy) funded by the European Union (EU).

The project is under the EU’s “Local Authorities: Partnerships for Sustainable Cities Programme” launched in 2019. The global objective of the Programme is to Promote Integrated Urban Development through partnerships built among Local Authorities to improve Sustainable Urban Development. This will be done through focusing on capacity enhancement and upscaling of long-lasting partnerships and cooperation through peer-to-peer exchanges.

The project aims at enhancing the capacity of City Authorities to address the challenges of urban sprawl, climate change, unemployment, poverty, exclusion, and the new realities of COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the project is geared towards enhancing urban management, climate resilience and fostering transnational cooperation. The project is also intended to boost socio-economic development through employment generation and valorizing the cultural heritage of the twin-cities of Sekondi-Takoradi (Ghana) and Palermo (Italy).

The Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly (STMA) is the project lead implementer with the Municipality of Palermo (Italy), Cooperazione Internazionale Sud Sud (CISS), Ghana-Sicily Business Forum and Kumasi Technical University as implementing partners.

Under this cluster, the project focuses on cross-cutting eco-interventions that are rooted in a commitment to social inclusion, sustainable livelihoods and gender equity to create a climate-resilient local economy.

Specifically, the project will ensure:

- Formulation of Climate Resilience Local Policy and Eco-Disaster Risk Reduction Plan through participatory processes.

- Creation of safe, sustainable and decent jobs for vulnerable groups through skills and entrepreneurship training and grant support for green social enterprise start-ups. This is aimed at mitigating against the twin-challenge of environmental degradation and lack of employment opportunities for women and youth.

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE**
To Contribute in Realising a Sustainable, and Climate-Resilient City
ACTIVITIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED

- Construct 1-demonstration farm, equipped with a greenhouse and irrigation facility
- Training for 50 Vulnerable Groups (including fisherfolks), 50 Small-holder Vegetable Farmers and 200 unemployed women and youth in Urban Agriculture
- Plant 5,000 fruit-trees to enhance urban food security
- Provision of decent toilet facilities for 500 housing units to benefit poor households in low-income communities
- Conduct public health behavioural change campaigns on WASH and COVID-19
- Organize transnational cultural festivals in Sekondi-Takoradi and Palermo
- Construction of two well-resourced youth-friendly reproductive health kiosks
- Conduct community campaigns targeting the youth on adolescent reproductive health, gender-based violence, inclusive education and irregular migration

INTERVENTION AREAS/ ACTIVITY CLUSTERS

MULTI-LEVEL URBAN GOVERNANCE

This cluster is aligned with the City Authorities desire to pursue interventions aimed at capacity enhancement and strengthening the twinning-relationship with the Municipality of Palermo to enable co-creation and implementation of sustainable, participatory and inclusive urban management strategies. This is aimed to address the problems of rapid urbanization, climate change, exclusion, unemployment, irregular migration and preparedness to battle infectious disease outbreaks such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE
To enhance multi-level urban governance in the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Area, oriented towards a green, inclusive and culturally-sensitive integrated urban development.
CULTURALLY-SENSITIVE AND INCLUSIVE URBAN STRATEGIES

In the spirit of mutual cooperation, this cluster is intended to identify a long-term shared agenda between the two Cities in the field of sustainable development through each other’s cultural heritage. This seeks to valorise the vibrant arts and culture landscape in the cities of Sekondi-Takoradi and Palermo to spur socio-economic development.

This cluster also seeks to implement interventions that link sustainable development to social protection and livelihood improvement through the creation of safe-spaces and enhanced access to basic sanitary facilities for vulnerable women and youth as well as sustainable and decent jobs for the unemployed.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE
To Stimulate an Inclusive and Culturally-Sensitive Urban Landscape for Vulnerable Groups

ACTIVITIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED

▶ Conduct a multi-dimensional baseline survey on integrated urban development in Sekondi-Takoradi

▶ Training for 150 members of Metropolitan Planning Coordinating Unit, Spatial Planning Committee and Stakeholders in Integrated Urban Governance and Spatial Planning

▶ Training for 60 community leaders and 40 other selected stakeholders on social accountability tools.

▶ Co-design the functionality of the STMA’s e-Governance platform

▶ Organize quarterly awareness events on municipal rates and fees to enhance revenue generation

▶ Organize transnational exchange visits to strengthen the twinning-relationship between the cities of Sekondi-Takoradi and Palermo (Italy)