



**MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
DECENTRALISATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**GULF OF GUINEA NORTHERN
REGIONS SOCIAL COHESION (SOCO) PROJECT**



GUIDANCE NOTE



IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINE FOR SUB-COMPONENT 1.2

The Government of Ghana (GoG), through the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development (MLGDRD), in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, is implementing the multi-country 5-years (2022-2027) Gulf of Guinea Northern Regions Social Cohesion (SOCO) Project, in forty-eight Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies across six regions in the northern parts of Ghana - namely the Northern, Upper East, Upper West, North East, Savannah and Oti Regions. The SOCO Project is estimated at US\$450 million out of which Ghana has received US\$150 million credit facility from the World Bank.

The SOCO Project seeks to improve the regional collaboration, socio-economic and climate resilience of border-zone communities in the target Northern regions of the Gulf of Guinea countries exposed to conflict and climate risks.

PROJECT COMPONENTS - OVERVIEW

COMPONENT 1



Investing in Community Resiliency and Inclusion
(USD 112.5M, 75%)

Sub-component 1.1

Community investments for strengthening local resilience and inclusion
(USD 84.38M)

Sub-component 1.2

Strategic economic activity investments for local economic development
(USD 22.5M)

Sub-component 1.3

Youth engagement and social cohesion activities
(USD 5.63M)

COMPONENT 2



Building foundation and capacity for inclusive and resilient communities
(USD 15M, 10%)

COMPONENT 3



Regional Coordination Platform and Dialogue
(USD 7.5M, 5%)

COMPONENT 4



Project Management
(USD 15M, 10%)

COMPONENT 5



Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC)
(USD 0)



Overview of Sub-component 1.2:

Strategic economic investments for climate-resilient economic development

The SOCO Project through this sub-component aims at strengthening local economic development in target districts and clusters through the operationalisation of the Local Economic Development Policy of 2020.

Why the Guidance Note?

The Note is to provide guidance to beneficiary District Assemblies on how to implement the sub-component under the SOCO Project. It also highlights the focus of this sub-component geared towards a coordinated and integrated approach to local economic development.

Eligible sub-projects



Support operationalisation and institutionalisation of the National LED Policy (2020) and Action Plan
(20%)

Carrying out LED stakeholder mapping

Supporting LED platform building or strengthening for effective LED coordination at the MMDA level

Strengthen the capacities at the MMDA level for effective LED governance, public-private dialogues, and integrated LED planning

Supporting the preparation of LED action plans and incorporation in MTDP



Implementing integrated LED approach
(30%)

Investing in the aggregation of existing cooperatives/community groups to take existing CDD to scale.

Support access to finance to CIGs

Support entrepreneurship and business development.

Improve access to complementary economic infrastructure

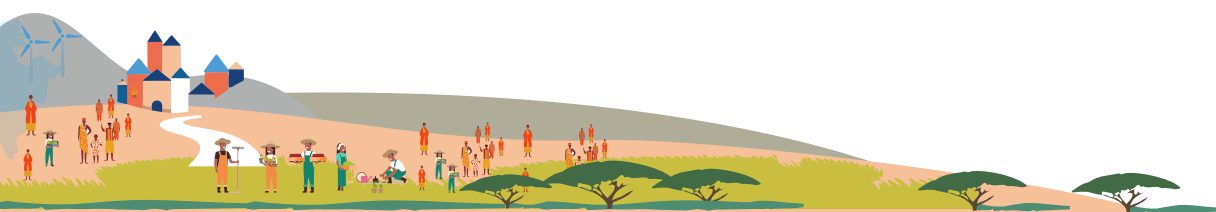
Promote digital innovations through the adoption, building of capacities and partnerships to promote innovation.

Measure economic and business performance of LED initiatives in target clusters



Infrastructure development
(50%)

Expansion, rehabilitation, upgrading, and equipping of public local market infrastructure, including access roads, tracks, stalls, warehouses, cold chain facilities, slaughter areas, weighing devices, waste collection and disposal, parking, rainwater harvesting, and other climate-smart water and sanitation infrastructure. Energy-efficient lighting, including solar installations, will be provided to improve security at the markets.



What is the implementation approach?

The approach to implementing the LED sub-component will include:

- Implement sub-component 1.2 activities to cover all 48 Districts
- Pilot a transformational approach in 3 districts from year 2 and scale-up in years 3-5

What are the Institutional Arrangements?

National level

MLGDRD; Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs); National LED Technical Committee; Private Sector

Regional/zonal level

Regional LED Forum

MMDA level

MMDAs, LED Sub-Committee, District LED Forum/Platform

Community level

Community Facilitators, Community Project Implementation Committees (CPICs), Common Interest Groups (CIGs), Private Sector, Traditional Authorities amongst others

