



MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
DECENTRALIZATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GULF OF GUINEA NORTHERN REGIONS SOCIAL COHESION (SOCO) PROJECT



COMMUNICATION GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY SENSITIZATION



INTRODUCTION

The Government of Ghana (GoG), through the Ministry of Local Government Decentralization and Rural Development (MLGDRD) in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance with the support of the World Bank, is implementing the Gulf of Guinea Northern Regions Social Cohesion Project .

The project seeks to contribute to the prevention of conflict spillover by improving social and economic resilience of the target northern regions and to strengthen regional dialogue across the target Gulf of Guinea countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Togo).

For consistency of delivery across the region, the project team has developed this guide for sensitization of the target communities on the upcoming activities. This will ensure that there is uniform communication across all the 48 beneficiary MMDAs under the project.

GUIDE TO OFFICERS

This document is meant to be a guide for interaction with the communities during the sensitization. It is not to be read out during the course of your interactions. Sensitizing staff is advised to go through the document to become familiar with the information before visiting the community. Taking important notes, active photos or any other relevant documentation in the course of the deliberations would be helpful.

PROPOSED ITENARY

Check	Item
1	Pre- arrange Meeting / Confirm/ Ensure Mobilization
2	Undertake necessary Community Entry Protocols
3	Sensitization Meeting / Session - Provide Information - Questions
4	Document and report

SUMMARY TALKING POINTS

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Project Information

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Implementation Agencies
Project Coverage / Area
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Who Can be a Rep?
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What to expect next after the meeting/ Sensitization ?

INTRODUCTION TO PROJECT

Full Name of Project

Gulf of Guinea Northern Regions Social Cohesion Project Abbreviated as **SOCO Project**

Project Background

Endemic poverty, inadequate opportunities for youth, inter-community tensions and structural fragilities in these northern regions pose an increasing security challenge for sub-regional countries.

This can potentially be a catalyst for the southward spread of the escalating Sahel conflict. In response, many individual Government agencies and development partners have focused on addressing insecurity and extremism in the Sahel without targeting the threat of further spillovers.

Project Objectives and challenges addressed

- Prevent the Spread of conflict from the Sahel region
- Reduce vulnerability to climate change
- Create Economic opportunities
- Promote Local economic development for youth employment
- Strengthen Local Institutions
- Improve Public Trust
- Promote youth social cohesion through Youth dialogue platforms, intercommunity sports, youth assets etc.
- Explore cross boarder investment with partner countries.

Project Area

- 6 regions: Northern, North East, Oti, Savannah, Upper East, and Upper West
- 48 districts in the 6 regions

Target Beneficiary Communities

- **Poverty and exclusion** - Communities with high poverty incidence, deprivation and feelings of exclusion/neglect
- **Exposure to climate risk** - Communities with high climate change risks (i.e. high incidence of bushfires, drought, flooding events, land degradation, deforestation)
- **Security risk/Insecurity** - Communities with high conflict/security risks (i.e. high incidence/risk of inter-ethnic conflict, intra/inter-community conflict, farmer-herder conflict, cross-border conflict; armed group conflict; religious radicalisation)
- **Proximity to border** - Communities closest to the border (with Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Togo)

Who is Implementing the Project

1. Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization, and Rural Development (MLGRD) through the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in collaboration with
 - National Development Planning Commission
 - Ministry of Youth and Sports
2. Metropolitan Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs)

What Activities will be undertaken by the Project?

- Local Infrastructural development
- Local Economic Development
- Youth Empowerment

What Benefits will the community gain from the project?

- Infrastructural Projects:
e.g., Schools, Earth Dams, Community water supply systems etc.
- Local Economic Boosters:
e.g., Processing, Market infrastructure, cold chain facilities, slaughter areas etc.
- Providing skills training for the youth for sustainable job creation and income generation.

How will the Project Be Delivered?

- Project Implementation will be done at the Cluster Level
- 217 Clusters have been formed by the Assembly based on a given criteria (mentioned earlier)
- Cluster is a group of adjoining communities under one area council that is expected to collectively benefit from the infrastructural/Economic support to be Provided.
- Siting of projects will be decided by the communities through their CPICs

GULF OF GUINEA NORTHERN REGIONS SOCIAL COHESION (SOCO) PROJECT



KEY ASSUMPTIONS

Community Clusters Formed by DA

Community Facilitators Recruitment by DA

Initial Community Sensitisation Performed by DA

Long List of Subprojects from AAP Extracted by DA

Guidelines for Subproject Prioritisation



FORMATION OF THE COMMUNITY PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

A CPIC will be formed from inception in each cluster of communities to facilitate all aspects of project implementation.

- The CPIC is formed at the Cluster Level
- It comprises of all the selected from all the communities in the cluster
- Two (2) members are selected from each community (at least one female, one youth)
- It also comprises of other key representatives like
 - Women's Representative
 - Disabled Persons Representative
 - Youth Representative
 - Minority Group Representative
- The Committee will Select its executives which will constitute
 - A Chairperson, a Secretary and an Organizer
 - At least one of above should be female
- Other Non-Voting Members include
 - The Community Facilitators (CFs)
 - Members of the Urban/ Zonal/ Town/ Area Councils

The role of the CPIC will include

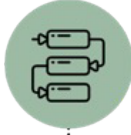
- Prioritize communities and sub-projects for implementation
- Assist in sub-project appraisal, validation and climate risk assessment
- Mobilize community resources
- Liaise with the DAs, ZCOs and CSOs on project investments
- Assist in the resolution of grievances
- Prepare a facility management plan/operational maintenance plan with the support of the DA to manage the facility after handing over to the community

Who Can be a member of this committee from the community?

- You can only be a member of the CPIC if your Community selects and appoints you to represent them on that committee

1. Subproject Prioritisation

Prioritise communities and sub-projects for implementation



2. Subproject Appraisal

Assist in sub-project appraisal, validation and climate risk assessment



3. Resource Mobilisation

Mobilise community resources



4. Liaison Activities

Liaise with the DAs, ZCOs and CSOs on sub-project investments



5. Grievance Resolution

Assist in the resolution of grievances



6. Operation & Maintenance

Prepare operations & maintenance plans with the support of the DA



HOW WILL THE COMMUNITY BE REPRESENTED ON THE COMMITTEE

How Many Community Reps to the CPIC?

- Each community in the cluster will select two (2) community representatives
- At least one should be female and one of whom will be a youth, i.e., aged from 18-35 years old

Who Can be a Representative (Rep)?

- The community will use the following criteria to select the two (2) representatives
- Have demonstrated ability to mobilize the community and vulnerable groups
- Have integrity, be honest and trustworthy
- Not be involved in any conflict, violence, and criminal activity
- Not be partisan and does not hold any political position
- Be able to commit time to participate in the meetings and trainings as well as mobilize the community for the purposes of the project.
- Be prepared to serve as a volunteer since there will be no remuneration except transportation allowance for stipulated official assignments, including meetings

How do we select a community Rep?

- The community will hold a meeting to explain the roles of CPIC members to the entire community.
- The community will then discuss and democratically decide on their representatives to the CPIC, under the oversight of the CF, PIU/ZCO staff or the DA's Social Welfare and Community Development Officer to ensure that selection is conducted in a fair, transparent and inclusive manner.
- The community will be given sufficient advance notice of the planned meeting.
- Once selected, the two (2) representatives will be submitted to the DA for validation.
- The approved community members can then join the committee

What is the Tenure of Community CPIC Rep?

- The CPIC will be required to attend the CPIC every quarter to discuss project implementation-related issues. As well as other meetings that may be held.
- The community will select the CPIC representatives every two (2) years.
- Previously serving CPIC representatives can also continue to serve for another two (2) years if they are selected once again by the communities and approved by the DA.
- Any community member can make a case to change their CPIC representative(s) at any time by filing a complaint/grievance through right channels, with supporting information or evidence.
- The position is a purely voluntary activity and does not attract any monetary benefits

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Unskilled Labor

- There will be opportunity for community members to be a part of the subprojects as unskilled labour
- Announcements will be made in every community in the cluster for members to be aware of the upcoming subprojects and the selection process
- Women will form a minimum of 50% of the selected persons
- Youth will also form a minimum of 50% of the selected persons
- Unskilled workers will be paid the prevailing minimum daily wage rounded up to the nearest cedi (Currently GHS50.00).
- Interested persons should contact members of the Community Facilitators (CFs) and Community Project Implementation Committee (CPICs) in the various communities of the beneficiary clusters.
- Persons interested in unskilled work must register on the day assigned for the announcement.
- Upon closure of registration, if the number of interested persons exceed the required number, simple balloting will be used to reduce the numbers.
- The list of selected persons will be publicised (posted on community notice boards) in the selected communities to ensure transparency.
- Women, youth and marginalised groups are encouraged to self-select.
- Aggrieved persons/ those who are unhappy with the selection process can channel their grievances through the toll-free numbers: 0800 800 800 or 0800 900 900.

Payment of Unskilled Labour Wages

- All payments of wages to the unskilled labour force will be made electronically, through mobile money.
- The payment process will begin with capturing of attendance on the field through electronic devices provided at the subproject site. Dedicated Timekeepers will be chosen to take attendance.
- The MMDA begins the payroll payment process after the month ends. The payroll is then reviewed by the Zonal Coordinating Offices (ZCOs) and subsequently forwarded to National Project Implementation Unit (NPIU) for payment.
- The mobile money wallets of the unskilled labour force are then credited.
- For emphasis, payment of wages will be made monthly and not later than 15 days after the end of the work month.

Skilled Labor

- Community members with specific vocational and industrial skills relevant to the subproject being implemented stand a chance of being selected.
- The selection of such skilled workers will be based on the requirements and preferences of the contractor.
- The Ministry, Assembly and project implementation unit cannot guarantee selection of skilled labour from the community.

PROCESSES FOR THE SELECTION OF UNSKILLED LABOUR FORCE



Infrastructural projects would be executed using contractors and the community workforce.



Unskilled labour force will be selected from participating communities with a focus on targeting the youth, women and marginalised groups.



Interested persons should contact members of the Community Facilitators (CFs) and Community Project Implementation Committee (CPICs) in the various communities of the beneficiary clusters.



Persons interested in unskilled work must register on the day assigned for the announcement.



Upon closure of registration, if the number of interested persons exceed the required number, simple balloting will be used to reduce the numbers.

WHAT IS REQUIRED OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON THE PROJECT

- Own the projects and collaborate with stakeholders from CFs, District Assembly, CPIC Community Reps and the CPIC to work towards successful implementation of the project in the community / cluster
- Disseminate relevant project related information to community members e.g., on recruitments (CFs and Labour)
- Cooperating with the contractor and workers that come from within and outside the community during implementation
- Reporting any issue of concern immediately using any of the channels.

GRIEVANCES/ ENQUIRIES

- The Project has set up a functional Grievance Mechanism (GM)
- This means it has provided various means of listening to and addressing basic concerns of the community and individuals.
- There is the opportunity to call toll free (0800800800 /0800900900)
- You can report to the community Facilitators who have been recruited for the Cluster (group of communities)
- You can report to the Focal Persons at the Assemblies.
- The Project takes GBV/SEA/SH very seriously and will provide many more means for abused persons to report with the highest assurance of confidentiality.
- It will also work with other service providers to resolve the GBV/SEA/SH issues and support survivors



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, DECENTRALISATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GULF OF GUINEA NORTHERN REGIONS SOCIAL COHESION (SOCO) PROJECT

Do you have any concerns, complaints or Questions about the SOCO project?

TALK TO US



CALL TOLL FREE

**0800 800 800
0800 900 900 (all networks)**



WATSAPP

020 524 3466



EMAIL

Info@soco.gov.gh



ONLINE

<https://ucms.mogcsp.gov.gh/client/ReportCase>



SCAN QR CODE



WALK IN

**SOCO Project Implementation Unit
MLGDRD-Ministries, Accra, Ghana**

Zonal Offices:

- Wa
- Bolgatanga
- Tamale

Satellite Office:

- Regional Coordinating Council (RCC), Damongo
- RCC, Nalerigu
- RCC, Dambai

48 Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies in Northern, North East, Savannah, Oti, Upper East and Upper West Regions



Contact Us!



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www.soco.gov.gh
www.mlgrd.gov.gh



Call toll free:
0800 800 800 or
0800 900 900



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