

**REPUBLIC OF GHANA**



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

**GUIDELINES FOR ORGANIZING INTER-CLUSTER/COMMUNITY SPORTS AND  
PLAY-BASED ACTIVITIES**

**SEPTEMBER 2023**

## **I. Preamble**

Sub-component 1.3 of the SOCO Project aims to unite and empower the youth with voice and agency to prioritise and implement investments that allow them to play positive roles in fostering social cohesion and inclusion, building climate resilience, and preventing violence in their own and neighbouring communities.

Social cohesion activities will be undertaken to strengthen inter-community/cluster bonds. Activities may include football gala, bicycle racing, arm wrestling, tug-of-war etc

## **II. Scope**

These generic guidelines have been prepared to guide the organization of inter-community/cluster sports and play-based activities under the Gulf of Guinea Northern Regions Social Cohesion (SOCO) Project. It may be modified and updated based on lessons learnt from events organized.

## **III. Objectives for Organizing Inter-community/cluster Sports and Play-based Activities.**

The objectives for organizing the inter-community/cluster sports and play-based activities will be to:

- Provide opportunities for all members of the communities – children, adolescents, youth, elderly, PLWDs etc to connect with others and build meaningful relationships.
- Provide opportunities for members of the communities to build resilience and adopt strategies for leadership roles that promote both community and personal development and well-being.
- Enhance social cohesion (community bonding) by encouraging the communities to form sporting teams from diverse ethnic backgrounds. This could be achieved by creating a reward system for the most diversified team.
- Promote active and healthy living and engender a spirit of volunteerism among the community members.
- To improve the communities' collective well-being, avoid exclusion and discrimination, and improve socialization. The focus will be on sensitisation through games, "Edu-tainment", and socialisation, instead of simple pure competition.
- Increase integration and prevention of social conflicts and build peace, creating relationships of trust and a culture of cooperation.

## **IV. Cluster Selection – Factors to Consider**

Each respective MMDA will decide on the number of clusters to benefit from this activity. This, to a large extent will depend on the amount allocated for this activity in the MMDAs AWP&B. In situations where MMDAs are compelled to select clusters, they will be guided by the following:

- Clusters/communities with vibrant youth groups
- Clusters/Communities with high numbers of youthful population
- Communities/clusters with no latent insecurity issues

## **KEY CONSIDERATIONS**

### **1. Organization**

#### **A. Roles and responsibilities**

- a. National Youth Authority
  - i. The District Director of the National Youth Authority, or his/her representative in the respective DA shall be primarily responsible for organizing the inter-community/cluster sporting event.
  - ii. He/she, in conjunction with the Project's Focal Person at the MMDA, will prepare the budget and coordinate all activities.
  - iii. The NYA will liaise with the District Office of the National Sports Authority to provide officiating officials for the games.
  - iv. He/she will be responsible for preparing and submitting reports on the events to the respective MMDA.
  - v. He/she will assist the DA in forming an inter-community sports committee to assist with the organization of the sporting/play-based activities.

#### **B. District Assembly**

- i. The head of the social welfare and community development unit at the DA, will play an active role in the organization of the event.
- ii. The focal person will ensure that the required funds for the event are released for the activities.
- iii. The District Assembly will liaise with the National Peace Council or any recognized Civil Society Organization for an official to partake in the program. The official/representative will be given the opportunity to give a talk for a few minutes on the importance of peaceful co-existence among communities.

#### **C. Inter-community Sports Committee (ICSC)**

The DA (led by the Project Focal person) in collaboration with National Youth Authority (lead by the District Director) will form a standing committee to oversee all sporting/play-based activities under the project. Membership of the committee will comprise of the following:

- (i) District Director of the National Youth Authority (Chairperson)
- (ii) Project Focal Person at the DA
- (iii) District Social Welfare and Community Development Officer (Secretary)
- (iv) A representative of the National Sports Authority (If present in the district)
- (v) A representative from identifiable entertainment/sporting group in the district

In undertaking any sporting/play-based activity in any of the cluster/communities, the committee will co-opt the following members in the cluster/community to plan the event(s):

- a. Assembly members in the respective communities
- b. The CFs of the participating clusters

- c. A representative of Youth groups
- d. A representative each of the Chiefs of the participating communities.
- e. A representatives of women's group.
- f. A representative of any Civil Society Organization operating in the project communities.

**The Committee will determine the following:**

- (i) **Venue** (community). This must be held at an open space preferably a school park. The committee should be guided by ease of access (centrality of choice of community)
- (ii) **Date.** The committee may consider organizing the program during a non-religious festive occasion. It may be used as a precursor to the festival celebration or may be factored into the festival program. The committee should prioritise days that will allow the involvement of all segments of the communities. Hence, the following should be taken cognisance of market days, major funerals, etc). Community members must be given at least 1 month notice to organize themselves to participate the program.
- (iii) **Types of sporting and cultural activities.** Preferably, the ICSC should select sporting/play-based disciplines and activities that can involve the largest possible number of people, integrating diverse interests, generations, and social classes.
- (iv) **Logistics.** The committee will determine the logistical requirements for the event.
- (v) **Days Program:** The committee will draw up the program for the event.
- (vi) **Special Guests:** The committee will determine special guests to be invited to the program.

**2. Participation**

- **Team composition:** Each participating team must have representatives that adequately reflect all segments of the community (eg. Youth, tribes, elderly, PLWD, nomadic herdsmen etc)
- **Participants health and well-being:** Participants in games requiring a lot of energy (eg. Football, athletics, cycle racing etc) must generally be healthy. The closest health facility in the hosting community will check basic health indicators (blood pressure and temperature) of the participants on the day of t the program at the venue.

**3. Games/Sporting Activities**

- Games generally loved by all segments of the communities.
- Team games preferable
- Dance and fun activities

**4. Security**

The respective MMDA will engage the District Security Council (DISEC) on the proposed event and obtain their approval before commencing planning activities.

The DISEC, through the District Police Command will provide security during the event.

**5. Entertainment.**

It may be prudent to include other entertainment event, such as a musical show and dance competition.

**6. Safety /safeguarding**

- Public health nurses experienced in offering First Aid service from any of the project communities should be stationed at the event throughout its duration.
- The Organizing team must ensure that a First Aid Box, complete relevant medical supplies is available at the event.
- **Duration:** The program should end early enough to allow participants and spectators to return home safely in broad day light.

**7. Managing Conflicts**

The organizing committee must establish a mechanism for resolving event related conflicts that may arise.

**8. Budgeting for the events.**

Allowable expenses may include the following:

- ✓ Snacks, water, and lunch for sporting team members
- ✓ First Aid Box
- ✓ Transportation cost for community team members (if required)
- ✓ Whistles, footballs, etc (if required)
- ✓ Banner
- ✓ Trophies/medals
- ✓ Media coverage

Cost of snacks and lunch for members during scheduled meetings. This should not exceed GhC 40.00 per person.. A maximum of three ICSC meetings are allowed to plan an event.

**9. Evaluation of the Event**

An evaluation of the event must be undertaken. The evaluation must establish community satisfaction or otherwise and lessons learnt. The evaluation can take the form of interviews and use of e-forms.