



Ghana Urban Mobility and Accessibility Project

Strengthening the capacities of the districts in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area improve accessibility and mobility in the region

Poor management in the urban transport sector poses problems at several levels (such as health, safety, environmental, economic). The Ghana Urban Mobility and Accessibility Project (GUMAP) contributes to tackling the issue. It aims – in close collaboration with the Government of Ghana and other stakeholders – to strengthen the capacities of the municipalities within the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area (GAMA) and of the Greater Accra Public Transport Executive (GAPTE). The project also established a collaboration between the Swiss École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) and the Ghanaian Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) to provide additional training on transportation planning and management.

Rationale

In Ghana, the urban transport sector generally performs poorly with traffic congestion as the most serious problem. There are almost no modern, fuel efficient, medium-size or large buses anywhere, except in GAMA where a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system is being started with great difficulties. A strong decentralization process is ongoing and responsibilities for urban transport are almost entirely allocated to the local governments. In GAMA, the local governments have taken a major step by creating in 2014 an agency, the GAPTE, in charge of organizing and modernizing public transport services and of formulating and guiding the implementation of a long term mobility strategy for GAMA.

This project builds upon initiatives previously promoted by the World Bank (WB) and the French Development Agency (AFD). SECO's support will strengthen the capacities of an array of selected beneficiaries in GAMA on issues such as public transport planning and traffic management. Besides, a collaboration between EPFL and KNUST was established to train students in the field of urban mobility and accessibility, thus further contributing to reinforcing the sector in Ghana. While most of SECO resources will be earmarked for institutional strengthening, targeted quick win investments are also planned.

Objectives and activities

GUMAP's objective is to enhance mobility and accessibility in GAMA, notably by strengthening the capacities of the GAPTE as well as of a selected number of municipalities within GAMA. The project also establishes a collaboration between the EPFL and KNUST to offer a master's degree program in transportation planning and management.

Country/region

Ghana

Executing agency

Government of Ghana, KNUST, Transitec and EPFL

Duration

2016 - 2022

Total budget

USD 6'000'000

SECO contribution

USD 6'000'000



The project is structured around two complimentary aspects of urban mobility:

- 1. Integrated urban mobility planning and public transport operations and regulations:** Position GAPTE as an effective mobility planning institution for GAMA by preparing studies of accessibility needs, training key staff at GAPTE and Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs), setting up an urban mobility database, formulating urban mobility planning methodologies for GAMA, and preparing a plan for improved management of tro-tro services.
- 2. Traffic planning and management:** Address the capacities of two MMDAs to efficiently undertake such activities by designing systems and procedures for data management and parking analyses, setting up traffic modelling and planning systems and carrying out pilot studies for improving traffic. Support KNUST in producing well-trained students and conducting applied research in these fields by closely collaborating with EPFL.

The Embassy of Switzerland in Ghana takes part in the steering committee meetings organised together with the Government of Ghana and involving all project partners (Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, GAPTE, KNUST, District Assemblies in GAMA and the Department of Urban Roads) to provide strategic guidance to the project.

Achievements

In 2019, the project was restructured to accelerate implementation and four activities successfully took off. These include assistance to the MMDAs to deal with mobility data collection and its use, a freight transport study, traffic and parking plans for Tema and Madina, and technical assistance on mobility planning. In addition, Transitec has submitted six proposals to MLGRD for approval to commence studies in the area of traffic planning and management.

Further information and contact details

At SECO: info.wein.cooperation@seco.admin.ch

At the Swiss Embassy in Accra: acc.economicsection@eda.admin.ch