

Kumasi, Ghana

The proposed City Deal for Kumasi comprises efforts towards **decongesting the city's Central Business District** by bringing together the key stakeholders with specific attention for the quality of life of Kayayei, girl head potters that provide the Central and satellite markets with its goods and are part of Zongo communities living in slum areas that connect with the satellite markets. Through **an integrated and multi-stakeholder approach**, the decongestion process should result in economic opportunities and tangible improvements for inhabitants of Zongo areas that are to become new hubs of economic and social activity.

Project activities

Technical assistance through interventions such as:

- Supporting interdepartmental cooperation
- Training for staff of Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly on topics like communication, interdepartmental cooperation and scenario planning
- Multi-stakeholder cooperation related to pilot sites
- Mapping of functions of central- and satellite markets
- Supporting the development of a strategic plan for decongestion of Kumasi Metropolitan area
- Supporting the development of civic education and engagement initiatives
- Upgrading meeting room to a sustainability and participation showcase and project hub

Context

The overriding sustainability problem in Kumasi is the very fast growing population, due mainly to an influx of people from other parts of Ghana, and the resulting land use change, haphazard development, congestion, housing shortage, waste and environmental pollution. Since many years rural-urban migration has intensified the formation and growth of slums in metropolitan areas of Ghana. This migration has resulted from both pull factors (e.g., the attraction of urban economic and livelihood opportunities) and push elements (e.g., rural labour surplus because of growing population in the north of the country and fewer opportunities in agricultural and pastoralist activities).

The situation of many slums and their dwellers is appalling because they lack the most necessary conditions for a decent living. In the case of slum development, the main problem is the lack of affordable land for social housing. The development of Zongos (slums with a predominantly muslim population from the North) has also strong links with the central market and its flows and relationships. Most of the people make their living working at the central market of Kumasi. The Central Market consists not only of physical infrastructures connecting supply and demand, but is built of social, economic, cultural, gender, ethnic and power relationships that constitute the intangibles of the concept of a market.



Results

Improved capacity of Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly for integrated, multi-level, and inclusive approaches to the challenges in slum development and decongestion of the central market area.

Involved parties

- *City departments:* Planning Department, Waste Management Department, Environmental Health Department, Transport Department, Department of Social Welfare, Market management, Public Relations Department, Urban Roads Department, Town & Country Planning Department
- *Governmental:* National level government institutions such as relevant line ministries will be involved over the course of 2019
- *Non-governmental:* Women Groups, Youth Groups, Market Manager, Market Queen, Traditional leaders, Civil Society Organizations, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology, Cooperatives engaged in recycling, Religious community leaders



Multi-stakeholder meeting on decongestion organised in Kumasi



In the first week of December, VNG International associate expert **Jean Eigeman** was in Kumasi, Ghana, accompanying DEALS experts Aba Oppong and Prince Anokye to advance the project's activities on decongesting the city centre: "With the spirit 'from streetwise to academy and back' a meeting took place with many relevant stakeholders to include them in the ambitions for local development in the project pilot areas of the Race Course satellite market and the Dagomba Line and Moshie Zongo informal settlements. The meeting centred around the question how the metropolitan area of Kumasi can be decongested in a sustainable way, linking up with the development of satellite markets and improving the living conditions of poor urban residents."

vng-international.nl