



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 various problems, namely for safety, health and the environment, but also economic planning and development. The Ghana Urban Mobility and Accessibility Project (GUMAP) contributes to tackling such issues. In close collaboration with the Government of Ghana and other stakeholders, it aims 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 is generally poorly planned, with traffic congestion as the most serious problem. Regarding public transport, there are almost no modern and fuel efficient large buses anywhere, except in Greater Accra, where a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system was started, but faces great difficulties. Responsibilities for urban transport are almost entirely transferred to local governments. In Greater Accra Metropolitan Area, the local governments have taken a major step by creating an agency, the GAPTE (2014), in charge of organizing and modernizing public transport and of formulating and guiding the implementation of a long term mobility strategy for Greater Accra.

This project builds upon initiatives previously promoted by the World Bank (WB) and the French Development Agency (AFD). SECO's support is strengthening the capacities of several beneficiaries in Greater Accra regarding 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 reinforcing the sector in Ghana. While most of SECO resources are earmarked for institutional strengthening, targeted quick win investments are also carried out.

Objectives and activities

GUMAP's objective is to enhance mobility and accessibility in Greater Accra, notably by strengthening GAPTE as well as of a selected number of municipalities within the Metropolitan Area. The project also led to the offering of a master's degree program in transportation planning and management.

Country/region

Ghana

Executing agency

Government of Ghana, KNUST, Transitec and EPFL

Duration

2016 - 2023

Total budget

USD 6'000'000

SECO contribution

USD 6'000'000



The project is structured around two mutually reinforcing aspects of urban mobility:

- 1. Integrated urban mobility planning and public transport operations and regulations:** Position GAPTE as an effective mobility planning institution for Greater Accra Metropolitan Area 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 Greater Accra, and preparing a plan for improved management of minibus (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 Greater Accra and the Department of Urban Roads) to provide strategic guidance to the project.

Achievements

In 2019, the project was restructured to allow for the direct delivery of project activities by Transitec to accelerate implementation. Further, the project has been extended until end of 2023. Currently, Eight (8) activities have successfully taken off with executive summaries submitted for four (4) activities nearing completion. Training of thirty (30) participants from the Heads of Transport Departments within the MMDAs, Department of Urban Roads, and staff of the MLGDRD on Transport policy, Public Transport Planning and Management and Road Safety plans has also been completed. Investment measures for the last phase of the project are identified and tenders will soon be launched to begin construction to improve six (6) notoriously congested junctions as well as procure traffic counters for a mobility observatory.

Further information and contact details

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