

# Kumasi, Ghana

The DEALS Kumasi project (2017-2022), worked towards creating city deals in the field of **decongestion, slum development and circular economy**. The project comprised efforts towards decongesting the city's Central Business District, upgrading satellite market infrastructure, and improving the quality of life of resident through circular economy initiatives. It did so by bringing together the key stakeholders into new forms of cooperation. Through an **integrated and multi-stakeholder approach**, the decongestion process resulted in economic opportunities and tangible improvements for inhabitants of slum areas as well, that are to become new hubs of economic and social activity.

## Project 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.
- Improved cooperation between the Assemblies of the greater Kumasi Metropolis.
- Development of the Kanko Circular Economy Hub.
- Organisation of Circular Challenges in the KANKO hub to promote circular economy initiatives.
- Training of staff of Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly on the topics of citizen communication, interdepartmental cooperation, and scenario planning.
- Participation and networking at the World Urban Forum in Katowice Poland.
- A study-visit to the Netherlands and peer learning with Semi-Podji in Benin.

## Context

*Kumasi is the second largest city of Ghana and a typical corridor secondary city. The 2010 census results show Kumasi as home to approximately 1,700,000 inhabitants. The current population of the metro area is estimated at approximately 3.5 million people.*

*The city of Kumasi faces various challenges in the field of sustainability, most notably the very fast-growing population due mainly to an influx of people from other parts of Ghana. This results in haphazard development, congestion of the city centre, housing shortage, waste management challenges 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). Inhabitants of slum areas face many challenges in their daily life. There are strong ties between slum areas and the city's markets. Many people make their living working at the central market of Kumasi.*

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- Multistakeholder cooperation related to bridge pilot sites developing bridges using waste materials.
- Mapping of functions of central- and satellite markets.
- Development of a strategic plan for decongestion of Kumasi Metropolitan area.
- Strengthened capacity of stakeholders to unlock the potential of Public-Private Partnerships.
- Supported the development of civic education and engagement initiatives.
- Organised circular challenges to promote circular economy initiatives.
- Enhanced multilevel governance through practical training of grass root institutions.



## Involved parties

- *City departments:* Development Planning Unit, Waste Management Department, Environmental Health Department, Transport Department, Department of Social Welfare, Market management, Public Relations Department, Urban Roads Department, Physical Planning Department.
- *Other governmental actors:* Various line Ministries, Other local governments in the metropolitan area, National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana
- *Non-governmental organisations and actors:* 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 recycling, Religious community leaders.

## Multi-stakeholder meeting on decongestion organised in Kumasi

**Prince Aboagye Anokye**, DEALS City Focal Point: "The DEALS project since its inception continues to offer the critical ingredients needed by the City of Kumasi to improve urban governance, an essential input for a sustainable city. It is abundantly evident that stakeholders achieve a lot more if silos are torn down and city actors work as teams for the collective good of society. Development takes on a whole new meaning when participation improves in depth, breadth, and timing. The ripple effects of these are transparency, accountability, and efficiency, which results in improved enhanced willingness to pay, improvement in urban service delivery, and better cost recovery, milestones for sustainable cities."



This is so important as cities race towards 2030, the finish line for meeting the SDG goals and targets. The urgency to identify, plan, design and innovatively finance the critical infrastructure needed to churn out the outputs, outcomes and impacts of sustainable development has become crucial. The key lessons learnt from the DEALS project is that through such strategic partnerships this seeming unsurmountable challenge can easily be overcome by leveraging private sector resources and investing them in an efficient and smart way.