



**GARID**  
GREATER ACCRA RESILIENT AND  
INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT



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## **GREATER ACCRA RESILIENT AND INTEGRATED PROJECT (GARID)**



### **ENGAGEMENT WITH THE CHIEFS OF THE GA TRADITIONAL COUNCIL**

**31<sup>st</sup> August, 2020**

The Government of Ghana (GoG), through the Ministry of Works and Housing and the World Bank has designed the Greater Accra Resilient and Integrated Development (GARID) Project to improve flood risk and solid waste management in the Odaw River Basin of the Greater Accra Region as well as improving access to basic infrastructure and services in the targeted communities. It is implemented by the Ministries of Works and Housing (MWH), Sanitation and Water Resources (MSWR), Inner City and Zongo Development (MICZD), and Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD).

As part of the implementation of the GARID Stakeholder Engagement Plan, the Project Coordinating Unit and the various Project Implementation Units paid a courtesy call to the chiefs of the Ga Traditional council on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2020 to sensitize them on the Project objectives and operations as well as get their full support towards the successful implementation of the Project.



Due to the outbreak of the corona virus, corona virus protocols were observed and all participants adhered strictly to them.

An introduction of the Chiefs was done by the Linguist (Okyeame) of the Council, who were about twelve (12). The GARID Team also introduced themselves to the chiefs and presented the reasons for the visit. Present were the Project Coordinator of GARID, Dr. Ohene Sarfo, the Municipal Chief Executive for Ablekuma Central, Honourable Mariama K. Amin, Municipal Chief Executive for Korle Klottey, Honourable Nii Adjei Tawiah, members from the Project Coordinating Unit and Project Implementation Units.



Dr. Sarfo gave the genesis of how GARID came to be and how it is situated in the proposed interventions in a short presentation. In his submission, Dr Ohene explained that the Odaw drainage basin is located centrally and starts from the foothills of Aburi Mountains, Abokobi, all through to the

spine of the city up to the Kole lagoon which then enters into the sea, which covers over two hundred and seventy three square kilometres including its tributaries. The Project Coordinator continued that the June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 disaster that occurred due to heavy rains causing flooding was the main trigger for the GARID project.

In explaining the interventions, Dr Sarfoh mentioned that, there will be a creation of retention ponds up stream to hold some amount of flood water for some time during heavy down pour and then released after some period of time reducing the possibility of flooding downstream. He continued that bridges that are along the basin will also be raised due to its low nature to avoid obstruction of flow of flood water. An early warning System will also be put in place to warn people who live along the basin about possible flooding from heavy rains to give people ample time to move before the possible over spill.

Solid waste management system is also been looked at, especially communities along the channel, their practices in solid waste management to be able to put in mechanisms and measures that will reduce their infractions. There will be the use of enforcement, compliance and incentives to get the communities to stop the dumping of waste into the lagoon in order to allow the basin to work effectively. This will improve the overall solid waste management in Accra which is collection, transportation and disposal.

The Ga Mantse commended the GARID team for the visit to introduce the project to the council and expressed immense gratitude for the project. He however had some questions on the collection of plastic waste and how to reduce the amount of sand or silt from entering the Odaw. Dr. Ohene responded that various activities will be implemented in the direction of solving the problems. On the plastic waste reduction, he mentioned the establishment of buy back centres at strategic locations especially communities along the Odaw. The economic value aspect for plastic waste may and will encourage citizens to dispose off their plastic waste appropriately.

Regarding the reduction of sand into the Odaw, he mentioned that there will be greening along the channel with grass to allow it to trap sand that come with flood water during heavy rains. This will help in the reduction of the amount of silt finding its way into the channel.

Some suggestions where also given to the GARID team by the Chiefs;

1. The idea of colour coded bins for the separation of waste was raised. This is to help separate plastic waste from some other forms of waste.
2. Monthly and or quarterly meetings to update the council on progress of the project.



Some traditional prayers were said by the chief priest of the council seeking the success of the project and its impacts on the livelihoods of the people in the Greater Accra Region.

The council showed its appreciation to the GARID team for showing and paying them the respect for introducing the project to them and educating them on such a project taking place in their jurisdiction.

The Council also requested for a field visit to some of the intervention areas.

The GARID team equally thanked the council for giving the team audience to address the council and introduced them to the GARID Project. There was also an appreciation for the suggestions and advice that were given to the Team for a successful implementation process.

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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