



GARID
GREATER ACCRA RESILIENT AND
INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT



**GREATER ACCRA RESILIENT AND INTEGRATED
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

NEWSLETTER

**JUNE
20
24**





Message

from the
Chief Director
*Ministry of Works and
Housing*

Rev. Stephen Yaw Osei

*Chief Director, Ministry of Works and Housing, and
the GARID Project Director*

Cherished Readers,

I am pleased to welcome you to the maiden edition of the bi-annual newsletter on the Greater Accra Resilient and Integrated Development (GARID) Project. This newsletter is one of our platforms to keep you informed about the strides we are making, the challenges we have encountered, and the innovative solutions we are implementing to overcome the challenges. Through these updates, we aim to foster greater transparency, collaboration, and engagement with our stakeholders.

In this first edition, you will find detailed reports on our ongoing projects, insights from our dedicated team, and stories from the communities we serve. It is our hope that these updates will not only inform but

also inspire collective action towards achieving our shared goals.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our partners, stakeholders, and the communities for their unwavering support and commitment to the GARID Project. Together, we are building a resilient future for Accra.

Thank you for your continued support.

Work Begins on Nima-Paloma Drain

The Minister for Works and Housing, Hon. Kojo Opong Nkrumah has cut sod for the reconstruction of Nima-Paloma drain under the Greater Accra Resilient and Integrated Development (GARID) project.



Speaking at the ground-breaking ceremony, the sector minister said the construction of the drain will help reduce the perennial flooding challenges in Accra, and bring the needed relief to residents, commuters, traders and businesses, especially those around the Ring Road, Kwame Nkrumah Circle, Adabraka and Asylum Down, and surrounding communities.



Mr. Opong Nkrumah commended the GARID Project for the good strides it has made in the implementation of its key flood control programs, citing the ongoing community upgrading interventions, performance-based dredging of the Odaw River Basin, and the reconstruction of the broken sections of the Odaw channel at Achimota-Abofu as other significant interventions that will help mitigate flooding in communities along the Odaw River Basin.

The Honorable Minister appealed to Ghanaians to support government's flood control measures by changing their behaviour towards solid waste disposal and their choices of building locations:

“Let me reiterate that for flood mitigation to work in Accra and everywhere in this country; people must

change and be more responsible in their choice of building sites and the manner they dispose of solid waste; Assemblies must work and strictly enforce building and sanitation regulations; and the media must help by using their platforms to help the Assemblies and other institutions make it painful for people to indulge in bad behaviour,” he emphasized.



Dr. Kwadwo Ohene Sarfoh, the GARID Project Coordinator, provided further details on the construction works. He noted that the construction of the 10 by 3-meter, 1-kilometer drain is expected to take 18 months, and assured that measures are in place to ensure the contractor delivers on time without compromising quality of the work.

He urged residents to cooperate with the constructor to ensure the successful construction of the drain, which will bring much-needed flood relief to the community.



Dredging of the Odaw River Basin Commences Under the GARID Project

The Greater Accra Resilient and Integrated Development (GARID) Project has commenced dredging works on the unencumbered sites of the Odaw River Basin ahead of the rainy season. This crucial intervention aims to clear the Basin of silt and solid waste to facilitate unimpeded water flow in the drains and mitigate the perennial flooding along the Basin.

"The success of our flood control measures does not only rely on substantial government investments but also on the cooperation of citizens. We appeal to all Ghanaians to be mindful of their waste disposal habits and to avoid building in flood-prone areas," the Minister remarked.

The Project Manager for Dredge Masters, Sena Adeapena, assured stakeholders of timely completion of the project. He affirmed that, "We are committed to fulfilling our contractual obligations and ensuring the project's successful delivery and a tangible reduction in flood-related challenges along the Odaw Basin."



Hon. Kojo Nkrumah (in yellow reflective vest and yellow safety helmet) on inspection tour of the dredging site.

Addressing the press during an inspection tour of the project site, the Honorable Minister of Works and Housing, Mr. Kojo Opong Nkrumah, said the dredging activities signify a crucial step towards mitigating flooding and safeguarding the well-being of residents of Accra. He noted that Government's focus is to efficiently execute the project within the stipulated timeline to deliver lasting benefits to the citizens.

The Honorable Minister also appealed to Ghanaians to support the ongoing Government flood control programs by adopting responsible waste disposal practices and be judicious in their choices of building sites.



The commencement of dredging works on the Odaw River basin underscores the government's unwavering commitment to enhancing the resilience of Greater Accra against the recurrent menace of flooding. As stakeholders collaborate to address environmental challenges, the collective endeavor promises a brighter, safer future for the capital city and its inhabitants.



Sanitation Ministry Distributes Waste Collection Equipment to GARID Projects MMAs

The Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources has distributed seventeen (17) refuse compactor trucks and other solid waste management equipment to the Metropolitan and Municipal Assemblies under the Greater Accra Resilient and Integrated Development (GARID) Project.

The move forms part of efforts by the government to improve solid waste management capacity in

Municipalities along the Odaw River basin.

Speaking at the event, the former sector minister, Madam Cecilia Abena Dapaah, entreated the beneficiary Assemblies to use the equipment for their solid waste management, street and drain cleansing activities in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area. “I urge you all to put this equipment to good use and help reduce the amount of solid waste that ends up into the drains in the city and in the ocean”, the minister noted.



Besides the refuse compactor trucks, each of the seventeen (17) beneficiary Assemblies received motorized sprayers, motor bicycles, wheelbarrows, safety boots, wellington boots, helmets, reflector jackets, goggles, hand gloves, shovels, rakes, and working gears.

The Dean of the Greater Accra MMDCEs, Hon. George Cyril Bray, thanked the Ministry and the GARID Project for their supports. He said the equipment will play an important role in the ongoing solid waste management efforts of the beneficiary Assemblies. “On behalf of all the 17 beneficiary Assemblies, I wish to thank your Ministry and the GARID Project for this timely and important intervention. These

set of equipment will play a crucial role in helping achieve our collective goal of making Accra one of the cleanest cities in Africa.”



Sanitation Ministry Completes First Phase of Clean Accra Campaign in GARID Assemblies

The Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, in collaboration with the 17 Metropolitan and Municipal Assemblies under the Greater Accra Resilient and Integrated Development (GARID) Project, has successfully concluded the first phase of "Clean Accra Campaign" in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area.

The combined clean up and behavioral change campaign aimed at promoting responsible solid waste management practices and curbing flooding incidents in communities along the Odaw River Basin. A total of sixty-eight (68) clean-up exercises were carried out across selected communities within the 17 GARID Project beneficiary Assemblies in the first quarter of 2024. The exercises involved cleaning of neighbourhoods and desilting of choked drains to facilitate unimpeded flow of water during periods of heavy rainfall.



management and mitigate the impact of flooding in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area. This collaborative endeavour underscores our commitment to fostering a cleaner and more resilient urban environment," noted Dr. Sarfoh.

Integral to the execution of the clean-up exercises were the compactor trucks and solid waste management equipment donated by the GARID Project to the beneficiary Assemblies. This support significantly bolstered the capacity of local assemblies to tackle waste management challenges effectively.

Expressing gratitude for the assistance provided by the GARID Project, the Environmental Health Officer for Ga East Municipal Assembly, Ing. Charles Asabre Ampomah, said "the donation of the trucks and other essential equipment has greatly enhanced operational capabilities of beneficiary Assemblies. With improved resources at our disposal, we are better equipped to maintain cleanliness and manage waste in our respective jurisdictions."

At the end of the campaign, all stakeholders expressed commitment towards advancing sustainable solutions for waste management and flood prevention within the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area.



Within the period, more than 4,500 tonnes of solid waste was removed from gutters in the participating Assemblies.

The GARID Project Coordinator, Dr. Ohene Sarfoh, expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the first phase of the campaign. "The completion of the initial phase of this exercise marks a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to enhance solid waste

GARID Project Commences an SBCC Discussion Program on GTV

The Greater Accra Resilient and Integrated Development (GARID) Project has initiated a televised Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) program on Ghana Television (GTV), a platform under the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation. Dubbed "Public Concern: The Urban Agenda," this series aims to spotlight Ghana's critical urban issues and foster a public dialogue on improving urban environments.

The program has already featured a diverse range of voices, including top government officials, representatives from the World Bank, personnel from various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), local government authorities, and everyday Ghanaians. Through these discussions, the series seeks to generate creative solutions, encourage partnerships, and mobilize collective action toward resolving urban challenges.



(Second from left to the right) The former Director General of National Development Planning Commission, the Manager for Urban, Resilience and Land Global Practice at the World Bank Ghana Office, and the former AMA Chief Executive on a discussion panel



(From left to right) The Director of Department for Urban Roads, the Senior Transport Specialist at the World Bank Ghana office and a member of Ghana Institution of Engineering on a discussion panel.



The Task Team Leader for the GARID Project contributing to a discussion on the "Public Concern: the Urban Agenda program"



(From left to right) The host of the Program, the Chairperson for National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), the Task Term Leader for the GARID Project, and the former Director of Institute of Local Government Studies on a discussion panel

Key topics on "Public Concern: The Urban Agenda" include flood management, solid waste management, slum development, and metropolitan governance—areas that align closely with the core objectives of the GARID Project. By emphasizing these issues, the program aims to inspire a shift in public attitudes and behaviors, encouraging communities to adopt practices that enhance the sustainability and resilience of Ghana's cities and towns.

Hosted by the renowned journalist Samuel Agyemang, "Public Concern: The Urban Agenda" airs every Tuesday at 8:00 PM, with a repeat broadcast every Thursday at 10:00 AM. The program aspires to serve as a catalyst for positive change, rallying collective efforts to build resilient and integrated cities across the nation.

World Bank Commends the GARID Project for its Adherence to Environmental and Social Safeguards Regulations

The World Bank Regional Safeguards Team has applauded the GARID project for its adherence to safeguards regulations in the implementation of ongoing interventions in the project beneficiary communities.



The GARID Project Drainage Engineer (left) briefing some members of the World Bank Safeguards Team

This commendation came during a recent observation mission where the team, comprising two Regional Safeguards Coordinators, a Senior Social Development Specialist, and a Senior Environmental Safeguards Specialist, visited key project sites such as the Odaw River outlet, and Alogboshie, where community upgrading efforts are actively underway.



The World Bank safeguards team at the observation mission

The Regional Safeguards Coordinators expressed huge satisfaction with the implementation of safeguards measures by the GARID project. They highlighted the project's exemplary management of safeguards both on-site and beyond, while also advising the team to focus on long-term sustainability strategies for their initiatives in the communities.



The GARID Project Coordinator (middle) briefing participants during the observation mission

The GARID project reaffirmed its commitment to environmental and social responsibilities, noting that it is in the process of deploying advanced equipment to monitor air quality and noise levels at all active construction sites.



GARID Project Launches School-Based SBCC Campaign Across 17 MMAs



The GARID project has officially launched a school-based Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) campaign in 17 beneficiary Assemblies in Accra. This initiative aims to educate school children and their communities on the importance of adopting best practices for flood resilience and solid waste management.

During the launch event, basic school learners showcased their talents through engaging performances, including drama, poetry recitals, music, and peer sensitization activities.

The launch follows the training of School Health and Education Program (SHEP) Coordinators on the GARID Project's SBCC strategy, leading to the establishment of GARID Project clubs in schools throughout the 17 Assemblies.



Speaking at the launch event, the Communication Specialist for the GARID Project, Philip Dorny, emphasized the role of children as agents of change. He noted that by targeting young minds with SBCC messages, the project hopes these students will carry the message back to their homes and communities. Mr. Dorny expressed hope that the program will help nurture a generation that is well informed, proactive, and resilient against environmental challenges.



He also noted that the school-based SBCC initiative is part of a broader communication strategy that includes mass media campaigns, mobile van sensitization programs, and community and faith-based outreach efforts currently being implemented across the project's beneficiary Assemblies.



Both teachers and students expressed their enthusiasm and commitment to the SBCC initiatives in schools.

Asenso-Boakye breaks ground to commence upgrading works in Alogboshie community



Former Minister for Works and Housing
Hon. Francis Asenso-Boakye addressing participants
at the sod-cutting event.

The former Minister for Works and Housing, Mr. Francis Asenso-Boakye has cut sod for the commencement of community upgrading works in Alogboshie, a low-income settlement under the GARID Project.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Asenso-Boakye, said under the current phase of the GARID Project, the Ministry, will undertake the construction of primary and secondary drains, access roads, solid waste management facilities, and extend security lights and water supply networks in Alogboshie.



He indicated that similar works are scheduled to commence in Akweteyman and Nima, two other low-income settlements benefiting from the project. These interventions, the Minister asserted will not only

enhance public service provision but will also reduce the perennial flooding challenges faced by these flood-prone low-income communities.

Ms. Madhu Raghunath, the Manager for Urban, Resilience and Land Global Practice at the World Bank, said the GARID project is the first large scale World Bank Project in Ghana which aims at building resilience of Accra. She expressed hope that the Project will achieve its developmental goal and be replicated in other cities of the country.



Ms. Madhu Raghunath, the Manager for Urban, Resilience and Land Global Practice at the World Bank Ghana office addressing participants at the sod-cutting event.

The GARID Project Coordinator, Dr. Kwadwo Ohene Sarfoh entreated the people of Alogboshie and other flood-prone low-income settlements under the GARID Project to cultivate a culture of maintenance for the new drains and solid waste management infrastructure that will be built in their respective communities.



GARID Project Coordinator, Dr. Kwadwo Ohene Sarfoh addressing participant at the sod-cutting event

Upgrading works progress in the three flood prone communities under the GARID Project

Community upgrading works in the three targeted flood-prone low-income communities under the GARID Project are progressing smoothly. During a recent visit to Alogboshie, Akweteyman, and Nima, the GARID Project team observed contractors diligently working on drainage, access roads, pedestrian walkways, and pavements as well as other community upgrading initiatives.

The contractors reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to completing all interventions within their respective timelines, ensuring that these vital interventions are delivered on schedule.

The GARID Project team remains dedicated to overseeing the smooth execution of these projects, which are essential for enhancing resilience and quality of life in these vulnerable communities.



Community upgrading works in Alogboshie



Community upgrading works in Nima



Community upgrading works in Akweteyman

Community Insights on the GARID Project

As the GARID Project advances in the implementation of its flood mitigation and solid waste improvement interventions in the project's intervention areas, the Communication Teams visited various beneficiary communities to gather residents and other key stakeholders' opinions on the ongoing works. Here are the key highlights of the residents' feedback:



Hon. C. Bray Dean, Greater Accra Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives

“On behalf of all the 17 beneficiary Assemblies, I wish to thank the GARID Project and its implementing ministries for their tremendous support to our flood risk and solid waste management improvement initiatives. The financial, technical, and other resources provided by the project are playing crucial roles in helping the Assemblies improve solid waste management and maintain the functionality of our drainage systems, thereby mitigating the risks posed by flooding in our communities. We appreciate the partnership with the GARID Project and remain committed to further enhancing the resilience of Accra.”



Moses Gasor, the Chairman of Alogboshie Community Development Committee.

“The GARID Project has been a transformative force in our community. From the very beginning, the project implementers actively involved us in selecting the interventions, reviewing the community upgrading plans, the implementation of the resettlement action plan and throughout the construction phase of the project. This inclusive approach has made us feel truly connected to the project. The interventions being carried out in Alogboshie are now seen as our own, and we are committed to maintaining and protecting them once the construction is successfully completed.”



Benjamin Mawusi, A resident of Alogboshie

“About twenty years ago, a mother and her child were swept away by a flood in this community. The child died, but the mother survived. Flooding has since become a major concern for every resident of Alogboshie. We are, therefore, very happy that this project is set to help address this challenge. I don't believe anyone has anything negative to say about the project. I am glad that these upgrading interventions will help transform our community into a city.”

Community Insights Cont'd



Joseph Akoto Lamptey, the Chairman of Akweteyman Community Development Committee

“**D**uring the last heavy rain, two adults, two children, containers, and various properties were swept away by the flood in Akweteyman. It was a devastating experience for the community. We have been praying for an intervention like the one currently being implemented by the GARID project to help mitigate the impact of the perennial flooding in Akweteyman. We are thrilled about the ongoing work and many of us are volunteering our services to support the contractor in ensuring the successful completion of the project. This initiative will bring much-needed flood relief to the residents of Akweteyman.”



Rev. William Adza Sai, A Resident of Akweteyman

“**I** believe that when the community upgrading initiatives are successfully implemented by the GARID Project, they will help save lives, protect our properties from flooding, and improve solid waste management in Akweteyman. As residents, we are committed to doing everything within our means to ensure the project's successful implementation.”



Hon. Baba Alhaji, the Chairman of Nima Community Development Committee.

“**I** am deeply grateful to the GARID Project for the ongoing interventions in our community. The construction of new drains, solid waste management facilities, access roads, and pavements has already made a visible difference in Nima. For years, we've struggled with flooding and improper waste disposal, but now, there's real hope.

The progress gives us confidence that these interventions will significantly reduce flood risks and improve waste management, ultimately enhancing the quality of life in Nima. On behalf of all residents, I thank the GARID Project for making our community safer and cleaner”

Accra takes bold step towards flood resilience with cutting-edge warning system



In a groundbreaking move to safeguard lives and property from the perennial flooding, the Minister for Works and Housing, Francis Asenso-Boakye, has handed over state-of-the-art equipment for the operationalization of Accra Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) equipment to the system's implementation institutions comprising the Ghana Hydrological Authority, the Water Resources Commission, Ghana Meteorological Agency, and the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO). The high-tech equipment includes tipping buckets rain gauges, automatic weather stations, ultrasonic water level sensors, velocity radar sensors with cameras, acoustic doppler and other IT equipment.

The FEWS implementing institutions are expected to use the equipment to gather and transmit real-time data on rainfall amount and intensity, water levels and runoff volumes in streams and primary drains. These data will provide essential information for accurate flood prediction and the issuance of advanced alerts to specific communities about an impending flood, giving vulnerable populations the time needed to secure their

valuables and evacuate to safer areas.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Asenso-Boakye emphasized the significance of the Accra FEWS.

“Today marks a significant milestone in our relentless pursuit of safeguarding the lives and properties of our fellow citizens against the physical, psychological, and economic devastation caused by flooding” he stated.

Minister Asenso-Boakye appealed to citizens to protect the equipment from theft and vandalism.

17 Assemblies receive over GH¢8 million to improve drainage infrastructure

Some 17 Metropolitan and Municipal Assemblies (MMAs) in the Greater & Accra Region have received over GH¢8 million to improve drainage infrastructure under the Greater Accra Resilient and Integrated Development (GARID) Project.

This follows the disbursement of a total of GH¢10.9 million in both 2022 and 2023 for the same goal. The beneficiary Assemblies are expected to use the grant to improve the operation and maintenance of

drainage and solid waste management in communities along the Odaw River channel.

Dr Ohene Sarfoh, the GARID Project Coordinator, said the Assemblies received a total grant between GH¢5.6 million to about GH¢7.2 million based on their performances on how well they used the 2023 grant.

He added that the grant is part of the result-based financing mechanisms the GARID Project had put in



place to improve drainage maintenance and solid waste management among the project-implementing MMAs.

The Project Coordinator said the initial tranches of the grant were disbursed equally to all the 17 beneficiary Assemblies; however, the disbursement of the 2024 tranche and the subsequent ones would be based solely on performance assessments.

Dr. Sarfoh announced that a total of \$3,250,000 had been earmarked for disbursement to the 17 project beneficiary Assemblies over a 5-year period.

He said a significant proportion of the grant for the previous years was

used by the Assemblies for desilting priority drains they had identified which contributed to the reduction of the incidence of flooding in various localities of the city where the Odaw River traverses.

Part of the grant was also channelled into institutional development including development of drainage network maps, condition assessments of the drains in the flooding hotspots, procurement of logistics, and for training some staff of the beneficiary Assemblies.



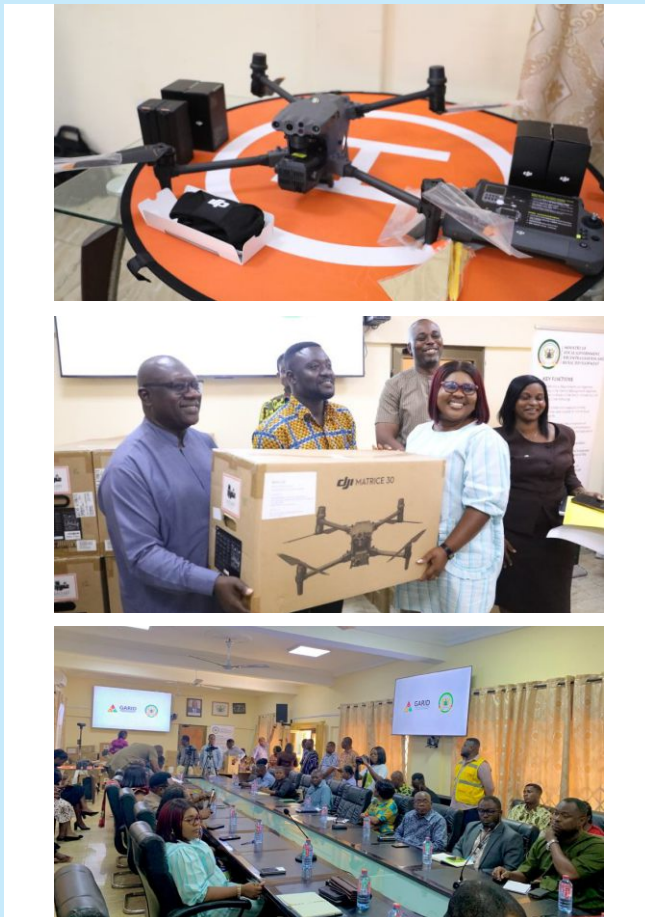


Government deploys drones to strengthen development control in GARID Project's beneficiary Assemblies

In a move aimed at bolstering flood risk and solid waste management in Accra, the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development (MLGDRD) has distributed advanced drones to 17 Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs) under the Greater Accra Resilience and Integrated Development (GARID).

The event featured the introduction of the DJI Matrice 30 RTK Drones, designed to enhance real-time urban management and disaster response.

Dr. Kwadwo Ohene Sarfoh, the GARID Project Coordinator, said that the high-tech drones significantly help the MMDAs in their oversight functions, providing a bird's-eye view to monitor the buffers of water bodies to prevent encroachment, solid waste hotspots, and other development control activities.



This initiative is part of the comprehensive strategy being adopted by the GARID Project to address the persistent flooding and solid waste management challenges in communities along the Odaw Basin in Accra.

Prior to the distribution of the drones, 37 officials from the beneficiary Assemblies, the Regional Coordinating Council (RCC), and the Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority (LUSPA) underwent extensive training. This training, conducted in collaboration with the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), ensures that the officials are equipped to operate the drones efficiently.

In addition to the 17 MMDAs, the Greater Accra Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) and the Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority (LUSPA) were each presented with a drone.

Local Government Ministry Inaugurates a Committee to Address Flooding and other Urban Challenges



The Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization, and Rural Development has inaugurated an Inter-Jurisdictional Coordination Management Committee (ICMC) and its steering committee in the seventeen Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) under the Greater Accra Resilient and Integrated Development (GARID) project.

The committee will enhance collaborative efforts among participating assemblies to address pressing urban challenges, including flooding and related solid waste management issues which transcend boundaries of the individual MMDAs.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, the Minister of State at the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization, and Rural Development, Hon. Osei Bonsu Amoah, entreated members of the committee to ensure that the ICMC achieves its intended objective of improving metropolitan governance and coordination among the participating Assemblies.

“The successful implementation of the ICMC will be

pivotal in addressing the critical urban issues that our metropolitan areas face. You must work together to improve drainage, sanitation, and other transboundary challenges in your MMDAs,” stated the Minister.

The establishment of the ICMC is a direct response to the challenges highlighted in the City-Strength Diagnostic Study Report, the Greater Accra Flood Risk Mitigation Strategy, and the Project Appraisal Report, all of which identified weak coordination among MMDAs in the Greater Accra Region as a significant factor contributing to the June 3, 2015, flood disaster.

The inauguration of the ICMC and its Steering Committee marks a critical step towards a more coordinated and effective approach to the development of the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area. By pooling their expertise, funds, and resources, the MMDAs can better address the complex challenges facing the Greater Accra Region and promote a more resilient and integrated urban environment.

Local Government Minister Inspects Ongoing Desilting Works on Local Drains in Accra

The Minister for Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development (MLDGRD), Mr Dan Botwe, has paid a working visit to the beneficiary Metropolitan and Municipal Assemblies (MMAs) of the Greater Accra Resilient and Integrated Development (GARID) Project to assess the progress of the ongoing desilting works on local drains in the Assemblies.

This follows the disbursement of a total of GH¢ 10,902,800.00 capacity support grants to the 17 GARID project beneficiary Assemblies in 2022 and 2023 financial year. The Assemblies are to use the to improve the operations and maintenance of priority secondary and tertiary drains in communities along the Odaw River channel.

During the tour, Mr. Botwe expressed satisfaction about how the Assemblies are applying the grant to improve flood resilience of the city: *"The grant provided by the GARID Project has been instrumental in supporting the Metropolitan Assemblies' efforts to carry out these essential works. I am pleased with the progress made so far and commend the dedication of the Assemblies in executing this crucial task"*.



The GARID Project Coordinator, Dr. Kwadwo Ohene Sarfoh, said the desilting of secondary and tertiary drains in beneficiary communities enables the achievement of quick-wins in the project's quest to enhance the resilience of the city. *"By improving the drainage system, we are reducing the vulnerability of our communities to flooding and building a more resilient city. This will go a long way to help achieve the Project goal"*

The Dean of the Greater Accra Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives, Mr. George Cyril Bray, said, *"This initiative is essential to maintain the functionality of our drainage systems and mitigate the risks posed by flooding. We appreciate the partnership with the GARID Project and remain committed to further enhancing the resilience of Accra."*

At the end of the tour, Mr. Dan Botwe reassured the public of the government's commitment to addressing flooding challenges in Accra. He urged them to make good use of the grant to curb incidences of flooding in Accra.

GARID Project Engages Stakeholders on Kaneshie Drainage Works

The Greater Accra Resilient and Integrated Development (GARID) Project has held a series of engagement programmes for key stakeholders in Kaneshie on the reconstruction of storm drains along Dr. Busia Highway, Osabiede, and Ayikai Streets. The engagement programmes were used to brief and solicit feedback from participants on the scope of the construction works and its implications on traffic management and livelihood.

Speaking at the opening sessions of separate

engagement programmes held for road and regulatory authorities, public administrators, officials of Motor Traffic and Transport Department of the Ghana Police Service, traders and transport unions, the GARID Project Coordinator, Dr. Kwadwo Ohene Sarfoh, highlighted the importance of the drainage works in Kaneshie. "The reconstruction of storm drains in Kaneshie is a significant component of our efforts to enhance resilience against flooding in Greater Accra. We have carefully designed these works to mitigate flood risks and improve drainage infrastructure in the area," explained Dr Sarfoh.

The Project Coordinator also emphasized the importance of involving stakeholders in development initiatives. He noted that *"engaging with the community is crucial for the success of the GARID Project. We believe that*

involving stakeholders from the outset ensures that their concerns are heard and addressed effectively."

The Social Safeguards Specialist of the GARID Project, Abdul-Rahim Abdulai, assured participants that their concerns regarding potential disruptions to livelihoods and resettlement would be addressed with utmost sensitivity. He said the Project team understands the potential impacts that infrastructure interventions can have on communities and will do everything within their means to ensure that



affected individuals are properly supported throughout the process.

During the engagement sessions, participants were taken through an overview of the GARID Project and its interventions, the specific scope of the Kaneshie drainage works, resettlement and GBV issues, as well as the Grievance Redress Mechanism procedure established by the GARID Project.

The stakeholders acknowledged the necessity of improving drainage infrastructure in Kaneshie. They expressed appreciation to the GARID Project for giving them the opportunity to engage with the Project team and provide input. The participants also noted that traffic congestion is a huge challenge in Kaneshie, and appealed to the

contractors to prioritize measures that will prevent further disruptions to the commuting routes within the Kaneshie enclave.

The engagement programmes underscored the GARID Project's commitment to fostering

transparency, inclusivity, and community participation in its development initiatives. The stakeholders expressed their willingness to collaborate closely with the project team to ensure the successful implementation of the Kaneshie drainage reconstruction works.



GARID Project Trains Women in Disaster Risk Reduction

The Greater Accra Resilient and Integrated Development (GARID) project has held a training workshop on disaster risk reduction for women groups within the project intervention areas.

The event, a collaborative effort between the GARID Project and National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO), aimed at empowering women as key stakeholders in disaster preparedness and response strategies. Through interactive sessions, participants were equipped with vital knowledge and practical skills essential for navigating flood events, ensuring safety, and facilitating swift response measures.

In his opening statement at the workshop, the GARID Project Coordinator, Dr. Kwadwo Ohene Sarfoh, emphasized the pivotal role of women in building resilient communities. He remarked, "Empowering women is not just a necessity but a cornerstone of effective disaster risk reduction. Their leadership and knowledge are invaluable assets in safeguarding our communities against the threats of natural disasters."

The Director for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction at the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO), Ms.



Charlotte Norman, expressed gratitude to the GARID Project for its support for the program. "The GARID Project's dedication to empowering women in disaster risk reduction is commendable. Collaborative efforts like these are instrumental in enhancing our nation's resilience," remarked the Director.

Participants at the workshop echoed sentiments of empowerment and determination. Mrs. Ama Serwaa, a participant, expressed her commitment to cascading the acquired knowledge to her community: "This workshop has equipped us with crucial skills and insights to effectively respond to flood events. We are now better prepared to safeguard our communities during disasters," she noted. "I am committed to sharing these valuable lessons with my fellow women, empowering them to contribute to our collective resilience."

The grassroots initiative spearheaded by GARID project marks a significant stride towards bolstering resilience and safeguarding vulnerable populations in flood-prone areas. As these empowered women leaders take charge, the ripple effect of their actions promises a brighter, safer future for all.

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