PEOPLE'S DIALOGUE

PHOTO BACKGROUND

ANNUAL REPORT
PEOPLE'S DIALOGUE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS 2024-2025

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ACRONYMS

PD – People's Dialogue on Human Settlements
GHAFUP – Ghana Federation of the Urban Poor
SDI – Shack Dwellers International
NDC – Nationally Determined Contributions
ACRC – African Cities Research Consortium
AMA – Accra Metropolitan Assembly
CSOs – Civil Society Organisations
RIA – Resilience Initiative Africa
DRR – Disaster Risk Reduction
GIZ – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Development Agency)
NADMO – National Disaster Management Organisation
ONA – [A mobile data collection platform used by SDI]
OSM – OpenStreetMap
CAF – Clean Air Fund
CACCs – Clean Air Community Champions
GFD – Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations
FMTM – Field Mapping and Task Manager
SHS – Senior High School
MMDAs – Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
HABVIA – Heat Adaptation Benefits for Vulnerable Groups in Africa

ORGANISATIONAL SNAPSHOT

22 000 +

Individuals and Households Impacted

38

Cities and Towns Reached

145 +

Informal Settlements Reached

16 100 +

Federation Savers Participating

100

Women Trained in Waste Composting



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The 2024–2025 reporting period presented both significant challenges and inspiring resilience for urban poor communities across Ghana. Rapid urbanization, climate-related shocks, widening inequality, insecure housing, and increasing pressure on livelihoods continued to affect people living in informal settlements disproportionately. Despite these realities, communities showed remarkable strength, solidarity, and creativity - organizing themselves to shape locally driven solutions that improve living conditions and strengthen their prospects for a more resilient future.

During this period, People's Dialogue on HuWWman Settlements (PD) - working closely with the Ghana Federation of the Urban Poor (GHAFUP) - continued to strengthen its institutional capacity and deepen its commitment to inclusive urban development. Through community-led action, strategic partnerships, and evidence-based advocacy, PD and the Ghana Alliance supported communities to move from vulnerability to agency by enabling them to participate meaningfully in decisions affecting their lives, livelihoods, and environments.

In the past year, our work reached more than 145 informal settlements across 38 cities and towns through a range of integrated interventions. These efforts focused on advocacy and representation, climate resilience and adaptation, socio-economic empowerment, research and community learning, and participatory approaches to urban planning and development. Together with partners, we supported livelihood strengthening for women and youth, advanced climate adaptation initiatives in vulnerable coastal and urban areas, and promoted greater waste sector inclusion. We also facilitated improved access to healthcare and financial services for informal workers, while strengthening community-led data collection processes to enhance local participation in decision-making.

We further deepened collaboration with local authorities, academia, development partners, and civil society organizations through initiatives including HABVIA, ACRC, RIA, CAF, and Tuwe Pamoja. These partnerships continue to reinforce a key principle of our work: communities are not only beneficiaries - they are active agents of change, shaping solutions that are practical, relevant, and sustainable.

These achievements would not have been possible without the unwavering dedication and collective effort of many stakeholders. We extend our sincere appreciation to the leadership and members of the Ghana Federation of the Urban Poor. Your resilience, commitment, and grassroots leadership continue to inspire transformative change. We are also deeply grateful to our development partners and donors, researchers, local authorities, traditional leaders, community volunteers, and our staff. Your support, expertise, and collaboration have strengthened our work throughout the year and demonstrated the value of partnership in addressing complex urban challenges and advancing equitable development.

As we look ahead, PD remains committed to building resilient, inclusive, people-centered cities where no one is left behind. In the coming years, we will continue to prioritize climate adaptation, tenure security, livelihood enhancement, community-led data systems, youth and women empowerment, and inclusive urban governance. We will strengthen partnerships with communities, government institutions, academia, and development actors to scale solutions that respond directly to the realities of urban poverty and climate vulnerability.

Together, we remain convinced that sustainable urban transformation is possible when communities are empowered to lead and participate meaningfully in decisions that affect their lives.

SIGNATURE

Farouk Braimah

Director, People's Dialogue on Settlement



INTRODUCTION



This Annual Report outlines the key achievements, partnerships, and community-led interventions implemented by People's Dialogue on Human Settlements (PD) and the Ghana Federation of the Urban Poor (GHAFUP) during the 2024 - 2025 period. It reflects our continued commitment to strengthening the voice, agency, and resilience of vulnerable urban communities through inclusive development, strategic collaboration, research and advocacy, and grassroots mobilization.

Across Ghana, rapid urbanization continued to intensify pressures on housing, infrastructure, sanitation, livelihoods, and essential services - particularly in informal settlements, where many residents live and work under precarious conditions. Throughout 2024 - 2025, communities faced persistent challenges linked to climate change and flooding, coastal erosion, displacement, insecure land and housing tenure, unemployment, and limited access to healthcare and social protection. These pressures were further compounded by widening inequalities and the growing vulnerability of women, youth, migrants, persons with disabilities, and workers in the informal economy.

INTRODUCTION



In response, People's Dialogue - working closely with GHAFUP - continued to support community-driven solutions that place urban poor communities at the center of planning, decision-making, and local governance. Through approaches such as savings groups, peer-to-peer learning exchanges, community-led data collection, climate adaptation initiatives, livelihood empowerment, research partnerships, and policy engagement, the organizations helped communities build resilience, improve living conditions, and influence urban development processes at both local and national levels during the period.

During 2024–2025, People's Dialogue on Human Settlements (PD), working in partnership with the Ghana Federation of the Urban Poor (GHAFUP) under the SDI Ghana Alliance, strengthened its presence across more than 145 settlements in 38 cities and towns, supporting over 16,100 federation savers and thousands of vulnerable households. Interventions during the period focused on climate resilience and adaptation, socio-economic empowerment, disaster risk reduction, clean air advocacy, waste sector inclusion, healthcare access, community research, and inclusive urban governance. Through collaboration with local authorities, academic institutions, civil society organizations, development partners, and organized communities, SDI Ghana and its partners advanced innovative and participatory approaches aimed at equitable and sustainable urban transformation.

This report therefore documents the activities undertaken in the 2024 - 2025 reporting period while also highlighting the collective efforts of communities, partners, and institutions working together to build cities that are inclusive, resilient, and responsive to the needs of the urban poor.

ABOUT PD

People's Dialogue on Human Settlements (PD) is a Ghanaian development organization working to advance inclusive, resilient, and sustainable urban development through community-led approaches. During the 2024 - 2025 reporting period, PD continued to partner with vulnerable urban and peri-urban communities to strengthen the voice, agency, and meaningful participation of the urban poor in decisions that affect their lives, livelihoods, and environments.

In response to ongoing challenges linked to rapid urbanization, climate vulnerability, insecure housing, unemployment, and limited access to essential services, PD facilitated collaboration between organized communities, local authorities, civil society organizations, academia, and development partners. Throughout 2024 - 2025, these partnerships focused on co-creating practical and sustainable solutions to urban poverty and exclusion, with communities actively involved in identifying needs, designing responses, and influencing implementation.

PD works closely with the Ghana Federation of the Urban Poor (GHAFUP). Together, the two organisations constitute the SDI Ghana Alliance, one of the country's leading grassroots social movements representing residents of informal settlements. The Alliance advocates for housing rights, climate resilience, livelihood security, inclusive governance, and social justice for communities living in informal settlements across Ghana. The SDI Ghana Alliance is affiliated with Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI), a global network of community-led organisations that supports initiatives aimed at improving the living conditions of people in informal settlements across Africa, Asia, and Latin America.



In the 2024 - 2025 period, PD supported urban poor communities through daily savings schemes, community mobilization, peer-learning and exchange visits, participatory research and community-led data collection, livelihood support, and policy advocacy and engagement. These approaches enabled communities to strengthen resilience, improve living conditions, and contribute to more responsive urban development processes at both local and national levels.
During this period, SDI Ghana strengthened its reach across more than 145 informal settlements in 38 cities and towns nationwide, supporting over 16,100 federation members and thousands of vulnerable households through integrated, community-led development interventions.

ORGANISATIONAL IDENTITY

ORGANISATION NAME
People's Dialogue on Human Settlements

FEDERATION SAVERS
16,100+

HEADQUARTERS
Accra, Ghana

NETWORK AFFILIATION
Slum Dwellers International

AREAS OF OPERATION
38 cities and towns across Ghana

CORE CONSTITUENCY
Urban poor communities and informal settlement dwellers

COMMUNITIES REACHED
145+ Informal settlements

KEY FOCUS AREAS
Climate resilience, livelihoods, housing rights, urban governance, research and advocacy

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

IF

organised slum dwellers and informal workers — especially women and youth — strengthen their collective organisation through savings, representative structures, and community-owned data (at settlement, city and national levels)

AND IF

this organised voice is embedded in urban planning, budgeting, and investment processes through structured negotiation and trusted partnerships with public institutions,

THEN

urban governance systems will become more inclusive, accountable, and responsive to the urban poor and improve their wellbeing, rights, climate resilience, and socio-economic security





STRATEGIC PILLARS

MISSION

To strengthen the voice, agency, and collective power of organised slum dwellers and informal workers through community-led organisation, women-led savings, youth leadership, and community-owned data, and to translate this collective capacity into negotiated solutions, policy influence, and citywide improvements in housing, services, climate resilience, and livelihoods.

MISSION

Inclusive, safe, and resilient cities in Ghana where organised urban poor communities, especially women and youth, are recognised as legitimate urban citizens and actively shape the decisions that affect their lives, settlements, and livelihoods.

01 INCREASED CLIMATE RESILIENCE

02 COMMUNITY VOICE EMBEDDED IN URBAN DECISION-MAKING

03 ENHANCED ASSETS, INCOMES AND LIVELIHOODS

04 IMPROVED TENURE SECURITY AND BASIC SERVICES

IMPACT OVERVIEW

During the 2024 - 2025 reporting period, SDI Ghana continued to strengthen community resilience, improve livelihoods, and promote inclusive urban development across low-income and vulnerable communities in Ghana.

Working collaboratively with organized communities, local authorities, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and development partners, PD implemented integrated interventions focused on climate adaptation, socio-economic empowerment, disaster risk reduction, clean air advocacy, healthcare access, informal waste sector inclusion, participatory research, and inclusive urban governance.

These interventions contributed to strengthening community capacities, improving access to services and opportunities, generating evidence for urban planning, and promoting the meaningful participation of informal settlement dwellers in development processes at local and national levels.

The reporting period also saw increased investment in community-led climate resilience initiatives, innovative research partnerships, and inclusive planning approaches aimed at addressing the growing challenges of urban poverty, environmental vulnerability, displacement, and social exclusion.

22,000 +

FEDEDRATION MEMBERS AND FAMILIES IMPACTED

38
Cities and Towns Reached

145+
Informal Settlements Engaged

5
Coastal Communities Engaged under C2R-CD

4
Communities Engaged under HABVIA

16,100+
Federation Savers

5
Community Advocacy Groups Established

1
National Housing & Tenure Dialogue Forums Held

150+
Participants Engaged in CAF Community Launches

100
Women Trained in Waste Sorting & Composting

300+
Informal Waste Workers Supported with NHIS/ID Access

KEY IMPACT AREAS

Inclusive Urban Governance

The organization strengthened collaboration between communities and local authorities to promote participatory planning, inclusive decision-making, and improved representation of informal settlement dwellers in urban governance processes.





Research, Mapping, Community Data

Community-led profiling, mapping, enumeration, and participatory research initiatives generated critical evidence to support urban planning, climate adaptation, waste management, and advocacy interventions.



Economic Empowerment

Women and youth were equipped with vocational and enterprise development skills including detergent production, composting, agro-business, fabrication, welding, and renewable energy solutions to improve household income and economic resilience.

Advocacy and Representation

Community advocacy structures were strengthened to advance housing rights, ensure tenure security, raise climate justice and clean air awareness, and to protect the residents against forced evictions and settlement destabilization.



Social Protection, Healthcare Access

Informal workers and vulnerable migrant populations were supported to access national identification systems and healthcare services through National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) registration and social inclusion initiatives.





Climate Resilience and Adaptation

PD strengthened climate resilience within vulnerable urban and coastal communities through community-led adaptation planning, disaster risk reduction initiatives, environmental management, and inclusive climate governance processes.

Increased Climate Resilience



Community-led circular waste management systems; sanitation and hygiene initiatives; clean energy interventions; clean air, heat reduction and thermal comfort planning; climate-resilient settlement upgrading; locally led adaptation planning and projects; disaster preparedness and response mechanisms; and formalised collaboration with MMDAs on environmental health and resilience.

BUILDING BACK BETTER FROM COVID-19 CRISIS THROUGH SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF THE

When the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted daily life across Ghana, its impacts were felt most strongly in informal settlements. For many urban poor households - especially women, youth, and workers in the informal economy - business closures, reduced customer demand, and restricted movement sharply weakened livelihoods. As incomes fell, economic instability increased, and vulnerability deepened, leaving many households struggling to recover and rebuild.

In response, the project aimed to strengthen the socio-economic resilience of urban poor communities by improving livelihood opportunities, enhancing skills development, and rebuilding community support systems. The goal was to help households withstand shocks and sustain progress beyond the crisis. SDI Ghana implemented practical, community-centred interventions designed to move participants from short-term coping to longer-term empowerment. The activities combined skills training with support for starting or expanding income-generating activities, while also reinforcing community structures needed to sustain collective action.

Key activities included:

- Training in liquid soap and detergent production
- Practical skills development in fabrication, welding, spraying, plumbing and andsolar stove installation
- Business management and marketing training to strengthen entrepreneurship and market readiness
- Distribution of starter kits to help participants translate skills into workable livelihoods
- Revival and strengthening of savings groups to rebuild financial security and collective support
- Local peer learning exchanges and leadership forums to encourage mentorship and shared problem-solving
- Youth mobilization and participation in federation activities to strengthen leadership and continued community engagement

The project was implemented in collaboration with community savings groups, local leadership structures, development partners, and the Ghana Federation of the Urban Poor (GHAFUP)

220
People Received Vocational Trainings

46
Dormant Saving Groups Revived

60
Youth Federation Members Mobilized

13
Communities Reached Across Tamale, Accra & Takoradi

HABVIA: HEAT ADAPTATION BENEFITS FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS IN AFRICA

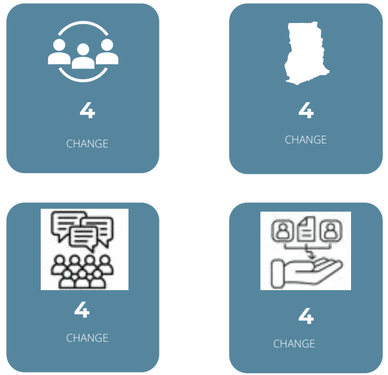
Heat stress and rising temperatures are increasingly undermining the health, productivity, and wellbeing of low-income populations living and working in informal settlements across sub-Saharan Africa. In response, the HABVIA project was designed to assess and strengthen heat adaptation interventions for vulnerable populations in low-income and informal settlements.

During the implementation period, the project contributed to the development of early warning and response plans and supported the implementation of physical cooling interventions. Throughout the project, strong collaboration between researchers and communities helped ensure that adaptation efforts would reflect local realities. This intervention was carried out in collaboration with the SDI Secretariat, academic research institutions, local research teams, organized communities, international climate and public health partners. As a result HABVIA initiative strengthened community participation in climate research, generated evidence on heat adaptation, and supported the development of locally relevant climate resilience interventions.

Key activities included:

- Community mobilization and participation
- Household and community surveys
- Heat adaptation research
- Physical cooling interventions
- Creation of early warning and response plans
- Community-led data collection

PHOTO



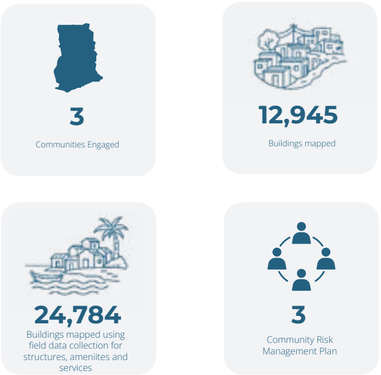
RESILIENCE INITIATIVE AFRICA

PHOTO

People's Dialogue, in partnership with GIZ's Resilience Initiative Africa (RIA), implemented a community-led resilience planning initiative in Chorkor, Old Fadama, and Agbogbloshie to strengthen climate adaptation and disaster risk management. Using participatory mapping, drone imagery, citizen science, and community consultations, the project identified key climate and environmental risks, including flooding, coastal erosion, extreme heat, poor sanitation, and fire hazards. Together with residents, local authorities, and stakeholders, Community Resilience Action Plans were developed to guide locally driven interventions, improve disaster preparedness, strengthen environmental management, and integrate community priorities into city planning. The project demonstrates the value of community-generated data and inclusive planning in building safer, healthier, and more climate-resilient informal settlements.

Key activities included:

- Community mobilisation and sensitisation to engage residents and ensure meaningful participation throughout the project
- Transect walks to identify hazard-prone areas and collect GPS coordinates of environmental risks
- Drone mapping to capture high-resolution aerial imagery and develop detailed maps and 3D models of the settlements
- Training community citizen scientists on the Field Mapping Task Manager (FMTM) to collect geo-referenced data on buildings, hazards, and infrastructure
- Community-led data collection to document building materials, housing conditions, environmental risks, and community assets
- Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with women, youth, persons with disabilities, traditional leaders, and other community members to understand local experiences, priorities, and coping strategies



CLEAN AIR FUND (CAF)

2000
Volunteers Engaged

30
Community Data Scientiests Trained

30
Air Quality Monitor Systems Installed

3
Cities and Communities Engaged: Tema Newtown, Old Fadama, Sokoban

40
Clean Air Community Champions Skilled

Air pollution remains a major environmental and public health challenge, disproportionately affecting vulnerable communities living in informal settlements. The project aimed to assess community exposure to air pollution while strengthening awareness, advocacy, and meaningful community participation in clean air interventions. The CAF initiative also introduced Community-Led Air Quality Monitor in Informal Settlements, strengthening local ownership and enabling evidence-based advocacy on air pollution and public health.

The partners in this initiative include the Clean Air Fund, local authorities, schools, NADMO, community leaders, and Clean Air Community Champions (CACCs).

Key activities included:

- Perception and exposure surveys
- Stakeholder engagement, awareness campaigns
- School outreach activities
- Deployment of AirBeam wearable sensors
- Installation of stationary air quality monitors
- Volunteer training and mobilization

3
Regions Covered: Volta, GAMA, Central

Multiple
Coastal Communities Engaged under C2R-CD

5
Coastal Communities Engaged under

COASTAL COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE AND DIARRHEA (C2R-CD)

Coastal communities continue to face climate-related vulnerabilities such as flooding and poor sanitation, which increase exposure to diarrheal diseases. To respond to these linked challenges, C2R-CD initiative aimed to strengthen community resilience to climate change while improving diarrheal prevention and management in vulnerable coastal communities.

Key activities included:

- Resilience-building workshops
- Public health promotion
- Stakeholder engagement
- Collaborative research initiatives
- Community capacity strengthening
- Community sensitization and education

TUWE PAMOJA: “LET’S BE TOGETHER” - A STORY FROM ACCRA

When the rains come too hard and too fast, the effects are never shared equally. In many urban neighborhoods, climate shocks expose the most vulnerable first—flooding disrupts livelihoods, waterlogged roads isolate communities, and basic services struggle to recover. In response to these realities, Tuwe Pamoja—meaning “Let’s Be Together” in Swahili—emerged as a collaborative climate adaptation initiative that brings communities, local authorities, researchers, civil society organizations, and urban practitioners together across several African cities.

In Accra, the initiative is being implemented in Glefe. The goal is simple but powerful: to strengthen locally appropriate na ture-based solutions that help communities respond to climate risks in ways that reflect their lived experiences. Rather than arriving with ready-made plans, the project creates space for people to identify environmental solutions that improve resilience while also addressing local priorities.

Across Glefe, the story unfolds in small steps that add up. First, people build climate risk awareness, learning how extreme weather affects their homes, streets, and daily routines. From there, the focus shifts to environmental sustainability and nature-based solutions - approaches that work with nature rather than against it. Throughout, the initiative keeps inclusive urban resilience at the center, supported by participatory planning processes that ensure community voices lead decisions.

To make this happen, the team organized community engagement sessions, bringing residents into direct dialogue. Stakeholder workshops helped align priorities among local actors, while participatory research captured local perspectives and practical knowledge. People shared what they know during local knowledge sharing sessions, and together they moved into collaborative planning discussions. To strengthen learning beyond Glefe, the project also supported cross-city learning exchanges, allowing communities and practitioners to compare experiences and refine ideas.

As the discussions deepened, residents explored real examples of nature-based solutions, including:

- improved drainage systems,
- community greening initiatives,
- flood mitigation measures,
- wetland protection,
- tree planting activities, and
- sustainable environmental management practices

Community Voices Embedded in Urban Decision Making



Youth-led community profiling, enumeration, mapping, and research; Know Your City data and media platforms; digital storytelling and public engagement; policy briefs; structured dialogue with MMDAs and national agencies; inclusive planning and budgeting forums; and strengthened youth leadership and accountability mechanisms

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW



People's dialogue continued to strengthen inclusive urban governance by establishing platforms through which young people and community members could contribute to decisions affecting their settlements. Through community forums, housing dialogues, GHAFUP learning exchanges, and youth-led engagements, residents shared lived experiences, identified priorities, and proposed practical responses to challenges related to waste management, climate adaptation, and community development. As a result, community perspectives were incorporated into broader urban policy and development discussions.

A key focus was placed on strengthening youth participation and advocacy. Ten members of the KYC team completed a Massive Open Online Course that built skills in film production, including pre-production planning and scriptwriting, documentary filming, and post-production editing. These skills enabled young people to document community realities, communicate local concerns, and produce evidence-based advocacy materials.

Youth and community learning exchanges further supported peer learning, leadership development, and the sharing of locally tested solutions. KYC forums increasingly shape the dialogue space by enabling young people to lead conversations, engage stakeholders, and advocate for responsive urban development. In addition, online communication channels were used to expand the reach of community voices, allowing youth-led messages and community priorities to reach wider audiences.

Collectively, these initiatives are supporting communities in shifting from passive beneficiaries to informed participants and advocates in urban decision-making

Enhanced Assets, Incomes and Livelihood



Mobilising and strengthening women- and youth-led savings groups and lending schemes; access to microcredit and Urban Poor Funds; informal enterprise support; skills development; market upgrading; and livelihood diversification initiatives.

Improved Tenure Security and Basic Services



Eviction prevention and response systems; community-led enumeration and mapping; negotiated in-situ upgrading pilots; tenure regularisation; housing improvement and reconstruction; expansion of basic services; and participation in citywide planning processes.

2024-2025 TENURE SECURITY AND BASIC SERVICES INTERVENTIONS AT GLANCE

People's Dialogue continued to improve tenure security and access to basic services through a range of community-led housing, sanitation, water and energy initiatives. Working alongside the Ghana Federation of the Urban Poor (GHAFUP), local authorities and community members, the organisation supported projects that improved living conditions, expanded access to essential services and strengthened local capacity to manage community infrastructure.

Through the partnerships established with the municipality, these initiatives also contributed to broader upgrading efforts and informed municipal approaches to wider upgrading and sanitation programmes. Today, the sanitation fascilities are being replicated across communities and continue serving thousands of residents daily.

Key activities included:

- Community-led housing development through the Amui Dzor Housing Project
- Construction and management of community sanitation facilities, including Amui Dzor and Jisonayili communal toilets
- Expansion of household sanitation through the Ashaiman (7 Cities) Biofil Toilet Programme
- Improved access to safe water through the Nungua Community Water Project
- Installation of Solar PV systems to improve access to reliable and affordable energy
- Collaboration with municipal authorities on community upgrading, infra-









Housing Amui Dzor community-led housing development improving tenure security and living conditions in Ashaiman

Sanitation Biofil toilets & communal facilities delivered in Amui Dzor, Ashaiman and Jisonayili,

Water Nungua Water Project providing access to potable water for a community of 50,000

Energy Solar PV systems installed in Amui Dzor to provide reliable, cost-

ACTION RESEARCH IN ACCRA: IMPROVING WASTE MANAGEMENT







The Women-Led Community Composting Initiative is an action research project under the African Cities Research Consortium (ACRC) aimed at improving waste management in informal settlements while creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for women. Implemented in Old Fadama in collaboration with local authorities, community organisations and research partners, the project promotes community-owned composting systems that convert organic waste into valuable compost for urban agriculture. Through a cooperative model, the initiative strengthens circular economy practices, improves environmental health, and supports inclusive urban resilience.

Project objectives included:

•Reduce organic waste sent to the landfill
•Produce compost for urban agriculture
•Improve santitation and public health
•Strengthen community livelihoods
•Promote circular economy solutions

Key activities included:

- Mobilised women savings groups in Old Fadama into a community-led composting cooperative
- Worked closely with the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA), GHAFUP, researchers, and other partners to co-design and implement the initiative
- Promoted the conversion of organic waste into compost for urban agriculture and greener waste management practices.•Strengthen community livelihoods
- Trained women, youth, community members, and city officials on waste segregation, entrepreneurship ,composting and cooperative management

ACTION RESEARCH IN ACCRA: EMPOWERING GHANA'S YOUTH THROUGH WASTE

The Empowering Ghana's Youth Through Waste initiative is an action research project under the African Cities Research Consortium (ACRC) that seeks to strengthen inclusive urban waste management while creating decent employment opportunities for young people. Implemented in the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) and Korley Klottey Municipal Assembly (KoKMA), the project supports the organisation and formalisation of informal motorised waste operators through advocacy, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement. By strengthening the role of these workers within Accra's waste management system, the initiative promotes a more inclusive, efficient, and sustainable urban waste management model while advancing green livelihoods for youth.

Project objectives included:

Organise and formalise informal motorised waste operators into recognised cooperatives and associations
Improve access to decent employment opportunities for young people within the green economy
Strengthen inclusive and decentralised urban waste management systems
Enhance the capacity of city authorities to integrate informal waste workers into municipal service delivery

Key activities included:

Mobilised women savings groups in Old Fadama into a community-led composting cooperative
Worked closely with the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA), GHAFUP, researchers, and other partners to co-design and implement the initiative
Promoted the conversion of organic waste into compost for urban agriculture and greener waste management practices.•Strengthen community livelihoods
Trained women, youth, community members, and city officials on waste segregation, composting techniques, cooperative management, and entrepreneurship







Advocacy and Communications — A Story of Visibility and Rights



JANET ADU,
PRESIDENT OF GHANA FEDERATION OF URBAN POOR

People's Dialogue on Human Settlements (PD) and the Ghana Federation of the Urban Poor (GHAFUP) believe that change in cities cannot be driven by community action alone. For vulnerable urban communities to see lasting progress—especially in informal settlements—they need more than services and projects. They need advocacy and communications that shape decisions, strengthen accountability, and ensure their voices are heard in national and local development processes.

ADVOCACY OUTCOMES

Throughout the 2024 - 2025 period, SDI Ghana continued to strengthen the voice, visibility, and representation of vulnerable communities through a deliberate mix of policy engagement, public awareness campaigns, media outreach, and strategic dialogue with key stakeholders. The organization recognized that sustainable urban transformation depends on influencing policies while also supporting communities to actively participate in governance. In this way, advocacy became a bridge between lived realities at the community level and decision-making spaces where those realities are often ignored.

To keep that bridge strong, SDI Ghana continued supporting organized community structures—federation leaders, women and youth groups, and community advocates. Together, they worked to engage decision-makers, participate in urban governance processes, and promote inclusive approaches to housing, climate resilience, environmental justice, and tenure security.

As the period progressed, SDI Ghana facilitated and participated in a range of advocacy engagements designed to protect the rights of vulnerable urban populations and strengthen inclusive urban governance.

These included:

- community advocacy forums and stakeholder engagements
- policy discussions with local assemblies and government institutions
- public awareness campaigns on climate change and air pollution
- housing and tenure security dialogue sessions
- community mobilization against forced evictions
- advocacy on healthcare and social protection access
- community representation within municipal planning discussions

Beyond these activities, SDI Ghana also strengthened federation representation across the Northern and Greater Accra Regions by establishing community advocate groups with clear focus areas. These groups worked on:

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY GROUPD ESTABLSIHED	5
NATIONAL HOUSING & TENURE SECURITY DIALOGUE FORUMS HELD	1
COMMUNITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS CONDUCTED	MULTIPLE
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS FASCILITATED	MULTIPLE
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ENGAGED IN LOCAL PLANNING PROCESS	MULTIPLE

VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community participation remains the foundation of SDI Ghana's work. Throughout the reporting period, the organization continued to work closely with federation leaders, volunteers, community enumerators, youth groups, women leaders, and community champions who played critical roles in programme implementation and grassroots mobilization.

The organization recognizes the dedication, commitment, and leadership demonstrated by volunteers and organized community structures in advancing community resilience, advocacy, research, environmental management, and social inclusion initiatives.



Community Participation and Volunteerism

Community volunteers supported activities including:

- household surveys and enumeration
- community mobilization
- awareness campaigns
- environmental activities
- advocacy and stakeholder engagement,
- climate resilience interventions
- participatory mapping exercises

Local Leadership Structures

SDI Ghana continued to strengthen:

- savings groups
- federation leadership structures
- community advocate groups
- women-led initiatives
- advocacy and stakeholder engagement
- youth engagement platforms
- grassroots organizing systems

Community champions also played key roles in:

- public health education
- air pollution awareness
- local leadership and representation
- climate adaptation activities

FUTURE GOALS + STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

As urban communities continue to face growing climate risks, economic pressures, housing challenges, and social inequalities, SDI Ghana remains committed to strengthening inclusive and sustainable urban development interventions that place vulnerable populations at the center of decision-making processes.

In the coming years, the organization will continue to strengthen partnerships, expand community-led initiatives, and scale innovative solutions that improve resilience, livelihoods, and urban inclusion.



Climate Resilience + Adaptation

Strengthen locally driven climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction interventions within vulnerable urban and coastal communities.

Housing Rights + Tenure Security

Advance advocacy efforts aimed at protecting vulnerable communities from forced evictions and promoting inclusive housing solutions.

Inclusive Urban Planning

Strengthen community participation within local governance and urban planning processes.

Livelihood + Economic Empowerment

Expand livelihood opportunities, enterprise development, and financial inclusion programmes for women and youth.

Research, Data + Innovation

Strengthen participatory research, mapping, and community data systems to support evidence-based urban planning and advocacy.

Youth + Women's Leadership

Strengthen leadership opportunities and participation for women and youth within community development and governance processes.

Future Targets

The organization aims to:

- expand interventions into additional informal settlements
- strengthen women-led savings groups
- scale climate resilience initiatives
- expand air quality monitoring activities
- strengthen community healthcare access
- deepen local government partnerships
- strengthen community data systems and research initiatives.

Organizational Commitments

SDI Ghana remains committed to advancing inclusive, resilient, and people-centered urban development through community-led approaches, strategic partnerships, evidence-based advocacy, and sustainable development interventions.

The organization will continue working alongside communities, government institutions, development partners, academia, and civil society organizations to build cities where vulnerable populations are empowered, protected, and meaningfully included in shaping their futures.

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

People's Dialogue on Human Settlements (PD) expresses its sincere appreciation to the Ghana Federation of the Urban Poor (GHAFUP), Shack Dwellers International (SDI), the African Cities Research Consortium (ACRC), Clean Air Fund (CAF), Resilience Initiative Africa (RIA), local authorities, academic institutions, civil society organizations, community leaders, volunteers, and development partners whose collaboration and support contributed significantly to the achievements recorded during the 2024–2025 reporting period.

The organization also acknowledges the commitment of community members, federation leaders, women's groups, youth groups, researchers, and technical partners who worked tirelessly to advance inclusive urban development, climate resilience, livelihood improvement, and community-led transformation across Ghana.

Ghana Federation of the Urban Poor (GHAFUP) *Federation Partner*	Slum Dwellers International (SDI) *Global Network Partner*	African Cities Research Consortium (ACRC) *Research Partner*	Clean Air Fund (CAF) *Funding Partner*	Resilience Initiative Africa (RIA) *Program Partner*
Local Authorities *Government Partner*	Academic Institutions *Knowledge Partner*	Civil Society Organisations *Collaborating Partner*	Community Leaders & Volunteers *Community Partner*	Development Partners *Supporting Partner*

THE GHANA SDI ALLIANCE

The Ghana SDI Alliance, forged in 2003, is a partnership between People's Dialogue on Human Settlements (PD) and the Ghana Federation of the Urban Poor (GHAFUP). Our Alliance shifts power in urban planning and development, ensuring that organised communities influence the decisions that shape inclusive, safe, and climate-resilient Ghanaian cities. Together, we have supported over 1.8 million urban poor families to improve housing, access services, and strengthen livelihoods through community-led action and collective influence.

Affiliated and guided by the core organising methodologies and values of Slum Dwellers International (SDI), our impact is propelled by the voice, agency, and collective power and influence of organised slum dwellers and informal workers.
Our unique contribution to Ghana's urban development sector is translating community organisation and community-owned data into influence, action, and meaningful impact. We enable genuinely community-led development and, by bridging informal communities and formal systems, we influence the systems required to drive and sustain lasting change.

GHAFUP is a women-led movement of organised urban poor communities across Ghana, mobilised through savings groups and grassroots networks. Representing over 22,000 families, it drives a bottom-up agenda for inclusive, resilient cities. People's Dialogue (PD) provides technical support, strengthening capacity, diverse partnerships, and resource mobilisation to advance community-led urban transformation.

GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

- **Board of Directors**
- **Executive Management**
- **Programme + Operational Teams**
- **Federation Leadership Structures**
- **Advisory + Technical Partnership**

BOARD + MANAGEMENT

Name	Position
Dr. Rudith King	Board Chair
Braimah Rabiu Farouk	Executive Director
John Enningful	Finance + Administration
Salifu Abdul-Mujeeb	Programmes

GOVERNANCE PRIORITIES

- strengthening institutional systems
- improving financial accountability
- enhancing programme oversight
- strengthening partnerships
- supporting organizational sustainability
- promoting inclusive leadership and participation

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



PD in partnership with SDI Ghana remains committed to transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of resources in the implementation of its programmes and operations. During the 2024 - 2025 reporting period, the organization continued to strengthen its financial management systems to ensure efficient utilization of resources in support of community-led development interventions across Ghana. The organization continued to prioritize efficient allocation of resources toward programme implementation and direct community impact interventions.

Our organisation and close partners in Ghana remain firmly commited to:

- Transparent financial reporting
- Compliance with donor requirements
- Internal financial controls
- Responsible resource management
- Regular financial monitoring and oversight
- Budget accountability and expenditure tracking
- Timely donor reporting

Funding received during the reporting period supported programme implementation in areas:

- Climate resilience
- Socio-economic empowerment
- Research and data systems
- Healthcare access
- Advocacy and governance
- Environmental sustainability
- Community capacity strengthening

An independent audit was conducted for the reporting period, and management confirms that financial resources were utilized in accordance with donor agreements, organizational policies, and approved project budgets.Detailed audited financial statements are included within the appendices of this report.