

SENSITIZATION TRAINING AND SANITATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT MANKRONG-NKWANTA GHANA

PHASE 1 (August 2008- August 2009)

FINAL REPORT

CONTEXT

The project was initiated from contacts established between SANKOFA Franco-Ghanaian Friendship Association and the Unit Committee of Mankrong-Nkwanta to help improve certain aspects of the unsanitary situation that generates notable nuisances for the Mankrong-Nkwanta environment and inhabitants – especially public health.

In March, 2008 SANKOFA presented this project to the Regional Council of Midi-Pyrenees, Toulouse for financial assistance within the framework of the councils' decentralise cooperation call for development aid proposals. The project received a positive response in June, 2008 for a 3 year financial assistance of €15 000 (equivalent of 60% of total project cost).

1st PHASE ACTIVITIES

The project envisaged an initial phase of identification of all stakeholders concerned with problems related to the environment ; an orientation workshop to present the objectives and goals of the project, and discuss the need for a Water and Sanitation Action Plan ; and stakeholders meeting to identify, assess needs and priorities with regard to the implementation of the project. Related activities on the terrain were realised as follows:

July/August 2008

As the Unit Committee of Mankrong-Nkwanta fall under the local government administrative jurisdiction of the Agona East District Assembly (AEDA) 2 informal and 1 formal meetings took place at Swedru and Nsaba between officials of AEDA, the local elected assemblywoman of Mankrong-Nkwanta and 2 representatives of SANKOFA. These meetings were to discuss the modalities for the implementation of the project. This led to the establishment of a 7 member Project Management Committee. 2 Senior officers of AEDA were assigned to technically work on the project, with the District Environmental Health Officer (DEHO) Mr KUDZOR, as the Coordinator of the project.

September 2008

The Project Coordinator, in the person of Mr. Philip KUDZOR, established an 8 article constitution and rules to govern the project.

The identification, notification and mobilisation of different partners or stakeholders was embarked on by the Project Coordinator. Nearly 40 individuals representing various groups and institutions were identified in the area and district to participate in activities leading to achieve the objectives and goals of the project.

October 2008

A special current bank account was opened for the project at the Agricultural Development Bank of Swedru. Account N° 1151000006714 has signatories as:

Mr. G.K. FOH – representative of SANKOFA

Mr. Philip KUDZOR – DEHO as Project Coordinator

Madam Mary OTWEY – AEDA member/Mankrong-Nkwanta representative.

November 2008

Mr. OHENE-AKONOR President of SANKOFA arrived in Ghana to participate in events leading to the official launching of the project. Meetings were organised for him to meet the project management officials, the chief and elders of Mankrong-Nkwanta, and other stakeholders.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on the 19/11/08 between SANKOFA and AEDA for the good functioning of the project, and for future partnership on other local development projects in the district.

December 2008

Mr. OHENE-AKONOR was received by Mr. Julien MOREL, Programme Officer of the Social Development Fund of the French Embassy, Accra to present the project and discuss possible areas of cooperation and assistance. A proposal would be submitted to the Fund to seek financial support (2010) for a sanitation service delivery project.

On the 23rd December, 2008 the Project was officially launched with an orientation workshop at Mankrong-Nkwanta. The President of SANKOFA participated in this event. It attracted about 50 participants. See attached a short report on the launching and the orientation workshop.

January 2009

A communal environmental clean-up exercise was organised under the leadership of the local elected AEDA member (Madam Mary OTWEY) at Mankrong-Nkwanta on 20/01/09. This mobilised the inhabitants to weed and clean around public and private sanitary sites, and to de-silt gutters. It was also an opportunity to inform and initiate the community to the Water and Sanitation project under implementation for the town. It was announced that this exercise of clean-up was going to be a monthly affair.

February/March 2009

2 local meetings were organised at Mankrong-Nkwanta (on the 17/02 & 03/03) under the chairmanship of Mr. Eric BAMFO (Vice Chairman of the Unit Committee), with the local assembly member, the chiefs' representative, the Project Coordinator, and other leaders of the town in attendance. Plans and modalities for the organisation of a public consultative meeting to identify water and sanitation needs and priorities of the town were discussed. The assembly member Madam OTWEY and Mr. AYEWE were given the responsibility to organise a public forum to be facilitated by a water and sanitation expert.

The Project Coordinator also designed and administered a questionnaire to prioritise sanitation needs of the community.

April 2009

The projects' Management Committee met with the community on 14th April, 2009 to discuss analyses and conclusions with regard to questionnaire administered on sanitation needs and priorities. This meeting was facilitated by the Project Coordinator Mr. Philip Kudzor. Nearly 300 adult inhabitants were in attendance. The majority decision was that, due to non availability of land space in individual homes for self supported places of conveniences, another "pay as-you-use" public toilet should be their priority. In the event, the

chief and elders of the town were charged to provide a plot of land for the construction of a community toilet. At the community level, a Pilot Committee was to be set up to handle, in collaboration with the AEDA, all the technical aspects and negotiate with the traditional authority for that piece of land to be released for the project to take off. The District Assembly was to process the proposed public toilet building plan and permits.

At this community forum, the community were asked to nominate 5 members to join

- i) the Project Coordinator – Mr P Kudzor
- ii) The assembly woman – Madam Mary Otwey
- iii) The WATSAN rep. – Mr Amos Dawson
- iv) Sankofa Liaison Officer – Mr Enoch Otabil

to form the **Mankrong Sanitation Project Pilot Committee (MSPPC)**. The committee was charged to draw a Sanitation Improvement Action Plan (over 4 year).

The 5 nominees from the community were:

- i) Unit Committee rep. – Mr Isaac Ayew
- ii) Traditional authority rep. – Mr Kingsford Quansah
- iii) School PTA rep. – Mr James Quaye
- iv) CBO rep. – Madame Elisabeth Aikins
- v) Religious group rep. – Pastor Akyene

May/June 2009

On the 05/05/09 the MSPPC had a meeting at Mankrong with the Chiefs and Elders to select a probable site for the Community Toilet Project. It was also decided at this meeting that the AEDA, represented by Mr. KUDZOR, takes in charge the technical responsibilities leading to the construction of the toilet – eg. building plan for the toilet, a site plan, construction permit, etc. . A general clean-up campaign was also organised in the morning.

A month later (06/06), the Assembly woman and the community organised a communal labour to clear and demarcate the proposed site for the toilet project.

July/August 2009

The MSPPC met twice in July (18/07 and 21/07) to prepare a Mid-Year Action Plan for the commencement of the 2nd phase of the Mankrong Sensitisation, Training, and Sanitation Improvement Project.

The Mid-year Action Plan and the technical drawings for the community toilet project were submitted, discussed and approved, at a meeting (24/07) with members of the Mankrong Sanitation Improvement Project Management Committee at AEDA, Nsaba. The District Coordinating Director chaired this meeting. It was also proposed at this meeting that Mr Kudzor should arrange a meeting with the new District Chief Executive (DCE) to brief him on the project.

On the 21/08, a 3 member delegation of the Project Management Committee, led by Mr Kudzor, met the newly appointed DCE to brief him on the activities and developments so far on the Mankrong Sanitation Improvement Project. The DCE was very pleased about the community involvement in the project. He reiterated the AEDA continued support for the project.

Financial Expenditure

So far the Agona East District Assembly/Administration and the Mankrong Community have disbursed **GHC 1608.80** on the projects' activity. Please find attached details of spending (in two parts – from September to December 2008, and from March to July 2009.

Remarks and Conclusion

- 1) All stakeholders (30+) have been identified and notified about the project
- 2) A 7 member Project Management Committee established at the AEDA, and a separate project bank account opened
- 3) A MOU signed between SANKOFA and the AEDA
- 4) A launching and a 1-day orientation workshop organised for stakeholders
- 5) Community mobilised and informed about the project through communal environmental clean-up exercises
- 6) Community sanitation needs and priorities ascertained through interviews and a forum
- 7) The need for another Public Toilet facility is a priority
- 8) A 9-member Mankrong Sanitation Project Pilot Committee put in place to draw action plans and organise activities
- 9) A Mid-Year Action Plan drawn (effective from August to December 2009) for the 2nd Phase of the project
- 10) Land, technical drawings and budget for the construction of a public toilet (KVIP) are ready for implementation.

Conclusion

The projects' plan and activities are really on course, and all those institutions and structures concerned are highly motivated to realise the projects goals and objectives.