



GHANA: TAMALE CITY PROFILE



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UN-HABITAT Regional and Information Offices or directly from:

P.O. Box 30030, GPO 00100 Nairobi, Kenya.

Fax: + (254 20) 762 4266/7

E-mail: unhabitat@unhabitat.org

Website: <http://www.unhabitat.org>

This Tamale report and project was prepared and managed by Victoria Abankwa in Ghana
and Alain Grimard, Kerstin Sommer and Florence Kuria in Nairobi.

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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA AND THE ARAB STATES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
BACKGROUND	8
GOVERNANCE	11
SLUM AND SHELTER	14
GENDER AND HIV/AIDS	15
ENVIRONMENT	17
PROJECT PROPOSALS	
GOVERNANCE	19
SLUMS AND SHELTER	23
GENDER AND HIV/AIDS	26
ENVIRONMENT	29

FOREWORD



The annual urban growth rate in Sub-Saharan Africa is almost 5 percent, twice as high as in Latin America and Asia. It also has the world's largest proportion of urban residents living in slums, which today are home to 72 percent of urban Africa's citizens representing a total of some 187 million people. As more and more people

seek a better life in towns and cities, the urban slum population in Africa is projected to double every 15 years in a process known as the urbanization of poverty. African cities are thus confronted in the new Millennium with the problem of accommodating the rapidly growing urban populations in inclusive cities, providing them with adequate shelter and basic urban services, while ensuring environmental sustainability, as well as enhancing economic growth and development.

UN-HABITAT is the lead agency for implementation of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7, Target 10 (reducing by half the number of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water), and Target 11 (achieving significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020).

As part of our drive to address this crisis, UN-HABITAT is working with the European Commission to support sustainable urban development in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. Given the urgent and diverse needs, the agency found it necessary to develop a tool for rapid assessment to guide immediate, mid and long-term interventions. In 2002, based on the European Commission's Consultative Guidelines for Sustainable Urban Development Cooperation, UN-HABITAT successfully implemented an Urban Sector Profile Study in Somalia for the first time. The Study resulted in the identification and implementation of three major programmes with funding from a variety of donors.

In 2004, UN-HABITAT's Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States took the initiative to develop the approach further for application in over 20 countries. This was achieved in collaboration with

other departments within the agency – the Urban Development Branch with the Urban Environment Section, the Global Urban Observatory, the Shelter Branch, the Urban Governance Unit, the Gender Policy Unit, the Environment Unit and the Training and Capacity Building Branch. This new corporate approach is part of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme. The implementation of the urban profiling was launched thanks to contributions from the Governments of Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands. Today, it is part of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme financed by the European Commission.

The idea behind the urban profiling is to help formulate urban poverty reduction policies at the local, national and regional levels through a rapid, participatory, cross cutting, holistic and action-orientated assessment of needs. It is also aimed at enhancing dialogue, awareness of opportunities and challenges aiming at identifying response mechanisms as a contribution to the implementation of the MDGs.

The urban profiling addresses four main themes: governance, slums, gender and HIV/AIDS and environment. It seeks to build a national profile, and three settlements representing the capital or a large city, a medium-sized city, and a small town. The profiles offer an overview of the urban situation in each participating city through a series of interviews with key urban actors. This is followed by a city consultation where priorities are agreed. City-level findings provide input for the national profiling that is combined with a national assessment of institutional, legislative, financial and overall enabling frameworks and response mechanisms. The profiles at all levels result in supporting the formation of city and national strategies and policy development. Additionally, the profiling facilitates sub-regional analyses, strategies and common policies through identification of common needs and priorities at the sub-regional level. This provides guidance to international external support agencies in the development of their responses in the form of capacity building tools.

In Ghana, the profiling was undertaken under the leadership of national and local authorities. This initiative has been carried out locally in Accra, Tamale, Ho as well as nationally. The Profile focuses on the findings of a desk-study, interviews with key actors and a town consultation with key urban actors and institutions. Consultation participants agreed to address the salient urban issues including poverty, insecurity, corruption,

pollution and crime all problems that negatively affect investments and economic development. A consensus was reached on priority interventions in the form of programme and project proposals to be implemented.

I wish to acknowledge the contributions of Mr. Mohamed El Sioufi, who developed the urban profiling concept, the programme manager Alain Grimard and Kerstin Sommer who is coordinating its activities. I also wish to cite those members of staff for their role in helping produce this report. They include Alioune Badiane, Adolphine Asimah, Ben Doe Doris Tetteh, and Sylvester Gabianu.

I would like to thank the Government of Ghana through the Tamale Metropolitan Assembly, Ministry of Information Service, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, city mayors, local government officials, authorities, and all those who have participated in and supported this initiative and wish every success in its implementation. I also look forward to supporting further their efforts in the development of Tamale.



Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations,
and Executive Director,
UN-HABITAT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

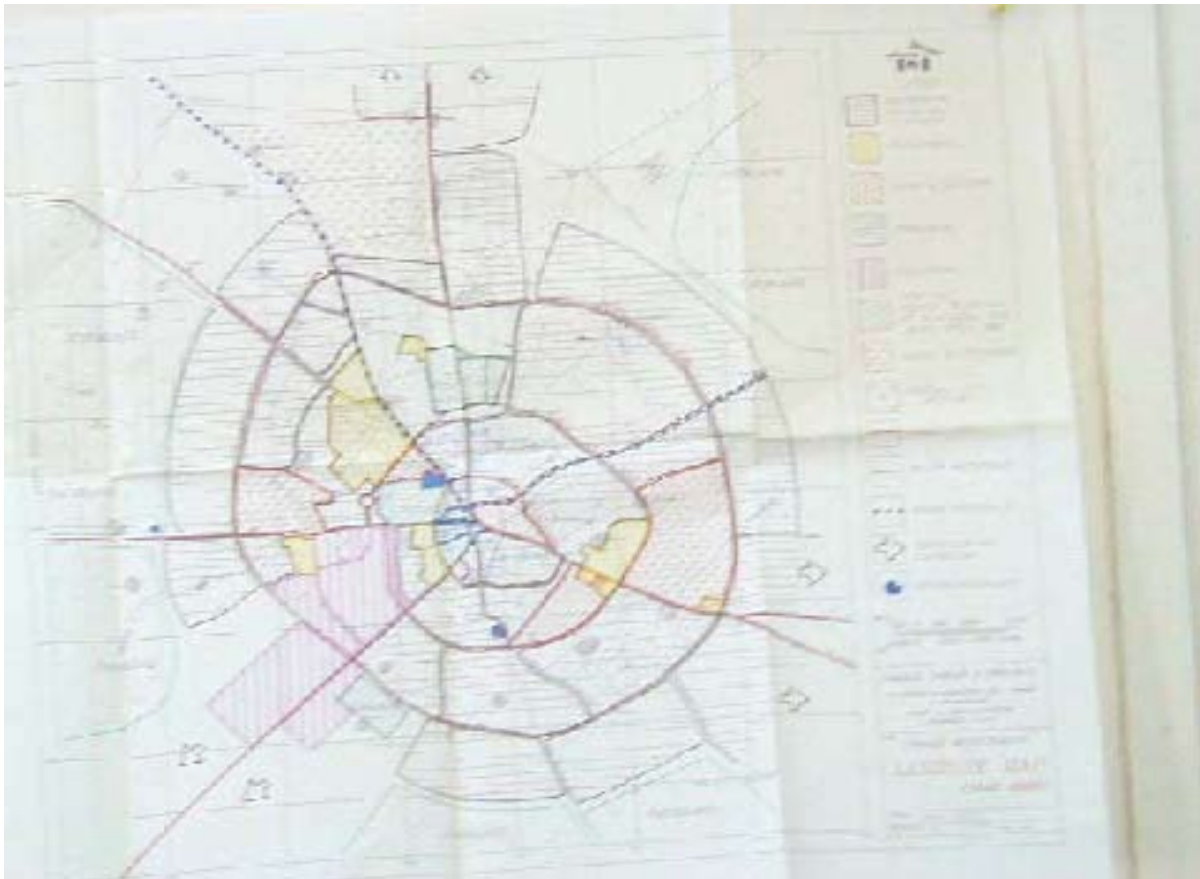
OVERVIEW

Tamale is the capital town of the Northern Region, one of ten in the country. It is located within the Guinea Savannah belt. It is the fourth largest city in Ghana with a population of 293,881 comprising 146,979 males and 146,902 females and with a growth rate of 3.5%. The size of Tamale is approximately 922km sq. The city experiences severe hamattan winds in the dry season from November to January. The Metropolis is poorly endowed with water bodies. The only water systems are a few seasonal streams, which dry up during the dry season. The other water bodies include dugouts and dams. The city attracts population from all over the northern region. Economic activities revolve around farming and trading. According to the GLSS4, the northern region is one of the three poorest regions in the country. Many International Non Governmental Organizations operate in the northern region but few of them work in Tamale.

INTRODUCTION

The Urban Profiling is an accelerated and action-oriented urban assessment of needs and capacity-building gaps at local and national levels. It is currently being implemented in over 20 countries in Africa and Arab States. The urban profiling uses a structured approach where priority interventions are agreed upon through consultative processes. It consists of three phases: (1) a rapid participatory urban profiling, at national and local levels, focusing on Governance, Slums, Gender, HIV/AIDS, and Environment, and proposed interventions; (2) detailed priority proposals; and (3) project implementation. Urban Profiling in Ghana encompasses a national profile, as well as profiles for Accra, Tamale, and Ho, each published as a separate report. This is the Tamale report and it constitutes a general background, a synthesis of the four themes – Governance, Slums, Gender and HIV/AIDS, and Environment –, and priority project proposals.

MAP 1: TAMALE CITY





Under the decentralization programme of the country, the Governance system comprises of elected members and government appointed members who form the Metropolitan Assembly, which is the highest governing body of the city. The Metropolitan Chief Executive is the head of administration of the city. The mechanism for engaging the public and stakeholders in decision-making for the Assembly is not very clear.

SLUMS

Several communities have slum characteristics. They do not have sufficient water supply; they lack good roads; domestic toilet provision is low and residents either use the limited public toilets or defecate in the bush and open spaces.

The Assembly has undertaken slum upgrading in several communities through the various development agencies like the Department of Urban Roads, and Urban Environmental Sanitation Project. Funding sources for slum upgrading usually come from central government and donor agencies. Under Urban Environmental Sanitation Project II, upgrading packages are being prepared for slum areas in Tamale.

GENDER AND HIV/AIDS

Women form a high proportion of the population in Tamale and are employed in trading and other economic activities. However poverty levels are high among women because of a number of factors. These include the discriminatory nature of land and property holding, inheritance, extensive subsistence farming, large domestic responsibility and high birth rates, low capital levels and illiteracy. HIV/AIDS cases are higher in women than in men. The Assembly has established a gender desk to take care of women issues particularly education and action on HIV/AIDS. Under the poverty reduction alleviation programmes, the Assembly provides credit facilities to communities as counterpart fund for the development of donor funded programmes in deprived areas. More assistance should be given to formation of micro-credit groups for women. Efforts should be directed at girl child education.

ENVIRONMENT

As one of the fastest growing cities in the country, Tamale is faced with daunting challenges in the management of both solid and liquid waste, water shortages and congestion in the markets. Unauthorized development also contributes to environmental degradation in Tamale. The city requires assistance in procurement of sanitation facilities/equipment and enforcement of planning and building regulations.

ADMINISTRATION

The Tamale Metropolitan Assembly (TAMA) was established by Legislative Instrument 1453, and governed under the Local Government Law, Act 462. The National Building Regulation, Legislative Instrument 1630, Town and Country Planning Ordinance CAP 84, the National Development Planning Systems Law, Act 480 are also applied for development planning and control. The Tamale Assembly lacks the requisite manpower at both senior management level and at the junior staff level for effective management of the city. It has a total staff population of 319 employees. Resource allocation for 2003 is as follows: personal emoluments 65.3%, travel and transport 14%, repairs and renewal 2.6%, general expenditure 8.7% and miscellaneous 8.2%.

FINANCIAL SITUATION

Sources of revenue for the city are twofold; internally generated funds such as rates, land, fees and fines, licenses, rent and investment; central government funds such as District Assemblies Common Fund, central government project interventions like Urban Environmental Sanitation Project, European Union, VIP etc.

BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

Urban Profiling

The Tamale Urban Profiling consists of an accelerated, action-oriented assessment of urban conditions, focusing on priority needs, capacity gaps, and existing institutional responses at local and national levels. The purpose of the study is to develop urban poverty reduction policies at local, national, and regional levels, through an assessment of needs and response mechanisms, and as a contribution to the wider-ranging implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The study is based on analysis of existing data and a series of interviews with all relevant urban stakeholders, including local communities and institutions, civil society, the private sector, development partners, academics, and others. The consultation typically results in a collective agreement on priorities and their development into proposed capacity-building and other projects that are all aimed at urban poverty reduction. The urban profiling is being implemented in over 20 African and Arab countries, offering an opportunity for comparative regional analysis. Once completed, this series of studies will provide a framework for central and local authorities and urban actors, as well as donors and external support agencies.

METHODOLOGY

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme consists of three phases:

Phase one consists of the rapid profiling of urban conditions at national and local levels. The capital city, a medium-sized city, and a small town are selected and studied to provide a representative sample in each country. The analysis focuses on four themes: governance, slums, gender and HIV/AIDS, and the environment. Information is collected through standard interviews and discussions with institutions and key informants, in order to assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities,

This report presents the outcomes of **Phase One** at the local level in Tamale.

URBAN PROFILING IN TAMALE

The urban profiling in Tamale is one of three similar exercises conducted in Ghana; the other profiled centres are Accra and Ho.

The national and city consultation was conceived as a partnership platform, co-developed with the Department of Community Development, Department of Cooperative, Social Welfare, Department of Rural Housing, Tamale Members Assembly, Metropolitan Planning Coordinating Unit, Works Department, Budget and Rating Department, Police Commander and the Ghana Civil Aviation. The aim is to promote inter-agency collaboration that integrates a wide range of urban actors in response mechanisms.

REPORT STRUCTURE

This report consists of:

1. a general background of the urban sector in Tamale, based on the findings of a desk study, interviews, and a national and city consultation (see back cover for a list of participants in the city consultation and a bibliography). The background includes data on administration, urban planning, Metropolis finance, urban services, public transport, health, education, the economic situation, water and sanitation, and waste management;
2. a synthesis of the four main theme areas – governance, slums, gender and HIV/AIDS, and environment – in terms of the institutional set-up, regulatory framework, resource mobilisation, and performance (this second section also highlights agreed priorities and includes a list of identified projects); and
3. a SWOT analysis and an outline of priority projects

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