

	<p>The contribution to the Regional Blending Platform shall be implemented by EIB in indirect management or by the entities indicated in the annex to this Action Document, in accordance with the Regional Blending Platform's award procedure as set out in section 4.4.3.</p> <p>Budgetary guarantee(s) as set out in section 4.4.4.</p>
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## 1.2 Summary of the Action

Ghana is characterized by rapid urbanization and unequal development between the North and the South of the country. This takes place in a dynamic context of: upcoming general elections in December 2024, economic recession and financial crisis, increasing risk of violence and insecurity due to internal factors and to spill over of the insecurity situation in the Sahel combined with growing inequalities.

With urban areas' growing population facing limited access to key urban services (water supply, sanitation and waste management) and increasing environmental undesirable impacts from air, water and land pollution, Ghana ranks 133 out of 191 countries on 2021 human development index (HDI)<sup>3</sup> and increasingly suffers from effects of climate change, like floods. The gender gap index score in Ghana reached 0.67 in 2021, indicating that females were 33 percent less likely to have the same opportunities as males in the country. This placed Ghana in the position 23rd among 35 nations in Sub-Saharan Africa<sup>4</sup> Through the implementation of the Joint Programming Ghana 2021-2027, the Team Europe Initiative on "Smart, Green and Digital Recovery in Ghana" and the Global Gateway, the EU supports the development of more sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities as one of its priority areas in Ghana.

In 2022, an integrated phased programme called "EU-Ghana partnership for sustainable Cities" was proposed to address urban challenges by working on both: the institutional framework at national and local level, and on improving key urban services delivery and infrastructure provision to meet the needs of citizens.

The first phase was approved in 2022 and is ongoing. It targets specific aspects of urban governance at the national level and local actions in six urban areas in the north of Ghana: Wa, Bolgatanga, Yendi, Damongo, Tamale and Nalerigu. It focuses on planning, accountability, public finance management, urban observatory (data collection, evidence-based and coordinated decisions), solid waste collection and segregation, as well as more equitable access to water and recreational areas for the most disadvantaged.

**The proposed phase 2 will increase sustainable, equitable and inclusive access to sanitation services in those six urban areas and strengthen urban resilience to the effects of climate change in Tamale, the Ghanaian north metropolis.** Actions on sanitation, hygiene, and urban climate resilience in these urban areas will be used as catalysts for sustainable local economic development, employment, inclusivity and resilience .

This phase will provide support for public works, capacity building and innovative financing (affordable loans) to be channelled to the private companies along the value chain of liquid waste management as well as their clients to allow households for a better access to sanitation (building toilets at household level, their maintenance, and sludge collection). Circular economy, digital technologies, business profitability, decent employment, inclusivity and gender will be mainstreamed as part of the liquid waste value chain. A concertation of these elements will allow the development of meaningful accessible infrastructures delivering affordable services needed by the municipalities and their citizens, namely: **(i) five faecal sludge management plants in urban areas in needs; (ii) household private toilets (in all six urban areas); and (iii) construction/rehabilitation of urban rainwater drainage infrastructures / nature based solutions in Tamale.**

The sustainability of those investments in infrastructure and business development will also be secured under the leadership of urban areas' assemblies, accompanied by technical support to efficiently regulate and promote these sectors and better anticipate disasters, including by ensuring proper and inclusive consultation of citizens as the right holders.

By reducing open defecation, professionalising the liquid waste value chain and making it more circular and reducing flood risks, risks linked to sanitation will considerably decrease in the 6 targeted urban areas.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report

<sup>4</sup> [Benchmarking gender gaps, 2023 - Global Gender Gap Report 2023 | World Economic Forum \(weforum.org\)](https://www.weforum.org/reports/benchmarking-gender-gaps-2023)