



Gulf of Guinea Northern Regions Social Cohesion (SOCO) Project

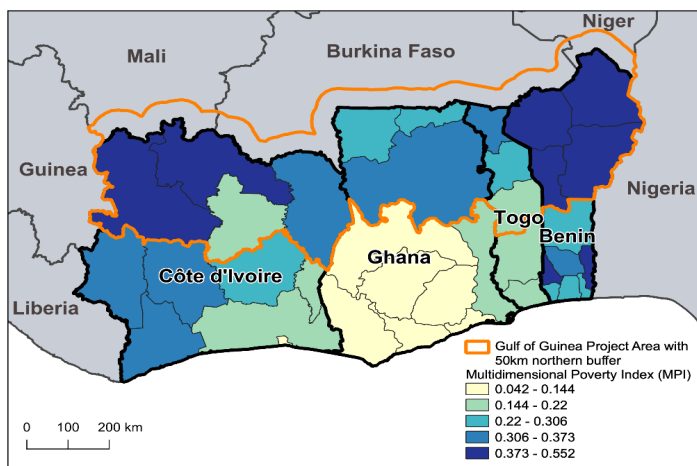
THINKING REGIONALLY AND ACTING LOCALLY

Aim?

This new regional project aims to proactively prevent the spread of conflict from the Sahel, reduce vulnerability to climate change, and strengthen local institutions, economic opportunities, and public trust.

Where?

The Northern Regions of the Gulf of Guinea countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Togo).



Why?

Needs are surging across this Gulf of Guinea subregion, where multiple crises converge. External pressures of conflict, climate change, and COVID-19 are compounded by longstanding challenges of poverty, exclusion, and weak governance—all of which may breed marginalization and inequality.

The lack of opportunities for youth, intercommunity tensions, and structural fragilities poses an increasing security challenge for the northern region of these Gulf of Guinea countries that face serious threats of southward transmission of the rapidly escalating Sahel conflict.

Responding to such borderless threats calls for "thinking regionally and acting locally"—regionally coordinated solutions that effectively respond to local needs.

Who?

Over the course of five years, the project is expected to reach over 4,600 border-zone communities across the northern Gulf of Guinea subregion, with a specific focus on vulnerable village clusters in border areas exposed to conflict and climate risks.

What will it finance?

- ✓ Climate resilient community infrastructure and investments (e.g., roads and markets)
- ✓ Inclusive local economic development activities
- ✓ Youth inclusion and social cohesion activities
- ✓ Platforms for regional collaboration and dialogue
- ✓ Strengthening of local institutions
- ✓ Digital technologies and innovations

Approach?

- ✓ Community-driven
- ✓ Gives voice to the vulnerable (e.g., youth, women, and people with disabilities)
- ✓ Regional lens to local investment to maximize cross-border impact

Implementation

- ✓ Implementing agency: Ministry of Local Government Decentralisation and Rural Development
- ✓ Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs) will be responsible for implementation at the local level
- ✓ Project launch on November 25, 2022

Duration

Approximately five years (Approval date: March 31 2022; Closing Date: May 31, 2027)

Financing

Total Financing from World Bank International Development Association (IDA): \$450 million for four countries (out of which \$150 million for Ghana)

Ghana:	US\$150 million
Cote d'Ivoire:	US\$150 million
Togo:	US\$75 million
Benin:	US\$75 million

Components

- 1. Investing in community resiliency and inclusion (\$112.5 million)**
 - ✓ Small-scale social and economic climate-resilient infrastructure at the community level
 - ✓ Local economic development activities
 - ✓ Support youth engagement and social cohesion activities
- 2. Building foundation and capacity for inclusive and resilient communities (\$15 million)**
- 3. Regional coordination platform and dialogue (\$7.5 million)**
- 4. Project management (\$15 million)**

Project Districts

48 MMDAs in six regions in the north of Ghana

Upper West Region

1. Lawra Municipal
2. Nandom Municipal
3. East Municipal
4. Wa West District
5. Wa East District
6. Lambussie District
7. Jirapa Municipal
8. Dafiama Bussie Issa District
9. Wa Municipal
10. Nadowli-Kaleo District
11. Sissala West District

Upper East Region

1. Bawku Municipal
2. Pusiga District
3. Binduri District
4. Bolgatanga Municipal
5. Bongo District
6. Tempane District
7. Garu District
8. Kassena Nankana East Municipal
9. Kassena Nankana West District
10. Talensi District
11. Bolgatanga East District
12. Bawku West District
13. Nabdram District
14. Builsa South District
15. Builsa North Municipal

Northern Region

1. Sagnerigu Municipal
2. Tamale Metropolitan
3. Tatala Sanguli District
4. Karaga District
5. Saboba District
6. Yendi Municipal
7. Nanumba North Municipal
8. Gushiegu Municipal

North East Region

1. Bunkpurugu Nyankpanduri District
2. Yunyoo-Nasuan District
3. East Mamprusi Municipal
4. West Mamprusi Municipal
5. Mamprugu Moagduri District
6. Chereponi District

Savannah Region

1. Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District
2. North Gonja District
3. Bole District
4. North-East Gonja District

Oti Region

1. Krachi East Municipal
2. Krachi West Municipal
3. Nkwanta North District
4. Nkwanta South Municipal



Resource Links

Press Release: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/03/31/afw-450-million-regional-investment-in-northern-regions-of-gulf-of-guinea-countries-seeks-to-build-trust-opportunities>

Project Details: <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P175043>

Project Appraisal Document: <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/636701648764907786/benin-cote-divoire-ghana-togo-gulf-of-guinea-northern-regions-social-cohesion-project>

Project documents on Environmental and Social Risks: <http://www.mlgrd.gov.gh/index.php/features/google-charts/gulf-of-guinea-northern-regions-social-cohesion-project-soco>