

The World Bank Home • Site Map • Index • FAQs • Contact Us

[About](#) | [Countries](#) | [Data & Research](#) | [Learning](#) | [News](#) | [Projects & Operations](#) | [Publications](#) | [Topics](#)

**News & Broadcast**

Search

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Press Releases](#) > [Ghana Borrows \\$71 Million to Clean upCit...](#) [Email](#) [Print](#)

- [عربي](#)
- [Español](#)
- [中文](#)
- [Français](#)
- [Русский](#)

[All News](#)

**Press Releases**

- ▶ [All By Date](#)
- ▶ [By Topic](#)
- ▶ [By Region / Country](#)
- ▶ [By Language](#)

[Feature Stories](#)

[Loans & Credits](#)

[Speeches](#)

[Opinions](#)

[Transcripts](#)

[Issue Briefs](#)

[Results Profiles](#)

[Events and Consultations Calendar](#)

[Media Contacts](#)

[Photo Library](#)

**Online Media Briefing Cntr**

Embargoed news for accredited journalists only.  
[Login](#) / [Register](#)

## Ghana Borrows \$71 Million to Clean upCities

Press Release No:96/20AFR

Contact: Eric Chinje (202) 473-4467

**WASHINGTON, March 26, 1996** -The Board of Directors of the World Bank today approved a \$71 million loan to Ghana to help fund a \$89 million project to improve sanitation, storm drainage, and solid waste facilities in the major cities of Accra, Kumasi, Sekondi-Takoradi, Tema, and Tamale.

In keeping with the country's 10-year National Environmental Action Plan (1991-2000), the project will take steps to:

- Improve storm drainage in the central business areas of Accra, Kumasi, and Sekondi-Takoradi, where flooding is chronic;
- Improve sanitary conditions in all five target cities by building or upgrading public, domestic, and school sanitation facilities and sewage treatment and disposal plants;
- Upgrade basic infrastructure (street lights, roads, drainage, water supply, solid waste, and sanitation facilities) in poor neighborhoods where 265,000 people live;
- Help the relevant government Ministries to set waste management policies and standards and train the local government authorities to plan sanitation services; manage the use of private contractors to construct, provide, and maintain them; and collect sufficient revenue to cover costs.

Consistent with the government's decentralization policy, metropolitan and municipal assemblies will be responsible for carrying out the proposed improvements, which should substantially boost the economic productivity and living standards of poor neighborhoods. To make sure that the effects last, the **Ghana Urban Environmental Sanitation Project** will help local authorities form policies and set up institutions needed to provide and finance basic sanitation services, to ensure that the officials in charge gain the experience and skills they need to manage the sector in the future.

### Ghana's Burgeoning Cities

Over one-third of all Ghanaians today live in cities, where they work in industry or in service occupations—the two fastest-growing sectors of the economy. New urbanites total roughly 275,000 (equivalent to four cities the size of Cape Coast) every year. A drive to promote new investment in manufacturing promises to attract still larger numbers in future. Even at its present rate of growth of 4.2 percent a year, Ghana's urban population will double in just 17 years.

Despite this great influx of people, the incidence and depth of poverty in Ghana's cities has been steadily declining. Yet 1992 estimates found that 1.5 million Ghanaian urbanites still survive on less than \$300 (Cedis 132,230) a year. Most of these people live in poor districts where roads are unpaved, fewer than half the houses are connected to the municipal water system, flooding is common and drainage is poor and flooding is common, sanitation facilities and solid waste collection are inadequate, electricity is fitful, and street-lighting is poor or nonexistent. Due to these infrastructure failures, many of the poor must spend disproportionate amounts of money and time getting water for daily use, and they suffer higher-than-normal incidences of disease.

The Greater Accra Metropolitan Area (which includes both Accra and Tema) houses the majority of Ghana's industries, produces 15 to 20 percent of the GDP, employs 10 percent of the national work force, and handles three-quarters of all goods shipments.

The six-year project will begin in July 1996 with cofunding from the government (\$8.94 million), beneficiaries and local governments (\$5.32 million), and donors—in particular the Nordic Development Fund (US\$3.40 million) and the Netherlands (\$60 million). The World Bank loan, granted on standard IDA terms, will mature in 40 years.

For more information, please visit the [Projects](#) website.

#### Related News

- ▶ [Results Profile: Environment](#)



- ▶ [Innovation Improves Gender Programs, Spurs Economic Development in Africa, World Bank](#)
- ▶ [Africa's Food Markets Could Create One Trillion Dollar Opportunity by 2030](#)



[Home](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Index](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Search](#) |  [RSS](#)

© 2013 [The World Bank Group](#), All Rights Reserved. [Legal](#)