

COASTAL COMMUNITIES RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE AND DIARRHOEA PROJECT (C2R-CD)

COMMUNITY ENTRY VISITS (8TH – 9TH OCTOBER, 2020)

INTRODUCTION

The Coastal Communities Resilience to Climate and Diarrhoea (C2R-CD) project aims to generate long term data to model determine the interactions between climatic, hydrological, environmental, epidemiological, institutional and socio-cultural determinants of diarrhoea. Through this, the project seeks to build the resilience of communities to climate change effects. As part of activities to roll out the C2R-CD project, the project team embarked on community entry visits to the various project sites

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

Community Entry in Mumford, Gomoa West, Central Region

On Thursday 8th October 2020, the team met the staff of the Gomoa West District in Apam, Central region, Ghana. Representatives from Environmental, NADMO, Health, Agriculture, Internal Audit and Community Development Departments were present at the meeting. The meeting was chaired by the Assistant Director of the Assembly. According to the assembly, the district was made up of 78 communities with Apam as the district capital.

The project team lead, Dr. Yirenya-Tawiah made a presentation on the overview of the project. This was followed by discussions on the presentation.

The Assembly pledged their support to the project and hoped that the outcome of the project would help the district. The project team was also urged to involve the Assembly in all project activities and to share data collected with them so that promote action can be taken when needed. The Agriculture representative encouraged that the Fisheries Department of the district should be contacted and encouraged since they would be of much help to the project.

The team also met the community leaders of Mumford on the same day. The meeting was attended by three assembly members, a representative from the district assembly, the Physician Assistant of the Mumford Health Center, The Chief Fisherman, his secretary and one of his elders, community health volunteers and fishmongers.

Dr. Browne Klutse gave an overview of the project to the community leaders. This was followed by discussions on the project. During the discussions, issues on education on diarrhoea and hygiene were raised. The community leaders asked that during our engagement with the community, education on these topics be carried out to help the community members. The community leaders also advised that to have a well-attended community engagement meeting with all community members, we involve the religious leaders and all other leaders of the community.

Community entry in Opetekwei, Ablekuma West

On 9th October, 2020, the team visited the Ablekuma West Municipal Assembly located in Dansoman, Accra. The team had a meeting with the staff of the assembly. The meeting was chaired by the Coordinating Director of the Assembly. In attendance were representative of NADMO, Community Development Office, and Development Planners.

Dr. Yirenya-Tawiah gave an overview of the project to the assembly. The Coordinating Director thanked the team for the initiation and assured the project team of their support. She however asked for clarification on why Opetekwei was chosen out of the 10 electoral areas in the municipality. The team explained to her that it was based on its uniqueness. That is the riverine flow and marine flow the community was faced with at the same time.

Madam Baraka, the Development Officer was selected as the project liaison between the assembly and the project team.

After the meeting with the assembly, the team moved to the Opetekwei community to engage the community leaders. The meeting was attended by a chief, assembly members, some community members and some influential heads of the community and staff of the municipal assembly.

The assembly member for Opetekwei electoral area, Mr. Anthony Samini welcomed the project team and presided over the meeting. Dr. Ted Annang explained the activities of the project to the community leaders. This was followed by discussions on the project and other related issues. Mr. Salifu of People's Dialogue urged the community leaders to get involved in the activities of the project to help improve their community. There were other discussions on sanitation and availability of toilet facilities in the homes. The Assembly used the opportunity to inform the community leaders of new policy of building toilet facilities in all households. They urged the leaders to spread the message.

The meeting ended with a drive through the community to give the project team a fair idea of the project site.

CONCLUSION

The aim of the activity was duly accomplished. The C2-CRD project team had fruitful engagements with the various assemblies and community leaders of the selected sites. Steps towards organizing community durbars are under discussed to help kick start the project successfully.