



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA



# LIRA CSO Engagement

**Theme: Cleaning from the bottom up; Inclusive Stakeholder participation for integrated waste Management in Accra**



**Prepared by Green Africa Youth Organization  
5th of May 2021**



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## ABBREVIATIONS

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| ● LIRA  | - Leading Integrated Research for Agenda 2030 in Africa |
| ● CSOs  | - Civil Society Organizations                           |
| ● MMDAs | - Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies       |
| ● MSWM  | - Municipal Solid Waste Management                      |
| ● IESS  | - Institute of Environment and Sanitation Studies       |
| ● GEMA  | - Ga-East Municipal Assembly                            |
| ● BTTA  | - Bolar Taxi and Tricycle Association                   |
| ● GAYO  | - Green Africa Youth Organization                       |



## A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report is compiled by Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO) as part of the project deliverables on the LIRA Project to formalize the informal waste sector in Accra, Ghana. Formalizing the informal waste collectors is essential in addressing the challenges of informal waste pickers and the need to make room for civic participation in waste management is pivotal in mobilizing external efforts for both the informal waste sector and Municipal Assemblies.

With the Leading Organization, Institute for Environmental and Sanitation Studies (IESS), University of Ghana, , backed by the Government body, Ga East Municipal Assembly, and supported by the Non-Governmental Organization [GAYO](#), The CSO Engagement aimed at meeting the following objectives including rallying the contributions of CSOs on supports that can be extended to the waste sector, enable synergies that will continuously and systematically build the capacities of MMDAs to lead the process of recognizing, integrating and organizing the informal waste sectors as part of the MSWM system and to create awareness on the contributions of informal waste workers to sustainable waste management.

The engagement took place on the 29th of April 2021 at the Presbyterian Women's Center, Abokobi from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm. Delivering the purpose for the gathering, Dr Dzidzo Yirenya-Tawiah mentioned the set objectives for the day's agenda whilst acknowledging the benefit of the engagement of all actors e.g informal waste collectors, Municipal Assemblies, Academia, CSO's and the general public for achieving sustainable waste management in national development. Mr Kenneth Daniels delivering the speech on behalf of the Municipal Chief Executive, Hon. Janet Tulasi Mensah highlighted the work done within the assembly in an attempt to formalize the informal waste sector. He mentioned that this has included gathering data-based information about all tricycle operators, the use of their task force to identify illegal operators, again they have provided bins at schools to increase waste collection coverage.

Dr Ted Yemoh Annang, on behalf of the Director of IESS, commended the efforts at regularizing the informal waste collectors and pledged IESS's support to continuously work with the necessary stakeholders to promote the work of the Assembly in formalising the informal waste sector.

Initial activities with project partners led to the registration of the Ga-East Borla Taxi as a Co-operative. At the event all the registration documents were formally handed to the executives of the Ga-East Association of BTTA and personal protective equipment (PPEs) were donated to the association. The highlight of the session was the engagement of the 10 CSO groups, where they pledged their efforts to support the informal waste workers including resource mobilization, awareness creation, SSNIT and NHIS registration, training and building the institutional capacity of the informal waste sector among others.

The event saw a total attendance population of 100, these included: the waste collectors, GA East Assembly, CSO, GAYO, Assemblyman IESS, UG and other invited guests. The dignitaries in attendance were Mr Kenneth Daniels, the Deputy Director of the Ga East Municipal Assembly, who represented the Municipal Chief Executive, Mr Charles Asabre-Ampomah, MEHO, Hon. Jesse Nii Noi Anum, the Presiding Member, Dr Ted Yemoh Annang, Senior Research fellow and representative of the Director of IESS, UG, Dr Dzidzo





Yirenya-Tawiah, the lead on the LIRA Project, who doubles as the Senior Research fellow at UG, Madame Lydia Bamfo the president-elect of the BTTA Association, and representatives from GAYO. The engagement gathered 53 informal waste pickers, 17 members of the Assembly, 5 IESS, UG personnel, 4 GAYO officials, 10 CSOs, 7 executive members of the Borla Taxi & Tricycle Association (BTTA) and a section of the Media, including the Daily Graphic, UTV, Ghana News Agency(GNA) and EBN News.

## B. BACKGROUND

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

In Ghana, informal waste workers play an important role in the solid waste management system. The environmental and economic contributions of informal workers to local governments, local communities, and value chains in many ways are unrecognized. It is therefore essential to build synergies to solicit support from different stakeholders’ perspectives in enhancing efficient formal and informal collaboration to systematically professionalize the career of the informal waste pickers.

The LIRA project, *Cleaning from the bottom up: integrated stakeholder engagement*, has the goal of recognizing, integrating and facilitating the regularization of the informal waste collectors while supporting the MSWM system to enhance sustainable waste management and ensuring an all-inclusive effort towards environmental sustainability, this led to the collaboration of the University of Ghana’s Institute of Environment and Sanitation Studies (IESS), the Ga-East Municipal Assembly and [Green Africa Youth Organization \(GAYO\)](#) and the [Borla Taxi and Tricycle Association \(BTTA\)](#).

As part of the project engagement activities, this CSO event was organized to bring together CSOs to create awareness among them and solicit their support to advocate for informal waste workers. The theme of the event was ‘Formalizing the informal waste collectors’



**Figure1:** Participants attending the CSO event



## 2.0. STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

This report details the main activities that took place during the Engagement. The report is structured around the items on the event program, responsibilities, the different views shared, and consensus built.

**Table 1:** Detailed program outline for the CSO Engagement

No.	Item	Designate	Time Allocation
1	Welcoming Address	GEMA: Mr. Charles Asabre	10:30- 10:35 am
2	Purpose of gathering	Dr. Dzidzo Yirenya-Tawiah- IESS - UG	10:35- 10: 50 am
3	Address from the Assembly	GEMA: Municipal Chief Executive: Mrs Janet Tulasi Mensah,	10:50 – 11:20 am
4	Address from IESS	IESS Director: Prof. Kwasi Appeaning Addo.	10: 20- 10:40 am
5	Documentary on Informal waste pickers “Daily hustle”	Nicholas Seun Adatsi,	10:40- 11:00 am
6.	Handing Over to Executives of the waste pickers. 1.Registration documents  2. Personal Protective Equipment	GEMA, IESS, GAYO	11:30 -11: 50 am
7.	Appreciation speech from BTTA	BTTA: Interim Executive Representative: Madam Lydia.	11:50 – 11:55 am



8.	CSO discussion on the support that can be extended to the Informal waste pickers and available existing opportunities.  1. CSO 2. Informal waste pickers 3. GEMA 4. IESS	Led by GAYO: Betty Osei Bonsu	11:00- 11:30 am
9	Photographs	Nicholas Seun Adatsi,	11: 55 – 12: 00 pm
10	Closing Remarks	Assembly Representative	12:00 – 12: 20 pm
11	Item 13 and departure		

## C. EVENT

### 2.1 WELCOMING ADDRESS

The meeting started at 10:30 pm prompt with an official opening welcome from the moderator of the day, Betty Osei-Bonsu, Project Coordinator-Accra for GAYO, followed by a welcome address by Mr Charles Asabre from the Ga-East Municipal Assembly who expressed his happiness at the partnership between the IESS and GAYO in exploring ways of formalizing the informal sector waste collectors to advance their work.

### 2.2 PURPOSE OF GATHERING

Dr Dzidzo Yirenya-Tawiah, a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Environment and Sanitation Studies, University of Ghana, and lead for the LIRA Project, Cleaning from the bottom up, in Ghana delivered the purpose for the gathering highlighting that the role of everyone to achieving sustainable waste management. She stressed on the positive contributions of the informal waste collectors and the need have them regularized to curb some challenges they face in their operations. She believes that the engagement and inauguration of the informal waste workers in the Assembly would mark the beginning of a good working relationship between the waste collectors and the Assembly.



**Figure 2:** Dr Dzidzo Yirenya-Tawiah speaking and Mr. Charles Asabre at the CSO engagement.

### 2.3 ADDRESS FROM THE ASSEMBLY

Mr Kenneth Daniels, the Deputy Director of Ga East Municipal Assembly delivered the address on behalf of Ms Janet Tulasi Mensah, the Municipal Chief Executive for the Ga-East Municipal Assembly. In the address, he remarked how sanitation remains one of the key challenges facing the development and how the initiative to formalize the informal waste sector and synchronize them with the existing, will make some remarkable gains going forward. He mentioned their achievements including introducing sanitation clubs across schools within the municipality and partnerships with both local and international bodies, an example is the European Union and Ghana National Scholarship Beneficiaries Association (GNASBA). He furthered that, through the activities to ensure strict regulation to waste management issues, they successfully registered 150 informal waste collectors and operators. He outlined the plans in formalizing the informal waste sector to include gathering data-based information about all stakeholders (tricycle) and identifying illegal operators as they strive to increase waste collection coverage to eliminate their illegal dumping of refuse in the municipality.

### 2.4 ADDRESS FROM INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION STUDIES (IESS)

Dr Ted Yemoh, a senior research fellow of IESS who represented the Director of the Institute highlighted the importance of waste management, the need for collaboration in addressing the menace of waste in Ghana and the support towards the frontliners. He expressed that although the need to formalize the informal waste sector is already late, it is important to do so to help newly developing peri-urban areas that have poor access and lack waste collection services. Adding that, the existing research gaps and the need to find solutions to the challenge is of great necessity. He reiterated the full support of IESS and their collaborative approaches including advocacy to enhance the operation of the waste pickers for better service delivery and continuous partnership with important stakeholders.





**Figure 3:** Mr Kenneth Daniels and Dr Ted Yemoh delivering their speeches at the CSO Event.

## 2.5 DOCUMENTARY ON INFORMAL WASTE PICKERS

A documentary on the 'Daily Hustle' of the informal waste pickers was screened to all the participants to show the daily plight of the informal waste picker. This was facilitated by Nicholas Seun Adatsi. Attached [here](#) is the link to the video.

## 2.6 HANDING OVER OF ITEMS TO EXECUTIVES OF WASTE PICKERS

The handing over of registration documents to the waste collectors and their executives proceeded with the documentary screening. These were presented to the newly nominated executives of the BTTA, with donated items to the members of the informal waste picker groups. These include personal protective equipment (PPE) such as hand gloves, nose masks and branded reflective vests to support their work.



**Figure 4:** Handing over of registration documents and PPEs





## 2.7 APPRECIATION SPEECH FROM BTTA

Executives of the BTTA thanked the organizers of the event for their support for the quest to make their work become a professional one. Madam Lydia Bamfo, The National President of the Association expressed her gratitude to the IESS, GEMA and GAYO on behalf of the newly elected executives, in her gratitude she mentioned that the group has introduced a task force to oversee members actions and inactions to ensure they follow the regulations governing their operations towards making Ghana Clean.



Figure 5: Appreciation speech from BTTA

## 2.8. CSOs BRAINSTORMING SESSION

10 CSO (Human Reporters Ghana, The Ghana Youth Environmental Movement, SESA Recycling, Coliba, African Network for Young Leaders for Peace and Sustainable Development, Precious Feet International formalizing the informal waste sector, Windows of Change, Environment 360, Green Africa Youth Organization and CHSiNT Afrique) joined the engagement and made highlights on what formalizing the informal waste sector means to them as an organization, what opportunities they see working with them, how their organization or the public can support their work and existing opportunities/ benefits for waste pickers within their space.

Human Reporters Ghana relished that they look forward to providing the informal waste pickers groups with visibility, space, celebrating them and also championing their initiative, they also intend to advocate for an award scheme to celebrate the best informal waste pickers in Ghana and even extend it to the cleanest Municipality.

The Ghana Youth Environmental Movement, Environment 360 and CHSiNT Afrique zeroed in on how the goal of formalizing the informal waste sector was important towards environmental protection and to them as a movement, they anticipate organizing Skills Training for the informal waste pickers groups.



SESA Recycling as an organization also extends its support towards community outreaches and sensitisation for people to segregate their waste as an entry point towards formalizing the informal waste picker sector, SESA also looks forward to providing training on waste management to the group members. Coliba emphasized how they can leverage their advantage to support the informal waste with exposure.

The African Network for Young Leaders for Peace and Sustainable Development made known their intention before the engagement in organizing afloat to sensitize the public about respecting the dignity of the profession of informal waste pickers in Ghana, he complained about how waste pickers are treated in the country, making the point that in instances where informal waste pickers become injured or ill in the line of duty and go to a health care centre, they are asked to go and change their clothes before coming to the hospital. Waste pickers have the right to healthcare and therefore all forms of discrimination should cease. Including what they wear. Therefore, there is the need to advocate for their rights as a priority.

Precious Feet International speaking says, formalizing the informal waste sector will lead to a reduction in rural to urban migration, as many waste picker groups have had to travel from other parts of the region to work. This will also create jobs within the region, reduce child labour, as formalizing the waste pickers will mean that members would be registered and tracked to abide by rules, and regulation. It would also change the notion of the job to the public and create room for increased livelihood. Precious Feet International also looks forward to organising capacity-building workshops on occupational health and workplace ethics in the lead up to formalizing the informal waste pickers sector, again supporting them to acquire social securities like health insurance as the work exposes them to various health challenges. As part of the opportunities they seek to offer, they included civic education on sanitation as one of the areas they look at.

Windows of Change as an organization who works targets women and children gave prominence to educating women not to burn their waste but segregating this is to curb the menace of plastic as well as generate income for the informal waste pickers. On existing opportunities, they look forward to inviting members of the waste pickers and tricycle association to talk to women during events organized by the institution on the relevance of their work.

GAYO equally stressed the urgent need for a transfer station to save waste pickers the bane of having to spend long hours and sometimes days in order to dump their waste, they also pledged to continuously work with local assembly to support them. They are currently working to provide transit stations for the group.



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**Figure 5: Picture of Some CSO speaking at the engagement**

The table in 2.8.1 gives details on the CSO engaged, their contact, website, name of the representatives and their emails.



## 2.8.1. COMPILATION OF CSOs PRESENT

NO	Organisation	Phone number	Name of Attendee	E-mail	Website/ contact person
1.	Coliba	+233208563799 0302963207	Michael Jefferson Nelson	<a href="mailto:info@coliba.com.gh">info@coliba.com.gh</a> <a href="mailto:Agbata@coliba.com.gh">Agbata@coliba.com.gh</a> <a href="mailto:Magbata@coliba.com.gh">Magbata@coliba.com.gh</a>	<a href="https://coliba.com.gh/">https://coliba.com.gh/</a>
2.	Ghana Youth Environmental Movement (GYEM)	+233 30 233 3857, +233 55 525 3841	Matthew Azure Awini	<a href="mailto:gyemgh@gmail.com">gyemgh@gmail.com</a> , <a href="mailto:info@gyemgh.org">info@gyemgh.org</a>	<a href="https://gyemgh.org/">https://gyemgh.org/</a>
3.	Rescue Mission International	+233241924890	Ramadan Mohammed  Usman Ibrahim	<a href="mailto:rescuemissionint@gmail.com">rescuemissionint@gmail.com</a>  clrituzee@rminternational.com  arituze@rminternational.org	<a href="http://RescueMissionInternational.com">Rescue Mission International – With you we can make the difference (rminternational.org)</a>
4.	Human Rights Reporters	0243676813	Akpene Attipoe	<a href="mailto:wemakor@gmail.com">wemakor@gmail.com</a>  wemakorj@gmail.com	
5.	Sesa Recycling	0542538832	Christopher Gyan	hello@sesa_recycling.com  gyanchristopher@gmail.com	<a href="http://SesaRecycling.com">Sesa Recycling   Waste Management in Accra (sesa-recycling.com)</a>  Christopher Gyan-Mensah





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6.	Environment 360	+233 244 669 851		info@environment360gh.org pm@environment360gh.org	https://environment360gh.org/
7..	CHSiNT Afrique	0278054581		CHSiNT Afrique	v.sondo@chaint.org
8.	African Network of Young Leaders for Peace and Sustainable Development (ANYL4PSD)	0242689858	Prosper Kwaku Selassy	psalassy83@gmail.com	N/A
9.	Precious Feet International, Otoase -Ayensuano E/R	024 211 3873	Bernice Oduro-Gyan (Project Coordinator)	prefits2020@gmail.com	Bernice Oduro-Gyan Project Coordinator
10.	Window of Change Foundation.	0208808685	Rosemond Owusu	mondowusu2002@yahoo.com	Rosemond Owusu,



## D. DISCUSSION

In order to ensure that the target audience who are more prevalent in Twi understand what the CSOs shared, Mr Charles Asabre of the Ga-East Municipal Assembly was tasked with translating into Twi.

After this a round of questions was taken, Madame Lydia Bamfo, a member of the Borla Taxi and Tricycle association complained about the difficulty in licensing the tricycle of their members to operate officially. She mentioned the inability to read and write and therefore not being able to apply for the licence. She asked how the project could support them. She also asked if the Municipal authorities will invite them to participate in clean up exercise and equally be given all resources of which they deserve during the exercises?

Issues of waste dump sites and opportunities to promote waste segregation from source. One of the critical questions raised during the session was that “when there is waste segregation at the source, as taught by the external organizations, will there be an alternative dumping site where the segregated waste will be transformed?” The question sought to draw attention to limited waste recovery centers to receive sorted waste.

Mr Kenneth Daniels, Deputy Director of the Ga East Municipal Assembly re-emphasized that the Assembly will commence work to ensure that members who don't have proper licenses are provided with one, he mentioned that in the next cleanup they will look forward to having the informal waste collectors participate.

Dr Dzidzo Yirenya-Yawiah enquired about the plans of the waste pickers in the Ga-East Municipal Assembly after the stakeholder engagement. In response, the informal waste pickers mentioned that their plans were to follow the rules within which they should operate and partner with the municipal assembly in ensuring proper waste management

The representative of the Director of IESS encouraged the assembly to ensure that there are enough transfer stations with the municipalities. In response, the assembly mentioned that the government through the ministry of sanitation has acquired funding from the World Bank to build a transfer station and this station happens to begin with the Ga-East Municipal Assembly.

Ms Betty Osei-Bonsu, Project Coordinator of GAYO mentioned the intention to have these engagements and subsequent implementation of transfer stations in partnership with the Assembly. Further she asked IESS for their plans for the project, they mentioned Education, and Advocacy. Madam Dzidzo also added that the large nature of the University Community in Research, Engineering etc. provides the opportunity to drive the search for sustainable solutions to support the informal waste sector.



Elections were then held to select executives for the Informal waste collectors in Ga East Municipal Assembly

The meeting ended with an appreciation address and a photo session.

## E. CONCLUSIONS

Following the success of the engagement, the LIRA project is expected to continue. The formalizing the informal waste sector agenda is envisaged to expand, incorporating the suggestions shared by the Civil Society Organisation present, this will include partnerships for scheduled activities and existing projects, training and capacity building opportunities.

## F. BUDGET

No	ITEM	QUANTITY	UNIT COST	Total COST
1	Venue	3 hours	-	1585
2	Refreshment	75 persons	18 per plate	1350
3	Communication and Media	PRO (Daily Graphic, UTV, Ghana web, GNA).	300, 300, 200, 200	1000
4	Transportation	-	-	850
5	Honorarium for CSO	10	150	1500
6	Honorarium for Assembly	5 person	400, 400, 300, 200, 200, 100	1500
	Honorarium for BTTA Executives	7	50 cedis/ person	350
6	Miscellaneous (Nose Mask/ Paper cups/paper bags/ water)	2 packs	-	350
				<b>8485</b>

## G. MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

Ghana News Agency: [GAMMA INAUGURATES INFORMAL WASTE WORKERS](#)

Ghana Web: [GA EAST MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY PARTNERS IESS AND GAYO](#)

Ghana News Desk: [GEMMA PARTNERS STAKEHOLDERS FOR EFFECTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT](#)



## I. PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

[LIRA CSOs Engagement Photos](#)

## H. EVENT GALLERY

