

Slamson Ghana, Ltd.
Consultancies & Project Management
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In addition to work in sanitation and resource recovery, Slamson's team has worked extensively in the non-profit sector and in social enterprise, managing projects in the north of Ghana and other countries that have faced challenges due to war, political/economic instability, and historical underdevelopment (Russia, Bosnia, Romania, India).

Since its founding in 2012, Slamson has been sought out to provide local support for the inception and implementation of a number of projects aimed at targeting some of the most difficult environmental and social challenges in the developing world. With Slamson's support, the implementing organizations were able to access appropriate stakeholders at both the institutional and grassroots level, and overcome many political and sociocultural barriers that often lie in the way of making projects successful in a local community.

Clean Water

In 2013, Slamson assisted with a clean water initiative undertaken by a Ghana-based NGO (Hydraid.org). The aim was to educate and distribute bio-sand filters among those who had a lack of access to clean water and were the most at risk for water-borne disease, particularly in the Old Fadama slum (Sodom and Gomorrah, Agbogbloshie). Facing difficulties in gaining access and trust of the local population, Slamson assisted with community access, and helped the NGO to gain the trust of the local women, those important for the buy-in to any new household initiative.

Specifically, Slamson was able to gain the acceptance and trust of the slum residents because its key personnel, Sam and Paul, were from the north, and had the skills (e.g. cultural, linguistic) to deal with many of the challenges related to mediating among the competing ethnic groups of the Old Fadama community. Most specifically, Sam, Slamson's MD, developed a good relationship with many residents of the slum, who entrusted him with access to the community. With this access, he was able to identify key leaders who could influence the rest of the community, thereby leading to success of the project.

E-Waste: Ericsson (Sweden) & GIZ (Germany)

2013: Ericsson

In 2013, Slamson was approached by Ericsson, the Swedish telecommunications company, to help conduct a feasibility study for a corporate sustainability program. They were interested in establishing a program that dealt with the challenges of e-waste in Africa. Again, Slamson's key personnel facilitated access to the e-waste stakeholders in the Agbogbloshie community, and assisted in a pre-feasibility exercise.

Although Ericsson did not launch their corporate e-waste program in Ghana, they went on to use the information to establish successful e-waste programs in collaboration with MTN in Ivory Coast and Benin. Nevertheless, Slamson has always maintained a strong network with Ericsson, who has indicated that if the opportunity arose, they would be interested in pursuing a similar type of initiative in Accra.

2016: GIZ

In February 2016, Slamson was contracted by GIZ (German development agency) as the local expert for a 5,000,000 euro e-waste initiative that aims to bring real sustainable change to the e-waste practices in the Agbogbloshie community of Accra, one of the world's largest e-waste dumps. The treatment of e-waste in Accra is predominantly an industry operating in the informal sector. It is a well-organized and dynamic industry that functions to provide quick cash flow to all actors involved. Changing this complex and well-organized industry has proved challenging for all those who have come before.

In a short time, Slamson was able to provide a detailed overview of previous initiatives and studies examining the e-waste practices in the slum, and examine these in relation to what is currently happening inside the community. Focused on the most practical aspects of the industry, Slamson's personnel has compiled information, and continues to compile information that outsiders (even Ghanaians) may not have access to, through a well-developed network in the Old Fadama slum.

Further, Slamson is the first to use gender as an independent indicator in analyzing how the current e-waste practices affect women and girls, and more importantly how a more formalized sector will affect women and girls differently from men and boys. As a "male-dominated" industry, females, who dominate informal sector economic activities in Accra, are not likely to receive the better working conditions or social benefits that men working in the informal e-waste sector will receive. As such, any initiative to formalize and improve working conditions in e-waste (for men) should incorporate a specific plan to also provide equal opportunities for women to participate in formal sector activities that promise better social conditions for those living and working in the community.

Slamson will continue to work with GIZ as they go forward in their efforts to determine the most appropriate ways to mitigate the severe environmental and social hazards that the e-waste industry present to the local population and the continent overall.

Sanitation in Ghana

The CEO of Slamson, Fredrik Sunesson, has consulted for a number of organizations, including Unicef, on the implementation of sanitation-related initiatives in a number of regions of Ghana (e.g. Ho, Tamale). This work has included providing guidance in the areas of design and implementation, as well as documentation and reporting work related to on-going initiatives.

Fredrik's knowledge of the local context and of development-related initiatives in Africa, along with that of the local Slamson team, make Slamson Ghana an ideal partner for development projects, especially in the areas of clean water and sanitation.

To see how Slamson can help you with your project, contact Fredrik Sunesson.

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