



Fredrik Sunesson, CEO - Slamson Ghana Ltd. (Updated: September 2016)
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Fredrik Sunesson, founder and CEO of Slamson Ghana Ltd., is an expert in providing sustainable solutions for infrastructure challenges in developing contexts, and has worked for the past 9 years in Ghana. He has led and consulted on a number of projects in Accra and Tamale that involve both local grassroots initiatives and municipal public-private partnerships. He has a network of local staff who facilitate the linguistic and cultural needs of any project so that it is feasible and sustainable, and can benefit the long-term development of Ghana. This biography will detail his experience chronologically, particularly in relation to his extensive knowledge of the local communities that make up Ghana's most densely populated urban regions, especially Accra.

Education & Experience pre-2007

Fredrik received his degree in Economics from the University of Lund in Sweden in 1991, and spent the next 15 years working in the non-profit sector at organizations such as the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF, also popularly known as the World Wildlife Fund) and World Vision International. He spent much of his non-profit career at World Vision involved in corporate relations and community development. With this organization, he worked in a number of countries that struggled with development challenges brought on by political instability, war, and historical underdevelopment (e.g. Russia, Bosnia, Thailand).

His strength as a non-profit manager laid in his ability to engage people around a cause, and bring together local citizens and leaders with those responsible for development and the allocation of funds at the national and international level. His dynamic personality and confident presence facilitated his ability to work in local communities and assemble effective teams from the local population. These skills served him well as he came to the end of his non-profit tenure and focused on Ghana as the next step in his development career.



Tamale, Ghana: 2007-2011

Fredrik relocated to Ghana in 2007 to lead a social enterprise, BonVi Ghana Ltd., which involved training and facilitating a micro-business franchise model for 800 local women. In this role, Fredrik shifted his focus from aid to financial independence by working with women from local communities, many of whom did not have many educational opportunities. Here, Fredrik became highly knowledgeable about the sociocultural realities that make implementing development projects a challenge in Ghana (e.g. chiefdoms, local politics, health and gender issues). It was also here that Fredrik recruited young, local staff who exhibited leadership skills and a strong work ethic, staff who would follow him to Accra and become his "right-hand" for the development of his current business focused on infrastructure development, Slamson Ghana Ltd.

Ghana: 2011- present

Upon more completely understanding the needs of the local communities he was working with, especially given the apparent high rate of urbanization he was observing, Fredrik shifted his focus to infrastructure development. He believed that in order for the local communities to really be financially independent and thrive, they needed proper infrastructure in place, including sanitation and sustainable energy sources. However, these projects needed to be relatively low-cost and rely on the local population for their sustainability. Below is a summary of the projects that Fredrik has undertaken since relocating to Accra in 2011.

Decommissioning of Lavender Hill, Danida-funded

In surveying the greatest needs in Accra, Fredrik centred on Lavender Hill as one of the top sanitation priorities for the city. This beachfront site is immediately adjacent to two of the most densely population communities in Accra: Jamestown and the Old Fadama slum (popularly referred to as Sodom & Gomorrah). At this site daily, over 150 septic trucks dump raw human waste onto the beach and into the ocean that many fishermen rely on for their livelihoods.

Unlike previous large-scale sanitation initiatives in the area, Fredrik introduced a low-cost, sustainable technology to tackle the immediate challenge of Lavender Hill, and together with Zoomlion and the Accra Municipal Assembly (AMA), Slamson launched a pilot site in 2013, operated by local staff, to treat 600 m³ of fecal sludge per day.



In 2015, Slamson signed agreements with AMA and the Danish development agency, Danida, to expand the site to treat an additional 800 m³ of fecal sludge, an initiative that works towards shutting down Lavender Hill for good.

Compost Plant, RVO-funded

Committed to not only sanitation development, but also to resource recovery, Fredrik (through Slamson) is the lead partner on an RVO-funded initiative to build and operate an organic compost plant that feeds directly from the expanded Lavender Hill sanitation facility, described above. At this plant, Slamson and its partners will produce 250 tons of organic compost per week, and distribute it mainly to the local community of urban and peri-urban farmers operating in and around Accra.

Landfill Methane Gas Extraction

In considering both the energy crisis that plagues Ghana, and the increasing hazard represented by landfills around the country, Fredrik has also sourced a low-cost and sustainable technology to extract methane gas from local landfills, and provide energy to the national grid. With this initiative, Slamson would mitigate the potentially damaging effects of infrastructure shortcomings faced by local communities in Ghana, namely that of energy provision and the danger posed by explosive landfill sites.

Clean Water Initiative, Old Fadama slum

Since relocating to Accra, Fredrik has also helped with the start-up and development of grassroots initiatives at the community level, most notably a clean water initiative in the Old Fadama slum. His knowledge of the local community, connection to the local community through his staff, and his ability to gain the trust of local partners (citizens, leaders, etc.) has made him a popular "go-to" guy for both foreign and local organizations looking for a way to bridge the gap between foreign and local interests, facilitating an understanding on both sides of the perspective and needs of the other.

E-Waste initiatives, Agbogbloshie market

In late 2013, Fredrik was approached by Ericsson, the Swedish telecommunications company, to see if Slamson could help gain access to the local community in Accra involved with e-waste activities. Ericsson was interested in developing a corporate responsibility program, but as outsiders, were unable to access the informal e-waste sector in Accra. With his team, Fredrik helped to design and implement a feasibility study appropriate to the local e-waste sector.



More recently in 2016, Slamson was hired by the German development agency, GIZ, to provide “local expertise” on the e-waste industry in the Agbogbloshie market. This initial assessment and report would serve as a foundation for a 5,000,000 million euro initiative to help formalize aspects of the e-waste sector in Ghana.

Fredrik prepared an updated report of the sector, which was the first of its kind to include gender as an independent indicator as part of the review. Fredrik will continue to work with GIZ as the agency goes forward with its work to improve the conditions of e-waste treatment for the local population in Ghana.

Local Consultancies

Fredrik has provided services as an individual consultant for a number of organizations on a number of sanitation-related initiatives in Sub-Saharan Africa. For example, in 2016, Fredrik was contracted by Unicef as a documentation specialist for sanitation initiatives in three rapidly developing urban areas of Ghana: Ashaiman, Ho, and Tamale.

Fredrik has the local knowledge, networks, and sociocultural know-how to be able to enter into most communities and provide a wide range of consultancy services aimed at improving behavior in the areas of sanitation and energy use.