

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	2
Executive Director's Report	4
1.0 THE BACKGROUND OF SIF.....	4
2.0 THE MANDATE OF SIF.....	5
3.0 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023	5
3.1 Post COVID-19 Skills Development and Productivity Enhancement Project (PSDPEP)	5
3.1.1 The Launch of PSDPEP	5
3.1.2 Verification Visit to Allied Agencies of PSDPEP	6
3.1.3 PSDPEP Supervision Mission	7
3.1.4 PSDPEP Technical Committee Meetings	8
3.1.5 PSDPEP Steering Committee Meetings	8
3.1.6 Implementation Status of PSDPEP	9
3.2 Integrated Rural Development Project Phase Two (IRDP 2), OFID Component	11
3.2.1 Launch of IRDP II, OFID Component	11
3.2.2 Implementation Status of IRDP II, OFID Component	13
3.3 Appraisal Mission of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)	13
3.4 Familiarization Tour of the Newly Appointed Executive Director of SIF	14
4.0 STATEMENT OF SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 ST DECEMBER, 2023	18
5.0 CHALLENGES	23
6.0 THE WAY FORWARD	23
7.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2024	23
7.1 Post COVID-19 Skills Development and Productivity Enhancement Project (PSDPEP)	23
7.2 Integrated Rural Development Project Phase Two (IRDP II), OFID Component	27



THE SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND (SIF)

FOREWORD



Daniel Botwe (MP),

*Minister for Local Government
Decentralisation and Rural
Development (MLGDRD)*

I am pleased to present to you the 2023 Annual Report of the Social Investment Fund (SIF). I trust that this report will give you understanding of the contribution of SIF to the Poverty Reduction Agenda of Ghana.

The Social Investment Fund (SIF) was set up in 1998 under the Companies Code 1963 (ACT 179) by the Government of the Republic of Ghana, African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as a rapid, reliable, and flexible mechanism for channeling resources to deliver targeted assistance to both Ghana's urban and rural impoverished communities. SIF is governed by Board of Directors. It employs effective institutional collaboration and cooperation coupled with the right targeting of beneficiaries and gender mainstreaming to create opportunities for the poor and vulnerable.

The Social Investment Fund is a pro-poor organization which has contributed to sustainable poverty reduction in rural and urban communities in Ghana for over 25 years. The SIF obtains funds for implementation of its activities from the Government of Ghana and its development partners. Over the years, the SIF has received funding support of over 83.5million United States Dollars from development partners for implementation of projects.

Out of the funding support, the SIF has provided over 1,629 socio-economic infrastructure for rural and peri-urban communities in Ghana for the benefit of about 1,600,000 people (10% of the poor population in Ghana). The SIF socio-economic infrastructure includes 6-Unit classroom blocks, Teachers' quarters, Early childhood development centers, Rural clinics, Water and sanitation. Other facilities that have been provided for rural and peri-urban communities by the Social Investment Fund are culverts, farm tracks, markets, artisan village, corn mills, and palm oil and shea butter processing centers.

The operations of SIF have also increased employment opportunities for people in its operating areas. The implementation of civil works has created jobs for over 400 small-scale contractors who have been engaged over the years. The contractors have also employed about





5,000 artisans and 10,000 unskilled labourers for construction purposes. Under the just ended Integrated Rural Development Project Phase One, over 2,000 employment opportunities were created for rural folks within the 21 beneficiary districts.

The SIF has improved performance and the delivery of services to entities and individuals over the past 25 years. Over 20,208 representatives of Local Government Authorities, Local communities, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Farmers and Farmer groups among others, have been empowered through provision of skills training in business development, problem analysis, project management, community governance, public-private partnership, the use of community score card in Project Monitoring, Agribusiness, farm management practices and appropriate use of agro-processing. The capacity building services provided by SIF has improved performance of individuals and entities to deliver improved quality services to poor communities in Ghana.

The SIF has also increased access of Micro, Small, Medium-Scale Enterprises (MSMEs) to microcredit over the years. The SIF microcredit scheme has benefitted over sixty (60) Rural and Community Banks and Financial Non-governmental Organizations in Ghana. The microcredit scheme has also improved access of credit facility to over 20,000 Micro, small and medium scale Enterprises (MSMEs) in pro-poor communities in Ghana. Under the Integrated Rural Development Project Phase One, SIF supported and built capacity of 4,219 farmers with a revolving loan amount of USD 3.12 million, resulting in an increase in agricultural productivity and income for the beneficiaries.

Currently, the SIF is implementing the Phase Two of the Integrated Rural Development Project (IRDP 2). The IRDP II was officially launched in August 2023. The Project is being implemented in 23 Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) across the 16 regions of Ghana. It is being funded from a loan facility of US\$20 Million from OFID.

The SIF is also implementing Post Covid-19 Skills Development and Productivity Enhancement Project (PSDPEP) which was officially launched in February 2023. The SIF is implementing PSDPEP with the Ghana News Agency (GNA), the Microfinance and Small Loans Centre (MASLOC) and the University of Ghana. The SIF is the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) for the PSDPEP which is being funded from a grant facility of US\$28.5 Million from African Development Bank.

It is evident from above that the core mandate and initiatives of the SIF align with the Medium-Term Development Agenda of the Government, which is to create opportunities for all Ghanaians through enhanced and equitable access to quality education; ensure quality Universal Health Coverage; promote healthy food nutritional environment and choices; eradicate poverty in all forms and dimensions; improve access to safe, reliable and sustainable water supply and ensure sustainable environmental sanitation services, among others.

The SIF has become the cutting edge of the government's development agenda. Government will continue to use the SIF as one of its major channels for the fight against poverty. The SIF has achieved a lot through effective collaboration with the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) and by working through Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Civil Society Organization (CSOs) and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) among others to reach poor households and individuals.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Ghana and our Development Partners especially, the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) for their continued invaluable support through our poverty reduction journey in Ghana. I wish to encourage them to continue with their support in the years ahead.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Mr. Justice Mensah-Amankwa

I am glad to present the 2023 Annual Report to our cherished Development Partners, stakeholders and other collaborators in the development arena. This report is important to me because this is my maiden report since I assumed office as the Executive Director in June 2023. The report highlights the background and the mandate of the Social Investment Fund, key achievements, sources and utilization of funds, challenges encountered during the year under review, and the way forward.

1.0 THE BACKGROUND OF SIF

The Social Investment Fund (SIF) was set up in 1998 under the Companies Code 1963 (ACT 179) by the Government of the Republic of Ghana, African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as a rapid, reliable, and flexible mechanism for channeling resources to deliver targeted assistance to both Ghana's urban and rural impoverished communities. SIF is governed by Board of Directors. It employs effective institutional collaboration and cooperation coupled with the right targeting of beneficiaries and gender mainstreaming to create opportunities for the poor and vulnerable. SIF also collaborates with Private and Government institutions to provide Consultancy services.

As a pro-poor institution, our goal is to contribute effectively to reducing rural and urban poverty in Ghana. Since its incorporation as a company limited by guarantee, SIF has attained the confidence of multilateral institutions, private business entities and the Government of Ghana (GoG). It has implemented projects funded by the:

1. African Development Bank (AfDB).
2. OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID).
3. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
4. Government of Ghana.
5. Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)
6. Private Business Entities.

Between 1998 and 2019, the SIF successfully completed the implementation of five (5) projects, namely, Ghana Poverty Reduction Project I (GPRP 1); Ghana Poverty Reduction Project II (also known as poverty II or OFID II); HIPC Poverty Reduction Project (HIPC); Urban Poverty Reduction Project (UPRP); and Integrated Rural Development Project.

Currently, SIF is implementing Integrated Rural Development Project Phase Two (IRDP II) with funding support from the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID); and Post COVID-19 Skills

Development and Productivity Enhancement Project (PSDPEP) with grant support from African Development Bank.

SIF operates in all the 16 regions of Ghana. Our operation areas are categorized into zones as follows:

Zone 1: Upper East, Upper West, Northern, North East and Savannah Regions.

Zone 2: Ashanti, Ahafo, Bono East and Brong Ahafo Regions.

Zone 3: Central, Western and Western North Regions.

Zone 4: Eastern, Volta, Oti and Greater Accra Regions.

1.1 Areas of Competencies of SIF

The areas of competencies of SIF are but not limited to the following:

1. Project design, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation
2. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development and Management
3. Human Resource Management
4. Planning, Organizing and Implementation of training Programmes
5. Manuals Development
6. Networking for Development



2.0 THE MANDATE OF SIF

The SIF is mandated to contribute significantly to reducing rural and urban poverty in Ghana through the provision of targeted assistance to poor/deprived communities in Ghana in partnership with Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Local Government Authorities, Civil Society and Development Partners using a gender-sensitive, flexible, participatory, demand driven and sustainable process in the under-listed areas:

1. Social and Economic Infrastructure and Services
2. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development and Management
3. Capacity Building and Institutional Development
4. Project Management

The core business of SIF lies within the spheres of our 4 service lines namely social and economic infrastructure and services, Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSMEs) development and management, capacity building and institutional development and project management.

3.0 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023

3.1 Post COVID-19 Skills Development and Productivity Enhancement Project (PSDPEP)

Post COVID-19 Skills Development and Productivity Enhancement Project (PSDPEP) is an intervention aimed at contributing to Ghana's sustainable post-COVID-19 recovery in the health sector and supporting the restoration of livelihoods, income and employment

opportunities and private sector development. PSDPEP is being funded from a grant facility of **\$US 28.5 million** from the African Development Bank (AfDB). The project has 3 components namely;

1. Skills Development in Higher Education for Strengthening the Health Sector
2. Rebuilding Youth and Women's Livelihoods Through Entrepreneurship and Employment Creation
3. Project Management

Beneficiaries of the Project are staff and clients of the project implementing institutions; youth and women operating MSMEs and/or in cooperatives; and the population of Ghana in general. PSDPEP is being implemented by the Social Investment Fund (SIF); Ghana News Agency (GNA); Microfinance and Loans Centre (MASLOC); and the University of Ghana (Department of Medical Microbiology, Biotechnology Centre, School of Nursing and Midwifery). The Project Implementing Unit (PIU) has been established within the existing social Investment Fund to undertake the day-to-day activities of the Project.

3.1.1 The Launch of PSDPEP

The Social Investment Fund, in collaboration with the African Development Bank, and its Allied Agencies, launched Post COVID-19 Skills Development and Productivity Enhancement Project (PSDPEP) on the 24th of January 2023 at Alisa Hotel, Accra. The event was attended by 101 persons comprising 78 males and 33 females. The following are pictures of the launch of PSDPEP.



Mr. Bekale Ollame, *Principal Country Programme Officer, AfDB*



Dr. Patience Ugonma Ekoh, *Principal Socio-economist AfDB and the Task Manager of PSDPEP*



Participants of the Project launch



3.1.2 Verification Visit to Allied Agencies of PSDPEP

The Post COVID-19 Skills Development and Productivity Enhancement Project (PSDPEP) required that within six (6) months of the first disbursement of the grant, the recipients (Allied Agencies) should provide proof of acquisition of their counterpart contributions. In fulfilment of this grant requirement, the beneficiary institutions namely, University of Ghana (School of Nursing and Midwifery, Department of Medical Microbiology, and Biotechnology Centre); and the Ghana News Agency submitted their respective proof of acquisition of counterpart contributions to the African Development Bank. Similarly, the four (4) technical and vocational institutes (Otaakrom Technical Institute, Otaakrom in Ashanti Region; Abetifi Vocational Training Institute, Abetifi in Eastern Region; Nsuatre Vocational and Technical Institute, Nsuatre in Bono Region; and St. John Technical Institute, Nandom in Upper West Region) submitted their respective proof of acquisition of counterpart contributions to the African Development Bank.

Consequently, in May 2023 the Project Implementing Unit conducted a verification exercise to confirm availability of resources and services for implementation of proposed interventions in the beneficiary institutions. The exercise was also meant to ensure that allocated resources (parcels of land and offices) were free from litigation and other related issues that may negatively affect smooth implementation of the Project. The Specific

objectives of the verification exercise were to:

1. Visit proposed sites for the construction or rehabilitation of facilities to verify their availability (as explained in the proof of acquisition) as well as confirm the viability of the project interventions.
2. Ensure that relevant institutions were ready to provide the required support/services for implementation of the proposed interventions.

The verification team comprised the former Project Coordinator, Mr. Kofi Frimpong; the Monitoring and Evaluation Expert, Mr. MacDonald Acquah; the Procurement Expert, Dr. Kwaku Agbesi; and the Finance and Accounting Expert, Mr. Augustine Donkor-Afram. The team interacted with a total of seventy-six (76) relevant stakeholders of the project beneficiary institutions during the exercise.

It was generally observed that the beneficiary institutions were owners of parcels of land or resources allocated for the proposed interventions. It was further observed that the expectation of stakeholders for the PSDPEP project was very high. Stakeholders expect the Project to address the needs of the beneficiary technical institutions regarding infrastructure, as well as the skill needs of the youths and women who will benefit from the project.



PIU Team with relevant stakeholders of Nsuatre Vocational Training Institute, Nsuatre



Site for the construction of the proposed facility being inspected by the PIU team and officials from the Centre and the Physical Development Directorate of University of Ghana.



PIU Team with relevant stakeholders of St. Johns Training Institute, Nandom





PIU Team with relevant stakeholders of Otaakrom Technical Institute, Ashanti Region

3.1.3 PSDPEP Supervision Mission

The African Development Bank (AfDB) undertook two supervision missions of the Post COVID-19 Productivity Enhancement Project (PSDPEP) during the year under review. The first supervision mission was undertaken in February 2023 whilst the second mission was undertaken in December 2023. The purpose for the Bank's supervision mission was to assess the progress of implementation of the project. The fourth quarter supervision Mission was

led by the Task Manager of PSDPEP, Dr. Patience Ugonma Ekoh. The AfDB team visited each of the Allied Agencies to discuss the status of their components and the way forward. The mission also had meetings with the Ministry of Finance to discuss the implementation status of the PSDPEP. The AfDB mission further engaged the ARB Apex Bank which is the Fund Manager of the Micro-credit component of the project. An Aide Memoire was prepared at the end of the supervision mission.



PIU and Allied Agencies' meeting with the AfDB Supervision Mission

3.1.4 PSDPEP Technical Committee Meetings

The Technical Committee of the Post COVID-19 Skills Development and Productivity Enhancement Project (PSDPEP) is made up of fifteen members. The Committee serves as a platform for regular review of PSDPEP implementation and reports to the Project Steering Committee. The Technical Committee proposes and informs the agenda of the meetings of the Project Steering Committee. It refers complicated and challenging project implementation issues to the Project Steering Committee for resolution and guidance. Its membership comprises all project beneficiary

institutions at the technical level. To ensure effective coordination, cooperation and collaboration with the Project Steering Committee, the Project Technical Committee is chaired by the Executive Director of the Social Investment Fund who is also the Project Coordinator.

The Technical Committee is expected to meet every quarter. During the year under review, four (4) Technical Committee Meetings were organized by the PIU.



Members of the Project Technical Committee (PTC)



Project Technical Committee (PTC) meeting in session

3.1.5 PSDPEP Steering Committee Meetings

The Steering Committee of the Post COVID-19 Skills Development and Productivity Enhancement Project (PSDPEP) ensures that the objectives, outcomes and outputs of the project are achieved in a timely manner, with high considerations for cost-efficiency and cost-effectiveness. The Committee also ensures that all project beneficiary institutions perform their roles satisfactorily during the life of the project and that project implementation failures are corrected expeditiously. It is also the duty of the Committee to ensure that there is effective inter-ministerial and inter-agency cooperation that will help resolve any project implementation challenges or issues. The Committee approves the Annual Work Plans and Budgets of the project and conducts Quarterly and Annual Reviews.

Membership of the Project Steering Committee comprises policy and managerial level staff of the Ministries of Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development; Education; Health; Finance; Environment, Science and Technology; Gender Children, and Social Protection; the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations; the University of Ghana; Microfinance and Small Loans Centre

(MASLOC); the Ministry of Information; the Ghana Statistical Service; and the Ghana Enterprises Agency (GEA) at the corporate level. The Social Investment Fund serves as the Secretariat of the Committee and its Executive Director is the Secretary. To ensure objective and accountable reviews of project implementation, the Committee is chaired by the Ministry of Finance.

The Project Steering Committee is expected to meet at least twice in a year. However, the Committee met only once in 2023 because of a change of the Executive Director of the Social Investment Fund in June 2023. The change in the Executive Director who doubled as the Project Coordinator, and served as the Secretary to the Committee made it difficult to organize any meeting until September when a new Project Coordinator was confirmed by the Bank.

Consequently, the maiden Steering Committee meeting was held in December, 2023 at Kwayisbea Hotel in the Eastern Region. The meeting was chaired by Madam Yvonne Quansah, Director of External Resource Mobilisation and Economic Relations at the Ministry Finance. It was attended by 18 participants. The following are the pictures of the maiden meeting of the PSDPEP Steering Committee.



Members of the PSDPEP Steering Committee



PSDPEP Steering Committee meeting in session

3.1.6 Implementation Status of PSDPEP

The following is the status of implementation of the Post COVID-19 Skills Development and Productivity Enhancement Project (PSDPEP) as of December 2023.

Component 1: Skills Development in Higher Education for Strengthening the Health Sector

Department of Medical Microbiology:

- The Physical Development and Municipal Services Directorate (PDMSD) of University of Ghana started working on the design and development of architectural drawings for the construction of

health research and skills development facility for Department of Medical Microbiology.

- Three (3) PhD candidates were selected for research grants for discovery research. A report on the selection process was prepared and approved by the African Development Bank (AfDB).
- The African Development Bank granted a no objection for release of research grants of one hundred and five thousand United States Dollars (**USD105,000**) to the 3 successful students. Terms and Conditions for award of grants were prepared and submitted to the Bank for no objection.



Biotechnology Centre:

- Curriculum for PhD Program was approved by the Management Committee of Biotechnology Centre, College of Basic and Applied Sciences and the University of Ghana Academic Board. The curriculum is yet to be approved by the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC). Curriculum for MPhil is under consideration of the Quality Assurance Committee of University of Ghana. The Bank granted a no objection for the curriculum validation workshop during the period under review.
- The Bank also granted a no objection for outreach programmes for Policy makers, and hands-on practical training for professionals.
- The Biotechnology Centre commenced research on cassava, sorghum and cowpea genotypes.
- Architectural drawings for the construction of health research and skills development facility for the Biotechnology centre was prepared and approved during the period under review.

School of Nursing and Midwifery (SoNM):

- The School of Nursing and Midwifery obtained permission from University of Ghana to purchase a school bus as its counterpart contribution for the project. The procurement processes for the purchase of the bus are in progress.
- Architectural drawings and designs for the construction of health research and skills development facility for the School of Nursing and Midwifery was completed during the year.

Department of Medical Microbiology, Biotechnology Centre and School of Nursing and Midwifery:

- A report on the evaluation of Expression of Interest (EOIs) and Request for Technical Proposals (RFPs) for consultancy services for design review and supervision of construction of health research and training facilities for the Department of Medical Microbiology, Biotechnology Centre and School of Nursing and Midwifery were prepared and submitted to the Bank for a no objection.

Ghana News Agency:

- An evaluation report on the Expression of Interest (EOIs) for Consultancy Services for recruitment of a firm for training of staff at the Ghana News Agency was prepared and submitted to the Bank for a no objection.
- No objection was granted to the Evaluation report on the Expression of Interest (EOIs) for consultancy services for recruitment of a

firm for advocacy on health and MSMEs at the Ghana News Agency. Request for proposals is expected to be sent to the shortlisted consulting firms to submit their technical and financial proposals.

- Expression of Interest (EOI) and Terms of Reference (ToR) for consultancy services for recruitment of a firm for Legislative Reforms at the Ghana News Agency was prepared and submitted to the Bank for no objection.
- The Architecture and Engineering Services Limited (AESL) is in the process of finalizing bidding documents for the procurement of contractors for rehabilitation of the four (4) office buildings of Ghana News Agency.

Component 2: Rebuilding Youth and Women’s Livelihoods Through Entrepreneurship and Employment Creation:

Microfinance and Small Loans Centre (MASLOC):

- Procurement methods for consultancy services for the digitalization of MASLOC loan management system went through changes during the year. The process involved changes in the Board’s approved competitive procurement process.

Social Investment Fund (SIF):

- Evaluation report on the Expression of Interest, and request for proposals (RFPs) for shortlisted consultancy firms for consultancy services for design and supervision of the construction of four (4) Training Centres under the Social Investment Fund (SIF) was prepared and submitted to the Bank for no objection.
- The Social Investment Fund (SIF) received tender documents for supply, delivery and installation of an Accounting Software from suppliers for evaluation. Preparation of the report on the evaluation began during the year.
- The Social Investment Fund received USD1 million from AfDB for disbursement to women and youth MSMEs under the PSDPEP. An on-lending agreement was signed with the AfDB, Ministry of Finance, the ARB Apex Bank and the SIF to manage the credit facility. The fund (USD 1 million) was transferred from the Special Account of the PSDPEP to Apex Bank for disbursement to qualified women and youth MSMEs. Forty (40) Rural and Community Banks were accredited as partner financial institutions to on-lend the funds to qualified youths and women MSMEs.



Component 3: Project Management

The Social Investment Fund (SIF):

- Contract and Essential Procurement Data (PDE) for Supply and delivery of 1No. Pick-up Vehicle, 7No. Cross-country vehicles and 1 No. 14-seater Minibus for SIF, Department of Medical Microbiology, Biotechnology Centre, and Ghana News Agency were prepared and submitted to the Bank for no objection.
- Combined Technical and Financial Evaluation reports, Negotiation minutes and Draft contracts for recruitment of Environmental, Climate and Social Safeguards Expert, and a Gender Expert were prepared and submitted to the Bank for no objection.
- Expression of Interests (EOIs) for Consultancy Services for recruitment of an Accounting Assistant were received from interested applicants. Evaluation of EOIs began during the year.
- Tender documents for Procurement of office equipment for PIU was evaluated, and a report was prepared.
- Draft Evaluation report for Procurement of Accounting Software for PIU was prepared during the period under review.
- The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) organized four (4) Project Technical Committee Meetings and One (1) Project Steering Committee meeting during the period under review.
- The PIU also organized twenty (20) procurement meetings during the year.
- The PIU prepared and submitted four (4) Quarterly Progress reports to the Bank.

3.2 Integrated Rural Development Project Phase Two (IRDP 2), OFID Component

The OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) jointly financed the Integrated Rural Development Project Phase One from 2012 to 2019. The project served 132 communities in 21 districts across the then 10 regions of Ghana benefiting about 2.3 million people. The Integrated Rural Development Project Phase One improved access of the rural poor to basic socio-economic infrastructure; increased agricultural productivity; and households' incomes.

After successful completion of the Integrated Rural Development Project Phase One, Government of Ghana and OFID agreed to extend the benefits enjoyed by targeted beneficiaries to districts that were not included, hence the Phase Two. In September 2022, Government of Ghana (GoG) signed a 5-year (2022-2027) agreement with the OFID to implement Phase Two of the Integrated Rural Development Project (IRDP II). The IRDP II became effective in November 2022. It is being implemented in twenty-three (23) districts in the sixteen (16) regions of Ghana.

The goal of IRDP II is to facilitate job creation, enhance access to socio-economic infrastructure, and improve livelihoods for sustainable poverty reduction. The project will also increase resilience of rural communities to the impact of climate change and enhance provision of credit to small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs).

The IRDP II is being funded from a loan facility of US\$ 20 million from OFID. The Project has four (4) components and embraces four (4) categories of expenditure namely, goods, works, services, and operating cost. The components are as follows:

- Provision of Socio-Economic Infrastructure
- Provision of Credit to SMEs
- Outreach, Sensitization and Capacity Building
- Management and Coordination.

3.2.1 Launch of IRDP II, OFID Component

The Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development and the Social Investment Fund on Wednesday the 23rd of August 2023, launched the IRDP II at the Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS) at Ogojjo, Madina in Accra. The one-day event saw the gathering of key stakeholders involved in the execution of Ghana's Poverty Reduction Agenda such as representatives of the Project Executing Agency, the Project Implementing Unit (PIU) and the beneficiary Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs).

The launch of the project involved delivery of speeches by key officials of institutions that played major roles in birthing the Project. These were the Executive Director of the Social Investment Fund, the Minister for Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development, and the representative of the Ministry of Finance. The speeches were interspersed with musical interludes. Participants were drawn from all relevant stakeholders including Ministers of State, Chief Executive Officers of State Institutions, Coordinating Directors, and Chief Executive Officers of the Project beneficiary MMDAs and the Media.

An exhibition was mounted to showcase some achievements of the Phase One of the Integrated Rural Development Project.

Participation of the event was highly satisfactory. One hundred and seventy-seven (177) out of the two hundred (200) individuals, representing 88.5% of the invitees, attended the event. They were drawn from the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development (MLGDRD), the Social Investment Fund (SIF), Ministry of Finance, Parliamentary Special Committee on Poverty Reduction, Parliamentary Select Committee on Finance, State Interest and Governance Authority (SIGA), Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies, as well as the Media among others.



The Chairman for the event was Professor Emeritus Kwasi Kwarfo Adarkwa, the former Vice Chancellor of

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi.



Mr. Justice Mensah Amankwa,
Executive Director of the Social Investment Fund Delivering his Welcome Address



Emeritus Professor Kwasi Kwarfo Adarkwa Delivering his Speech



Mr. Louis Amoh, the Representative of Ministry of Finance



The Municipal Chief Executive, Techiman Municipal Assembly,
Hon. Benjamin Yaw Gyarko Delivering His Remarks on Behalf of beneficiary Districts.



Hon. Daniel Botwe, Minister of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development delivering his speech



A section of the participants of the Project Launch





3.2.2 Implementation Status of IRDP II, OFID Component

The following is the status of implementation of the Integrated Rural Development Project Phase Two (IRDP II) as of December 2023.

- A draft Procurement Plan for goods, works and services under the Integrated Rural Development Project Phase Two (IRDP II) was prepared and approved by OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) in July 2023.
- During the period under review, the IRDP II was launched at the national level. The Project was launched on the 23rd of August 2023 at the Institute of Local Government Studies in Accra.
- Technical proposals were received from shortlisted Consultancy firms for consultancy services for design review and supervision of the construction of socio-economic infrastructure. The technical proposals were evaluated, and reports were prepared and submitted to OFID for no objection. The reports comprise:
 - Report on the evaluation of Expression of Interest submitted by consultancy firms.
 - Report on the evaluation of Technical Proposals submitted by consultancy firms.
 - Combined Technical and Financial Evaluation Reports.
- Financial negotiation meeting was organized with the shortlisted consulting firms for the design review and supervision of civil works. Minutes of the negotiation meeting was prepared and submitted to OFID for No Objection.
- Request for release of Microcredit loanable funds was made to OFID during the period under consideration. The request was part of the total request made to OFID for release of funds for implementation of IRDP II.
- A draft Project Operations Manual (POM) was prepared during the period under review. The draft Project Operations Manual was approved for utilization through the issuance of no objection by OFID in July 2023.
- Preparation of a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan started during the year. A draft Monitoring and Evaluation Results Framework was prepared and approved by OFID in July 2023.
- Questionnaires (data collection instruments) for baseline survey was prepared during the period. The data collection instrument will be utilized to establish baseline information for the IRDP II.
- Request for no objection to reactivate the Special Account used under the Integrated

Rural Development Project (IRDP) Phase one (1) was prepared and submitted to OFID. The request was approved by OFID during the period under consideration.

- A draft bidding document for procurement of office equipment was prepared during the year. The draft bidding document for procurement of office equipment was approved by OFID through granting of no objection in July 2023.
- A draft bidding document for procurement of 5no. 4 x 4 Pick-Up Vehicles for Project Monitoring and Evaluation activities was prepared and approved by OFID during the period under consideration.
- Tenders for supply and delivery of 5 No. 4x4WD Double Cabin Pick-Up for project monitoring and supervision were received from suppliers during the period. Tender Evaluation report was prepared and submitted to OFID for approval.
- A draft Annual Work Plan and Budget (November 2022-October 2023) was prepared during the period under consideration. The Annual Work Plan and Budget was approved by OFID through granting of no objection in July 2023.

3.3 Appraisal Mission of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)

The Social Investment Fund implemented Integrated Rural Development Project (IRDP) from 2012 to 2019. IRDP was financed by the Government of Ghana, OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA). After successful implementation of IRDP, the Government of Ghana requested BADEA and OFID to co-finance Phase two of the Integrated Rural Development Project. Unlike IRDP Phase one, the Phase two is being financed separately by BADEA and OFID. The OFID component was declared effective in November 2022.

In February 2023, a team from BADEA visited Ghana to conduct an appraisal on its component of the Integrated Rural Development Project Phase Two (IRDP 2). As part of the appraisal mission, the BADEA team visited some selected completed projects under IRDP Phase one (1) and selected proposed beneficiary districts for IRDP Phase Two. The delegation also held meetings with representatives of ARB Apex Bank and some beneficiaries of the Micro-credit component of the IRDP Phase One.

The BADEA delegation was led by Mr. Hatem Jabri-Expert, and accompanied by Dr. Alsayed Yousof, Mr. Zuhir Eshanta, and Mr. Ayman Salaheldin.

As the implementing agency, the Social Investment Fund (SIF) facilitated the field visit and the appraisal sessions with support from the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development (MLGDRD).



BADEA Delegates, the GoG Team and representatives of SIF



3.4 Familiarization Tour of the Newly Appointed Executive Director of SIF

In June 2023, the Government of Ghana appointed Mr. Justice Mensah Amankwa as the Executive Director of the Social Investment Fund to replace Mr. Kofi Frimpong.

To enable him to acquaint himself with the operations of the SIF, Mr. Mensah Amankwa embarked on familiarization tour to three out of the four zones of the Social Investment Fund in September and October 2023. He was accompanied by the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Mr. MacDonald Acquah; the Executive Director’s Secretary, Ms.

Rosemary Naa Kai Lord; and the Coordinators of the SIF Zones. As part of the familiarization tour, Mr. Amankwa visited some projects and interventions that had been completed and handed over to beneficiary District Assemblies to assess their impact on the beneficiaries.

Visit to Yamoransa Market:

The Executive Director visited the Yamoransa Market in the Central Region. The market was completed and handed over to the Mfantseman Municipal Assembly, Central Region in 2019. It comprises two-storey 20-lockable stores, 30 sheds, 10-seater water closet, a revenue booth and a borehole.



2-storey market at Yamoranza constructed by the SIF



Executive Director of SIF interacting with the market women at the Yamoranza Market

Visit to Afrancho Polyclinic:

As part of the familiarization tour to the SIF Zone 2, the Executive Director of SIF and his team visited Afrancho Polyclinic at Afigya-Kwabre South District in Ashanti Region. The Social Investment Fund constructed a maternity ward for the Afrancho under the phase one of the Integrated Rural Development Project. The IRDP Phase one was funded by the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) and the Government of Ghana. The facility was completed and handed over on the 20th of December 2018.

The construction of the Maternity Block has resulted in the elevation of the health facility from a Health centre to a Polyclinic. In our interaction with the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Augustine Adusei, it was revealed that before the construction of the

Maternity Block, the health facility did not have adequate space for service delivery. Most clients slept on the floor after admission or refused admission due to inadequate space. After the construction of the Maternity Block by the SIF, the situation improved tremendously as space was created for clients to receive healthcare services.

Dr. Augustine Adusei further revealed that before the construction of the Maternity Block, the staffing situation at the health centre was abysmal. The staffing situation however improved after the elevation of the facility to a Polyclinic status as a result of the construction of the Maternity Block. Similarly, annual outpatient department (OPD) attendance and delivery increased greatly because of the construction of the Maternity Block. The table below illustrates the situation before and after the construction of the Maternity Block by SIF.



NO.	DESCRIPTION	BEFORE	AFTER
1.0	Staffing:		
1.1	Physician Assistant	1	1
1.2	Midwives	4	52
1.3	Nurses	8	66
1.4	Enrolled Nurses	0	43
1.5	Community Nurses	0	49
1.6	Medical Officers	0	3
1.7	Pharmacists	0	4
1.8	Casual Workers	0	32
1.9	Supporting staff	0	18
	Total staff	13	268
2.0	Attendance:		
2.1	Annual Outpatient Attendance	5,895	38,652
2.2	Annual Delivery	68	1,490

Below are the pictures of the visit.



The Executive Director of SIF and his team interacting with the Medical Superintendent of the Afrancho Polyclinic



The SIF team interacting with health workers at the maternity ward of Afrancho Polyclinic



Visit to Ayimensah Basic School:

The Familiarization tour took the Executive Director and his team to Ayimensah Basic School at Abokobi Municipal Assembly in the Greater Accra region.

In 2019, the SIF handed over a 6-Unit classroom block to Ayimensah Basic School which was funded under the Phase one of the Integrated Rural Development Project. In our interaction with the school authorities, it was revealed that before the construction of the 6-Unit classroom block, there was congestion in classrooms. Also the environment for teaching and learning was poor, attrition rate among teachers was high, teachers refused postings to the school because of the congestion in classrooms, and dropout rate was high among pupils in the school.

After the construction of the classroom block, enrolment in the school has increased from 150 to 966 (544%). The environment for teaching and learning has improved as more space has been created for pupils. The school has become more attractive to its surrounding communities as more

parents are now enrolling their wards in the school. Also, due to the improved teaching and learning environment, academic performance of students has improved.

Further, the construction of 6-unit classroom block has resulted in an increased number of teachers. Before the intervention, there were 13 teachers in the school. The number of teachers has increased to 33 after the intervention. Although the number of teachers has increased, the pupil-teacher ratio has worsened because of over 500% increase in enrolment level.

The intervention has attracted other development partners and corporate entities to further support the development agenda of the school. According to the school authorities, because of the increased space and enrolment, the **Guarantee Trust Fund (GTF)** has set up a computer laboratory and furnished it with 20 Desk-top computers for the school. Also, Qatar Charity has provided the school with a mechanized borehole to take care of the increasing number of pupils. Further, the Greater Accra Sustainable Sanitation and Livelihood



Executive Director of SIF interacting with pupils of Ayimensah Basic School



6-Unit classroom block constructed by SIF for Ayimensah Basic School



4.0 STATEMENT OF SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2023

Improvement Project (GASSLIP) has supported the school with a 2-storey WC toilet facility to complement the 8-seater latrine attached to the 6-unit classroom blocks. The following are pictures of SIF visit to the school.

Sources and uses of funds by the Social Investment Fund for the year ended 31st December, 2023 as follows.

SOURCES OF FUNDS	NOTES	GH¢	GHS¢
Total Funds received	1	-	<u>26,272,563</u>
USES OF FUNDS	2	-	GHS¢
Staff Compensation	-	-	6,848,485
Goods & Services	-	-	2,033,572
Investments	-	-	<u>12,740,667</u>
Total Uses of Funds	-	-	<u>21,622,724</u>
Excess of Funds Received over Funds Used	3/4	-	<u>4,649,840</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2023

ASSETS:	NOTES	GH¢	GH¢	GHS¢
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash & Cash Equivalent	3/4	4,649,840	-	-
Recurrent Expenditure	4	49,610,673	-	-
Receivables - (Loan Revolving Fund)	5	16,655,839	-	-
Receivable & Prepayments	6	4,276,083	-	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	-	-	75,192,435	-
NON-CURRENT ASSETS				
Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment	7	65,683,471	-	-
Work-In-Progress	-	-	-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	-	-	65,683,471	-
TOTAL ASSETS	-	-	-	140,875,905





LESS LIABILITIES:	NOTES	GH¢	GH¢	GH¢
Payables and Arrears	8	-	-	3,709,641
Non-Current Liabilities	-	-	-	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	-	-	<u>3,709,641</u>
NET ASSETS	-	-	-	<u>137,166,264</u>
CONTRIBUTED BY:	-	-	-	
Accumulated Fund as at December 31, 2023	-	-	-	<u>137,166,264</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT

1. SOURCES OF FUNDS

During the year, the total funds received amounted to **GHS26,272,563**. The various sources of funds are as follows:

Table 1: Sources of Funds

No.	Sources of Funds	GH¢
1	Grant Received from African Development Fund for Post COVID-19 Project	19,697,100
2	Transfer from Apex Bank	5,508,238
3	Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development for the launch of Integrated Rural Dev. Project II	140,250
4	MMDAs' Counterpart Funds	50,000
5	Finance Income interest earned on both micro credit loans and investment	835,175
6	Sale of Tender Documents	11,800
7	Justice Amankwa Mensah	30,000
8	Total Funds Received	<u>26,272,563</u>

Finance Income:

Finance Income under item number 5 in table 1 above is made up as follows:

- Interest earned on micro credit loans	384,929
- Interest earned on investment of idle loan funds	<u>450,246</u>
- Total Finance Income	<u>835,175</u>



2. USES OF FUNDS

During the year under review, funds received were applied on staff compensation, goods and services, and on investment activities. The detail breakdown on the uses of funds are as follows:

Table 2: Staff Compensation

No.	Item Description	GH¢
1	Staff Salaries	4,230,581
2	Project Staff Top-Up Allowances	2,617,904
3	Total Compensation	6,848,485

Goods and Services

These are uses of funds for the operation of SIF and implementation of project activities i.e. Integrated Rural Development Project and Post COVID-19 Project. Detail breakdown are as follows:

Table 3: Goods and Services

No.	Item Description	GH¢
1	Materials and Office Consumables	70,868
2	Utilities	126,707
3	General Cleaning	27,328
4	Travel and Transport	487,304
5	Repairs and Maintenance	55,539
6	Training, Seminars and Conference	424,010
7	Project Launch - (PSDPEP & IRDP II)	334,350
8	Consultancy and Management Fees	297,857
9	General Expenses	19,732
10	Other Charges and Fees	14,156
11	Printing & Publication	174,933
12	Exchange Loss	788
13	Total Goods & Services	2,033,572

Table 3: Investments

No.	Item Description	GH¢
1	Computers & Accessories	36,191
2	PSDPEP Skills Development	854,476
3	Loan Revolving Fund at ARB Apex Bank	11,850,000
4	Total Investments	12,740,667





3. EXCESS OF FUNDS RECEIVED OVER FUNDS USED

The amount of GHS4,649,840 being the excess of funds received over funds used is reconciled by consolidating the closing balances of the following bank accounts operated during the year under review:

Table 4: Excess of Funds Received Over Funds Used

No.	Item Description	GH¢
1	IRDP Operational Account (GHS)	190
2	IRDP Special Account (US\$)	-
3	IRDP Counterpart Account	7,179
4	IRDP Micro Credit Account - ARB Apex	2,158,546
5	Micro Credit Scheme Account - NIB	5,470
6	Interest Account	7,185
7	GoG Project Account	99,152
8	ADF- PSDPEP Account	2,372,117
9	Total	4,649,840

4. RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

This is recurrent expenditure accumulated and capitalized over the years. As at the end of 2023, the accumulated recurrent expenditure amounted to **GH¢49,610,673**.

Table 5: Recurrent Expenditure

No.	Item Description	GH¢
1	Compensation	30,177,040
2	Goods & Services	19,433,633
3	Total	49,610,673



5. RECEIVABLES (MICRO CREDIT REVOLVING FUND)

This relates to interest receivables and the various micro credit schemes loan portfolios as at the year ended 31st December, 2023. The details are as follows:

Table 6: Receivables

No.	Item Description	GH¢
1	Interest Receivable	65,845
2	AfDB Micro Credit Funds with Apex	11,850,000
3	IRDP Loan outstanding (Apex)	3,511,398
4	Micro Credit Scheme Loan outstanding (NIB)	1,228,596
5	Total	16,655,839

6. RECEIVABLES AND PREPAYMENTS

The amount of **GH¢4,276,083** represents District Assembly Counterpart Fund contribution outstanding (payable to SIF) under the Integrated Rural Development Project Phase One.

7. INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANTS AND EQUIPMENT

These are investments made in immovable and movable properties over the years through construction and acquisitions. The total amount of **GH¢65,683,471** as at the year ended 31st December, 2023 is made up as follows:

Table 7: Infrastructure, Plants & Equipment

No.	Item Description	GH¢
1	Clinics	26,732,385
2	School Buildings	26,343,446
3	Drains	2,093,649
4	Markets	4,445,696
5	Water Systems (Boreholes)	1,604,058
6	Furniture	3,287,651
7	Project Vehicles	721,978
8	Project Motor Bikes	95,744
9	Computers & Accessories	341,523
10	Office Equipment	17,341
11	Total	65,683,471





8. PAYABLES AND ARREARS

The amount of **GH¢3,709,641** represents obligations to be honoured by SIF but not yet honoured at the year ended 31st December, 2023. It is made up of Fund Manager's management fees, statutory payments for the month of December 2023 and others.

5.0 CHALLENGES

The Social Investment Fund encountered the following challenges during the year 2023.

1. Change of the Executive Director who doubled as the Project Coordinator stalled the implementation of Post COVID-19 Skills Development and Productivity Enhancement Project (PSDPEP) during the year under review. The change in the Project Coordinator position stalled the implementation processes of the project for three months (from June to September) until a new Project Coordinator was confirmed.
2. Delay in the release of funds for implementation of Integrated Rural Development Project Phase two. As of December 2023, funds for the implementation of IRDP II had not been released by OFID. Lack of project funds resulted in the late launch of the Project. It also caused delay in stakeholder sensitization and orientation, as well as the implementation of key activities under the project.

6.0 THE WAY FORWARD

Going forward, the Social Investment Fund (SIF) will impress upon the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development and the Ministry of Finance to liaise with the funding Partners to ensure timely release of project funds.

The SIF will further implore the Ministry of Finance and the Development Partners to expedite the confirmation of a new Project Coordinator whenever there is a change to avoid delays in the project implementation process.

7.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2024

The following activities have been planned for the year 2024 under PSDPEP and IRDP 2.

7.1 Post COVID-19 Skills Development and Productivity Enhancement Project (PSDPEP)

Component 1: Skills Development in Higher Education for Strengthening the Health Sector

Department of Medical Microbiology-Centre for Microbial Drug Resistance and Therapeutics (CMDRT):

- The Department of Medical Microbiology (DoMM) will organize meetings for core members and the project director of the Department, as well as the 4-member building committee. Similarly, DoMM will organize a proposal/manuscript writing and Mentorship seminar for PhD students who have been selected for research grants. It is expected that DoMM will organize 2 meetings by February 2024, and also organize 2 other meetings for a 4-member building committee by June 2024. It is also expected that by the end of November, 2024, the DoMM will organize a Proposal or Manuscript writing and mentorship seminar for PhD students who have been selected for research grants.
- The DoMM will travel for continued collaborations with relevant Universities and institutions in Ghana. It is expected that the Director and core members of the DoMM will visit University of Cape Coast (UCC), University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS), and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) for collaboration meetings by April 2024.
- The DoMM will conduct second batch of the selection of PhD and MPhil candidates for discovery research in Microbiology. It is expected that by June 2024, the selection processes for students including advertisements across West Africa,



Webinars, interview sessions among others will be conducted and 16 students selected for the research grants under the project.

- The DoMM will award research grants to MPhil and PhD students. It is expected that grants for research will be awarded to 20 successful students by June 2024.
- The DoMM/PIU will procure services of a Construction Firm for the Construction of Microbiology Centre for the Department of Medical Microbiology of the University of Ghana Legon. It is expected that a Construction firm will be engaged for the construction of health research and training facility for the Centre for Microbial Drug Resistance and Therapeutics (Department of Medical Microbiology) by August 2024.
- The DoMM will facilitate the training of a female biomedical expert locally and internationally. A female biomedical expert is expected to be trained locally and internationally under the PSDPEP by November, 2024.

Biotechnology Centre:

- Biotechnology Centre will complete the development of Curriculum for Diplomas, Masters and PhD in Biotechnology. It is expected that the curriculum for Diplomas, Masters and PhD will be completed by July 2024.
- Relevant stakeholders will validate the draft Curriculum for Diplomas, Masters and PhD in Biotechnology. Validation of the draft curriculum is expected to be completed by July 2024.
- The Centre will obtain institutional approval of curriculum for Diplomas, Masters and PhD in Biotechnology. The institutional approval of the curriculum will be obtained by September 2024.
- The Centre will obtain accreditation for curriculum for Diplomas, Masters and PhD in Biotechnology from GTEC. It is expected that the accreditation will be obtained by April 2024.
- The Centre will commence advertisement for Diploma, MPhil and PhD in Biotechnology

Programmes. Advertisement for the programmes is expected to commence by June 2024.

- The Biotechnology Centre will procure reagents and chemicals, and develop training manuals for training Programmes in Biotechnology by May 2024. It is expected that by the end of August 2024, Biotechnology Centre will organize a training workshop on Biotechnology for policy makers and students of Senior High Schools.
- The Biotechnology Centre will continue to conduct research and mining of genetic resources. It is expected that research on multiplication of planting materials of cassava, evaluation of irradiated sorghum genotype and screening of cowpea genotypes for thrips pest resistance will be conducted by November, 2024.
- The Centre will finalize the architectural drawings and bill of quantities for construction and rehabilitation of health research and training facility. It is expected that drawing and designs will be finalized by February 2024.
- The Biotechnology Centre and PIU will procure the services of a construction firm for the construction of a health research and training facility for the Biotechnology Centre of the University of Ghana Legon. The construction firm is expected to be engaged by July 2024.

School of Nursing and Midwifery (SoNM):

- The School of Nursing and Midwifery (SoNM) will continue the procurement processes for a bus as their counterpart contribution to the project. The SoNM is expected to complete the procurement process by July 2024.
- The SoNM will compile a specification list for procurement of equipment for the health research and training facility. The equipment specification list is expected to be completed by September 2024.
- SoNM and PIU will procure the services of a construction firm to commence the construction of a health research and training facility by August 2024.





- The School of Nursing and Midwifery will organize meetings of Building Committee every month. It is expected that 12 No. monthly building Committee meetings will be held by November, 2024.

Department of Medical Microbiology, Biotechnology Centre and School of Nursing and Midwifery:

- The PIU will engage a technical consultancy firm to undertake design review and supervision of construction of health research and training facilities for the Department of Medical Microbiology, Biotechnology Centre and School of Nursing and Midwifery. The Consultancy firm is expected to be engaged by June 2024.

Ghana News Agency (GNA):

- GNA will prepare bidding documents and Specific Procurement Notice (SPN), and seek no objection from AfDB for the rehabilitation of GNA office buildings. Bidding documents and SPN are expected to be approved by the AfDB by January 2024. The SPN is expected to be published by March, 2024.
- GNA and PIU will engage a Contractor for the execution of rehabilitation works on the four (4) GNA office buildings under the project. The Contractor is expected to be engaged by June 2024.
- GNA will prepare Technical Specifications of equipment for its office buildings and submit to the Bank for no objection. Technical specifications for GNA equipment will be approved by July 2024.
- GNA and PIU will publish Specific Procurement Notice (SPN) for equipment, and prepare Tender Documents for supply, delivery and installation of equipment (Hardware and Software) as well as office furniture for its office buildings under the project. Publication of SPN and tender documents are expected to be completed by September, 2024.
- GNA and PIU will engage suppliers for supply, delivery and Installation of equipment (Hardware and Software) and office furniture. The supplier is expected to be engaged by November, 2024.
- GNA and PIU will recruit a Consulting firm for the training of its staff. The consulting

firm is expected to be recruited by June 2024.

- GNA and PIU will recruit a Consulting firm for advocacy training on health and MSMEs. The consulting firm is expected to be recruited by June 2024.
- GNA and PIU will recruit a Consultancy firm for Legislative Reforms at the GNA. The consulting firm is expected to be recruited by July 2024.

Component 2: Re building Youth and Women's Livelihoods Through Entrepreneurship and Employment Creation

Micro and Small Loans Centre (MASLOC):

- MASLOC will engage a consultant to acquire and activate license for backend Loan Management Software for 1 million blocks of customers. It is expected that a consultant will be engaged for acquisition and activation of the Backend Loan Management System Licenses for onboarding by June, 2024.
- MASLOC will engage a consultant to develop, customize and integrate the Backend Loan Management System with National ID Authority (KYC), Mobile Money Operators and ARB Apex Bank Core-banking System. The Core system and database will be deployed on NITA servers and Cloud (Microsoft Azure). It is expected that the consultant will be engaged by August, 2024.
- MASLOC will engage a consultant to provide training for all its staff on the use of the Loan Management Software. The Consultant is expected to be engaged by September 2024.
- MASLOC will engage a consultant to implement and complete the Prepaid Card Management Infrastructure with ARB Apex Bank. It is expected that the prepaid Card Infrastructure will be completed for 50,000 customers by October, 2024.
- MASLOC will engage a consultant to Integrate frontend application to include



online banking, Mobile Apps users (Android and iOS users). A consultant is expected to be engaged by October, 2024.

- MASLOC will engage a consultant to procure Cloud infrastructure through competitive bidding. A consultant is expected to be engaged by June, 2024.
- MASLOC will procure 250 Biometric Smart POS for MASLOC offices and integrate with ARB APEX Switch, its Loan Application Software and Mobile Money Operators. The 250 Biometric Smart POS is expected to be procured by May 2024.
- MASLOC will procure 50,000 GHIPSS certified biometric cards for customer (Farmers). The 50,000 GHIPSS is expected to be procured by June 2024.
- MASLOC will deploy POS Infrastructure and Terminal Management System. It is anticipated that the POS infrastructure for terminal management will be deployed by July 2024.
- MASLOC will procure and network its offices with 50 Card Printers and Accessories. It is anticipated that 50 Card Printers and Accessories will be procured and networked at MASLOC Head Office, 16 Regional Offices and 33 District Offices by November 2024.

The Social Investment Fund (SIF):

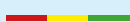
- The Social Investment Fund (SIF) will facilitate consultancy services for technical and entrepreneurial skills training for the four (4) training centres under its component. It is anticipated that the SIF will develop Selection criteria for technical and entrepreneurial skills training, identify and classify potential beneficiaries of the technical and entrepreneurial skills trainings, and assess the capacity of the existing 4 technical and vocational training institutes to support the proposed training activities by March, 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will procure and install an Accounting Software. The Accounting Software is expected to be procured and installed by March, 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will facilitate consultancy services for design and supervision

of the construction of 4 (four) Training Centres at Otaakrom Technical Institute, Abetifi Technical Institute, St. Johns' Vocational/ Technical School and Nsuatre Vocational and Technical. The technical Consultants are expected to be engaged by June, 2024.

- The Social Investment Fund will facilitate the identification and selection of at least 4800 youth and women MSMEs and SSEs to benefit from the Micro Credit funds under the PSDPEP. It is expected that at least 4,800 youth and women MSMEs and SSEs will be identified and selected to benefit from the Micro credit facility by September, 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will undertake monitoring and supervision visits to Partner Financial Institutions under the Micro Credit. It is expected that at least 4 No. monitoring and supervision visits will be undertaken by November, 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will request for the remaining Microcredit Loanable Funds for lending to youth and women MSMEs under the PSDPEP. It is expected that USD 3 million Microcredit Loanable Funds will be released from the African Development Bank for on-lending to the youths and women MSMEs by April, 2024.

Component 3: Project Management: *The Social Investment Fund:*

- The Social Investment Fund will recruit an Environmental, Climate and Social Safeguards Expert and a Gender Expert on a retainer basis to strengthen the PIU's technical capacities in these areas. The Environmental, Climate and Social Safeguards and the Gender Experts are expected to be recruited by January 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will recruit an Accounting Assistant for PIU by April 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will facilitate the supply, delivery and installation of office Equipment for the PIU. Various office equipment is expected to be procured for PIU by April, 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will facilitate the supply and delivery of Vehicles for itself, Department of Medical Microbiology,





Biotechnology Centre, and the Ghana News Agency. Nine project vehicles are expected to be procured by March, 2024.

- The Social Investment Fund will undertake Project Monitoring and Supervision. It is expected that at least two Project Monitoring and Supervision activities will be undertaken by November, 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will organize Steering Committee Meetings for the Project. It is expected that at least two Steering Committee meetings will be held by November, 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will organize Project Technical Committee meetings. It is expected that four (4) Technical Committee meetings will be organized by November, 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will organize Procurement Committee meetings. At least ten Procurement Committee meetings are expected to be organized by November, 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will prepare and submit Quarterly Progress Reports and Workplans. Four Quarterly Progress Reports and Workplans are expected to be prepared and submitted to the African Development Bank by November, 2024.

7.2 Integrated Rural Development Project Phase Two (IRDP II), OFID Component

Component 1: Provision of Socio-economic Infrastructure

- The Social Investment Fund will prepare a Procurement Plan for goods, works and services. The plan is expected to be approved by OFID by March, 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will engage local multi-disciplinary technical consultancy firms to design and supervise civil works in the 4 operating zones of the SIF. It is expected that 4 local multi-disciplinary technical consultancy firms will be engaged by February, 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will facilitate the design and preparation of bidding documents by selected consultants. Bidding documents are expected to be prepared by March, 2024.

- The Social Investment Fund will procure the services contractors for the socio-economic infrastructure. It is expected that the services of eleven (11) contractors will be procured by June 2024 for the construction of socio-economic infrastructure under the project.
- The Social Investment Fund will facilitate the commencement of construction of civil works by the 11 Contractors. Construction of civil works is expected to commence by August 2024.

Component 2: Provision of Credit to SMEs

- The Social Investment Fund will facilitate the identification, selection and accreditation of Partner Financial Institutions (PFIs) or Rural and community banks (RCBs) for the Micro Credit facility of the Project. PFIs and RCBs are expected to be selected and accredited for the Micro Credit by April, 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will facilitate the identification and selection of SMEs to benefit from the Micro Credit funds. Beneficiary SMEs of the Micro Credit are expected to be selected by May, 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will organize orientation workshops for selected PFIs (Microfinance Institutions and Rural and Community Banks). It is expected that four (4) orientation workshops will be organized for PFIs by July 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will request for Microcredit Loanable Funds. It is expected that Microcredit Loanable Funds will be released by OFID by February, 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will facilitate disbursement of revolving loan funds to accredited PFIs. Disbursement of revolving loan funds to PFIs is expected to commence by September, 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will commence LOFAC meetings to approve loan applications. One (1) LOFAC meeting is expected to be held to approve loan applications by October 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will monitor disbursement of revolving loan funds to accredited PFIs and beneficiary SMEs. It is anticipated that disbursements to PFIs and SMEs will be monitored by October 2024.



- The Social Investment Fund will prepare reports on the progress of implementation of the Micro credit component of the project. It is expected that four (4) progress reports on the credit facility will be prepared by October 2024.

Component 3: Outreach, Sensitization and Capacity Building

- The Social Investment Fund will organize orientation programmes across the project beneficiary districts. It is expected that three thousand (3,000) persons in 106 communities across the 23 beneficiary MMDAs will receive orientation on the project by March, 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will sensitize staff of the project beneficiary MMDAs. One hundred and sixty (160) staff of the project beneficiary MMDAs are expected to be sensitized by March 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will conduct baseline survey across the 23 beneficiary MMDAs to establish benchmarks for project implementation. It is anticipated that Baseline survey will be conducted across the 23 beneficiary MMDAs by April 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will facilitate capacity building of its staff under the project. It is expected that capacity of seventeen (17) staff of PIU will be strengthened in project design, planning and management by October, 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will monitor project implementation. It is expected that reports on progress of project implementation will be prepared and submitted to OFID by October 2024.

Component 4: Management And Coordination

- The Social Investment Fund will upgrade PIU Management Information System (MIS). It is expected that PIU Management Information System will be upgraded by June 2024.

- The Social Investment Fund will procure an accounting software for the PIU. It is expected that the procurement process for an accounting software will commence by June 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will prepare bidding document for procurement of office equipment. It is expected that bidding document for procurement of office equipment will be prepared and approved by OFID by June 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will procure equipment, logistics and stationery for the PIU for the implementation of the project. Equipment, logistics and stationery for PIU are expected to be procured by October 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will Procure Pick-up vehicles for Project Monitoring and Evaluation activities. Five(5) Pick-up vehicles are expected to be procured for Project Monitoring and Evaluation activities by October 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will prepare and share quarterly progress reports and workplans with stakeholders. Four Quarterly Progress Reports and Workplans are expected to be prepared and shared with stakeholders by Oct 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will facilitate the conduct of an annual audit of the project. The annual project audit is expected to be conducted by October 2024.
- The Social Investment Fund will organize Quarterly Steering Committee meetings. It is expected that four (4) Steering Committee meetings will be held by October 2024.

