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| Danish organisation | Ingeniører Uden Grænser (EWB-DK) |
| Title of the intervention | Climate Resiliency - Cool communities  |
| Partner name(s) | World Hope International (WHI) and National Skill Pool (NSP) |
| Amount applied for | 499,982 DKK |
| Country | Sierra Leone |
| Period (# of months) | 10 months |

1. **Objective and relevance (the world around us)**

**1.1 What we aim to achieve through the intervention**

The project aims to build the capacity of local communities to better embrace the challenges of climate change, especially promoting climate resiliency towards urban heat. The wider perspective of this initiative is connected to EWB-DKs vision of strong partnerships, with great participatory community engagement and community driven project activities. Capacity building is therefore a cornerstone of this intervention.

This project's overall development objective is to improve adaptive capacity towards climate change in the communities of ward 446, in suburban Freetown. The aim is achieved through climate awareness raising activities combined with the implementation of a selection of mutually supporting structural and non-structural mitigation measures to create the needed coping capacity towards the effects of climate change, and more specific urban heat.

The previous project (EWB-DK 119), supported by CISU (19-2473-MI-okt), concerning two selected communities within ward 446 focused primarily on the negative and adverse effects of flooding in relation to the changing climate, whereas this project (EWB-DK 148) focuses on tackling the adverse effects of urban heat. For this reason, the main goal is to improve knowledge, empower people to take actions and minimize the impacts of heat by building local resilient communities and stimulating small sustainable businesses around implementation of climate mitigation measures.

This new project entails that the partnership between EWB-DK, WHI and NSP are to engage local vulnerable communities and initiate skill-transfer processes to jointly implement climate mitigation measures through participatory engagement and empowerment. Creating local ownership of the project-processes, hence promoting more sustainable and improved climate change resiliency. Moreover, by introducing this intervention, which will decrease local urban heat effects and provide business opportunities, the project reduces poverty by providing means of income generation and better well-being. Capacity building serves as an enabler for project sustainability.

**1.2 Why the intervention is important**

Sierra Leone has been ranked as the third most vulnerable nation after Bangladesh and Guinea Bissau to adverse climate change effects. Climate change will amplify the already existing division of people in the country. Present intervention targets the nexus between climate change and poverty, which is exacerbated through low institutional capacity, lack of funds, and cross-sector partnerships to manage.

The identified issues currently posing considerable health risks, leading to loss of lives and damages after natural hazard events are two-fold; a lack of knowledge about causes and prevention measures and a lack of empowerment from supporting infrastructures and financial resources to take mitigation action.

The lack of mitigation efforts and knowledge of urban heat risks combined with the latest climate change prognosis highlight the urgency and timeliness of this intervention, promoting a more holistic approach to addressing climate change's adverse effects. Climate change will mean more extreme weather, including heat waves, which is not a distant threat—we’re already seeing the effects now. Promotion of community driven activities and interventions to mitigate the risk of climate change is imminent. This intervention is motivated by the enhanced negative effect of climate change identified during the local partners' work (WHI and NSP) in both rural and urban community settings. By engaging in dialogues with city, district and national scale governance on climate change and climate adaptation, we are one step closer to establishing knowledge bases, as no systemized approach to local knowledge on climate change's impact exists – documentation of incidents nor effects.

This initiative promotes widespread capacity building and enables awareness raising for local communities to act and implement small-scale low-tech climate adaptation measures. Addressing climate change and doing climate adaptation interventions are new in Sierra Leone. It will therefore be essential to further build the partner capacity to up-scale interventions and promote climate advocacy.

On the positive side experience from previous project demonstrates that:

* Communities can organise around climate resilience tasks and from this building local resilient communities and stimulating small sustainable businesses around implementation of climate mitigation measures
* New additions to the bye-law has successfully been implemented. This keeps the focus on long term sustainability of the mitigation measures that are implemented
* Increased governance and citizen participation can be fostered through cross-sector coordination

However, challenge at community level – based on experience are:

* Communities lack skills and knowledge to address the increasing climate risks and is therefore still highly vulnerable to climate change
* No systemized approach to gaining knowledge or implementing climate risk mitigations within the local community

Based on the lessons learned this intervention will also focus on sustainability of the climate risk mitigation measures and a strategy for strengthen the partnership between EWB-DK, WHI and NSP.

This intervention will take place in all of ward 446 in suburban Freetown, an area of more than +35,000 people. A prior conducted baseline survey in ward 446, targeted +700 people in the primary areas of Pottor and Kaningo communities, combined with interviews, and local partner engagement, confirms the EWB-DK missions' observations. The most vulnerable community members are living in high risk natural hazards areas in unhealthy and fragile housing conditions. The income level is low, and the households are either larger or more fragmented with single income adults. Most households that only have one primary source of income (39%), and of which many are also living in housing constructed using body pan zinc plates (52%), experience extreme temperatures during the hot summers. This creates unhealthy environments, with sleepless nights, rashes, dehydration, and excessive discomfort, reducing the ability to perform - hampering income generation and schooling attendance. The consequences are severe, and not only short term, but also long term, which the risks of climate change will only exacerbate. Heat is the silent killer, with adverse consequences for human well-being and development.

**1.3 How this intervention will strengthen civil society organising.**

The civil society in Sierra Leone is under continued and reinforced pressure by the Government, thus present initiatives argue for a bottom-up approach in promoting democratic governance, aiming to advance unity, cohesion, peace, and socioeconomic development, which is characterized by the absence of legitimized norms governing how state-society relationships. The interventions build on the assumption that the civil society, through the power of example, becomes the "broker" and agent of new approaches, seeking institutionalization from below to push and promote democratic governance. With compelling low institutional capacity at the government level within climate adaptation and climate advocacy, civil society is a crucial agent of change. In the areas where the different partners work on ground, the communities will benefit by the increased awareness raising on the effects of climate change along with knowledge to act and prevent. This intervention enables community empowerment for some of the poorest and most adversely affected by climate change.

1. **The partnership/collaborators (our starting point)**

**2.1 What experiences and capacities does each partner bring to the intervention?**

With a multi-disciplinary project, it is essential to recognise the interdisciplinary relations and dependencies. For a successful implementation, we, therefore, propose a collaborative project with engaging partners from:

Danish partner – Engineers without Borders Denmark (EWB-DK) has been working in some of the poorest and most climate change affected suburban communities in Sierra Leone, since 2017. EWB-DK has a large knowledge on climate change and climate change mitigation, along with great experience with participatory citizens engagement and project development.

Sierra Leonean lead partner - World Hope International (WHI) has worked with engineering development in the Freetown area and Sierra Leone in general for + 20 years and has extensive experience within planning, design and implementation of technical measures and project management, specifically within the Agricultural-sector, WASH-Sector and latest with climate change. WHI is a strong local network and has a convincing track record working directly with civil society structures. The organisation has previously worked with the NSP and through training and lessons provided capacity building in climate resilience and project management.

Sierra Leonean partner - National Skill Pool (NSP) has worked with youth and skills training for multiple years in ward 446. NSP has demonstrated that their skillset to mobilise, facilitate and raise awareness is high. Which will prove key as a co-implementing partner in this collaborative community-driven project.

They will therefore have a significant role as a co-implementing partner.

**2.2 On what have you previously cooperated with your local partner, and how will those experiences be used in the proposed intervention?**

EWB-DK has recently been cooperating with the two local NGOs, WHI and NSP on implementing a climate resiliency project tackling the risks of flooding (EWB-DK 119). The project aimed at developing community resilience towards climate change, especially flood mitigation in Pottor and Kaningo, suburban Freetown.

In order to ensure local anchoring, “Climate Resilience Committees” (CRC) were formed on the basis of a democratic process, holding local community members across gender, age and religion. The CRC provided valuable information and insight into community structures, acting as climate action ambassadors, and will also in this project serve as entry point and local anchoring during this geographical upscaling on climate awareness raising activities in all of ward 446 and thematic focus shift to urban heat.

WHI has been instrumental in implementing the previous joint projects and will also for this project intervention be the local lead partner. WHI and NSP have collaborated over the past years and have established a good working relationship. WHI will beyond being local project lead, participate and advocate for the climate agenda, through various networks such as the national and local disaster risk response coordination network.

According to EWB-DK’s assessment NSP’s organizational and financial structure currently is not mature enough to independently hold an international partnership. However, through the local support and collaboration with WHI staff it is envisioned that NSP will develop its organisational capacity and project management skills further and become a strong and relevant partner for EWB-DK in the future. Therefore, EWB-DK sees the focus and work of each of the partners as very complementary, providing good opportunities for holistic participatory community-based work and cross-organizational learning. EWB-DK, WHI and NSP have all expressed an interest in this new project, through the establishment of the strong partnership that has been build and developed through the previous interventions.

**2.3 Contributions and roles of the partners and other actors**

EWB-DK will be the international lead organisation responsible for overall project management, finance and administration, facilitation of the partnership’s cooperation, project monitoring and coordination of the final evaluation. EWB-DK will contribute with knowledge on disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation and, in close collaboration with WHI, provide technical- and organisational capacity development of NSP.

WHI will be the local lead organisation responsible for the day-to-day project management and funds administration. WHI will, in collaboration with NSP, lead the direct community contact i.e. facilitation of meetings, risk assessment etc. and lead the capacity building of NSP. WHI will lead the local partnership development on the ground, facilitation of Community Resilience Committees, management of community-based mitigation and adaptation interventions and engage with local stakeholders and authorities.

NSP will be responsible for community mobilisation and citizen engagement in the six communities of ward 446. NSP will participate in consortium cooperation, bridging between the community and WHI, formation of Community Resilience Committees, participate in preparation of midterm review and final evaluation, and be the main participant of the project- and financial management training.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed with the partners to clarify roles and responsibilities prior to commencing the project.

Strategic partner involvement of duty bearers such as Freetown City Council (FCC), works through ward councillors on engagement of communities in the transformation of Freetown under the Mayor’s slogan: “ *Our city belongs to all of us and we all have a role to play in making it the best it can be*”. Having specifically targeted multiple challenges grouped in various clusters, whereas one is resilience, environmental degradation, and prevention of and in response to natural hazards evolving into disasters, is high on the agenda. The local implementing partners will be collaborating with Freetown City Council, as the outcomes positively influence the ‘Transform Freetown’ agenda set by the Mayor and promote climate advocacy. Promoting a more holistic approach of climate adaptation, The FCC, will as a part of C40 network, appoint a chief Heat officer.

**2.4 Strengthening of the relationship between the partners**

The project will be able to draw on EWB-DK’s experience with capacity building in relation to disaster risk reduction and preparedness, WHI‘s experience with both large and small scale interventions and training of local communities, and NSP’s access to the communities of ward 446 and their vast insight in local context, conditions and mobilisation. Through the implementation of this project, NSP will be strengthened not only in its technical capacity but also in their organisation capacity and their experiences with community driven development efforts. The collaborative process will empower NSP to be a stronger player within the field of community-based climate change adaptation activities and interventions. WHI will with this project increase and strengthen its knowledge on climate resilience, especially within urban heat mitigations and participatory community-based risk reduction and mitigation.

EWB-DK will with this project increase and strengthen its knowledge on climate resilience and participatory community-based risk reduction and mitigation, and thereby reaffirm its position as a relevant partner for development efforts in Sierra Leone, and especially for WHI and NSP. Volunteers from EWB-DK will facilitate transfer of technical knowledge and experience on climate resilience and community risk reduction and mitigation, expanding the possibilities for knowledge exchange across partners particularly in the field of humanitarian technical capacity building within the climate change nexus.

1. **Target groups, objectives, and expected results (our intervention)**

**3.1 Target groups**

The composition of the target groups (disaggregated by gender, social groups or other relevance) varies, thus special attention is devoted to gender equality and the active involvement of vulnerable community groups, such as the poor, unemployed youth, females, single income households and people living with disabilities. Local partners will through community hearings and stakeholder involvement identify and give incentives for marginalized people to participate in the various activities and implementation of urban heat mitigation measures.

The overall benefits are reduction of stress, loss and casualty reduction after climate change exacerbated urban heat risks, increased local community empowerment, and improved environmental conditions and health levels due to cooler, greener and healthier communities.

The primary beneficiaries are the members from the six climate resilience committees (CRC) (+62 people), + 700 community inhabitants directly involved in implementing the urban heat mitigation measures locally, and + 50 staff in local partner organisations.

The secondary beneficiaries are estimated to be around +5,000 community members who will benefit from

these activities and investments.

The potential of this project expands beyond the current communities and ward 446. The activities and measures are designed to provide ‘best practices’ for an area application approach, i.e. the processes of local engagement, climate mitigation training, financial incentive scheme and system that can be replicated in other geographical areas with similar challenges and needs. From the evidence based practices, development of blueprints will support this vision.

The project is done in collaboration with local duty barriers such as departments within FCC, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Office of National Security (ONS).

**3.2 How the primary group will participate and benefit from the intervention**

The primary group will through activities including awareness raising, training and learning sessions improve the community’s ability to minimise climate change impacts with focus on urban heat, build local adaptive capacity and resilience, and stimulate small sustainable businesses around implementation of climate mitigation measures to support the community livelihood generation.

Promoting participatory community-driven organisation will enhance their individual and organisational capacity, while promoting advocacy, targeting the nexus between climate change and poverty.

**3.3 The objectives and expected results**

This project's overall development objective is to improve livelihood through enhanced climate resiliency towards the urban heat. The aim will be achieved through community engagement and by implementing supporting structural and non-structural measures to create the needed coping capacity towards climate change.

The immediate objectives are:

1. All the beneficiaries of the ward 446 communities have raised awareness of the local effects on climate change and have enhanced their capacity to plan and implement community-based structural and non-structural measures to mitigate urban heat.
2. The local community organisation NSP have further enhanced their organisational capacity and experience to address climate change adaptation and mitigation interventions through a community-based participatory approach and understand the nexus between climate and poverty.
3. Partner organisations have developed blueprints for localised climate risk mitigation schemes, which can be adapted or up-scaled for further reach and benefits.

The expected long-term result is the mitigation of urban heat distress. The project impacts, such as tree planting, nursery sheds, vertical gardens, cooling building techniques and business development, will be measured with indicators such as; a) Awareness-raising of the local effects of climate change and actively engaging with the communities of ward 446. b) Workshops, seminars, and blueprints development for climate risk mitigation measures. The project results in increased resilience towards climate hazards, local community empowerment, improved environmental state due to greener communities. Moreover, by introducing these initiatives the project reduces poverty by providing employment and empowering the local community.

**3.4 Strategy of the intervention**

The project implementation strategy evolves around community mobilization and engagement as well as **i**mplementation of structural and non-structural heat mitigation measures. Local capacity building is vital to enhance project learning outcomes and the practice of project management skills. Embracing change agents such as CRC will promote more sustainable resilience generation.

A Log Frame (LFA) is outlined in the following table. It contains the immediate objectives, each with their expected outputs and linked activity. Each objective sums up the anticipated goal and indicators to ensure a successful project.

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| **Immediate Objective 1:** By June 2022, the beneficiaries of all of the ward 446 communities have raised awareness of the local effects on climate change, especially urban heat and have enhanced their capacity to plan and implement community-based urban heat mitigation measures in communities. |
| **Expected outputs** | **Activities** |
| **1.1** By Nov 2021, the Community Based Organisations (CBOs) in all of ward 446 communities have successfully facilitated awareness-raising programs focusing on urban heat mitigation.  | **1.1.1** Conduct project orientation meetings at a city level and community level. |
| **1.1.2** Establish climate resilience committees (CRC) so that urban heat mitigation measures can be implemented by community members and facilitated by CRC, WHI and NSP. Activities are done in close coordination with Freetown City Council (FCC).  |
| **1.1.3** Host regular community awareness campaigns across communities and during special UN focus and commemorations days.  |
| **1.2** By June 2022, the CBOs of ward 446 have developed local urban heat mitigation plans based on community-centred methodologies to identify urban heat risks, prioritise these, and develop action plans to address them.  | **1.2.1** Support the CRC to lead community groups to form part of the initiative (participate in diagnostics, planning, training, facilitation, and implementation) of urban heat mitigation measures. |
| **1.2.2** Capacity building training on Disaster Preparedness and Response training in urban heat mitigation  |
| **1.2.3** Participatoryproject review & final evaluation of selected urban heat mitigation measures  |
| **1.3** By June 2022, the communities have, through a participatory process, identified, prioritized and conducted community-driven measures on urban heat mitigation. | **1.3.1** Conduct assessment for structural and non-structural urban heat mitigation measures |
| **1.3.2** Implementation of 3-5 urban heat mitigation measures  |
| **1.3.3** Facilitate small-scale business training, promoting more community-driven climate mitigation businesses  |
| **Indicator for objective 1:****To measure the performance, numbers of participants are registered for each activity.** a) 70% of the actively involved households in ward 446 are aware of the local effects of climate change.b) Four additional CRC have been established beyond the existing two CRC.c) Each CRC’s has developed an action plan on ‘climate ambassador’ activities to address climate risks. d) 5% of households, approx. 1750 people, in the 6 communities in the ward 446 have actively engaged in urban heat mitigation measures. |

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| **Immediate Objective 2:** By June 2022, NSP has built organisational capacity and experience to address climate change adaptation and mitigation interventions from a community-based participatory approach and understood the nexus between climate and poverty. |
| **Expected outputs** | **Activities** |
| **2.1** NSP has gained and/or strengthened organisational leadership skills, project management, financial documentation and reporting, planning, designing and implementation of community based urban heat mitigation, advocacy and communication.  | **2.1.1** The training program developed and rolled out to build up capacity in NSP to engage in: a. Understanding the Climate - Poverty nexus b. Community mobilization/organisation building: Leading community groups and guide CRC on mitigating the impacts of urban heatc. Plan, design and implement urban heat mitigation measuresd. Project Management - Financial documentation and reporting |
| **2.1.2** Capacity building in project management. Primary trainers are WHI, backed by EWB-DK:a. Planning of time and resources. b. Understand the importance of communicationc. Use of milestones and deadlinesd. Learn that projects and procedures must be executed transparently and inclusivelye. Organize workshops for CRC f. financial documentation and reporting  |
| **2.1.3** NSP is to document the learnings with support from partners: WHI and EWB-DK. |
| **Indicator for objective 2:**1. EWB-DK, together with WHI and NSP, have formulated a reporting document with dos and don’ts.
2. EWB-DK, together with WHI and NSP, have formulated learning outcomes.
3. NSP will deliver examples of learning outcomes.
4. NSP will deliver financial reporting for the funds paid out to the organization.
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| **Immediate Objective 3:** By April: 2022, partner organizations have shared a blueprint for localized climate risk mitigation schemes, which could be copied or up-scaled for further reach and benefits. |
| **3.1** Blueprints have been developed and shared amongst FCC and other NGO’s. | **3.1.1** Development and implementation of blueprints for climate risk mitigation |
| **3.1.2** Development of blueprints for facilitating Community- Based-Organisational climate mitigation measures through a participatory approach  |
| **Indicators for objective 3**1. WHI will deliver examples of learning outcomes
2. Partners have successfully planned and executed workshops and seminars on blueprints
3. Partners have developed a guideline and blueprint template for at least two identified climate risk mitigation measures
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The strategy, entails clusters of actions, which key components for successful implementation are listed:

1. Community mobilisation and training local Climate Resilience Committees (CRC).

Previous success can largely be attributed to the CRCs, which will be further strengthened and upscaled. Weekly engagements and ad-hoc training sessions concerning campaigns and implementation of interventions with six Climate Resilience Committees (established in the communities of Pottor, Kaningo Juba, Mina, Sahuma, and Marimbo)

1. Non-structural heat mitigation measures: Development of Urban Heat Mitigation Plan and awareness raising campaigns targeting the needed awareness-raising on development of heat action plans including emergency response, establishment of cooling centers and formulation of community bye-laws. This is to promote individual and collective ownership and responsibility of combating the threat of heat.
2. Structural urban heat mitigation measures

Interventions such as tree planting, vertical gardening, installation of building ventilation, cooling building techniques etc. implemented by community volunteers. Some interventions will incentivize small-scale business generation, e.g. when planting fruit trees, the "caretaker" is then entitled to the planted tree's potential economic benefits, such as selling the tree produce. This initiative has been raised by the community as an approval of the project objectives.

1. Creating a local business model for sustainable financial risk mitigation.

Small-scale business can be concerning e.g. fruit and vegetable growing initiatives, promoting long term sustainability: a) Advocacy for the assignment of public land to create tree nurseries. b) Community mobilization and awareness-raising on the opportunities c) establishing tree nursery sheets/training for tree growth, transplanting, producer to buyers’ market, etc. d) Market analysis of possible production to nearby markets and restaurants.

1. Blueprints for localised climate-risk-mitigation schemes.

As local knowledge and documentation is low within climate-risk-mitigation schemes, this project serves as a pilot case, in which the evidence-based learning will be documented and shared in blueprints, for localised climate risk mitigation schemes. The blueprints will be developed jointly through workshops and seminars based on implemented interventions.

1. Partner capacity building: project management, climate change and climate adaptation. Monthly training sessions and ad-hoc training will be provided to NSP as organisational capacity building by primarily WHI and secondary EWB-DK. Topics are project management, economics, reporting, planning of time and resources, facilitation and teaching techniques etc.

**3.5 Plans for systematising experiences**

Implementing the structural and non-structural measures, such as tree planting, vertical gardens, creating of green spaces and cooling corridors, installation of building ventilation techniques are envisioned to improve local resilience to climate change. Through establishment of CRC’s - our climate ambassadors combined with large awareness raising campaigns incl. public hearings, workshops, and training.

To ensure that the project is on track in order to meet the expected outcomes the project team shall meet virtually every second week to closely monitor progress. One of the monitoring tools we apply is KoBoCollect, an offline in field survey tool, in which the team will do progress reporting on each activity. Monthly progress and financial reports will be delivered, and a final internal evaluation and lessons learned session will feed into the Blueprint for a localized climate risk mitigation scheme. If the situation allows one EWB-DK volunteer will participate in an on-site evaluation and inspection, If it is still not possible to go in the autumn due to virus outbreaks, an online evaluation will be conducted, and later attempts will be made in spring 2022.

Stemming from previous EWB-DK project experiences, especially evolving around organisational capacity building, it is expected that the training results in the communities taking full ownership of the interventions, which will actively contribute to the project’s sustainability. It is likewise expected that local businesses will revolve around the establishment, production and maintenance of climate mitigation measures. The rural communities in other parts of Sierra Leone will also be engaged in promoting climate

adaptation measures.

1. **Intervention-related information work in Denmark**

EWB-DK’s information work aims to raise awareness and gain support for Danish development cooperation. EWB-DK uses a variety of platforms: social media, printed materials/flyers, videos and visual documentation amongst others. It is expected that this intervention’s information work will lead to a higher awareness of climate resilience among EWB-DK’s main target groups, and increased awareness and interest among the organisation’s volunteers. Our members are our ambassadors. As many of them work in the Danish technical companies and institutions, we have had significant success engaging Danish companies in contributing to meet the SDGs.

1. **Supplementary financing**

EWB-DK has secured 338,062 DKK for project activities and interventions evolving around the implementation of heat mitigation measures to be implemented from mid August 2021. Especially serving as incentives and a pilot case for action. Supplementary private donor financing is adding value, but not a prerequisite for project completion. If assessments show a need for further essential structural climate adaptation interventions, EWB-DK will apply for additional funding besides the CISU modality to pursue more technical interventions, where equipment and technical assets are needed. Funds from CISU play a crucial part for capacity building and project sustainability.