INTRODUCTION

The Coconut Waste Project (COWAP) seeks to achieve a green-circular economy and create livelihood opportunities through value addition to coconut husks in the La Nkwantanang-Madina Municipality. The project targets coconut vendors, unemployed youths, communities within the La Nkwantanang-Madina Municipality (LaNMM) and communities surrounding the LaNMM. The project is co-funded by the European Union (EU) under its “Promoting a Circular Economy and Local Development Programme”. The COWAP is being implemented by CERATH Development Organization (CDO) (lead), La Nkwantanang-Madina Municipal Assembly (LaNMMA) and the Tree Crops Center (TCC).

EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION VERIFICATION VISIT

As part of activities to end year one of the Coconut Waste Project (COWAP), The European Union delegation to Ghana visited the COWAP team on the 9th of November 2021. This was to assess the level of implementation of the project. The visit commenced with a discussion between the European Union (EU) representatives and the project team at CDO office in Accra. The Project Manager briefed the EU representatives on the progress of the project. Following the discussions, the project team together with the EU representatives embarked on a field visit to the project communities. The team visited the project beneficiaries within LaNMM, LaNMMA officials, community chiefs and elders.

ENROLMENT OF PROJECT BENEFICIARIES ONTO NHIS AND LIFE INSURANCE PACKAGES

The project team collaborated with the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) to sensitize and enrol project beneficiaries onto National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). This was in line with the project objective of facilitating linkages between social protection agencies (SPA’s) and the project beneficiaries. The selection of the NHIS was on the back of the findings of the project baseline study. The baseline study revealed that coverage of NHIS was low among coconut vendors in LaNMM. It was against this background that the project team collaborated with NHIA to sensitize and enrol project beneficiaries onto the NHIS. The exercise took place on the 28th November 2021 at the LaNMMA old office. After an extensive sensitization, the NHIA officials enrolled 68 project beneficiaries onto the NHIS.
Additionally, the project team engaged Quality Life Assurance Company Limited (QLACL) to sensitize the project beneficiaries on various life insurance packages. This was informed by the project’s baseline findings. The baseline study revealed that coconut vendors had no savings account. Against this backdrop, the project team collaborated with QLACL to organize sensitization on life insurance packages for the project beneficiaries. This took place on 5th December 2021 at the LaNMQMA old office. The coconut vendors were sensitized on insurance packages such as educational policy, funeral policy, and saving policy. A total of 27 coconut vendors signed onto the various life insurance packages offered by QLACL.