



Evaluating the Impact of Social Protection Policies on Urban Climate Resilience in Ghana: A Comparative Analysis of Formal and Informal Settlements

Michael Kpessa-Whyte, *University of Ghana*

Michael Gameli Dziwornu, *Institute for Scientific and Technological Information*

Fred Fosu Agyarko, *Institute for Scientific and Technological Information*



2025

Evaluating the Impact of Social Protection Policies on Urban Climate Resilience in Ghana: A Comparative Analysis of Formal and Informal Settlements

Executive Summary

This study evaluates how Ghana's Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) cash transfer program influences urban climate resilience across five domains—Risk, Governance, Built Environment, Natural Environment, and Society in both formal and informal settlements in Accra. Using sequential explanatory mixed-methods design (household survey + SEM; key-informant interviews; focus group discussions), we find robust, positive associations between LEAP participation and each resilience domain, with the largest effects on social cohesion and strong gains in infrastructure and risk-coping. Context matters: formal areas tend to translate transfers into infrastructure/environment improvements more readily than informal areas, highlighting the importance of place-sensitive implementation. Qualitative evidence shows recurrent flood risk, gaps in drainage and waste management, and the important role of trusted local actors in mobilizing aid and information. Building on these findings, we recommend integrating a “climate lens” into LEAP delivery e.g., coupling pay-points with risk-communication, evacuation drills, and targeted skills/livelihood support while strengthening local governance linkages and community volunteer teams. In short, predictable cash transfers are not only poverty tools; with modest design tweaks and better inter-agency coordination, they can become platforms for climate adaptation and safer urban neighborhoods.