



UNITED NATIONS
GHANA



2022 UN ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT





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Cover page image: Jubilant youth, including UN Ghana staff at the Global Citizens event in Accra;
©UN/Henry Alagbua.

Inside cover page image: fishing boats at anchor in Accra. ©FAO

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FOREWORD



It is my pleasure to present the United Nations Country Team's (UNCT) 2022 Report for Ghana, for the final year of the five-year United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership (UNSDP). The report captures the UNCT's collective achievements along the four results areas of the UNSDP: shared prosperous economy; social investment in people; protected and safe environment, and; inclusive, accountable governance, along with the UNCT's cross-cutting priorities.

The report reflects the work done by the UNCT in partnership with the Government and people of Ghana to help the country achieve the ambitious goals set in the Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies (CPESDP), 2017–2024, as well as to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's (AU) 2063 Agenda.

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the war in Ukraine and elsewhere and the effects of climate change have had a huge impact on the country's growth prospects. Indeed, 2022 saw a sluggish growth of 3.4%, compared to an estimated growth of 6.1% in 2021. Inflation soared to levels that have not been seen in several decades, and the cost of living escalated to a record high. UN agencies, working jointly and leveraging

their collective comparative advantage in various fields, have boosted Ghana's resilience and drive towards further recovery. They have helped it rebuild from the impacts of the pandemic, the knock-on effects of the war in Ukraine and climate challenges.

The UNCT helped advance Ghana's agriculture and industrial sectors by supporting policy and capacity-building initiatives. This led, for example, to greater agricultural productivity, the adoption of climate-action and deforestation-free production strategies, and inclusive rural development. It enabled 5,000 smallholder farmers to use improved seed, thereby cutting post-harvest losses to less than 5%, and supported agricultural-sector players' participation in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The UNCT strengthened systems to deliver quality, sustainable, and transformative social services in health, education, nutrition and social protection sectors, which helped improve services and financing. It advocated the protection of social spending, supported the continuity of essential health services and improved access for underserved and vulnerable communities. This led to a sustained decline in disease-specific and child mortality. The UNCT supported the introduction of free technical and vocational education and training

(TVET), which sharply increased TVET school enrolment from 13 000 in 2021 to 47 000.

Technical and financial support helped Ghana launch environmental- and climate-policy and strategic documents, in line with international commitments. With UNCT backing, Ghana leveraged the carbon market and climate finance to empower rural forest communities for environmental management. UN initiatives also raised awareness on climate-smart technologies and their adoption. Through risk-based insurance, they increased the capacity for managing biosphere reserves and disaster-risk reduction.

The UNCT supported the enhancement of local governance systems. It increased accountability, active citizenship and advocacy for pro-poor and child-responsive policies. This helped increase public financing for social sectors that benefit children and adolescents. Nearly two million people in 160 districts received child-protection advocacy messages. Meanwhile 109 religious and traditional leaders were engaged to promote a supportive and gender-equal environment. Additionally, 24 State and civil society actors and some 2 500 people were equipped to prevent and counter terrorism in the subregion. As a result, the National Peace Council and security agencies improved their performance in addressing violent extremism, promoting social cohesion and ensuring safe migration.

In 2022, the UN concentrated on supporting:

- growth and resilience through the Food Systems Summit and its follow-through, and other efforts—including work across various sectors and industries—to enhance SDG financing;
- Ghana to refine and define its focus on social protection and on health and nutrition at the Global Education Transforming Summit;
- Ghana in its efforts to present a strong position and policy priorities at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 27), and strengthen actions on the ground and in environmental governance;
- greater engagement in democratic governance; strengthened resilience, social cohesion, peace and security as well as human rights; and
- Ghana to reflect on its progress and priorities moving forward with its 2nd Voluntary National Review and its 4th Universal Period Review, among other initiatives.

All this reflects the joint approach and benefit of the UN Serving-as-One principle in the nature and extent of the results achieved.

We look forward to implementing the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023–2025, which focuses on three key transformative outcome areas—inclusive economic growth and transformation; access to social services; and durable peace in Ghana and the sub-region. This takes into account the cross-cutting issues of climate action, digital transformation, leaving no one behind (LNOB) and lessons learnt.

The UNSDCF is aligned to Ghana's CPESDP, Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework 2022–2025, sectoral strategies and national planning instruments. It outlines the United Nations integrated approach to supporting Ghana in its priorities and efforts to achieve the SDGs. Through the UNSDCF, the UNCT will strengthen and expand partnerships with the Government of Ghana, civil society and the private sector; work better together with partners, through increased joint programmes around key transformative initiatives; strengthen capacity at policy and delivery levels; consolidate the use of data; support the adoption of international norms and standards, and; integrate cross-cutting issues.

I would like to thank our partners, both implementers and donors, including the Government of Ghana, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private- and public-sector institutions, the academic community and think tanks and international development partners for the support they continue to provide to ensure enhanced delivery. It is a triumph of multilateralism.

Finally, a massive *Ayekoo* to the UN family in Ghana for walking the talk to deliver as one, and for the expertise and resources offered to support the agenda to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and beyond. I look forward to travelling the road ahead with an enthusiastic and stronger team, ready to forge a collective vision to make Ghana's aspirations for self-reliance a reality.



Charles Abani

UN Resident Coordinator
in the Republic of Ghana-Accra

UN COUNTRY TEAM IN GHANA

Led by the Resident Coordinator (RC), the UNCT comprises 24 entities operating within Ghana, and 10 entities operating outside. The entities cooperate to boost the United Nations' contribution to Ghana's development results as part of the effort to implement the UNSDP, 2018–2022. Through established coordination structures, the RC in Ghana promotes a whole-

of-UN approach to render UNCT operations more efficient and effective. The Resident Coordinator also ensures the UN family's strategic positioning through greater coherence, transparency and accountability. The aim is to provide the support needed for Ghana to prosper and achieve self-reliance.

ENTITIES WITH A PHYSICAL PRESENCE



EXTERNALLY BASED ENTITIES





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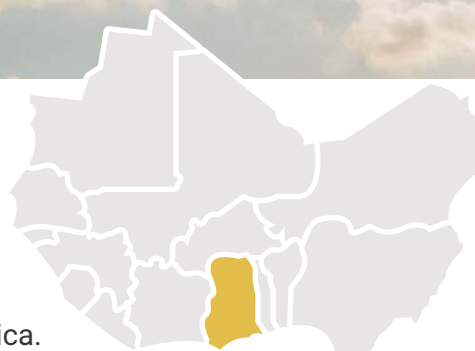


KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Adaptation Fund, African Development Bank, African Union, ARB APEX BANK, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, BOK Africa, Norwegian Government, Centre for Diseases Control and Prevention/President Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, Coca Cola Foundation, ECOWAS, Embassy of Denmark, Embassy of France, European Union, European Union Military Staff, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Government of Finland, German Federal Foreign Office, Ghana Netherland Business & Culture Council, GIZ-Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Global Affairs Canada, Global Centre on Adaptation, Global Climate Fund, Global Education Coalition, Global Partnership for Education, Global Program to End Child Marriage, Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust, Huawei, International Atomic Energy Commission, International Diabetes Federation, Irish Aid, Government of Italy, Embassy of Japan, Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning, Juvenile Immersion Training Program, Jacobs Foundation, Kigali Cooling, Korea International Cooperation Agency, Korean Government, MasterCard Foundation, China Centre of Excellence for rural

transformation, China Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), Mondelez, NORAD-Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, PAGE, Pan African Historical Theatre Festival, Prada Group, Rockefeller Foundation, Sweden, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UK-FCDO)/Department of Health and Social Care, UN-REDD, UNTFHS, USAID, Global Environmental Facility, Wikimedia, World Bank, Perpetual Education Fund.

GHANA AT A GLANCE



Ghana is a country in the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa.

LAND MASS

 238,540 km² total area


 539-kilometre coastline

POPULATION 30,832,019 in 2021


 50.7% female

 49.3% male

Urban population

 17,472,530 (56.7%) in 2021.

National Population Density

 The number of people per square kilometre rose from 103 in 2010 to 129 in 2021

Sex and age profile:

Ghana's population age structure is transitioning from one dominated by children (0–14 years) to one dominated by young people (15–35 years). The proportion of children fell from 41.3% in 2000 to 35.3% in 2021; that of the youth rose from 34.6% in 2000 to 38.2% in 2021.

Females (15,631,579) outnumber males (15,200,440) by 437,139 (2.8%) and in urban areas by 5.0%. In rural areas males outnumber females by 0.3%.


ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

 9,990,237 employed


 1,551,118 unemployed


 58.1% of whom are 15 years and older.

Difficulty in performing activities

 About 8% (2,098,138) of the population 5 years and older has varying degrees of disability. The percentage is higher among females (8.8%) than males (6.7%).

WATER AND SANITATION

 92.0% (nine in ten) households have access to improved sources of drinking water and the proportion is higher for urban (97.8%) than rural (83.0%) households.

 59.3% (three in five) use household toilet facilities. Among such households, more than half (55.0%) share improved household toilet facilities with other households and 2.4 percent use unimproved toilet facilities.

References:

Ghana 2021 Population and Housing Census Vol. 3 <https://bit.ly/3NgqfzY>



2021 Population and Housing Census - Ghana Statistical Service <https://bit.ly/3XeW8xe>





Kejetia market, Kumasi

CHAPTER 1

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT



Japanese Ambassador to Ghana, Hisanobu Mochizuki, and UNIDO Representative, Fakhruddin Azizi (left) exchanging signed agreements. ©UNIDO/ Linda Gyala

A wide range of crises caused global economic growth to slump to an unexpected 3.4% in 2022 from an estimated 6.1% in 2021, driving up inflation to levels unseen in several decades. Growth prospects dimmed in the face of a cost-of-living crisis, as financial conditions tightened in most regions, especially in developing economies owing to the impact of the war in Ukraine and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In Ghana, the global crises compounded domestic macroeconomic challenges to slow the economy from a strong recovery of 5.4% in 2021 to an average of 4% for most of 2022. The incidence of poverty in Ghana is estimated to have risen owing to the effects of the successive global crises. Lack of appropriate domestic policy action and of enhanced development cooperation could exacerbate already low social-protection coverage, high food inflation and high unemployment among people with disabilities (PWDs) and the youth. Additionally, it could heighten disparities in access to basic services such as health care, sanitation and nutrition.

Ghana remains one of West Africa's most resilient democracies, with a strong democratic tradition and a reputation as a model of stability and good governance in the region. The country's independent judiciary, vibrant civil society and other State institutions contribute to the stability of its democratic system by upholding basic human rights and freedoms and the rule of law. However, according to the 2022 Ibrahim Index of African Governance dataset, all of the country's governance, peace and security indicators showed a decline. Ghana must tackle its most critical governance deficits, and improve national and sub-national State capacity to deliver public goods and services, as well as the limited exercise of active citizenship. The Government should address low participation among women and other marginalized groups in political life, and local governance. Equally, structures of the State responsible for accountability and the rule of law must be strengthened.

Terrorism and violent extremism are spreading from the Central Sahel, with its perpetrators seeking to control coastal territories and intensifying local recruitment efforts.

Attempts to restrict traditional transhumance routes from the Sahel have caused tensions that have heightened the risk of further deterioration in the West African region's security. Endemic poverty, rising inequality, unemployment and protracted conflicts count among the myriad of challenges that are particularly true of the northern part of the country.

Ghana's progress in implementing the 17 SDGs has been mixed, yet through partnerships with international organizations, domestic NGOs and private organizations, the country has the conducive, investment-friendly and partnership-enabling ecosystem to forge ahead towards achieving the SDGs.

The private sector has earned recognition as a key partner and growth engine, motivating the Government to lay down policies that stimulate growth and investments. They include maintaining a favourable environment for the private sector, and matching selected public enterprises with foreign and local private investors in joint ventures. Among other things, such partnerships help leverage private capital to complement limited public resources.

Ghana continues to build strong partnerships through South-South and triangular cooperation to help create, transfer and pool knowledge and experience for mutual benefit. This is essential for achieving national and collective self-reliance, as well as for social and economic development.

Ghana faces environmental challenges in its rural, urban and coastal landscapes. Increasing temperatures, rainfall variability, acute events such as flooding and drought are having an adverse effect on development structures and national infrastructure. The country suffers costly environmental degradation, estimated at about US\$ 6.3 billion annually. Drivers of such degradation in Ghana include agricultural land degradation, deforestation and inadequate management of solid waste. Research demonstrates the impact of climate-related disasters on populations in terms of agricultural production, food security, water, public health and so on. The level of impact and the coping strategies primarily depend on the population's



socio-economic status, socio-cultural norms, access to resources, degree of poverty and gender.¹

The UN continues to forge new and non-traditional partnerships with the Government,

development partners, international financial institutions, civil society, academia and the private sector to leverage their capacities and resources to boost and scale up sustainable development efforts in the country.

1.1 Overview of SDG progress in Ghana

According to the 2022 Voluntary National Review (VNR) Ghana's SDG implementation progress has been mixed. "The assessment shows a high level of access to water and electricity (almost at universal levels), gender parity at the Kindergarten, primary and Junior High School levels and high completion rate despite the COVID-19 pandemic. There have been improvements in maternal mortality, child obesity and the participation of women in

Parliament and local government. That notwithstanding, unemployment and inequality. Open defecation, waste collection and management improving albeit at a very slow pace. Other process-related challenges include a huge funding gap, low adoption of science, technology and innovation, and timely access to reliable data with the right levels of disaggregation.

SDG DASHBOARD AND TRENDS



SDG DASHBOARD

● SDG achieved ● Challenges remain ● Significant challenges remain ● Major challenges ● Information unavailable

TRENDS

↑ On track or maintaining SDG achievement ↗ Moderately improving → Stagnating ↓ Decreasing ●● Trend Information unavailable

Figure 1. SDG Dashboards and trends

Source: Sustainable Development Solutions Network. 2022. Sustainable Development Report.

¹ Government of Ghana Environmental Protection Agency (2020).



Students at Little Flower School, Tamale, Ghana. ©UNICEF: Francis Kokoroko 2019



CHAPTER 2



UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK



2.1

Overview of the Cooperation Framework results

In 2018 the UN Country Team and the Government signed the UNSDP 2018–2022. The UNSDP was the key framework for guiding UN support to Ghana’s pursuit of the objectives in its CPESDP 2017–2024.

UN partnership with the Government over the past four years drew its inspiration from the five components of the 2030 Agenda (Prosperity, People, Planet, Peace and Partnerships). A product of extensive engagement with key partners, the partnership sets clear pathways of support

through four Result Areas and seven Outcomes at an initial budget of US\$ 441 570 000. It is executed through Joint Annual Plans. For its part the CPESDP 2017–2024 is aligned with the 2030 Agenda. It is entitled, An agenda for jobs: creating prosperity and equal opportunity for all.





SHARED PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

Outcome 1

Productive agriculture drives sustainable industrialization, improves livelihoods and ensures a hunger-and-malnutrition-free nation

Outcome 2

Competitive private sector generates decent jobs that increase opportunities for more inclusive economic growth

Related SDGs



Budget allocation (US\$)

72, 678,000



SOCIAL INVESTMENT IN PEOPLE

Outcome 3

Government of Ghana delivers equitable, quality and financially sustainable social services

Outcome 4

Marginalized and vulnerable populations demand and utilize social services

Related SDGs



Budget allocation (US\$)

162,111,000



Protected and safe environment

Outcome 5

Environmental governance at national and local levels is effective, efficient and coherent

Outcome 6

Urban and rural community resilience is increased through access to affordable services, knowledge and tools.

Related SDGs



Budget allocation (US\$)

124,751,000



INCLUSIVE, ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT

Outcome 7

Transparent and accountable institutions at all levels protect the rights of all people.

Related SDGs



Budget allocation (US\$)

82,030,000

Total budget allocation (US\$)

441,570,000

In 2022 the UNCT Ghana supported the Government in addressing development challenges as set out in the 2022 Joint Work Plans. Considerable support from the UN helped achieve planned outcomes. Leveraging the Organization's comparative advantage in various sectors the UNCT, among other things, supported the country's efforts to recover from the impacts of COVID-19, that were compounded by the war in Ukraine.

The UN worked with the Government to transform and strengthen service delivery. This involved capacity building, advocacy, initiatives to strengthen systems, and policy support, particularly as part of the drive to Leave No One Behind. The UN also focused on efforts to advocate social and behaviour change and to create an environment for better decision making by the Government. It helped broaden efforts to strengthen democratic and environmental governance, and to promote peace building and the protection of human rights. This report highlights the key achievements and progress made with UN support towards planned outcomes and key outputs in 2022. The results achieved demonstrate the benefit of UN agencies delivering as One. The UN placed priority on joint UN support to various strategic approaches and initiatives:

- In 2022, Ghana presented its Second VNR to the high-level political forum, with the RC coordinating UN joint support. The VNR assessed progress in all the 17 SDG goals and reported on 102 indicators, an increase from 66 indicators in the 2019 VNR. The VNR contains approved recommendations to accelerate SDG progress in Ghana. It also sets out national priorities to address barriers to SDG achievement, and discusses accelerators of such achievement. With joint UN support the Government minimized technical and financial duplication in the VNR process, resulting in a well-coordinated, comprehensive and timely report. UN coordination helped increase synergies, leveraging the organization as a global knowledge network. The report received wide publicity, including through a national launch.
- The Global Education Transforming Summit (TES), an initiative to transform Ghana's education sector received UN support to conduct dialogue and discussions among stakeholders. This reaffirmed the alignment between Ghana's priority on skills for life and the TES.
- Working alongside UN technical experts and advisors, the Government, national CSOs and the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice were able to produce the national report, shadow report and alternative report, respectively. This enabled Ghana, as a State Under Review in the 42nd session of the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR), to submit the reports in a timely manner to the Human Rights Council for the Fourth UPR cycle. The process was a success, not least because of synergies-forged through UN approaches and advocacy - between the Government and civil society.
- SDG financing: Since attaining a lower middle-income status, Ghana has seen a sharp drop in overseas development assistance. Meanwhile, weak domestic revenue mobilization is widening the SDG financing gap which stands at an annual average of US\$ 43 billion. The Government enjoyed the support of the UNCT in strengthening ecosystem institutions for SDG financing. This involved the joint project

on SDG financing, in part, to introduce integrated national financing frameworks. The UNCT raised policy makers' awareness of the need to leverage and utilize innovative and alternative strategies. These include creating pipeline projects and investment opportunity areas to mobilize additional finances.

- In spite of Ghana's stable progress in terms of SDGs 1 and 2, its food systems face multiple challenges, making it food-deficit. The multitude of challenges include high input cost, poor farming practices, high post-harvest losses, low access to markets and finance and poor infrastructure (such as road networks, storage and IT infrastructure). In its analysis of food systems, the Government received support from the UNCT, led by the RC and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) leading to its commitment statement to transform Ghana's food systems.



Working on her farm, Theresa Mawusi is a beneficiary of a programme run by UNDP, the Ghana Cocoa Board and Mondelez International to help give women access to degraded forest reserves for agroforestry.

©UNDP Ghana

- Ghana secured a pavilion at the 2022 UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) to showcase its climate and forest interventions. The UNCT supported this endeavour as well as the participation of key Government officials and of the lead climate negotiator. Ghana signed partnerships to advance carbon markets and was the first

African country to implement a carbon-market policy under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, and the second in the world to adopt voluntary cooperation approaches under the Agreement. This was achieved

within purview of the national Carbon Market Policy Framework, which enables public and private institutions to jointly invest in climate-change mitigation actions in Ghana.

2.2

Cooperation Framework outcomes, and outputs, achievements and progress

Apart from the prioritized joint UN support on the above-mentioned strategic approaches and initiatives, the year saw major achievements made in terms of intended outcomes and outputs of the UNSDP (2018–2022).



Results Area 1: Shared Prosperous Economy

Outcome 1

Productive agriculture drives sustainable industrialization, improves livelihoods and ensures a hunger-and-malnutrition-free nation.

Outcome 2

Competitive private sector generates decent jobs that increase opportunities for more inclusive economic growth.

CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



International
Labour
Organization



The UN assisted Ghana in advancing its agriculture and industrial sectors through policy support, capacity enhancement initiatives, and targeted efforts in areas such as food systems, fair labour practices, private sector participation, competitiveness, and digital innovation. Such efforts enhanced agricultural productivity as well as the adoption of climate action and deforestation-free production strategies. They also boosted inclusive rural development, with the active involvement of women and young people, thereby contributing to Ghana's overall growth and the Ghana Beyond Aid Agenda.

OUTPUT 1.1

Initiatives to raise agricultural productivity reach a larger share of intended beneficiaries, expanding their access to catalytic finance and agricultural good practices

Backed by the UN the Government trained some



5,000

smallholder farmers
to use improved seed.

The Government linked 25 input dealers to farmer-based organizations, supplied farmers with seed and helped cut post-harvest losses among smallholder farmers to less than



5%

of their yield.

The UN also supported efforts to prepare agricultural-sector players to participate in the AfCFTA.

Other actions

Assistance from WFP to over 25,000 men and women; agricultural training for over 5,300 smallholders from 133 FBOs; improved post-harvest management practices by providing equipment and training; export of blended food worth \$7.5 million; training on dry season farming for 1,440 farmers, and on beekeeping and tree planting for 42 smallholders, mostly the youth and women; and State support to conduct three rounds of Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System, which enhanced evidence-based planning.

agricultural
training for
5,300+
smallholders

\$7.5m
worth of export
of blended
food

The International Organization for Migration's (IOM) provided support, in partnership with the European Union (EU), to train 180 returned migrants and community members in sustainable crop production and innovative marketing.



One of the rice farmers benefiting from UNDP's climate smart project in the Northern Region of Ghana.
@Praise Nutakor/ UNDP

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) provided support to increase the farm-level productivity of cassava farmers from 20 to 45 tonnes, which: helped reduce cassava peeling and processing time from five days to some eight hours; and increased mango productivity from an average of 1.4 tonnes per acre to five tonnes, and; helped establish and train 20 cluster-management organizations in different food and cosmetic clusters. This led to the development of new products including ethanol; made 200 new entrepreneurs more competitive in cassava processing, and; helped train 40 groups of smallholder farmers in agroforestry, enabling them to graft 394,363 tree-crop seedlings.

Farmer-level cassava productivity increased from 20 to 45 tonnes.

UNDP lent support, in partnership with the National AfCFTA Coordination Office, to train and equip, 345 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) led by young people and women (60% females and 40% males). This involved business registration protocols, quality standards and requirements under AfCFTA, packaging, branding and value chain development, to facilitate export readiness and access to new markets.



Fafali Azaglo, who participated in training organized for women business owners by FAO and the International Trade Centre to help them leverage opportunities under the AfCFTA Agreement, in her shop. ©FAO

OUTPUT 1.2

The agricultural sector and rural communities are more resilient, with reduced exposure to financial and natural disaster risks and shock



The UN and the Government enabled

17,000

smallholder farmers to adopt climate-smart agricultural practices.

It enhanced the capacities of 2,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in climate-change resilience, and supported the local artisanal production of conservation agricultural equipment. Key results included: Air Emission Accounts for Ghana, that take food systems into consideration, and which the Government compiled with FAO support; the adoption of innovative climate action and deforestation-free production strategies, and; 10 additional value chains introduced by five forest farm and producer organizations as ways of diversifying livelihoods.

OUTPUT 1.3

Government and non-State actors have greater capabilities to improve sustainable production and consumption of nutritious foods.

Through UN support, the Government updated the nutrition standards and guidelines on school feeding to enhance smallholders' access to structured markets; Ghana published its Food-based dietary guidelines to raise awareness on healthy diets; and 500 vulnerable households enhanced their capacities to produce nutritious foods. Radio messages and workshops were used to raise different communities' awareness of healthy diets and their positive impact on health, and of the need to eat indigenous nutrient-rich food. Four

academic institutions integrated FAO capacity-development resources on nutrition-sensitive food systems into their programmes. Through other initiatives::

- 30 agricultural SMEs integrated nutrition-sensitive food systems into their business model; 725 individuals including farmers and exporters developed e-traceability codes for horticultural products;
- such as interpersonal, social and behaviour-change communication, 20,988 women and 13,919 men learned better ways to adopt healthy practices and diets; while 478,671 people were reached through similar approaches, using media such as community radio channels and;
- women's groups, including school-feeding caterers were trained on food storage and conservation.

UN contribution to results includes UNIDO support for Government initiatives targeting SMEs. Through such support:

- 60 SMEs implemented good manufacturing practices; SMEs developed and registered new products; 5,918 SMEs and shea black soap processors, as well as 4,665 cassava and 700 fruit producers built their capacities in good agricultural and manufacturing practices, and;
- 16 standards manuals were developed for cosmetic and personal products, while 343 individuals improved their capacity to support quality indicators.

OUTPUT 1.4

Smallholder farmers have greater access to, and service providers are better able to extend, productive resources and services needed to improve rural well-being.

With UNCT backing the Government supported 200 agribusinesses and 3,100 rural producers' organizations, and launched an e-agriculture system with a regulatory framework for

innovative technology transfer. IFAD contributed by supporting the Ghana Agricultural Sector Investment Programme. Some 1,900 farmer-based organizations across the country benefited by receiving daily notifications on market prices of produce from the Ghana Commodity Exchange. Through training 6,589 (2,642 male, 3,947 female) leaders of 477 organizations across 13 regions improved their capacities in various areas, including group dynamics.

OUTPUT 2.1

Responsible investment in value chain development increases.

The UN helped the Government improve the capacities and standards of: two industrial food processors to supply specialized nutritious foods to beneficiaries; 10 community and medium-scale food processors, and; 10 grain aggregators. WFP, in collaboration with the Ghana Commodity Exchange, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the private sector, contributed to the results by providing training and delivering silos to 341 farmers in four regions to cut post-harvest losses. WFP collaborated with Ghana's Food and Drug Administration to enable farmers and agro-processors to follow recommended food-safety guidelines. As a result, their produce obtained certification for local and international markets.

OUTPUT 2.2

Government has stronger capability to provide a sustainable and equitable business environment and improve economic policy coherence.

Through capacity enhancement programmes for the Government, five State institutions implemented the Government plan for "investment for food and jobs", and a strategy document was developed to promote fish processing as a cottage industry.



OUTPUT 2.3

Enterprises and workers in the informal economy have greater access to transition pathways from the informal to the formal economy.

The UNCT boosted Government efforts to enable three family businesses headed by women and involved in fish processing to be registered and prosper. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) worked with the Government, promoting advocacy efforts and providing assistance that resulted in the updating of the national Cultural Policy to reflect the strategic role of culture in development.

OUTPUT 2.4

Quality market-responsive vocational education and training is more widely accessible, improving the employability of young people and the productivity of enterprises.

UN support helped the Government reintegrate 200 returnees through TVET programmes. This enabled 50 returnees and potential migrants who received start-up capital and vocational training to start their own businesses, while five TVET institutions received assistance to provide better services.

200 returnees were reintegrated through TVET.

Launch of IOM Ghana Country Strategy 2022-2025 on 17 May 2022 in Accra
©IOM Ghana/Angela Bortey

OUTPUT 2.5

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) have greater access to finance and business services, and women, youth, and marginalized groups, in particular, are better motivated to increase usage of these services.

Key results from the initiatives of the UNCT Agencies, Funds and Programmes include UNCDF and UNDP support to MSMEs. The support gave MSMEs greater access to financial services, allowing them to scale up business models, and to integrate their partners and providers who offer complementary support. Thousands of young people and women benefited from training in financial literacy, delivered by the UNCDF using low-tech platforms. As a result of the support:

- 5,000 MSMEs gained access to finance as 8,000 others enhanced their capacities in financial management; 1,000 jobs were created through improved financial service delivery, and; 300 enterprises improved their productivity and the quality of their products;

5,000 MSMEs gained access to finance

1,000 jobs were created through improved financial service delivery

300 enterprises improved their productivity and the quality of their product



- 200 young Ghanaian entrepreneurs enhanced their knowledge of and capacity in entrepreneurship and business management through UNDP in partnership with Thunderbird School of Global Management; they improved their businesses management, and increasing their competitiveness and opportunity to attract partnerships;
- some 600 business enterprises led by women and the youth adopted energy- and resource-efficiency management practices after enhancing their capacity through training. With their enhanced knowledge of good corporate governance practices, 169 (43.7% male 56.3 female) of the training's beneficiaries are working to address poor corporate governance in their business operations.

OUTPUT 2.6

Government institutions are better able to implement fair labour practices to promote safe and decent work for all workers.

Overall, 30 magistrates and labour inspectors built their capacities to implement and use, in judicial practice, International Labour Standards and Fundamental Principles at Work. This was made possible through backing from the International Labour Organization (ILO) to the Government, and involved labour inspectors, child labour officers, planning officers from the Ministry of Employment and State prosecutors).



Staff of the UN and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration and other partners embark on a health walk during the commemoration of UN Day 2022. ©UNIC-Accra





A mother examines her child's birth certificate in the presence of UNICEF staffer, Margaret Gwada.
© UNICEF /Geoffrey Buta



Results Area 2:

Social investment in people

Outcome 3

The Government of Ghana delivers equitable, quality and financially sustainable social services.

Outcome 4

Marginalized and vulnerable populations demand and use social services.

CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



The UN carried on supporting the Government to strengthen systems for the delivery of equitable and quality social services until they become sustainable. The health, education, nutrition and social protection sectors, which benefitted from UN-supported programmes, registered improvements. With the UN supporting advocacy and influencing decisions around the protection of social spending the financing of social services also improved. The UN and the Government intensified efforts to reduce malnutrition including stunting, focusing on nutrition education and counselling on maternal, infant and young-child nutrition. Through funding to strengthen systems for the COVID-19 response, the health sector ensured the continuity of essential health services and enhanced access to them for underserved and vulnerable communities. This was critical in maintaining the downward trend in disease-specific and child mortality. The Government carried on implementing the free Senior High School policy, thereby increasing enrolment. The promotion of technical and vocational education received a boost. The introduction of free **TVET and its restructuring increased enrolment from 13,000 in 2021 to 47,000**, and reaffirmed Ghana's commitments made during the UN-supported Transforming Education Summit held in 2022. Institutions offering midwifery education were equipped with skills laboratories, while the Ministry of Health received support in the form of maternal death reviews. Such efforts helped improve maternal and neonatal health.

OUTPUT 3.1

Primary health care strengthened to achieve universal health coverage (UHC).

- The World Health Organization (WHO), UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund, (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) lent support to the Government, which made strides towards achieving UHC. With WHO support: integration of the

A female doctor attends to a patient
at Akyem Tafo. ©WHO



prevention and treatment of noncommunicable diseases into primary health care made progress; 515 health care workers learnt about the WHO package of essential noncommunicable disease interventions, and; 1,245,886 children, including those in hard-to-reach areas of Ghana, got vaccinated; this resulted from WHO support to the micro development of operational plans, and from its guidance in a revision of the National Maternal Death Surveillance and Response Guidelines to ensure that health facilities reported and audited maternal deaths appropriately; and UNFPA backed an inquiry into maternal death audits to identify gaps, and improve such audits.

- UNICEF also provided technical support to the Ministry of Health to develop the Essential Health Services Package, a critical tool for the implementation of the UHC road map to guide the health sector in the next 10 years towards achieving the SDGs and UHC.
- the WHO Standards to improve the quality of care for children and young adolescents in health facilities, and the standards for the care of small and sick newborns in health facilities, were adapted and launched. Overall, 642 regional and district-level trainers (269 female) built their capacities, which helped establish 120 quality-improvement teams in primary health facilities in 10 regions.
- through WHO support: 2,671 service providers improved their capacity in the delivery of adolescent and youth-friendly health service; 1,000 health care workers received coaching on adherence to guidelines and protocols in the delivery of adolescent and youth-friendly health services, and; over 11,500 students learned to assess the quality of health services through the WHO web-based platform.
- With UN support the Costed National Health Sector Medium-Term Development Plan developed its National Essential Health Services package, for UHC. The package is aligned with the

benefits package of the National Health Insurance Scheme.

- UNDP material, logistic and medical support helped: primary health care facilities to enhance their service delivery to vulnerable people in urban slum areas, and in Chorkor, and; the Government to implement the national policy on non-communicable diseases.
- Through the Ghana Health Service (GHS), UNHCR helped improve UHC by: constructing premises for community-based health planning and services for some 3,000 refugees and host community members in Egyekrom.
- With UNDP support the Government evaluated the policy on anti-microbial resistance and the National Action Plan to identify implementation gaps and help develop the new National Action Plan. It developed a toolkit for use in preparing an investment case for neglected tropical diseases.

With UNFPA support:

- the Government improved access to emergency obstetric and newborn care services by training 80 people including midwives from primary health care facilities; the Mankessim Fistula Centre bolstered its capacity to provide fistula care, and performed fistula repair on 31 women, and;



Midwives pose with the mother of the eight billionth baby, at the Greater Accra Regional Hospital in Accra. ©UNFPA/Henry Alagbua

health systems raised the number of deliveries attended by trained health workers;

- the Government procured 40% of the national contraceptive requirement for the public sector, with an estimated total Couple-Years of Protection for 938,206 women and girls, thereby averting 237,465 unintended pregnancies and 504 maternal deaths;
- 32 midwives from 16 regions built their capacity on gender mainstreaming, which improved their knowledge of gender-based violence, harmful practices and referral mechanisms;
- the government improved the health system's capacity by integrating 216 community-based health planning and services in the Northeast and Savanna regions into the newly launched electronic Logistics Management Information System, and the Ghana Integrated Logistics Management Information System; the GHS trained 750 health providers to administer the DMPA SC injectable contraception—a survey on the reliability of the commodity's supply confirmed client satisfaction, and; a practice network concept note and guidelines were developed.

With UNICEF's technical, financial, material and/or other support:

- Supply-chain systems for health including last-mile commodity-management systems, particularly the immunization cold-chain system, received a boost with the procurement of cold-chain equipment. This included 31 walk-in cold rooms and walk-in freezers, 507 Vestfrost ice-lined refrigerators, 36 ultra-cold chain equipment, and 1,400 vaccine carriers. Through training 2,000 health workers developed their capacity to manage the equipment.
- Regional hospitals in Kintampo North, Upper West and Ashanti improved the quality of their services. The programme to implement quality of care for maternal and neonatal health was

expanded to all regions and 186 health facilities to further improve outcomes for mothers and their newborns in Ghana.

- 1,135 Community-based Health Planning and Services zones (Ashanti region) strengthened their essential health service delivery through 4,720 outreach activities. 75 trained prescribers in the Eastern Region received training on Scaling Pneumonia Response InnovaTions, delivered under the supervision of the Integrated Management of Newborn and Childhood Illness, to address pneumonia among children. 70 health care workers received training to use the SafetyNet Register to ensure quality of care for pregnant adolescents.
- medical oxygen became more readily available and technical capacity improved through UNICEF's procurement and distribution of 300 additional oxygen concentrators, completion of an oxygen quantification report and development of a national policy on medical oxygen and costing implementation plan.



A UN team, led by the UN Resident Coordinator, Charles Abani, assesses the impact of a Canadian-funded health project in the north of Ghana. ©WHO

Output 3.2

Health system and capacities to address social determinants of health are strengthened.

- Along with other partners, WHO and UNDP helped develop an investment case for tobacco and a policy note, as well as recommendations on Ghana's health taxes, to advocate increases in taxes on tobacco, alcohol and sugar-sweetened beverages.
- Ghana initiated its first-ever Harmonized Health Facility Assessments, through UN collaboration with the Global Fund, the World Bank, the United States Agency for International Development, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The assessments involved 1,400 facility types in 261 districts countrywide, and sought to generate comprehensive facility-based information on the availability, readiness and quality of health services.
- With technical support from WHO, the Ministry of Health launched a health labour market analysis to identify and gain a better understanding of the challenges in the health workforce. It trained 82 senior officials on the WHO flagship Pathways for Leadership for Health Transformation.



A woman receives a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot during a vaccination campaign in Kwadaso. ©WHO

Output 3.3

Systems improved to address Public health emergencies.

- WHO and UNICEF collaborated to ensure that some 12.85 million people (70.4% of the target for COVID-19 vaccination) received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, while 9.8 million people (53.7% of the target) completed the primary series.
- WHO support helped: Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research to conduct a nationwide study on the prevalence of COVID-19 in the general population, and; provide training for 323 national ambulance staff in administering oxygen therapy to critically ill patients.
- To improve ways of identifying returnees with psychological needs and responding to them, migration stakeholders participated in 19 training sessions on mental health and

STORY

The UN in Ghana and key partners provide psychosocial assistance to vulnerable returnees, including children.

Returning to one's home country after living elsewhere as a migrant or refugee can be a minefield of challenges. In Ghana, the UN and key partners are on hand to offer psychosocial support to returnees, particularly children and vulnerable individuals.



“

When I returned from Libya, I was incredibly disappointed, distressed, and unable to think clearly. I had sent money to my brother in Ghana to build a house for me, but he had instead used the money for other purposes. I was greatly hurt, especially since he was my brother. However, thanks to the psychosocial counselling I received from IOM, I was able to come to terms with the situation and forgave my brother. I am moving on with my life and have even started a business. I am hopeful for a better future”. – **Ahmed Alhassan**, a returnee from Kumasi



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full story online

FULL STORY AT ANNEX 2 / STORY 1 Source: <https://bit.ly/3qukLd8>

psychosocial support conducted in six regions of Ghana with the support of IOM.

The key role played by WHO, UNDP and the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases brought about substantial progress in the national medicines policy and the strengthening of regulatory systems. The achievements involved:

- developing and disseminating the National Medicines Pricing Strategy;
- strengthening pharmacovigilance/safety monitoring systems of vaccines and medical products at the lower levels of health care, through technical assistance to the national regulatory authority;
- developing the National Vaccine Policy and the National Vaccine Institute draft bill;
- aligning the existing legislation on the regulation of medical products in Ghana to the African Union model law, and;
- conducting the end-term evaluation of the policy on anti-microbial resistance and the National Action plan to strengthen the data needed to develop and implement policies for addressing anti-microbial resistance. Feedback from the evaluation was expected to contribute to the development of the new National Action plan for anti-microbial resistance.

UNICEF maintained its backing to the COVID-19 response and other emergencies. Among other things, it:

- helped undertake a risk assessment and two rounds of polio immunization, targeting 6.6 million children under five in all of Ghana's districts, in response to a polio outbreak;

6.6m

children under 5 were targeted for polio immunization in all of Ghana's districts.



Vaccine champions demonstrate ways of engaging community members on COVID-19 vaccine acceptance.

- provided technical support to the GHS, which successfully deployed and managed COVID-19 vaccination and implemented a social mobilization strategy that ensured high vaccination coverage; helped train 2,123 community-based surveillance volunteers to improve community-based surveillance and reporting;
- helped respond to the Marburg virus outbreak by delivering category 3 personal protective devices and technical assistance through the Integrated Outbreak Analytics team for outbreak investigation, and
- actively helped the Government coordinate the response to a yellow fever outbreak in unimmunized nomadic populations in northern Ghana.

A young girl in the community of Kojokura shows off her yellow fever vaccination card.
©UNICEF/BUTA



Output 3.4

National & local institutions have strengthened capacity to monitor and scale up high quality HIV prevention, treatment and support services.

Working with the Joint UN Team on HIV/AIDS, Ghana scaled up person-centred approaches to HIV service delivery (DSD). This included the training of health care workers, assessment of DSD quality in 160 facilities and the revision of the DSD manual and, importantly, activities conducted in 30 health facilities to reduce stigma. A system was developed to conduct audits of all infants exposed to HIV.

UNDP, the Ghana AIDS Commission and Young Health Advocates Ghana jointly created, developed and piloted a mobile unit to provide health and psychosocial information to young people living with HIV. The goal was to ensure that these young people were not left behind, but equipped with the necessary information and skills to advocate and support the national HIV response. With UNESCO's support, 358,535 young people in and out of school received information on reproductive health and/or HIV prevention, delivered via multiple media platforms. Additionally, 43,000 students learned in school about ways of preventing HIV infection.

To help activate the HIV-prevention roadmap, UNFPA supported the roll-out of the national campaign on HIV prevention and condom use among young people. Led by the Ghana AIDS Commission, the campaign began during the month commemorating HIV awareness. Civil society received financial and technical support to intensify education on HIV issues, especially prevention. Additionally, UNFPA supported various community and market outreaches that reached 1,000 individuals including women, men, young people, market patrons and taxi drivers in raising awareness on the increasing HIV rates among in the general population. A total of 115 young people in

detention received reproductive health education and information while 211 young people living with HIV learnt about sexual and reproductive health, positive living, adherence to treatment and livelihood support.

WFP extended its pilot project on livelihood capacity-strengthening for households of people living with HIV from one region to three, which helped improve food security and nutrition for 19,788 people living with HIV and potentially their adherence to antiretroviral therapy.

Output 3.5

The education system has increased the capacity to deliver improved learning outcomes in primary and junior high schools.

The Government carried on implementing the Free Senior High School policy in addition to the school Performance Improvement intervention. This eased the financial burden on parents and guardians, while broadening access to education and improving its quality. With financial and technical support from the UN, the Government went on developing the



On World AIDS Day, a volunteer carries a placard to create awareness among motorists and pedestrians. ©UNAIDS

TVET and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to advance the country's industrialization agenda. It completed seven of 10 planned senior high schools devoted to STEM and received pioneering students in 2023. The education sector saw gross enrolment rates decline marginally while net enrolment rates rose at the basic levels. It registered relatively low learning outcomes, with wide variations in Basic Education Certificate Examination results across regions and by gender. UNESCO, UNHCR and UNICEF continued to support the sector primarily through the Ministry of Education and the Ghana Education Service.

Policy development:

With UN technical and financial backing:

- the national education authorities developed, implemented and monitored policies, including the Comprehensive National Teacher Policy, the School Establishment and Inspection Policy and the Safe School Policy. As a result, 300 teachers and private school proprietors were better equipped to help implement education sector policies.

- the Government completed and began applying an Early Childhood Education Policy to strengthen the early-childhood education sub-system and the foundation for young children in kindergarten across six different domains. Lessons from the roll-out informed the recently completed Early Childhood Care and Development, with established cross-sectoral linkages – water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health/nutrition.

Capacity strengthening:

UNESCO, UNICEF, national educational agencies and the Ghana National Association of Teachers joined forces to conduct courses, enabling over 5,000 junior and senior high school teachers to acquire skills in digital learning. Consequently, the country's education sector is better prepared to ensure uninterrupted learning during crisis situations.

See story
How UNESCO ICT training is making a difference for a high school teacher in Ghana (<https://bit.ly/43GWL4e>).



UNESCO, CENDLOS organize maiden OER sensitization workshop (<https://bit.ly/3rIGkHB>).



STORY

Schoolchildren in northern Ghana are standing for peace

Schoolchildren in northern Ghana are taking practical steps, through the establishment of peace clubs, to co-exist peacefully with migrants arriving in their communities after fleeing insecurity in neighbouring Burkina Faso. Overall, 262 Peace Clubs are spread across all schools in two border districts in the Upper East Region. The UN in Ghana created them in partnership with the Government of Japan through the Community Resilience Building Against the Sahel Spillover Project, and the Ghana Education Service.




“ I enjoy attending Peace Club. As a result, I no longer fight. I used to be quite aggressive, but now I like to practise peace”. – Hectorina Kanmong, 14-year-old Peace Club member





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Source: <https://bit.ly/45RtypA>.

UN backing enabled the Government to develop online learning platforms for greater access to free, quality-assured curriculum resources for teachers and learners, which helped many more teachers and learners to upgrade their knowledge and skills. The learning platforms include:

 <https://imaginelearning.africa/> which helped strengthen the capacity of over 4,000 STEM teachers;

 Open Educational Resources (Ghana Edu CONNECT) <https://oer-ghana.web.app/index>, and;

 <https://ghana.learningpassport.org/#/> with digital content for children in grades 1–3 to learn literacy and numeracy, supported by UNICEF.

UN partnership with the National School Inspectorate Authority also helped achieve this output by enabling 100 members of District Teacher Support Teams and 2,000 headteachers to acquire accountability and management skills. They are now assisting schools to comply with the national standards.

With support from UNESCO and UNICEF, the Ministry of Education and CSOs delivered solid education in reproductive health and gender responsive pedagogy, which equipped 1,700 teachers and 43,000 young people in and out of school to provide accurate information on reproductive health.

UNICEF's technical support contributed to the Government's approval of the Differentiated Learning approach for Ghana, and armed 36,518 learners (including 18,432 girls) with improved foundational skills in English and mathematics. Teachers built their capacity to continue delivering the skills across 235 schools from 47 districts in six new regions. UNICEF still supported the use of sports to promote the Safe Schools programme and equipped 13,214 pre-tertiary officers and teachers to support 425,439 students.

With UNICEF support, 57,876 teachers and non-teaching staff and 29,095 student leaders received training to promote reproductive health education and life skills among junior high school students. The training was adapted and applied to students from special schools.

Under the GIGA initiative which aims to connect every school to the internet, UNICEF supported the nation-wide mapping of 34,000 schools with established indicators to form part of the educational management information system for evidence and decision-making.

Output 3.6

Government has increased capacity to implement policies and scale up social protection programmes that are efficient, equitable and financially sustainable.

Policy development/review

- With backing from UNICEF, the Government finished reviewing the draft social protection bill and prepared two social-protection policy implementation plans for the sector.
- Along with the WFP, the Government reviewed the school feeding policy in the wake of COVID-19 and the mitigation measures that compelled schools to close. The review forms the basis for external assessments of the policy that will guide the updating of the draft school feeding bill.

Capacity strengthening

- Support from UNICEF helped strengthen integrated social service delivery in 160 of the 261 districts. The initiative helped seven Municipal District Assemblies to collaborate and thereby strengthen capacity, coordination and systems. It enabled 160 Metropolitan, Municipal District Assemblies (MMDAs) to deliver integrated social welfare case-management services. This boosted access to services that provide health care, prevent violence against children and vulnerable people, address multi-dimensional poverty, and so on.
- Staff of the Leadership Excellence through Awareness and Practice (LEAP) Management Secretariat received training, supported by UNICEF, which enhanced their interest in team building.

- The Government, backed by UNICEF, the World Bank and WFP, documented lessons learnt from piloting the reassessment of the LEAP programme in 10 selected districts across the five regions in the North. This will inform the national programme roll-out.
- To help address issues in digital financial services that LEAP beneficiaries face, WFP partnered with the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research to assess the challenges women beneficiaries face. Findings proposed layering in additional cash-plus interventions and digital financial services to maximize the cash, and improve uptake.

Cash transfers and social services:

- A greater number of children, pregnant and lactating women now have access to supplementary feeding because WFP provided value vouchers to over 3,000 caretakers of children aged 6–23 months, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls facing malnutrition.
- An exchange and educational visit to Benin, supported by WFP, improved the capacity of staff from the Ghana School Feeding programme to participate in the Global Child Nutrition Forum.
- UNICEF enabled three Government officials to visit Zambia for a meeting of the Community of Practice of Cash Transfer in Africa, where they shared Ghana's experience and learnt from other countries' social protection interventions related to COVID-19.
- With the backing of WFP 1, 348 women and 833 adolescent girls as well as 574 men, received messages on social and behaviour change. Meanwhile, 2,640 GHS staff received training in social and behaviour change communication.
- With backing from WFP, the Ministry of Agriculture compiled and disseminated bulletins on the Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System, as well as Harmonized Framework reports, to provide early warning information on food security and possible crisis situations that would require Government intervention.



Over
1,827,035

poor and vulnerable individuals throughout Ghana received cash transfers through UNICEF and WFP with support from the World Bank and LEAP.

- Through the Integrated Social Services, UNICEF also helped expand access to the National Health Insurance Scheme for LEAP beneficiaries. Overall, 76% of the LEAP beneficiaries enrolled in the Scheme resulting in 1,546,062 active individuals under its category of persons living in abject poverty.
- Stakeholders improved their knowledge about targeting vulnerable people with social protection interventions following the Government's dissemination of the findings of the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis, an initiative supported by the WFP.

Policy advocacy:

- A digitization pilot project in selected schools in all districts helped make the monitoring of school feeding efficient.
- Social protection is a key focus of the IMF Extended Credit Facility programme's support for vulnerable people. This was the result of advocacy by UNICEF and the World Bank, which promoted the use of budget analyses to safeguard social-protection spending. The Government confirmed the safeguard in the 2023 Budget Statement and Economic Policy.
- FAO worked with two ministries on specific variables and indicators to be captured during the collection of data on target populations for use in enhancing e-agriculture for early-warning systems.
- Through a small-scale fisheries project, FAO and the Fisheries Commission identified three project communities out of 10 for support.



Over 500 vulnerable households across 15 districts had greater access to food crop seedlings as a result of FAO-supported activity.

Output 4.1

Vulnerable populations have increased capacity to demand & use services to improve their health and nutrition status.

Support from the UN strengthened the capacities of national institutions to improve health and nutrition services and helped in targeting individuals with social and behaviour-change messages to support them in making positive choices. Specific results were as follows:

- 2,600 frontline health personnel including community health nurses improved their nutrition service delivery through training.
- 35,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescent girls and caregivers of children received information to guide their choices, and encourage them to consume healthier foods and seek health services regularly. Some 440,000 community members and opinion leaders received social and behaviour-change messages that helped improve their nutrition, and enabled them to support vulnerable women, children and girls.



197,281 caregivers

learned more about child nutrition and early childhood development through the Start Right, Feed Right, from birth to 2 Years campaign.

- The proportion of children under six months who were breastfed exclusively surged (55.2%) compared to the baseline of 43%.
- With the launch of the National Food Safety Policy, over 3,000 people heightened their knowledge of food safety and better health.
- With support from UNFPA, the Government and civil society partners educated 96,819 adolescents and young people about reproductive health, to enable them to be

responsible adults and help develop their communities. This involved support to 277 in- and out-of-school adolescent health clubs in project districts.

- The enrolment of extremely vulnerable individuals showed a downward trend from 1.504 million in 2014 to 404,839 in 2018. With the support of UNICEF through Integrated Social Services and sustained collaboration between the National Health Insurance Authority and LEAP/the Government, the enrolment of extremely vulnerable individuals rose to 1.546 million in early 2022. The exception are children under 18 years (6.9 million), pregnant women (0.738 million) and elderly people (0.695 million) who are on the National Health Insurance Scheme.

With support from UNICEF, the nutrition scorecard was launched nationally and rolled out at the sub-national level. Additionally the GHS mapped 300 corporate organizations to assess the presence of breastfeeding corners, identify the organizations' areas of need and follow up with targeted support to create baby friendly facilities and ensure that working mothers can breastfeed while at work.

Output 4.2

More adolescent girls & boys complete quality basic education and have adequate life skill.

Policy development:

- The Government finalized the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Policy Framework, and launched key activities. They included: developing budget briefs for resource mobilization; increased advocacy on Right Age Enrolment at kindergartens and Primary 1 in districts with low kindergarten enrolment; providing tools for the assessment of kindergartens, and; orientation for all 16 Regional Directorate officials and over 100 District Assembly executives on the ECE Policy. Family and community engagement guidelines are available to support dialogue on foundational learning.

- The Government reviewed the Inclusive Education Policy, and began to prepare the costed implementation plan.

Access to quality education:

- Refugees and asylum seekers in camp and urban settings enrolled in the national education system from primary to senior high school. In line with the policy of inclusion, refugees do attend schools in host communities while camps also admit host community children. This is critical for the quality of the education, and better learning outcomes and certifications, among other things.
- Schools in refugee camps received materials such as textbooks, uniforms and stationery that benefited refugee and host-community children alike. The support came from UNHCR, the Christian Council of Ghana and the National Catholic Secretariat, and enabled 70 refugee children to sit for the Basic Education Certificate exam. UNHCR installed 60 computers in ICT centres in two camp locations to promote ICT use in schools.
- The percentage of refugees enrolled in primary and secondary education stood at 39.95% with 1,377 (711 male, 666 female) learners.
- UNFPA enabled 81 marginalized adolescent girls to enrol and remain in formal or non-formal education and vocational training institutions. Overall, 20 head porters and migrant adolescents enrolled in vocational institutions, while 49 received basic necessities to keep them in school.
- With UNICEF support, the Inclusive Education Policy was reviewed. UNICEF

coordinated with the National Council on Persons with Disabilities and the Ghana Federation of Disability Organizations to mobilize 200 people for the Global Disability Summit.



57,000 children

underwent screening for early disability detection and support, and teachers received training to harmonize the Ghanaian sign language dictionary.

UNICEF worked closely with partners in the Ghana Education Service to launch a public advocacy campaign entitled 'It's about ability', celebrating the potential of children with disabilities through sports. The campaign received significant media and social media coverage and provided children, with and without functional difficulties, the opportunity and space to discuss their challenges on national media platforms.



Through UNICEF Support

2.5million listeners

had access to the Lively Minds radio programme, with episodes covering oral hygiene, problem-solving, language skills, socio-emotional development, non physical discipline, and disability.



The Ministry of Education scaled this to reach



75,000 kindergarten learners.

UNICEF helped organize the Early Childhood Education Policy's orientation workshops for 100 Municipal/District Chief Executives,

A tour guide briefs a group of students at the James Town Castle during a UNIC-led outreach event.
©UNIC Accra



planning/budget and social welfare officers to mainstream early-childhood education content into decentralized planning.

Access to adequate life skills: UNICEF supported the Ghana Library Authority to establish 10 pilot Youth Engagement Centres, providing 14,480 adolescents and young people with digital skills, entrepreneurship training and career development activities.

Output 4.3

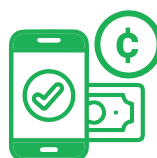
Key and marginalized populations are empowered to access quality HIV/AIDS services.

- The Ghana AIDS Commission, supported by WFP, conducted and disseminated an assessment of HIV-sensitive social protection, which served to advocate social protection for people living with HIV/AIDS. The advocacy enabled those from three targeted regions to acquire livelihoods.
- UNFPA collaborated with ProActif and the Ghana Aids Commission to provide services to 9,604 adolescent boys and girls in schools and inform them on the prevention of HIV transmission, and misconceptions and myths surrounding condom use, among other things. The activity involved the voluntary HIV testing of adolescents. Outreaches for 500 pregnant adolescent girls, and young people focused on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.
- UNDP partnered with the National AIDS Control Program to conduct: assessments of health care workers; assessments on clients' perception of stigma, and; training courses in 10 health facilities in the Greater Accra Region. This gave 213 workers in the health facilities the requisite skills to provide non-discriminatory services to over 17,000 people living with HIV.
- UNDP, working jointly with the Ghana AIDS Commission, built the capacity of the national and regional leadership of the national association of people living with HIV. Nine women and 11 men increased their capacity to advocate equitable access to HIV-related services and treatment.

Output 4.4

Vulnerable groups are fully aware of and have access to the social protection services available to them.

- IOM support enabled 3,476 people from 11 communities in three regions to receive awareness messages on migration issues.
- 810 vulnerable migrants received economic aid from IOM as part of the EU Trust Fund for Africa's support for their sustainable reintegration.
- Through UNICEF/CSO partnership, the first ever CSO social protection mirror report was launched, accompanied with social protection and social accountability tools. This provided key stakeholders with citizens' assessment of social protection delivery in Ghana, to inform programming.



Over
107,000

individuals received cash from the Government to help them deal with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- UNICEF provided support in the form of communication and monitoring of cash transfers, using innovative media, such as interactive voice messaging in local languages and English. This enabled poor and vulnerable individuals to share their experiences on how they received the cash grant.

UNFPA support helped empower 14,590 adolescent girls through greater access to health and socio-economic building assets. This was in conjunction with SISTAs clubs and Promoting Adolescent Safe Spaces, and supported by civil society partners.



Results Area 3: Protected and safe environment

Outcome 5

Environmental governance at national and local levels is effective, efficient and coherent.

Outcome 6

Urban & rural community resilience is increased due to access to affordable services, knowledge and tools to increase their resilience.

CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



In 2022, Ghana intensified efforts to implement key actions geared towards the achievement of objectives on environment and climate policies. The UN in Ghana boosted the efforts using many of its usual approaches, such as technical and financial support and advocacy. Ghana received support in building its capacity to form innovative and effective partnerships on climate action and environmental management. The results were remarkable. Ghana launched policy and strategic documents to create a favourable environment to meet its international commitments and realize the SDGs. It improved its capacity to leverage the carbon market and climate finance. This, along with efforts to empower rural forest communities who work with the Government to make the environment mainstream, heightened climate-change resilience and mitigation. UN initiatives also helped raise awareness on various climate-smart technologies and ensure their adoption. They also called attention to environmental considerations, such as in mining, the management of chemicals, plastics, water and sanitation and other concerns.

Building capacity, and promoting CSOs, private sector engagement, research and advocacy count among key UN contributions towards access to affordable services, knowledge and tools that will help strengthen urban and rural community resilience. UN contribution at country level has yielded results, evidenced by greater capacity to manage Ghana's biosphere reserves, and the appreciation of risk-based insurance in disaster-risk reduction and management, with key lessons for scale up.



A farmer irrigates her crops using solar irrigation facilities provided by UNDP to support year-round farming. ©UNDP/Praise Nutakor



Output 5.1

Evidence-based and gender-responsive climate action is scaled up across sectors with increased funding at both national and local levels.

- With UN support, Ghana became the second country in the world to adopt the voluntary cooperation approaches under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement, integrating them into the national Carbon Market Policy Framework. This allows public and private institutions to collaborate through investment in climate-change mitigation. Indeed, it has paved the way for partnerships from Singapore, Sweden and elsewhere—and authorized the transfer of mitigation outcomes to Switzerland, under its new climate-smart rice project. The new agreements are expected to crowd in more carbon revenue to accelerate the implementation of Ghana's climate plan, benefit local communities and help attain the SDGs.
- Voluntary cooperation is redirecting private-sector investment, especially in the waste sector, to help implement the SDGs. Ghana is poised to attract more funding to curb its carbon emission and promote partnership to achieve the SDGs.
- The launch of the strategic plan for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste in Ghana has strengthened the national capacity to manage chemicals throughout their lifecycle in a sound manner, and to help reduce mercury use in the small-scale gold mining industry.
- Many of Ghana's sub-national development authorities boosted their capacity to integrate and implement climate change, the green economy, and local economic development-related SDGs in their development plans. They improved their capacity to measure the delivery of outcomes in terms of meeting international obligations, such as VNRs, and to report on them. Some 1,100 staff from 101 MMDAs (out of 261) are empowered to take the lead in such areas.
- The UN Development System (UNDS) supported Ghana's participation in COP27. This provided a platform for Ghana to forge bilateral agreements on carbon credits and markets, as well as to mobilize and scale up adaptation financial inflows. Ghana was a member of the African group of negotiators who influenced the decision on the loss and damage fund.

STORY

Ghana leads the way in carbon emission reductions

As countries scramble to save Planet Earth from overheating, Ghana is doing its part. A climate-smart rice project covering nearly 80 percent of Ghana's rice production is supporting thousands of rice farmers to adopt a technology that will lead to significant methane emission reductions. This groundbreaking drive, implemented by the UN in Ghana to reduce carbon emissions, is putting Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement into practice and providing extra income to farmers through carbon revenue, for greater resilience.



“

I spend so much time irrigating my rice farm and have just little control over the water I use. We are really looking forward to fully adopt the new rice farming technology to conserve more water and improve our yields.” – **Opanyin Kojo Eyiah**, rice farmer in Okyereko, Central Region



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full story online

FULL STORY AT ANNEX 2 / STORY 2 Source: <https://bit.ly/43ue75j>

Output 5.2

Communities are enabled to adopt systems for integrating climate change and environmental considerations into the management of natural resources (e.g. forest and water) and livelihood activities.

- Over 7,000 rural farmers got training to cut methane emission and water-pumping costs to ensure efficient water use.
- 350 rural farmers (38% female) in 12 focal districts improved their capacities in climate-smart agricultural practices, inter alia, in soil conservation and proper use of agrochemicals in the cocoa landscapes.
- Collaboration with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture led to a marked increase in the adoption and application of climate-smart agriculture in 11 of the 43 targeted districts across six administrative regions of Ghana.
- The Regional House of Chiefs maintained partnerships with traditional councils, FAO, the Forest and Farm Facility and Organisation for Indigenous Initiatives and Sustainability. This led to by-laws, developed to protect women-centred non-timber forest products, such as shea, in five regions.
- Through training and capacity building for climate-risk responses and disaster-risk reduction the UNDS enhanced the resilience of some 1,000 vegetable and cereal farmers to climate impacts in two districts in the West.
- Supported by UNDP, the Government, established 39 nurseries and planted over 1.5 million seedlings on 1,215 hectares of degraded forest reserves and on 11,100 hectares of off-reserve areas in the shea and cocoa landscapes.
- The UNCDF facilitated cash for work benefitting the youth, women and returnees, and procurement to local SMEs, which the EU funded as part of the initiative, Boosting Green Employment and Enterprise Opportunities in Ghana (GrEEEn).
- UNCDF through the LoCAL conducted a country-wide climate risk-assessment

combining a climate downscaling model with a vulnerability analysis to identify climate-risk maps at the MMDA level for the agriculture, health and water sectors.

- The LISA – a web application that allows access to specific locally resourced climate-related information – was integrated into the District Development Data Platform web app hosted by the Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization and Rural Development for stakeholders' easy access to climate-change adaptation and SDG-related data.
- The UNCDF helped develop another system, the electronic attendance sheet, a web-based software system implemented by the EU-funded GrEEEn project to help in the day-to-day management of climate-resilient investments overseen by MMDAs.
- WHO collaborated with the GHS, the Okyehene Environment Foundation and UNDP, notably to train over 80 regional and district-level health care workers. This boosted the workers' capacity, inter alia, to identify and manage environmentally induced health risks, and integrate data on such risks into routine monitoring systems.
- The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) supported the review of the National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (2017–2020). It also trained 113 individuals: on the Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely policy, and; on the development of policy instruments. Through training on infrastructure planning, delivery and management, it built the capacity of 22 government personnel, academics and NGOs to ensure that decision making leads to climate action.
- WFP helped the NKOSEC 93 Foundation train 60 young people in beekeeping and afforestation in the Oti region. WFP provided beehives and other equipment, while; the Volta River Authority and the Forestry Commission helped plant 13,250 seedlings.
- With backing from WFP and UNESCO, the National Disaster Management Organization and the Ministry of interior developed educational materials and a video animation on earthquake disaster risk to educate the people, especially vulnerable individuals.



Output 5.3

Key State and non-State actors (private sector academia and CSOs) have improved capacities to form innovative and effective partnerships on climate action and environmental management.

- The Energy Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency jointly carried out energy- and resource-efficiency audits to improve knowledge among 500 MSMEs on energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.
- The Government received support in securing a 4.4 million-dollar grant from the Global Environment Facility and a 44.8-million dollar co-financing commitment from diverse sources to formalize the artisanal gold-mining sector.
- The Ministry of Food and Agriculture got support to make weather and seasonal forecasts understandable for smallholder farmers. It signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ghana Meteorological Services, inter alia, to deliver forecasts to farmers in local languages.
- The Government received backing from IFAD and the African Development Bank to establish 2,504 rural businesses, create 2,803 jobs and job opportunities, and register 3,878 existing businesses (56% on average were owned by, or created for women).



90,156 people

were impacted by a climate-resilient infrastructure investment programme, implemented in six MMDAs.

It used UNCDF's Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility mechanism with a cash-for-work model, to create short-term job opportunities and stimulate local economies.

- The Government adopted a comprehensive funding strategy that identifies infrastructural financing sources, that will help diversify Ghana's sources of funding for climate-related infrastructure.
- The UN Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights visited Ghana in 2022 to assess its toxics and the impact that the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes will have on human rights.
- For the first time, Ghana's climate adaptation needs across the energy, water and transport sectors were quantified. Partnership involving UNOPS, the Government, the Global Centre for Adaptation, the University of Oxford and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) culminated in a roadmap of investments, policies and related funding options.



With UNICEF support,
69,000 people

from low-income high-density urban areas (including 15,000 children) got access to safe water through action backed by the Danish Government and realized in partnership the Ghana Water company.

- With UNICEF support, 4,486 additional households have access to basic sanitation services and 24 communities were declared open-defecation free. WASH infrastructure





Breaking the ground for a cassava processing factory in Adamu. ©IOM Ghana 2022

in 28 schools and 48 health care facilities were improved, providing 8,666 school children and 3,046 outpatients with daily access to safe and sustainable WASH services.

- UNICEF's support to the Green African Youth Organization, the Youth Climate Council and other youth-led organizations in their climate advocacy gave 330 young Ghanaians forums to discuss climate change and build their capacity in climate negotiation. Two young people, trained in climate negotiation, joined Ghana's official climate negotiation team to participate in COP27.
- A study on the resilience of WASH infrastructure and services was initiated to inform sector policy and strategic direction. The creation of the WASH in Emergency Technical Working Group further improved emergency preparedness and coordination.
- 84,500 people (33,795 children) from the COVID-19 epicentres of Greater Accra and Greater Kumasi received risk awareness and messages, including on the need to wash hands with soap. Some 20,000 migrants (about 8,000 children) in border districts and members of their host communities obtained WASH services and critical supplies. WASH infrastructure was improved for six schools and four health facilities to build the resilience of communities in the region bordering the Sahel.

With UNICEF support:

- The water safety plan was rolled out in eight Municipal Assemblies of Greater Accra and Greater Kumasi. Using this risk-informed approach of managing the water-supply system and services helped give 69,000 people access to basic plus water supply. The Ghana Water Company Limited collaborated with Coliban Water to launch the National Water Safety Policy Guidelines.
- A formative evaluation of the initial implementation of the water-safety plan approach in the rural water sub-sector was completed. The findings showed that the plan could make the water system more sustainable and improve water quality.
- The national Water Policy was endorsed by the parliamentary select committee on water and sanitation, and will shape the agenda in the sub-sector to help achieve SDG 6.1.
- The review of the Rural Sanitation Model and Strategy was completed, with key advice for the Government to scale up.
- The assessment on funding for sanitation ended. It found demand-led sanitation actions to be most cost-effective.
- UNICEF collaborated with six other WASH sector partners in developing the national Hand Hygiene for All Strategy, complete with operational guidelines. A multi-stakeholder group of 280 staff members, from seven



districts, received training to roll out the implementation of the strategy and guidelines in districts. Efforts to strengthen the revolving loan schemes continued. The schemes received six additional financial service providers and two additional districts. The review of the monitoring and evaluation framework for WASH in health care facilities continued.

- 238 staff members from 12 districts received training to use the technology support guidelines for the construction of household toilets. The staff of 10 districts also received training on the updated toilet-quality assurance protocol.
- The basic sanitation fund provided affordable loans to households and SMEs in four municipalities, in addition 400 loans were issued in 2022. Four metropolitan and municipal assemblies met their demand for sanitation and hygiene services. Eight municipal assemblies joined the programme to promote hygiene, reaching over 100,000 people. Overall, 23,376 new people gained access to basic sanitation with the construction of 3,896 household toilets.
- Two local Government authorities and

private service providers signed an agreement to manage faecal sludge-treatment facilities in their metropolitan and municipal assemblies.

- The Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation led WASH development partners and other stakeholders to coordinate the drafting of briefing notes on Ghana's commitment to the Sanitation and Water for All high-level meeting in 2022 in Indonesia.
- A roadmap was developed to roll out the WASH Sector Information System in 2023.
- Two Ghanaian cities joined the African Clean Cities Platform through the UN-Habitat SDG initiative on waste. Takoradi City will pilot the project using the Waste Wise Cities Tool, developed by UN-Habitat to help track and manage solid municipal waste.
- IAMTHECODE, UNFPA and UNHCR jointly launched a digital and reproductive-health learning platform for boys and girls in informal settlements, starting with 100 beneficiaries. The aim was, inter alia to promote digital literacy in coding, boost employable skills and equal access to digital infrastructure among marginalized girls and boys and PWDs.
- UN-Habitat provided technical inputs in the Slum Upgrading and Prevention Strategy, and the National Urban Policy and Action



A community nurse at Kukobila fetches water from one of 145 boreholes provided by UNDP and the Government, with support from the Adaptation Fund, to support 50 communities in Ghana. ©UNDP/Praise Nutakor

Plan. This led to the revision of both of the national draft documents, which will foster strong collaboration among key sectors and agencies to mobilize the resources needed to implement them.



CEO of IamtheCODE Foundation, Lady Marieme Jamme, showing students in Accra how to use online resources for coding. ©UNESCO/George Koranteng

Output 5.4

Strengthen a disaster management capacities with focus on WASH and earthquakes.

UNESCO and WFP supported Ghana's preparedness for earthquake disaster-risk reduction through immediate and short-term measures including raising public awareness especially among vulnerable people. They produced educational and awareness raising materials, including 6,000 posters and a video and presented them to the national authorities.

Output 6.3

Strengthen the capacities of and provide tools to local organizations and communities to enhance livelihoods through nature-based solutions and integrated approaches (e.g., human security).

- Ghana's Man and Biosphere Committee and Environmental Protection Agency received support to raise awareness on the conservation of biodiversity and its bearing on sustainable livelihoods. The awareness

activities targeted communities around Ghana's biosphere reserves, including traditional leaders and 150 students from secondary schools and tertiary institutions.

- WFP worked with private-sector insurance companies to draft a concept note on risk-based insurance with two products focusing on disaster-affected populations, and smallholder farmers whose crops might be affected by disasters.

Output 6.4

Promote the engagement of civil society, research and the private sector in sectoral plan development and implementation.

- UNESCO and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency worked together on Strengthening Science, Technology and Innovation Systems for Sustainable Development in Africa. This project enabled Government officials, researchers and academics to build their capacities to develop Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely policies, and policy instruments. This led to the review of the national policy on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).
- As Ghana mainly banked on partnerships to implement its STI for the SDG roadmap, UNESCO facilitated several platforms and dialogues to help it mobilize resources. Among other things, UNESCO backed efforts to advocate investments in the STI ecosystem in West Africa, and supported the Government in hosting a two-day high-level forum of the Economic Community of West African States. Held in Accra the forum focused on the STI, and brought together policymakers, public agencies, experts and academics.
- With backing from WFP, the Government built the capacity of its experts to help: farmers cut their post-harvest losses by half; increase farmer-based organizations' (women and youth) contribution to the agricultural value-chain; take into account nutrition-sensitive approaches, and; improve food safety and quality.



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Visitors at the UN Ghana exhibition stand mounted during the national launch of the VNR report 2022. ©UN Ghana



Results Area 4: Inclusive, accountable Government

Outcome 7

Transparent, accountable institutions at all levels that protect the rights of all people

CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



The UN carried on strengthening institutions and building trust, making them transparent and accountable so as to protect the rights of all people. The country's independent judiciary, vibrant civil society, open media and other State institutions all helped maintain the stability of its democratic system by generally upholding fundamental human rights and freedoms and the rule of law. UN support helped enhance the decentralization of local governance systems, intensifying efforts to address gaps in national and sub-national State capacity to deliver public goods and services, and promoting the exercise of active citizenship. It enabled women and other marginalized groups to participate in political life, and expanded the confines of accountability structures and rule of law.

UN support intensified advocacy for the implementation of pro-poor and child-responsive policies, and for investments to increase public financing for social sectors to directly benefit children and adolescents and help achieve the SDGs. During the year, CSOs were empowered to demand transparency, accountability and responsiveness from public institutions and security structures. The National Peace Council (NPC) and its regional offices as well as security agencies became more active in terms of their mandate and national action on preparedness to prevent and tackle violent extremism.



The UN Resident Coordinator (centre) and a Government partner, in the studios of the National TV network, discussing matters of interest to the UN. ©UN Ghana



OUTPUT 7.1

Governance institutions have better tools to improve effectiveness, transparency, equitability and gender-sensitivity in implementing policies and programmes and guaranteeing the rights of all.

The UN partnered with State institutions and non-State actors to enhance their capacities. The partnership focused on boosting legislations, policies, plans, strategies and technical capabilities to improve the delivery of the institutions and actors' mandates. It achieved the following outcomes:

- UNDP backed the NPC and the National Commission for Civic Education to build gender policies and action plans and mainstream gender into institutional operations. UNFPA and UNDP support helped integrate national gender-responsive laws and policies, including the Domestic Violence Act and Ghana's Youth Policy, respectively. The Domestic Violence Secretariat is better able to end child marriage owing to the development of the Operational Monitoring and Evaluation Plan to End Child Marriage, 2023–2024, which UNICEF and UNFPA supported.
- The Inter-Ministerial National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-ups was able to submit the UPR with logistical and technical support from UNDP. The Legal Aid Commission in Ghana grew stronger after

UNDP helped create a legal aid fund and a paralegal guide, which also improved access to legal services. UNESCO's backing enabled superior court judges in Ghana to heighten their knowledge of, inter alia, the freedom of expression and the safety of journalists. Over 1,000 stakeholders boosted their knowledge and capacity to promote responsible business practices that respect human rights. Additionally, 11 executives from six Japanese companies improved their capacities to promote and protect human rights in their business operations in Ghana. Vitally, women and children have greater access to justice owing to UNICEF's support for the creation of three child-friendly gender-based violence courts, a juvenile court and three interviewing rooms for women and children in the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit. The Digital Forensic Lab continued to receive technical support, with over 3,500 police officers undergoing pre-service training on standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the handling of child victims, witnesses and offenders.



Dignitaries at a UNESCO training session on the freedom of expression and the safety of journalists. ©UNESCO

- With the support of UNICEF the Government finalized and launched the National Plan of Action for the Elimination of Human Trafficking, 2022–2026. It also finished assessing the implementation of the National Action Plan for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour 2017–2021, which will help in developing the Plan for 2022–2026.
- Overall, 1,341 children and young people (492 females) in residential homes for children (RHCs) were profiled for deinstitutionalization. This included 97 children who were reintegrated with their biological families and 230 who entered family-based care, 67 of them in foster care. All 16 regional heads of social welfare, 14 RHCs, three NPOs and selected districts benefited from awareness sessions on: the guidelines for deinstitutionalization of RHCs; the SOPs for alternative care, and; the National Standards for Foster Care in Ghana. With UNICEF's technical support, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection is finalizing the new Care Reform Initiative (2023–2027), calling for stronger inspection and monitoring mechanisms of

alternative care placements, promoting family-based care, and strengthening community gatekeeping mechanisms.

- With UNESCO support: the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board has a functional management plan for the Forts and Castles of Ghana that aims to enhance local community involvement in the administering of such sites, and to identify ways to maximize their benefits for the surrounding areas.



A crumbling wall on the fort at British Komenda.
©UNESCO/George Koranteng



UNAIDS meets with partners. ©UNAIDS



OUTPUT 7.2

National and subnational mechanisms have greater capabilities to promote peace, security and social cohesion.

UNDP, IOM and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) supported various initiatives to strengthen the capacities of peace actors and institutions for peace building, among other things, to reduce violence linked to small arms.

- The NPC and its regional offices became more active and functional because, through UNDP support, board members had enhanced their capacity to provide strategic direction to their offices, which enabled them to reach more people in a dynamic peace and security environment.
- With the support of UNDP in partnership with the Kofi International Peacekeeping Training Centre, 24 State and civil society actors received training and are helping prevent and counter terrorism in the subregion. With backing from UNDP, 2,477 people (adult–423 male, 354 female, and; the youth–842 male, 858 female) from MSMEs in nine districts, including along borders in Ghana, and members of regional

peace councils from four regions are now equipped to identify early warning signs and are working with State security to prevent conflicts and extremism.

- UNDP and the Ghana National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons jointly supported cross-border security cooperation involving Ghana, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire by setting up offices in three locations. IOM helped renovate two border posts and installed logistics border management information systems and other equipment, while UNDP backed the development of a digital national arms database system.

STORY

Communities safeguard peace in neighbouring towns

Limited access to social amenities such as primary health care and potable water, and high levels of unemployment increase the vulnerabilities of border communities, making them susceptible to radicalization and the activities of violent extremist organizations. Programming involving socio-economic projects, community dialogue and engagement, along with capacity-building initiatives in conflict resolution, and early-warning mechanisms can go a long way to secure vulnerable border communities. The UN in Ghana supported various initiatives to strengthen the capacities of peace actors and communities for peacebuilding, as well as to promote better handling of refugees and ensure efficient and effective security systems in border communities.



“

The training has been an eye opener, especially on the early warning signs we need to look out for and report. Since then, I have been more vigilant in my hotel”.

– Ms Wilhelmina Sakle Aklaku, Hotel Manager.

FULL STORY AT ANNEX 2 / STORY 3 Source: <https://bit.ly/43t9iJy>



Scan to read
full story online

OUTPUT 7.3

National planning institutions, development authorities & statistical agencies have better capability to generate & use disaggregated data for policy, planning & SDG implementation & reporting.

To enhance the capability to generate and use disaggregated data for policy, planning, and support the implementation of and reporting on SDGs, the UN (UNICEF, IOM and UNFPA) partnered with national planning institutions, and with development authorities and statistical agencies.

- With UNICEF's backing: the Births and Deaths Registry improved its capacity by developing SOPs, which helped standardize its operation at the decentralized level; the Government trained 2,095 staff members serving in decentralized social welfare and community development units, and provided them with child-protection community engagement toolkits, among other things. As a result, 11,725 clients (6,925 female) were entered into the Social Welfare Information Management System, for case management and easier access to services.
- With IOM support: a migration thematic paper was developed based on the 2021 population and housing census conducted by the Ghana Statistical Service and used to enrich the knowledge of 63 officials (21 women) on migration. UNFPA assisted with the production of thematic reports based on the census, thereby improving knowledge on maternal mortality, adolescence and youth, gender, ageing, disability and fertility.

OUTPUT 7.4

Civil society has improved capability to mobilize in demanding transparency, and accountability from public institutions, in particular in attaining the SDGs in Ghana.

UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNESCO strengthened and empowered civil society in various ways to improve their capability to mobilize demand for transparency and accountability from public institutions and State actors, in particular in the drive to achieve the SDGs in Ghana.

- With backing from UNDP: 220 PWDs and stakeholder groups are better able to demand the fulfilment of international commitments that are crucial to the achievement of real change for PWDs. They also enhanced their knowledge of the SDGs. UNDP support involved imparting advocacy and leadership skills to 241 male and 223 female leaders of women, young people and PWD groups. They can now lead their members to exercise their civic rights, duties and responsibilities. Some 550 women and youth-led businesses improved their knowledge of corporate governance and the National Youth Policy, and became better prepared to participate in governance.
- Through UNDP support, human rights CSOs from across the country were able to consolidate their capacity and consequently, to contribute to the Universal Periodic Review shadow report. The CSOs also played a role in the submission of Ghana's second voluntary National Review Report on the implementation of the SDGs, which bolstered their capacity for accountability.

UN resident Coordinator, Charles Abani, and dignitaries visit the UN exhibition stand during the launch of the VNR Report 2022.
©UNIC-Accra





Young girls in a refugee community in Osu, Accra, following a mentoring session organized for them and their parents/guardians, as part of the UNFPA-UNICEF Programme for Adolescent Girls, and supported by Global Affairs Canada. ©UNFPA

- All in all 95,292 adolescent girls received prevention and care services delivered through the Global Programme to End Child Marriage, along with the UNFPA-UNICEF Programme on Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health.
- The Ghanaians Against Child Abuse social drive, led by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, conveyed child-protection messages to 1,909,082 people in 160 districts and engaged 109 religious and traditional leaders, nationwide and
- UNICEF support helped incorporate key child-protection indicators—aligned with the Child and Family Welfare Policy, and Justice for Children Policy—into the medium-term development plans of all ministries, departments and agencies, and Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies. UNICEF worked with the NDPC to review annual action plans of all 261 MMDAs and ensure child protection indicators were included.

2.3

Support to partnerships and financing the 2030 Agenda

The UNCT in Ghana uses innovative partnerships to help catalyze public, private, domestic and international financial flows towards the 2030 Agenda. The UN is helping develop a US\$ 250-million blended financial architecture and a pipeline-builder partnership that leverage Ghana's public-sector anchor capital to catalyze domestic and international capital into MSME-sector SDG investments that target Ghana. The fund of funds will support planning and alignment to the SDGs, demonstrate Ghana's investability and attract new capital.

The UN is partnering with Impact Investment Ghana to organize the Ghana Impact and West Africa Deal Summit to unlock catalytic capital for SMEs, especially through local capital providers, to advance the SDGs and build a

pipeline of investment-ready SMEs.

UNOPS, in partnership with the Government, developed a strategy to identify and attract infrastructure financing, and identified 82 funds capable of financing infrastructure. Of the funds identified through SIFT, 62% can finance project-preparation to ensure projects' readiness to attract investment.

The UN aligns with the Government's Strategy of Ghana Beyond Aid while leveraging a visible private sector role in development. UN agencies support the private sector, focusing on technology and innovation, to bridge Ghana's funding gap. Indeed, the UNCDF has invested financial and technical resources to support local financial innovators in testing or expanding new tools, to give the most excluded groups greater access to finance.



UNDP and AfCFTA sign an agreement to facilitate intra-Africa trade. ©UNDP Africa.

UN-Government partnership allows the private sector to develop and expand digital bookkeeping, credit scoring, remittance-linked services and crowdfunding platforms.

The AfCFTA Secretariat and UNDP signed a US\$ 3 million strategic partnership to promote trade and stimulate Africa's socioeconomic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. They aim to create more resilient, inclusive and green economies to drive sustainable development, particularly for women and young people. In Ghana, UNDP is working with AfCFTA, inter alia, to support MSMEs in market expansion, and has signed a MoU with ABSA Bank to support MSME business start-ups.

ILO, supported by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and Switzerland, launched the US\$ 4 million Productivity Ecosystems for Decent Work Programme with the private sector, to improve productivity and conditions for targeted textile- and shea-sector enterprises.

A UNIDO-Japanese Government partnership initiated a three-year project to enhance the performance of Ghanaian MSMEs. The project, which has mobilized US\$ 3.4 million, will introduce a digital dashboard system that enables Ghanaian MSMEs to visualize and better manage their performance. By collecting key performance indicators from the production site, the system will address productivity issues and improve resource efficiency, food safety compliance

and MSME performance. WFP, the Government, development partners, the private sector and civil society are partnering to develop the Loyalty programme, a digital platform to promote behaviour change and fast-track Ghana's SDG achievement.

UNESCO is supporting the Government and Huawei to design, pilot and scale up technology-enabled Open School Systems, budgeted at US\$ 720,000, that connect school-based and home-based learning to ensure the continuity and quality of learning even during crises.

In collaboration with the Government to implement LoCAL, the UNCDF developed an innovative digital system, the Local Information Systems for Climate Change Adaptation. The LISA platform is a web application that allows access to specific locally sourced climate-related information.



Japanese Ambassador to Ghana, Hisanobu Mochizuki, (right) and UNIDO Representative, Fakhruddin Azizi (left) exchanging signed agreements. ©UNIDO/ Linda Gyala



The system provides accurate and current data, including on temperature, rainfall and population that trickle down to the community level, and information about the climatic ecosystem of locations. This helps stakeholders plan activities related to the climate and regularly update their climate-risk and vulnerability assessments.

UNICEF initiated strategic partnerships with CSOs such as the Social Enterprise Development Foundation-Ghana and the National Coalition of NGOs on the Rights of the Child to open up national dialogue on public financial management and policy advocacy. Advocacy through strategic partnerships, such as with the Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation, increased attention to Water Safety and WASH in Emergencies at decision-maker levels. UNICEF engaged diverse

stakeholders to help validate the Country Assessment of Youth, commissioned as part of Generation Unlimited and the youth agenda in Ghana. With support from the SDG fund, Denmark and the Netherlands, UNICEF continued to advance innovative financing approaches to catalyze public and private resources for sanitation.

The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) supported a five-year programme to scale the UNICEF StartUp Lab programme, an impact accelerator for youth-led businesses working to advance SDGs for children and young people, through digital solutions. Japan supported UNICEF's efforts to build resilience within communities and respond to the needs of refugees arriving from Burkina Faso into the border regions of northern Ghana.

2.4

Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency

The UNCT sees great value in partnership in all aspects of UN work. Led by the Resident Coordinator, the UNCT has sustained discussion within the UN and, through joint programmes, built system-wide coherence. The diversity of UN initiatives enabled the UNCT to apply joint approaches for UN support in a range of initiatives, from food systems to COP27. The integration of cross-cutting issues also promoted joint work. Inter-Agency Groups and Task Teams, and joint UNCT events promoted advocacy. They reduced transaction costs for activities, increased the visibility of the UN and the UNCT in Ghana, and boosted knowledge of the principle of the UN as One.

Integrating cross cutting issues (gender, youth and disability)

Inter- Agency Youth Group

The Working Group on the Youth strengthened UN alignment with Government priorities, engaging with the National Youth Authority to better understand the Government's priorities for development targeting young people. The UN helped launch Ghana's National Youth Policy.



Young agripreneurs participate in a panel discussion during the WFP Youth Linkup against Hunger event in Accra. ©WFP Ghana

Inter-Agency Gender Group

The UN Gender Theme Group worked with UN Women to produce material that informed the gender aspect of the UNCT 2022 Country Common Analysis. This contributed to the analysis and shaping of gender cross-cutting issues in the new UNSDCF, in line with the LNOB priorities for Ghana. Using joint approaches helped heighten advocacy around key issues, with the International Women's Day as an entry point.

Inter-Agency Disability Task Team

The UN in Ghana supported the Government, civil society and organizations of PWDs to bridge gaps and implement gender-sensitive and inclusive health, education and other activities through meaningful engagements at all levels. Ghana, the International Disability Alliance and the Government of Norway co-hosted the 2022 Global Disability Summit to inspire and bring real change for PWDs. Among key achievements:

- The UN facilitated an analysis to identify gaps in implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the SDGs for Ghana. As a result of partnership with the Ghana Federation of Disability and Sight Savers the RCO was renovated to make it disability compliant.
- The UN secured US\$ 700,000 from the UN Partnership for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to advance legislation, policy and data disaggregation, and to help implement disability-inclusive SDGs and Strategic Operational Frameworks, among other things.

- UNICEF and UNESCO helped print and disseminate the harmonized Ghanaian sign language dictionary and worked with the World Bank and the Ghana Education Service to transform regional assessment centres and special schools into inclusive education resource centres. WHO worked with the Government to develop policies on noncommunicable diseases, with a focus on PWDs.
- UNFPA partnered with organizations of PWDs to build the capacities of health providers to deliver disability-friendly health care services. They reviewed health policies to cater for PWDs. UNDP partnered with the Ghana Association of Stammerers to develop the iStammer web app to virtually connect stammerers to specialists for speech therapy, and gave grants and mentorship support for youth-led MSMEs, such as DeafCanTalk.

Operations management

The operations management team and its relevant five working groups worked with results groups and the UNCT to develop a fit-for-purpose business-operations strategy. It targets efficiency gains and cost avoidance, and enhances internal transaction cost avoidance. It improves service quality and ensures cost savings on externally sourced goods and services. During the strategy's cycle, the UNCT expects efficiency gains worth US\$ 2 million in transaction and monetary cost avoidance. Shared ICT services are expected to receive US\$ 1,368,225, which represents 53% of savings.



Jubilant youth, including UN Ghana staff, at the Global Citizens event in Accra.
© UN/Henry Alagbua

UN communicating and advocating as One

The UNCG leveraged the UNCT online presence and the various agencies' social media platforms to disseminate information on UN contributions and support to Ghana's development efforts.

The UNCG supported key international observances such as the International Peacekeepers Day and the UN Day, and the International Day for Persons of African Descent. Its messages were consolidated to reflect the One UN delivery, and received wide media circulation.

Working closely with the RCO, the UNCG supported high-level events including the 10th Global Citizen Festival, the first co-hosted in Ghana, and the Second Global Disability Summit. Joint press releases, media engagement and coverage gave voice to the UN engagement in Ghana's development priorities.

The UNCG coordinated the UN contribution to Ghana's VNR virtual and physical exhibitions, providing documentation, publications and video content on UN support, along with a video featuring the RC and an op-ed underscoring UN support to the SDGs, which received national and external coverage.

Five newsletters capturing the work of the UN in Ghana were produced and distributed widely to a range of Government and development partners, the media, CSOs, the private sector and tertiary institutions, and also published on the UNCT online platforms.



UN staffer, Cynthia Prah, attending to a young visitor at the UN exhibition stand. during the Global Citizens Festival in Accra ©UN/Henry Alagbua



LESSONS LEARNED

- Joint UN engagement with State counterparts on programme implementation in an interagency manner builds synergies across Government agencies and helps incorporate the interconnectedness of the SDGs in a practical manner and address it in programme implementation.
- Clear roles at the onset of programme design are critical to efficient programme implementation and the achievement of the intended results.
- Build State actors' capacities to run State institutions efficiently; and boost mechanisms to track the impact of the capacity-building initiatives.



CHALLENGES

The implementation of the UNSDP through the Results Groups was not without challenges, internal and external.

External:

- The effects of COVID-19, the war in Ukraine and global inflationary pressures affected programme cost and delivery. Dwindling official development assistance hurt the financing of certain projects.
- Inadequate funds from State partners to complete activities created institutional hurdles in Government partner institutions.
- Uncoordinated intragovernmental approaches restrict synergy building within and across sectors, while lack of a systematic approach among partners perpetuates the duplication of efforts.
- Lack of data and the non-user-friendly nature of data hamper evidence-based policy making and budgeting.

Internal

Differences in agency operational policies and processes, and agencies' slow uptake of reforms caused delays in programmes.



OPPORTUNITIES

The design and formulation of the new UNSDCF, coming into force in 2023, present a unique opportunity to deepen UNCT commitments to UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency in supporting Ghana's ambition to achieve the SDGs. It presents a shift from a siloed way of working to an integrated approach.

There is renewed opportunity for: stronger multi-stakeholder alignment partnerships with the private sector and civil society; improving inter-agency collaboration through joint programmes; data generation and Common Results Reporting through central planning, monitoring and reporting platforms.

The findings of Ghana's Second VNR provide a springboard for continuous UN engagement with development partners.



2.5

Evaluation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership (2018–2022)

The independent evaluation of the UNSDP ended and provided lessons in prioritizing key results areas for the new UNSDCF.

Key lessons learned from the evaluation

- | | |
|---|---|
| (01) Government planning, reporting and governance cycles should be aligned more closely; | (05) Greater focus on stronger: State systems, and; partnerships with civil society and the private sector; |
| (02) Greater focus on transformative and innovative interventions; less direct delivery footprint; | (06) Better alignment with international financial institutions, and development partner investments; |
| (03) Enhanced joint programming on issues, sectors and in geographies to enhance Delivery as One; | (07) Greater focus on people left the furthest behind—the youth, people living with HIV, PWDs and women, and; |
| (04) Integration of new cross-cutting issues in governance, gender and the youth into all activities; | (08) Stronger focus on data, monitoring and evaluation, and on UN INFO to improve accountability to the Government and the people of Ghana. |





The lessons from the common country assessments and other supporting analyses backed the strategic development focus for the UNSDCF 2023–2025. They further supported the accelerators that define the focus and drivers of the integrated approach for the UNCT.

2.6

Financial overview and resource mobilization

2.6.1 Financial overview

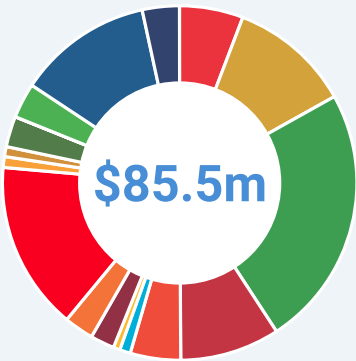
As at the time of reporting, actual expenditure was reported to total US\$ 70,551,206.50, representing 83% of the US\$ 85,402,700.00 in resources available for 2022. Details per outcome areas are indicated in the table below:

Results Area /Outcomes		Available resources	Expenditure	Delivery rate (%)
 Result Area 1 Shared prosperous economy		9,766,396.00	9,099,364.00	93.17
	Outcome 1: Productive agricultural drives sustainable industrialization, improves livelihoods and ensures a hunger- and malnutrition-free nation	7,096,736.00	6,475,186.00	91.24
	Outcome 2: Competitive private sector generates decent jobs that increase opportunities for more inclusive economic growth	2,669,660.00	2,624,178.00	98.30
 Result Area 2 Social investment in people		42,714,613.00	34,808,390.00	81.49
	Outcome 3: Government of Ghana delivers equitable, quality and financially sustainable social services	29,806,498.00	23,475,142.00	78.76
	Outcome 4: Marginalized and vulnerable populations demand and utilize social services	12,908,115.00	11,333,248.00	87.80
 Result Area 3 Protected and safe environment		13,459,835.00	9,315,873.50	69.21
	Outcome 5: Environmental governance at national and local levels is effective, efficient and coherent	5,639,887.00	4,166,071.50	73.87
	Outcome 6: Urban and rural community resilience is increased through access to affordable services, knowledge and tools.	7,819,948.00	5,149,802.00	65.85
 Result Area 4 Inclusive, accountable government		19,535,186.00	17,432,717.00	89.24
	Outcome 7: Transparent and accountable institutions at all levels protect the rights of all people	19,535,186.00	17,432,717.00	89.24
TOTAL		85,476,030.00	70,656,344.50	82.66

The figures exclude loans given by IFAD to the Government for investment in agricultural productivity and value-chain development, amounting to US\$ 18, 485 043 million in 2022.

How the UN contributes to the SDGs

Available resources: \$85.5 million



<div> </div> <div> 1. No poverty \$4.9m 5.8% of total </div>	<div> </div> <div> 2. Zero hunger \$9.5m 11.1% of total </div>	<div> </div> <div> 3. Good health and well-being \$20.4m 5.8% of total </div>
<div> </div> <div> 4. Quality Education \$7.7m 9.1% of total </div>	<div> </div> <div> 5. Gender Equality \$3.9m 4.6% of total </div>	<div> </div> <div> 6. Clean water and sanitation \$872.8k 1% of total </div>
<div> </div> <div> 7. Affordable and clean energy \$537.4k 0.6% of total </div>	<div> </div> <div> 8. Decent jobs and economic growth \$1.9m 2.3% of total </div>	<div> </div> <div> 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure \$2.3m 2.7% of total </div>
<div> </div> <div> 10. Reduced inequalities \$13.2m 15.4% of total </div>	<div> </div> <div> 11. Sustainable cities and communities \$852.7k 1% of total </div>	<div> </div> <div> 12. Responsible consumption and production \$797k 0.9% of total </div>
<div> </div> <div> 13. Climate action \$2.4m 2.8% of total </div>	<div> </div> <div> 14. Life below water \$0m 0% of total </div>	<div> </div> <div> 15. Life on land \$2.7m 3.2% of total </div>
<div> </div> <div> 16. Peace and justice - strong institutions \$10.5m 12.3% of total </div>	<div> </div> <div> 17. Partnerships for the goals \$2.9m 3.4% of total </div>	

2.6.2 Resource mobilization

The UNCT in Ghana mobilized resources and built partnerships with the Government and other non-UN actors. Through the Joint Financing and Resource Mobilization Strategy implemented in 2022, a joint programme received US\$ 300,000 in funding from the UN Human Security Trust Fund to enhance community resilience and social cohesion among selected boarder communities in Northern Ghana. The UNCT received US\$ 350,000 from the Joint SDG Fund comprising an additional US\$ 100,000 under joint SDG financing to enable UNCEF, UNDP and the UNCDF to prepare a full proposal for the creation of the Ghana Sanitation Fund. Under the Development Emergency Modality Fund, US\$ 250,000 was to enable WFP and FAO to implement a joint project and help the Government scale up the resilience of food and financial systems. The UN Migration Network secured €1 million to reinforce its capacity and that of the Government and the UNCT to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration. The goal of this EU-funded project, entitled EU-UN Building Migration Partnerships Programme, is to help migration contribute to sustainable development and benefit migrants and host communities alike.

Partnership between UNIDO and the Government of Japan resulted in a three-year project to boost the performance of Ghanaian MSMEs. The partnerships linking WHO with the British Department of Health and Social Care (UK-DHSC) and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UK-FCDO) grew remarkably. This resulted from key individual agency initiatives to strengthen health systems and the capacities of the health workforce, to accelerate UHC in Ghana. The partnerships enabled WHO Ghana to mobilize £2.2 million and sign three strategic MoU, including with the UK-DHSC and the UK-FCDO, to formalize UK Aid contributions. Another result was the signing of a MoU with Ashesi University to sustain the WHO Africa Region's flagship training programme, Pathways to Leadership for Health Transformation. UNDP maintained its partnership with the Mondelez International's Cocoa Life programme, which provided US\$ 420,000 to support the restoration of degraded on-and-off forest reserve areas in the cocoa growing areas of Ghana.



Funding source	Programme title	Implementing partners	Approved funding
Joint SDG Fund DEM Fund	Scaling up food and financial systems' resilience	WFP, FAO	US\$ 250,000.00
Joint SDG Fund SDG Financing	Ghana sanitation fund	UNICEF, UNCDF, UNDP	US\$ 100,000.00
UNTFHS	Enhancing community resilience and social cohesion among select border communities in Northern Ghana.	IOM, UNFPA	US\$ 300,000.00
UNPRPD	Implementing essential pre-conditions to advance the rights of PWDs in Ghana	UNDP, UNFPA	US\$ 700,000.00
UN Migration Network	EU-UN building migration partnership programme	UN Migration Network	€1,000,000.00
Government of Japan	Expanding the Kaizen initiative by enhancing sustainable agribusiness	UNIDO	US\$ 3,422,161.00
UK-FCDO/UK Department of Health	Strengthening health systems and building health workforce capacity to accelerate UHC in Ghana	WHO	£2,200,000
Global Affairs Canada	Empowering adolescent girls through improved access to comprehensive sexuality education and rights-based quality sexual and reproductive health services in Ghana	UNFPA and UNICEF	US\$ 1,592,544.23
The Governments of Belgium, Canada, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the EU and Zonta International.	Global programme to accelerate action to end child marriage	UNFPA and UNICEF	US\$ 1,503,000.00
Norway and Switzerland	Productivity ecosystems for decent work programme	ILO	US\$ 4,000,000.00
Huawei	Technology-enabled open school systems	UNESCO	US\$ 720,000.00
Elsie Initiative Fund	Increasing the deployment of uniformed women in peace operations	UN WOMEN	US\$ 3,700,669.00
KOICA	Accelerating entrepreneurship and innovation in Ghana	UNICEF	US\$ 2,200,000.00
Japan	Ensuring the continuity in Ghana of basic services for children and families—at risk of disruption from spill-over effects related to deteriorating security and instability in the Central Sahel.	UNICEF	US\$ 1,000,000.00



At the GAMADA Community Centre Reading Room, CEO of IamtheCODE Foundation, Lady Marieme Jamme demonstrates how to use donated computer kits. ©UNESCO/George Koranteng

CHAPTER 3



UNCT'S KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR

The UNCT will begin implementing its new UNSDCF (2023–2025) in 2023. The new CF is the product of consultations that culminated in three key outcome areas. These focus on two aspects of inclusive economic growth and transformation. One area concerns the strengthening of systems for inclusive access to equitable, quality, sustainable social services, especially for people left farthest behind. The other involves promoting a peaceful and just Ghana with durable institutions that foster security, social cohesion, human rights and resilience. Climate action, digital transformation, LNOB, governance and accountability, and opportunities for innovation are issues that cut across all UN work.

The CF outlines integrated UN contributions to the SDGs and Ghana's priorities. Indeed, it is aligned to Ghana's CPESDP policies, to the Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework 2022–2025, and to sectoral strategies and national planning instruments. The UNCT will strengthen the use of data for development: establish new, innovative, and broader partnerships with the private sector and civil society; markedly increase the number of joint programmes and joined-up programming; develop greater capacity for policy advocacy and leadership; support international norms and standards; and integrate cross-cutting issues.

The UNCT is committed to adopting key strategic shifts in the way the UN works towards a more integrated approach. It leverages technical expertise and financial resources to address systemic barriers and empower institutions and actors through joint programming. It promotes strong partnership, integrating issues that cut across all UN work: climate action, digital transformation, LNOB, governance and accountability, and innovation opportunities. Reinvigorated Results Groups and the Inter-Agency Working Group mechanism will help strengthen coordination to improve implementation and accountability

to the Government. This will require forging issue-based coalitions to leverage capacity across the United Nations-wide system. Specific areas for key partnerships, joint initiatives and joint programmes will also be initiated in 2023 across all three groups including the following:

Joint Programme on disability inclusion:

Four agencies will jointly carry out this 700,000-dollar programme to advance the rights of PWDs to inclusive services and economic opportunities.

Follow-on actions regarding the Food Systems Summit, Transforming Education, and COP27 will remain key UNCT priorities and be integrated into the work of the three outcome areas.

As part of the three outcome areas, the following priorities have been identified for the three-year cycle and will be the key anchors for Joint work plans.



Results Area / Outcome Area Statement	Priority intervention areas
Result Area 1 INCLUSIVE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Promoting food systems' sustainable transformation and resilience ▶ Climate change and environmental resilience for sustainable economic growth ▶ Enhancement of productive employment and decent jobs ▶ Promoting enabling conditions for the digital economy to enhance economic activities ▶ Helping generate evidence for use in decision making, planning and development agendas ▶ Helping accelerate and make internal and external trade competitive to boost local markets, and ▶ Promoting gender inclusivity for social and institutional change, and for equity and growth.
Result Area 2 ACCESSIBLE, EQUITABLE, INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE QUALITY BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Advancing UHC for communicable and non-communicable diseases ▶ Enhancing health security through the One Health approach ▶ Improving the policy environment and capacity of educators and learners in digital learning and health education ▶ Improving the foundational learning and safety of school environments for boys and girls ▶ Improving the institutional capacity of key education-sector agencies to raise chances of completing junior high school among disadvantaged children—especially girls and those with disabilities—and to enable them to transition to upper levels to pursue studies in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and TVET ▶ Preventing malnutrition through integrated approaches, and the Start Right Feed Right from birth to two years Breastfeeding Campaign ▶ Supporting policy and advocacy focusing on food supply and composition, and advocacy to address micronutrient deficiencies, and ▶ Improving the capacity of national institutions to deliver quality services.
Result Area 3 DURABLE PEACE AND SECURITY IN GHANA AND THE SUBREGION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Stronger capacities of legal and human rights institutions to be accountable and responsive ▶ Stronger data and data systems to facilitate evidence-based decision making ▶ Enhanced analysis and mitigation of cross-border and transboundary risks ▶ Stronger capacities for peace building and social cohesion in Ghana and beyond ▶ Stronger decentralization systems and local governance processes for effective natural resource and environmental management ▶ Enhanced participation of women, the youth and other marginalized groups in decision making, and ▶ Improved disaster preparedness, planning and response in Ghana and beyond.

Results Groups will serve as the platform for ensuring the coherence and mainstreaming of normative and cross-cutting issues, joint-programme development and implementation to enhance quality and improve the accountability of UN work. Joint programming will be enhanced, while the generation and use of data will be strengthened, with a focus on result-based management.

Using various mechanisms and approaches the Resident Coordinator, in his role as team leader responsible for monitoring the implementation of activities, will reinforce all

the programme work. He will drive the push for joint-programme identification, and lead strategic dialogue and political engagements with the Government, based on emerging issues from the results groups and agencies. He will guide UNCT approaches in seeking funds from the Multi-Partner Trust Fund, and direct the alignment of the UNCT with joint UN partnerships, which he will promote. As such, the Resident Coordinator's role in promoting joint reporting will grow from strength to strength.

ANNEXES



A schoolgirl holding her first-day-at-school pack. ©UNICEF/Nicholas Adatasi

ANNEX 1

Government ministries

Ministry for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation; Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs; Ministry of Communication; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Employment & Labour Relations; Ministry of Energy; Ministry of Environment; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development; Ministry of Food and Agriculture; Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Regional Integration; Ministry of Gender and Social Protection; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Information; Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources; Ministry of Local Government Decentralization and Rural Development; Ministry of National Security; Ministry of Planning; Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources; Ministry of Tourism Art and Culture; Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Government agencies

ARB Apex Bank; Bank of Ghana; Biotechnology and Nuclear Agriculture Research Institute; Centre for National Distance Learning and Open Schooling; Commission of Human Rights and Administrative Justice; Community Water and Sanitation Agency, Diaspora Affairs Office, Domestic Violence & Victims Support Unit, Emergency Support to Rural livelihoods and Food systems, Energy Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, Family Health Division, Farmer Based Organizations, Federation of Professional Trade Associations of Ghana, Forestry Commission, Ghana Agricultural Sector Investment Programme, Ghana AIDS Commission, Ghana Association of Bankers, Ghana Atomic Energy Commission, Ghana Cocoa Board, Ghana Commodity Exchange, Ghana Education Service, Ghana Employers Association, Ghana Enterprise Agency, Ghana Health Service, Ghana Highway Authority, Ghana Immigration Service, Ghana Investment Promotion Centre, Ghana Journalist Association, Ghana Meteorological Agency, Ghana Museums and Monuments Board, Ghana National Household Registry, Ghana National Petroleum Commission, Ghana Police Service, Ghana Refugee Board, Ghana Regional Appropriate Technology Industrial Service Foundation, Ghana School Feeding Programme, Ghana Statistical Service, Ghana Tertiary Education Commission, Ghana Tourism Authority, Ghana Water Company Ltd., Ghana's Births and Deaths Registration, Health Facilities Regulatory Agency, Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty, Mental Health Authority, Metropolitan, Municipal, District Assemblies, National AIDS control Programme, National Council of Person's with Disability, National Commission for Civic Education, National Commission on Culture, National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, National Designated Authority, National Development Planning Commission, National Disaster Management Organization, National Folklore Board, National Health Insurance Scheme, National Malaria Elimination Programme, National Schools Inspection Authority, National Teaching Council, National Youth Employment Agency, Nurses and Midwives Council, Office of the Head of Local Government Service, Office of The President, Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate, Public Utilities Regulatory Commission, Regional Coordinating Councils, School Health Education Program, SDG Advisory Unit, Social Security and National Insurance Trust, Soil Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Special Education Division, Supreme Court of Ghana, The Food and Drugs Authority, The Ghana Commodity Exchange, The Ghana Standards Authority, Veterinary Services Directorate.

Private partnerships

Association of Ghana Industries, Coca Cola Foundation, Cobalt Partners, FundRaising Africa, Ghana Chamber of Industries, Ghana Industrial Agri-business Dealers Association, IPayGH, Media Communications Advocacy Network, MicroEnsure, National Butchers Association, Ozé, Pezesha, Pumptech, RIA Money Transfer, Stanbic Bank Ghana Irrigation Development Authority, VIAMO, ZeePAY, Ghana Industrial Cassava Stakeholders Platform, FAGE, SPEG, Global Shea Alliance, Trade Union Congress.

Civil society organizations

Action for Sustainable Development, Africa Foundation for Development, African Network of Cultural Promoters and Entrepreneurs, Association of Ghana Industries, Basic Needs Ghana, Behasun Integrated Development Organization, BOK Africa Concern, Belim Wusa Development Agency, CARD-Ghana, CARE international-Ghana, Centre For National Distance, Challenging Heights Ghana, Christian Council of Ghana, Christian Health Association, Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation, Community Development Alliance, CSOs partnership for social accountability in social protection Media Response, Developing Market Associate, Don Bosco Technical Institute, Dream Oval, Federation of Small Anthropology Programs STI, Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition, Ghana Centre for Democratic Development, Ghana Graffiti, Ghana Community Radio Network, Ghana Independent Broadcasting Association, Global Shea Alliance, Institute for Nature and Environmental Conservation, International Child Development Programme, International Food Policy Research Institute, International Needs Ghana, International Water Management Institute, INYTON-Ghana, Jacobs Foundation, JAK Foundation, MasterCard Foundation, Media Foundation for West Africa, Mental Health Society of Ghana, National Board for small scale Industries, National Catholic Secretariate, Navrongo Health Research Centre, Pan African Writers Association, Participation Action for Rural, Penplusbytes, Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana, POS Foundation, Private Enterprise Foundation, Promoters and Entrepreneurs, Pro Net North, Psych Corps Ghana, Purim African Youth Development Platform, Research and Counselling Foundation for African, RISE-Ghana, Root Capital, Savana Signatures, SEND-Ghana, SEWA Foundation, Sight and Life Foundation, The Adventist Development and Relief Agency, The Christian Health Association of Ghana, The Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation , The Howard G. Buffer Foundation: Centre for No-Till Agriculture, Ulti-Leaf Foundation, West Africa Program to Combat AIDS and STI, Women In Agricultural Development, World Vision International, Youth Advocate Ghana, Young Health Advocates Ghana, Green African Youth Organization, WANEP.

Academic institutions

Ashesi University, Association of African Universities, Biotechnology and Nuclear Agriculture Research Institute, Centre for Migration Studies, Centre for National Distance Learning and Open Schooling, Centre for Social Policy Studies, Crop Research Institute, Department of Communication Studies, Institute of African Studies, International Food Policy Research Institute, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Management Development & Productivity Institute, Musicians Union of Ghana, National Technical Institution, University of Cape Coast, University For Development Studies, University of Ghana.



Funding Source/Development Partners

Adaptation Fund, African Development Bank, African Union, ARB APEX BANK, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, BOK Africa, Norwegian Government, Centre for Diseases Control and Prevention/President Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, Coca Cola Foundation, ECOWAS, Embassy of Denmark, Embassy of France, European Union, European Union Military Staff, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Government of Finland, German Federal Foreign Office, Ghana Netherland Business & Culture Council, GIZ-Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Global Affairs Canada, Global Centre on Adaptation, Global Climate Fund, Global Education Coalition, Global Partnership for Education, Global Program to End Child Marriage, Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust, Huawei, International Atomic Energy Commission, International Diabetes Federation, Irish Aid, Government of Italy, Embassy of Japan, Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning, Juvenile Immersion Training Program, Jacobs Foundation, Kigali Cooling, Korea International Cooperation Agency, Korean Government, MasterCard Foundation, China Centre of Excellence for rural transformation, China Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), Mondelez, NORAD- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, PAGE, Pan African Historical Theatre Festival, Prada Group, Rockefeller Foundation, Sweden, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UK-FCDO)/Department of Health and Social Care, UN-REDD, UNTFHS, USAID, Global Environmental Facility, Wikimedia, World Bank, Perpetual Education Fund.

ANNEX 2

STORY 1



The UN in Ghana and key partners provide psychosocial assistance to vulnerable returnees, including children.

IOM staff member running a psychotherapy session for returnees. © IOM Ghana

Psychosocial assistance to vulnerable returnees is crucial for their sustainable reintegration into their communities. Evelyn Osei Agyapong, Senior Clinical Psychologist at the Bono Regional Hospital in Sunyani, says: "The provision of psychosocial support to returnees serves as the basis for their psychological fitness: returnees accept the state they find themselves in, agree to seek the right treatment and support as need be and move on in life. This entire process allows for reintegration to be possible."

Returnees may have various vulnerabilities and experience stigmatization in their communities of origin when they return. Under the leadership of IOM, the UN in Ghana works to make the reintegration of Ghanaian migrants sustainable. Through a collective reintegration process, the UN system in Ghana is offering a variety of services to these vulnerable populations, with different agencies providing their respective expertise to address the particular needs of the returnees, their families, their children, and even their communities.

In 2022, the UN in Ghana continued to train a broad range of migration stakeholders,

including the Government, on the Standard Operating Procedures for Reintegration of Returnees in Ghana, first launched in 2020.

While IOM is the lead agency when it comes to the reintegration of Ghanaian migrants into their communities of origin, other agencies contribute their expertise: UNICEF provides support to minors, specifically addressing their protection needs, whereas WHO assists returnees meet their health and mental health needs.

A training course on the Standard Operating Procedures took place in Koforidua. The 30 migration stakeholders who took part in it improved their knowledge of ways in which to achieve sustainable reintegration. The course placed an emphasis on the delivery of initial psychosocial support to returnees and how to make effective referrals. IOM explained how to identify emotional and psychological issues among returnees and victims of disaster, how to handle stigmatization and how to make appropriate referrals. WHO trained participants on psychological first aid and on effective communication skills to enhance counselling. UNICEF led a session dedicated to the return and reintegration of minors.



To ensure psychosocial support to returnees, the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings cluster of the UN in Ghana, namely IOM and FAO, and the Ghana Psychological Association, offered beneficiaries counselling and psychotherapy sessions. The beneficiaries learned how to deal with psychological distress, for example managing stress and anxiety, that is associated with return.

Amoh Boateng, Counselling Psychologist at the Ghana Psychological Association, said: "Addressing the psychological and emotional concerns of returned migrants who have experienced trauma in varied forms laid a fertile foundation for the returnees to be in a better state of mind to engage in various businesses and live with a healthier mindset moving on. Integrating mental health in such restorative actions is a need that must never be neglected."

In 2022, 797 people (763 men and 34 women) benefitted from psychotherapy group sessions.

Commenting on his experience Ahmed Alhassan, a returnee from Kumasi, said: "When I returned from Libya, I was incredibly disappointed, distressed, and unable to think clearly. I had sent money to my brother in Ghana to build a house for me, but he had instead used the money for other purposes. I was greatly hurt, especially since he was my brother. However, thanks to the psychosocial

counselling I received from IOM, I was able to come to terms with the situation and forgave my brother. I am moving on with my life and have even started a business. I am hopeful for a better future."

Last but not least, on the 2022 World Mental Health Day, the UN in Ghana, joining forces with BasicNeeds Ghana, the Ghana Psychological Association, the Paramount Chief of the Sagnarigu Traditional Area, and returned migrants organized a series of community interventions. They brought together migrants, Government officials and traditional leaders, self-help group members, returnees, community members, the youth and migration stakeholders.

UN doctor Dr Tueche Abanda reflected on the year's global theme – making mental health and well-being for all a global priority. It was an occasion to discuss related topics such as safe migration, irregular migration, stigmatization, reintegration, mental health and well-being.

The IOM Ghana led these interventions, realized with funding from the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa through the European Union-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ).



Juliane Reissig
IOM Communications Officer

UN entities involved in this initiative



Goals we are supporting through this initiative



STORY 2



Schoolchildren in northern Ghana are standing for peace

Newly formed peace clubs in the Upper East Region as part of resilience-building in anticipation of the Sahel crisis spillover.

Students from Sapelliga JHS Peace Club perform a play on the importance of unity and peaceful coexistence in the community. ©UNICEF/Roger Yebuah/ 2023

Be it through football, skits or open discussion, children in Ghana's Upper East Region are finding ways to cultivate peace in their schools and communities. The reason is that new after-school 'Peace Clubs' have emerged, created as a result of threats of a spillover of the Sahel crisis. In the event that this happens, their role is to respond to the arrival of displaced children and their families from Burkina Faso in Ghana.

At St Theresa's Junior High School in Paga, Kasena Nankana West district, a few kilometres from the border, a group of 67 children aged 12–17 have joined a peace club to learn more about living in harmony with new arrivals in their community. Today, about 20 children belonging to St Theresa's Peace Club are performing a drama about how to live in harmony with one's family and newcomers to the community. Fourteen-year-old Magdalene Babweiwa, 15-year-old James Adutani and 14-year-old Ominatu Yahaya were the protagonists of the drama. "I feel sad that our neighbours are in danger," Magdalene told UNICEF as she reflected on the reality for those facing the challenges of conflict and displacement. "We wouldn't be able to farm, go to school. I wouldn't even be able to fetch

water," she added.

"I enjoy attending Peace Club," James explains. "I learn about how to live with strangers, and I want to be able to share with them and treat them with kindness. I know that if I treat others with kindness, if I travel away from here, others will also show me love," he beams.

Another member of the Peace Club is 14-year-old Hectorina Kanmong. Today she is a spectator of the drama. She tells us: "I enjoy attending Peace Club. As a result, I no longer fight. I used to be quite aggressive, but now I like to practise peace."

"Peace Club has shown us to be more friendly, to help others and to share our things," added Ominatu.

With the support of UNICEF, in partnership with the Government of Japan through the Community Resilience Building Against the Sahel Spillover Project, the Ghana Education Service has successfully established 262 Peace Clubs in all schools across two border districts in the Upper East Region. Recognizing that peacebuilding plays a key role in helping displaced people settle, schools situated in regions close to the border of Burkina Faso,



where skirmishes have broken out, have placed priority on establishing Peace Clubs as the communities are gradually seeing an influx of displaced people.

In Sapeliga Kindergarten/Primary school in Bawku West—another town nestled between the border of Ghana and Burkina Faso—football matches between communities, and dramas are being used to spread the power of peace and to foster unity.

Teachers and other school workers use opportunities at the start, half time and at the end of matches to inform players and spectators alike of the benefits of cultivating peace and the steps to take when one encounters strangers. The steps include informing the local authorities.

Bawku West is home to an unsteady flow of migrants who are arriving from Burkina Faso to escape the conflict in the country. Weekly, families arrive in informal settlements to seek sanctuary in Kaare, with the number of migrants doubling from 110 to 235 in the space of 12 months.

UNICEF Education Officer Timoah Kunchire commented: “Beyond the information absorption of learning about the importance of peace, girls and boys are developing their confidence, and soft skills of creativity, and public speaking.”

Ayimga Michael, headmaster of Sapeliga Kindergarten/Primary School: “We are happy



Students from Sapelliga JHS and Galaka JHS in the Upper East Region of Ghana participate in a football match to foster unity and create awareness on the importance of peaceful coexistence in a community. ©UNICEF/Roger Yebuah 2023

that so many children in our schools are able to take part in the Peace Clubs. We are very thankful to UNICEF for their support of our children. It has allowed us to really inform and engage our students about this important life-long skill.”



Eulette Ewart
UNICEF
Chief Communication and
Advocacy



E. Offeibea Baddoo
UNICEF
Communications Officer

UN entities involved in this initiative



Goals we are supporting through this initiative



STORY 3



Ghana leads the way in carbon emission reductions

A rice farmer on his farm. ©UNDP Ghana

The transfer of goods and services is a long-standing trade practice very common to just about anyone. However, imagine a country having to transfer carbon credits earned from the reduction of emissions to help one or more countries meet their climate targets? This is a bit puzzling, right?

Well, with the support of the UN in Ghana, led by UNDP, Ghana is leading the way when it comes to innovative collaborations for climate action. The Government of Ghana and Switzerland have signed a bilateral agreement on climate trade, making Ghana the first country in Africa and the second country globally to bring the cooperative approaches of the Paris Agreement to life.

Under the agreement, Ghana is implementing a climate-smart rice project. Covering nearly 80 percent of Ghana's rice production, the project is supporting thousands of rice farmers, like Opanyin Kojo Eyiah, to adopt a technology that will lead to significant methane emission reductions.

Dr Kwaku Afriyie, the Minister for the Environment, Science Technology and Innovation had this to say, **"Ghana's leadership in Africa on carbon finance with the landmark bilateral agreement with Switzerland is something we are proud of. We want to**

leverage this collaborative approach to crowd in more carbon revenue to accelerate the implementation of our national climate plan for the benefits of many communities".

This is how this innovation works. [Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change*](#) allows countries to voluntarily cooperate with each other and trade in greenhouse gas emission reductions. What this means is that a country can transfer carbon credits it has earned from the reduction of emissions to help one or more countries meet their climate targets. The aim is to help countries achieve emission reduction targets set out in their national climate action plans.

"I spend so much time irrigating my rice farm and have just little control over the water I use. We are really looking forward to fully adopt the new rice farming technology to conserve more water and improve our yields", says Opanyin Kojo Eyiah who is also a rice farmer in Okyereko, in the Central Region of Ghana. Opanyin Kojo has been growing rice for the past 10 years. He has a two-and-half-acre rice field and is one of over 7,000 rural rice farmers benefiting from the climate smart-rice project. As part of the project, farmers are receiving training so that they can adopt an alternate wetting and drying technology in rice



cultivation. The farmers receive support in the form of drainage facilities, along with training on how to use them to control irrigation. In this way they use water efficiently on their rice fields to reduce methane emissions.

Research shows that by 2050, millions of hectares of currently irrigated lowland-rice cultivations will experience water scarcity due to the flooding irrigation method. What most farmers like Opaynin Kojo didn't know is that flooded water on the crop field prevents oxygen from penetrating the soil. This produces ideal conditions for bacteria known as methanogenic archaea to flourish. The methanogens subsequently emit methane gas into the atmosphere, causing 1 million premature deaths every year. The longer the flooding lasts, the more those bacteria multiply.

Moses Kodjotse, a Rice Field Operations Manager at Asutware-Kpong in the Eastern Region of Ghana described the training as insightful.

"A lot has been learnt from the training and from here I am going to pass on this information to the farmers I work with, so that we can become more effective in water efficiency management and be climate conscious", Mr Kodjotse noted.

The intervention under the climate-smart rice project is expected to result in an emission reduction target of 1.1 million tCO₂e by 2030. This will also provide extra income through carbon revenue to farmers for increased resilience.

Ghana's drive to realize Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement is groundbreaking and has attracted additional partnerships from Singapore, Sweden and other private-sector entities who have now demonstrated interest in investing in low-carbon technologies in the country. The UN remains committed to supporting the country's efforts to accelerate climate action.



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Goals we are supporting through this initiative



STORY 4



Communities safeguard peace in neighbouring towns

Participants of a workshop on violent extremism busy in a group session. © UNDP

Across the West African sub-region, Ghana has a reputation as an oasis of peace. The 2021 Global Peace Index ranked Ghana as the second most peaceful country in Sub-Saharan Africa. According to a **UNDP policy brief** on Peace and Development Analysis in Ghana, this atmosphere of peace has emerged and persisted, despite the history of sub-regional instability. This is mainly the result of concerted efforts by State institutions and key stakeholders to strengthen the country's resilience to shocks and vulnerabilities while promoting inter-party, inter-religious, inter-ethnic and intergenerational social cohesion.

This notwithstanding, border communities still grapple with various challenges, including limited access to social amenities such as primary health care and potable water, and high levels of unemployment, among others. Such conditions increase the vulnerabilities of border communities, making them susceptible to radicalization and the activities of violent extremist organizations. Securing such border communities involves programming to combat violent extremism and includes carrying out socio-economic projects. It is vital to provide water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and potable water. Equally important is the need to establish community dialogue platforms to promote

trust building, and to build capacity in conflict resolution and early-warning mechanisms.

The UN in Ghana supported various initiatives to strengthen the capacities of peace actors and communities for peacebuilding. These training courses are essential as they equip participants with the knowledge and skills to be proactive and responsive to emerging threats.

Wilhelmina Sakle Aklaku, a hotel manager in the Northern Region of Ghana, revealed how the knowledge she acquired from such courses has made her more vigilant in her hotel.

"The training has been an eye opener, especially on the early warning signs we need to look out for and report. Since then, I have been more vigilant in my hotel," she noted.

As the fight against violent extremism continues to gain momentum, building a broader coalition of actors at all levels, especially in border communities remains the best approach.

"Through the training, I got to understand the various strategies used by extremists to radicalize and infiltrate society. As a young person, I have been vigilant and will report any suspicious activity I see to the authorities,"



stated Romeo Amuzu, a member of the Volta Region Barbers Association.

The courses have equipped over 2,000 men and women, including the youth, with the relevant skills to identify early-warning signs and report to the security agencies for immediate action.

To support access to asylum and promote better handling of refugees, the UN also supported Ghana in developing and updating its immigration training curriculum. Ensuring that security systems are on high alert to prevent their infiltration by unsafe elements is important and life-saving. Nevertheless, it is premised on human rights to ensure that genuine asylum seekers are not expelled or turned away at the borders. Officers from the Ghana Police Service, National Intelligence Bureau and Ghana Immigration Service also received training. As such, frontline officers have adequate knowledge on refugee concepts and procedures, and are prepared for the possible influx from neighbouring countries.

"The training has been an eye opener, especially on the early warning signs we need to look out for and report. Since then, I have been more vigilant in my hotel," – W.S. Aklaku



Wilhelmina Sakle Aklaku, a hotel manager making a submission at the training in Sagnarigu. Photo: © UNDP Ghana



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