



UNITED  
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# NewsLetter

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## HIGHLIGHTS

A look into our coordinated humanitarian support in response to the gas explosion in Apeatse.

UN Ghana efforts towards peace sustenance.

Empowering local entrepreneurs to meet global export requirements.

Joint advocacy on critical cross cutting areas such as gender, health and HIV/AIDS

Support to students returning from Ukraine.

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# Remaining committed

*From the UN Resident Coordinator's Office*

Charles Abani

All too soon, the first half of the year will be done and dusted – it has indeed been a busy period in the UN.

Let me applaud my colleagues across the UN family for sustaining the engagement and thank all our partners in government and across civil society and the private sector for your engagement.

Responding to the health and socio-economic impact of the pandemic and providing the impetus and technical support towards achieving Ghana's aim of becoming self-reliant continue to remain our key objectives.

In this edition of the UN Ghana newsletter, the second in the year, we are pleased to present our collaborative efforts to accelerate progress and improve accountability. Our coordinated humanitarian support in response to the gas explosion in Apeatse, in the Western region of Ghana; some work around the sustenance of peace and security; empowering local entrepreneurs to meet global export requirements; and joint advocacy on critical cross cutting areas such as gender, health and HIV/AIDS, are but a few of our work in the past couple of months.

With the support of the agencies, funds and programmes, the



Mr. Charles Abani  
UN Resident Coordinator, Ghana

Office of the UN Resident Coordinator will continue to provide the desired leadership to enable an effective joined-up approach to development in furtherance of the development objective of the country we serve.

Enjoy the May 2022 edition of our newsletter.



Some staff members of UN in Ghana.

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# UN in Ghana's Emergency Preparedness and Response Team

## – The Apeatse story

Disaster risk is described as the likelihood of loss of life, injury or destruction and damage from a disaster in a given period of time. Such losses can be devastating and could derail years of development progress. The impact of disasters can also impact people differently. For instance, it is widely recognized that the level and quality of development, to a large extent, determines the way in which hazards impact on people and economies. It is therefore important that policies, strategies and practices are developed and applied to reduce the risk of disasters to help protect people and their property, health, livelihoods and productive assets.

Referred to as Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), this approach requires an all-of-society engagement and partnership.

In early 2022, as part of its humanitarian works and DRR mechanism, the UN Country Team in Ghana conducted needs assessments, provided emergency support to communities affected by tidal waves, floods and an explosion, and strengthened capacity in contingency planning.

For instance, in January 2022, mining explosives being carried in a truck detonated at Apeatse, along the Bogoso-Bawdie road in the Western

Region of Ghana resulting in deaths, injuries and destruction of properties in the community. Fourteen people lost their lives and 75 people were injured and were admitted at various treatment centers. Children without parental care were particularly vulnerable. About 300 houses and structures in sections of the community were destroyed resulting in over 179 residents being displaced. Data gathered show that seventy-three (73) basic school students, including thirty-seven (37 females-50.7%) and thirty-six (36 males- 49.3%) were part of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Some schools were damaged.



UNICEF Education Officer and Emergency Response Focal Point, Chris Nkrumah interacting with a mother in Apeatse.



UNFPA Programme Analyst in charge of Reproductive Health and Humanitarian Assistance, Dr. Claudia Donkor interacting with a displaced woman.

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## UN in Ghana's Emergency Preparedness and Response Team (Cont.)

The Inter-Agency Working Group on Emergencies (IAWGE) in Ghana, chaired by UNICEF, coordinated with the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO), line Ministries and local authorities and discussed the immediate and longer-term needs.

Within a few days, the IAWGE, represented by UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA, UNHCR, IOM, WHO, and World Vision International, undertook a joint field mission with NADMO. The objectives were to distribute emergency supplies to the affected families, and to conduct an assessment to determine the impact of the explosions on people, and further support required.

Within 48 hours, the IAWGE presented essential medical supplies and trauma response kits to the Regional Health Directorate to support the management of injured persons. Agencies also distributed tents, water, sanitation and hygiene items, and dignity kits.

The immediate medical needs of the affected community, especially pregnant women and adolescent girls were met. The items provided contributed to the speedy recovery and discharge of the affected people. Antenatal care services for pregnant women

were not disrupted as a result.

Technical support provided was to ensure the accessibility to continuous health services, especially for the most vulnerable in the community, and to curb the spread of COVID-19. Furthermore, the Disaster Response Committee received enhanced knowledge to include persons with disabilities in its plans to ensure that the specific needs of people with disabilities are addressed, as part of the integrated and inclusive approach to the response.

The communities, including children and women, also received tents. A Circle of Support and Child Protection Committee therefore extended psychosocial support to children, adolescents and those at risk of gender-based violence (GBV).

Findings of the needs assessment further informed the IAWGE to re-strategize to meet the immediate to medium-term needs of families displaced by the explosion. As a result, additional 40 family-size tents were donated as a number of the affected families were still residing in the separate temporary accommodation provided in hotels.

In the area of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

services, the team noted that the Municipality had a strong Works Department and Environmental Health and Sanitation (EHS) Unit. The Municipal Works Engineer effectively supervised the construction of the displaced persons camp, with support from various actors, including mining companies operating in the municipality. The EHS Unit also provided clear directives for good sanitation and hygiene in the camp.

The longer-term issue of food security and livelihoods were also discussed as Apeatse is predominantly an agrarian community and agriculture is a major source of economic activities.

Through its support to NADMO and other agencies, the United Nations in Ghana and its partners will continue to provide technical assistance and build capacity for contingency planning and emergency interventions in Ghana.

The UN Country Team is also coordinating with key actors regarding the Sahel crisis spillover to coastal countries such as Ghana, and is implementing programmes to strengthen the resilience of institutions and communities.

## Paving the way for more sustainable, inclusive & resilient infrastructure solutions in Ghana

A new report outlining Ghana's current and future needs for climate change adaptation, co-written by UNOPS, has been launched in Accra. The Report, "[Ghana: Roadmap for Resilient and Infrastructure in a Changing Climate](#)" provides Ghana with a resilient infrastructure roadmap to help build a sustainable, inclusive and resilient infrastruc-

ture such as power distribution lines, homes, roads and drains.

Designed to be aligned with, and to inform Ghana's national strategic development and policy plans, the report includes a strong focus on solutions that work with nature and that safeguard physical and institutional components of Ghana's infrastructure system.

The launch of the report coincided with a Ministerial Dialogue on Financing Climate Resilient Infrastructure in Ghana. Participants at the Dialogue called for the urgent need to adapt to potential impacts of climate change to sustain Ghana's progress towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.



TOP: Group picture of key stakeholders launching the report *Ghana: Roadmap for Resilient and Infrastructure in a Changing Climate*. BELOW: A cross section of the audience at the Dialogue; Ifeoma Charles-Monwuba, UNOPS Director and Representative in Ghana addressing the audience.



## First-ever Kofi Annan Road Safety Award held in Ghana



Award recipients in a group picture with the President of the Republic of Ghana, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, UN Secretary-General Special Envoy on Road Safety, H.E. Jean Todt (3rd from right) and the United Nations Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the ECA, H.E. Dr. Vera Songwe (1st from right)

The Secretariat of the United-Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Ghana, with the support of the Kofi Annan Foundation, have launched the first-ever Kofi Annan Road Safety Award in Accra, Ghana.

The Award, named after the late United Nations Secretary-General and founder of the Kofi Annan Foundation, Kofi Annan, in recognition of his contribution to the area of road safety "is to raise awareness about road safety and to motivate key stakeholders - government, the private sector, and civil society organizations to develop and implement innovations to save lives on Africa's roads". Mr. Annan brought the issue of Road Safety and Road Traffic Victims to the United Nations agenda at the beginning of the 2000s.

Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Morocco and Namibia were named winners of the first ever Kofi Annan Road Safety Award for their contributions to road safety on the continent. [Read more.](#)



Ghana received the award of Excellence in the Implementation of the Africa Road Safety Action Plan

## Noncommunicable Diseases and the SDGs – Actionable steps required to prevent and control the Surge

In 2007, Christopher was a young man in school with a dream. His mother, a single parent, was the breadwinner for the family. Life was 'normal' until he started experiencing some health problems. "I encountered difficulty walking for no reason," he explained, noting that "accessing the right health care was near impossible due to lack of funds. The health centres I went to did not know what the problem was. It took nine years before I was finally diagnosed and now, I find myself in a wheel chair".

Speaking at the National Roundtable on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) held in Accra recently, Christopher said he was sharing his story and speaking "on behalf of many people out there who cannot afford the cost of health care and

as a result they end up with debilitating diseases such as NCDs."

NCDs are cardiovascular diseases (such as heart attacks and stroke), cancers, chronic respiratory diseases (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma) and diabetes. The prevalence of these diseases and their risk factors have increased over time, killing 41 million people each year, equivalent to 71% of all deaths globally, and occurring mainly among people aged between 30 and 70 years. According to available data, NCD deaths are currently affecting people below 50 years, the productive population in many societies. Dr. Barnabas Kwame Yeboah, Director of Nursing and Midwifery at the Ministry of Health said this is alarming as it impacts negatively on the socio-economic

fabric of every society.

The good thing is that most NCDs-related deaths can be avoided or delayed.

To forge ahead a common global agenda to prevent and control NCDs, and tackle the challenges that come with the increasing prevalence of NCDs, the World Health Organisation (WHO) convened an international strategic dialogue on NCDs and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The event, held in Accra, was co-hosted by the Governments of Ghana and Norway, and was attended by several heads of states, first ladies, the private sector, government and development partners and health practitioners across the world. [Read more.](#)



Christopher speaking at the national roundtable.



A cross section of the audience at the International Strategic Dialogue on NCDs and the SDGs.

## First quarter national HIV highlights

The first quarter national HIV highlights focus on gathering and analysing high-quality data and taking action to address identified challenges in reaching the 95-95-95 HIV targets and national and sub-national indicators.

At a meeting, co-chaired by the Ghana AIDS Commission and UNAIDS, the Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG) and the West Africa AIDS Programme to Combat AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (WAPCAS) presented data on their respective performance as principal recipients of the Global Fund New Funding Model (NFM) III grant. Other participants included the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centres for Disease Control (CDC), and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

NACP reported that the achievement towards the 95-95-95 targets, based on Programme data, was 88-79-79. There have been 68,812 total tests completed, which represents a 30% testing coverage. Of those tested, 54,321 were virally suppressed. New partnerships are being formed to explore new technologies for viral load testing.

The point of care devices are particularly promising and should be further explored to improve testing coverage for adult and paediatric populations.

Stakeholders discussed how best to correct issues with the estimation of the second 95 HIV target and agreed to propose a nationally representative Data Quality Assessment (DQA) to assess the data quality and correct errors. They also agreed to flag key issues for engagement with policymakers including the Minister of Health.



Group picture of participants at the HIV national review meeting.

## Building strong community health system to leave no one behind

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Ghana Health Service, with funding from the Government of Japan, has been implementing series of interventions to strengthen health systems at the community level for improved health outcomes.

The project dubbed: *Strengthening Community Health System to Support the Continuity of Essential Services for the Vulnerable during and post COVID-19 Pandemic* is strengthening the capacity of health facilities and Community-Based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) in underserved urban communities to provide health services. [Read more.](#)

## IOM donates PPEs to support border management and response to public health crisis

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), with funding from the Government of Japan, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), donated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to the Border Management Agencies (BMAs) at the Paga, Elubo, and Aflao borders respectively.

According to Kojo Wilmot, Immigration and Border Management (IBM) Officer, IOM Ghana, the items will ensure “that effective border management practices are implemented at all the Points of Entry (POE) in a coordinated manner to ensure that all border users including the BMAs, border residents and truck

drivers do not pose any public health risks.”

This donation forms part of the “*Enhancing Border Management Capacity for Responding to Public Health Crisis Including COVID-19*” project, which is currently being implemented in five West African countries – Côte d’Ivoire, Benin, Togo, Burkina Faso, and Ghana.

“We commend JICA for funding the project, and we assure the donor that the items donated would be utilized well” said A.C.I. Joshua Krakue, upon receiving the items on behalf of the head of the Border Security Committee at the Elubo border. [Read more.](#)



IBM National Project Officer, IOM Ghana, Kojo Wilmot handing over the equipment to the BMAs at Paga

## UNICEF senior health official visits project sites

UNICEF received Dr. Tedbabe Degefie HaleGebriel, Senior Advisor for Newborn and Adolescent Health from the Headquarters Office. Her visit aimed at observing how programmes funded by donors such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, GAVI and the Government of Japan have made an impact in reducing new-born deaths, improving quality care for babies and mothers at health centers, as well as addressing and scaling pneumonia prevention in Ghana.



UNICEF Senior Advisor for Newborn and Adolescent Health, Tedbabe Degefie fits a new wool hat on a newborn at the Nadowli Newborn Care Unit funded by UNICEF.

She visited health centers and communities in Accra, Upper West and the Eastern regions and interacted with mothers on their experience while receiving care before, during and after pregnancy.

Dr. HaleGebriel also had the opportunity to meet with partners and key stakeholders who ensure implementation of these funded programmes.

## Impact Evaluation Baseline commissioned for LEAP+

UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and other Social Protection Sector Development Partners,

commissioned the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty plus programme (LEAP+) Integrated Social Services (ISS) impact evaluation baseline.

The objective of the evaluation was to assess the household and child level impacts of combining LEAP with complementary social services through the ISS Initiative. The evaluation aimed to assess the outcomes such as consumption, food security and nutrition, access to NHIS, health services, health seeking and morbidity, economic productive activities, education and school attendance, and child protection outcomes related to child marriage and domestic violence. It also sought to review the impact of the LEAP programme in combination with complementary services on gender dynamics and inclusiveness for beneficiary households and communities.

A validation workshop was held in March 2022, which enabled the research team to share key findings from the preliminary report with key stakeholders. Participants discussed and identified strategic areas of improvement to enhance impacts of the LEAP+ISS programme. Recommendations and feedback from the participants are being incorporated into the final report.



A beneficiary of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Programme.

## Resolving conflict through youth-led engagements

The UN Development Programme (UNDP), with support from the governments of Netherlands and Sweden, has been

mobilizing stakeholders such as youth and women groups, traditional authorities, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and state institutions at the local level,

especially in border communities to support efforts towards preventing violent extremism and conflicts through training and engagements. [Read more.](#)



Youth and community engagement ongoing.

## IOM hosts Regional Border Management workshop

IOM Ghana in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior, hosted a regional border management workshop which brought together eight countries in the Gulf of Guinea and Sahel regions. The workshop, funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, provided a platform for Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo and their

neighbours in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria) to share experiences and develop recommendations to improve border management and border security in the region.

West African countries face common perennial challenges in managing their borders, including, for example, inadequate

infrastructure and equipment; management of numerous irregular border crossing points; migration data management and the existence of cross border trafficking and smuggling networks. This situation is further exacerbated by contemporary challenges, such as the emergence of violent extremism. [Read more.](#)

### Canadian Ministerial Visit (cont. from pg 18)

Hon. Sajjan interacted with these key population community volunteers and encouraged them to continue learning. "Do not underestimate what you do, Canada is proud to support

you", He told the volunteers.

Addressing the audience, UNAIDS Country Director, Angela Trenton-Mbonde informed how UNAIDS' work enables the

targeting of funds to impactful interventions and ensures that the voices of key populations and civil society are heard.



Group photo of participants at IOM Regional Border Management workshop

## IOM and UNFPA Programme Coordination Committee

As part of the UN Trust Fund for Human Security joint UN project seeking to enhance community resilience and social cohesion at certain border communities in northern Ghana, IOM and UNFPA have organized an inaugural meeting of a Programme Coordination Committee on Immigration and Border Management (IBM) programming. The coordination committee will provide a platform to enhance coordination and information sharing on

IBM projects with relevant ministries, departments and agencies to ensure the projects have the intended impact and continue to respond to the objectives of the Government of Ghana (GoG).

The coordination committee will explore synergies and complementarities with GoG and IBM programming.

RIGHT: Dr. Claudia Donkor, Program Analyst in charge of Reproductive Health and Humanitarian Assistance, UNFPA Ghana, presenting on target areas.



IBM Prog. Manager, IOM Ghana, Nnamdi Nwuora making a presentation on border security and management.



## Forests and sustainable production & consumption

Forests cover nearly a third of the earth's surface and support the livelihoods of more than 1.5 billion people around the world. Yet, 80% of natural forests have either been cleared or degraded with the world losing over 12 million hectares of primary forests between 2019 and 2020.

Initiatives like the Cocoa Life Programme being implemented by UNDP, Cocoa Board, Forestry Commission, with support from Mondelez International, are providing solutions by promoting sustainable agricultural production. Through the programme, farmers like Grace and Naomi are helping to restore degraded forest reserves like the Ayum Forest Reserve by planting economic trees in degraded forest reserve land. [Read more.](#)



## Women break traditional gender roles to tackle climate change

Building resilient communities that withstand and adapt to the impacts of climate change can start with the hard work of women like Sarah Gyamfuah, a young single mother who's breaking traditional gender roles in Ghana. As team leader on a bridge construction project overseeing scores of workers, Ms Gyamfuah is contributing to the sustainability of her community and gaining valuable skills and experience for her personal development at the same time.

Ms Gyamfuah and other women from Eju-ra, a suburb of the Sekyere Edumase Municipal Assembly in the Ashanti Region, are taking part in a European Union-funded Cash for Work action under the Boosting Green Employment and Enterprise Opportunities in Ghana, or GrEEen project with technical support from the UN Capital Development Fund. [Read more.](#)



Some female Cash for Work beneficiaries

## Ghanaian cosmetic entrepreneurs trained in soap making for export

While there is undoubtedly great potential to develop a professional cosmetic industry in Ghana as the country has some talented formulators, experienced entrepreneurs, and a range of potentially interesting raw materials, there is still much to be done to convert this resource into a viable sustainable industry.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), through the European Union-funded West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP) in Ghana, is implementing activities to enhance knowledge sharing and strengthen market access for Ghana's young entrepreneurs in the natural cosmetics sector.

[WACOMP-Ghana](#) has organised cosmetics formulation training for entrepreneurs formulating natural cosmet-

ic products for the domestic market to scale up their manufacturing standards for the international market.

During the 4-days training session, 35 SMEs focused on using standards for Shea butter-based creams, handcraft soap bars, lip balms and black soap cosmetics for local and international markets.

This is part of UNIDO's initiative to build back stronger with women and youth-led businesses, and also enhance collaboration and trust building among different entrepreneurs to enhance their competitiveness.

Last year, WACOMP-Ghana trained 110 cosmetics SMEs on handcraft cosmetics formulation in Tamale, Kumasi and Accra. The trained SMEs receive constant technical backstopping and remote coaching on how to maintain their newly

acquired competencies and ensure their competitiveness. All trained SMEs have a common WhatsApp platform which facilitates communication among the SMEs and the resource person.

Madam Christabel Ofori, producer of Flocare beauty products, a 100% natural skin and hair care product mostly targeting mothers and newborn babies had been reading theories on producing safe skin formulations for handcraft soaps for her personal use but was having challenges standardising her product.

Christabel said: "Before this training by UNIDO, I had some theoretical knowledge about home processing of handcraft soap, but the training helped me to put it into practice. We learnt about the right and safe techniques, soap designs and commercialising our soaps for the global market."



## UNCDF's investment platform to leverage the wider UN system expertise in Ghana

In line with its [new Strategic Framework 2022-2025](#), UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) is extending its financial instruments to other UN agencies and programmes within the UN system in Ghana.

The UNCDF team in Ghana has organized an ad-hoc meeting with the UN Country Team to share knowledge on the blended finance vehicles

promoted by UNCDF and the work of its [investment platform](#).

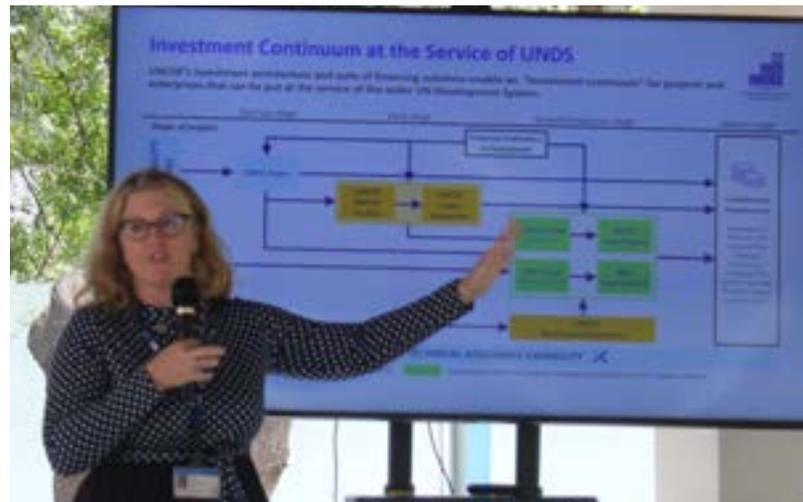
At the meeting, the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr Charles Abani highlighted the importance for all UN agencies in Ghana to use existing financial expertise and services offered by UNCDF to 'connect the dots' among sister agencies and thus creating a more sustainable impact in the Country.

Investment Specialist, Ms. Tracy Kroner presented the unique mandate of UNCDF to directly extend loans and guarantees to private sector entities to support development objectives.

The UNCDF Country Lead, Mr. Enea Stocco, reiterated their commitment to synergize with other UN agencies in Ghana to mobilize public and private finance.



UNCDF meeting with UN Country Team



Ms. Tracy Kroner making a presentation

## UNIDO supports nine IRCA Certified ISO 22000 Lead Auditors

To contribute, promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development, and ensure that the targeted project value chain actors in Ghana meet the requirements of the national and internationally recognized best practice, UNIDO [WACOMP-Ghana](#) supported nine quality experts who successfully

passed the IRCA Certified ISO 22000 Lead Auditors exams.

The certified lead auditors will support SMEs in the fruits and cassava value chain to implement the needed Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) and all compliance requirements. A brief graduation ceremony was held for the suc-

cessful candidates in March.

Building the competence of national experts is extremely strategic for Ghana, UNIDO, and the European Union as it ensures that the number of certified auditors increases in the country, which would in turn make businesses more competitive.

Mr. Fakhruddin Azizi, the UNIDO Representative to Ghana and Liberia congratulated the graduates and encouraged them to apply their skills as part of capacity building and to support Ghana in its industrialization drive.

Last year, UNIDO through WA-

COMP supported 10 experts to be IRCA ISO 9001:2015 lead auditor certified and also launched a resource pool quality training for 41 quality experts to increase the pool of national experts and enhance experts' knowledge on ISO 22 000, ISO 9001, and ISO 22 716.

The Horticultural mango sub-sector in Ghana is confronted with many challenges which include the incidence of pests and diseases and abuse of agrochemicals which affect the exports of fruits.

Prominent among these horticultural crops which have serious disease problems is mango. Bacterial Black Spot (BBS) was first observed in Ghana in 2012 and has reached an epidemic level in most areas in Ghana where mango is grown.

BBS can cause 80% yield loss if not controlled and is currently the number one problem of mango farmers in Ghana.

UNIDO as part of addressing issues relating to the conformity of quality exports of mango exports organised four days of training for selected mango farmers and the Agriculture Extension Agents (AEAs) working in the districts to control the spread and the right way to use the agrochemicals to meet export requirements.



Group photo of IRCA graduates with UNIDO team

## Supporting Mango Farmers in Ghana to control Bacteria Black Spot disease



Group photo of training participants

With support from United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) led project, WACOMP-Ghana, 48 mango farmers and 20 Agric Extension officers in two districts have been trained on Plant Disease Control and safe handling of Agro-chemicals.

## WFP facilitates export of Super Cereal to Burkina Faso

Building on recent work in strengthening food value chains in Ghana, the World Food Programme (WFP) and partners have increased their support to Premium Foods Ltd, an assisted private sector agro-processor, to produce specialized nutritious foods for consumption within Ghana and for export to the West Africa sub-region. Between December 2021 and April 2022, Premium Foods has been supported to obtain contracts of some 4,000 metric tonnes of Super Cereal, a specialized nutritious food, out of which 1,800 metric tonnes have been produced and dispatched to Burkina Faso, to reduce malnutrition in the worst affected areas.

Premium Foods is one of two agro-processors which WFP supported, with funding from Canada, under its Enhanced Nutrition and Value Chains initiative implemented from 2016-2021. The technical guidance and financial grant which the company was provided with, contributed to the construction

of an ultra-modern factory with an annual production capacity of 96,000 metric tonnes of cereals. Commissioned by His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana in 2021, the factory is generating hundreds of jobs, and is a reliable market for small-holder farmers. Its products of specialized nutritious foods are important to reduce malnutrition, a growing concern in West Africa, especially in Burkina Faso where violence and climate change have exacerbated the rate of malnutrition.

“We are seeing the results of strategic partnership between the Government of Ghana, Canada and WFP through Premium Foods Ltd. We are witnessing what the multiplier effect could be for Ghana in terms of its GDP and improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers”, said Ms Barbara Clemens, WFP Representative and Country Director, during a visit to the factory in April 2022, with Ms. Sara Nicholls, Head of Cooperation at the Canadian High Commission

“Standing in this factory, I feel the impact it has on small-holder farmers, and I know this will result in children eating nutritious foods. Canada is in Ghana to make a difference, to help create jobs and to help lift up Ghanaian excellence”, said Ms Nicholls as she witnessed the dispatch of five trucks loaded with Super Cereal enroute to Burkina Faso.

Support for agro-processors and the export of Super Cereal, outlines the trajectory of WFP’s development work in Ghana as it continues to align with the “Ghana Beyond Aid” vision for national economic self-sufficiency and the Ghana CARES Covid-19 response programme which identifies agriculture and agro-processing as key development priorities. The UN will continue to forge strategic partnerships to strengthen Ghana’s food systems and value chains, while leveraging intra African trade opportunities to contribute to reduce malnutrition in West Africa.



Ms Clemens and Ms Nicholls at Premium Foods Ltd.



Ms Clemens and Ms Nicholls witnessing the departure of truck load of products to Burkina Faso.

## UN engages Canadian Ministerial Delegation to Ghana

The UN in Ghana engaged the Minister of International Development and Minister for the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada, Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan, during his working visit to Ghana in March. The Minister's visit focused on vaccination efforts against COVID-19, economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic and Canadian development programming in the country.

To observe the impact made so far in the lives of children

and adolescents through Canada-funded projects, a team comprising UNICEF and UN-FPA staff, led by the UN Resident Coordinator visited health centers and communities in Northern region and interacted with beneficiaries.

Hon. Sajjan, accompanied by the H.E. Kati Csaba, High Commissioner of Canada to Ghana handed over 309,600 doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines to the Ministry of Health and the Ghana

Health Services, represented by Dr. Patrick Kuma Aboagye.

To illustrate how Canadian investment in the Global Fund was being used to address human rights issues in the HIV response, Peer Educators, Peer Paralegals and Drop-in Centre Attendants at the Ghana-West Africa Program to Combat AIDS and STI (WAPCAS) exhibited their hand-made products, made possible as a result of skills acquired from available WAPCAS training programme.

**(cont. from pg 11)**



The UN team, led by the UN RC, Mr. Charles Abani observes the impact of Canadian-funded health projects.



Canadian and UN officials in a group picture with Hon. Sajjan (3rd from left).



UNAIDS Country Director, Angela Trenton-Mbonde briefing Hon. Sajjan and his team.



Group photo of Canadian and UN team with WAPCAS.

## IOM Ghana welcomes close to 300 migrants back home

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) assisted 292 migrants (including 24 female and 246 male adults, 14 children and 8 infants) to return to Ghana from Libya on two charter flights. To ensure a smooth reception process, IOM worked closely with all key stakeholders of the Government of Ghana.

The charter flights were made possible through the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration Project funded by the European Union (EU) Emergency Trust Fund for Africa and implemented by the IOM.

Upon arrival, returnees were tested for COVID-19, and provided either their 1st or 2nd dosage of Covid-19 vaccination, an obligatory measure for all arriving international passengers, at the airport, introduced by Government last year to curb the spread of the virus in the country. [Read more.](#)



A customs officer flanked by a police officer and IOM Ghana Operations Assistant with a returnee in customs process.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, with support from the IOM country office in Ghana, assisted a total of thirty-two students (16 men and 16 women) who fled the current crisis in Ukraine to return home.

The students expressed their gratitude to the Government of Ghana, IOM, as well as the people and Governments of Romania/Hungary for hosting them temporarily. They were glad to be back home safely, hoping to continue with their studies.

Since the beginning of the war, at least 150,000 people have received direct assistance from IOM in Ukraine, including food, non-food and hygiene items, cash, mental health and psychosocial support, as well as via in-



TOP: Returnees waiting for their turn to go through immigration process; BOTTOM: Snr. Operations Officer, IOM Ghana, Tonny Jacquaye assisting a student on arrival with procedures.

formation campaigns to help prevent human trafficking and sexual exploitation and abuse.

As required psychological screenings were conducted for all returnees in collaboration with NADMO, Port Health and the University of Ghana Social Welfare department. Individual cases were identified for one-on-one follow ups and information on how to access Psychosocial support services were provided.



## UN Ghana joins hands to demonstrate their commitment to #BreakTheBias

On International Women's Day, the UN in Ghana joined partners at a national seminar on "Climate

Change, Empowering the Ghanaian Woman for Sustainable Tomorrow", emphasizing the need to break the bias in Ghana and globally.

The event, led by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection with support from key stakeholders and partners, including

the UN in Ghana, was attended by students, traditional leaders, Civil Society Organisations, government and development partners.

UNICEF also supported six youth advocates to publish blog writings and newspaper opinions highlighting the importance of women's empowerment and gender equality for environmental sustainability.

The UN system used its various platforms to advocate for women's rights to #BreakTheBias and profile young women leading efforts in climate action.



A cross section of the audience at the Forum.



From L-R: Eric Akomanyi, UN Gender Team Technical Lead; Selina Owusu, National Programme Analyst in Charge of Gender, UNFPA; UN Resident Coordinator, Charles Abani; Agnes KAYITANKORE (PhD, Deputy Country Rep, UNFPA; Ifeoma Charles-Monwuba, UNOPS Director and Representative in Ghana.

## UNCDF and Bank of Ghana advocate for Women as Builders of Digital Economies on IWD



Participants at the breakfast meeting “Breaking the Bias”

The UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the Bank of Ghana held a breakfast meeting with stakeholders from the Digital Financial Services (DFS) sector to deliberate on the role of DFS in advancing women’s economic independence in Ghana as part of activities to mark IWD’22

The event was on the theme Women as Builders of Digital Economies in Ghana; A Call to Action to Close the Gender Gap in Access to and Usage of Digital Financial Services in Ghana and brought together key stakeholders such as the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, the UN Resident Coordinator, the BoG as well as representatives from private sector institutions.

The event also served as a platform for UNCDF to highlight its market system approach that leaves no women behind in the digital era: as of 2021, more than 18,000 women and young girls in Ashanti and Western regions have access to digital services that empower them in their journey

towards economic independence.

UNCDF also used the occasion to premiere a video showcasing its experience under the GrEEn Project in accelerating greater economic and employment opportunities for women and young girls through access to and usage of digital financial services.



Second Deputy Governor of the Bank of Ghana, Elsie Addo Awadzi

## World Water Day

The UN in Ghana joined partners to mark World Water Day at Dodowa, a suburb of Accra, the capital of Ghana, at which time the UN presented the [UN World Water Development Report 2022](#) to the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources. The Report findings are key to managing our water bodies.

Representing the UN Resident Coordinator, the UNICEF Representative, Madam Anne-Claire Dufay reiterated the urgency for the efficient use of groundwater to ensure increased access to safe drinking water, to sustain sanitation systems, to support agriculture and industry, and to attain the Sustainable Development Goal 6.



A child pouring water

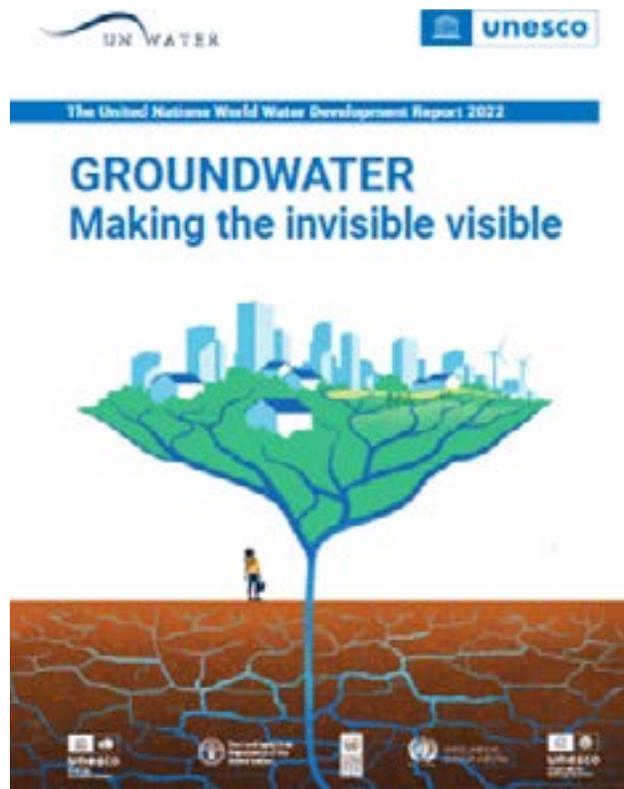


(L to R): Okukrubour Nene Tei Kwesi Agyemang V, Chief of Dodowa; Anne-Claire Dufay, UNICEF Rep.; Donnan Tay, Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources; & Mr. Abdourahamane Diallo, UNESCO Country Office Rep.

## Taking visible actions to sustainably manage groundwater resources in the Decade of Action

Still on groundwater, it is projected that there is likely to be a global 40% groundwater deficit by 2030. This is expected to reduce global GDP by 6% in some regions of the world by 2050.

In rural areas such as in the Yindongo community in the Upper East region of Ghana, Madam Agabeni Abaa and the other 100 women have improved their livelihoods through dry season gardening powered by groundwater sources. Partnerships between the Government, UNDP and the Adaptation Fund that enable access to groundwater, are changing lives in underserved communities in the Savannah region and four Northern regions of Ghana. [Read More](#) in this article by UNDP Country Representative Angela Lusigi.



## Ghana marks Zero Discrimination Day

Providing accurate information on the ills of discrimination is key in eradicating it.

In this light, the Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC), in collaboration with UNAIDS Ghana, held a press briefing at the GAC Conference Room to commemorate Zero Discrimination Day. The 2022 commemoration was on the theme: Remove laws that harm, create laws that empower.

Addressing the press, the Director General of Ghana AIDS Commission, Dr Kyeremeh Atuahene appealed to the public to desist from treating persons living with HIV differently due to their health status.

Additionally, he revealed that 92% of women and 85% of men expressed unacceptable attitudes towards persons living with HIV according to the Demographic and Health Survey conducted by the Ghana Statistical Service in 2014.

He further emphasised that all acts of stigmatisation and discrimination against persons living with HIV or affected persons were offences punishable by law.

The UNAIDS Country Director, Angela Trenton-Mbonde urged all “not to discriminate but fight against discrimination and stigmatisation. Ending discrimination and changing laws is the responsibility of us all. Everyone can play a part in ending discrimination and try to make a difference, in ways both big and small,” Ms. Trenton-Mbonde remarked. [Watch press briefing.](#)

## Harnessing Africa's creativity and innovation to drive human development

World Creativity and Innovation Day, celebrated on April 21, recognises creativity and innovation as essential for 'harnessing the economic potential of nations and creating momentum for the achievement of SDGs by transforming society, creating jobs and expanding opportunities for all, including women and youth'.

Citizens are generating a wide variety of creative products that are contributing to Africa's growth exports and boost development outcomes. For instance Nigeria's film industry (Nollywood) produces over 2,000 films per year and employs more than one million people; Craft Education, an edtech innovation by Ghanaian social entrepreneur Rudolph is using creativity and innovation to create more inclusive and equitable access to education for children with disability; and 26-year-old Charlette N'Guessan, an Ivorian based in Ghana, developed BACE API, a software that uses facial recognition and artificial intelligence to verify identities remotely, and one that is designed specifically to identify Africans. [Read More](#)



Harnessing Africa's creativity and innovation to drive human development. Photo © Leika Production.

## UPCOMING MAJOR EVENTS

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### Trade

[World Trade Promotion Organizations Conference and Awards](#) co-hosted with the Ghana Export Promotion Authority.  
17 - 18 May 2022; Accra, Ghana



### Climate Change

[27th session of the Parties \(COP27\)](#) to the UNFCCC  
1 - 18 November; Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt



### SDGs

[Voluntary National Review at the High Level Political Forum \(HLPF\)](#) at the United Nations (UN)  
July 2022, New York



17-18 May 2022 | Labadi Beach Hotel, Accra, Ghana

A robust private sector that delivers economic growth and wealth creation is critical for the achievement of the SDGs

Join me at the World Trade Promo Conference and Awards in Accra.

Charles Abani  
UN Resident Coordinator, Ghana

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