



UNCT RESULTS REPORT 2021 GHANA



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Foreword by the Resident Coordinator

I am humbled to share the 2021 Annual UN Country Team (UNCT) Results Report for the Republic of Ghana.

2021 marked a year of rising above our challenges and making significant headway through a coordinated and collaborative approach. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to take centre stage. Despite that, together with the Government of Ghana, the UN resolutely supported its ambitious development plan to be on track with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) commitments.

In the outgoing year, the country witnessed positive news. On the regional front, President Akufo-Addo was re-elected as Chair of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for a second term and will continue to fulfil its vision of being an essential player in the region, promoting economic integration, policy harmonization, sustainable development, infrastructure schemes, cooperation, peace and security. On the global stage, Ghana was elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council from 2022 to 2023. This will provide a more comprehensive platform to influence peace and security and promote Ghana's commitment to strengthening partnerships between the UN and continental and regional organizations such as the African Union and ECOWAS and placing the critical agenda on conflict prevention, post-conflict reconstruction and multilateralism at the heart of UN peace and security agenda. On the country front, Ghana welcomed new leadership at the national and local levels.

Ghana faced significant fiscal challenges amidst a strong recovery in 2021. In addition to ongoing mitigation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the country also monitored external manifestations of terrorist activities in Burkina Faso and Mali; even though no terrorist activities were recorded within the country during the reporting period. However, economic recovery post-COVID-19 saw real GDP growth rise by an estimated 5.4 per cent in 2021, with a decline in fiscal deficit from 14.7 per cent in 2020 to 11.4 per cent, in 2021. Nevertheless, the high level of the deficit and rising public debt, which currently stands at 76.6 per cent, continue to pose significant debt and fiscal sustainability challenges to the government's development agenda. In response to these challenges, the government has rolled out expenditure rationalization and domestic revenue enhancement measures in the 2022 Budget, which may impact

necessary public services and social protection. On account of imported inflation from advanced economies, upward petroleum price adjustments with related higher non-food prices and exchange rate pressures, inflation increased consistently in the second half of 2021 to end the year at 12.6 per cent compared to 10.4 per cent in 2020. Thus, increasing the cost of living and particularly impacting vulnerable groups in Ghana.

Despite these challenges, Ghana continues to keep its line of sight to achieve SDGs acceleration. The UN is honoured to accompany the country's journey across our four strategic priority areas: Shared Prosperous Economy, Social Investment in People, Protected and Safe Environment, and Inclusive and Accountable Governance.

The UN has demonstrated that its strength lies in unity and delivering as one entity for the people of Ghana across the spectrum health, economic growth, environment, governance and leaving no one behind. I am very proud of our agencies, fund and programmes and of all this exceptional talent pool has accomplished during the year. Constant guidance from the Government of Ghana and the continued support of our partners and donors have strengthened our resolve to push harder and reach higher in 2022.

As we round up the past year, let us fix our eyes on what lies ahead the task of contributing to Ghana's endeavours to attain the 2030 Agenda. This should spur us on. The UN family in Ghana remains deeply committed to supporting Ghana on its relentless march towards self-reliance and achieving the SDGs. With innovative approaches to advocate for inclusive and equitable programmes and policies, we support Ghana's endeavours ensuring no one is left behind.



Charles Abani

UN Resident Coordinator
in the Republic of Ghana-Accra

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Ghana is dedicated to achieving the SDGs and the Government of Ghana's ambitious vision and forward-looking development agenda. This report highlights the progress made with support from the UN (20 resident entities and 12

externally operating entities) through increased coherence, transparency, and accountability. The UN supports the achievement of national development priorities through collaboration with approximately 24 key Government Ministries and Agencies (Annex 1).

The UNCT in Ghana comprises the following entities

RESIDENT AGENCIES



AGENCIES WITH PROJECT OFFICES IN GHANA



AGENCIES OPERATING EXTERNALLY





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Key development partners of the UN development system in the country

The UN works with international partners, including Global Affairs Canada, Norway, USAID, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office-UK, Netherlands, European Commission, European Union, Government of Japan, Government of Germany, Republic of Korea, Korea International Cooperation Agency, Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), Global Centre on Adaptation, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, Commonwealth Human Right Initiative, EU Delegation in Ghana, African Development Bank, African Union, ECOWAS, Embassy of Denmark, Embassy of France, Finland, GIZ-Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Irish Aid, Italy, Sweden, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, USA, and World Bank (Annex 1).

It partners with local organizations, including the Bank of Ghana, Water Research Institute, Association of Ghana Industries, Friends of the Nation, Development Action Association, Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana, Farm Radio International, Ghana Federation of Forest and Farm Producers, Dormaa East District Assembly, The Challenges Group Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, National Vocational Training Institute and the University of Ghana.

The UN collaborates with civil society organizations (CSOs) and NGOs, including the African Youth Advisory Board on Disaster Risk Reduction, Plan International, World Vision International, Netherlands Development Organization, Coalition of National Water Sanitation NGOs, Edsam Social Network, Rural Water Development Programwme, Progressive Excellence Youth Organization, Youth Advocates

Ghana, Integrated Action for Community Development, Africa 2000 Network, SNV Netherlands Development Organization, SOS Children's Village in the Netherlands, Women In Agricultural Development, Root Capital, Savana Signatures, SEND-Ghana, SEWA Foundation, Sight and Life Foundation, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, and the Christian Health Association of Ghana (Annex 1).

The UN also works with academic institutions, namely, the 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 Comm. 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 For Development Studies, and the University of Ghana.

In line with the Global Goals for 2030, the UN is engaging private sector partners in Ghana, including Ecobank, Zeepay Bank, OZÉ, Fidelity, Viamo, Pezesha, Stanbic Bank Ghana, Private Enterprise Federation, Mondelez International, Coca Cola Foundation, Serendi Palm Ltd, Association of Ghana Industries, Cobalt Partners, FundRaising Africa, Ghana Chamber of Industries, Ghana Industrial Agri-business Dealers Association, IPayGH, Media Communications Advocacy Network, MicroEnsure National Butchers Association, Pumptech, RIA Money Transfer, and Jekora Ventures.

Chapter

01

Key developments in the country and regional context



2021 has been a **critical year** for Ghana.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, as well as security threats, continue to place pressure on existing resources. During the same time, the country's new leadership following the 2020 parliamentary elections was confirmed by the Supreme Court ruling in March 2021 after the opposition contested the results.

Since the UN's combined COVID-19 Common Country Analysis (CCA) and Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan (SERRP) were drafted and implemented from 2020 onward, the pandemic has impacted Ghana's economy and society. Despite some signs of economic recovery, the effects are substantial and ongoing, touching upon all segments of the country- from public health and social services to business and trade,

reducing economic growth, straining the education system, and increasing the numbers of poor and marginalized people. To mitigate some of these consequences, the Government has been forced to reallocate resources and adjust priorities.

The pandemic has seriously impacted the goals of the Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies (CPESDP) 2017- 2024. At the same time, some of these goals provide the context for redefining the Government's approach to achieving its national vision. The CPESDP seeks to modernize and transform agriculture, promote industrial diversification and accelerate youth employment through national strategies to localize and achieve the SDGs.

Some of the key strategic anchors within the programme to drive inclusive growth are:



Restore and maintain macroeconomic stability through enhanced fiscal and monetary discipline and financial stability.

Transform agriculture and industry through an operational framework that promotes a demand-driven approach to agricultural development, focusing on quantity, quality and timely product delivery while safeguarding food and nutrition security in the short, medium, and long term.

Strengthen social protection and inclusion to create a fair and responsive society with opportunity for all while tackling systemic social, spatial and income inequalities.

Revamp economic and social infrastructure to improve people's well-being by leveraging private sector resources and expertise for integrated economic and social infrastructure provision.

The Government also undertakes interventions to respond to the SDGs, the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (COP21) by implementing structures and plans within the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and in the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies

(MMDAs). In addition, the honourable President has personally committed to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, since April 2017, has played a critical role as Co-Chair of the UN Secretary-General's Eminent Group of Sustainable Development Goals Advocates.

Government of Ghana SDG Groupings and Strategic Plans



Source: Ghana Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report, 2019

Ghana’s context for achieving its national development goals and the SDGs has significant strengths and areas for improvement. The strengths include solid democratic institutions, peaceful and credible elections, a substantial basis for improving data collection, management and its use for development, and a vibrant civil society with political space to promote public accountability¹.

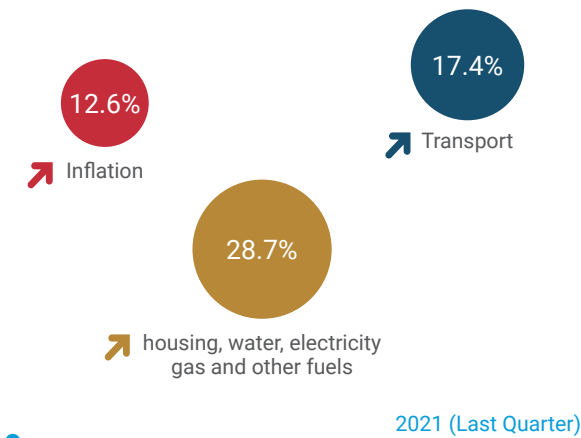
However, the UN’s 2016 CCA for Ghana pointed to “persisting inequalities and growing polarization of income, consumption, access to quality services” as “the most complex and obvious deterrent” to human development in Ghana. The growing gap between the rich and the poor, between the advantaged and the disadvantaged and their access to economic opportunities and social services is enormous. While Ghana has made significant progress in several social indicators, considerable problems remain concerning the health, well-being, and food security of the poor and near poor. Exacerbated by COVID-19, the divide must be addressed as a core part of a holistic national response and recalibration toward achieving Ghana’s development priorities.



¹ United Nations Ghana (2021). Ghana UNCT Results Report 2020

1.1. Macroeconomic context

Ghana's economy experienced a strong recovery from the impact of COVID-19 in 2021, primarily driven by the services and agriculture sectors. Real GDP growth steeply rose from 0.5 per cent in 2020 to 5 per cent in 2021. Non-oil GDP growth expanded from 1 per cent in 2020 to 6.9 per cent in 2021, exceeding the 5.9 per cent target. Consumer spending, manufacturing activities, international trade and passenger travel all recorded positive performance on account of the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. While the agriculture and services sector grew from 7.3 per cent and 0.7 per cent in 2020 to 8.4 per cent and 9.4 per cent in 2021, respectively, the industry sector further contracted to 0.8 per cent in 2021. Imported inflation from advanced economies, upward petroleum price adjustments with related higher non-food prices and exchange rate pressures in the last quarter of 2021 culminated in increased end-year inflation by 12.6 per cent in 2021 with the rising cost of housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels (28.7 per cent) and transport (17.4 per cent).



Government fiscal operations for 2021 recorded GH¢68 billion (14.8 per cent of GDP) for total revenues and grants, below the expected target of GH¢73 billion, and GH¢110.4 billion (24.1 per cent of GDP), below the target of GH¢113.8 billion, resulting in a fiscal deficit of 11.4 per cent of GDP at the end of 2021, against the target of 9.4 per cent of GDP. The primary balance for the first three quarters of 2021, however, recorded a deficit of GH¢8.9 billion (2.0 per cent of GDP), against a target of GH¢8.7 billion. As a result, public debt increased to GH¢351.8 billion, representing 76.6 per cent of GDP, at the end of December 2021.

Ghana's economy is projected to continue recovery to 5.8 per cent in 2022 and 5.6 per cent in 2025 on the back of increased domestic revenue collections to finance government flagships programmes in the Ghana CARES Programme. However, a combination of elevated global inflation affecting imported price channel, persistent constraints to food systems, including delayed rainfall, high cost of inputs (fertilizer), high transport costs and demand pressures from neighbouring countries, rising ex-pump petroleum prices due to rising crude oil prices, and exchange rate pressures pose a significant inflationary risk. The current rising debt levels will require bold and consistent fiscal sustainability measures to ease and sustain the recovery path.

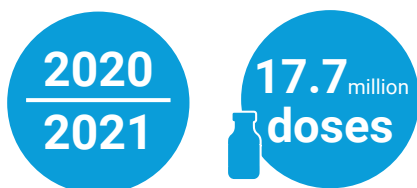
1.2. COVID-19 Response

Under the strong leadership of his excellency, the President of Ghana enacted a multi-sectoral COVID-19 response to reduce both incidence and mortality and the pandemic's negative socio-economic impact. The Government led the way in implementing policies and programmes that covered coordination mechanisms, surveillance and laboratory testing, case management, oxygen delivery systems, infection prevention and control, risk communication and vaccine deployment.

Development partners and the UN played a pivotal role in strengthening existing national capacities to accelerate an effective, gender-sensitive, inclusive health system response to prevent and minimize devastating consequences. This included the rapid design and rollout of the Country Preparedness Response Plan, led by the World Health Organization (WHO)

The UN ensured a **whole-of-system response** to the

pandemic, including establishing an effective national coordination mechanism and undertaking a readiness assessment while helping build surveillance, testing, and case management capacities throughout all 16 of the country's regions.



While 2020 saw a decline in essential health services use, the pattern reversed in 2021, with 60 per cent of facilities surveyed to understand the impact of COVID-19 on essential services, indicating an overall increase in maternal and child health visits in the three months before the survey.

The COVID-19 vaccination campaign in March 2021, with vaccines from the COVAX Facility and other donations, added a positive dimension to the ongoing response strategies. To increase population immunity, the Government announced vaccination days to promote vaccine uptake and plans to introduce mandatory vaccination for targeted groups, including all public sector and health workers, starting from January 2022.

Ghana has received approximately 17.7 million doses of various COVID-19 vaccines, with 50 per cent distributed to the regions and about 7 million doses administered to the eligible population. Around 9 per cent of the eligible population in Ghana were fully

vaccinated by December 2021. The Government aims to reach about 22 million Ghanaians with COVID-19 vaccines by June 2022.

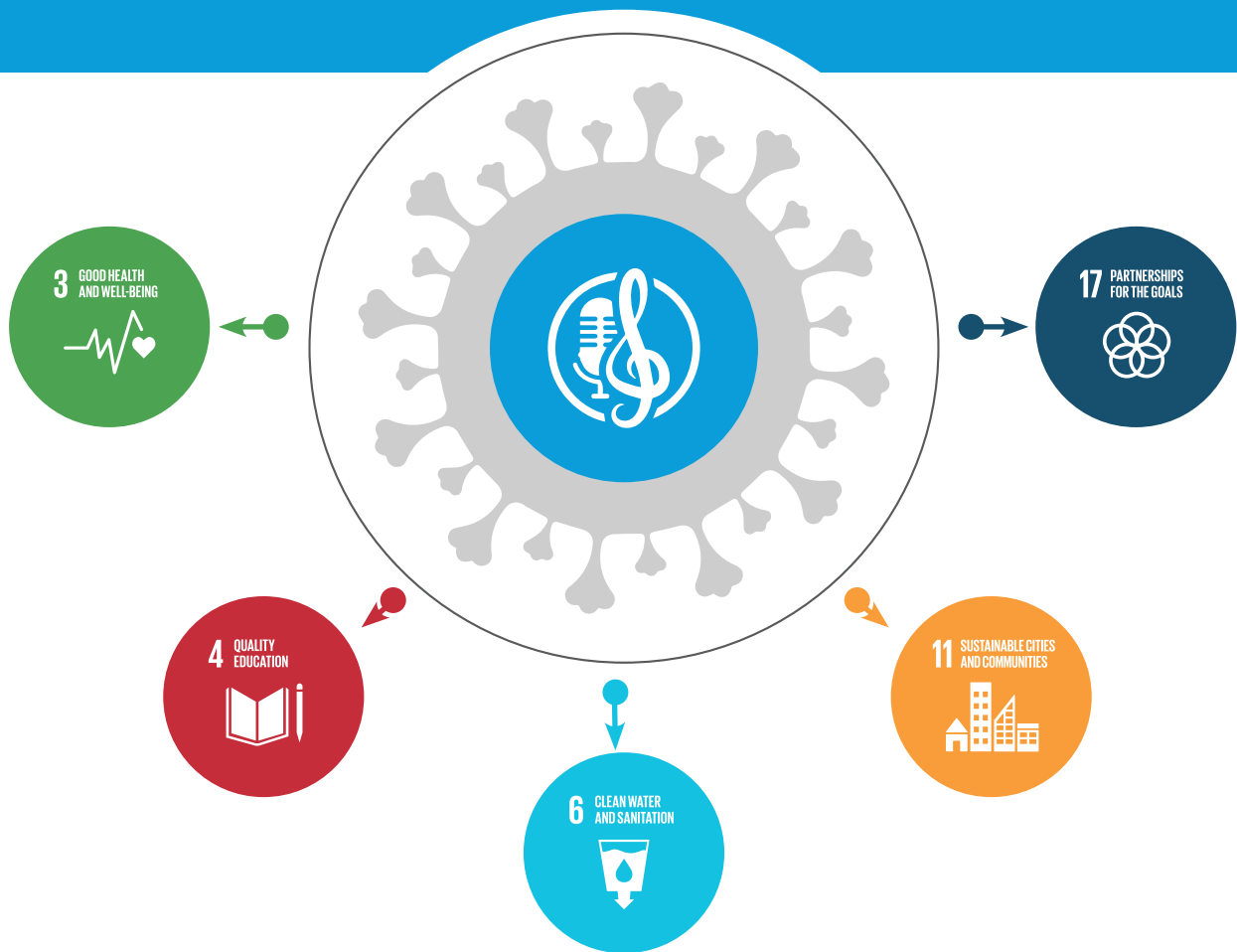
The UN supported the COVAX initiative in Ghana through the ongoing assessment of cold chain equipment needed to facilitate vaccine deployment. Findings helped mobilize resources to address the gaps by procuring walk-in cold rooms/freezer rooms, vaccine refrigerators, vaccine freezers, and ultra-low temperature freezers. In addition, the UN supported cold chain capacity enhancement by procuring and installing several ultra-cold chain equipment as part of COVID-19 operational and logistic support.

To counter some of the challenges, especially vaccine hesitancy and fear, the UN supported the Government in implementing a **robust communications campaign** to create awareness of the impact of COVID-19 and the measures needed to remain safe. The campaign was based on four main pillars: reducing stigma, social distancing, mask use, and hand hygiene.

The UN supports the COVID-19 campaign in Ghana

The UN and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) helped launch a new campaign through a joint initiative in partnership with the National Commission on Culture (NCC), the Musicians Union of Ghana (MUSIGA) and the Creative Arts Council. The collaboration was part of a broader joint response to COVID-19 in several West African countries. Ghana was one of the first to implement the activity to strengthen national capacities in responding to the pandemic.

The campaign released a song, a music video, and video messages by Ghanaian artists through local media platforms. The song and video feature select musicians from MUSIGA, including Kofi Kinaata, Celestine Donkor, Pat Thomas, Amandzeba, Adane Best and Samuel Kofi Agyemang. The song encourages people to continue adhering to the COVID-19 protocol based on the Ghana Health Service and the WHO recommendations in different Ghanaian languages. It supports SDGs 17, 11, 4, 3, and 6.



UNCT contributed to strengthening the national COVID-19 response by filling critical gaps in the national COVID-19 preparedness plan, which is fully aligned with WHO's Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, by addressing the following areas:

- **Country-level coordination, planning, and monitoring:** Provided technical and financial support to develop the National COVID-19 Country Preparedness and Response Plan, resulting in a more coordinated approach to implementing activities, creating synergies and avoiding duplication and waste of resources. The support enabled the establishment of regional and district-level task teams to enforce adherence to preventive protocols in public places and events, including markets, shops, funeral celebrations, churches, mosques, and other places of religious worship.
- **Gender- and age-sensitive risk communication and community engagement:** Provided technical and financial support in the Ashanti region to conduct targeted risk communication activities during the third wave. Helped organize more than 2,000 public education sessions to promote safety protocols and generate demand for COVID-19 vaccination. These efforts improved the use of face masks from 38 per cent to 61.1 per cent. As a result, the region saw a massive vaccine uptake, with approximately 870,000 doses administered, representing about 94 per cent of all doses across the region. Also, 6 million people were reached through radio, TV, public service announcements and social media campaigns on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and COVID-19.
- **Surveillance, rapid response teams, and case investigation:** Supported Central, Eastern, Bono East and Ashanti regions to monitor COVID-19 activities, contact tracing, data management, and reporting of COVID-19 cases. Bono region received innovative support through strengthening the Community Based Surveillance System as a channel to enhance COVID-19 surveillance in the region. This led to improved data reporting. The central region identified 596 suspected cases in all districts. In the Bono East region, district Rapid Response Teams were supported to conduct field investigations, trace contacts and transport samples to the testing site. The support to the Ashanti region resulted in an average increase of 15.7 per cent in sample transportation, with 12,169 samples transported to testing sites across the region and 6,693 contacts for the 1,674 cases confirmed within the period listed and followed up.
- **Points of Entry (PoE):** UN supported assessing 56 PoEs in 11 regions to re-open the borders using the International Health Regulations (IHR) guidelines. The assessments revealed a gap in capacities, which the UN helped address among the national border management stakeholders by developing skills to carry out COVID-19 surveillance, information sharing, screening and referral at the PoE, thus, adhering to the IHR and Humanitarian Border management principles.
- **National Laboratories:** Assisted the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), one of the Regional SARS-CoV-2 genomic sequencing laboratories in the network launched by the Africa CDC and WHO Regional Office for Africa to strengthen sequencing capacity in the sub-region. The resources covered procurement of reagents, consumables, equipment, and staff costs. The support enables sequencing of at least 2,700 samples and hands-on training of 10 persons from the West Africa sub-region in SARS-CoV-2 sequencing techniques and quality control, data analysis and interpretation, using publicly available standardized tools.



- Infection Prevention and Control:** Conducted assessments of health facilities across the country with the Ministry of Health by providing technical support, sharing feedback on findings, and proposing corrective measures for implementation. To mitigate the pandemic's impact on the smallholder farmers, the UN started an emergency response project to protect the livelihoods, incomes and resilience of the target groups suffering from the effects of the pandemic and climate change. To ensure results, the UN collaborated with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Trade to strengthen the domestic supply chain of PPEs, through capacity development training for producers to improve production capacity and quality.
- Regional Cooperation:** A plan to ensure coordination of regional health interventions and improved quality of interventions to restrict COVID-19 has been proposed. Two regional standards were adopted by the ECOWAS Council of Ministers (masks and hand sanitizers).
- Case Management:** Helped build the capacity of newly recruited staff at the Ghana Infectious Disease Centre, Bono, Bono East, Volta and Ashanti regions to strengthen case management in the country. Around 345 clinicians have been trained in case management, leading to effective management, follow-up and monitoring of COVID-19 patients within clinical and home settings. To enhance adequate access to medical oxygen to treat acute and severe manifestations of COVID-19, the UN supported developing and implementing the national oxygen quantification assessment and the policy, guideline, and costed strategy development for medical oxygen. US\$2.5 million was mobilized for oxygen equipment and supplies procurement. Over 800,000 amoxicillin dispersible tablets were procured, enabling pneumonia prevention and treatment for 62,000 children under five years of age.
- Operations Support and Logistics:** The UN supported cold chain capacity enhancement by procuring and installing ultra-cold chain equipment (36 units), walk-in cold rooms and freezers (20 units), vaccine fridges (420) and freezers (275), and remote temperature monitoring devices (18). This resulted in 89 per cent of children under the age of 1 year receiving the third dose of DTP.

Around 9,500 dignity kits were procured to support care in isolation centres, 4,970 Cepheid diagnostic kits, and 5 PCR machines, among others, helped operationalize test centres. To strengthen essential health services to address the growing burden of the pandemic, items such as 5,000 face shields, 5,000 goggles, 8,500 N95 masks, 8,500 surgical gowns and 4 Automated RNA extractors and PCR machines each were procured by the UN and given to the Ministry of Health. The UN also procured 762 iLED binocular microscopes to improve parasite-based diagnosis and treatment using microscopy for the Ghana Health Service.

- Vaccine Deployment:** helped formulate policy recommendations of the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) using evidence for research that has expanded the vaccination coverage to pregnant women and children aged 15-17 years. Developed capacities of over 2,000 immunization managers and vaccinators and helped administer over 12,043,575 doses, with more than 8,447,854 individuals receiving at least one dose of the vaccine and 4,570,431 persons being fully vaccinated.

The UN supports Ghana in preparing a COVID-19 recovery plan for the City of Accra

The pandemic is putting severe constraints on cities across the globe, and Accra, Ghana's bustling capital, is no exception. A recent UN diagnostic study on the impact of COVID-19 on the economy and financial sector in Accra graded the local economy of Accra City as moderately sound. However, it remains below the best performing cities, with the study citing some weaknesses in the local business environment.

As countries take steps to recover and rebuild, cities and local governments must play a critical role in

building back better by taking ownership of the process and creating sound policies and effective recovery plans to accelerate the pace of financial and economic recovery to ensure more resiliently cities.

The Mayor of Accra, Hon. Mohammed Nii Adjei-Sowah said that the recovery plans must be effectively aligned with the existing development agenda. It will help respond to the emerging challenges from the pandemic and build economies by addressing existing issues such as job creation, social protection and labour needs.

Source: <https://ghana.un.org/en/132473-un-supports-ghana-prepare-covid-19-recovery-plan-city-accra>

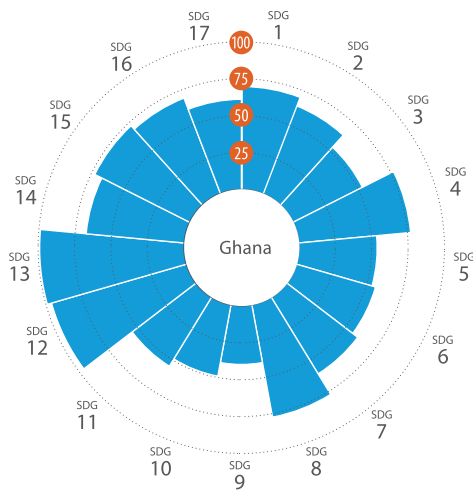
Chapter

02

UN development system support to national development priorities through the Cooperation Framework



2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results



The United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership (UNSDP) 2018-2022 guides the UN's work in Ghana, outlining goals and commitments to global development initiatives and national development objectives. It identifies the collective contributions of UN agencies working in Ghana to help the Government and other stakeholders achieve their goals. The current framework ends on 31 December 2022.

The UNSDP articulates four Result Areas:



1. Shared Prosperous Economy



2. Social Investment in People



3. Protected and Safe Environment



4. Inclusive, Accountable Governance

Ghana has made steady progress in 11 of the 17 SDGs. It is on track for two of them, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG 13: Climate Action. The country has made moderate improvements in nine SDGs.

SDG Dashboards and Trends



■ Major challenges
 ■ Stagnating
 ■ Challenges remain
 ■ SDG achieved
 ■ Information available
↓ Decreasing
 → Stagnating
 ↗ Moderately improving
 ↑ On track or maintaining SDG achievement
 ● Information unavailable

UN in Ghana COVID -19 Socio –Economic Response and Recovery Plan (SEERP)

SERRP Pillar	Indicator	Number
1. Health First	People accessing Maternal Health Services	5,342,998
	People accessing Nutrition Programmes (children aged 0-59 months)	78,868
	People accessing Vaccination Programmes	1,239,319
	Health facilities that received UN support to maintain essential immunization services since COVID-19 disruptions	4,720
	Health facilities supported through immunization training and supplies	275
2. Protecting People, Social Protection, & Basic Social Services	People reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	485,138
	Children supported by distance/home-based learning	8,210,211
3. Economic Recovery	Private sector companies and formal and informal sector workers supported during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.	49,991
	Whether the country undertook socio-economic impact assessments in response to the COVID-19 crisis, with a focus on vulnerable groups, directed at-risk populations.	Yes-Fiscal and public debt assessment, Gender-sensitive impact assessments, Human impact needs assessment for at-risk populations, labour market impact assessment, macro-meso economic needs assessment, multi-sectoral and sectoral needs assessment conducted.
4. Macro-economic Response & Multilateral Collaboration	Whether the country is implementing policies informed by a socio-economic impact assessment directed at-risk populations.	Yes-fiscal policy, labour market policies, social protection policy, socio-economic policy including employment and women's empowerment policy conducted.
5. Social Cohesion and Community Resilience	Community-based organizations capacitated to respond to and mitigate the pandemic, and fight against COVID-19-related domestic violence.	40
	Social dialogue, advocacy and political engagement spaces facilitated with the participation of at-risk populations and groups.	44

The UN in Ghana is in the process of developing the next holistic country programme.

The new generation UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2022–2025) aims to deliver on the Secretary General's promise of "a global UN that addresses the root causes of conflict, and integrates peace, sustainable development and human rights holistically – from conception to execution." The UNSDCF brings to life the UN's reform agenda at the country level and is a transformative strategy in line with the SDGs and Ghana's national development objectives. The UNSDCF will enhance the transparency and accountability of the UN to the Government, stakeholders, and people of Ghana. An UN-Government Joint Steering Committee has been established to provide strategic oversight of the development and implementation of the UNSDCF, co-chaired by the Resident Coordinator and Ministry of Finance with representation from the Government, Civil Society, Private Sector and the UN Country Team.

- **The UN in Ghana Vision:** a cohesive, innovative, responsive, and agile UN development system (UNDS), poised to promote and support the SDGs for a growing, inclusive, and resilient Ghana.
- **The UN in Ghana Mission:** deliver the highest impact and value-adding policy support and strategic and transformative interventions that are catalytic and aligned to Ghana's vision.

The UN in Ghana contributes effectively with increased capacity to lead the transformational change towards achieving the human-centred SDGs, which are linked to Ghana's priorities as articulated through its vision for self-reliance (Ghana Beyond Aid), Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework (MTBDPF) and other flagship programmes that support its vision (CARES Obaatan Pa, Ghana @100, etc.).

2.2 Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes, and outputs

RESULT 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.

This result area supported state and non-state actors to address national priorities and landmark initiatives to boost private sector-led agricultural transformation and industrialization, which created and enhanced opportunities for productive work for more Ghanaians. The UN family in Ghana worked with the Government through the different sectoral MMDAs to achieve Outcomes 1 and 2 of the expected “Shared Prosperous Economy” results through different output results highlighted below. Although hampered by the drawbacks of COVID-19 on the implementation of planned initiatives, the UN’s strategic partnership with the Government through myriad responses has helped contain the pandemic and support the economy to be resilient, although at the cost of an undesired fiscal deficit.

The COVID-19 crisis has impacted the goals set out in the Government’s CPESDP, to which the UNSDP contributes. However, the UN worked with and supported the Government to enhance the opportunities that have primarily promoted inclusive economic growth and the general well-being of the average Ghanaian, mitigating the debilitating effects COVID-19 has had on the economy.

In 2021, the Government launched Phase 2 of Ghana’s COVID-19 Alleviation and Revitalization of Enterprises Support (CARES) to support citizens and enterprises with a GH¢100 billion budget to stabilize and transform the Ghanaian economy. While Phase 1 targeted the stabilization, Phase 2 intends to drive and support commercial farming, provide financing and technical support, promote digitization, and provide institutional and

physical infrastructure to set up Ghana’s economy to take advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

The Government has started several initiatives focused on increasing financial inclusion and accelerating digital transformation. The Ministry of Finance (MoF) launched three policy initiatives: The National Financial Inclusion and Development Strategy, the Digital Financial Services Policy, and the Cash-Lite Roadmap. The UN supported the Government and stakeholders in creating a conducive financial environment, encouraging innovative solutions to increase access to finance leveraging, including payments, loans, savings, remittances, etc. These efforts have linked excluded populations (e.g., informal groups) to formal financial service providers, promoted greater access to services with agent banking mechanisms, and improved financial capabilities.



Output: Raise agricultural productivity & expand access to catalytic finance & agricultural good practices.

The UN developed and disseminated Small Scale Fisheries guidelines in English and four Ghanaian languages to enhance the capacities of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD), Fisheries Commissions, Small Scale Fisheries Organizations, and NGOs to advance the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-Scale Sustainable Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. The capacities of Fisheries Officers have been developed to promote and apply biosecurity measures at fish farms and prevent and manage infections and diseases in cultured fishes.

The UN supported the development of a cassava Good Agronomic Practices manual and organized several training programmes in Good Agronomic Practices for cassava producers and processors. Training programmes were also organized in Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) and Food Safety for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Agricultural extension, Women in Agricultural Development Officers and Business Development Officers. The training programmes in GMPs emphasised practices related to the products, processes, people, and protection of the environmental systems on which their production was based.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships of state and non-state actors have been developed and promoted to create an e-Agriculture policy to promote Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to enhance productivity and economic growth.

The UN supported a project to improve the rice value chain in the central region of Ghana with funding from KOICA in partnership with MoFAD. As part of the deliverables, a seed storage facility was constructed in Okyereko to support rice seed production and storage. National quality infrastructure was upgraded to enhance the competitiveness of Ghanaian commodities. In the process, laboratories have been upgraded to meet international standards. MSMEs in selected value chains have been supported to implement and comply with relevant market standards.

Key Results

- Small holder farmers' productivity increased from 12 per cent to 28 per cent for various crops due to the capacity enhancement and training delivered through MoFAD regional agricultural directorates, agricultural extension agents and input dealers.
- Farmer-based organizations' management of post-harvest losses was enhanced through training and improved management technologies resulting in

improved quality and surplus of over 3000MT of grains by 24 farmer organizations, as well as rice quality improvement from improved management and rice processing technology.

- Fish workers' capacities were enhanced in post-harvest loss management and value addition through training from four learning centres renovated with improved equipment.
- 33 Field Conservation Agriculture Community
- Learning Centres were established, leading to the upscaling and adopting soil fertility and productivity enhancement practices and technologies in 11 districts across six administrative regions.
- Production and consumption of nutrient-rich foods enhanced with district agricultural offices establishing 482 backyard gardens, which have promoted access to diversified leafy-green vegetables and 25 agri-food MSMEs producing sustainable healthy diets.
- Increased public awareness of the importance of consuming locally available nutrient-rich foods was achieved in 15 districts in the Central, Eastern and Greater Accra regions by training 1,100 (748 female and 352 male) households.
- Farmers' income levels improved through informed pricing and sales by enhancing their capacities in marketing skills.
- The capacity of over 1,300 farmers and 232 MSME operators involved in cassava production and processing enhanced good agronomic practices and food safety, leading to increased productivity and efficiency.
- Local competence of MSMEs (Qualipine Union and associated farmers) involved in pineapple farming, export and processing enhanced to meet quality requirements and achieve a competitive edge in the marketplace with avoidance of export product recalls.



UNIDO-WACOMP - Ghana project with the Qualipine Union

“The UNIDO-West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP) project has greatly supported the Qualipine Union and their farming enclave. Through the Sub-Contracting Marching Scheme (SCMS) contract, the project achieved the following:

- Established a vibrant administrative office for the Union.
- Set up 12 demonstration plots, with each farmer planting a minimum of 6,000 smooth cayenne varieties. These farms are to serve as training grounds for all 12 cooperative members of the Union.
- Trained the Union’s members in Good Agricultural Practices.
- Mechanized land preparation through acquiring a tractor will reduce the time needed for the land preparation and ensure better yields.

The project also supported the Union through various technical training to strengthen the farmers’ capacities to produce according to international best practices:

- Introduction to Global GAP
- Post-harvest handling and industry processing
- Farm and Financial Record Keeping
- Pineapple Disease Control and Safe Handling of agrochemicals

Since incorporation, the Union attained its largest annual yield, reaching 980 MT of pineapples. Thanks to the enhanced quality of the raw material produced at the cluster level, most factories in the Eastern region now source their raw materials from Qualipine. Also, some companies that are part of the Union have been supplying to the major national exporters and processors, such as HPW, Bomart, Blue Skies and Nano foods.

Through WACOMP Ghana and WACOMP-ECOWAS, pineapple farmers and processors can be connected to a regional platform for networking with key industry players, further increasing market opportunities and trade collaborations.

Source: <https://wacompghana.org/newsletters/>

Output: Build a resilient agricultural sector and rural communities

UN, in response to SDG 13: Climate Action, the UN collaborated with five MoFA regional agricultural directorates and trained 20,853 SHFs and agriculture extension agents (AEAs) on climate-smart agricultural practices. Additionally, 55 AEAs (11 per cent females) from Agricultural offices in the Northern region attended the Training of Trainers programme on integrated pest management.

In partnership with National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) and global flood-trackers “Cloud to Street”, the UN helped design mitigation strategies and create awareness of environmental disasters like floods and drought, especially in the northern part of the country. This initiative has provided reliable data on the likelihood, extent and impact of disasters to prepare for such emergencies adequately. Twelve Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet) automatic weather stations were also established within the five Northern regions of Ghana to provide accurate, timely and localized weather information.

Key Results

- Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices upscaled in over 24 districts with efficient and reliable farming inputs through the UN-funded MoFA project “Ghana Agricultural Sector Investment Programme (GASIP)”, with supporting inputs.

- Vegetable production and dry season farming were boosted and enhanced with 27 solar-powered mechanized boreholes and water storage tanks (10,000 litres total capacity), providing water for irrigation on the demo plots and helping diversify farmers’ production while improving their income-earning opportunities and household nutrition.
- Water User Associations in six irrigation schemes in the Upper East region were established with their capacity enhancement programmes to improve water management practices in collaboration with the Ghana Irrigation Development Authority (GIDA) and the International Water Management Institute, benefiting over 1,000 SHFs.
- In collaboration with Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet), 12 automatic weather stations within the five northern regions of Ghana were established to provide accurate, timely and localized weather information. Additionally, 194 partners were also supplied with rain gauges for rainfall data collection.
- Nutritionally adequate and safe diets for infants, young children, and women of reproductive age are promoted among women to improve their health and reduce malnutrition.
- Livelihoods and income-generating avenues for thousands of households in 39 districts in the Northern, North-East, Upper East, and Savannah regions were enhanced through food processing, nutrition, nutrient identification, and conservation training.
- Model net house Mango demonstration nursery set up to facilitate the production of disease-free mango seedlings for farmers.

Output: Improving capabilities to enhance sustainable production and consumption of nutritious foods

The UN supported MoFA and Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) to conduct and launch the Nationwide Comprehensive Food Security & Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) study to target and refocus interventions addressing food and nutrition insecurity.

Assisting the Statistics, Research, and Information Directorate (SRID), the UN helped strengthen the price monitoring system, leading to weekly monitoring and reporting of food commodity prices in selected markets in 35 districts across the 16 regions and helping assess the impact of COVID-19 on the costs of selected food commodities.

Output: Promoting greater access of smallholder farmers and service providers to with greater access to better extendable productive resources and services

The UN contributed to the Government's priorities for accelerated rural transformation and regional economic integration by co-facilitating the development of the SHFs' e-commerce project (SFEA), endorsed by the Minister of Food and Agriculture. The initiative connects

1 million SHFs Agro-processors and other food and agriculture value chain actors, including women and youth, to organized value chains, structured markets, and financial services through e-commerce.

The Ghana Food and Drugs Authority's cosmetic laboratory was supported to receive accreditation for the internationally recognized standards for testing by the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board of the U.S., a member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). Cosmetic laboratories are now equipped and capacitated to provide innovative, quality scientific testing services to their clients, with UN support

Key Results

- Around 63 oil palm farmers are equipped with the knowledge to implement the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil Production standards, resulting in increased farm productivity.
- Private sector player (Tropical Starch) involved in starch production capacity enhanced with increased cassava flour production from a low of 400 kg to 1,200 kg every two weeks of processed cassava derivatives.
- Enhanced the adherence to quality principles through 40 national quality experts providing technical advice to MSMEs.

STORY

Cassava processors in Abura boost farming and starch production in the Central Region

Before the UN's intervention, "the processing unit of Tropical Starch Limited travelled 330 km from Abura in the central region to Techiman in the Bono region to purchase cassava roots to supplement the supply of raw material within the Abura district," says Alhaji Musah Ali, CEO of Tropical starch.

"As an old man, I see a lot of potential in these young farmers, and I aim to help reduce unemployment and empower people with all abilities in my community, and gradually farmers in the Abura community are now benefiting and able to be economically empowered through UNIDO", he added.

Through the UN's Cluster Development support, 293 cassava out-growers in the Abura Cluster

received improved cassava varieties and were trained on Good Agricultural Practices and climate-smart production to increase their productivity to supply the processing factory.

Tropical starch increased cassava flour production from a low of 400 kg to 1,200 kg every two weeks of processed cassava derivatives. This is due to the availability of increased cassava produce and the acquisition of additional processing machinery. This experience in the Abura cluster and the activities undertaken under WACOMP Ghana was showcased as best practice for enhancing competitiveness in the cassava value chain at the first-ever International Cassava Conference held in Malanje, Angola, in June 2021 and organized by the Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Angola.

Source: <https://wacompghana.org/wacomp-support-to-cassava-processor-in-abura-boosts-cassava-farming-and-starch-production-in-the-central-region/>



The Cassava Cluster Support is not only producing jobs for the people but also encourages buyers to come to the cluster as our quality is improved and this has a clear effect of alleviating poverty in the Abura Kwamankese and Nyame Bekyere District Area. We have over 230 cassava out-grower farmers supplying to us".

MR. MUSA ALI, Managing Director, Tropical Starch Limited

Output: Increase responsible investment in value chain development.

The UN-supported industrial food processors Premium Foods Limited and Yedent Agro enhanced their capacities to produce fortified foods to improve nutrition, including Super Cereal, a special blended nutritious food mixed with extra vitamins and minerals.

The UN further trained cosmetics MSMEs in product formulation to improve the quality of their products and enable them to produce export quality cosmetic products. Some women-led shea butter processing groups were also trained in Good Manufacturing Practices in export-quality shea butter processing. At the same time, other MSMEs are being supported to prepare Product Information Files (PIFs) for selected products to be marketed on the European market. The PIF allows exporters to satisfy the mandatory requirements of the European market. In partnership with the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI), the UN has also launched the AGI-Ghana cosmetics cluster website to showcase traditional cosmetics from Ghana.



Key Results

- Approximately 600 MT of fortified foods has been exported to Burkina Faso. The supported food processors produced 8,762 MT of specialized nutritious foods in 2021.
- 3 MSMEs food processors capacitated in the Northern regions with improved processing sheds, equipment and technologies for producing blended foods.
- 18 aggregators in five regions have been supported through training, coaching and equipment support, facilitating improved aggregation of grains from SHFs and enhanced quality standards of traded commodities.
- Local Experts are trained to understand and use the newly developed Culture for Quality (C4Q) Tool.
- Due to the COVID-19 constraints, an electronic version of the C4Q Tool was developed and introduced to the membership of AGI.
- Capacity building on leadership in the cashew and cocoa value chains for government organizations organized with the China Europe International Business School.
- The UN has supported upgrading ten key laboratories to implement international standards (ISO/IEC 17025:2017). Relevant equipment was procured for these laboratories.
- Through support to the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI), the UN has worked to upgrade the National Accreditation body to become an associate member of ILAC.
- 180 cosmetics MSMEs were trained in product formulation to improve the quality of their products.
- Over 200 women-led shea butter processing groups were trained in GMPs in export-quality shea butter processing.
- 5 cosmetics MSMEs are being supported to prepare product information files for selected products for the European market.
- AGI-Ghana cosmetics cluster website was launched to showcase traditional cosmetics.

STORY

Female entrepreneurs unlock opportunities in the natural cosmetics industry in Ghana

Demand for natural and organic cosmetics in Ghana and the European markets is booming. Consumers are increasingly conscious of the ingredients they put on their skin and want to know how natural cosmetics are made, by whom, and whether it suits their skin types.

While there is undoubtedly great potential to develop a professional cosmetic industry as the country has talented formulators, experienced entrepreneurs, and a range of potentially interesting raw materials for essential oils, much more needs to be done to convert this potential into a viable, sustainable industry.

Through the West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP) in Ghana, the UN is implementing activities to enhance knowledge sharing, increase job creation and strengthen market access for young entrepreneurs in the natural cosmetics sector. The project undertook an in-depth value chain analysis and identified four main cosmetic clusters around the following products: shea-based cosmetics, black soap, coconut oil and essential oils.

To strengthen the competitiveness of these clusters, WACOMP Ghana provides technical support to the cosmetics and personal care producers to improve their products and increase their exports within the regional and international markets.

Over 3,000 women shea processing members of the Pagsung Shea Butter and Shea Pickers Association benefited from its Sub-contracting Matching Scheme to improve their competitiveness in exporting shea and black soap. The association received a kneader, crusher, grinding mill, and computer to enhance record keeping of its operations.

431 selected women shea processing trainers in four different centres in Bolga, Tamale, and Wa in the Northern, Upper East, and Upper West Regions also received training to process shea butter to meet export quality parameters, emphasising moisture-free fatty acid content.

The project has also trained over 200 entrepreneurs in cosmetics formulation, packaging, branding and the promotion of origin-linked quality labels, eco-friendly packaging materials, quality standards, registration, and certification of products.

Over 20 cosmetics SMEs received guidance for gaining the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) certificates through the project's cluster network support system. At the same time, over 100 cottage and micro enterprises are being taken through the right process of meeting the requirement. In addition, an easy-to-use guidebook has been developed for the companies to use.

Besides the quality aspects, the project has also supported the development of a collective communication and marketing plan to trigger sales of natural cosmetics and personal care products on national and international markets.

WACOMP Ghana also provided individual coaching sessions to selected companies to further strengthen SMEs' participation in the global markets. Sharon Acheampong is one of the young entrepreneurs benefiting from the UN programme.

In 2021, Sharon launched an e-commerce shop for her Eya Naturals and Kaydua Luxury brands and made decisions supporting her brand's growth.



“

The Six (6) Months Intensive Coaching from WACOMP set me up to source for quality raw materials for my products and the personal coaching helped me to implement strategies to achieve my Business Goals.”

MRS. SHARON ACHEAMPONG, entrepreneurs with e-commerce shop

Output: Inclusive economic growth

The UN undertook a fiscal study to enhance financial investments for the National Agricultural Investment Plan- Investment for Food and Jobs (IFJ).

Key Results

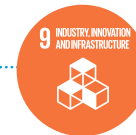
- Developed gender transformation pathways along the fisheries value chain to empower women's economic activities in 10 communities.
- Women-led Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (FFPOs) supported to upgrade Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) to a Cooperative Credit Union.

Other results

Financial and technical assistance

- In 2021, in line with implementing the national policies proposed and following programmatic priorities under the Boosting Green Employment and Enterprise Opportunities in Ghana (GrEEn) Project, the UN promoted uptake and usage of innovative financial services to support youth, women, and MSMEs. Hence, the below results contributed specifically to SDGs 8, 9 and 17 while impacting additional SDGs:

- Secured two partnerships with three financial providers to build financial capabilities, increase access to finance, develop remittance-linked products, and test new crowdfunding platforms for nine financial providers in the portfolio.
- Deployed a Technical Assistance Facility on (i) Human-centred design approaches to develop financial services and (ii) Policy and regulation to support fintech partners in navigating regulatory requirements while innovating.
- Sponsored Mobile Technology for Development, a flagship event in the financial, technology and development sectors, to provide a platform to share ideas, exhibit solutions, take stock of innovations in financial services and build partnerships for an enhanced effort toward financial inclusion in Ghana.
- In 2021, the UN reached 30,000+ new beneficiaries accessing financial services (women 27-68 per cent and youth 30-80 per cent, depending on the type of financial services) and deployed 4,719 new agents in two regions to increase access.
- Supported the 2021 Ghana TVET Report on the status of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as part of the UN's overall support of the Government's TVET Transformation Agenda.



MSMEs have greater access to finance and business services

- Assisted the accreditation of financial institutions (including rural and community banks, universal banks, and saving and loans companies through the Bank of Ghana) in disbursing credit to rural MSMEs and technical assistance and logistical support.
- Helped establish operational, sustainable, and more effective business development services through the Business Advisory Centres and the Business Resource Centres acting as one-stop-shop facilities to support enterprise development.
- Capacities of National and Regional Investment Promotion Agencies and Institutions were strengthened to attract and promote widespread foreign direct investments across sectors (predominantly in agriculture, manufacturing/agro-processing and services sectors) and geographic boundaries to create regionally balanced investment initiatives in Ghana.

Promote Culture and Creative Economy

- The UN built the capacities of stakeholders to develop concept notes and proposals for the International Fund for Cultural Diversity spearheaded by Ghana Culture Forum.
- Supporting the National Commission on Culture is helping roll out relevant initiatives for the International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development to support the cultural policy.

STORY

Let's harness Ghana's culture and arts to create jobs

Panellists at a dialogue on cultural diversity and development have urged the Government to consciously harness the abundant potential of Ghanaian culture and arts to create jobs for the citizens.

"When you look at jurisdictions that have developed the arts and made it very worthy and robust, the arts contribute to those economies. Of course, gold and oil will get finished at some point. Still, with the creative art resources, we can export them forever. The interesting part is that the more you export, the better it gets," says Mr George Nii Armah Quaye, the Chief Executive Officer of Image Bureau, a public relations and communications firm in Accra.

The rich cultural diversity of Ghanaians and the arts carry enormous economic benefits. Properly harnessed, these could create more jobs for teeming youth and reduce unemployment.

"There is huge potential, and we have crafted various policies and things that support this, but we need to follow," says Professor Ernest Kwasi Ampomah of the Department of Theatre Arts at the University of Education, Winneba.

"Our cultural policy, for instance, calls for theatres in all districts across the country, and if we can do just that, it will create a lot of employment."

Source: <https://www.gna.org.gh/1.20921006>



“

Ghanaian musicians at the “Celebrating Cultural Diversity for dialogue and development day ” held by UNESCO Ghana and the National Commission on Culture.



RESULT 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 utilize social services.

This result area focuses on support for essential services, developing required policy and technical documents in health, education, and social protection, and reaching out to vulnerable populations, including migrant and refugee groups in Ghana.

Education

The National Schools Inspectorate Authority (NaSIA) began implementing the School Establishment and Inspection Policy (SEaIP) which the UN supported in the previous year, among other things, to improve the policy environment for private sector participation in education delivery. Similarly, the UN also supported the review of the ICT in Education Policy, the global ICT Competency Framework for teachers, and the completion of the Early Childhood Education Policy Framework to improve the digital learning environment and the Early Childhood Education systems, respectively.

Further, the UN collaborated with the Ministry of Education and Ghana Education Service (GES) to conduct an impact assessment on implementing the Inclusive Education (IE) policy. As a result, it has helped strengthen GES structures for education delivery by developing Standard Operating Procedures to empower Regional Education Offices to support district directorates of education in planning, coordination, and monitoring for results.



Key Results

- Developed capacities of over 280 junior high and secondary school teachers in Emergency Remote Teaching techniques through a joint effort by the Ghana National Association of Teachers, GES, and the Government's Centre for National Distance Learning and Open Schooling. The training provided teachers with limited technology skills with practical and easy strategies for online teaching students in remote and poor connectivity areas using basic low-tech technologies.
- Supported the development and rollout of radio-based lessons for KG-Junior High School (JHS) students in Mathematics, Science, English, and Social Studies. Lessons were broadcasted on national and private radio stations in 100 districts across all 16 regions, reaching 5 million learners.
- Worked with GES to conduct a nationwide "Back to School" (B2S) campaign, reaching 176 districts. This included advocacy with traditional and religious leaders on the return of pregnant schoolgirls and adolescent mothers and the importance of safe schools, right-age enrolment, and inclusive education. Radio reached two million listeners with B2S information and COVID-19 measures across eight regions and in 16 local languages. Over 1.8 million children were screened for ill-health and disability in 15,000 KGs nationwide during 'My First Day at School' activities.
- Supported the government rollout of a digital literacy package for improved child online protection, creating a national cadre of 130 trainers, who reached 1,666 headteachers and teachers across 20 districts. The package benefited approximately 7 million pre-tertiary learners and 338,758 teachers nationally.
- School connectivity mapping exercise has mapped over 18,000 primary and JHS' to identify gaps and effectively develop and operationalize a comprehensive digital learning solution package.
- Supported mainstreaming of universal design for learning (UDL) principles in in-service and pre-service training content for GES and Colleges of Education. Focusing on inclusive Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, equipped 1,260 master trainers and reached about 1,645 primary head teachers and teachers to support Differentiated Learning in 235 schools in 47 districts across the six new regions. Good practices in UDL were mainstreamed at pre-tertiary and pre-service levels.

- Training on Sports for Development within the Safe Schools programme has established a cadre of 214 trainers, who reached 24,014 headteachers and teachers and 460,655 learners in regular and special schools. The training promoted using sports and play to teach key life skills for maintaining a conducive and safe learning environment.
- Provision of Psychosocial Support (PSS) to the school-level actors by training 1,666 headteachers and teachers in 833 junior JHSs, who have also reached over 8,000 teachers and 90,000 JHS learners. Supported the MOE in rolling out the Safe Schools policy and accompanying resource materials. About 90,000 (G:41,519) learners from 833 JHS in 20 districts were reached with psychosocial skills content.
- Equipped 60 national trainers on awareness and planning for Education in Emergency and cascaded emergency training for 94 district-level education planning and statistics officers who helped integrate emergency indicators into the Annual District Education Operational Plan for all 260 districts.
- Reaching the refugees, the UN built capacities for 153 teachers, Parent-Teacher Associations and School Management Committees on a new standard curriculum and peaceful coexistence.
- Funded the examination levy for refugee children in basic schools.
- Regularly provided PPEs to schools in camps to reduce the risk of COVID 19 infections.
- Built capacities of 800 master trainers, who trained about 2400 teachers in selected schools, including schools for learners with disabilities, on HIV Prevention, Education and Reproductive Health Education.
- Over 60,800 adolescents and youth were reached with information and education on sexual reproductive health (SRH)/HIV/Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV).

STORY

Abigail is prepared for future disruptions to schooling

A joint capacity-building effort by the Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT), Ghana Education Service (GES), the Centre for National Distance Learning and Open Schooling (CENDLOS) and UNESCO, with funding from the Government



of Korea, has resulted in enhanced digital skills for selected Junior and Senior High school teachers in digital skills in remote teaching and has prepared them for any future shocks and disruptions to teaching and learning.

“

The Cassava Cluster Support is not only producing jobs for the people but also encourages buyers to come to the cluster as our quality is improved and this has a clear effect of alleviating poverty in the Abura Kwamankese and Nyame Bekyere District Area. We have over 230 cassava out-grower farmers supplying to us ”.

Abigail Okang, Junior High School teacher from Ledzokuku-Krowor Municipal Assembly (LEKMA) '2' Junior High School

Health

Government health expenditure has increased in absolute terms recently, from US\$0.96 billion in 2018 to US\$1.49 billion in 2021. However, household out-of-pocket spending on healthcare remains significant, accounting for up to 35-40 per cent of total health spending over the past decade (US\$36 per capita in 2019)². Nevertheless, Ghana's decentralised health system, built on primary health care (PHC) as the cornerstone at the district level, has performed relatively well with Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS), positively impacting access to basic healthcare services.

The UN supported GHS to strengthen the capacities of health service personnel to provide youth-friendly services and enhanced the e-learning platform to provide cost-effective capacity development for health service providers. The UN-supported study analysed past and current incentive measures for effectiveness, bottlenecks, and lessons learned. This generated a comprehensive evidence base for designing new and more demand-driven incentive mechanisms to attract health workers to remote locations and improve policies and practices for equitable distribution of the health workforce in the country.



Through UN agencies and development partners' advocacy, nutrition is now integrated into the MTNDPF 2022-2025. The development of MTNDPF involved wide stakeholder consultations throughout the country. Through the Scaling up Nutrition DPs network, the UN actively participated in dialogues with the National Development Planning Commission to ensure nutrition priorities were captured. The integration of nutrition is anticipated to generate national interest and improve the allocation of resources to nutrition programming based on the plan to facilitate its implementation. During the UN Food Systems Summit and the Nutrition for Growth Summit, the Government committed to undertaking transformative actions to ensure sustainability and availability of healthy foods for Ghanaians and invest in essential nutrition actions as part of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). GHS, with support from the UN, conducted and developed a Nutrition Programme Situational Analysis and a roadmap for scaling up essential nutrition actions in primary healthcare



I choose to promote nutrition (healthy choices) in my shop because it is my responsibility, born from the UN's training about the importance of nutrition. I don't make much profit but what I do helps improve my community."

Patience Ashiagbor, a retailer at Sagnerigu, Northern Region

Ghana now has an unprecedented evidence-based National Integrated Strategic Plan on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH-N), developed based on a comprehensive review of the WHO RMNCAH Program

(Data) Review Tool. The Plan will enable a coordinated approach in line with the UN Global Strategy for Women's, Children's, and Adolescent Health (2016-2030), marking further progress in Ghana's UHC roadmap.

² <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.XPD.OOPC.CH.ZS?locations=GH>

Key Results

- 133,744 children (6-23 months) received an improved diet by providing micronutrient powders, and 10,437 children with severe acute malnutrition received lifesaving treatment.
- The school-age Nutrition programme was scaled from 300 schools in 2020 to 800 schools in 2021, reaching an estimated 227,640 school-age children with health and nutrition services and education for improved dietary practices.
- More than 2 million children under five years of age benefited from vitamin A supplementation, over 2.5 million (70 per cent) adolescent girls benefited from Iron Folic Acid supplementation, and 350,100 mothers and caregivers of young children received nutrition counselling.
- Over 300,000 people were empowered to make healthy food and lifestyle choices to pursue consumer-driven demand for healthy diets through Social and Behaviour Change Communication.
- The diet quality of about 46,288 vulnerable pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls and children improved through support with access to locally produced fortified foods.
- Supported advocacy events for rolling out the “Start Right, Feed Right” campaign and marking World Breastfeeding Week to promote exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months and appropriate complementary feeding afterwards.
- Over 1,150 healthcare personnel across ten regions of Ghana now have enhanced capacity in disease surveillance, a spin-off effect of 150 national/regional officers being equipped with the training skills on the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response 3. The theory of change from the intervention is that it would lead to early detection of priority diseases/conditions, notification, and prompt management of response to (future) outbreaks, ensuring better protection of the general population.
- 320,000 children benefited from the new ground-breaking malaria vaccine.
- Enhanced nationwide polio surveillance with zero circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus Type-2 (cVDPV2) reported since June 2020, following advocacy and comprehensive support, ranging from ensuring timely investigation of polio outbreaks and risk assessments vaccination micro-plans and supplementary immunization activities against cVDPV2, among others.
- Through the support of the Joint UN Team on AIDS (JUTA), around 900 people living with HIV affected by TB have been mobilized to support community-based interventions, such as peer-led psychosocial support for HIV and TB through the community systems strengthening intervention program of the New Funding Model III grant funded by the GFATM.
- Community-led monitoring and a differentiated service delivery project implemented in the Volta region increased viral load suppression among people living with HIV from 73 to 87 per cent.
- Higher data quality assurance was achieved by developing the HIV Situation Room for data quality control and use in decision making.
- Facilitated a Training of Trainers on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) to strengthen the capacity of 500 health and allied workers of the GHS across four refugee hosting regions to respond appropriately to emergencies, including the pandemic. The training improved patient and occupational safety in the participating districts’ healthcare facilities for health workers, refugees, and host communities.
- Refugees also contributed to the national prevention response effort and benefited financially by utilizing their skills to produce 18,879 face masks for distribution to refugees and host communities and as promotional items for public and private sector partners.
- Two isolation centres were constructed and fully furnished in the Western and Bono regions for GHS to support the national COVID-19 cases management efforts.
- 4,264 persons in Ga Central and Accra Metro were screened for non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and over 1,400 persons have been enrolled on the NCDs Stakeholders Platform. This digital tool brings all stakeholders into prevention efforts.
- Around 125,000 young people benefited from SRH information to facilitate informed decisions toward positive health outcomes and the 90-90-90 agenda.
- In 2021, the UNFPA supplies programme contributed CYP of 1,276,414 to the national contraceptive requirements through their quantification, forecasting, and procurement investments. Thus, contributing to the UNSDP outcome indicator “Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods”.



Social Protection

The UN worked to strengthen Social Protection (SP) capacity via the TRANSFORM curriculum. This included training of trainers for faculty members of the School of Social Work to enable them to deliver the TRANSFORM curriculum of the school and eventually at the district level. Additional training was offered to individuals working in government SP programmes, civil society, academia, the media, and development partner organizations.

Under the joint global programme on ending child marriage, UNFPA empowered 16,934 adolescent girls between the ages of 10-19 with enhanced access to health, GBV, and socio-economic building assets. Also, 6,327 marginalized girls, mainly “Kayayei” (women head potters) and adolescent mothers, were reached with the integrated approaches through the Orange Girls Networks.



Key Results

- Strengthened the capacities of the Domestic Violence Secretariat (DVS) of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) to provide integrated GBV information and services. In all, 2,644 (1,062 females, 1,582 males) social service providers across health, education, police, human rights, legal aid, health insurance, civil society, and religious and traditional bodies received step-down training and child protection. This has contributed to strengthening working relationships, intersectoral collaborations and referrals between social welfare and other social service providers at the district level. This contributed to over 1,900 cases of children being referred by the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) to other services. Over 1,200 referrals flowed from Ghana Health Services and the Police to DSW, of which approximately 25 per cent were SGBV cases.
- Supported the setting up, equipping, and operationalizing of the Orange Support Centre (OSC) to create safe avenues for victims and survivors of domestic abuse, focusing on SGBV services receiving timely, coordinated, and reliable professional support.
- Supported the scale-up of the Integrated Social Services (ISS) initiative to 100 districts from a baseline of 40, including the rollout of the Social Welfare Information Management System (SWIMS), enhancing intersectoral referrals and case management. Over 2,604 social service staff were trained on case management, community mobilisation, case referrals, and SWIMS. Over 30,000 children-in-need benefited from integrated case management social services under ISS, of which approximately 74 per cent accessed social protection support. This included 11,082 children, 7355 girls and 3,727 boys, who received intersectoral case management services across the 100 districts. Over 960 children living in residential facilities were profiled, and over 1,350 children were reunified with their primary caregiver or provided with family-based care or alternative care services.
- Supported GHS and selected NGOs to reach 143,221 adolescent girls with age- and gender-responsive prevention and care services through the Global Programme to End Child Marriage. This included adolescent reproductive health information, sexual and GBV response services, and support to remain in school.
- Improved data-sharing to enhance health insurance registration and renewals, health outreach and follow-up with GHS community health officers. Free enrolment onto the NHIS for LEAP recipients has increased by 5 per cent in new enrolment. As of November 2021, 1,190,402 individuals (representing 78 per cent of all LEAP beneficiaries) were enrolled on NHIS because of revitalized NHIS-LEAP coordination and updated protocols.

- Advocacy efforts resulted in the Government making a budgetary allocation to the 100 districts in the ISS for social welfare services in the 2022 national budget.
- Supported the national rollout of the joint UN global Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence, resulting in the improved capacity of Domestic Violence Support (DVS) of MoGCSP to provide integrated minimum GBV information and services.
- Strengthened the capacity of the Ghana AIDS Commission to implement an HIV Social Protection Assessment in collaboration with stakeholders and partners in the AIDS response. The findings of the HIV-Social Protection Assessment indicated that there are various categories of social protection and health schemes that are only somewhat HIV-sensitive, with about 50 per cent level of HIV sensitivity. Hence it needs to be improved by removing the barriers and improving access by persons living with, affected by or at risk of HIV.
- Completed the Vulnerability and Exclusion Assessment data collection in collaboration with MoGCSP and with support from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). Supported approaches to extend access to the LEAP cash transfer programme, including using

mobile money, strengthening core operations, and introducing intersectoral technologies and operating protocols. Partnerships around social accountability with CSOs helped enhance the debate around social protection financing. The programme supported high-quality evidence generation on vulnerability, exclusion and social protection and established a baseline for the upcoming impact evaluations of LEAP and ISS.

- Innovative approaches were developed for GHS maternal and child-health home visits for LEAP families. An application programming interface between LEAP, the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIS) and GHS information management systems enabled automatic data sharing to enhance health insurance registration and renewals, health outreach and follow-up. As part of ISS, the NHIS and LEAP reviewed bottlenecks at the national and subnational levels limiting access to free insurance for families receiving LEAP allowances. The ISS has resulted in a 5 per cent increase in active enrolment from 1.133 to 1.190 million (2020 to 2021).
- A cash transfer provided to 5,000SHF households helped cushion them against the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Around 15 per cent of beneficiaries were persons with disabilities.





RESULT AREA 3:

Protected and Safe Environment

- ▶ **Outcome 5:** Environmental governance at national and local levels is effective, efficient, and coherent.
- ▶ **Outcome 6:** Urban and rural communities have access to affordable services, knowledge, and tools to increase their resilience.

Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction

In 2021, Ghana put in place an ambitious climate action plan as part of its commitment to the Paris Agreement and its objective to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2° Celsius. Ghana updated and submitted its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) through a multi-stakeholder consultation process. The NDC is expected to build the resilience of over 38 million people, generate absolute greenhouse gas emission reductions of 64 MtCO₂e, create over 1 million jobs, and avert 2,900 deaths thanks to improved air quality by 2030.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) – and in collaboration with other partners, Ghana now has a draft report that outlines Ghana’s current and future needs for climate change adaptation in Energy, Water and Transport Sector. The report will be published in Q1 of 2022. In addition, to ensure sustainability and scale up climate change impact analysis and solutions, training was held with about 30 participants from various MMDAs, educational institutions, and NGOs.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Finance and with UN assistance, the Government conducted a Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review to provide comprehensive data and evidence on climate-related interventions and expenditures. This review examined the current level of public investment in climate action, assessed the gaps in implementing Ghana’s NDC, and informed policy formulation and resource mobilization efforts. The findings were captured in the 2021 Budget Statement and Economic Policy and enabled key line ministries to commit more than 30 per cent of total expenditures to climate-related interventions.



To help reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from the industrial sector, the UN also collaborated with the Ministry of Energy to formulate a Government Action Plan with specific policy options, actions, and programmes to achieve Ghana’s NDC targets on industrial energy efficiency as an input to the GCF country programme.

An initial pipeline of industrial energy efficiency projects has been generated by implementing (ISO 50001) Energy Management System in energy-intensive industries such as the Accra Brewery, Fanmilk Ghana and Dzata Cement. These industries are linked to banks for energy efficiency financing through training to build local bank capacity to access energy efficiency projects.

Leveraging the coordination platforms, the UN supported conducting two rapid risk assessments on flooding and tidal waves in Ghana’s Upper West and Volta regions, revealing the urgent need for relief items. Responding to the findings, the UN reached 5,830 displaced persons within the Upper West and Volta regions with water and sanitation, health and hygiene, education, and psychosocial needs.

Between 2018 and 2019, Ghana experienced four minor earthquakes, which created concerns among the population. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Interior, a framework for refocusing Ghana’s preparedness and response to the earthquake has been elaborated by a 10-member Committee.

The UN completed a Vulnerability Capacity Assessment of borderline communities at risk of conflict and other spillover impacts from the Central Sahel to address issues emerging from conflicts. The assessment informs programmatic planning interventions to effectively support the Government in responding to the needs of the potentially affected population.

Key Results

- Significant progress has been made to advance Ghana's participation in the global carbon market. The UN's technical and facilitation role enabled the government to play a leading role in operationalizing Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement in Africa.
- Ghana signed a Letter of Intent during COP26 to reduce deforestation with Emergent, a U.S. non-profit organization, under the Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance Coalition. Ghana is among the first five countries and the only African country to sign, taking a significant step towards accessing part of the US\$1 billion Coalition fund that supports tropical and subtropical jurisdictions to reduce their emissions from deforestation substantially.
- With UN support, the Environmental Protection Agency has achieved the 2020 target of reducing the 35 per cent consumption of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons. This has been scientifically verified and officially reported to the Multilateral Fund in 2021.
- A diagnostic assessment of industrial energy efficiency in Ghana to identify Energy Efficiency opportunities, challenges, institutional and capacity gaps, and national priorities has been undertaken.
- Results from the diagnostic assessment have led to the formulation of a government policy document on industrial energy efficiency for the Ministry of Energy.
- 35 experts drawn from 12 companies, with 15 new graduates and practising energy experts, have received training in ISO 50001 Energy Management Systems.

- 45 staff from 23 banks trained in developing an energy efficiency credit risk evaluation tool to support banks in assessing the specific credit risks associated with energy efficiency financing for industries and assessing energy efficiency projects, including follow-up sessions with individual banks.
- New datasets, tools, and capacity to undertake Climate Change analysis within MESTI and the government of Ghana.
- Priority Climate Change adaptation needs have been identified.
- Adaptation Roadmap of 35 project concepts available for enhancing the resilience of priority infrastructure.
- The UN helped rehabilitate five additional dams providing water to about 1,250 people (60 per cent women) during the dry season, and completed five new irrigation schemes attached to each dam covering 3 hectares each and benefiting more than 350 direct beneficiaries (60 per cent women). These 15 dams and 145 boreholes help over 40,000 people in building community resilience to climate change.
- Modelled water supply service options in eight low-income urban communities in Accra and Kumasi will benefit 60,000 people with a safe climate and shock resilient and sustainable water supply.
- 1,156 smallholder farmers, including non-beneficiary farmers, adopted CA practices on their farms during the 2020/21 farming season.
- 800 smallholder farmers are enrolled in the Agroforestry training.
- Ten FFPOs restored 11,582 hectares of forest and farmland, benefiting 18,309 people.
- Farmer-managed regeneration and conservation in 15 communities prompted.
- A Community Parkland was established for 50 women to produce cashew and mango.
- The resilience of community-based organizations is built through demonstration sites with solar-powered irrigation in the dryland savanna belt, allowing farmers to produce year-round. This included planting 35,000 tree seedlings, helping to improve the food security of 350 members of the community-based organisation (Tele-Bere) and increasing their income by an estimated 15 per cent.
- 90,156 received improved access to green and resilient infrastructure services.
- Supporting immediate or short-term measures such as educating, sensitization and raising awareness among the population, especially the vulnerable, on earthquake disaster risk reduction. For example, fliers and posters on earthquake disaster risk reduction have been developed.



Shading the cocoa trees for people and nature

In West Africa, particularly in Ghana, deforestation for cocoa production and other agriculture is a concern, as smallholder farmers continue cutting down forests to establish new cocoa plantations and other farming activities.

To help address the looming cocoa production crisis amid the changing climate, the Ghana Cocoa Board and the United Nations, with funding from the Mondelez International Cocoa Life Programme, provided direct farmer training to over 35,000 farmers and 2,750 extension trainers on sustainable natural resources and ecosystem management practices.

“My yields have doubled from 8 to 16 bags. I am financially independent, and our three children attend university. A great source of pride for us”, states Ama Konadu, who has been farming cocoa for 20 years with her husband, Moses.

Ama and Moses say the benefits of planting trees on their farms – one of the practices encouraged to protect cocoa trees from heat and water stress - are enormous.

“Nowadays, the weather is hot, and the trees planted provide us with the shade that helps the cocoa trees to grow. We learnt from the Cocoa Life Programme, which has greatly benefited us,” says Moses.

Source: <https://www.gh.undp.org/content/ghana/en/home/pressCentre/articles/2021/shading-the-cocoa-trees-for-people-and-nature-.html>



Ama Konadu, a cocoa farmer in New Apaso, in the Ashanti Region of Ghana, drying her cocoa beans.

Green and Circular Economy

Cocoa production plays a key role in the Ghanaian economy. The UN works with the Ghana Cocoa Board and Mondelez International to empower the cocoa farming communities by putting them at the forefront of restoring their landscapes while enhancing their livelihoods through sustainable cocoa and agroforestry practices.

To address waste emanating from COVID-19 prevention, the UN partnered with the Institute for Environment and Sanitation Studies. The Department of Marine and Fishery Science of the University of Ghana conducted a study to assess the environmental impact of increased PPE use, including disposable face masks. The study provided policy guidance to promote a circular economy and green recovery.

Ongoing work with the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Health will introduce business resilience and continuity models in the domestic PPE supply chain, applying the product design reuse model. This will promote waste reduction and circularity, as well as pilot the manufacturing of bio-based (using neem plant) sanitizers to promote a green economy.

To address the plastic pollution menace in the country, the UN, in partnership with MESTI, the National Partnership for Action of Plastics (NPAP) and other partners, prepared an initiative to bring into place a circular economy framework for the management of plastic waste in Ghana.

Activities have been piloted in all three of Ghana's biosphere reserves to build the capacity of the community members, including uptake of green and circular economy livelihood initiatives.

Key Results

- Around 900 new cocoa farmers learned sustainable environmental practices within the project's districts.
- The direct supply of 680,400 tree seedlings and enhanced monitoring system led to the restoration of 22,800 hectares of cocoa landscapes and the development of 218 hectares of forest plantations.
- 18 beneficiaries in the Mpuasu, Bono region community were trained to produce self-made and chemical-free protection for plants, promoting environmentally sustainable farm practices.

Environmental Pollution Management

A country assessment on human exposure to lead identified hot spots for leading a multi-stakeholder dialogue involving 77 officials from the Government and NGOs facilitated an agreement around joint priorities to address childhood lead exposure.

In Africa, the Urban Health Initiative addresses air pollution and related health effects, the first analysis of its kind. It analyses air pollution sources, waste, transport, land use, household air pollution, and the country's health consequences and economic burden.

Following the launch of the National Action Plan for the Minamata Convention, the UN, in 2021, also prepared a joint initiative with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), University of Mines and Technology (UMAT), Ghana Geological Survey Authority (GGSA) to address mercury use in the artisanal small-scale gold mining sector.

Key Results

- Capacities developed of 20 medical prescribers on diagnosis and management of lead poisoning, 20 biomedical scientists in laboratory testing for lead, and 245 frontline workers on prevention and awareness creation.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

The mid-term review findings of two innovative financing schemes (Basic Sanitation Fund – BSF and District Sanitation Fund – DSF) have developed a joint UN proposal to expand the BSF to accelerate access to basic sanitation.

The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI) mobilized domestic and external resources to build the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) system. The UN supported Ghana's participation in the Global Pilot Programme through technical and financial assistance that enabled the country to finalize its STI system for SDGs Roadmap and presented its success across international platforms.

The GHS has incorporated some WASH indicators in the District Health Information System (DHIMSII) with support from the UN to strengthen the monitoring of WASH services in healthcare facilities. There are significant gaps in WASH services in healthcare facilities, with 25 per cent lacking basic water services and 44 per cent lacking waste services. The findings will inform GHS and the Ministry of Health policy design of health services and programmes.



Key Results

- An additional 500 households were supported in building toilets with a revolving loan scheme under the basic sanitation fund to enhance sanitation outcomes.
- The UN assisted the maiden Hand Hygiene Fair, where over 50 local manufacturers of handwashing devices and consumables displayed their products. Of these, 32 manufacturers received training in product improvement and marketing.
- UN enabled 31,514 persons in 188 communities to achieve ODF status and 58,808 people accessed basic sanitation, and 188 communities (31,514 people) achieved ODF status.
- Marginal increase in WASH services between 2019 and 2020 with a 9 per cent increase in basic water, 10 per cent in sanitation, 14 per cent in hygiene, and 5 per cent in waste services. In 2021, WASH infrastructure was improved in 15 schools and 31 health centres, and infection prevention and control measures were enhanced in 260 schools and 60 health facilities.
- The Ghana Water Company Limited expanded its existing water pipe network reaching additional 3,230 beneficiaries in the Ablekuma Central in Greater Accra Metropolitan Accra. This effort allowed communities to access water directly from the standpipes during low pressure and serve as a buffer during the ration days.
- Established permanent handwashing stations in communities and schools in Sagnarigu Accra Municipality in the northern region, Accra Metropolitan Assembly, Ablekuma Central Municipal Assembly, and the Ashaiman Municipal Assembly. Two schools with 1,746 pupils gained access to water-fetching points and handwashing stations.
- Approximately 177,000 people benefited from hygiene messages, services, and supplies, including handwashing with soap, especially in COVID-19 infection epicentres.
- An additional 6,484 people gained access to safe water supply from newly completed town water systems.



RESULT AREA 4:

Inclusive, Accountable Governance

- ▶ **Outcome 7:** Transparent, accountable institutions at all levels that protect the rights of all people

Despite being in a sub-region plagued by civil wars and political instability, Ghana is justifiably hailed as an oasis of peace and a role model for democratic governance in Africa. Ghana's democratic foundations have grown consistently over more than three decades as the country experienced eight consecutive elections without slipping into nationwide violence.

The country remains a top performer on various governance rankings in Africa. In addition, it has made some progress towards achieving gender equality and significantly reduced harmful practices such as child marriages.

Inclusive Participation & Rights Protection

Through various support provided by the UN, marginalized groups, particularly youth, women, and persons with disability (PWD), have improved knowledge of their rights and capacity to participate in decision-making and development effectively. The youth, particularly young women as peacemakers, activists, entrepreneurs, and change agents, were engaged and provided with exclusive spaces to co-create, co-lead, and co-implement interventions at local, regional, and national levels to contribute to attaining the SDGs.

An assessment of socio-cultural, traditional, and other practices influencing SGBV and harmful practices found that the major influences shaping perceptions and behaviours resulting in the perpetuation and tolerance of GBV derive from ethnic culture and traditions, religion and morality, youth social norms, geography and socioeconomic factors, among others.

Key Results

- Having dropped to 68 per cent in 2020 (from 80 per cent in 2019), infant birth registration recovered slightly to 69 per cent by October 2021 as the UN facilitated the decentralization of birth and death registration and enhancement of health and civil registration systems' interoperability.
- As part of the ongoing Child-friendly Policing Initiative, over 2,000 law enforcement officials were trained on standard operating procedures for handling child victims, witnesses, and offenders. The UN supported the Judicial Service in establishing eight child-friendly GBV courts and two juvenile justice courts across six regions.
- 211 leaders of women, youth and PWD groups in the municipal districts of Ketu South, Sagnarigu, Sefwi Wiawso and Jomoro, and the Kassena Nankana West District, are empowered with enhanced knowledge to lead their members to exercise their civic rights, duties, and responsibilities.
- 253 leaders of women, youth and PWD groups advocate for their rights with enhanced advocacy capacity.
- 120 youth from across Ghana are better positioned to contribute and participate in governance with improved knowledge of SDG 16 and the role they can play in its implementation.
- 96 public and 122 private sector actors received training, improved knowledge, and skills to plan and operate better, applying a Human Rights lens.
- National Gender Policy has been reviewed and updated through technical and financial assistance to MoGCSP, supporting about 90 stakeholders from 20 institutions to outline the policy's major areas and include new and relevant issues in the updated policy, such as online sexual abuse and exploitation.
- The annual Kayayei fair also brought together stakeholders from government, civil society, media and the public to showcase the products made by the marginalized girls from the Enterprise Development Centres registered with the Food and Drugs Authority.
- Season 3 of the 'Girlz Power TV Talk Show' programme, a platform for adolescent girls, boys, parents/caregivers, and service providers, highlight key developmental and protection issues affecting adolescent girls. It launched 11 episodes on GTV (the national television channel) and GHOne TV, reaching an estimated 800,000 and 7 million viewers per episode.

- A Gender Equality Clinic Facilitators' Manual and Workbook Gender Equality Manual and Workbook helps standardize and enhance the annual clinics.
- A multi-sectoral package of interventions for adolescent girls was supported, reaching 2,664,115 girls with health, nutrition, WASH, education and protection services, empowerment and skills. A thematic analysis of gender equality and adolescent girls, using MICS 2017/18 data generated evidence for policy advocacy.
- MoF's 2022-2025 Budget Preparation Guidelines explicitly instructed Municipal and District Assemblies (MDAs) to budget specific interventions for children and women through the UN's technical support and advocacy.
- The National Development Planning Commission's Zero Draft Medium Term National Development Policy Framework has made significant references to children's or child-related issues and SDGs: 400+ on health and nutrition, 50+ on child protection and social protection, 300+ on WASH, 70+ on poverty, including child poverty, 90+ on persons with disabilities, including children (90+), 200+ on education, 90+ on COVID-19, and 40+ on inclusive development in several sectors.
- The Management and Conservation Plan of the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board to help manage, conserve, protect and promote the 28 components of the World Heritage-listed property 'Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions' completed. The capacity of communities and stakeholders around selected components of the 10 Asante Traditional Buildings listed on the World Heritage List built to promote sustainable tourism.
- The Ussher Fort Museum of Slavery and Documentation Centre was rehabilitated with support from the Netherlands to be in the social sphere and act as a platform for debate and discussion, tackling complex societal issues and encouraging public participation and discourse.
- The Multi-stakeholder Heritage Strategic Framework of the Ghana Heritage Committee is completed. The first of its kind in the West African Sub-region outlining an overarching set of priority actions to help manage Ghana's diverse heritage resources effectively and efficiently, contributing to the 'Year of Return' campaign and 'Beyond the Return - A Decade of African Renaissance' initiative.
- Policy Brief on Governance of Diversity completed that first seeks to draw the attention of policymakers, influential civil society leaders, and religious and community leaders to the different forms of diversity, particularly in contemporary socio-cultural life and its critical role in achieving sustainable development. Second, it seeks to highlight the insidious dangers and the lost opportunities inherent in ignoring this diversity. Third, the brief is offered as a guide to governments and key stakeholders at community, national, and regional levels to support them in executing tasks and responsibilities to inform a more holistic approach to tackling the effects of historical and contemporary diversity in the discharge of their duties.
- Youth voiced out³, stepped up and took actions for sustainable development through the Civic-Care Project in Ghana, working with Ulti-Leaf Foundation, with 2,500 young people, including those living with disabilities, 1,100 women and girls, and 24 youth-led organizations, receiving training and enhanced civic skills and competencies. As a result, three safe spaces for youth civic actions and seven youth-initiated civic platforms were created, while 3,482 youth were reached via social media platforms. Moreover, 2,800 youth were mobilized and reached with civic knowledge products, with 40 per cent of participants being from rural areas.



³ Youth Voiced Out, Stepped Up and Took Actions for Sustainable Development through the Civic-Care Project in Ghana (unesco.org)



Institutional Strengthening

The UN partnered with Ghana to strengthen legislation, policies, plans, strategies, and technical capacities to effectively deliver their mandates. The organization supported governance institutions to build progressive gender policies, which is critical to bridging gender inequality gaps and effectively mainstreaming gender into operations and administration.

A framework to boost the capacity of the National Peace Council (NPC) for innovative resource mobilization to fund its activities and launch the Peace Fund, resources for which were received from citizens of Ghana and international partners, was developed with UN support.

The Inter-Ministerial National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-ups (NMRF) is now better positioned to execute its mandate effectively with increased logistical and technical support. This includes follow-up on the status of implementation of recommendations by human rights treaty bodies and ensuring timely submission of national reports to these bodies.

The National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons and security agencies can now track registered arms through the digital National Arms Database System and has contributed to Ghana's efforts for arms control and prevention of gun-related crime.

The 2022-2025 Budget Preparation Guidelines issued by MoF with technical and advocacy support from the UN were critical in guiding the MDAs to budget for specific interventions for children and women.

Together with the Ghana Refugee Board, the UN opened the Urban Refugee Community Centre, which offers language training and vocational skills through the NVTI- ICT training to promote the socio-economic inclusion of refugees.

Key Results

- 217 staff and officials have an enhanced capacity to mainstream gender in the work of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE).
- 42 council members, staff, and regional/district secretaries of the NPC have enhanced capacity to use collaborative leadership and dialogue skills.
- 25 state and civil society actors from 5 countries (Ghana, Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire) have strengthened their capacities in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism.
- 94 maritime officials from 7 countries (Cote d'Ivoire, Benin, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Togo) have enhanced their knowledge to prevent increased maritime insecurity.
- 362 community members in border districts are empowered to identify early warning signals to prevent violent extremism and collaborate with state security agencies.
- Ghana Community Radio Network received training on producing video documentaries in local languages.
- 73 stakeholders have enhanced knowledge to identify areas of multi-sectoral collaboration for increased coordination of services at the regional/sub-national level for victims/survivors of SGBV.
- 12 new community by-laws to end child marriage and SGBV were drafted thanks to the commitment of key stakeholders such as traditional, religious and opinion leaders.
- Borders were strengthened by renovating two border posts and procuring border patrol equipment.
- Migration data actors are trained to collect and share migration data for analysis by GSS.
- Created and coordinated the Migration Coordination Platform with subgroups in Return and Reintegration and Immigration and Border Management.
- Built capacity of state and non-state actors on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and expansion of referral networks.
- Government ownership of the District League Table (DLT) was achieved with NDPC pledging to use the DLT to monitor and evaluate plans and progress reports of MDAs and Metropolitan Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs).
- UN supported the inclusive development planning and monitoring process by facilitating the inclusion of 21 child protection indicators in the National Medium-Term Development Policy Framework (NMTDPF) for 2022-2025. District assemblies allocated over GH¢3 million to support integrated social services (ISS). THE UN also supported assessments of performance contracts for all 16 Regional Coordinating Directors and 260 District Assemblies.

Access to Information and Services by Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups

The UN continued its support to vulnerable and marginalized populations by enhancing their access to information and services to enable them to make informed choices and claims and protect their rights – leaving no one behind.

The UN supported the country in passing the Right Information Law and has developed monitoring and reporting tools to track its implementation. The Ministry of Information was supported to establish a committee on the mechanism for the safety of journalists.

Key Results

- Human Rights CSOs from the country have contributed inputs to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) shadow report through the developed web portal.
- 52 Regional and National leaders of the National Association of Persons Living with HIV have strengthened capacities to implement prevailing anti-stigma provisions and strategies effectively, with improved knowledge of the Ghana AIDS Commission Act 938, Ghana AIDS Commission Regulations, and the legislative instrument.
- The media and information officers are trained on the UNESCO reporting and monitoring tools to implement SDG 16.10.2.
- The National Media Commission and Ghana Journalists Association supported implementing the national mechanism for the safety of journalists.
- The two-day regional hybrid workshop built the capacities of Western African countries' member states to fight illicit trafficking in cultural properties and return and restitution.
- 14,941 girls reached using safe-space methodologies with integrated programmes based on the Reproductive Health Education and Services for Youth (RHESY) modules. Of these, 3,000 were trained as RHESY facilitators to lead and manage the clubs in their communities/districts - a significant empowerment process in the national pushback on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE).
- 5,000 adolescent girls (aged 10-19 years) in 43 districts of 10 regions were engaged with knowledge and skills to make informed decisions on matters affecting them, such as child marriage.
- 7,076 marginalized adolescent girls in five regions, including migrant head porters (Kayayei), pregnant adolescent girls, and adolescent mothers, participated in the Shaping Futures Programme and received information and services related to adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH), livelihood, and legal literacy.
- Community Walkathons through the Champions Connect Platforms trained marginalized girls as peer educators and SRH champions to raise awareness among their communities on child marriage and other negative practices. The platform reached about 2,510 community members.
- 3,192 men and boys were reached within the men and boys peer-to-peer outreach in 8 of the 10 traditional regions with interactive sessions on gender stereotypes and misconceptions related to SGBV and Reproductive Health Education/CSE.
- 1,200 members of identifiable community groups capacitated in 42 community-based advocacy sessions.
- 10,000 community members received information on child marriage and how to seek help via Child Marriage Caravan and Photo Murals Campaign.
- 70 girls and 30 boys were mentored on issues of gender equality, SGBV and ASRH rights to re-orient their perception of gender concepts, roles and stereotypes and provide them with career guidance as part of the national Gender Equality Clinic.
- 723 refugee households assisted with cash grants for various basic needs.
- 993 refugees received farm inputs or cash grants in the camps and other urban areas.
- 175 refugees in the Volta Region received farming support. Additionally, 687 Ivorian refugees in the camps received income-generating support to start or enhance their businesses.
- Shelters for 894 refugees were constructed under the supervision of the Ghana Refugee Board and District Assembly.



STORY

Assigned gender roles perpetuate inequality in society, says youth

Recently, some adolescents had the opportunity to discuss the concept of gender, gender roles, equality and stereotypes at a programme held in Accra by the Department of Gender and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Participants aged 12 to 19 easily identified roles that society ascribed to a particular gender, ranging from house chores and professions, and noted that some of these roles are currently performed by both sexes.

One male participant said, 'I am the eldest child. I help my mother in the kitchen although I am a boy'.

They also acknowledged that women are increasingly opting for traditionally male-dominated professions, such as medicine, engineering, and carpentry.

However, they observed that there were still some negative stereotypes associated with specific roles performed by the opposite sex and agreed that both genders could learn and practice any profession of their choice.

During a three-day Gender Clinic, the adolescents were mentored on issues of gender equality, sexual and gender-based violence, and adolescent sexual and reproductive health rights. In addition, the sessions included information on life skills, including career development.

Adolescence is a transition for both girls and boys, a time they begin to question and form their identities. Therefore, gender equality education must start early to teach respect for both sexes and disband any negative stereotypes.

Girls bear the brunt of inequality. But to combat gender discrimination sustainably, it is crucial to include men and boys in these conversations so that they can challenge harmful masculinities and help create an enabling environment for gender equality.

Source: <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/ghana-news-assigned-gender-roles-perpetuate-inequality-in-society-says-youth.html>



An adolescent girl making a point during the session.

2.3. Support for Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

Under the Resident Coordinator's leadership, the agencies worked together by leveraging resources, developing synergies, and deploying expertise for sound priority interventions in Ghana.

The UN leveraged financial institutions' work through close collaboration with some of the key government

counterparts in the sector. This multi-public-private partnership emphasizes the outstanding work performed toward the 2030 Agenda in Ghana. Despite the pandemic's challenges, the UNCT in Ghana mobilized resources, developed, and enhanced existing and new partnerships with the Government and other non-UN actors.



In Result Area 1, as WFP is part of the e-commerce project framework, WFP Ghana, in partnership with the WFP Centre of Excellence in China and the China Ministry of Rural Affairs and Agriculture, organized meetings and webinars to discuss potential collaboration regarding South-South Triangular Cooperation (SSTC). FAO and WFP supported the Nationwide Comprehensive Food Security & Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA).

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) collaborated with WFP to implement MoFA's Emergency Support to Rural Livelihoods & Food Systems (ESRF) project, funded by IFAD, to provide cash transfers to extremely vulnerable households, including disabled people.



For Result Area 2, UNFPA collaborated with USAID, JICA, and UNICEF to support conducting the Ghana EmoNC assessment, which enabled the finalization of the related national report.

Collaboration between the JUTA and the CCM enabled the mobilization of US\$300 million to support the prevention of TB, HIV, and malaria, including additional funds to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.



For Result Area 4, the UN, under the joint SDG financing programme implemented by UNOPS, UNDP, WHO and UNICEF:

- Developed Local Assembly Financing Frameworks to support the implementation of recovery plans for selected border communities to develop integrated financing frameworks to implement the COVID-19 response plan in five districts. In addition, the UN contributed to the development of infrastructure and health financing strategies to enhance innovative financing for infrastructure development and establish the investment case for achieving universal health coverage in Ghana's medium-term development plan.
- In collaboration with the World Bank and GSS, the UN produced the Local and Business Trackers for collecting data on COVID-19 impacts on the local economies of 2,770 communities in all 16 regions and 4,000 businesses in Ghana.
- Developed a combination of a pipeline of 16 SDG-aligned bankable infrastructure projects in the transport, energy, education, housing, solid-waste and green sectors, and SDG Investment Map, providing market intelligence on 13 investment opportunity areas in agriculture, ICT, health, manufacturing, and infrastructure in Ghana,



In Results Area 3, UNICEF partnered with the Government of Denmark and Global Affairs Canada to provide sustainable WASH services in schools, health facilities, and communities in low-income and high-density urban settings. The UN collaborated with Ghana Water Company Limited to model inclusive and equitable water supply service options in low-income communities. The partnership with the Embassy of the Netherlands and the World Bank helped reach 260 schools and 62 health facilities with WASH IPC messages and essential supplies.

The UN and Ghana Enterprise Agency collaborated to support the participation of SMEs in sanitation and hygiene.

Through Forest and Farm Facility (FFF), a partnership with the Department of Cooperatives and KANBAOCU (women-led FFPO) upgraded its VSLA to a Cooperative Credit Union that saved US\$135,647 in a year.

which were showcased at the series of SDG Investment Fairs globally and in Ghana. These form part of the Joint Programme's efforts to build national capacities and strengthen systems to stimulate integrated and transformative policy shifts.

- Developed and trained government partners in the evidence-based planning and assessment tools: National Infrastructure Systems Modelling (NISMOD) and Sustainable Infrastructure Financing Tool (SIFT). These tools, handed over to the Government of Ghana through the Ministry of Finance, identified a total of 82 funds worth approximately US\$274 billion, which included 46 new funding opportunities with the potential of using 62 per cent for financing project preparation activities that could make projects investment ready to attract investable capital.
- Using the SDG Investor Map intelligence tool, the 'Pipeline Builder' streamlines the investment origination process to drive more capital to SDG-focused SMEs in emerging markets. As

a result, it successfully identified a base value of US\$39 million worth of SME investments under its pilot scheme with the potential for an additional US\$15.5 million.

UNFPA and UNICEF jointly support implementing two major programmes- the Global Programme to End Child Marriage and the Empowering Adolescent Girls Programme.

The United Nations Trust Fund on Human Security approved a joint project between IOM and UNFPA to reinforce human security in selected border communities along the northern borders of Ghana. UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA collaborated on a concept note to USAID to support the mobilization of resources for the conflict in north Ghana and peacebuilding programmes of the various agencies.

UNDP and UNICEF jointly worked on a concept note to promote climate governance among children and youth, using accelerated digitalized solutions.

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

In 2020, the UN reform contributed to joint efforts to support the Government's vision of going beyond aid. The coordinated approach enhanced efficiency and effectiveness in project delivery, reducing duplication of efforts and increasing synergies among agencies while mutually reinforcing development results towards achieving the SDGs.

[In Results Area 1](#), inter-agency collaboration improved as WFP and FAO jointly supported the CFSVA study. WFP and IFAD assisted the ESRF COVID-19 recovery in supporting smallholder farmers. UNCDF, UNICEF and UNDP partnered in the SDG Fund.

[For Results Area 2](#), The UNFPA-UNICEF joint programme on Empowering Adolescent Girls built the capacities of 1,217 health facilities to provide SRH/FP services to adolescents. The Area saw deepened operational practices of the Common Budgetary Framework for implementing the UNSDP.

UNICEF-FAO's joint work on School-based Food and Nutrition Education is supported by UNESCO, WFP and WHO to ensure the integration of the curriculum in the school system. Furthermore, UNICEF collaborated with WFP to support the GHS and MoFA in institutionalizing the Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System to assess the impact of the pandemic on food and nutrition in Ghana. Additionally, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, WHO, IFAD and other partners worked together to support MoFA's successful development of the National Food Based

Dietary Guidelines and to secure the commitment of the President of Ghana to transform food systems for healthy and sustainable food production and consumption.

The Ministry of Health and its implementing agencies have benefited from the joint UN advisory guidance and capacity-building support to ensure the continuity of essential services during the pandemic. For example, a guidance document on the "Continuity of Essential Services during Disease Outbreaks" and a guideline on the continuity of RMNCAH-N services can serve Ghanaian healthcare facilities beyond COVID-19. Also, 135 facilities in five targeted districts have improved capacities through the WHO-UNICEF partnership.

Ghanaians are more aware of the importance of exclusive breastfeeding in the early months of life, thanks to the joint UN advocacy within the framework of the regional WHO-UNICEF initiative due to a dedicated nationwide campaign, "Start Right. Feed Right - from birth to two years", with FAO and WFP.

WHO-UNDP collaboration has helped the country align the African Union (AU) Model Law on Medical Products regulation by helping adjust the Public Health Act and Act 851 on Food and Drugs.

[For Results Area 3](#), UNDP and UNIDO received a project preparation grant from the GEF to develop a full project proposal to reduce mercury use in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector. UNDP

partnered with WHO to review and revise the national policy and guidelines on medical waste management for the Ministry of Health.

UNICEF, UNDP and UNCDF have worked together, under the leadership of the RCO, to develop the Ghana Sanitation Fund, or GSF- a blended finance instrument for increasing household access to sanitation under a UN Joint SDG Financing Programme for SDG Fund's consideration. UN-IAWGE strengthened partnerships with the National Disaster Management Organization to enhance emergency preparedness and response at the national and sub-national levels. The UN IAWGE collaborated with NADMO in two rapid risk assessments, responding to flooding and tidal waves in Ghana's Upper West and Volta regions. Relief items, including safe water, sanitation and hygiene, health and education supplies and psychosocial services, were delivered, benefiting 5,830 displaced persons (1,247 men, 1,697 women; 1,376 boys, 1,510 girls). Findings from a vulnerability capacity assessment of communities experiencing spillover impacts from instability in the Central Sahel were validated by 92 stakeholders from Upper East and West Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs), district assemblies and other decentralized agencies. The UN and NDPC staff gained new knowledge on risk-informed

Communicating and Advocating Together

To achieve the objective of communicating as one entity, the United Nations Communications Group (UNCG), comprising communications specialists and focal points across Agencies in the country, under the leadership of UNAIDS as Chair, undertook several initiatives.

The UN in Ghana commemorated the 75th anniversary of the UN by reaffirming its commitment to multilateralism and global cooperation to support Ghana in achieving the SDGs and Agenda 2063. Communication efforts amplified the UN's voice on this special day, which was well-covered across different media channels.

The UN in Ghana also supported the Government's COVID-19 recovery efforts through a joint UN-partner COVID-19 campaign led by the UNCG, leveraging traditional and digital media tools and platforms to create awareness of the impact of COVID-19 and preventive measures required. The campaign reached 10 million people, over 8 million radio listeners, more than 1 million television viewers, and 2000+ social media followers.

The UN worked closely with the UN Gender Team to drive a NoMANEL campaign that rallied all Agencies to reject all-male panels and ensure adequate representation of women in decision-making processes.

The UN's footprint and visibility of its role in Ghana's development process were enhanced with several publications, successful organization and participation

programming. Concerning the Sahel crisis spillover to coastal countries, data was collected, including among vulnerable communities, and shared among the UNCT and partners to strengthen information sharing and joint programming in northern Ghana.

IFAD and WFP leveraged their shared vision of ending hunger and malnutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture and rural transformation, especially focusing on smallholder farmers to promote the resilience of the most vulnerable farmers impacted by COVID-19 and climate events.

UNESCO and WFP collaborate to create awareness and educate the populace on earthquake disaster risk reduction.

[In Results Area 4](#), the partners collaborated to contribute to UN reform to support the development vision of the Government of Ghana, contributing to effectiveness in delivery and modest mobilization of resources.

Under the leadership of the UNCT, UNDP, UNICEF, and UNFPA collaborated with partners to design an Expression of Interest on disability. This led to an award of US\$100,000 received from the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

in UN-Government joint events and initiatives, including the Global Food Systems Summit, the Joint UN Programme on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Disaster Prone Communities media tour, 16 Days of Activism against Sexual and Gender-based Violence, Human Rights Day, and World AIDS Day.

Operations Management

The UN constituted an Operations Management Team (OMT) with five working groups to enhance efficiency and effectiveness and save costs. These groups helped initiate several interventions to manage costs through the agreed common services, implemented jointly or delivered through partially harmonised operations on behalf of other UN entities.

Working collaboratively, the team provided cohesive services for:

- Organizing joint health awareness activities
- Providing support to the COVID-19 response
- Providing Staff counselling Services mainly because of COVID- 19
- Creating an online database for LTAs to improve corroboration
- Engaging in discussions between the UN and the Government of Ghana on different operational issues, such as VAT management, among others.

Finally, supporting the Common Premises component of the efficiency agenda, the UNCT completed the initial stocktake exercise and documented space utilization to facilitate better planning for common premises.





2.5. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

2.5.1. Financial Overview

2021 saw the UN mobilize additional resources and repurpose funds with Results Groups to respond to COVID-19. As a result, the total estimated expenditure

for agencies' funds and programmes amounted to USD 57,047,546 out of total available resources of USD 65,755,970, representing approximately 88% utilisation rate. Details are presented in the table below.

Below is the breakdown of financial expenditure for 2021 (in US\$):

Result Areas	Outcomes	Estimated Expenditure
 Result Area 1: Shared Prosperous Economy	Outcome 1: Productive agriculture drives sustainable industrialization, improves livelihoods, and ensures a hunger- and malnutrition-free nation	3,733,159.11
	Outcome 2: Competitive private sector generates decent jobs that increase opportunities for more inclusive economic growth.	3,412,786.00
 Result Area 2: Social Investment in People	Outcome 3: The GoG delivers equitable, quality, and financially sustainable social services.	11,314,484.21
	Outcome 4: Marginalized and vulnerable populations demand and utilize social services	4,584,673.18
 Result Area 3: Protected and Safe Environment	Outcome 5: Environmental governance at national and local levels is effective, efficient, and coherent.	5,316,452.12
	Outcome 6: Urban and rural communities have access to affordable services, knowledge, and tools to increase their resilience.	12,846,937.19
 Results Area 4: Inclusive, Accountable Governance	Outcome 7: Transparent, accountable institutions at all levels protect the rights of all people	15,839,055.13
Total		57,047,546.94

2.6.2. Resource mobilization

The Ministry of Health's launch of the National Human Resource for Health Policy and Strategies led to a successful mobilization of GBP2.6 million from the UK Government to help further the Ministry to monitor and evaluate the impact of health workforce training, support mental health training, scale-up Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR), facilitate testing and strengthen capacity for COVID-19 case management, and adolescent sexual reproductive health services.

Some UN agencies explore funding opportunities from non-traditional sources like foundations and private sector partnerships. For example, with support from the Mastercard Foundation, the UN will continue to strengthen food systems initiatives through

empowering smallholder farmers, especially the young people, and opening opportunities for employment creation for young people. However, shifts in donor interests, focus, and funding approaches must be considered to raise resources.

In partnership with MESTI and EPA, the UNCT also mobilized US\$13.35 million for the formalization of mercury-free supply chains in Ghana's Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining sector and establishing a circular economy framework for the plastics sector in Ghana.

While the UN managed to gain more donor support to mitigate COVID-19 and strengthen the prevention of international diseases, it still faces a funding shortage in health, protection, and support to MDAs.

Chapter

03

**UNCT's key focus
for next year**



For 2022, the UN's priority is to consolidate and scale up the relationship with the already engaged private sector entities (mostly financial service providers) and involve additional partners to develop innovative financial solutions for promoting its investment agenda and financial instruments.

During this process, the UNCT and its new strategic configuration will collaborate with the private sector to achieve tangible development results to set up a competitive financial ecosystem for a more inclusive economic growth in line with SDG 17.

In education, the year will focus on developing the capacities of teachers in basic ICT skills and remote teaching tools using digital solutions, including enhancing their access to online information/content for teaching and learning. Furthermore, supporting remedial learning with a specific focus on capacity building for teachers on differentiated learning methods is crucial, as is supporting entrepreneurial skills development for adolescents and young people in close collaboration with TVET and SHS institutions.

The resilient education system must be strengthened to effectively respond to the impact of the pandemic and ensure continuity of learning. The focus will be placed on back-to-school campaigns, behaviour change messages, and communication strategies for the education sector.

In health, improving food systems to ensure access to nutritious, safe and affordable diets for children and other vulnerable populations remains a key focus. The UN will continue supporting the Government in designing context-specific messaging to drive consumer demand for healthy diets and lifestyles. Revamping Universal Salt Iodization efforts and scaling up the use of micronutrient powders to address micronutrient deficiencies will further help the cause. At the same time, improving the food environment also requires providing additional support to Ghana's Food and Drugs Authority to monitor and regulate advertisements for unhealthy foods.

The UN will assist school-age nutrition programmes, integrate the school-based Food and Nutrition Education curriculum in the school system, and continue working with all relevant systems to ensure quality diets for young children and underserved populations. In addition, to ensure newborn development, the UN will advocate extending the

maternity leave from 14 to 18 weeks.

The UN will further strengthen systems and leverage public and private investments for WASH, supporting the implementation of climate action, including building resilience to disaster and climate impacts, green and circular economy initiatives in various economic sectors, including tourism, the cultural and creative economy, and environmental pollution management and mitigation.

Building upon its successes, the UN will continue activities contributing to a protected and safe environment through training for migrants and their communities to foster agroecological and environmentally sustainable farm practices. It will provide collective farmers with an alternative to industrially produced chemicals for a sustainable food system in Ghana. The UN will continue in 2022 to turn climate commitments into action, focusing on expanding climate finance options and opportunities. It will leverage the potential of human mobility to facilitate climate action, facilitate public-private partnerships to reduce deforestation, promote sustainable energy, and an integrated and whole-of-society approach to improve chemicals and waste management. Additionally, it will pilot circular economy solutions for plastic waste management in support of the Government's National Plastic Management policy.

An additional focus is ensuring a coordinated response to SGBV through effectively implementing the Essential Services Package for Women and Girls subjected to violence. The UN will partner with the health and protection service providers to ensure that policies, frameworks, and manuals are effectively implemented.

The UN will also focus on coordinating electoral governance at the local and national levels and support developing peace and security interventions in partnership with the National Peace Council and the Fusion Centre of the National Security. It will also promote efficient delivery of essential health services to vulnerable populations in urban spaces while promoting respect for human rights by the State and businesses.

Finally, the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2022–2025) will further the agenda of driving a coordinated and collaborative environment to help Ghana achieve its SDG goals.

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, Association of Ghana Industries, 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, Department of Gender, Diaspora Affairs Office, Domestic Violence & Victims Support Unit, Emergency Support to Rural livelihoods and Food systems, Energy Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, Family Health Division, Farmers 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 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, 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, Trade Union Congress, Veterinary Services Directorate.

Private Partnerships

Association of Ghana Industries, 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.

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, 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, 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.

Academic Institutions

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 Comm. 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 For Development Studies, University of Ghana.

Funding Source/Development Partners

Adaptation Fund, African Development Bank, African Union, ARB APEX BANK, ASAP Grant, Bill and Melinda Gates, BOK Africa, CCAC/Norwegian Gov't, 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, Finland, Food and Agriculture Organization, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, German Federal Foreign Office, Germany, 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 Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust, Huawei, International Atomic Energy Commission, International Diabetes Federation, International Fund for Agricultural Development, International Program for the Development of Communication, Irish Aid, ITALY, Japan, Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning, Juvenile Immersion Training Program, Kigali Cooling, Korea International Cooperation Agency, Korean Government, MasterCard Foundation, MLF of Montreal Protocol, Mondelez, NORAD- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, PAGE, Pan African Historical Theatre Festival, Prada Group, Resident Representative, Sweden, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UK-FCDO/Department of Health & Social Care, UNDCO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA- CM Donors, UNHCR, UNHSTF, UNICEF, UN-REDD, UNTFHS, USA, USAID, WFP Core Funds, Global Environmental Facility, Wikimedia, World Bank, Perpetual Education Fund.



UNITED NATIONS
GHANA

