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HIGHLIGHTS

- Positioning MSMEs to trade under AfCFTA.
- Toxics exposure in Ghana violating

- human rights, urgent action needed – UN expert
- Addressing the capacity and competency needs of stakeholders for more integrated and strong

- gender responsiveness in health intervention.
- UNFPA Representative presents credentials to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

New Year Message

From the UN Resident Coordinator's Office

A Happy and Prosperous 2023 to you and your loved ones. We start the year in earnest and with a renewed sense of hope for a better Ghana. May the winds be fair and favorable to you and yours as well as to Ghana.

The past couple of years have been daunting, - faced with the difficult fallouts of climate change, conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent serious macro-economic challenges which the country went through. Yet, we remain resolute in our determination to stand by Ghana.

With a better understanding of what we know now, a stronger commitment to influence positive change, a resolve to strengthen partnership for resource mobilisation and an enthusiastic work approach to deliver on our pledge to leave no one behind through our new Cooperation Framework, which will shortly be signed, and complementing the many efforts of our partners, we can be nothing but optimistic and hopeful.

We will explore our priorities – together - for the year through the exciting events we have lined up in January and February. Addressing the challenges before us on inclusive economic transformation, equitable access to services, and enhancing durable peace and security



(while integrating the climate challenges, digital transformation, urbanization and ensuring no-one, especially children, women and girls, persons with disabilities and youth are not left behind) will be key. There is much to be done - daunting and ambitious – but doable. Yes we can!

May 2023 be brighter, better and more productive. Let us remain focused, maintain a positive outlook and work with passion and commitment for the good of the people of Ghana. I also look forward to meeting and engaging with you all this year.

Charles Abani

UN Resident Coordinator, Ghana

5th COVID-19 national vaccination campaign

COVID-19 continues to threaten the wellbeing of people globally, and governments everywhere continue to make every effort to protect their citizens from the disease. In December, the Ghana Health Service in partnership with UNICEF, and with total funding from the German Federal Foreign Office, led a national 5-day vaccination campaign, the fifth since the COVID outbreak two years ago. The aim of the campaign was to vaccinate 1.4 million people and prevent a surge after the Christmas festivities. Traditionally, the season brings families and friends together from far and near to celebrate the festivities. The message that drove the campaign was for everyone to get vaccinated as a gift to protect loved ones and families from COVID-19.

Twelve teams, made up of twenty-six UNICEF staff from both Tamale and Accra offices, were deployed to eleven regions to support the Ghana Health Service (GHS) and other partners to monitor the vaccination exercise. Beyond the monitoring, UNICEF supported the GHS to amplify the campaign messages to a wider audience. To do this, two teams of multimedia content creators and media personnel from key media houses accompanied the

monitoring teams that traveled to the Eastern and Ashanti regions. They curated short videos and published news stories and articles which were published on UNICEF social media platforms, and on major news networks.

Young people and persons living with disabilities were exceptionally given visibility as they supported the campaign to enable an uptake of the vaccine. UNICEF staff also used their networks and partners to echo the campaign messages on major regional radio stations.

Ahead of the campaign, the Director General of the GHS, Dr. Patrick Kuma-Aboagye hosted a media launch of the campaign. Supporting partners at the launch included the WHO,

UNICEF, and the German Embassy in Ghana. Speaking at the launch, the UNICEF Representative in Ghana, Anne Claire Dufay said, "The best gift you can give to your relatives is to convince them to get vaccinated."

At the end of the 5-day campaign, over 1.3 million people were vaccinated.

A second round to complement round one will take place this month, and UNICEF teams will be on hand to support the government's effort to curb COVID-19.



UNICEF staff checking the vaccines; ©UNICEF

Positioning Ghanaian MSMEs to trade under AfCFTA

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement is a development instrument that provides an opportunity for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to export to other African countries, thus boosting intra-African trade. Yet, many MSMEs, the backbone of the African economy, lack relevant information on product entry requirements, and on processes and procedures to access the single African market. To bridge the gap, the Ghana National AfCFTA Coordinating Office (NCO) in partnership with the UNDP is training selected MSMEs on how to trade under the AfCFTA. The training falls within UNDP's integrated support for women and youth-led MSMEs in Ghana to support Government COVID-19 recovery efforts. [Read more.](#)



Edward Ampratwum, Head of Inclusive Growth and Accountable Governance, UNDP, addressing participants at the training ©UNDP

FAO and the International Trade Centre (ITC) have also held a three-day training session for women business owners in Accra to help them leverage opportunities under the AfCFTA Agreement. More than 50 business owners took part in the session.

The CEO of Blessed Child Foods, a participant at the session, Bernice Abbey-Kwei said, "One thing I know, when you empower a woman, you are empowering a whole nation because the woman is going to feed her family and ensure her children go to school."



One of the training participants, Fafali Azaglo, who runs a cereal and tuber processing business in Accra. ©FAO

This training is part of an on-going collaboration between FAO and the ITC to empower women through trade.

Six reintegration projects bring job opportunities to communities in the Bono and Bono East regions

The IOM, with funding from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and in collaboration with BOK Africa Concern, has handed over six reintegration projects to communities in the Bono and Bono East regions. The initiatives aim to provide employment opportunities for returned migrants and community members, especially the youth.

IOM's community-based reintegration projects bring together returnees and community members to contribute to the development of the communities, assist returnees in re-establishing themselves in a sustainable manner, and help to reduce stigma against returnees.

"Over the past four years, we have worked with communities

RE-INTEGRATION PROJECTS - Cont. on pg. 6

UN in Ghana provides training to improve MSMEs operations and make them more competitive

UNIDO, under its SECO-funded Global Quality and Standards Programme and EU-funded West Africa Competitiveness Programme has organized a workshop to deploy the UNIDO-developed electronic quality tool (Qualitrics) for assessing quality awareness in specific value chains. A successful assessment has already been done for the cocoa and cashew value chains, using this tool. The tool will now be implemented in the oil palm and cosmetics value chains to increase the quality awareness of the two value chains.

The one-day event involved influencers and stakeholders in the value chains. It sought to obtain their insight that will subsequently address existing gaps. Key components of the diagnostic tool were questions bordering on the seven quality management principles identified as the underlying basis for the ISO 9000 series of standards. They included customer focus, leadership, engagement of people, and process approach.

The implementation of this tool would culminate in an improved culture for quality in the selected

value chains, impact local consumption, and access to global markets and provide an overall improvement in trade performance for the relevant SMEs. The assessment workshop recommended relevant corrective actions needed to improve the quality awareness of the industries.

UNIDO has further trained members of the fruits cluster, under the UNIDO – West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP) - Ghana project focusing on branding, packaging, and good manufacturing practices.

Twenty-six selected participants involved in the pineapple and mango value chains were taken through various modules to equip them with the requisite skills and knowledge to drive their brands' awareness and enhance their competitiveness as a brand of choice. This is an integral component of meeting

the goal of global conformity, under the WACOMP project – a collaborative initiative by UNIDO, the Government of Ghana, and the European Union.

Additionally, UNDP continues to support MSMEs to improve their management practices and help them to build their resilience.

UNDP trained about 200 participants to put in place best business management practices and structures to be more efficient and able to attract low-cost capital to grow their businesses. The corporate governance training aimed to address gaps identified by UNDP in an assessment that shows poor corporate governance practices among youth and women-led MSMEs in Ghana. This forms part of UNDP's integrated MSMEs support programme.

[Read more.](#)



Diana Boseompem, CEO of 360 Naturals, producers of cosmetic products in Kumasi speaking at the UNDP training session. ©UNDP

Industrialization from the ground up: transforming rural spaces through Agro-industry

Time is running out. Today, more than ever, it is imperative that African countries reduce their dependence on export of raw commodities and import of finished goods. As noted by Brookings Institute, the successful implementation of AfCFTA could result in a doubling in size of Africa's manufacturing sector, an increase of annual output to \$1 trillion by 2025 and the creation of over

14 million jobs. These opportunities are already unfolding, particularly in areas identified by UNDP's Futures Report 2021 such as automotives; leather and leather products, cocoa; soya; textiles and apparel; pharmaceuticals; mobile financial services; and cultural and creative industries. It is important to continue to support industrialization, with strong linkages to domestic economies, to help African countries

achieve high growth rates, diversify their economies, reduce food insecurity and reduce their exposure to external shocks. Doing so calls for embracing advances in digitalisation, skills training, and infrastructure development to leapfrog the continent's industrialization agenda. More in a [blog](#) by the UNDP Resident Representative in Ghana, Angela Lusigi, on Africa Industrialization Day .

Celebrating Ghana's fishing sector

The FAO Regional Office for Africa, based in Accra, held a regional closing ceremony in December for the international Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA).

The Year was proclaimed by the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly as an important recognition of the millions of hard-working fishers,

fish farmers and fishery workers who provide safe and nutritious food and who contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Speakers at the event included the President of the African Confederation of Artisanal Fisheries Professional Organisations (CAOPA) Gaoussou Gueye, and acting FAO Representative in Ghana Ndiaga

Gueye who is also the regional Senior Fisheries Officer at FAO.

FAO also contributed to Ghana's National Fish Festival held in Accra in November, a two-day event celebrating fishers and other players along the fish value chain in Ghana for their invaluable contributions to national food security.

RE-INTEGRATION PROJECTS - Cont. from pg. 4

to successfully establish reintegration projects. We involve the communities from the inception stage of all our interventions thereby enabling them, especially the youth, to create meaningful opportunities, and ultimately strengthening the relationship between returnees and their communities in a sustainable way," said Ms. Pooja Bhalla, Project Manager, IOM Ghana.

[Read ahead.](#)



Fishing boats at anchor in Accra. ©FAO

2021 District League Table Report: Generating Evidence for Addressing Unequal Access to Services and Development Opportunities for Children



Prof. George Gyan Baffour (6th from L) and other dignitaries in a group photograph after the launch of the report. ©UNICEF

As in previous years, the Social Policy and Inclusion (SPI) section of UNICEF in collaboration with the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) of Ghana launched in November, the 2021 District League Table (DLT) report in Accra. The launch was chaired by Prof. George Gyan Baffour, Chairperson of the NDPC.

The report ranked all the 261 Metropolises, Municipalities, and Districts (MMDs) of Ghana based on selected sectors and indicators which include health, nutrition, education, water, sanitation, energy, and governance. For this edition, the ICT sector has been replaced by energy coverage and, for the first time since the inception of DLT in 2014, the report introduced nutrition as one of the sectors analyzed and considered as a key indicator in national development. In total, 22 indicators in the 7 sectors were used to prepare

the 2021 DLT report. Considering all the indicators, the overall top-ranked district for the 2021 DLT is the Tema Metropolitan Area with a score of 81.78 and, the last ranked is the Nanton District in the Northern region with a score of 38.66. In terms of the regional ranking, Greater Accra had 72.37 to place first and Savannah was sixteenth over sixteen with 52.61 percentage points.

In general, progress has been made by some districts, especially in education and health. The gap between the top and bottom districts in all the sectors, except Governance, is still too wide for comfort. The DLT report generates appropriate district-level data, conducts an independent analysis, and makes findings and recommendations with key messages to engender policy dialogue and actions at both the national and district levels. Read the full 2021 DLT report [here](#).

UN hands over vehicles to support the HISWA Project in Ghana

UNOPS Ghana has handed over 30 vehicles to the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS). The vehicles were procured by UNOPS at the request of the

GSS as part of the World Bank-funded initiative, 'Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West Africa' (HISWA).

HISWA aims to strengthen the statistical systems and the national statistics offices of participating countries and regional and sub-regional bodies of West Africa, in order to help them harmonize, produce, disseminate and enhance the use of core economic and social statistics.



Official inspection of one of the vehicles during the handing over ceremony.

©UNOPS

In June 2022, UNOPS Sierra Leone procured vehicles for Statistics Sierra Leone, the central authority for statistics in the country, under the same programme. Overall, the HISWA is active in Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Welcoming baby number 8,000,000,000 to a world of infinite possibilities

On 15 November 2022, the world stood still, metaphorically, to receive news that the global family had reached another milestone of 8 billion people. For many, this is alarming or disturbing considering current global challenges like climate change, food insecurity, poverty, and lingering human rights violations.

this milestone with a reflection on how to improve the socio-economic conditions for every single person to thrive; leaving no one behind in the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNFPA Ghana partnered with the Ghana Health Service and the Greater Accra Regional Hospital to identify and symbolically welcome

the safe delivery of the 8 billionth baby, a girl, into the world. A short ceremony was held in Accra. [Read more.](#)



Some midwives and mother of the '8th billionth' baby at the Greater Accra Regional Hospital in Accra. Credit - Henry Alagbua ©UNFPA

Ghana observed

Regional workshop in Niger on Integrated Governance and Cooperative Border Management in Sahel and Gulf of Guinea Countries



Group photo at the Regional Workshop on Integrated Governance and Cooperative Border Management in G5 Sahel and Gulf of Guinea Countries. ©IOM Niger

The Ministries of Interior in Niger and Ghana, the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the US State Department, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Niger and Ghana organized a regional workshop on integrated governance and cooperative border management.

The workshop focused on the Sahel and Gulf of Guinea countries and participants exchanged experiences on cooperative border management

at local, national, and regional levels, assessed community involvement in border governance, and discussed how free movement strategies could promote peace in the Sahel and the Gulf of Guinea. They also formulated recommendations, including enhancing the sharing of information between States and integrating epidemiological surveillance into the migration data collection systems to deepen and strengthen the humanitarian and health border management. [Read ahead.](#)

Addressing border security issues through community engagement in Ghana

In collaboration with the Centre for Migration Studies (CMS), University of Ghana Legon, the IOM, with funding from the UN Trust Fund for Human Security and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the Government of the United States of America, brought together stakeholders and community members to discuss and validate the findings of a study on

security perception and vulnerability of border community members in six communities in the Upper East region of Ghana. A series of town hall meetings were held towards improving engagement between the State and the targeted border communities by reinforcing trust between border communities and officials, building community resilience and enhancing border security. [Read ahead.](#)

State security and intelligence agencies commit to strengthening Migration Data Management to support operations



IOM and senior management officials from various state security and intelligence agencies. ©IOM Ghana

Senior management officials from various state security and intelligence agencies have met to explore how migration data, particularly entry and exit data, can be used effectively to support intelligence-led operations in Ghana.

Several law enforcement and intelligence agencies use entry and exit data to support their operations and case management. However, the limited use of information technology, notably border management information systems (BMIS), to support digitized data collection pose challenges to capture effectively entry and exit migration data, especially across Ghana's land borders.

To address these gaps, IOM Ghana, in April 2022, supported the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) with the provision of the Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) at two land borders, and is currently working to install the system at four more land borders. This intervention helps digitize the collection of migration data, including the collection of biometric and biographic data of persons entering and exiting these land borders.

The interventions are part of the "Strengthening the Northern Borders of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Togo" project funded by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement at the United States Department of State (INL). [Read ahead.](#)

Access to legal services: a key to leaving no one behind



Edward Ampratwum, Head of Inclusive Growth and Accountable Governance, UNDP, speaking at the meeting ©UNDP

Access to justice is an integral part of efforts to achieve inclusive growth and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As part of efforts to bridge the inequality gap in access to legal services in Ghana, the Legal Aid Commission with funding from the UNDP, organized a workshop to validate a paralegal guide and legislative instrument to expand access to legal services for the poor and vulnerable in society. This guide seeks to provide comprehensive information and guidance on the operations and framework for the provision of paralegal services in legal aid delivery in Ghana. [Read more.](#)

Toxics exposure in Ghana violating human rights, urgent action needed – UN expert

The UN Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights, Marcos Orellana, was in Ghana from 30 November to 13 December 2022 to assess the country's human rights situation in relation to toxics and hazardous substances. The Special Rapporteur's visit was at the invitation of the Government. He visited sites affected by toxic substances and held meetings with government authorities, civil society and other stakeholders.

Mr. Orellana addressed the media at the end of his mission, calling on the Government of Ghana to respect and guarantee the free and full exercise of human rights in the face of threats posed by toxic



Marcos Orellana addressing the media at a press conference at the end of his mission. ©UNIC Accra

substances in the country. "Ghana should be commended for its leadership at the international level in strengthening multilateral agreements in the chemicals and waste cluster... At the same time,

there is weak implementation of laws concerning chemicals and wastes at the national level. This puts individuals at risk of serious human rights violations," he noted in a [statement](#). [Read more](#)

Strengthening capacity to promote business and human rights in Ghana

Businesses play a major role in societies by creating jobs, revenue, innovation, and delivery of goods and services. The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights recognize that states and companies must work to ensure they prevent, address and remedy human rights abuses in business operations. In Ghana, as part of the Business and Human Rights Project implementation, a national

action plan is being developed. UNDP together with its partners organized a training workshop for the Steering Committee members who are developing the action plan. [Read more](#).

Meanwhile, the UNDP, with funding from the Government of Japan, has launched a new project to help contribute to Ghana's continuous efforts to ensure responsible business practices. The project which is being implemented in 17

countries globally, including Ghana, will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth by strengthening efforts for the effective implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. This is to better equip governments and companies to understand and act on their duties and responsibilities to prevent human right abuses. [Read more](#).

Tackling gender inequalities in health: a key to achieving universal health coverage in Ghana



Women leaders in health in a group photo at the WHO Transformational leadership training. ©WHO

To strengthen the capacity of women leaders in the health sector to help deliver a more robust health system in Ghana, WHO, with support from United Kingdom Government through the Department of Health and Social Care (UK-DHSC) has organized a capacity building for women health leaders as part of the Health Workforce Programme. [Read more.](#)

Meanwhile, WHO, with the support of the Government of Canada, is addressing the capacity and competency needs of stakeholders for more integrated and strong gender responsiveness in health intervention design, implementation and evaluation in line with the agenda to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls, while reducing health

and social inequality to leave no one behind.

- Cont. on pg. 13



Female medical doctor attending to a female patient at Akyem Tafo. ©WHO

UN Ghana and JICA support Government of Ghana to strengthen public health emergency response at land borders



IOM, the Embassy of Japan and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) handing over health equipment to the Director General of Ghana Health Service ©IOM Ghana

IOM Ghana, together with the Embassy of Japan and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), donated three ambulances as well as

14 tablets, 13 laptops, and 12 blood pressure monitors to Port Health of the Ghana Health Service (GHS) for three land borders. This is part of joint efforts to strengthen the public

health emergency response and overall border management capacities at the key points of entry.

The donation forms part of the interventions

designed to reinforce the capacities of points of entry in Ghana to better prepare and respond to potential health crises at the Paga (border with Burkina Faso), Elubo (border with Côte d'Ivoire) and Aflao (border with Togo).

In addition to the donation, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities and prefabricated isolation structures are currently being constructed at the three borders, which, upon completion, will be handed over to the Government. [Read ahead.](#)

GENDER INEQUALITIES IN HEALTH - Cont. from pg. 12

As part of the project, "Strengthening local and national Primary Health Care (PHC) and Health Systems for the recovery and resilience of countries in the context of COVID-19", WHO initiated, as a first step, a series of capacity building training to enhance the knowledge, skills and competencies of

key stakeholders on gender mainstreaming, leveraging evidence-informed approaches to integrate gender in PHC and health systems, undertake health inequality monitoring and development of action plans to advance gender, equity, and rights to improve essential health

services. [Read more.](#)



Beating Marburg virus outbreak: Ghana's journey to victory

An outbreak of Marburg virus disease (MVD) was declared in Ghana on 7 July 2022, after a test on an index case who died 24 hours after presenting to a health facility in the Ashanti region with symptoms of Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (VHF) returned positive.

This was yet another public health challenge that was going to

confront Ghana's healthcare system. However, the country's public health emergency preparedness and response system gallantly stood the test of the Marburg Virus, thanks to the swift response of the Ministry of Health and the Ghana Health Service with support from WHO and other partners, which later led to a declaration of the outbreak over on 16 September 2022. [Read more.](#)

Beating noncommunicable diseases through primary healthcare

In Ghana, NCDs account for 43% all-cause mortality, with major NCDs such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer and respiratory disease identified as common cases presented at health facilities. However, the capacity to address NCDs at the primary health care is reportedly limited.

Given the critical role of

primary healthcare in the fight against NCDs, WHO with support from the Norwegian Government through the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) is strengthening the capacity of primary healthcare workers in six regions of Ghana on how to leverage the WHO-PEN module for effective prevention and control of NCDs. [Read more.](#)

WHO convenes Africa regional policy dialogue on investment and protection of health workforce

The density of health workers is critical to attaining universal health coverage and health emergency preparedness and response. Yet, the African region has the lowest density of health workers per 10,000 population with a projected 5.3 million health worker shortage by 2030.

To help address the looming shortages of health workforce and the associated challenges of investment, the World Health Organization (WHO) and partners convened a regional policy dialogue on investment and protection of health and care workers in Africa. [Read more.](#)

Building a robust health system for all

For several years, individuals within the Chorkor municipality traveled miles to seek medical health care. Deborah Otoo is a nursing mother who lives in the Chorkor community. She used to access health care service in a different town, and sometimes had to walk 4 kilometres when she had no money for transportation. Deborah is currently benefiting from a health project being implemented by the UNDP, the Ministry of Health and the Ghana Health Service, with funding from the Government of Japan. Through the interventions, 22 under-resourced health facilities including Urban Community-Based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) compounds have been equipped with relevant medical equipment to enhance health care service delivery. [Read more.](#)

Working together to address the climate crisis

The changing climate is causing increasingly adverse impacts on ecosystem structure and function including wildfires destroying forests and biodiversity; human health risks; infrastructure



A rice farmer on his farm. ©UNDP Ghana

destruction; socio-economic impacts; and cultural disintegration. Meanwhile, human activities including practices in agriculture are still driving greenhouse gas emissions and worsening atmospheric concentrations. A situation that is precarious for the survival of the future generations as

scenarios show that global surface temperature will continue to rise and a warming of 1.5oC and 2oC will be exceeded during the 21st century if deep reductions in CO2 and other Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) are not achieved in the coming decades. We must work together, leverage carbon finance, and build resilience with risk insurance, to intentionally chart the pathway for climate resilient development and sustainable future. See how UNDP is working with partners to accelerate climate action in Ghana. [Read more.](#)

Working in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation, and the Environmental Protection Agency, the UNDP is also building the capacity of Agricultural and Environmental Officers including Irrigation Scheme Managers for the promotion and the adoption of the Alternative Wetting and Drying technology by rice farmers to reduce methane emissions. The training is a key capacity building activity of the "Alternative Wetting and Drying for Sustainable Rice Production" project which was developed out of the cooperative agreement between the Governments of Ghana and Switzerland under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement. [Read more.](#)

Women at the forefront of climate action

"3 years ago, I didn't have my own farm but was supporting my husband on his cocoa farm. You see, am a very hardworking woman, and having my own farm gives me so much joy and independence", noted Theresa Mawusi. Located in Anwianwia, a relatively small town in the Asunafo North Municipal Assembly of the Ahafo region of Ghana. Theresa and some of her peers narrated how difficult it is for women to have access to farmlands in communities around forest reserves. As part of efforts to support the country to meet its climate mitigation targets, UNDP, in partnership with the Ghana Cocoa Board and Mondelez International are supporting

farmers like Theresa to have access to degraded forest reserves for agroforestry. [Read more.](#)



Theresa Mawusi working in her farm. ©UNDP Ghana

A climate social benefit: schooling the next generation

The things that we depend on and value, including forest, water, energy, wildlife, and agriculture are experiencing the effects of a changing climate. This is impacting lives particularly communities that directly depend on these resources. The Akwaduro community is one of the communities involved in a local climate initiative being implemented by UNDP, in partnership with the Ghana Cocoa Board and Mondelez International. The project supports the communities to intercrop economic trees with food and cash crops on and off forest reserves. [Read more](#) on how the community, with savings from the agroforestry initiative, has supported a school to provide education to their children, clearing show how implementing climate actions with equity does not only increase community resilience, but also enables communities to derive extra social benefits.

Protecting the vulnerable against disaster risks

Major hazards such as fire, flood, drought, pest infestation and diseases, worsened by changes in climatic conditions are on the increase. Yet, there exists huge protection gap in developing countries, where less than five percent (5%) of disaster losses are covered by insurance, versus 50 percent (50%) in high-income countries. As part of efforts to support the government of Ghana's response mechanism to disaster, it has become critical to find ways of coping with losses arising from these major hazards. In line with this, UNDP in Ghana has launched the Insurance & Risk Finance Facility Project to strengthen resilience and protect lives and livelihoods against the impacts of disasters particularly floods in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area. [Read more](#).



Sukhrob Khoshmukhamedov, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Ghana at the launch of the project. ©UNDP

On 27 November, IOM Ghana joined Hon Elizabeth Sackey, Mayor of Accra and Chief Executive of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA), for the C40 Cities Inclusive Climate Action Academy in Accra. Discussing, amongst others, the challenges facing migrants working in the informal waste sector in Accra and the support needed, IOM Ghana Chief of Mission, Fatou Diallo Ndiaye, reiterated that we need to "work together for an environment and migrant friendly future that leaves no one behind."

'Swag Bag' – a concept to promote Ghana made climate friendly products

WFP in Ghana presented its partners with made-in-Ghana gift bags, referred to as the swag bag, during the Christmas festive season as a means of appreciating them for their support rendered to save and change the lives of the most vulnerable throughout the year 2022. Items in this eco-friendly bag represent the work done by the WFP in Ghana.

The WFP-branded biodegradable swag bag is made of river volta water hyacinths embedded with seedlings at the bottom. To plant, all you

'SWAG BAG' - Cont. on pg. 18



Ghana authorizes transfer of mitigation outcomes to Switzerland

The Government of Ghana has officially authorized the transfer of mitigation outcomes under its new climate-smart rice project to Switzerland. This was announced at a side event at the Climate Change Conference (COP 27) when the Government officially presented a formal authorization letter to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which has facilitated the bilateral agreement between Ghana and Switzerland. The bilateral agreement falls under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement, and this allows public and private institutions to collaborate to invest in climate change mitigation interventions in Ghana and exchange carbon credits with Switzerland for payment while maintaining the development benefits in the country. [Read more.](#)

Strengthening capacity to protect the environment

The UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation, and the Environmental Protection Agency is building the capacity of Agricultural and Environmental Officers includ-

ing Irrigation Scheme Managers for the promotion and the adoption of the Alternative Wetting and Drying technology by rice farmers to reduce methane emissions. The training is a key capacity building activity of the "Alternative Wetting and

COP27 Forests and Climate Leaders' Partnership – An opportunity for enhancing livelihoods in Ghana

The Forests and Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP), co-chaired by Ghana and the United States, seeks to provide ways to facilitate and, in some cases, enhance cooperation on the delivery of pledges made in Glasgow. The partnership will also scale ambitions and help find innovative solutions to ongoing challenges in managing forests and forest resources. In this [blog](#), the UNDP notes that with the FCLP, communities in forest landscapes such as the Asunafo-Asutifi area, a designated Hotspot Intervention Area under the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP), and others that have been collaborating with UNDP, including the Ghana Cocoa Board and the Forestry Commission, can look to benefiting from the pledges made in Glasgow through clearly defined results-based payments arrangements.

Drying for Sustainable Rice Production" project which was developed out of the cooperative agreement between the Governments of Ghana and Switzerland under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement. [Read more.](#)

Encouraging youth involvement in agriculture through Youth Linkup Against Hunger initiative



Panelists at the YLAH initiative. ©WFP



A cross section of participants at the YLAH initiative. ©WFP

WFP in Ghana has launched the maiden edition of the Youth Linkup Against Hunger, an initiative to get the youth in the country involved in the agriculture sector to ensure continuous growth in the sector.

The programme consisted of a youth-led panel discussion and a Twitter chat. During the panel discussion, young people currently playing active roles in various fields in the agriculture sector discussed “Food and Nutrition Security in Ghana: The Role of the Youth.” They detailed their struggles and challenges in the sector, including high cost of feed and fertilizer, difficulty associated with generation of start-up capital, and limited space for animal farming or fertile land for growing crops.

‘SWAG BAG’ - Cont. from pg. 16

need to do is to take the card from the bottom of the bags and bury it in the soil. The swag bag concept was conceived in collaboration with Global Mamas, an NGO based in Kpong, Volta Region, to transform water hyacinths, which are ecosystem disruptors, into strong, eco-friendly,

According to Mr. Samuel Abroquah, a young Ghanaian agripreneur “one has to start from somewhere. It doesn’t have to be big and with passion, hard work, determination, and commitment you will surely make it.”

The Twitter chat featured WFP Representative and Country Director in Ghana, Barbara Clemens, and Ghanaian blogger and social media influencer, Ameyaw Debrah. The chat created a buzz and drew the attention of more young people to Agriculture in the country, generating over thirty-one thousand twitter messages on the topic discussed during the day.

Youth Linkup Against Hunger will be held annually.

and stylish gift bags.

The Chocolate bars included in the bag were produced by Mansa Gold, a company owned by Preba Arkaah, a fearless female entrepreneur who

Cont. on pg. 22

UN Ghana welcomes home 132 migrants

IOM Ghana, in partnership with the Government of Ghana (GoG), has assisted 132 Ghanaian migrants (122 men and nine women) to return home from Libya. This brings the total number of assisted Ghanaian returnees through IOM's Voluntary Humanitarian Return Assistance Programme in 2022 to 833 (765 men and 68 women). The returns were made possible with funding from the European Union under the [EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration](#).

IOM Ghana and the Government of Ghana welcomed the returnees upon arrival at the Kotoka International Airport in Accra where they were provided with food, water, hygiene kits, cash assistance



IOM Ghana staff assists a returnee upon arrival at the Kotoka International Airport in Accra. ©IOM Ghana

for their immediate needs, and tested for COVID-19.

In close collaboration with the Government of Ghana and officers from the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO), screenings were conducted for returnees to assess the need for psychosocial assistance as well as to create awareness of available psychosocial support services.

"I'm so happy to be home and I'm looking

forward to seeing my family again. There is not enough work in Libya. It is not a place where you can survive. I wouldn't wish my experience on anyone," remarked a returnee. [Read ahead.](#)

16-DAYS - Cont. from pg. 20



UNDP's Gender Analyst, Jenifer Asuako, engages some residents of Chorkor on GBV. ©UNDP

A Programme Analyst with UNFPA Ghana, Mr. Faisal Bawa, sensitized the inmates and officers on the significance of the 16 Days of Activism campaign and highlighted some of the issues of gender-based violence. He urged the inmates to come forward and report issues of abuse to the existing structures within the prison and make use of the Orange Support Centre by calling the toll-free number 0800 111 222.

The UNDP, together with the Ghana Institute of Journalism (GIJ) led traffic to Chorkor, a fishing community in Accra where they sensitized community members to take action to end all forms of violence against women and girls for an inclusive society. [Read more.](#)

Additionally, IOM organised a self-defense workshop for female staff from IOM Ghana and from the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection's Adult Government Shelter.

UN in Ghana agencies join forces on 16-Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign

Research shows that women in Africa make up 58% of the continent's self-employed population. In Ghana, females are more than males, constituting about 50.7% of the population yet are under-represented in leadership roles. Promoting women's leadership, gender equality and women's economic empowerment therefore can accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Resident Representative of the UNDP in Ghana, Angela Lusigi, amplified this message during a Twitter Space held to mark the 2022 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) on the theme "Addressing gender barriers facing women & girls in leadership". [Read more.](#)



Participants at the march to launch the 16-Days campaign in Accra. ©UNIC Accra

The UN in Ghana further partnered with the Sarfoa Foundation (SF) to visit the inmates and officers of the female ward of Nsawam Medium Security Prisons (NMSF) for a sensitization exercise during when the Foundation donated boxes of sanitary pads, toiletries and wipes to the inmates.

The CEO of the Foundation, Ms. Benedicta Sarfoa Asamoah encouraged the inmates to prioritize their personal hygiene and skills acquisition to build their capacity in becoming better citizens. She pledged the support of her Foundation to fight stigma and subsequently to make their reintegration to society easier.



Women at the NMSF at the sensitization session on SGBV_ ©UNFPA



The UNDP 16-Days Twitter Space flyer. ©UNDP

Marking the 16-Days activism, the UN in Ghana, in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP), and other partners took to the streets of Accra in a march signaling the launch of the campaign against GBV. An [awards ceremony](#) was later held by the MGCSP to recognize individuals and organisations who continuously help in diverse ways in the fight against GBV and harmful cultural practices in Ghana.

16-DAYS - Cont. on pg. 19

UN Ghana hands over equipment to vocational centre



UNFPA Country Representative, Dr. Wilfred Ochan presenting items to the adolescent girls of the Nana Afrakoma II Vocational Centre. ©UNFPA

UNFPA Ghana has presented equipment to the Vocational Centre by the Queen Mother of the Akwamu Traditional Area, Nana Afrakoma II in support of the Centre's outreach activities targeted at young people, and in fulfilling the need to invest in the potential of young people, particularly, marginalized young women whose early and unintended pregnancies usually cause them societal neglect, leading to inequality and poverty. The items included sewing machines, mattresses as well as other equipment to

facilitate vocational training for adolescent mothers living within the Akwamu Traditional Area.

The support is against the backdrop of the visit of the former first Vice President of Costa Rica, Her Excellency Epsy Campbell and the UN Under Secretary-General & UNFPA Executive Director, Dr. Natalia Kanem to Ghana in May 2022 for the 'Return Mission' to empower persons of African descent.

Speaking at the ceremony to handover the items to the Vocational Centre,



UNFPA Ghana Representative, Dr. Wilfred Ochan exchanging pleasantries with His Royal Majesty, Odeneho Kwafo Akoto III ©UNFPA

the UNFPA Ghana Representative, Dr. Wilfred Ochan stated, 'I want to use this occasion to appreciate you in a very special way for setting up the vocational Institute and most especially for taking the bold decision to give adolescent mothers a second chance by giving them livelihood skills and empowering them to stand on their own.'" Dr. Ochan added that, 'we need to deploy the empowerment of adolescent girls as a strategic tool to enable them to avoid teenage pregnancies which can rob them of the opportunity to maximize their

potential in life.

Dr. Ochan used the opportunity to pay a courtesy call on the paramount ruler of the Akwamu Traditional Area, His Royal Majesty, Odeneho Kwafo Akoto III. He thanked him for his support for the UNFPA mandate and assured him of the willingness of UNFPA to continue working in conjunction with traditional leaders to ensure the increase in uptake of family planning services, reduction in maternal deaths and elimination of Sexual & Gender-Based Violence and other harmful practices.

UN and EYEH Soup Kitchen reaches out to street youth in Accra

In the spirit of Christmas giving, the UNFPA Ghana Country Office partnered with the Enhancing Youth Education and Health (EYEH) Soup Kitchen, an NGO, to engage young people and adolescents living on the streets of Accra on their Sexual & Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).

The engagement was held at two locations in Accra. The young people were given peer education so that they could stay

safe from contracting Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) through unprotected sex. They were also informed about the helpline to the Orange Support Centre (0800 111 222) which exists to provide safety, security, legal, psychological, and psychosocial assistance, among others, to victims and survivors of Sexual & Gender-Based Violence.

The outreach allowed the YoLe Fellows, who acted as peer educators to

educate their youth counterparts of the dangers of unprotected sex, including teenage pregnancy, which often truncates the education of adolescent girls, thereby entrenching poverty and gender

inequality. The young people were also provided with dignity kits with which they could maintain personal and menstrual hygiene for the females among them.



Some of the young people engaged in the outreach taking turns to receive the dignity kits. ©UNFPA

'SWAG BAG' - Cont. from pg. 18

sources cocoa in communities nearby Accra and sensitizes farmers on chocolate production. Her enclosed treats include the ancient Sahelian grain fonio, wrewre or muskmelon seed, as well as maize and soya for a nutrient-rich punch. Inspired by Ghana's beautiful birds and wildlife, Mansa Gold incorporates birdsongs, linking Ghana's rich fauna to

the nation's cultural heritage.

Furthermore, included in the gift bag is a customized WFP apron and makeup bag brought to you by the stylish Oye Bags and Clothing, owned by Accra-based female entrepreneur Anita Essie Kittoe. The aprons and makeup bags were made using WFP-branded fabric produced by the

Ghana textile printing company.

In addition to seedlings and gardening aprons, the bag contains planting calendar printed by Ghanaian Jacob Arkaah of Logical Choice Printing Company, based in the UK.

The swag bag also contains a narrative which includes two gift vouchers for 1 kg bag

of Fonio from Faustep Foods and 1 kg bag of organic fertilizer from Nhyiraba Fiber to aid in planting the seeds embedded in the bag.

After a long day of gardening, relax with moistening and fragrant sample products from True Moringa, a youth-led vegan beauty, and wellness company based in Accra.

Deputy Regional Director for Africa of UNOPS visits Ghana

The Deputy Regional Director (DRD) for Africa of the UNOPS, Ms. Dalila Gonçalves dos Santos, was in Ghana for a 3-day working visit to discuss ongoing partnerships in the country and explore new opportunities.

Together with UNOPS Ghana Multi Country Office Director, Ifeoma Charles-Monwuba, they met with colleagues from other UN agencies in Ghana, representatives from several government of Ghana Ministries, Departments and Agencies, as well as with diplomatic missions and other development partners. In particular, they met with the Honourable Minister of Works & Housing, Francis Asenso-Boakye, the Senior Policy Advisor to the Finance Minister, Professor George Gyan-Baffour, the Executive Director of the Ghana Highway Authority (GHA), Engineer Christian Nti, and the Deputy Director General of the Ghana Health Service, Dr. Anthony Adofo Ofofu. They also met with the Japanese Ambassador to Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia, Mochizuki Hisanobu, the World Bank Director for Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia, Pierre Laporte, and the African Development Bank Country Manager, Eyerusalem Fasika.

The goal of these meetings was to discuss ongoing partnerships and explore new possibilities of collaboration. All the partners expressed appreciation for the partnership with UNOPS and expressed willingness to continue to work with UNOPS.

During her breakfast meeting with the UN Country Team, Ms Goncalves reiterated UNOPS' commitment to work with other UN Agencies in Ghana to support the achievement of the SDGs in Ghana through the new UN Cooperation Framework. She assured the UNCT of UNOPS commitment to the Government and people of Ghana. "UNOPS and its partners conducted the "Ghana: Roadmap for Resilient Infrastructure in a Changing Climate" study to identify adaptation measures required to improve the resilience of Ghana's critical infrastructure and we are committed to working with the government of Ghana towards implementing the projects identified". The UNCT applauded the study and expressed interest in working with UNOPS in implementing the road map. The UNOPS Director also held a town hall meeting with the UNOPS staff in the Ghana Multi-Country office to provide updates from the HQ and hear any concerns they had.



Ms. Dalila Gonçalves dos Santos [2nd from left]; Honourable Minister of Works & Housing, Francis Asenso-Boakye [3rd from left]; Ifeoma Charles-Monwuba [3rd from right]; Mr. Charles Abani, UN RC [2nd from right]. ©UNOPS



Ms. Dalila Gonçalves dos Santos with the Japanese Ambassador to Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia, Mochizuki Hisanobu (Middle). UNOPS Ghana Multi Country office Director, Ifeoma Charles-Monwuba (2nd from right). ©UNOPS

New UNFPA Representative presents credentials to Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration



UNFPA Representative, Dr. Wilfred Ochan (right), presenting his credentials to the Minister, Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey

The new Country Representative of UNFPA, Dr. David Wilfred Ochan, has presented credentials to the Honorable Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey.

The Minister congratulated Dr. Ochan on his appointment and welcomed him to the country. She assured him of

the Government's commitment to continue collaborating with UNFPA to realize sexual and reproductive health for all. She stated that 'the Government of Ghana is interested in tackling issues of adolescent pregnancy, maternal mortality and youth empowerment and thus, the Ministry will be committed to supporting the work of UNFPA in Ghana.

Dr. Ochan appreciated the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration for its recent assistance in the approval of UNFPA 8th Country Programme (2023–2027), support with the ICPD+25 review processes and the on-going tracking systems with the NDPC. He further acknowledged the strong support provided by the Ministry to UNFPA in Ghana; and in facilitating participation of Ghanaian delegates to international and regional fora organized by UNFPA.

Dr. Ochan noted that UNFPA will continue to invest in promoting the wellbeing of the Ghanaian population through the approved 8th Country Programme. He also extended warm greetings from the UNFPA Executive Director, Dr. Natalia Kanem to the people of Ghana through the Minister.



UN in Ghana and partners mark World Children's Day 2022

World Children's Day (WCD) is commemorated each year on November 20th to create awareness on the wellbeing of children and countries' commitment to uphold the rights of children. It is UNICEF's Global Day of Action for children worldwide. The 2022 commemoration advocated for inclusion for every child.

UNICEF in Ghana partnered several institutions to celebrate and bring attention to the needs, abilities, and welfare of all children, especially children with disabilities. In collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, UNICEF joined in organizing the 2022 Special Olympics games in Takoradi. This activity and another hosted at the Akropong School for the Blind, celebrated children with all abilities whilst upholding inclusion and equity.

Joining the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection, UNICEF climaxed the WCD with the opening of Ghana's 4th National Children's Parliament. Over 200 children participated in marking the day. The young parliamentarians spoke on key issues of violence, child marriage, online abuse, cyberbullying and other threats

to children. This celebration also coincided with the 5th anniversary of the Ghanaians Against Child Abuse (GACA), a social drive which has successfully used social campaigns for the inclusion and protection of children.

Later that day, about 80 children had the opportunity to tour the UNICEF office in Accra, to meet and learn from staff how UNICEF collaborates with the government to implement projects in their interest. They ended the day enjoying fun time with giant puppet versions of the animated series, Kofi Kommando and the Squad.



[Above] Young parliamentarians have fun with giant puppets at UNICEF House; [Below] 15th National Children's Parliament in session - WCD. ©UNICEF Ghana



International Migrants Day celebrated with Diaspora Dialogue and Community Engagements

IOM set out to humanize people on the move and their many journeys in observance of International Migrants Day. Two major activities were held: a Diaspora Dialogue in the capital, Accra, and a series of community engagements in the border community of Aflao.

This Diaspora Dialogue was organized in collaboration with the Diaspora Affairs Office (DAO) of the Office of the President at the Accra International Conference Centre. Over 250 representatives from government, UN entities, EU, Ghanaian diaspora, and the

private sector gathered, in-person and online, to explore innovative solutions to improve responses to challenges Ghanaian Diaspora encounter in their efforts to contribute to Ghana's socio-economic development, including investment and job creation.

During the Dialogue, participants discussed how the diaspora could be empowered to contribute to the socio-economic development and creation of green jobs in Ghana. Representatives from the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC), Diaspora community, UNNM, including UNDP, UNCDF

and IOM, and DAO, identified gaps and recommendations that will serve as a basis for subsequent action by relevant stakeholders, including the UN. Key recommendations included enhancing quality of data, expediting the formal adoption of the draft diaspora policy and, enhancing coordination among various government agencies.

[Read ahead.](#)

Under the theme 'Engaging the community to make migration work for all', the outreach activity in Aflao included a series of community engagements. [Read more.](#)



Panel discussion during the Diaspora Dialogue as part of Migrants Day in Accra. @IOM Ghana

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 2023

[International Day of Education](#) (24 January)

[International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust](#) (27 January)

February 2023

[International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation](#) (6 February)

[World Pulses Day](#) (10 February)

[International Day of Women and Girls in Science](#) (11 February)

[World Radio Day](#) (13 February)

[International Mother Tongue Language Day](#) (21 February)

March 2023

[Zero Discrimination Day](#) (1 March)

[World Wildlife Day](#) (3 March)

[International Women's Day](#) (8 March)

[International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#) (21 March)

[World Poetry Day](#) (21 March)

[World Down Syndrome Day](#) (21 March)

[International Day of Forests](#) (21 March)

[World Water Day](#) (22 March)

[World Meteorological Day](#) (23 March)

[World Tuberculosis Day](#) (24 March)

[International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade](#) (25 March)

[International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members](#) (25 March)

Upcoming Major Events

Universal Periodic Review of Ghana, Geneva (23 January 2023)

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