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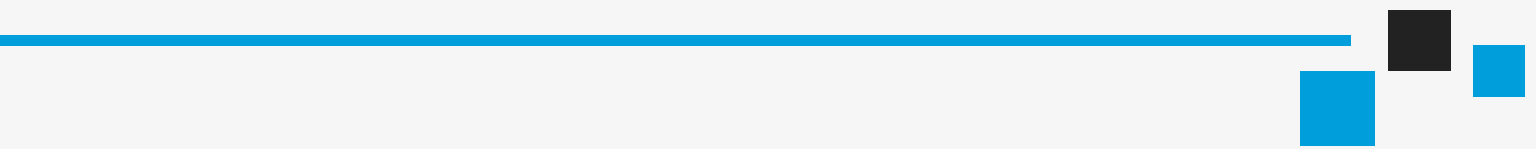
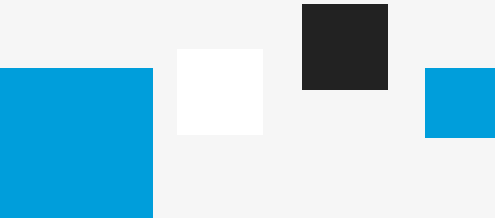


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INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

Migration stakeholders in Ghana work toward first National Referral Mechanism for returned migrants

IOM Ghana in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO), brought together migration stakeholders for a 2-day Training of Trainers workshop on the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for Protection, Return and Reintegration of Migrants in Ghana. The development of the NRM is made possible with funding by the European Union through the EU - IOM Individual Measures Project on Migrant Protection and Reintegration.

The NRM is a comprehensive framework intended to outline the roles and responsibilities of state and non-state actors to protect and promote the rights of Ghanaian returning migrants and provide protection assistance services including

provision of shelter, medical support, and access to documentation. In institutionalizing the referral process to these services the NRM improves cooperation and coordination among various stakeholders.

Going forward, a task force will be established by NADMO to oversee the creation of the Mechanism. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will also be elaborated for all stakeholders to ensure the Mechanism's implementation.

Read ahead.



Participants at the Training of Trainers workshop @ IOM Ghana/Randi-Lyn Miller

UNICEF STARTUP LAB: 3rd cohort onboard



UNICEF StartUp Lab © UNICEF Ghana:

The 3rd Cohort of the UNICEF Startup Lab (USL), designed and led by UNICEF in Ghana was launched on 11 January in Accra. Supported by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the USL is an accelerator program for impactful tech-driven businesses working to advance the Sustainable Development Goals for children and young people. It delivers a six-month curriculum to startups through intensive boot camps in Accra, as well as incubation hosted at partner hubs.

This year, the program selected 20 startups from over 470 applicants across Ghana. Since February, the third cohort of beneficiaries is taking part in a one-week training session (happening every first week of the month) with industry experts who mentor them to improve their businesses and increase the impact of their respective projects towards global SDGs.

During the February training session, Gloria Nornor from Easymodation said **"The training exposure, mentorship, and networking opportunities provided by the UNICEF StartUp Lab will help us to improve our product, develop our business model, and achieve our aim to provide accommodation for tertiary students across Ghana."** Like Gloria, the incubated youth entrepreneurs are working to build sustainable businesses which also have a social impact focus.

After six months of incubation, each startup will receive GHS 25,00 of prototyping funding. To know more about this cohort and the previous one, **visit the UNICEF Start-Up Lab [website](#).**

Government of Ghana, European Union and United Nations launch migration partnership project



Participants of the project launch @ IOM Ghana/Juliane Reissig

On 22 February 2023, the Government of Ghana, the United Nations Network on Migration (Network) and the European Union (EU) launched the flagship project Building Migration Partnerships in Ghana.

The project aims to build the capacity of key stakeholders in the migration sector, including the Government of Ghana, for effective implementation of the country's National Migration Policy towards safe, orderly, and regular migration with the goal of making migration work for sustainable development. It also seeks to strengthen and leverage whole-of-UN expertise to support good migration governance in the country.

The launch was preceded by a media briefing attended by national editors and journalists who play a key role in contributing to balanced migration reporting and in positively changing the narrative on migration.

Meanwhile members of the Network technical migration Focal Points

of UN agencies have agreed to work towards ensuring migration is included in the implementation of the Ghana United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2025.

At a workshop led by a Global Facilitation Team composed of UNDP, IOM and the UN Network Secretariat in Geneva, and supported through the Building Migration Partnerships project in Ghana which is made possible with funding from the European Union, the members discussed how to best factor the issue of migration in joint programming.

The Network's efforts will consist of support towards the establishment of a National Coordination Mechanism on Migration, a process led by the Ministry of the Interior and the development of a plan of action for the implementation of the National Migration Policy and the Global Compact for Migration (GCM).

[Find out more about the project launch here.](#)

Advancing the promotion and production of organic fertilizer in Ghana

Agbogbloshie is a major market centre in Accra. Noted for its brisk activities with almost everything on sale, Agbogbloshie is a one stop shopping centre and a huge source for crop production for many food vendors and restaurants in and around Accra. There is never a dull moment at Agbogbloshie. However, this vibrant market, like all others, bears the brunt of the rising cost of agricultural input. Keeping markets like Agbogbloshie alive to feed the country will depend on the interventions of agriculture experts to curtail the rising cost of agriculture input, including fertilizers, caused by the ongoing production crunch in Europe, disruptions as a result of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and trade restrictions in China. For instance, according to sources from the Ministry of Agriculture, the price of inorganic fertilizer has shot up to over 300 per

cent making access difficult for many local farmers. This necessitates an alternative and sustainable means for the supply of fertilizer such as the local production of organic fertilizer.

Recently the Food and Agriculture Organization led a two-day workshop to review a draft organic fertilizer investment repository document, take stock of the United Nations Joint SDG Fund Development Emergency Modality (DEM) project implementation and outputs achieved and deliberate on how best to sustain the results gained beyond the project, which ended in March 2023.

The Joint SDG Fund DEM project was implemented by the FAO and the World Food Programme. [Read more.](#)



Mohammed Ibrahim, a vegetable farmer and a workshop participant © UNIC Accra/Cynthia Prah



LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

Communities across Ghana learn about safe migration and health preparedness



Awareness raising on safe migration in Tamale @ IOM Ghana

IOM Ghana engaged with communities across the country to raise awareness on safe migration as well as on preparedness against public health emergencies.

Communities in the Ashanti and Northern regions learnt about the dangers of irregular migration, safe means of travel, the benefits of migration and employment opportunities in Ghana.

The activities, funded by the European Union, included video screenings and participatory information sessions, which were conducted in public spaces within the communities and in schools – reaching over 3000 youth.

In Tamale, IOM ran awareness raising interventions jointly with the Ghana Immigration Service and its Migration Information Centre. By connecting returned migrants with community members, the activities also help to reduce stigma and discrimination towards returned migrants.

With funding from the Government of Japan through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and in collaboration with Community Aid for Rural Development (CARD) Ghana, IOM brought together traditional authorities, government representatives, border residents, school children and officers of Border Management Agencies to raise awareness on adequate preparedness against public health emergencies in the border communities of Aflao, Volta region, Paga, Upper East region, and Elubo, Western region.

The provision of ambulances, construction of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities and installation of prefabricated isolation centres are complementary interventions implemented by IOM in the three border communities. [Read ahead.](#)



Engaging the community in Aflao on public health emergencies @ IOM/CARD Ghana

Bridging the Gender Equality gap in labour: UNFPA and PRADA leading the way

In partnership with the PRADA Group, UNFPA has donated machinery to beneficiaries under the "Fashion Expressions: The Stories She Wears" project. The equipment was handed over to beneficiaries at the Ussher Hospital in Accra.

The project which aims to promote gender equality, women empowerment and sexual and reproductive health in a 6-month training programme for young women in Ghana and Kenya was launched in 2022.

So far, the project has equipped participants with the knowledge and practical skills relevant to the fashion industry and facilitated internships with local fashion companies to establish long-term work opportunities for the women enrolled in the project. Head of the Gender Unit at UNFPA Ghana, Dr Doris Mawuse Aglobitse, who presented the items on behalf of the UNFPA Ghana Representative,

Dr Wilfred Ochan, expressed the commitment of UNFPA to empowering women and bridging the gender equality gap in labour. Head of the Gender Unit at UNFPA Ghana, Dr Doris Mawuse Aglobitse, who presented the items on behalf of the UNFPA Ghana Representative, Dr Wilfred Ochan, expressed the commitment of UNFPA to empowering women and bridging the gender equality gap in labour.

Harriet Hudson-Ghartey, who received the items on behalf of the hospital, commended UNFPA and the PRADA for their support. She went on to admonish parents and the beneficiaries not to demean the fashion design profession.

At the climax of the project, PRADA will award a full scholarship package to a girl from either Ghana or Kenya who distinguishes herself creditably from New York. [Read more.](#)



Dr. Doris Aglobitse (2nd from L) presenting the items to the Ussher Hospital for use by the beneficiaries of the "Fashion Expressions: The Stories She Wears" Project. © UNFPA Ghana

Government of Ghana launches thematic report on migration of its 2021 Population and Housing Census



Government launches report on migration of its 2021 Census @ IOM Ghana/Juliane Reissig

On 9 March 2023, at the Accra International Conference Center, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) joined the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and the Ministry of the Interior (MINTER) to launch the Thematic Report on Migration of its 2021 Population and Housing Census.

According to Adelaide Anno-Kumi, Chief Director of the Ministry of the Interior, Ghana requires reliable, credible, and gender-disaggregated data to track progress on the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the Global Compact for Migration (GCM).

“The Thematic Report on Migration provides the relevant data on the state of migration in Ghana in terms of the level, trends, and regional differentials in internal migration, determinants of internal and international migration in Ghana and their evolution over the past two censuses,” she said.

From 2019 to 2022, with funding from the IOM Development Fund and through the “Mainstreaming Migration into the National Census” project, IOM Ghana supported the Government of Ghana to conduct the National Population and Housing Census in 2021 and to analyse and produce the thematic migration report of the National Census. Through the project, the capacities of Government migration desk officers were built to analyze and disseminate migration data.

Enhanced migration data management will support the implementation of the National Migration Data Strategy (NMDS) as well as improve migration governance in the country overall. **Read ahead.**

Capitalizing on small-scale cross-border trade for sustainable community development in West Africa



Participants of the regional conference on cross-border trade in Accra @ IOM Ghana/Juliane Reissig

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in March held a Regional Consultation on “Migration, Mobility and Trade: Capitalizing on small-scale cross-border trade (SSCBT) for sustainable community development in West Africa”. Government officials from Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Togo, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger, from Ministries and Departments with immigration and trade functions, as well as representatives from the African Union Commission, ECOWAS, the AfCFTA Policy Network (APN) Secretariat and other development partners explored how cross-border trade contributes to community development. A first-of-its-kind, the workshop fostered a better understanding of current and emerging issues around SSCBT through the prism of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Participants agreed on the need for more coordinated and collaborative interventions building on the comparative advantage of different stakeholders.

On International Women’s Day, the second day of the Consultation, IOM launched the project “Empowering Women in Small-Scale Cross-Border Trade Between Benin, Ghana and Togo”. Funded by IOM Development Fund (IDF), it aims to consolidate an integrated and cross-thematic approach that contributes towards strengthened community development in border areas, through creating an enabling environment for women in SSCBT.

Read ahead.

UN shares knowledge on emergency preparedness, migration management and humanitarian assistance at KAIPTC



IOM staff leads session at KAIPTC @ IOM Ghana

In February, IOM Ghana delivered several sessions of courses on Migration Management and Humanitarian Assistance in West Africa at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Accra.

IOM colleagues shared their expertise on Emergency Preparedness (managing the Mobility Dimension of Crises) and a practical session on national migration policy-making. The training, which was funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration, aimed at reinforcing the understanding of planning and preparedness for crises. The training brought together 28 participants from state and non-state institutions in Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Senegal, Nigeria, Cameroon and the African Union Commission (AUC). As part of a course on Humanitarian Assistance for West Africa (HAWA), IOM Ghana delivered sessions on Forced Migration, Camp Management and

Coordination for a group of mid-level humanitarian professionals from state institutions, (I)NGOs, CSOs, as well as security forces (military, police, immigration) who are involved in humanitarian action. The Humanitarian Assistance in West Africa Course aims to strengthen capacities for effective humanitarian assistance by providing participants with thorough knowledge and skills of the humanitarian sector informed by the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus approach. The course was jointly organized by KAIPTC and the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ACP Schläining), supported by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence (MOD). 32 participants from 11 countries participated.

UN & PRADA launch Technology-Enabled Girls' education project



Poetry recital by a basic- 2 learner © UNESCO Ghana

In collaboration with Prada, UNESCO Ghana successfully launched the UNESCO-Prada Technology-enabled Girls' Education and Support Project. The project was initiated as part of the Global Education Coalition launched by UNESCO, Google, Huawei, and Prada in March 2020 to support countries in scaling up their best distance learning practices amidst COVID-19 school closures.

The primary objective of the project is to facilitate the re-entry of pregnant girls into schools, address the growing gap in digital literacy, and improve girls' continuity of learning through community-led advocacy and STEM skills and technology. The official launch of the project took place in Krobo Odumase, with key stakeholders in attendance, including traditional authorities, the Director of Girls Education Unit of the Ministry of Education, the Municipal Director of Education, and a representative of the Municipal Director.

In her speech, the Director of GEU emphasized that the UNESCO-Prada project will improve learning outcomes, completion, and retention of girls. He called for strengthened collaborative efforts to ensure sustainability.

The Head of UNESCO, Mr. Diallo Abdourahamane, emphasized that gender equality is a global priority at UNESCO, and much progress has been made towards gender equality globally, but significant gender gaps still exist in the education sector in many countries, most often at the expense of girls.

The traditional authorities also indicated that they have commenced a similar intervention; however, environmental settings are contributing to increasing early and unintended pregnancies, emphasizing the importance of parental focus on the Prada project.

GOVERNANCE, PEACEBUILDING & SECURITY



Working towards Nelson Mandela Rules compliance to improve standards in Ghanaian prisons

“All prisoners shall be treated with respect due to their inherent dignity and value as human beings.” This principle is embedded in the Nelson Mandela Rules.

Within the UN system, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) serves as the custodian of the Nelson Mandela Rules and other international standards and norms in the field of prison reform and is helping Member States to put the Rules into practice. With funding from the U.S. Government, UNODC and the Ghana Prisons Service (GPS) are currently implementing a three-year project aimed at strengthening the prison administration’s capacity to comply.

So far, some workshops have been held and donations have been made. Early in the year, the US Embassy and UNODC donated 500 mattresses to the Ghana Prisons Service. These have been distributed to prisoners in Nsawam, Sunyani, Ankaful and Kumasi. Also, in collaboration with the International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies (FIIAPP) financed by the European Union, the Counter Terrorism Fusion Center of the Ministry of National Security of Ghana and the GPS, the UNODC in February conducted a three-day introductory training workshop for 25 selected prison officers from the 5 Northern regions of Ghana, which by their proximity to the Sahel region and other factors are susceptible to the threat of violent extremism and terrorism. Various presentations and interactive exercises have been conducted by trainers from Ghana, Senegal, Spain, and Germany.

Lastly, in collaboration with the GPS, with funding from the US Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, UNODC recently conducted

a four-day training of trainers’ workshop in Accra for 28 selected prison officers from 19 prisons across Ghana, Prisons Headquarters and Prison Officers Training School.

This workshop is the first of three, with two more to be held in Kumasi and Tamale. These will train over 65 prison officers from all the prisons in Ghana. They are expected to reach a further 1,500 prison officers, effectively embedding the rules where they will make the biggest difference.



Some prison officers at the recently held workshop on the Nelson Mandela Rules (Above) Handing over of the mattresses to GPS (Below). @UNODC



Going the extra mile to prevent violent extremism: Ramatu's example

Ayaabila Ramatu is a 32-year-old young woman from Kpatia in Garu District of the Upper East Region of Ghana.

She participated in a three-day training of trainers organised for women and youth in Small and Medium Enterprise (MSMEs) to create awareness on preventing violent extremism (PVE) in the Garu and Tempene districts. Ramatu has been very consistent with educating community folks on the concept of "see something, say something" at every given opportunity.

The training was organised by the Upper East Regional Peace Council in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The training aims to prevent violent extremism and this falls under UNDP's inclusive integrated MSMEs support programme for six districts in Ghana. **Read more.**



Ayaabila Ramatu sensitizing communities
@UNDP Ghana

Reflections on inclusion, innovation and accelerating the future we want



The UNDP Resident Representative in Ghana, Angela Lusigi, interacting with a young Ghanaian Entrepreneur, Bernice Daapah, Founder of Global Bamboo Bicycles, who was supported by the UNDP GEF Programme to bring her idea of making bicycles from bamboos into a thriving business.
@UNDP/Praise Nutakor

Reducing inequalities in society requires a conscious effort in identifying who is being left behind, understanding why they are being left behind and finding sustainable ways of advancing their inclusion.

In 2023, the world remains in the grip of complex and interconnected climate, economic, social and environmental risks and uncertainties. Yet there are opportunities to accelerate collective action as we approach the halfway point of the SDG agenda.

Read more.

UN and Partners gear up to support Burkinabe asylum seekers as UNHCR declares level one emergency



UNHCR Country Representative, Ms. Esther Kiragu interacting with some Burkinabe asylum seekers at Sapeliga in the Bawku East Region © UNHCR/PFolley

Disturbances in neighbouring Burkina Faso following Jihadists attacks have resulted in the continuous influx of Burkinabe asylum seekers to the Northern parts of Ghana calling for the need for urgent humanitarian assistance to support the new arrivals.

UNHCR and the Ghana Refugee Board in responding to the situation have jointly convened a High-Level Consultative Dialogue involving key stakeholders on issues relating to the influx of the Burkinabes to the Northern parts of Ghana. The aim was to develop a Refugee Response Plan for the Upper East and Upper West Regions – the two regions hosting most of the asylum seekers. [Read more.](#)



Ms. Esther Kiragu (2nd from R) with GRB officials in one of the communities © UNHCR/PFolley

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ACTION



Ghana kick-starts a project to advance formalization and mercury-free gold production



Small scale mining in Ghana @ IIED

The Environmental Protection Agency in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the UN Environment and the Conservation International has begun the implementation of a new project called planetGold+. This project which is part of a global initiative and funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is an initiative seeking to make small scale mining safer,

cleaner and more profitable. The project is seeking to advance the formalization of the sector and improve access to finance and accelerate the creation of responsible mineral supply chains. The planetGold+ Ghana project is also aiming at enhancing the uptake of mercury-free technologies and investing in knowledge management, communications, and local capacity building. [Read more.](#)

Diaspora for Climate Action project launched

IOM Ghana has joined forces with IOM UK, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Diaspora Affairs Office of the President and the Ghanaian diaspora in the UK to create global links and leadership for Climate Action: on 19 January 2023, the Diaspora for Climate Action (D4C) project was launched.

It aims to enable diaspora members to build connections with key stakeholders in Ghana (as well as in Bangladesh, Jamaica and Albania), that can help them achieve more effective and coordinated climate action, and greater and longer-lasting impacts on climate-vulnerable populations. This initiative is funded by IOM Development Fund. [Read ahead](#)



*Coastal erosion on the Volta Delta
@IOM Ghana/Juliane Reissig*

Communities reap benefits of acting for nature

HOW A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN FOREST RESTORATION PLATFORM HAS LED TO THE CONSERVATION OF 135,500 HECTARES OF FORESTLAND, BOOSTING ECOTOURISM IN GHANA.



A community member enjoying the view of the restored Weto landscape at Amedzofe in the Volta Region of Ghana. @UNDP/Praise Nutakor

Mary Adedzi, a mother of four, lives in the Saviefe Agorkpo community in the Ho West District Assembly of the Volta Region of Ghana. Mary's community falls within the lowlands of Weto landscape which is about 344 hectares placed under cocoa agroforestry. The landscape is well-endowed with a diversified natural resource base with rich endemic flora, wildlife, birds, and has a conducive climate. However, in the recent past, the area suffered from extensive environmental degradation. Mary is among the 3,500 direct beneficiaries supported in 2012 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),

under the UNDP Global Environment Facility Small Grant Programme (GEF/SGP), to help restore the degraded Weto landscape.

The project dubbed "Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS)" was financed by the Japan Biodiversity Fund.

[Read more.](#)



UN Days and Observances

UN Ghana observes International Women's Day

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the United Nations in Ghana undertook a month-long social media campaign to raise celebrate women innovators and achievers in the digital space and to raise awareness towards gender equality. Nineteen women and girls, all representing various fields, were featured on UN Ghana social media accounts reaching over XXX people. On the last day of the campaign, UN Ghana female Heads of agencies, offices and programmes were featured to demonstrate the UN's gender parity efforts.

The UN also joined the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in a march commencing the celebration of IWD in Ghana. [Read more.](#)

The British High Commission Accra, UNFPA and other partners awarded young girls in the "Ambassador for a Day" competition at an event in Accra. The event seeks to empower adolescent girls to make a successful transition into womanhood.

Welcoming guests to the event, the UK High Commissioner to Ghana, H.E. Harriet Thompson acknowledged the role partners including UNFPA, PAYDP, CAMFED, Plan International Ghana and the various embassies play to facilitate the mentorship of young girls as a way of empowering them to pursue worthy careers.

Dignitaries who graced the event include the ambassadors of France, Switzerland, and Norway: His Excellency Jules-Armand Aniambossou, Her Excellency Simone Giger and Her Excellency Ingrid Mollestad, respectively.

The UN Resident Coordinator in Ghana, Mr Charles Abani appreciated the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office for their

involvement in the "Ambassador for a Day" Initiative which he believed complimented country-level initiatives that empower women and young people.

Mr Abani equally lauded the partners for putting the initiative together, while highlighting the role played by development partners like UNFPA and UNICEF, towards ending child marriage in Ghana, which is one of the inhibitors to the achievement of gender equality.

The event also consisted of a mentorship session for girls which allowed them to learn from ambassadors at close quarters. Certificates were presented to the award winners of the "Ambassador for a Day" competition.

In observance of the Day, IOM Ghana donated food items to a Government of Ghana shelter for survivors of trafficking. The items are used to support shelter residents during their stay at the shelter, before their safe return to their communities and countries of origin.



Participants walking through the streets of Accra
©UNIC Accra

DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality in Ghana

A number of op-eds were released by the UN in Ghana to highlight the IWD theme and increase advocacy around gender equality.

In his op-ed, the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Charles Abani outlined the increasing manifestation of digital technology in the field of education, businesses, and health care, among others, commending Ghana for the feat. He noted that “digital technology is opening new doors for the global empowerment of women, girls and other marginalized groups and we must take advantage of this real opportunity.” He however called for stronger collaboration across governments, the private sector and civil society to build a more inclusive, just, and prosperous world for women, girls, men, and boys everywhere.

In a joint piece titled Breaking Gender Barriers through Innovation and Technology, UNDP’s Gender Team Lead, Jennifer Asuako, and Head of Exploration, Seth Akumani, also called for more support to women in technology and for equal opportunity for an all women and girls to benefit from the digital economy.

In her blog titled Accelerating, advancing and sustaining participation of Women and Girls in Science the Resident Representative of UNDP, Dr. Angela Lusigi noted that numerous challenges facing today’s global community from combating climate change to improving health require recognition of women’s untapped talent, potential and contribution in making the world more sustainable. “We need to break the societal and cultural barriers hindering women from entering the science field and seal the “leaky pipeline” that prevents them from staying and succeeding in the field.” she argues.



Janet Etonam operating the generator and turbine.
©UNDP Ghana/Praise Nutakor



Priscilla, a medical laboratory scientist at IOM Migration Health Assessment Centre
©IOM Ghana/Kate Endswell



A Ghanaian UN Peacekeeper
©UNIC Ghana

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation observed in Pusiga, Upper East region

According to estimates, 4.3 million girls across the world are at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM). And every year on February 6, the world recognizes the need to end this inhumane practice that threatens the rights, dignity and well-being of victims who undergo FGM. In Ghana, although the practice has been outlawed, it continues clandestinely.

The COVID-19 pandemic also re-ignited the practice of FGM in a few areas in Ghana, particularly, the Upper Est region where some families were known to subject their daughters to FGM through cross-border movements to Burkina Faso and Togo which borders Ghana in the North-eastern part of the country. This year's International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation was held under the theme: ***“Partnership with Men and Boys to Transform Social and Gender Norms to End FGM”***,

which the UNFPA Ghana Country Office saw as an opportunity to hold an Intergenerational Dialogue between Traditional Leaders and young people, notable, men and boys who stood a chance to ensure an end to FGM given their ability to take many decisions at the household level mainly at the rural level.

Speaking at the ceremony which took place at the Assembly Hall of the Gbewaa College of Education in Pusiga, the UNFPA Country Representative, Dr Wilfred Ochan noted that, ‘while there has been a significant decrease in the practice of FGM from previous years, it still continues and is deeply entrenched in certain cultures.

Dr Ochan referred to a 2019 study by the Navrongo Health Research Institute which revealed FGM prevalence levels of 82% and 62% respectively for the Pusiga district and Bawku Municipal. [Read more.](#)



Participants at the observation of the 2023 International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM.
©UNFPA Ghana

Women's Month: UNFPA joins partners for 2023 “Ambassador for a Day” competition

As part of this year's celebration of International Women's Day, coupled with the need to empower adolescent girls to make a successful transition into womanhood, the British High Commission Accra, UNFPA and other partners awarded young girls in the “Ambassador for a Day” competition at an event in Accra.

Welcoming guests to the event, the UK High Commissioner to Ghana, H. E. Harriet Thompson acknowledged the role partners including UNFPA, PAYDP, CAMFED, Plan International Ghana and the various embassies played to facilitate the mentorship of young girls as a way of empowering them to pursue worthy careers.

Dignitaries who graced the event include the ambassadors of France, Switzerland, and Norway: His Excellency Jules-Armand Aniambossou, Her Excellency Simone Giger and Her Excellency Ingrid Mollestad, respectively.

In a short address, H. E. Ingrid Mollestad encouraged the young girls who participated in the competition to make the most of the

opportunity, as it presented a privilege for them to identify their future careers and work towards their fulfilment.

H.E. Jules-Armand Aniambossou expressed his interest in the initiative, recognizing it as an effective tool for empowering young girls. ‘The Government of France is committed to making gender equality a reality by empowering women’, he echoed.

On her part, the Swiss Ambassador to Ghana, H. E Simone Giger, iterated her willingness to collaborate with all the partners in empowering women and girls towards the attainment of gender equality

The UN Resident Coordinator in Ghana, Mr Charles Abani appreciated the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) for their involvement in the “Ambassador for a Day” Initiative which he believed complimented country-level initiatives that empower women and young people.

[Read more.](#)



The Ambassadors and mentors in a group photograph with the adolescent girls.
©UNFPA Ghana/Henry Alagbua

UN celebrates the 2023 International Day of Women and Girls in Science



Group photograph with UNESCO Representative, Mr. Abdourahamane Diallo (M in white) and partner @UNESCO Ghana

On the occasion of the 2023 International Day of Women and Girls in Science, the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) Ghana, in collaboration with the Henry Luce Foundation, the UN in Ghana, and AIMS Women in STEM (AIMSWIS), organized a forum across three major university campuses in Ghana. The event was held simultaneously at the University of Ghana in Accra, the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi, and the University for Development Studies (UDS).

The forum aimed to provide a platform for women's scientific and research groups in Ghana to come together, share their experiences and contributions towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and collectively issue a communiqué to the government addressing systemic barriers and needs faced by females in science. Adelaide Asante, Chief Operating Officer of AIMS Ghana, welcomed the participants to the celebration.

Mr. Abdourahamane Diallo, the UNESCO Representative to Ghana, highlighted the importance of increasing female representation in science and science education. He quoted a statement by the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, emphasizing the need for more women in STEM to unleash the world's untapped talent.

The forum featured panel discussions and talks by female lecturers from Tamale Technical University, UDS, and KNUST, along with statements made by representatives of the Ministers of Gender, Children and Social Protection and Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation. Over 500 participants from academia, women's groups, universities, and senior high schools took part in the event. The forum's objective was to increase the involvement and active and equitable participation of women and girls in science in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ghana Independent Broadcasters Association commemorates World Radio Day with support from UNESCO



*Stakeholders engagement session
©UNESCO Ghana*

The Ghana Independent Broadcasters Association (GIBA) with support from UNESCO Ghana commemorated World Radio Day in Tamale, in the Northern Regional capital on the theme, "Radio and Peace." The day was used to highlight the importance of radio in reporting and informing the general public, shaping public opinion and framing a narrative that can influence domestic and international situations and decision-making processes.

The event was organized in three parts: an opening ceremony, a capacity-building workshop for media practitioners, and a stakeholder engagement with community and youth leaders. In attendance was the head of the UNESCO Accra Office, Mr. Diallo Abdourahamane, a representative from the UNDP Ghana Office, Dr. Edward Ampratwum, the GIBA President, Mr. Cecil Sunkwa-Mills, and representatives from the UN in the Northern region.

The second part of the celebration focused on a media training workshop editors and journalists from GIBA radio stations and other radio stations yet to join GIBA from the five northern regions of Ghana.

The participants were trained on conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and community cohesion, and the importance of ethical journalism. The workshop also focused on strengthening gatekeeping activities at all levels of reporting and engaging local experts on technical issues. In a dialogue with various community stakeholders, participants shared their experiences and stressed on the importance of radio in communicating their issues to policymakers was reiterated. Community members also stressed the need for reporters to be mindful of sensitive issues and to adhere to ethical guidelines.

Training of national experts in inventory techniques for safeguarding living heritage in Ghana

From February 6th to 15th, a cohort of 35 national experts and government officials participated in a 10-day training of trainers workshop on identifying elements of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) in Ghana. The workshop was designed to equip participants with the skills and knowledge necessary to conduct community-based inventorying of ICH elements in eight border districts of the 16 regions of Ghana.

The workshop is a component of a two-year project, "Strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage and contribute to sustainable development," aligned with UNESCO's Global Priority Africa and the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The project is in response to a needs assessment conducted between 2018 and 2019, which identified risks and threats to the viability of living heritage in Ghana.

It was made possible thanks to the voluntary supplementary contribution of the Government of France to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund. At the opening, Mr. Diallo Abdourahamane emphasized the importance of protecting the country's diverse living heritage, which requires transferring knowledge, skills, and meaning through active sharing and protection of the processes involved. Mark Okraku-Mantey, the Deputy Minister of Tourism, Arts & Culture (MoTAC), expressed his support for the preparation of a national inventory of intangible cultural heritage during the opening ceremony. As a former music producer of the popular Ghanaian music genre "Highlife music", he expressed his strong interest in the exercise.



*Participants document how to make "Aprapransa" in Jamestown.
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UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL - JUNE 2023

21ST APRIL

WORLD MALARIA DAY

24TH APRIL

LAUNCH OF ACCRA WORLD BOOK CAPITAL 2023

6TH - 17TH MAY

GHANA IMPACT & WEST AFRICA DEAL SUMMIT

29TH MAY

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPERS



**UNITED NATIONS
GHANA**



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