

UN IN GHANA NEWSLETTER

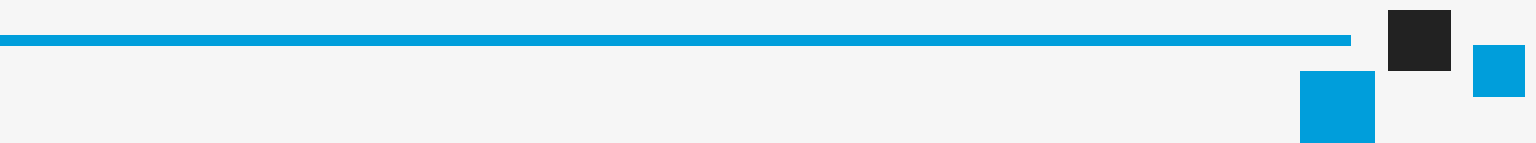
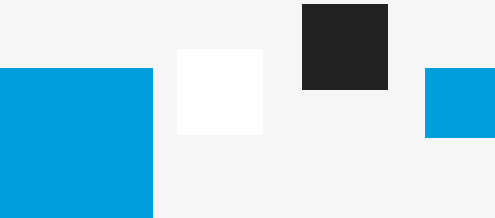


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REPUBLIC OF GHANA



Akwaaba's Read!

Accra World Book Festival, 2023

Akwaaba's Read!

Akwaaba's Read!

World Book Festival, 2023

Akwaaba's Read!

World Book Festival, 2023

Akwaaba's Read!

World Book Festival, 2023

**INCLUSIVE
ECONOMIC
GROWTH &
TRANSFORMATION**



Accra becomes the 23rd member of the UNESCO World Book Capital Network



Ms. Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO Director-General and H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana pose for a photo opportunity. ©UNESCO/George Koranteng Danso

Accra has officially taken over the 2023 World Book Capital of UNESCO from Guadalajara following the launch in Accra of the Accra World Book Capital (AWBC) by the President of the Republic of Ghana and the Director-General of UNESCO.

President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo said winning this year's title is an acknowledgement of the great steps Ghana and Africa are taking to develop the book and creative industries, as well as advance youth inclusion through the transformative power of reading. "For us in Ghana, the AWBC is more than a reading campaign. It's an opportunity for government and international partners to leverage the diverse linkages of culture and education to deepen our collective actions to make progress of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals" He said.

The theme for this year's global campaign is "Reading to Connect Minds for Social Transformation", highlighting the strong need to promote books, reading and the creative arts for social transformation.

The Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Audrey Azoulay said the culture of reading is a treasure that must be encouraged, promoted, and supported at all stages of life. "The launch is a call to action for all the initiatives that support literature, authors, and reading" She noted.

As part of the launch, the President read the book "Kofi Annan" with four students. Present at the ceremony were government officials, members of the diplomatic community and stakeholders in the book and publishing industry. An exhibition of various publications by several publishers and institutions, including UN Ghana was mounted.

With the launch, the city is expected to hold a broad programme that targets marginal groups with high levels of illiteracy including women, youth, migrants, street children and persons with disabilities; reinforce school and community infrastructure and institutional support for lifelong learning, in order to foster the culture of reading, while championing the publishing sector and other creative industries.

UN Network on Migration supports Government to act on Global Compact for Migration

The UN Network on Migration in Ghana held a workshop for government officials on “Contextualizing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in Ghana”.

Representatives of key government ministries and agencies, and the UN concluded they will start developing a national implementation plan for the GCM; identify priority objectives for short and medium-term implementation; and ensure harmonizing the various migration-related data management systems and data collection processes.

The workshop is part of the EU-UN Building Migration Partnerships project, funded by the European Union, and implemented by the UN Network in Ghana, through IOM.

In June, the Network held its third regular meeting of 2023. Member agencies shared updates on their respective migration related interventions and discussed opportunities for joint programming.



Dominic Afriyie Agyemang, Director of the Migration Unit of the Ministry of the Interior, giving the opening address at the workshop ©IOM Ghana/Randi-Lyn Miller

The Ghana Statistical Service presented the [Migration Thematic Report](#) which was released earlier this year as one of the analytical reports that came out of the 2021 census. It was an opportunity to discuss how to further engage with one another to enhance migration data management, which the Government of Ghana

has identified as one of the priority areas for action to improve migration governance in the country overall.

Meanwhile, IOM Ghana Chief of Mission, Fatou Diallo Ndiaye, met with the Mayor of Accra, Hon. Elizabeth Naa Kwatsoe Tawiah Sackey to reaffirm the UN's commitment to support the Accra Metropolitan Assembly in achieving the GCM and to further explore collaboration on migration data, migration and climate change, and livelihood support to migrants.

Refugees and host members empowered through livelihood projects

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Ghana, with funding from UNHCR, launched a livelihoods project for Togolese refugees and their host communities in the Volta and Oti regions of Ghana in November 2021. Ninety-six beneficiaries were registered under the technical and vocational training (TVET) program to pursue different skills training, including Fashion and Design, Cake Craft, ICT, Welding, Masonry, and IT. After the successful completion of their programs, all beneficiaries were provided with the necessary set-up equipment and tools to enable them to start their journey to self-employment, empowerment, and resilience; critical to enabling them fend for themselves and their families, as well as contribute meaningfully to society. [Read more.](#)

Reintegrating returnees is key to UN's work in Ghana

In April, the UN and key Government of Ghana agencies, with funding from the European Union welcomed 164 migrants who voluntarily returned home from Libya.

Upon arrival at the Kotoka International Airport, the returnees were tested for COVID-19, provided with food, water, hygiene kits and cash assistance for their immediate needs. IOM continues to work with migrants, including these returnees, on their reintegration process which may involve further economic, social, and psychosocial assistance. [Read ahead.](#)

Returnees finding success

Recently, IOM visited communities across the Western, Bono and Bono East regions to assess the progress of 11 community and collective reintegration projects since their completion last year.

The most successful of the projects under the GIZ-funded initiative "Assistance to Ghanaian Returnees and Potential Migrants" were those where community members and their leaders were actively engaged alongside the returnees, where women were strongly involved, and where enthusiasm for the project was evident.

Some returnees and community members had established sewing businesses, pig, sheep and agricultural farms, a leather works centre, a gari factory, and a community water facility, among other projects, and are now able to generate income and to contribute to the development of the communities overall.

In Asubrofo, Bono East region, a farming collective made up of nine community members including six returnees from Libya, are finding success through sustainable farming practices and inspiring their community.

Abdullah, a member of the farming collective, said "We started this business with only four acres of land. IOM supported us with a tricycle, pumping machine, seeds, and organic fertilizer training. With dedication, we have expanded to over 16 acres of land."

The group, who was supported last year by IOM in partnership with BOK Africa Concern and with funding from GIZ Ghana, attributes their success largely to the trainings they received to produce organic fertilizer and other agricultural inputs. The group has since trained others in their community to use environmentally conscious farming practices. They have also been able to employ six more community members.



*IOM staff together with the Asubrofo farming collective.
©IOM Ghana/David Darko*

Stakeholders commit to strengthen collaboration to promote intra Africa trade

Cont. from pg. 8

This commitment was made at the maiden Africa Sustainable Supply Chain Summit hosted by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in Ghana, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Africa Investment Group in Accra. The summit drew on key information on Africa's trade infrastructure deficit which is estimated between 68-108 billion dollars per year. [Read ahead.](#)

Survivors of trafficking and refugees receive business support

Trafficking Survivors empowered with new business skills

Following the launch of the Enhanced Reintegration Support for Survivors of Trafficking (ERS) project funded by the U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons Office, IOM partnered with German Sparkassenstiftung to offer two sessions of Business Skills Trainings to survivors, with the aim of creating sustainable success for their microbusinesses. During the trainings, beneficiaries learned skills related to customer service, supplier management, forecasting, product pricing, budgeting, and staff management among others.

Following the trainings, beneficiaries met with psychosocial counsellors and business mentors including from the Government of Ghana, the University of Ghana, and private sector partners, who will continue to work with the beneficiaries, providing expertise and business advice.

In June, the Human Trafficking Secretariat of the Ministry of Gender, in collaboration with IOM, organized a training on fabric making (batik and tie & dye) for 25 female survivors of trafficking at the Human Trafficking Secretariat and Trauma Informed Care Center to equip participants with skills to enable them earn a living once they leave the Shelter.



*Tie & dye training for trafficking survivors
©IOM Ghana/Dennis Nipah*

Threads of Hope: Refugee Sisters Redefine Fashion and Self-Reliance in Ghana

Joyce Henyo, 23, is a refugee from Togo. She lives in Denu, a town nestled in the Ketu South District of the Volta Region of Ghana. Joyce had a burning passion for fashion and a deep desire to help people look their best. She possessed an innate knack for design, and her heart brimmed with creativity. "I love to help people look good. I've always been interested in fashion," says Joyce.

Joyce has been home for four years after completing her secondary education. Despite the challenges she faced as a refugee, she never let go of her dreams. In 2021, UNHCR launched a livelihood and skills training project in the Volta Region to empower refugees and the local communities. This project aimed to provide opportunities for self-reliance and enhance the lives of young people like Joyce. She seized this opportunity and embarked on an apprenticeship program, determined to chase her biggest dream of becoming a renowned fashion icon. [Read more.](#)



Joyce Henyo, 23, a refugee from Togo, behind her sewing machine beaming ©UNHCR Ghana

Connecting the unconnected: Empowering women and youth-led MSMEs for Africa's success

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a major opportunity for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Africa. The AfCFTA is the largest free trade area in the world, and it has the potential to create new markets and opportunities for MSMEs.

However, MSMEs will need to be prepared to take advantage of the AfCFTA. On MSME Day, we celebrate the dynamic nature of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and their crucial role in driving economic growth and sustainable development.

In Africa, MSMEs make up almost 90 percent of all businesses, provide over two-thirds of employment opportunities, and are emerging as centers of innovation. [Read ahead.](#)

Accelerating creativity and innovation in Africa

Africa's share in the global creative economy remains relatively low, highlighting the need for revitalized education systems and new spaces for talent growth. Currently, Africa accounts for only 2.9% of global creative goods exports and less than 1% of the continent's GDP comes from the creative economy.

To address this, upgrading teaching methods, resource allocation, and cultural attitudes is crucial in fostering creativity and innovation in African classrooms. Initiatives like UNDP's Accelerator Labs and Youth Innovation Challenges play a significant role in accelerating sustainable development solutions by incubating talent and financing transformative innovations for young entrepreneurs and innovators in Africa. [Read ahead.](#)

UN and Government partners work together to empower women in small-scale cross-border trade

Following the [launch of the project "Empowering Women in Small-Scale Cross-Border Trade \(SSCBT\) Between Benin, Ghana and Togo"](#), Government and civil society partners in the three countries held their first National Steering Committee (NSC) meetings to kick off the work of the 24-month project.

Funded by the IOM Development Fund (IDF), the project aims to strengthen community development in border areas by creating an enabling environment for women involved in small-scale trade across borders.

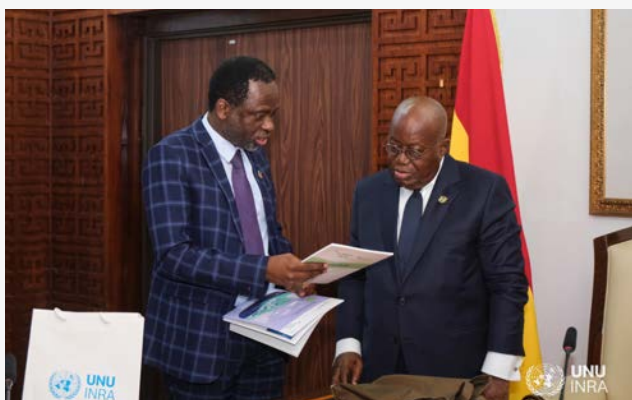
The border areas targeted are Aflao (Ghana) – Kojoviakope (Togo) and Sanvee Condji (Togo) – Hillacondji (Benin). The gathering in Ghana took place on 14 April and was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration. [Read ahead.](#)

Rector of UNU, Prof. Tshilidzi Marwala visits Ghana

The Rector of the United Nations University (UNU), Professor Tshilidzi Marwala was in Ghana for a four-day official visit to become acquainted with UNU-INRA (Institute for Natural Resources in Africa), its leadership, team, and governance structure.

He met with the President of Ghana, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, Ghanaian academic and strategic partners and the the UN Country Team.

Prof. Marwala outlined his primary goals and aspirations for UNU-INRA and the UNU in general. He said he seeks to raise the profile of the UNU and increase the number of courses offered by the University's various Institutes with the goal of enabling the UNU to offer critical training that will bridge the gap between knowledge and policy.



Prof. Marwala with Ghana's President, H.E. Nana Akufo-Addo @UNU-INRA

Prof. Marwala delivered a lecture on AI and Economic Growth at the Nature Speaks Lecture Series, a bi-annual lecture organised by UNU-INRA in collaboration with the University of Ghana. He advocated vehemently for the need to study, comprehend, and discover how technology can be utilised to address global problems such as climate change.

The lecture highlighted the impact that AI can have on the world economy in areas such as fintech, health, and demand and supply.



Prof. Marwala with some members of UNU-INRA team including the Director, Fatima Denton (M)
@UNU-INRA

Meanwhile, UNU has announced a new research and training Institute in Bologna, Italy. The Institute will engage with global South researchers and policy makers to mobilise the potential of big data and AI for achieving the SDGs.

HISWA Project supported with vehicles

UNOPS has delivered two vehicles to the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS). For over a year, UNOPS has collaborated with the GSS and the World Bank on the procurement of vehicles for the GSS as part of the World Bank-funded initiative 'Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West Africa' (HISWA).

In November 2022, UNOPS had procured and delivered a first batch of 30 vehicles to the GSS.

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

Good data are essential to address socio-economic development challenges, and the support provided by UNOPS to the GSS directly contributes to SDGs 17 and 19.

Opoku Ware II Museum receives UNESCO kente collection



Vice-Chancellor of KNUST, Prof. Mrs. Rita Akosua Dickson (m) accepts the UNESCO Kente Collection.
©UNESCO Ghana

In a striking display of cultural preservation, the UNESCO office in Accra has overseen the donation of the UNESCO Kente Collection, featuring 51 rare pieces, to the Opoku Ware II Museum at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi.

This marks a bold step towards upholding and cherishing the rich, vibrant cultural heritage of Ghana. The UNESCO Kente Collection is an exceptional embodiment of Ghanaian creativity, resilience, and tradition. Entrusted to the Opoku Ware II Museum, these rare pieces now have a new home where they can be appreciated by countless generations to come.

Parallel to this, Ghana has also submitted a nomination dossier for Kente to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH).

The donation of the UNESCO Kente Collection to the Opoku Ware II Museum, the Kente nomination dossier, and the Provisional Register are all part of a broader commitment to preserve Ghana's vibrant and diverse heritage. Together, these initiatives signify a resilient push towards safeguarding our cultural assets and promoting sustainable development through heritage preservation.

Stakeholders commit to strengthen collaboration to promote intra Africa trade

Stakeholders from across the public and private sectors pledged to strengthen collaboration with Government to address infrastructure deficit, ineffective trade facilitation processes, and invest in innovation and technology to promote trade across borders in Africa, to accelerate sustainable development.

Cont. on pg. 4



HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Building communities of excellence



UNICEF Education specialist Madeez Adamu-Issah with a delegation from Jacobs Foundation interacting with students at Abotanso RC Primary School, during the field visit in Afram Plains North.

©UNICEF/Roger Yebuah

UNICEF and Jacob Foundation, together with Ghana Education Service, visited Afram Plains North to monitor project progress under the Communities of Excellence (CoE) initiative implemented both in Buisla South and Afram Plains North.

The delegation had stakeholder meetings with key stakeholders to explore cross-sectoral collaboration towards better learning outcomes. During these meetings, the visiting team engaged with District Change Leaders (DLC) who shared success stories, way forward and the impact of DCL programme on the education system and in their communities. Nana Otukwa Mpareko VI, Chief of Kwahu Asedi and Change Leader said "UNICEF and Jacob Foundation have been very instrumental in bringing change, now even without them in our local communities, we seek to take this knowledge that have been impacted on us to our local communities to create a better community, where everybody will participate for change."

The delegation also visited two primary schools to observe teaching and classroom practices, engaged with students and listened to testimonies from teachers involved in the project activities.

Afram Plains North is one of the most deprived districts in Ghana, scoring low on various cross-sectoral indicators, especially in education.

After engaging stakeholders, it was reported that despite the lack of teachers and poor school infrastructure, parental income poverty and rural livelihoods, there are promising signs of progress where there is the uptake of school governance in the form of increased Parent Teacher Association meetings and improved school plans. To learn more about the programme, [Watch the video.](#)

Ethics teacher training course for Ghanaian teachers

The UNESCO Offices in Abuja and Accra, in collaboration with the University of Ghana, recently hosted the Ethics Teacher Training Course (ETTC) in Accra. The week-long program aimed to enhance the teaching capacities of participants in the field of ethics.

It attracted a diverse group of participants, including academics, researchers, and professionals from various fields.

In his opening remarks, the Representative of UNESCO to Ghana Mr Abdourahamane Diallo emphasized the significance of ethics education and the responsibility of educators in guiding students through complex ethical challenges. He noted that educators have the responsibility to foster an environment that encourages ethical reflection and decision-making, adding that "By advancing our pedagogical capacity in ethics teaching, we are contributing to the development of a more ethically aware and responsible global community."

The ETTC serves as a platform for participants from Ghana and the region to engage with experts in the field of ethics education and to learn from each other's experiences. By participating in this course, educators contribute to the development of a global network of ethics educators, sharing best practices, collaborating on research, and addressing ethical challenges that transcend national borders.



Participants & dignitaries at the training course
©UNESCO Ghana

Prioritizing health for all to reduce in-equalities

Despite significant progress in health outcomes, global health challenges and inequalities in access to healthcare persist. Approximately 30% of the world's population lacks essential health services.

In this piece by UNDP's Programme Specialist for Health, Belynda Amankwa, primary health care, such as the Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) concept in Ghana, plays a crucial role in promoting equitable access to healthcare. She calls for the need to strengthen the CHPS model by addressing barriers to utilization, improving health literacy and community engagement, addressing social determinants of health, and adequately resourcing urban CHPS facilities. [Read more.](#)



A nurse attending to Deborah Otoo at the UNDP-supported CHIP Facility at Chorkor in Ghana ©UNDP

Stepping up routine immunization and malaria vaccine efforts in Ghana



A nurse drawing malaria vaccine during the launch of the vaccine expansion in Sunyani. ©WHO Ghana

Charity Kesewaa Damoah is a mother of two. She has nursed her eight-year-old son through several debilitating bouts of malaria. However, she believed that her 14-month-old son, John, is living proof of the benefits of the first malaria vaccine recommended to prevent the disease in children.

According to Charity, not once, since he was first inoculated at six months of age, has John fallen ill with the potentially fatal disease, which poses a significant health burden and carries a heightened risk for pregnant women and under-5 children. Read more in this [special story](#) on WHO and partners' efforts to expand malaria immunization programme in Ghana.

Still on immunization, over 100 countries worldwide, including Ghana, experienced a decline between 2019 and 2021, the largest sustained decline in childhood vaccinations in three decades. The Government of Ghana, with the support of WHO and partners, is stepping up the drive to revamp routine immunization to reach the tens of thousands of children who missed out on essential vaccination, restore vaccination to pre-pandemic levels and strengthen the overall vaccination programme. [Read more.](#)

WHO turns 75 on World Health Day



Minister for Health [2nd from R] supported by WHO Rep [3rd from R] and other dignitaries, including UNOPS Head (1st from L) cutting the WHO 75 cake ©WHO Ghana

Ghana, with the Ministry of Health in the lead, commemorated the 2023 World Health Day and launched the yearlong celebration of the 75th anniversaries of the World Health Organization (WHO) at an event in Accra at which time all stakeholders committed to strengthen collaboration with WHO to achieve Health For All Ghanaians. [Read more.](#)

Working with 194 Member States across six regions and on the ground in more than 150 offices, the WHO envisions a world where Health for All is realized.

The right to health is a basic human right that promotes health and well-being, dignity, and a good quality of life for everyone, despite who they are, where they live or what they do. Read more in this [press release](#) issued by the WHO Country office in observance of the 75th anniversary of WHO.

Advocating for more inclusion and equity for children with disabilities



Ayeyi speaking about her disability Osteogenesis Imperfecta (Brittle Bone) and how we can create an inclusive society. @UNICEF/Francis Kokoroko

“Stigma is so huge. It happens everywhere. At church, the community, school, everywhere.”
Said Rosalin Abigail, Founder of [Africa Dyslexia Organisation](#).

Children With Disabilities (CWD) face numerous barriers that prevent them from fully participating in society. Lack of access to assistive devices and technologies also limits their participation in daily activities in different environments including schools and their communities.

To address some of the challenges faced by CWD in Ghana, UNICEF in collaboration with the Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations (GFDO) and the National Council on Persons with Disability (NCPD) organized a roundtable discussion under the theme: "Breaking Barriers, Building Inclusion; Achieving Equity for Children with Disabilities". Held in Accra, the UNICEF initiative brought together more than 70 participants including CWD, academia, policymakers, experts in the field of disability advocacy and the private sector.

Afia Ayeyi Boakye-Yiadom is a young Ghanaian girl living with Osteogenesis imperfecta, a brittle bone condition that makes her bones break with minimal or no impact. She kicked off the event by telling her story to the audience and questioning how CWD are expected to achieve their full potential without their inclusion. [Read more.](#)

Empowering adolescents to lead change using health data

The health and wellbeing of adolescents play a critical role in their overall growth and development. However, the lack of comprehensive local data on adolescent health, particularly in lower-resource settings is hampering efforts to promote healthy behaviors and policies for adolescents, especially those in schools.

To fill this gap and generate new data and information, the World Health Organization (WHO) with support from Botnar Foundation is implementing a project dubbed “Empowering adolescents to lead change using health data” with the aim of generating adolescent health information from students in cities across four low- and middle-income countries, comprising Fez, Morocco; Jaipur, India; Saint Catherine Parish, Jamaica; and Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana. [Read more.](#)

Scaling-up Foundational Learning Remediation model in Ghana



UNICEF Education Officer, Timoah Kunchire together with Asyia Kazmi, Global Education Policy Lead, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Attiq Sadiq, Senior Portfolio Manager, Cambridge Education, and Weija-Gbawe Municipal Education Directorate staff visit the Oblogo M/A Basic 1, in Accra, Ghana. ©UNICEF/Vera Acquah

As part of the initiative by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) to Scale-up Foundational Learning Remediation model known as the Differentiated Learning (DL), UNICEF Ghana Office was chosen, along with Zambia and South Africa, as one of the three countries to receive funding from BMGF.

The aim of the funding was to utilize existing structures and continuously reform and enhance Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) for primary school children in Ghana. To monitor the progress of this program, a delegation from BMGF conducted a five-day field visit in Ghana in June to engage with various stakeholders, including the DL technical working group involving National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NaCCA), National Teaching Council (NTC), National School Inspection Authority (NaSIA), and the Ghana Education Service (GES), responsible for implementing foundational learning using the DL approach. The purpose of the engagement was for the delegation to familiarize with the Ghana differentiated model and assess the capacity of implementing partners in the varied partnerships in executing the

reforms, in a more holistic approach, and especially, to appreciate school level practice to improving students learning in basic schools.

A Senior Advisor for Education at BMGF, Dr. Asyia Kazmi, led the delegation and had the opportunity to observe the successful implementation of DL in three schools (New Gbawe MA Basic; Oblogo MA Basic in Accra, and Garisson Basic School in Kumasi). They interacted with teachers, students, and school administrators to gain insights into the impact of DL on teaching and learning outcomes for all children.

Addressing the issue of access to foundational learning, Dr. Asyia emphasized the importance of delivering instruction at the appropriate level.

Girls' innovative prowess making a difference

Evelyn Baah Asante Opokuaa, a former student of the Methodist Girls' Senior High School, initially had no interest in science-related courses due to societal biases.

However, she took a bold step to join the Renewable Energy Club in her school. Together with the team, they developed an automatic waste sorting bin as a result of their research and determination. Recognizing the importance of supporting such initiatives, the UNDP and Coca-Cola Foundation awarded three senior high schools in Ghana with \$9,000 through a waste innovation challenge. The benefits of the UNDP's support, according to the Headmistress of the school, are enormous, as the opportunity also sparked up innovation among other young girls who didn't have the interest in the science and innovation space, just like Evelyn. **Read ahead.**

Using gamification to improve STEM Teaching & Learning



Participants at the workshop @ UNICEF

From the 6th to 9th June 2023, the Center for National Distance Learning and Open Schooling (CENDLOS) with UNICEF's support and in collaboration with the Ghana Education Service (GES) and other partners organized a training on MINECRAFT Education in Kumasi for thirty (30) Head Teachers and ICT teachers selected from 13 Senior High and 2 Basic schools.

The workshop aimed at equipping Heads of schools with the knowledge to transmit the power of using games through self and guided learning approaches to build digital skills such as coding, and critical thinking to their teachers and students so they can better appreciate, comprehend, and choose Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programmes in school and beyond.

During the opening session, the Executive Director of CENDLOS, Nana Gyamfi Adwabour, mentioned that "The 21st century calls for employable skills, digital skills, and coding is one of them. ICT is taking over; coding AI is taking over; and in Ghana, we don't want to be left out".

UNICEF-Minecraft partnership programme is leveraging the Learning Passport initiative – a technology already deployed and used by Government of Ghana and supported by UNICEF to amplify self-paced learning for students and learners in Junior and Senior High Schools. It is worth mentioning that Ghana is one of the first countries, if not the first to introduce MINECRAFT education in its education system through UNICEF support and collaboration. A total of 39,252 (20,282 girls) students and learners are targeted for the initial phase of this programme. The goal is to reach over 600 Senior High Schools in Ghana. The Learning Passport and Minecraft Education Learning Management System (LMS) will be officially launched in August 2023 during the National Digital and Distance Learning Conference in Accra.

Supporting health care delivery in Ghana

To ensure midwives acquire effective and efficient training to improve maternal healthcare delivery in Ghana, UNFPA has donated midwifery training and tools to the Nursing Department of Midwifery at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (KNUST).

Estimated at a cost of US\$30,000, the equipment included dilation curettage instruments, tenaculum uterine forceps, delivery trolley, uterine sound, suction machines, adult, and baby weighing scales, birth stimulators, cervical cerclage models, sims vaginal speculum and uterine dilators. [Read more.](#)



Some of the midwifery equipment. ©UNFPA

UNFPA has also handed over an upgraded warehouse to the Bono East Regional Health Directorate of the Ghana Health Service (GHS) in Kintampo to improve access to health commodities including reproductive health supplies.

The handing over ceremony attended by the Bono East Regional Minister, Hon. Kwasi Adu-Gyan, the Director-General of the GHS, Dr. Patrick Kuma-Aboagye, UNFPA Country Representative, Dr. Wilfred Ochan, Health Systems Strengthening Team Lead of USAID Ghana, Ms. Elizabeth Williams, medical directors of the Bono East Regional Health Directorate as well as traditional rulers within the region. [Read more.](#)



Dignitaries at the ceremony symbolically handing over the upgraded medical warehouse/store to the Bono East Regional Regional Directorate of GHS. ©UNFPA Ghana

UN assists Points of Entries in public health preparedness

UNDP, in collaboration with the GHS and with financial support from the Government of Japan, has established mobile laboratories at four key Points of Entry in Ghana.

These laboratories have been set up to enable prompt and accurate detection and response to public health emergencies. The four locations where the mobile laboratories are situated are the Kotoka International Airport in Accra and the borders along Aflao, Elubo, and Paga. [Read ahead.](#)



UNDP's Mr. Edward Ampratwum handing over the lab at the Elubo border to Dr. Gifty Amugi, Deputy Regional Director of Public Health, Western Region.
©Angela Bortey

In the last quarter, IOM Ghana brought together government representatives, border residents, officers of Border Management Agencies (BMAs), donors and partners to hand over Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and isolation facilities to the Port Health Directorate of the Ghana Health Service (GHS) at the various land borders. The interventions are funded by the Government of Japan through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Ghana, to strengthen the capacities of the borders to handle public health emergencies as part of the “Improving Border Facilitation and Strengthening Border Public Health Capacities in West Africa in Response to Infectious Diseases/COVID-19” project. [Read more](#)



Dignitaries at the ceremony cutting the ribbon for the opening of the facilities at the Elubo border ©IOM Ghana/Angela Bortey



The Japanese Ambassador to Ghana, H.E. MOCHIZUKI Hisanobu handing over the lab in Accra to Dr Patrick Kuma Aboagye, Director-General of the Ghana Health Service (GHS). Next to Dr Aboagye is the Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP in Ghana, Sukhrob Khoshmukhamedov. ©UNDP

IOM Ghana further handed over to the Port Health Directorate of GHS fully furnished prefabricated isolation structures at the Elubo, Aflao and Paga borders, and mechanized boreholes, a toilet facility and livelihood projects in the border communities of Hamile, Pusiga Mognori, Paga and Kulungugu.

The facilities will help to improve preparedness of Ghana's healthcare system, and allow the Government partners to effectively respond to public health threats at the points of entry, while the livelihood support is expected to strengthen social cohesion and reduce communities' vulnerabilities to exploitation by violent extremist organizations.

PEACE BEGINS WITH ME



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United Nations

Ghana



GOVERNANCE, PEACEBUILDING & SECURITY

Others
for peace



Building peace from the ground up: Nurturing harmony and resilience in communities



Some of the young people who participated in UNDP's 16x16 advocacy event. © UNDP GHANA

In a world too often plagued by conflict and discord, the pursuit of peace becomes an urgent and vital endeavor. To prevent disputes from escalating into large-scale conflicts, timely information about developing local crises is crucial for politicians, security agencies, and community leaders (Africa Renewal).

UNDP in Ghana is empowering women and youth in the fight against violent extremism through its Inclusive Integrated MSMEs Support Programme. Equipped with skills to identify early warning signs and report them to security agencies, these individuals serve as ambassadors for preventing violent extremism (PVE).

Beneficiaries such as [Ayaabila Ramatu](#) and [Naba Amadu](#) exemplify the crucial role community members play in educating others and resolving conflicts, paving the path towards peaceful change.

On International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, as we celebrate 75 years of UN Peacekeeping, the theme "Peace Begins with Me" reminds us that each individual has a role to play in promoting peace and security. Find out more in this [op-ed](#) by UNDP Resident Representative in Ghana, Angela Lusigi.

Assessment of Media Development in Ghana report launched in Accra

UNESCO Ghana has launched the Assessment of Media Development in Ghana based on UNESCO's Media Development Indicators. This report provides a detailed analysis of various aspects of the media landscape in Ghana as captured during the research conducted by Prof. Audrey Gadzekpo between 2017-2021, with a focus on:

- The state of the legal, regulatory and policy framework conducive to freedom of expression,
- The degree of media pluralism and diversity,
- The capability of the media to serve as a platform for democratic discourse,
- The availability of professional capacity building and supporting institutions,
- The infrastructural capacity to support an independent pluralist media.

The Representative of UNESCO to Ghana, Mr. Abdourahamane Diallo stated that this assessment will foster and enhance a free, independent and pluralist media in Ghana that will empower citizens with information and enable them to make informed choices by actively engaging and participating in democratic discourse and processes.

Prof. Audrey Gadzekpo presented the report's findings stating that authorities must do more to create safety for journalists and media institutions, ensure better information flow without risks, and end impunity by strongly sanctioning perpetrators of attacks.

Present at the ceremony were a representative from the National Communication Authority, the Executive Secretary of the National Media Commission and the President of the Ghana Journalists Association.

The Director of Finance and Administration for the Ministry of Information, Madame Patricia Dovi Sampson who launched the report on the assessment of Media Development in Ghana said women are misrepresented in the media landscape. She said media organizations should be supported and encouraged to develop and implement policies that promote gender and social inclusion.

In 2006, IPDC Intergovernmental Council at its 25th session developed Media Development Indicators (MDIs) through a broad international consultation. The MDIs define a framework within which the media can best contribute to, and benefit from, good governance and democratic development.

Access the full report [here](#).



Launch of the Assessment of Media Development in Ghana Report by Madame Patricia Dovi of the Ministry of Information. @UNESCO Ghana/George Koranteng Danso

National consultations to mainstream human security and gender equality into national border security strategy held

IOM and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in collaboration with STAR Ghana Foundation, have held consultation meetings with various security and border management stakeholders to identify recommendations for a roadmap to mainstream human security and gender equality into Ghana's border security strategy.

The consultations are part of interventions to support Government's efforts to reinforce the resilience of border communities to security threats and strengthen Ghana's border security.

Consultation participants drew lessons from ongoing interventions under the United Nations Trust Fund on Human Security (UNTFHS) funded "Enhancing Community Resilience and Social Cohesion amongst Select Border Communities in Northern Ghana" project, the "Strengthening the Northern Borders of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Togo" project funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), as well as from a vulnerability and security perception survey conducted in six border communities in the Upper East Region of Ghana (Namoo, Paga, Mognori, Pulmakom, Kulungugu and Paga).



Adelaide Anno-Kumi, Chief Director at the Ministry of the Interior, speaking at the national consultations
©IOM Ghana/Juliane Reissig

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ACTION



Ghana renews commitment to protecting the ocean



The President of Ghana, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo (middle in blue shirt) in a group photograph with high-level dignitaries at the Summit. On his right is Dr Eugene Owusu, the SDGs Advisor at the Office of the President, and the UN Resident Coordinator, Charles Abani (2nd from right) @Abdul-Rahim Naa Abdul-Lahie/ UNDPGhana

The President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo pledged Ghana's commitment to ensuring sustainable ocean management and called for a renewed commitment from all stakeholders to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 to protect life below water.

High-level panel discussions at the Summit emphasized the need for urgent actions to address challenges facing the ocean's health. Notable among these discussions was a session on addressing plastic pollution, which was moderated by Stephen Kansuk, Head of Environment and Climate at UNDP Ghana.

The panelists of this session called for behavioral change and individual actions to address the plastic menace affecting the ocean's health. They also called for innovative solutions from more entrepreneurs to turn waste into resources to address unemployment. [Read ahead.](#)

UN in Ghana unites actions to #beatplasticpollution for a more sustainable future



Some of the UNFPA and UNDP Ghana youth that participated in the Twitter Chat. @UNDP Ghana

Plastic pollution has become a pressing issue in recent years, posing a threat to our environment and endangering ecosystems. In Ghana, approximately 250,000 tons of plastic waste is generated each year, highlighting the need for effective solutions.

The United Nations in Ghana is actively working to raise awareness and promote sustainable practices. The initiative has recently been supported by several other organizations and individuals who are committed to creating an environmentally friendly future. In one such event, the public was engaged on a Twitter Chat. The discussion brought together experts, activists, the youth including YoLe Fellows of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Ghana and concerned citizens to address the urgent need for sustainable practices to help curb the alarming rate of pollution.

Participants made pledges towards a cleaner and healthier environment, committing to consciously purchase products packaged in eco-friendly materials, actively engage in community clean-ups and beach restoration initiatives, segregate and recycle waste, advocate for policy changes to promote sustainability and promote the use of reusable products within their communities and networks. The UNDP Resident Representative in Ghana, Angela Lusigi, urged the participants to turn their pledges into action by choosing reusable products, spreading the word to sensitize others and by segregating and recycling waste. [Read ahead.](#)

In conjunction with the [Diaspora for Climate Action](#) project, IOM gave the floor to three youth leaders to share their views on the topic “Diaspora & Ghanaian Youth for Climate Action” in a first [GCM Talk Ghana on Twitter Spaces](#): Bismark Osiakwa, Founder and Project Lead of Reusable Bags GH, who recently returned from Germany; Betty Osei Bonsu from the Green Africa Youth Organisation (GAYO), currently based in Germany; and Gideon Commey, UK-based activist and doctoral researcher (Food Systems).





Some of the students on site cleaning. @UNIC Accra

GCM Talk Ghana is a new series of online engagements which is inspired by the UN Network on Migration's series of global and regional consultations and peer-learning exchanges – GCM Talks – on how best to implement the Global Compact for Migration (GCM).

The United Nations Information Centre, Accra partnered with a group of students, led by 17-year-old Alicia Asante to clean up beaches and repurpose plastic bottles into toddler beds, which were later donated to the Tema Manhean Polyclinic.

The Medical Officer, Dr. Edmund Gattor, received the donation on behalf of the clinic, and assured that the beds would be put to good use.

The exercise aimed to inspire the youth to take action by safeguarding the environment to protect their future.

The Public Information Assistant at the UN Information Centre, Accra, Ms. Majorie Akosua Otu said repurposing plastic bottles into beds will help to reduce and reuse plastic waste. She noted that every effort, no matter how small, can make a significant difference in achieving an environmentally conscious world.



Cleaned plastic bottles being repurposed. @UNIC Accra



The beds ready to be covered. @UNIC Accra



UN Days and Observances

Mobilizing partners to end obstetric fistula in Ghana by 2030



A group photo by some representatives who participated in event to end Obstetric Fistula in Ghana. ©UNFPA Ghana

The UN and partners observed International Day to End Obstetric Fistula (IDEOF), a medical condition that affects women in the process of childbirth, on the theme: “20 Years on Progress but not Enough! Act Now to End Fistula by 2030.”

Globally, it is estimated that about 500,000 women and girls live with fistula with new cases being recorded every year. In Ghana, 1,300 cases are recorded every year due to factors including protracted childbirth, child marriage and lack of skilled midwifery or high-quality maternal care.

The Embassy of Norway in collaboration with UNFPA mobilized various actors in Government, the diplomatic/international development community, civil society, traditional leaders, the private sector, as well as the media for an event, dubbed “Partnerships to End Obstetric Fistula in Ghana” to bring attention to the urgent need to end Obstetric Fistula in Ghana. [Read ahead.](#)



Taiwo Azan, a fistula survivor sharing her story at the event. ©UNFPA Ghana

Enhance the absorption capacity in refugee hosting Districts - UNHCR Representative



Refugees giving remarks during the celebration. ©UNHCR Ghana

The Country Representative for UNHCR, Ms. Esther Kiragu, has called on development partners to prioritize refugee hosting Districts in both the Upper East and Upper West Regions in their development support plans.

These two regions are receiving the current emergency influx of refugees from Burkina Faso into Ghana. She said this is very important to help avoid conflicts over resources such as water, sanitation, education, and health, and for maintaining peaceful co-existence between the refugees and their host.

Ms. Kiragu was speaking at a ceremony commemorating World Refugee Day in Accra. She said social services in the North were already overstretched even before the arrival of the refugees, highlighting the need to enhance the absorption capacity of these basic services and resources following the influx of refugees. [Read more.](#)

UN in Ghana supports refugees rebuild their lives

In May/June, the UN in Ghana, through the United State Resettlement Admission Program (USRAP) and in collaboration with our partners, the Ghana Refugee Board, the Resettlement Support Centre Africa (RSC) and the US Citizenship and Immigration Service, assisted 200+ refugees with their resettlement process. The refugees from various countries are currently residing at Krisan Camp in the Western Region of Ghana as well as in urban areas, such as Accra, and are looking for resettlement to the USA. [Read more.](#)

Ghana marks 75th anniversary of Peacekeepers Day



The UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Charles Abani (left) joins other dignitaries to water the symbolic tree planted for peace. ©UNIC

For 75 years United Nations Peacekeepers have worked to bring peace in the world's most fragile political and security situations.

International Day of UN Peacekeepers is observed each year on 29 May to honor peacekeepers' selflessness and courage. The theme for this year's celebration is "Peace Begins with Me" which seeks to honor peacekeepers, past and present, who have served and sacrificed their lives serving under the United Nations flag.

To mark this year's 75th anniversary, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integrations, in partnership with other stakeholders, including the United Nations, held a ceremony in Accra.

The UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Charles Abani commended the tremendous contribution of Ghana and Ghanaian peacekeepers in peacekeeping missions. He singled out and commended Captain Cecilia Erzuah of Ghana who served as a peacekeeper with the United Nations Interim Security Force in Abyei (UNISFA) and was awarded the 2022 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year.

A tree was planted in memory of peacekeepers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. [Read More.](#)



DELIVERING AS ONE

Contributing agencies



UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2023

July	August	September
	Breastfeeding Week; 1-7	
	2023 Africa Women and Children Conference (AfriWOCC); 2 - 3	2023 SDG Summit; 18 - 19
	Int. Cluster Conference 2023, bringing together over 100 cluster network experts and leads across Africa and Europe; 22	
	BRICS Summit; 22 -24	
	Int. Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition; 23	
	World Water Week; 23 - 1 Sept	
	Global Forum on Gender Statistics; 29 - 31	
	Int Day for People of African Descent; 31	

UN DAYS

- WORLD HEPATITIS DAY (WHO) - 28 JULY
- WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS - 30 JULY
- INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FRIENDSHIP - 30 JULY
- INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY - 12 AUGUST
- WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY - 19 AUGUST
- INT. DAY FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT - 31 AUGUST
- INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE DAY - 8 SEPT
- INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY - 15 SEPT
- INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE - 21 SEPT
- INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SIGN LANGUAGE - 23 SEPT
- INT DAY FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION - 28 SEPT



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