

UN IN GHANA NEWSLETTER

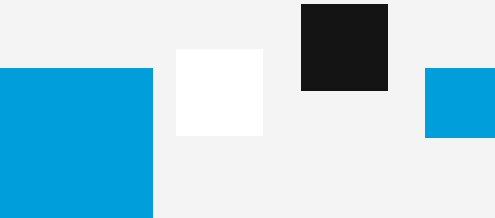


UNITED
NATIONS
GHANA



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Six Transitions: Investment Pathways to Deliver the SDGs

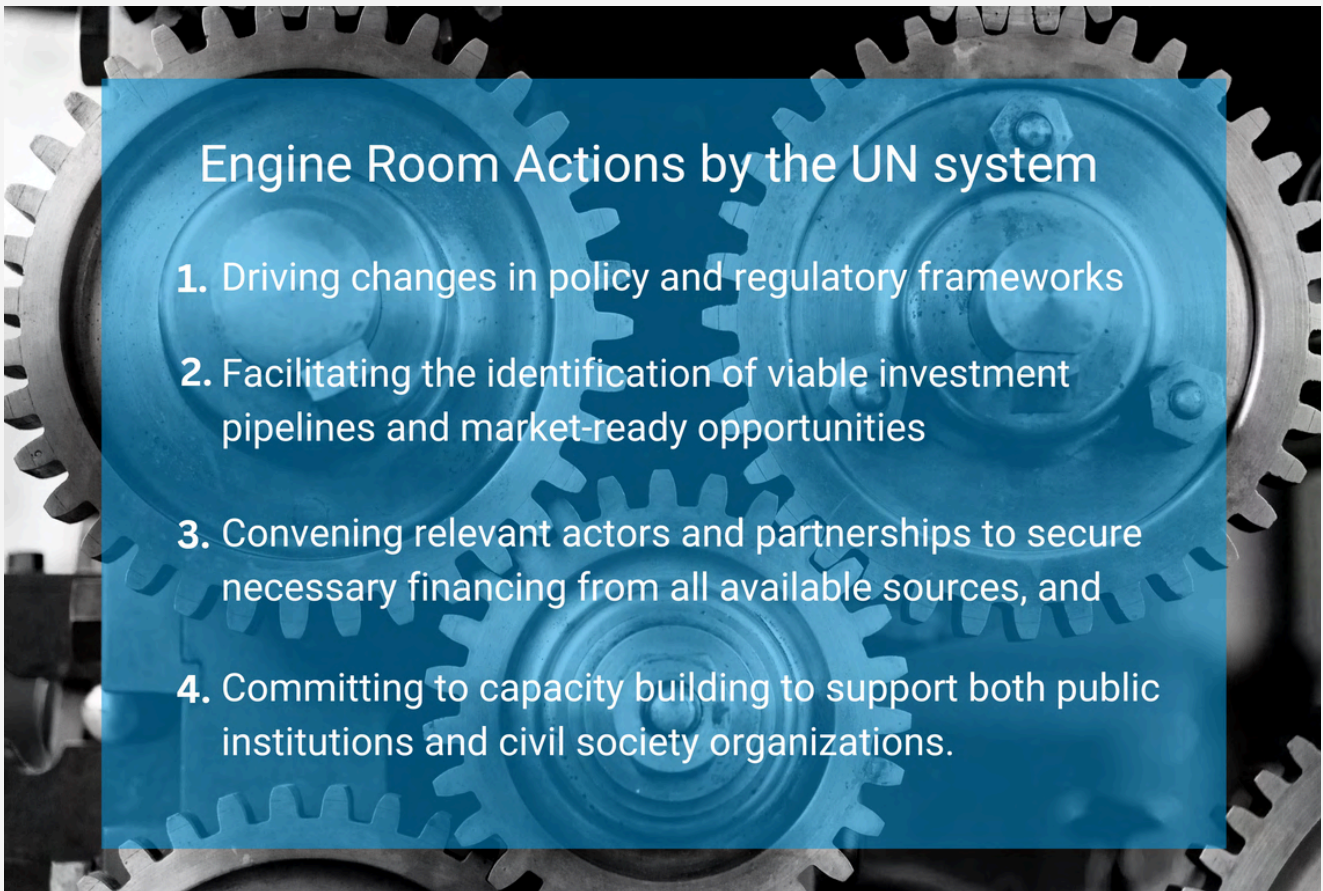


At the midpoint of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation, only 15% of the targets are progressing as planned. Close to half, though showing progress, are moderately or severely off track; and some 30% have either seen no movement or regressed below the 2015 baseline. At current rates, only 30% of all countries will achieve even SDG 1 on poverty by 2030. The dominant development structures and practices – our institutions, markets, investment incentives and policy processes – favour siloed approaches over integration. Continuing with the same way of doing things is unlikely to yield significant results. Given the high stakes involved, urgent transformation is required to drive the change we need.

How can we effectively address these challenges? The UN and its Member States must act now. Fortunately, existing research on the SDGs pinpoint critical transitions that are catalytic and can serve as multipliers across all the goals.

These so called “six transitions” are: (1) Food Systems; (2) Energy Access and Affordability; (3) Digital Connectivity; (4) Education; (5) Jobs and Social Protection; and (6) Climate Change,

Biodiversity loss and Pollution. Each transition requires integrated policies that encompass economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Within each area, the UN has also defined the effective means of implementation - four so-called “engine rooms” to enable the six transitions to thrive. These engine rooms include: 1) Driving changes in policy and regulatory frameworks, 2) Facilitating the identification of viable investment pipelines and market-ready opportunities, 3) Convening relevant actors and partnerships to secure necessary financing from all available sources, and 4) Committing to capacity building to support both public institutions and civil society organizations. These actions will ensure the sustainability of these transformative changes.



Each of these key transitions requires a consideration of multiple policy levers spanning economic, social and environmental dimensions, i.e., actions that recognize the integrated nature of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. This narrative on transformation – grounded in science and best practice – is supported by Member States. They are not a new agenda, nor a blueprint, nor a top-down effort to impose priorities that have not been identified at country level. Rather, the transitions represent a framework for action and create a momentum to realign the UN development system around a shared global narrative on SDG acceleration and a more powerful approach to achieve the SDGs, which requires working much more coherently to leverage the UN offer: data, integrated policy advice, the financing mix and RCs’ convening power across all those transformative areas and relevant stakeholders from public and private sectors.

The context is crucial, and each situation is distinct. The six transitions do not adhere to a one-size-fits-all approach and should be tailored to the specific development needs of each country. For Ghana, for instance, the Government has identified an additional ‘transition’ area of priority: sanitation. Therefore, the UN in Ghana will build a narrative around sanitation using the same actions as identified under the engine rooms.

Leveraging the whole system’s capacities to identify entry points and key stakeholders within the national context is critical. Moreover, employing this approach to guide result groups of the cooperation framework, to inform the preparation or revision of the Common Country Analysis, and to stimulate policy dialogue around the related investment pathways, at both national or subnational levels, holds the key to accelerating the achievement of the SDGs.



**INCLUSIVE
ECONOMIC
GROWTH &
TRANSFORMATION**

UN lends its support to MSMEs to enhance their businesses



The grants awardees with the partners. ©Abdul-Rahim Naa Abdul-Lahie/ UNDP Ghana

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has recognized the entrepreneurial drive and innovation of 18 women and youth-led Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) by awarding them a total of \$70,000 in grants to bolster their businesses.

This initiative is part of UNDP's comprehensive support program for MSMEs, aimed at enhancing their sustainability to foster job creation and spur economic growth.

The grant awards are a culmination of UNDP's ongoing efforts to empower entrepreneurs and nurture business growth. Through its integrated MSMEs support program, UNDP has provided a platform for nearly 3,000 participants to access vital resources and opportunities over the past four years.

In addition to these grants, UNDP has disbursed over \$500,000 through various initiatives, including the Youth Innovation for Sustainable Development (YISD) challenge, the Waste Recovery Platform, and the COVID-19 Innovation Challenge. These endeavors underscore UNDP's commitment to fostering innovation, resilience, and inclusive economic development in communities worldwide.

Meanwhile, the Ghana Enterprise Agency (GEA), under the close leadership of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, has received six Toyota Hilux pick-ups, alongside essential office equipment to enhance the delivery of training services across the nation using the Kaizen Approach.

This support, provided by the Government of Japan with technical assistance from the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) provides a significant boost to promote and enhance the productivity of Ghana's MSMEs.



Mr. Hisanobu Mochizuki, the Japanese Ambassador to Ghana (2nd Right) handing over the car keys to Mrs. Kosi Yankey – Ayeh, CEO of Ghana Enterprises Agency (2nd Left) flanked by Mr. Stavros Papastavrou, UNIDO in Ghana and Liberia Representative. © UNIDO Ghana

UN in Ghana at the All-Africa Games



Group photo of participants at Youth Pavilion © IOM Ghana/Francis Kokoroko

The 13th All-Africa Games, held in Accra, Ghana in March this year was a blast for young people as UN in Ghana, partnering with the African Union, engaged with hundreds of young people at its jointly organised Youth Pavilion.

Various events and activities, targeting young people were organized. UNFPA held a Masterclass on Sexual Reproductive Health to provide knowledge that will empower young people to make informed decisions about their reproductive health.

IOM's sessions underscored the importance of nurturing skills development and facilitating freer human mobility and regular migration pathways in Africa to empower young people to contribute to the socioeconomic development of the continent. Fighting irregular migration and human trafficking were also discussed.

“The encounters at the Youth Pavilion have highlighted the importance of partnerships – across the continent as well as locally where our collaboration with the Ghana Ministry of Youth and Sports has been further strengthened to ensure that no young person is left behind,” said IOM Ghana Chief of Mission Fatou Diallo Ndiaye. “We stand ready to support the youth to recognize their strengths, talents, and potential, and empower them to pursue their dreams with determination and conviction.”



Participants at the youth pavilion. © UNFPA Ghana

UNICEF, in partnership with the Youth Climate Council Ghana, set the stage for conversations on young people’s solutions for climate change. During the discussion, the youth shared ideas of employing resourcefulness to find solutions that tackle pressing climate challenges and pave the way for a resilient future for the nation and the planet.

A UN-Habitat-led discussion brought together, government, private sector and Civil Society representatives to explore the crucial role and contribution of sport to foster tolerance, respect and empowerment in achieving development and peace.

The youth at the Pavilion was further empowered through words of encouragement by IOM Goodwill Ambassador Paul Choy (Mauritius), and special video messages from IOM Goodwill Ambassadors Ama K. Abebrese and Kofi Kinaata (Ghana).

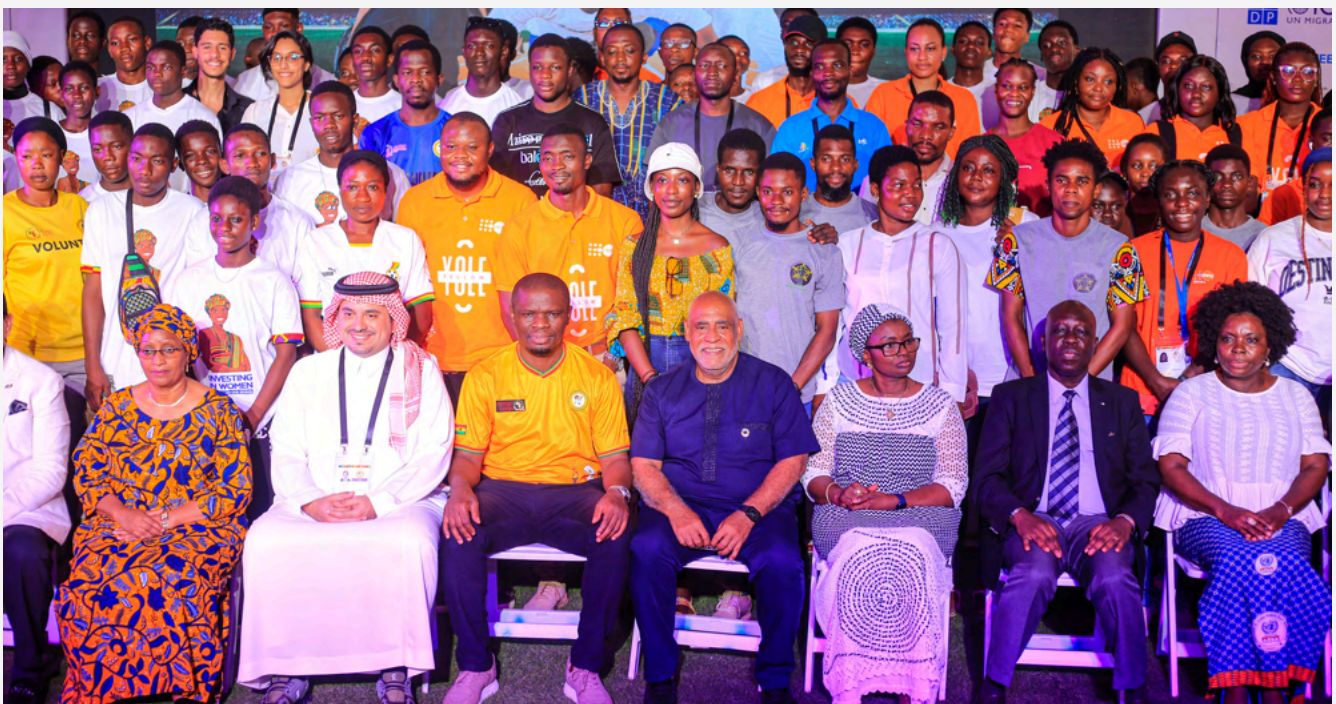
The UN Resident Coordinator in Ghana, Mr. Charles Abani, said sport for development is at the centre of the work of the UN in Ghana.



A panel of young experts from UNICEF, Youth Climate Council and Appcyclers discussing youth-led solutions for climate change. © UNICEF GHANA



The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ghana, Mr. Charles Abani, addressing the youth. © UNFPA Ghana



Group picture of dignitaries and participants © UNFPA Ghana

Baseline surveys for Innovate for Clean Agricultural Technologies project begin



INRA team member interviewing farmer. ©UNU-INRA

Researchers working on UNU INRA's INFoCAT project (Innovate for Clean Agricultural Technologies), are undertaking baseline surveys with smallholder rural farmers, agro-processors, policy makers and agritech entrepreneurs/innovators in selected regions in Ghana, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire.

The INFoCAT Ghana team began their baseline surveys in the Gomoa East District (Central Region) in March by interviewing individual smallholder farmers and having focus group discussions with predominantly women farmers and agro-processors their energy use in their agricultural activities. The team then moved to Yilo Krobo District (Eastern region) and North Tongu District (Volta region). The interviews were organised with the help of local District Agricultural officers of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ghana.

Gathering accurate data on current agricultural value chain practices, level of mechanisation, energy use patterns and needs of the INFoCAT target group, which is rural women farmers, are critical to the implementation of the INFoCAT. These baseline surveys are also to help the research team identify the energy and mechanisation gaps existing within these smallholder farming communities and provide valuable insights required for development of the most efficient agritech solutions to meet the needs of these farmers.

With the inefficiency and hazardous effects caused by fossil-powered agricultural activities such as plowing, planting, irrigation, harvesting and post-harvest processes, there is a need for clean energy-powered agro-technologies. INFoCAT is funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. Project partners are ENDA Energie (Senegal) and UNU INRA Operating Unit in Côte d'Ivoire.



INRA team interviewing Gari processors in Gomoa District. ©UNU-INRA

Cash to support Burkinabé asylum seekers in Ghana's Upper East region



Tani, a WFP PO (Gender), ensures a beneficiary counts her cash before leaving the reception centre.
© Jude Sivormey/WFP Ghana

Yakubu Inusha, a 24-year-old asylum seeker, received cash support in March 2024 while settling in Ghana's Upper East region after fleeing insecurity in Burkina Faso. His journey started in July 2023 when he and his family fled Nianle, Burkina Faso, after witnessing violence and destruction in their community.

After a perilous journey, Inusah and his family, including parents, brothers, and nephews, ended up in Ghana, facing food shortages after losing their livelihoods. They stayed briefly in Gentiga before being relocated to Tarikom by the Ghanaian government for safety, along with other Burkinabe households.

The World Food Programme (WFP), in partnership with the Ghana Refugee Board, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Youth Leaders of the UN Population Fund (UNFPS), World Vision Ghana, ABSA Bank, and the local community leaders, conducted a verification and enrolment exercise of the asylum seekers. By the first week of March 2024, 231 households verified and enrolled onto the cash assistance programme, out of the dataset of over 350 households received from UNHCR. The selection process of households

aligned with the Government of Ghana's requirement.

The goal was to help asylum seekers secure food, nutrition, and livelihoods for resilience. The assistance was disbursed through WFP's financial service provider, ABSA Bank. In total, GHS 200,996 was disbursed to 231 households comprised of 165 female heads and 66 male heads, for the period March-April 2024. WFP plans to continue this support for six months.

Using the cash he received, Inusah acquired nutritious food and initiated a small business venture. He started buying and reselling phone credit to members of his community, marking a stride towards financial autonomy and envisioning a future brimming with hope and potential.

UN sets the path for cassava cluster development in West Africa



Group photo of delegation from UNIDO Liberia at Techiman with some cassava value chain beneficiaries of UNIDO . @UNIDO GHANA

UNIDO orchestrated a transformative B2B study tour from Liberia to Ghana, supported by the EU-funded West Africa Competitiveness Programme. The purpose was to promote cross-border collaboration in line with the 2030 Agenda, emphasizing the crucial role of South-South cooperation in driving economic growth.

Beneficiaries of the WACOMP – Liberia Cassava Transformation Project, led by the CERATH Development Organization, embarked on the 5-day. They sought to glean insights from Ghanaian counterparts engaged in the WACOMP – Ghana project, implemented by UNIDO, across various regions using a cluster development approach.

The tour featured immersive experiences at SMEs like OXY Industries Limited in Tema, renowned for innovative cassava-based product manufacturing. Visits to sites managed by Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology showcased advancements in gari processing techniques and sustainability practices. The Liberian delegation also explored innovative ventures at Valley View University, witnessing cassava's diverse applications in bread production and mushroom processing.

Dr. Frank Edem Kofigah, the Chief Commercial Officer of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, praised the delegation for their proactive involvement, highlighting the transformative impact of UNIDO's WACOMP initiatives in Ghana. Ms. Jessica Gaye from the Progressive Youth for Development cooperative expressed eagerness to embrace new strategies, anticipating prospects for economic empowerment in Liberia.

Mr. Enoch Ampratwum, CEO of OXY Industries, stressed to the Liberian delegation, "UNIDO's aid in overcoming operational hurdles and expanding market reach has been incredibly advantageous. The success of OXY Industries is intricately linked to the technical support provided by WACOMP-Ghana, which facilitated capacity enhancement and diversified market opportunities, ultimately fostering growth and sustainability."



UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
Progress by innovation

Accreditation

The Deutsche Akkreditierungsstelle attests with this Partial Accreditation Certificate that the testing laboratory

**Ghana Standards Authority
Biochemical Science laboratory
Shiashie-Legon-Madina Road,
Near Gulf House, P. O. BOX MB 245, ACCRA GHANA**

meets the requirements according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025:2018 for the conformity assessment activities listed in the annex to this certificate.



Tim Fuchs
Tim Fuchs

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

UN in Ghana continues work on the protection of migrants, including refugees & children



*IOM Ghana Goodwill Ambassador, Kofi Kinaata, welcoming Ghanaian returned migrants.
© IOM Ghana/Juliane Reissig.*

The Deputy Minister for Youth and Sports, Hon Evans Opoku Bobie, and IOM Ghana Goodwill Ambassador, Kofi Kinaata, recently joined the team of IOM and Government partners to welcome 143 Ghanaian returned migrants who voluntarily returned from Libya via a charter flight. [Read ahead.](#)

Kofi Kinaata who has been IOM Ghana's Goodwill Ambassador since 2017, reaffirmed his commitment to migration and migrants. He is now joined in his mission by Ama K. Abebrese, British-Ghanaian actress, television presenter, and film producer, as IOM Ghana's first-ever female Goodwill Ambassador. The announcement of their appointment as Goodwill Ambassadors was made as part of IOM's global unveiling of nine new IOM Goodwill Ambassadors worldwide, selected by IOM Director General, Amy Pope.

Collaboration is key to protecting migrants, including migrant children on the move. As part of IOM's ongoing partnership with UNICEF, a workshop to strengthen child protection measures in Sub-Saharan Africa took place in February in Accra. It concluded with a set of recommendations to be applied at national level to provide durable

and effective protection services to migrant children, and to enhance child protection mechanisms.

Also, 63 refugees from Sudan and the Central African Republic who had been living in Ghana for almost 10 years, departed Ghana to start anew in the USA through the United States Resettlement Admission Program (USRAP) from a collaboration of IOM, UNHCR Ghana, the Ghana Refugee Board, the Church World Service/Resettlement Support Center Africa (RSC Africa) and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Meanwhile, IOM has donated medical equipment to the St Martin de Porres Hospital in Eikwe in the Western Region, a key partner to provide medical assistance to refugees at the Krisan and Ampain camps.

Joint initiative for the implementation of the Ghana Accelerated Action Plan against Child Labour launched



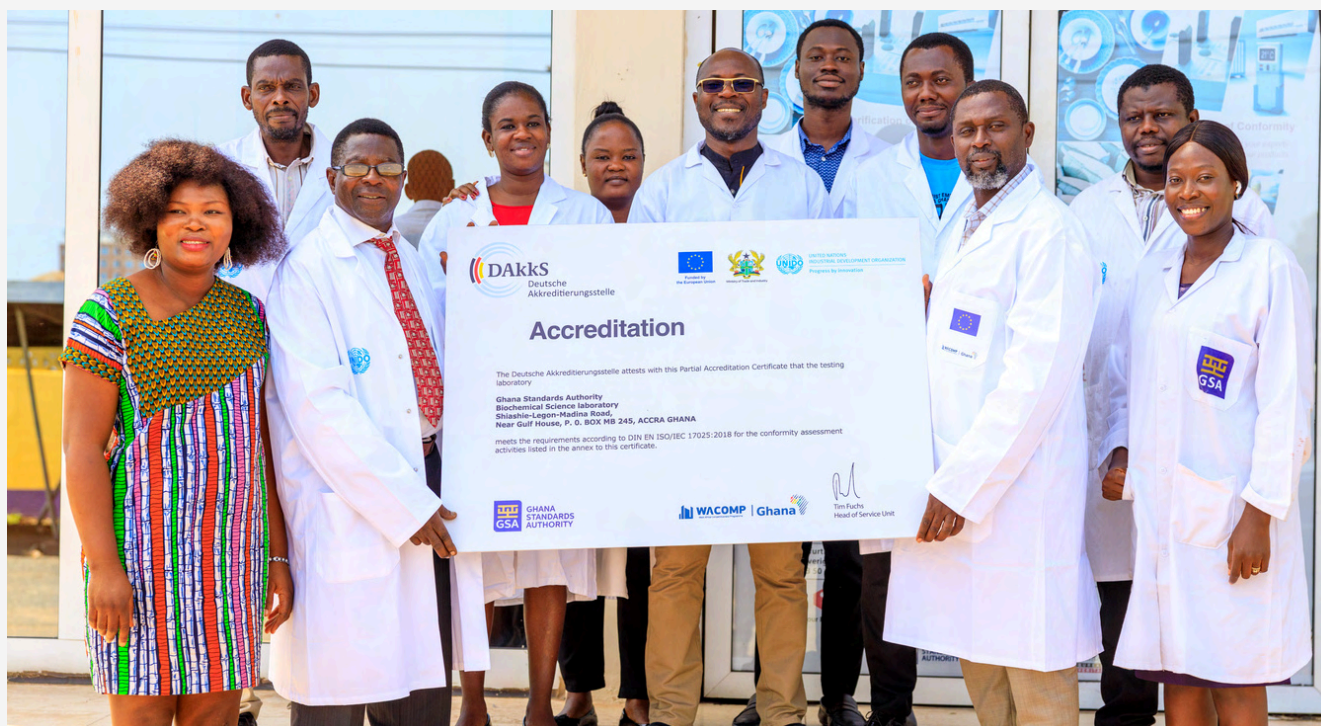
Government officials, partners and stakeholders at the launch of multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral initiatives to end child labour. © UNICEF GHANA

In Ghana, 28% of children aged 5 to 17 are involved in child labour.

While various government and multi-stakeholder groups have made efforts to monitor and combat child labour, there is a lack of alignment in the systems.

In March, the Government of Ghana, the International Labour Organization, UNICEF, the International Cocoa Initiative, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) launched joint initiatives which will enable all partners to work together in implementing the Ghana Accelerated Action Plan Against Child Labour. [Read more.](#)

GSA cosmetics laboratory accredited in testing methods



GSA cosmetic laboratory team with Mr. Fredrick Gyamera Owusu (2nd on the left) holding the enlarged copy of the accreditation certificate with Dr. Martin Adarkwa – Yiadom, Head of Drugs, Cosmetics, and Forensic Science Laboratory of the GSA, UNIDO Quality Infrastructure expert, and Mrs. Linda Gyala Hofe (1st on the left), UNIDO Communication and Visibility expert. ©Linda Gyala Hofe/UNIDO

UNIDO continues to provide the necessary technical support to the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) Cosmetics Laboratory to strengthen its competence to test and certify cosmetic products produced in Ghana.

The cosmetic laboratory has expanded its testing capacities by implementing DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025:2018 standards. With support from WACOMP, it has also bolstered its capabilities for conformity assessment activities, thus enhancing its overall performance.

The laboratory was recently assessed on-site by the Deutsche Akkreditierungsstelle GmbH (DAkkS), an entrusted national accreditation body of the Federal Republic of Germany. It has since been accredited. This puts the laboratory of Ghana's GSA in the lead with the largest ISO accreditation scope in Africa.

As a result of the 2023 ISO accreditation, GSA has now improved its international recognition in the testing of regulated products in cosmetics, and the laboratory is now in an enviable position to compete with laboratories in Europe and Western countries.

Dr. Martin Adarkwa-Yiadom, Head of the Drugs, Cosmetics, and Forensic Science Laboratory at the GSA, commended his team's dedication in attaining this significant accreditation. He extended appreciation to the European Union and UNIDO for their technical assistance in securing the accreditation.

Mrs. Ebe Muschialli, WACOMP - Ghana's Project Manager, emphasized how the support to GSA enhances Ghanaian products' global competitiveness and boosts intra-African trade.

UN brings together key partners to fortify collaborations



'Discussions during UNOPS Partners Event. @UNOPS

UNOPS Ghana Multi-Country Office (GHMCO) convened a pivotal partners' meeting in Accra aimed at fortifying collaborations and expanding opportunities for joint ventures.

The gathering, which brought together current and prospective partners of UNOPS in Ghana, served to enhance the organization's visibility while fostering stronger alliances.

Distinguished attendees included senior management from UNOPS Ghana. The meeting also attracted representatives from diverse governmental and non-governmental entities.

UNOPS delivered a comprehensive overview of its capabilities and services, after which participants engaged in an interactive dialogue, exploring UNOPS' role and avenues for potential collaboration.

Feedback from partners underscored a commendable level of satisfaction with past collaborations, with many expressing keen interest in future engagements.

Noteworthy areas of interest for future collaboration included procurement for medical supplies, renewable energy solutions, and general support for sustainable development initiatives. Partners lauded the presentation for shedding light on UNOPS' diverse expertise, which had previously been underestimated or overlooked.



**GOVERNANCE,
PEACEBUILDING &
SECURITY**

Film-screening and dialogue to advance the Women, Peace and Security Agenda



Panelist at the discussion on WPS © UN Ghana

“Being a woman gave other women the opportunity to easily approach me” says Captain Esinam D. Baah, a Ghanaian soldier who once led her platoon for a year with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. Capt. Baah was sharing her peacekeeping experience on a panel discussion on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) during an event in Accra, Ghana.

In 2000, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on WPS in response to lessons learned on peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The Resolution called on countries to address the impacts that conflict had on women and girls around the world and to systematically include women in peacebuilding efforts, including peace talks, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction efforts.

The WPS agenda remains critically important today and thus strengthening the meaningful participation of women peacekeepers is a priority for UN peacekeeping, and it is an operational necessity.

To highlight the importance of the the WPS agenda and advance women inclusion in peacekeeping, the Department of Peace Operations’ Strategic Communications Section through the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Accra held a highly impactful panel discussion and film screening in Accra dedicated to advancing the role of women in peace and security efforts.

The event highlighted the success story of Ghana and national efforts at advancing this agenda. **Read ahead.**

Ghana advances implementation of Global Compact for Migration

In quarter one of 2024, the UN Network on Migration (UNNM) continued its work to support the Government of Ghana to advance with the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in the country by holding the inaugural and first regular meeting of the new National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) in Accra.

Established through a consultative process in 2023 with support from the UN Network on Migration under the EU-UN Building Migration Partnership project, funded by the European Union, the NCM is led by the Ministry of the Interior.

It brings together relevant government entities to achieve a whole-of-government approach to migration management and the implementation of the GCM. The NCM has an ambitious set of activities planned for 2024: the finalization of the national implementation plan for the GCM,

the establishment of a knowledge management platform, the roll out of a capacity building package, a consultation for local government authorities and the regularization of the NCM functions.

Subsequently, the NCM held a technical meeting to develop the National Implementation Plan for the GCM. Participating agencies agreed on a draft to be tabled for stakeholder consultation in April.

To further support the implementation of the NCM, the UN Network on Migration in Ghana has donated office furniture, ICT equipment and office supplies to the Ministry of Interior .

The UNNM meets on a quarterly basis to discuss how to further improve the coordination of the various UN Agencies' migration interventions - all to ensure the implementation of the GCM and Agenda 2030 in the country.



Group photo of participants at the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) meeting. @IOM Ghana/Juliane Reissig



CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT



Solar 'grandmas' powering communities in Ghana



One of the Solar Grandmothers, Salamatu.
©Praise Nutakor/UNDP Ghana

Salamatu, Dakota, and Afia, along with their fellow "solar grandmothers," are the vibrant heartbeats of their communities in Dupari and Zukupuri in the Upper West region of Ghana. They are all in their 60s, and their journey to becoming solar engineers is nothing short of inspiring.

These remarkable women, affectionately known as the "solar grandmothers," took the initiative to bring light and power to their off-grid communities. Together, they electrified 150 households, illuminating not just homes but also paving the way for a renewable energy revolution.

With the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the Global Environment Facility Small Grant Programme (UNDP GEF-SGP), they embarked on a life-changing journey to the Barefoot College in India. There, they received specialized training alongside other rural women, learning the intricacies of installing and maintaining solar lighting and power systems. **Read ahead.**

Forest conservation paves way for ecotourism potential



Yaw in the 20ha mushroom anti-hill landscape in the sacred forest in Zikpuri of the Upper West Region of Ghana. ©UNDP Ghana

Zukupuri in the Upper West region of Ghana, has a beautiful landscape, endowed with diverse natural resources including forests, wildlife, water bodies and unique mushroom anti-hills.

Recognizing the importance of the rich natural resources, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the Global Environment Facility Small Grant Programme, (UNDP GEF-SGP) collaborated with the people of Zukupuri and other adjoining villages to establish a 4,000-ha Community Resource Management Area (CREMA).

Ten communities in the CREMA were supported to restore and manage the landscape for the return of wildlife through agroecology schemes, planting, and natural regeneration.

Read ahead.

UN in Ghana promotes climate change & migration nexus



*The Mayor of Accra, Madam Elizabeth Naa Kwatsoe Tawiah Sackey at the project launch
©IOM Ghana/Juliane Reissig.*

IOM, in collaboration with the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA), has initiated a new project funded by the IOM Development Fund to assist the city of Accra in enhancing its management of human mobility within the framework of climate change. The objective is to integrate this crucial aspect into local policies, strategies, and city action plans, all with a focus on addressing the specific needs of migrants.

The project will also foster a knowledge exchange with stakeholders from countries in the East, Horn of Africa and Central Africa. A project steering committee has been established to oversee the progress of the project.

Earlier this year, IOM celebrated migrants as strong agents for [#ClimateAction](#) at the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

Three initiatives from Benin, Ghana and Philippines received their prizes during the [#Migrants4Climate](#) Award Ceremony organized with the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) in January in Geneva, Switzerland. Bismark Osiakwa, Founder and Project Lead of Reusable Bags GH, was the second laureate. When he returned to Ghana from Germany, he came with an idea to tackle climate action, creating opportunities for Ghanaian youth and advocating for safe migration. [Read ahead.](#)



UN DAYS & OBSERVANCES



UN in Ghana builds mid-shift classrooms for communities affected by the Akosombo Dam spillage



A representation of the UNICEF, UNESCO, USAID, FCDO team together with staff of Ghana Education Service at North Tongu District. ©UNICEF Ghana

Education is a powerful tool that can help break the cycle of poverty and empower children to reach their full potential.

To mark the International Day of Education, UNICEF, collaborated with UNESCO, USAID, and Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) to build tents in the North Tongu District, Volta Region, to ensure that children continue learning even in emergencies.

Together with community members, including children, the partners constructed five temporary learning spaces in three towns within the district for children whose classrooms were destroyed due to the Akosombo Dam Spillage. It was a meaningful experience to celebrate the International Day of Education with the communities, putting smiles on children's faces.

Thanks to the collective effort of the community and partners, every child affected by the spillage within the district had access to continued learning.

Promoting safe sex practices among tertiary students



Panelists speaking during the virtual dialogue titled "Wrappers On or Off Convo" at the Orange Loft@IUNFPA Ghana

In a bold and innovative move to tackle critical issues surrounding safe sex practices and well-being among young people in Ghana, the UNFPA Youth Leaders (YoLe) Fellows in partnership with Total Family Health Organization (TFHO) and Marie Stopes Ghana (MSG), held a two-day campaign themed "Promoting Safe Sex Practices Among Tertiary Students" in Accra from 13-14 February, 2024.

According to the 2022 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS), 80% of females between the ages of 15 and 24 had their most recent sex without condoms. Meanwhile 76% of men aged 15 to 49, according to the GDHS report are unaware of their HIV Status. These alarming statistics are evidence of the existing gaps in safe sex practices, which eventually contributes to the spread of Sexually Transmitted Diseases especially HIV/AIDS and teenage pregnancies.

The YoLe Fellows leveraged the occasion to empower young adults with essential knowledge, skills and resources to promote responsible sexual behaviour. The campaign was aimed at raising awareness and fostering a culture of informed decision-making and proactive health management among the youth.

Read ahead.

UN in Ghana marks Zero Discrimination Day



The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ghana, Mr. Charles Abani addressing the attendees. © UNIC Accra

The multi-sectoral stakeholder dialogue was held with key partners, including the Ministry of Justice and Office of the Attorney General, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, and Ghana AIDS Commission, among others to further advance the national commitment to eliminate all forms of stigma and discrimination and foster inclusivity, in line with the UN Cooperation Framework and principle of Leave No One Behind. This event climaxes the ten-day-long social media campaign on the same theme.

In his keynote address, Mr. Charles Abani, the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Ghana, emphasized the fundamental entitlements of every individual: the rights to life, dignity, respect, and uninterrupted existence, without discrimination against anyone. He reaffirmed the UN's dedication to assisting Ghana in guaranteeing that every citizen can live without fear of violence, stigma, or discrimination, aligning with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the 2030 agenda.

The Director-General of the Ghana AIDS Commission, Mr. Kyereme Atuahhene stressed on how HIV stigma affected every form of human existence from basic needs to healthcare. "HIV-related stigma and discrimination undermine life-saving treatment protocols and the likelihood of use of health services throughout the country. Stigma and discrimination towards new HIV infections tend to make some communities operate underground and prevent them from accessing human health services" he stated. **Read ahead.**

As part of the event, the UN Network on Migration explored how to promote equality for migrants and displaced communities in the country.

This event was made possible with support from the UN Network on Migration and IOM's Building Migration Partnerships project, funded by the European Union.

UN in Ghana holds outreach for young students on slavery and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade



Students watch the reenactment of slavery and slave trade. © UNIC Accra

In a compelling collaboration aimed at enlightening young minds, the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Accra teamed up with UNESCO, led by the Head of Office and Country Representative, Mr. Edmond Moukala N'Gouemo, to host an outreach event at the Ussher Fort to mark International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Over 100 students from selected schools in Accra attended the event, organised by UNIC Accra. Observed annually on 25 March, this year's observance was under the theme, "Creating Global Freedom: Countering Racism with Justice in Societies and Among Nations".

Mr. N'Gouemo shared insights from an African perspective, shedding light on the intellect and skills of enslaved ancestors. "Our forefathers were not just captured for their physical attributes," he emphasized, instilling a sense of pride in heritage among the students. Furthermore, he challenged students to be critical thinkers and use the lessons learnt from the briefing session to become change makers.

The National Information Officer at UNIC Accra, Madam Cynthia Prah, echoed the object of the Day, urging students to eschew hatred, bigotry and discrimination. She engaged the students in thought-provoking discussions about the inhumane acts and unimaginable suffering endured by victims of the slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade.

For his part, the National Program Officer at UNESCO, Mr. Carl Ampah stressed on the importance of preserving world heritage sites like the Ussher Fort. He said it is important that we work to ensure that the stories of the past remain vivid and relevant for generations to come, adding that "UNESCO designates and helps people know the histories or the heritage of different kinds of people".

Through dramatic reenactments and immersive experiences, the students were transported back in time, gaining a deeper understanding of the horrors of slavery and the importance of countering racism with justice in societies and among nations.

unicef 
for every child



DELIVERING AS ONE

Contributing agencies



UN DAYS & OTHER EVENTS

APRIL- JUNE 2024

April	May	June
	World Press Freedom Day (3 May)	World Environment Day (5 June)
	International Day of Families (15 May)	World Day Against Child Labour (12 June)
World Immunization Week, (24 -30 April) [WHO]	International Day of Living Together in Peace (16 May)	International Day for Countering Hate Speech (18 June)
International Girls in ICT Day (25 April)	International Day to End Obstetric Fistula (23 May)	World Refugee Day (20 June)
World Malaria Day [WHO] (25 April)	International Day of UN Peacekeepers (29 May)	
World Day for Safety and Health at Work (28 April)	World No-Tobacco Day [WHO] (31 May)	
	Inclusive Sport for Development Summit 2024 (May)	
	UN Civil Society Conference (9 - 10 May)	





UNITED NATIONS GHANA



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