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From prisoners to advocates in Ghana



Prison officers proudly promoting hashtag #PrisonersMatter after a training session. @UNDOC

Ghana's prison system, like many around the world, grapples with the significant challenge of managing drug supply and distribution. The harsh conditions and limited resources within these facilities can exacerbate substance abuse issues, with drugs like cannabis, diazepam, and opiates readily accessible behind bars. This environment often hinders prisoners, including those already struggling with addiction, from addressing their drug use disorders.

Discover how UN-supported Addiction, Treatment, Rehabilitation, and Recovery (ATTR) programme, implemented by the Ghana Prisons Service, is providing hope to prisoners and empowering them to transform their lives.

Supported by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the ATTR programme "has intrigued a lot of the prisoners; it has helped them to find balance in their lives," says Dr. (Supt.) Lawrence Kofi Acheampong, Forensic Physician and Medical Superintendent of Prisons Hospital, Nsawam.



Dr. (Supt.) Lawrence Kofi Acheampong.
Photo: ©Justice Selorm Gadri/Ghana Prisons Service



**INCLUSIVE
ECONOMIC
GROWTH &
TRANSFORMATION**

2024 SDGs Action Summit; a platform for joint commitment and a unified African voice towards accelerating progress on the SDGs



The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations & Chair of the UN Sustainable Group, Ms. Amina Mohammed virtually addressing the audience. Photo: ©UNIC Accra

With barely six years remaining, current progress falls short of what is required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), according to the 2024 SDGs report. In Africa, despite development policies and management over the past decade being greatly influenced by the SDGs and Agenda 2063, and significant strides made to embed them within national policy frameworks and reorganize institutional structures, the continent still lags behind in its achievement of the SDGs.

The current Africa Sustainable Development Report notes that without scaling up concessional development and climate financing, and transforming domestic reforms, Africa is unlikely to achieve the SDGs and Agenda 2063. To ignite renewed commitment to the SDGs and catalyze bold and collective actions for Africa's socio-economic transformation, the SDGs advisory unit at the Office of the President of Ghana, in partnership with the UN in Ghana and other partners, convened stakeholders in Accra in July

for the SDGs Action Summit 2024.

The 2024 SDGs Action Summit provided a platform for a unified African voice and reaffirmed a joint commitment to accelerating progress on SDG implementation ahead of the Summit of the Future, a high-level event that will bring world leaders together in September to establish a new international consensus on how to improve the present and safeguard the future. [Read further.](#)



The UN Resident Coordinator in Ghana, Mr. Charles Abani (middle) engaged in a panel discussion. Photo: ©UNIC Accra



The President of Ghana, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo with children, reps from the Department of Children & UNICEF, at the SDG Action Summit children's corner in Accra. Photo: @UNICEF/Dennis Nipah/2024

Meanwhile, the United Nations in Ghana is supporting the National Development Planning Commission in actively engaging with civil society organizations, youth, the private sector, development partners, academia, women's groups, and people living with disabilities to shape the country's position paper for the upcoming Summit of the Future. This position paper will also inform the Pact for the Future, which will be adopted by world leaders attending the Summit of the Future in New York. The Pact will include a Global Digital Compact and a Declaration on Future Generations as annexes. This rare opportunity will help rebuild trust and demonstrate that international cooperation can efficiently accomplish agreed-upon goals and address emerging threats and opportunities.

Led by UNICEF, a Children Model Summit of the Future was organized as a precursor to the SDG Action Summit held in Accra to include the voices of children from all regions in Ghana in the discussions. Children played a crucial role, interacting with leaders, discussing the SDGs, asking questions, and offering solutions. The Children's Corner, which featured videos of children's voices and SDG activities, hosted the President of Ghana, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, and other leaders. The children interacted with him and shared their thoughts on the Global Goals.

Investing in innovators to unlock limitless opportunities

Mark is a young Ghanaian innovator who is passionate about finding solutions to tackle challenges in his community in Kumasi, in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. But, like many others, he faced a major hurdle - lack of guidance and support - until he joined the Young Africa Innovates (YAI) programme.

The YAI pilot bootcamp, organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ghana, the National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme, and other partners, enables young innovators like Mark to gain access to expert training and mentorship to, among other things, refine their innovation and build a successful business. [Read further.](#)

Leveraging the investment power of many to crowd-in capital



Dignitaries with copies of the crowdfunding guidelines at the launch event. Photo: ©UNCDF

The UN continues to support the transformation of Ghana's financial landscape with the recent launch of comprehensive guidelines for investment-based crowdfunding.

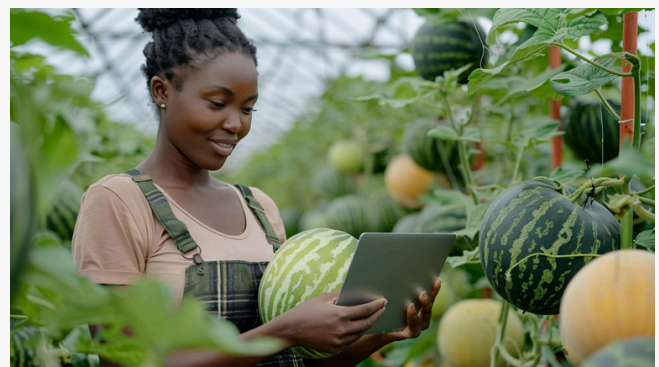
The intervention is a collaboration between the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of Ghana and the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). It signifies a commitment to fostering a more inclusive and active investment ecosystem. The guidelines, developed under the [GrEEn project](#)

with funding support from the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa is aimed at empowering businesses, safeguarding investors, and propelling Ghana towards a future of innovation and economic opportunity.

Prior to the development of clear regulations, crowdfunding in Ghana faced significant uncertainty. Promising businesses struggled to secure funding, while potential investors lacked the necessary confidence to participate. [Read further.](#)

New report highlights pathways to sustainable jobs

Despite high economic growth over the past decade, youth unemployment and underemployment remain a major challenge. Findings from the latest Ghana Human Development Report 2023, released by the United Nations Development Programme, in partnership with the Ghana Statistical Service and the National Development Planning Commission, reveal that Ghana's workforce is grappling with meaningful employment opportunities.



A farmer using a tablet to monitor and manage her watermelon in a greenhouse. Photo: ©UNDP

The findings from the report indicate that young people aged 15-24 are disproportionately impacted by unemployment, with a significant 65% experiencing joblessness. This trend has implications for the country's long-term development goals and human development, highlighting the need for targeted interventions to address youth unemployment and promoted inclusive economic growth. [Read further.](#)

EU, Ghana and UN Clusters show impact on job creation, industrial competitiveness and sustainability



Group photo of the participants at the cluster conference 2024. Photo: ©UNIDO

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), European Union (EU) and Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI) have organised the 3rd Cluster International Conference in Ghana to strengthen cluster inclusiveness for Small and Medium-scaled Enterprises (SMEs).

Mr. Stavros Papastavrou, UNIDO Officer in Charge of Ghana and Liberia noted the strong cooperation between UNIDO and the Government of Ghana citing the joint commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He highlighted UNIDO's support to SMEs' competitiveness and collective efficiency geared towards enhancing value addition, sustainable production and access to regional and global markets.

Discussions centred on how clusters can stimulate private sector competitiveness and gender equality, and reflected on how Ghana's clusters have thus far improved production, compliance with market requirements, market access and innovation. [Read further.](#)

Supporting Ghanaian returnees with business development skills

In the last quarter, IOM welcomed home 285 migrants who voluntarily returned from Libya via two charter flights. Their smooth reception was made possible through our collaboration with key Government of Ghana agencies including the Ghana Health Service, Ghana Immigration Service, Ghana Police Service, NADMO and the National Intelligence Bureau.

In that same period, IOM Ghana with NADMO and the Ghana Enterprises Agency delivered business development trainings for 438 returned migrants in six regions.

During the trainings, the migrants learned entrepreneurial skills to help them on their journeys to establish their own businesses, with start-up kits, tools and materials in the coming months.

Participants also received individual and group psychosocial therapy sessions from the Ghana Psychological Association, where they learned coping strategies for managing stress, anxiety, and other mental health concerns.

Simultaneously, in April, IOM Ghana organized a training on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support and the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment for government partners to equip them with skills related to supporting migrants with mental health challenges.

These activities were made possible with funding from the European Union under the Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration for Sub-Saharan Africa programme.



Business development training for returnees in Kintampo. Photo: IOM Ghana/Randi-Lyn Miller



HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES



Four years and counting: my education, my priority!



Comfort [first on the second desk] with friends in the classroom. Photo: ©UNESCO

Between 2016 and 2020, Ghana recorded 542,131 teenage pregnancies among adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 years, and 13,444 pregnancies among young teenagers aged 10 to 14 years, according to the Ghana Health Service District Health Information Management Health System (DHIMS). These numbers highlight a critical concern with lifetime ramifications on the lives, health, wealth and well-being of the affected adolescents, their children, families, communities, and the country. This statistic is what the Our Lives, Our Rights, Our Future (O3) project sort to reduce.

The O3 project in Ghana, funded by the Swedish International Development Agency, empowers young people to attain their full potential as adults. In its 4-year journey, the O3 project has reached over 150,000 learners with reproductive health education and trained close to 5,000 teachers in the delivery of gender transformative pedagogy and reproductive health education. Comfort Bidi, a 21-year-old mother of two, is one of the beneficiaries. She is currently a Junio High School student in the Volta region. She shared her story with us:

"Mostly we pay for printing, canteen fees among others, however, anytime I go to my parents to ask for money to pay for such and even upkeep in school, it was not forthcoming. Hence, I hardly went out during break time obviously because I

couldn't afford anything that is being sold. This continued for a while until one day, while in Primary 5, a JHS 1 boy asked why I do not buy anything neither was I out during break time, which I responded with my story. From there he started buying candies and other enticing things for me and I became his girlfriend. He had "money" because he was a pepper farmhand whilst schooling. Few months later, I became pregnant with our first child who is 6years now and dropped out of school. Some months later I got pregnant with our second. The headmaster frequented my home to check up on me and encouraged me to return to school, which I did four years ago.

My life turned for the better academically, when one day after lessons, Madam Rejoice, the then school based facilitator for the programme told us to stay behind for a co-curricular intervention. During the session, she taught us about the menstrual cycle. As a mother and still in primary school, aside fighting self-stigma, I was also looking for ways to prevent further pregnancies in order to complete my basic education, so I took the session very seriously. I was very empowered and till date, I have been using the knowledge acquired to prevent pregnancy and am currently in JHS 2. This intervention has really changed my life." More on the [O3 project](#).

UN supports Ghana to expand medical services for migrants and returnees



One of the first migrants benefitting from the services now offered by the Migration Health Assessment Centre in Kumasi. Photo: ©IOM Ghana/Randi-Lyn Miller

IOM has opened its second Migration Health Assessment Centre (MHAC) in the country.

Located in Kumasi, the Centre will serve those traveling to the UK, making it more convenient for visa applicants from Kumasi and the northern regions of Ghana. “I was so impressed with the facility and the service I experienced today,” said Mary, a migrant traveling to the UK. “The doctors and staff made the process seamless! I encourage everyone traveling to the UK to get their medicals done at IOM’s MHAC Kumasi.”

Meanwhile, to help strengthen the Ghana Health Service's (GHS) ability to fight Tuberculosis (TB) among Ghanaians, including people on the move, IOM recently donated office equipment to the National TB Control Programme of the GHS. Another donation of medical equipment was made 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.

The UN migration agency continues to work with its partners to provide medical assistance to returnees upon arrival and during their reintegration process. One returnee told us that he “was working as a mason in Libya when [he] fell from scaffolding. The doctors added metal into my leg to help me recover.” Eleven months later, he is scheduled to undergo a last surgery in Ghana. Ghana Health Service (GHS) takes care of the medical needs of returnees along with assistance from IOM once they have returned to their home communities.

Adding soybeans to school menu: Transforming Ghana's soybean value chain for sustainable impact



Female farmers in Katanga displaying their food after training. Photo: ©FAO

A project led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and funded by the Government of Japan is driving change in the soybean value chain across Ghana, emphasizing resilient production systems for smallholder farmers in the country's north. It is also promoting nutritious foods made from soybeans for school meals programs.

A hands-on training for some female farmers and school meals caterers in ten communities in the Savannah region covered value-chain dynamics, nutrition, food safety, the production of soy milk and soy kebabs, and incorporating soy into local dishes such as TZ, apapransa, dried okro soup, tubani, and koose for an added nutrition boost.

As a school feeding caterer in East Gonja, I've witnessed firsthand the positive impact of integrating soybean into our meals. Learning how to incorporate soy into various dishes has not only expanded our menu options but has also opened economic opportunities for women like me." Braimah Abiba, School Feeding Caterer in East Gonja, said.

"Integrating soybean into school meals offers a multitude of benefits. Its nutritional richness, cost-effectiveness, and adaptability to various flavours make it an ideal choice for enhancing the nutritional quality of meals served to school children," says Paulina Korangteng, Deputy Director of the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP) National Secretariat.

The soybean is a versatile legume native to East Asia that is gaining popularity in Ghana due to its high nutritional value as a plant-based source of protein and its economic potential. The plant can also enrich soil with nitrogen, reducing the need for synthetic fertilizers and improving soil fertility. This makes soybean farming a valuable practice for sustainable agriculture and better nutrition.

The Japan-funded project is part of FAO’s global One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) initiative which supports countries to develop green value chains for agricultural products. The training was implemented with the Government of Ghana’s GSFP, the national implementing partner, Women in Agricultural Development (WIAD), community led farmers and soybean processors.

The cohort who participated in the training have been guided on how to share their new knowledge and skills within their community, to cascade the learning to reach more people and ultimately have greater impact.

"Early feedback from participants indicates a keen interest in venturing into soybean processing and potential collaborations with school meals caterers to incorporate soy-based ingredients into school meal programs," FAO Nutrition and Food Systems Specialist Dr. Masayo Rossignoli said.

Women fonio farmers empowered in Ghana



Comfort Cobinaka, a fonio farmer in Ghana. Photo: ©FAO

In a collaborative effort to bolster food security and enhance the resilience of agrifood systems in Ghana, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and chef Fatmata Binta, with the support of the Government of Ghana’s Ministry of Food and Agriculture, have trained women fonio farmers on good agricultural practices to address the challenges of low yields and the labour-intensive nature of traditional fonio production methods.

Fonio is a nutrient-packed type of millet from West Africa known for its ability to thrive in harsh climates. In northern Ghana, it is predominantly grown by women. It is also one of the foods featured in an FAO publication on [100 ‘forgotten foods’ in Africa](#) – meaning it is underutilised.

The three-day intensive training, in Chereponi in Northern Ghana, was designed to equip the participants with essential knowledge and skills to boost fonio production.

Comfort Cobinaka, affectionately known in her community as “Mama Fonio,” has been a dedicated fonio farmer for over two decades, practising the farming methods she learned from her grandparents. "This training has been incredibly insightful. I now understand that sowing fonio seeds in rows is more effective than the broadcasting method I previously used," she said. [Read ahead.](#)

UN in Ghana hands over e-library to the National AIDS Control Programme



*Madam Dalila Gonçalves (2nd from left) joins officials to cut the sod marking the official opening of the e-library.
Photo: ©UNOPS*

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Africa Regional Director, Madam Dalila Gonçalves has visited the UNOPS Ghana office in Accra, which oversees project implementation in Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and The Gambia.

The visit was an opportunity to engage with the team in person and to meet partners from the Government of Ghana and International Organizations.

One of UNOPS' key areas of focus in Ghana is health and health-related procurement. The Regional Director and a delegation from the UNOPS Ghana team, led by the Director Ifeoma Charles-Monwuba, met with the Ghana Health Service Deputy Director-General, who thanked UNOPS for the crucial support provided in ensuring uninterrupted supply of HIV test kits, condoms and drugs during times when the country was facing serious risks of stock-outs of such medical items, particularly during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The team also met with the World Bank and the African Development Bank, two important partners of the Multi-Country Office, as well as other government officials.

Climaxing her visit, the Regional Director, the UNOPS Ghana Multi-Country Office Director and some personnel of the UNOPS Ghana team phanded over an e-library to the National AIDS Control Programme. The e-library, established in honour of the former President of Ghana, His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor, will serve as a central repository for HIV/AIDS-related resources, enhancing knowledge sharing, improving program effectiveness, and ultimately contributing to a more informed national response to HIV and AIDS.

This is one of the ways UNOPS supports a stronger healthcare system and digitalisation in Ghana.

Breaking barriers in Ghana: how positive female leadership can transform prisons



*Chief Superintendent Mary Asante Sarfo, Officer in Charge of Sunyani Female Prison.
Photo: ©Justice Selorm Gadri, Ghana Prisons Service*

Abena's four-year-old son sits in her lap, and calmness washes over him. As she holds on tightly, he falls asleep.

Just a few months ago, this wouldn't have been possible.

Abena is a prisoner at the Sunyani Female Prison. Until recently, children were not allowed to visit the prison for fear of 'contamination', and the only contact between them and their parents took place through a window. They could never touch.

Today, as a result of a policy directive from the Director-General of Prisons, visits by children are encouraged – an innovation in Ghana's

female prisons that has improved prisoner morale, strengthened their ties with family members, and brought Ghana in line with international standards and norms, such as the [Bangkok Rules](#).

The change came about in part due to the advocacy of Chief Superintendent Mary Asante Sarfo, Officer in Charge of the Sunyani Female Prison, who is one of a small but growing number of female senior figures in Ghana's prison service. In the complex world of prison administration, where maintaining security is sometimes perceived to clash with the need for humane treatment, Mary has emerged as an inspirational leader. [Read further](#).



**GOVERNANCE,
PEACEBUILDING &
SECURITY**

UN Network on Migration supports a National Implementation Plan for the Global Compact for Migration



*Meeting of Ghana's NCM on Migration to advance GCM implementation.
Photo: IOM Ghana/Randi-Lyn Miller*

Over the past quarter, the UN Network on Migration in Ghana has facilitated a series of interventions to support the country in its journey towards a National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the Global Compact for Migration (GCM).

Led by the Ministry of the Interior, Ghana's National Coordination Mechanism (NCM), the primary coordination platform for government on all things related to migration, held its second meeting to review the draft GCM NIP which is expected to strengthen migration governance and harness the benefits of migration for sustainable development.

The NCM's Thematic Working Groups for Border Management and for Labour Migration also held their first regular meetings to finalize their component of the draft GCM NIP, among other things.

The UN Network on Migration in Ghana also met with CSOs to discuss and review the draft GCM NIP to ensure the inclusion of CSO perspectives and determined next steps for the establishment of a CSO platform on migration.

The Ghana UN Network on Migration members - UNCDF, IFAD, UNICEF, ILO, UN Resident Coordinator Office and IOM – also met and discussed progress of implementation of the GCM. In line with the NCM's progress, the focus of the meeting was on the draft GCM NIP.

These activities are part of the EU-UN Building Migration Partnership project, funded by the European Union.

NADMO and UN partner to strengthen cross-border humanitarian response in Ghana



Kofi Osei, Head of the Migration and Reintegration Directorate at NADMO, stresses the need for partnership for a proactive humanitarian response. Photo: IOM Ghana/Angela Bortey

The National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO), the state-mandated agency responsible for the management of crises, is collaborating with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Ghana on the creation of a cross-border humanitarian crises response plan. This plan provides an inter-agency approach that guides border officials and local government actors to respond to crises in a timely, consistent, and coordinated manner to meet the immediate needs of displaced persons.

Key stakeholders from various government and development agencies, including Ghana Immigration Service, Ghana Police Service, World Health Organisation, the UN Refugee Agency, Ghana Refugee Board, Care International and Catholic Relief Services, have been actively involved in the development of the contingency plan through various stakeholder consultation meetings. Their input and expertise have been crucial in refining NADMO's draft plan and ensuring its effectiveness in addressing the needs of displaced populations and host communities. [Read further.](#)

Enhancing immigration governance, migration data management & border security

In a significant step to strengthen Ghana's border security, IOM Ghana has handed over renovated border posts in Namoo, Mognori and Pulmakom in the Upper East Region of Ghana to the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS). IOM continues to provide infrastructural support to Ghana as part of efforts to enhance the country's immigration and border governance, thanks to funding from the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the Government of the United States of America. Read ahead.

Deputy Minister for the Interior, Hon. Naana Eyah, emphasized the critical role of robust border management for maintaining national security and preventing transnational crime and irregular migration.

The upgraded facilities, equipped with the Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) and a solar power supply system, will enable GIS officers to more effectively process travellers in a secure and timely manner.

The border management information system MIDAS currently supports GIS border management operations at five land border crossings along Ghana's northern borders, namely Hamile, Kulungugu, Namoo, Mognori and Pulmakom, leading to enhanced migration data management through digitizing traveller processing across these border posts.

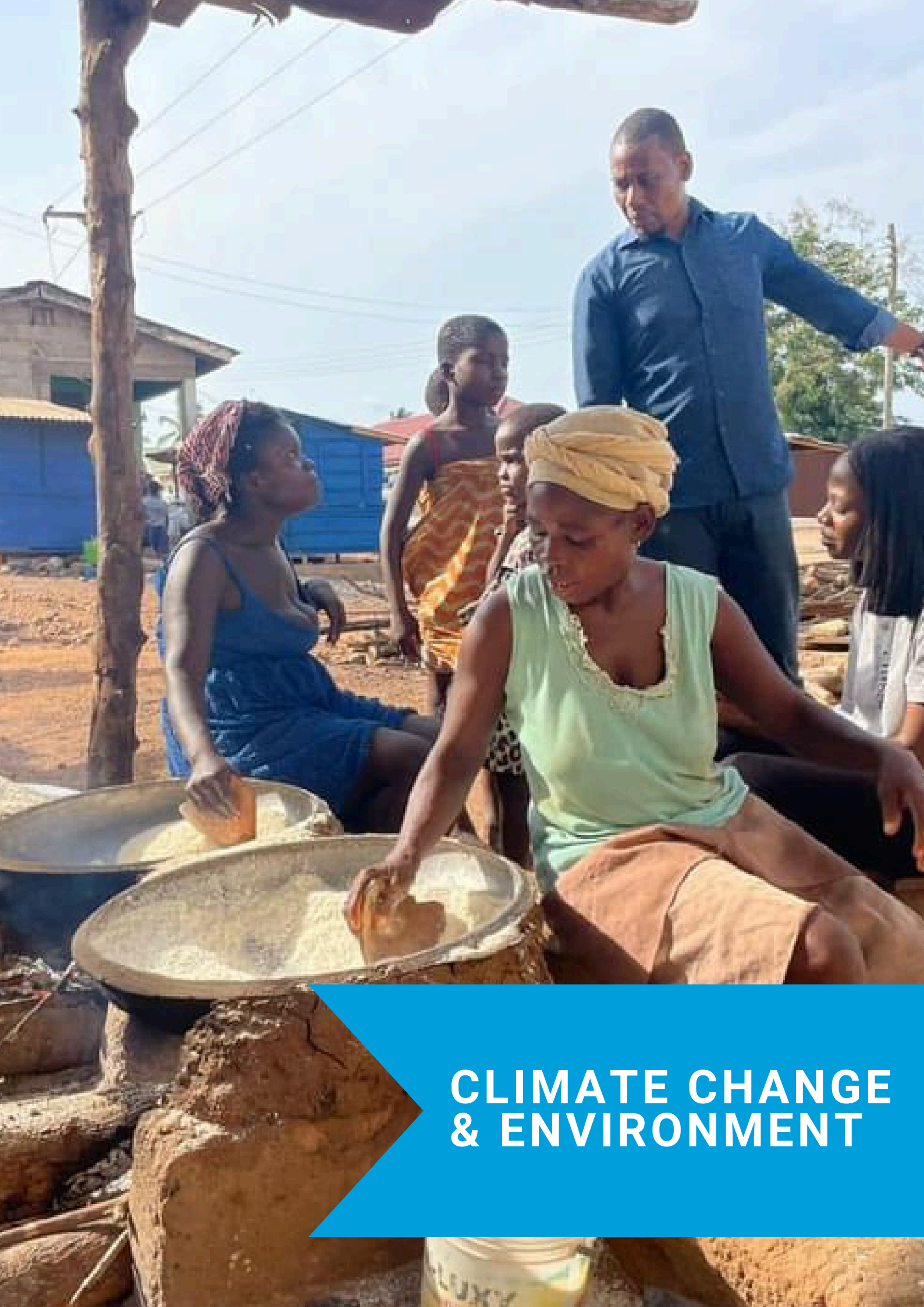
Discover how Priscilla Ampadu, Assistant Immigration Control Officer (AICO) II, working as an immigration officer at the Mognori Sector Command of GIS, is using MIDAS to facilitate smooth and safe travel processes at the border post.



IOM Ghana staff, Dep. Min. for the Interior, Hon. Naana Eyah Upper East Reg. Min., Hon. Hafiz Bin Salih & Comptroller-General of the Ghana Immigration Service, Mr. Kwame Asuah Takyi cutting the sod for the renovated border post at Namoo. Photo: @IOM Ghana/Angela Bortey



Assistant Immigration Control Officer (AICO) II, Priscilla Ampadu, Photo: @IOM Ghana/Angela Bortey



CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT

Call for clean agritech innovations rolled out



INFoCAT Calls for Clean Agri tech Innovations
Photo: @UNU-INRA

As part of its Innovate for Clean Agricultural Technologies (INFoCAT), UNU INRA rolled out a Call for Clean Agritech Innovations (The INFoCAT Innovation Challenge) to support Clean Agritech innovators in Ghana, Senegal and Cote D'Ivoire with a grant to scale up their innovations and provide them with assistance in bringing their products to the market. The Innovation challenge grant ranges from \$7-37,000. Another key element of the challenge is to assist successful innovators, with mentorship, technical support, technology piloting and fine-tuning their technologies to meet market demands.

The Call targeted clean energy powered technologies to serve the farming needs of small to medium scale farmers in mainly rice, maize, cassava and groundnut.

INFoCAT is funded by International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and project partners are Enda Energie (Senegal) and UNU INRA operating unit in Côte d'Ivoire.

Ghana launches new initiative to promote sustainable cocoa production



Participants engaged in a group exercise at the inception meeting of the Green Commodities Programme. Photo: @UNDP Ghana

Ghana has launched a new initiative in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Forestry Commission, and the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD), with funding from the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).

This collaboration marks Ghana's entry into the third phase of the Green Commodities Programme (III), building on the progress made since 2010 towards sustainable agricultural production. This joint effort aims to drive meaningful change and promote environmentally friendly practices in Ghana's agricultural sector. **Read further.**

6th Professor Kwapong Lecture on sustainable natural resource governance held



UN Resident Coordinator, Charles Abani, delivering his address at the 6th Kwapong lecture. ©UNU-INRA.

This year's UNU INRA annual Kwapong Lecture took place at the University of Ghana's Cedi Conference Centre with UNU's Rector, board members, government and private sector representatives, media and academia from sustainability and climate university departments in attendance.

The main speaker was the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Charles Abani. He spoke on the theme: Green wins: fostering a better dialogue towards sustainable, inclusive natural resource governance."

His presentation highlighted the challenges in Africa's natural resource management sector.

He also offered a glimpse of hope for the continent by proposing important considerations such as adopting integrated approaches that consider macro-economic, political and sectoral impacts.

Previous Kwapong lectures speakers include Professor Marwala, Rector of the United Nations University, Dr. Frannie Leautier, former Vice President of the African Development Bank, Dr. Youba Sokona, former Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and current UNU INRA board member, Professor Christopher Gordon, University of Ghana.

Read the full presentation of the Resident Coordinator [here](#).

Addressing food insecurity and climate change in northern Ghana



An aerial shot of the half-moon technique with plants and grass growing in a once degraded land in Tong, Karaga. Photo: @WFP.

As Sub-Saharan Africa reels from the cross-cutting effects of climate change on agriculture, food security, water and other vital sectors, simple effective sustainable actions need to be adopted to mitigate its effect. Karaga, one of the most food-insecure districts in Ghana, is faced with the adverse effects of climate change, worsened by human and non-human activities like bush burning, soil erosion, deforestation and degraded farmlands which result in low yields, poor incomes, hunger and malnutrition.

The World Food Programme (WFP), in partnership with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Departments of Food and Agriculture and SWIDA, a local non-governmental organization, is implementing a resilience building programme comprised of tree planting, soil erosion prevention, soil fertility conservation,

water conservation for dry season farming, vegetable farming, organic compost making and application, and homestead activities which construct smart stoves to reduce the use of firewood for fuel. The project aims at reclaiming degraded land, improving soil fertility for farming to improve yields, improving nutritional status, and providing sustainable livelihoods for especially women, in Bagli and Tong communities in Karaga.

The project has since its inception, assessed and mapped degraded lands for 600 vulnerable households including Yussif and Alidu's. Key activities include the rehabilitation of 16 hectares of degraded land through the construction of soil bunds, half-moons, micro-trenches, and long deep trenches to protect downstream farms and over 5,700 planted tree seedlings.

The project has introduced farmers to the production and application of organic fertilizers as an alternative to chemical fertilizer which has destroyed soil microorganisms. About 16 hectares of degraded lands are being rehabilitated and soil fertility preserved using resilience technology to control erosion, conserve and preserve soil fertility and water for dry season farming of vegetables.

“Our farmlands have become infertile because of years of farming using chemical fertilizers and pesticides. This has affected the yield and income from my farm so I’m not able to earn enough money to fund my children’s education and health needs,” said 22-year-old farmer, Yussif Mohammed, who cultivates 13 acres of maize and rice in Bagli.

Farmers like Alidu Mohammed who cultivates 17 acres of rice and vegetables in Bagli, are delighted with the new technology which is rehabilitating their infertile farmlands and reducing their dependence on chemical fertilizers.

Additionally, the project is reducing household reliance on firewood by constructing smart stoves that use less fuel than traditional cooking methods in order to reduce deforestation, while the communities embark on agroforestry planting teak, mango, citrus trees under the agroforestry component.

The DFAT intervention forms part of the broader goal of WFP Ghana to improve food systems, reduce hunger and malnutrition, and transform the lives of the vulnerable populations in line with its 2024-2028 Country Strategic Plan for Ghana.



WFP Staff inspecting half moons dug by the community in Bagli, Karaga. Photo: @WFP.

UN, AMA and partners committed to climate action in urban areas

The city of Accra has been impacted by rising temperatures, increasing sea levels, and flooding over the past decade leading to the destruction of city infrastructure as well as human loss in some cases. While its climate resilience is at stake, the city remains a territory of opportunity for internal migrants, from other parts of Ghana, as well as from international migrants from areas in neighbouring countries impacted by sea level rise, land degradation and erratic rainfall patterns. It is estimated that if measures are not taken, 100,000 to 150,000 persons may be forced to leave coastal areas in Ghana by 2050 due to accelerating erosion and increased intensity and frequency of floodings.

Coinciding with World Environment Day which falls on 5 June each year, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) organised a training on human mobility in the context of climate change, with a focus on urban areas, for Steering Committee members of the project titled “Strengthening the Capacity of the City of Accra to Manage Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change”. The project is a collaboration between IOM and the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA), and funded by the IOM Development Fund.

Participants improved their knowledge on the nexus between environment and human mobility; the drivers of environmental migration; the impacts of climate induced migration in urban areas; and existing legal and policy frameworks relevant to environmental migration at the international and continental levels. [Read more.](#)

UNU INRA hosts UGlobe team from Utrecht University



*ERASMUS Exchange Programme participants at the ACARP Compost and Recycling Plant
Photo: @UNU-INRA.*

UNU INRA has hosted some members of the UGlobe from Utrecht University in the Netherlands, for an Erasmus Exchange Program to further strengthen the organisations' partnership around Just Transitions.

The team visited the University of Ghana's Vice Chancellor and the Law and Economics Departments, and LEAD for Ghana, a not-for-profit leadership development and network social enterprise, domiciled in Accra. They also visited SESA, an organisation that develops recycling programs for plastics, aluminium, and papers and cardboards, and Ebapreneur Solutions, who are into production of briquettes, solar dryers and other green innovations. Another key visit was to the Accra Compost and Recycling Plant (ACARP), the first state-of the art waste sorting and composting facility in West Africa.

These field visits were to increase awareness of grassroots initiatives that are contributing to Ghana's environment, climate and natural resource management initiatives.



*ERASMUS Exchange Programme participants in the field.
@UNU-INRA*



UN DAYS & OBSERVANCES

UN in Ghana commemorates International Day of Play



UNICEF Chief, Education (L) joined the Deputy Minister of Education, Hon. John Ntim Fordjour (M) and the children to play the lime and spoon game. Photo: ©UNICEF Ghana /Eric Duah Agyemang/2024

Did you know 41% of children had been told to stop playing outside by either their parents or other adults especially their neighbours? But restricting children from play directly impedes their well-being and development.

In June, Ghana joined the rest of the world to mark the first ever International Day of Play. Play is a critical component of a child's growth and development. Play-based learning is an effective approach to engage students actively in the learning process. Also, it makes learning more enjoyable and relevant which motivates them and helps them retain information better.

During the day, UNICEF joined the Deputy Minister of Education, Hon. John Ntim Fordjour and the team from Ghana Education Service to celebrate the day with children at the Accra College of Education Demonstration School. We observed and interacted with students on Differentiated Learning Plus, a play-based learning approach.

The Minister also had fun with the children through series of games where he showed his excitement and reminisced his childhood days.

“For me, play helps me to develop new tactics. For example, in the game of chess or football, you learn new strategies to trap your opponents and win the game. It is also a gateway to learn new ways of learning.” ~ Benedict Abban, 10 years shared with us what play means to him.

Watch children express their thought on what play means to them in this [video](#).

UN and PEFIG commemorate International Day to End Obstetric Fistula

In a collective and urgent response to ending obstetric fistula - a disease that affects women in the process of childbirth, UNFPA Ghana and the Partnership to End Obstetric Fistula in Ghana (PEFIG), commemorated this year's International Day to End Obstetric Fistula to advocate for the prevention and treatment of the disease, which disrupts the health and well-being of mothers.

This year's theme is “Breaking the Cycle: Preventing Fistula in Ghana”. The guest of honor at the event was the First Lady of Ghana, Her Excellency Rebecca Akufo-Addo, who played a pivotal role in the launch of PEFIG in 2023. Since its inception, PEFIG has mobilized \$405,000 to support the treatment and reintegration of women who have been affected by the disease.

UNFPA Ghana has made substantial headway in the fight to end obstetric fistula and as such there has been an appreciable increase in the number of repairs, while membership of PEFIG has increased to include private sector, banks and the media.

Media Café launched to drive positive change for children worldwide

Recently, UNICEF Ghana was proud to announce the launch of the Media Café! This collaborative space will foster knowledge sharing and coordinate joint efforts between journalists, editors and UNICEF Ghana to advocate for children's rights and improve their lives in Ghana.

At the meeting, UNICEF Ghana's Country Representative, Osama Makkawi emphasized, "We need to work together and shift the narrative about our stories in Ghana and Africa!"

UNICEF Media Café brings together media professionals and advocates to drive positive change for children worldwide.

Dr. Wilfred Ochan meets with Ghanaian Youth

The Country Representative of UNFPA Ghana, Dr. Wilfred Ochan, met with some Ghanaian youth from selected organizations in Ghana. The hybrid occasion had participants based in Accra joining physically at the Orange Loft - UNFPA Ghana and the others joining virtually, on the 19th of June 2024. Participants representing various constituencies were categorized into: Youth-Led Organizations, Youth Groups, and Youth Networks.

The UNFPA has engaged with youth from across the country in alignment with UNFPA's third mandate to ensure that every young person's potential is fulfilled. Dr. Ochan interacted with the youth to learn more about their work, the impact they are having in their communities, their aspirations, and the challenges they encounter in their fields, in a bid to ensure their inclusion in decisions affecting them.



UNICEF Country Representative, Osama Makkawi (M) in a group picture with some staff of UNICEF and representatives from the media. Photo: UNICEF/Benjamin Kobina Amoah Dadson/2024

Celebrating culture with Asantehene at 25



Mr. Edmond Moukala, UNESCO Representative to Ghana [R] presenting a publication to His Royal Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II [Seated]. Photo: ©UNESCO

The Asante Kingdom organized a colourful event at Manhyia Palace in Kumasi, the seat of His Royal Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, in May 2024 to welcome the return of artefacts taken from the Kingdom over 150 years ago. The Head of Office of UNESCO Office in Accra and the UNESCO Representative to Ghana, Mr. Edmond Moukala delivered a speech on behalf of the Director General of UNESCO, Ms Audrey Azoulay.

The event, which was titled “Homecoming: Adversity and Commemoration” brought together various stakeholders and individuals. The event also saw the launch of two historical books written on the history of the Asante Kingdom.

Mr. Edmond Moukala spoke about how important it is to preserve cultural items and that international cooperation is crucial for the process. He said, UNESCO was ready to support Ghana’s efforts to enrich and sustain its culture. “It is important to sustain Ghana’s culture. It is what gives the people of Ghana an identity and as such must not be lost” he stressed.

Royal regalia, centuries-old manuscripts including ancient Asante symbols are among the returned artifacts, each of which has a unique historical and cultural importance to the Asante people. Throughout North America and Europe, museums and private collections housed these artifacts that for many years.

Expressing his gratitude for the repatriation of the treasures, the Asantehene Otumfuo Osei Tutu II stated that “the returned relics are more than just things; they are the essence of our kingdom. A return of our former splendour and dominion, he declared.”



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UN DAYS & OTHER EVENTS

AUGUST - OCTOBER 2024

August	September	October
<u>International Youth Day</u> (12 August)	<u>International Peace Day</u> (21 September)	<u>World Mental Health Day</u> (10 October)
<u>World Humanitarian Day</u> (19 August)	<u>International Day of Sign Languages</u> (23 September)	<u>International Day of the Girl Child</u> (11 October)
<u>International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition</u> (23 August)	<u>World Tourism Day</u> (27 September)	<u>International Day of Rural Women</u> (15 October)
<u>International Day for People of African Descent</u> (31 August)		<u>United Nations Day</u> (24 October)

22-23 September 2024

Summit of the Future

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