

# UN IN GHANA NEWSLETTER

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2024

Vol. 5 Issue 3



UNITED  
NATIONS  
GHANA





# In this edition

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Ghana signs historic Presidential Compact on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene to accelerate universal access to WASH services.
- Gomoa East District receives a seed storing and rice packing facility to improve the livelihood of rice farmers.
- FOREST Okyeman” Project: Building capacity of Okyeman Area’s CREMA leaders on natural resource management.
- Ghanaian media briefed on the Summit of the Future.
- 18,000 smallholder farmers supported to improve productivity in Northern Ghana
- UN in Ghana interventions lead to improvements in the performance of enterprises in the shea sector in Ghana.
- UN in Ghana continues to support Ghanaian returnees and survivors of trafficking.



# FOOD SYSTEMS

# Gomoa East District receives a seed storing and rice packaging facility to improve the livelihood of rice farmers



*A cross section of the stakeholders during the event. Photo: ©UNOPS*

**As part of the 'Rice Value Chain Improvement' project, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) handed over a seed-storing and rice-packing facility to the community of Gomoa East District in Ghana's Central Region. The project, in partnership with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and Ghana's Ministry of Food and Agriculture, aims to improve the livelihood of rice farmers in the country's Central Region.**

The community expressed profound joy, especially among the smallholder women rice farmers cooperatives after their rice was packed for sale under the brand name Central Agra Rice. Some of their produce was cooked and served at the event.

The handing over ceremony of the rice factory, built by UNOPS Ghana, was attended by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, the Regional Minister for the Central Region and the Korean Ambassador to Ghana, as well as by the UNOPS Ghana Director and Representative.

Through this project, UNOPS and its partners have successfully implemented a "farm to table" approach within the rice value chain. The project thus contributes to stronger food systems, one of the identified six key transitions that can have catalytic and multiplier effects across the SDGs. UNOPS is working to replicate this success in other regions and countries to support their food systems.

# 18,000 smallholder farmers supported to improve productivity in Northern Ghana

The high cost of farm inputs, a lingering effect of COVID-19 and ongoing global conflicts, has severely impacted vulnerable smallholder farmers, particularly in northern Ghana. This challenge is further exacerbated by a recent dry spell affecting northern Ghana and the transitional zones, worsening the already critical situation for these farmers.

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture estimates over 928,523 smallholder farmers have been affected by the prolonged dry spell brought about by climate change. The immediate consequence of this will be the heightened food insecurity of the smallholder farmers in the affected zones, which will limit their ability to meet their individual and family nutritional and income needs.



*A tractor ploughing Rolia's 3-acre farm at Wogu in the Daffiama-Busie-Issa District of the Upper West Region . Photo: ©WFP*

To mitigate the severe impacts of the prolonged dry spell, high inputs cost and build resilience for smallholder farmers, the USAID-funded Farmer Support Activity (FSA) being jointly implemented by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture extended cash support to 18,000 farmers who are predominantly women, youth and People Living With Disabilities (PLWDs) in 17 districts in the Northern, Upper East, North East and Upper West Regions in the months of June, July and August of 2024. Each of the beneficiary farmers received GHS 4,429.86 over the course of the farming season.

In advancing the commitment of the WFP to supporting women in agriculture, under the FSA, the beneficiary-targeting approach was used to ensure that smallholder farmers who need the support were selected, especially female youthful farmers. Out of a total beneficiary number of eighteen thousand, fifty-nine percent (59%) are women and out of ten thousand six hundred and thirty-one youthful beneficiaries, fifty-six percent (56%) are women.

Rolia Sonkooro, a 26-year woman farmer from Wogu in the Daffiama-Busie-Issa District of the Upper West Region, a beneficiary of the Farmer Support Activity, received GHS 4,429.86 in three tranches of GHS 1,476.62 in June, July and August. She narrates how the support enabled her to secure the necessary farm production inputs including certified seeds, fertilizers and timely ploughing services, to expand her farm from an acre to 3 acres.

*"When the WFP came to our community and said they were going to support farmers, I did not believe it. Later, they gave me a voice message in my local language (Dagaare) and told me I was selected for the support. I received 1,476 in June and the same amount in July and August. Last year, I cultivated one acre of maize but because of the money, I increased my farm to three acres. I used the money to pay for a tractor to plough, I bought the agric seeds and fertilizers".*

# EU and UN in Ghana to strengthen resilience of over 12,600 farmers amid dry spell in Northern Ghana



Harvesting of a millet field in Bukpunguru Nankpanduri District. ©FAO/George Koranteng.. Photo: ©FAO

**In response to the prolonged dry spell affecting thousands of farmers in Northern Ghana, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with the European Union (EU), is rolling out a series of interventions to address food insecurity and support agricultural recovery in six targeted districts: North East Gonja, North Gonja, Central Gonja, Bongo, Kasena Nankana West, and Bunkpurugu Nakpanduri.**

These combined efforts, under the EU Food Security Response in Northern Ghana, in partnership with the Government of Ghana, aim to support over 12,600 farmers to mitigate the immediate impacts of the prolonged dry spell while laying the groundwork for long-term resilience in affected communities.

As part of the response in the six districts, two Training of Trainers (TOT) sessions on improved grain storage technologies will be conducted to enhance the capacities of value chain actors, focusing on seed and grain producers. These trainings will provide knowledge on post-harvest handling of grains such as maize and millet, aiming to reduce food loss both at the farm and at

storage centres.

The project will promote dry-season vegetable production by providing capacity development on climate-adapted farming practices and inputs, including vegetable seeds (tomato, leafy greens, etc.) to smallholder farmers in the six target districts. This initiative aims to diversify and increase income sources for farmers while improving household nutrition, and contributing to sustainable agricultural production. Off-season vegetable cultivation is due to start in October.

These interventions are part of a broader strategy by FAO and the EU to ensure the resilience of agricultural systems in Northern Ghana and address the growing food security challenges posed by the dry spell.

Earlier this year, FAO and the EU delivered 118,000 kg of maize seeds, 3,000 kg of sorghum foundation seeds, and 540 kg of millet foundation seeds to support 12,600 smallholder farmers. This also included 1,560,000 kg of NPK fertilizer and 700,000 kg of urea fertilizers to boost the productivity of their yields. [Read more.](#)



# International Youth Day commemorated with a focus on digital innovation



*Participants, UNICEF staff and panelists for the break-out session pose for a group photo during the International Youth Day 2024 event at the Pentecost Convention Centre in Gomoa Fetteh, Ghana. Photo: ©UNICEF*

**The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in partnership with the National Youth Authority (NYA) and Youth Engagement Centers (YEC) in Ghana commemorated International Youth Day with an event focused on leveraging digital technology to shape a brighter future for young people in Ghana.**

The theme of the event, "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development" brought together government officials, academics, media and young people to discuss how the digital revolution can bridge equity gaps and create new opportunities.

The panel discussed how youth can take advantage of digitalization efforts by the government and stakeholders, including UNICEF, to promote initiatives that improve the well-being of young people in Ghana using innovative technologies and digital platforms. [Read ahead.](#)



# Addressing the 2nd delay to maternal mortality through the TIMER Project.



Some participants during the event.. Photo: ©UNFPA

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Ghana, through a private-public-partnership rolled out the implementation of the TIMER (Transport Innovation for Maternal Health Emergency Rescue) project to address the 2nd delay in Maternal Mortality, that is, delay in reaching the health facility. The innovative project seeks to develop an Application (Uber-like) or adapt existing solutions that create an interface between the accredited transport providers at the GPRTU and potential clients and enable beneficiaries to save.

The implementation of these combined innovative strategies will address the challenge of inadequate availability of transport services and financial barriers that impact the ability of pregnant women and girls to access timely skilled delivery care at health facilities.

Key achievements of the project include the development of the "Chango" crowdsourcing platform for fundraising, which raised an amount during initial co-creation sessions with strong community involvement, including Chiefs and Queen Mothers. Additionally, local names were given to the initiative: "Y33boa Y3n ho" (We are supporting each other) in Asante and "Kpoyifolo pio" (Save Mothers Now) in Dangme.

A USSD code (\*887\*110#) was also activated for mobile donations. TIMER district-level teams have been formed, and the GPRTU's "TAP & GO" transport system will be adapted for the project. Looking ahead, the partnership is set to expand, involving fund managers, the Ministry of Roads and Transport, and the National Ambulance Service to further enhance the project's impact. This innovative approach is poised to significantly reduce maternal mortality by ensuring that pregnant women have timely access to skilled care during emergencies.



# EDUCATION

# Ghanaian media briefed on the Summit of the Future



Journalist seated at the press briefing. Photo: @UNIC Accra

**As global leaders prepare to converge in New York for the Summit of the Future (SoTF) on September 22-23, 2024, Ghana is poised to make a significant impact on discussions for a sustainable future.**

This Summit builds on the momentum of the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Summit and aims to supercharge the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The SoTF presents a critical opportunity to enhance global cooperation, address gaps in global governance, and reaffirm commitments to the SDGs and the UN Charter.

In preparation for the summit, the United Nations in Ghana, in collaboration with the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) and the SDGs Advisory Unit of the Office of the President, hosted a press briefing to update local

media on the SoTF's objectives and Ghana's contributions. The briefing also aimed to dispel misconceptions, ensure accurate communication about the summit, and highlight Ghana's active role. The briefing included interactive sessions with the media, urging them to amplify the messaging of SoTF. Post-summit engagements for Ghana will include assessing participation and engagement strategies, preparing a summit participation report, and disseminating outcomes and recommendations to relevant national stakeholders. [Read ahead.](#)



Group picture of participants at the event @UNIC Accra

# From fashion to farming: Cynthia's bold journey to change her family's future



*Cynthia and her 8-month-old son, Vinicius, pose with beaming smiles in front of the tractor. Photo: ©WFP*

**In the small village of Tenge, in Ghana's Upper East Region, 23-year-old Cynthia Ayamba is transforming her family's future. A fashion and design graduate from Sunyani Technical University, Cynthia never imagined her path would lead her back to farming. But seeing how much her family was losing due to poor post-harvest practices, the desire to help became overwhelming.**

"Farming isn't my field," she reflects, "but it's what my family depends on." Her family relies on their 3 acres of maize, rice, soya, and groundnut crops for survival, but poor technical knowledge often left them struggling. After hearing about the World Food Programme and Mastercard Foundation's Post-Harvest Mechanization Training Programme, Cynthia saw it as an opportunity to break the cycle of hardship.

Balancing motherhood with training was tough. Cynthia's son was only 8 months old, and caring for him while fully participating was daunting. "In the beginning, I would plead with others to watch my son so I could join the practical sessions," she recalls. Fortunately, one of the cooks offered to help, allowing her to immerse herself in the training.

The six-week programme at Wenchi Agricultural College taught her to install, operate, and repair post-harvest farm equipment, including threshers and tractors—skills she never imagined she would acquire. Now, Cynthia feels confident she can help her family reduce their losses and is optimistic about the future, as she prepares for the harvest season and an internship with Farmerline.

This training of 398 graduates, in collaboration with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the National Service Scheme and the Chamber of Agribusiness Ghana, is part of the larger Agribusiness for Youth Employment (AgYE) project by WFP Ghana and the Mastercard Foundation. The AgYE project aims to reach 100,000 smallholder farmers across 11 regions of Ghana, with 90 percent of the beneficiaries being youth aged 18 to 35. Seventy percent of these beneficiaries are young women like Cynthia, whose perseverance and dedication exemplify the project's goals. Through financial inclusion, digital innovation, and connections to structured markets, AgYE is helping smallholder farmers access the tools they need to thrive.



# JOB CREATION & SOCIAL PROTECTION

# Promoting smart energy choices to boost energy efficiency across Ghana



*Photo of some participants during the town hall meeting in Ho. Photo: ©UNDP.*

**In a bid to combat climate change, Ghana's Energy Commission, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Ghana embarked on a joint initiative, engaging citizens, public and private institutions on new energy efficiency regulations.**

Through town hall meetings and radio outreach campaigns, held across eight regional capitals, the campaign aimed to raise awareness, promote sustainable practices, and encourage the adoption of energy-efficient appliances.

Experts shared insights on reducing energy consumption, carbon emissions, and the benefits of energy-efficient products. Abel Kwame Kusi, a media personality, shared his transformative experience, pledging to inspire others. The initiative has already shown impact, with 7,955 Gigawatt hours saved since 2013. [Read ahead](#)

# INFoCAT innovation challenge - capacity building for 30 shortlisted applicants



*INFoCAT Capacity Building workshop (Practical Session). Photo: @UNU-INRA*

The UN University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA) has taken its Clean Agricultural Technologies (INFoCAT) Innovation Challenge initiative to another level by training 30 shortlisted applicants referred to as young Agritech Innovators.

The participants had the opportunity to exchange knowledge, improve their skills, and network with selected Agritech innovators and experts in the sector.

As a key element of the INFoCAT project, which aims to empower women and youth in rural areas, the 30 shortlisted applicants will be narrowed down to 10. Final shortlisted applicants will receive grants ranging from \$7,400 for technology piloting and fine tuning to \$37,000 for invention scale up.

INFoCAT is funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada and is being implemented in Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, and Senegal.

# Developing nature-positive economic pathways for Ghana's sustainable growth

As part of efforts to balance economic growth with environmental sustainability, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) together with the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) convened a two-day national stakeholder workshop to explore Ghana's harmonization of its economic development.

The initiative brings together key stakeholders, including government ministries, research institutions, and international organizations, to ensure a cohesive approach to development that prioritizes both prosperity and preservation. [Read ahead.](#)



*Some participants engaged in an exercise during their breakout sessions. Photo: @UNDP*

# UN in Ghana interventions lead to improvements in the performance of enterprises in the shea sector in Ghana



*The CEO of Tiyumtaba Enterprise Hajia Naab Mary explaining some processes of her operations to the delegation. Photo Credit: Richard Dakurah/ ILO*

**To address underperformance and improve productivity and working conditions at enterprises, the International Labour Organization (ILO)'s Productivity Ecosystems for Decent Work Project offered need-based interventions to the shea industry in the northern part of Ghana. The purpose of the mission was to assess the progress of project implementation and initial impacts on beneficiaries.**

The project has trained 32 enterprises in the SCORE Training methodology to build capacity to improve productivity, working conditions and compliance with international standards. A delegation from the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), and the Country Office Abuja embarked on a mission to beneficiary enterprises in Tamale, Northern Region.

The initial benefits of these interventions include reductions in defects, as well as reduced electricity, and water consumption. On average participants see increase in total operating efficiency from 72 percent at baseline to 83 percent at the end of the training.



# Crisis response, livelihood opportunities, data management – UN in Ghana continues to support Ghana with its border security efforts



*Simulation of medical emergency during the SIMEX in Paga. Photo: © IOM Ghana/Francis Kokoroko*

**The UN in Ghana, through the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has implemented a series of activities in support of the Government's efforts to improve crisis response, enhance livelihood opportunities, and expand migration data management – all to enhance border security and border governance.**

The National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO), with support from IOM, successfully conducted a simulation exercise (SIMEX) in Paga at the Ghana-Burkina Faso border to assess the readiness and effectiveness of humanitarian responders and community preparedness in managing and responding to cross-border emergencies.

The lessons learned from the SIMEX will be integrated into the cross-border humanitarian crises response plan to address any identified gaps and weaknesses. During the SIMEX, IOM and the UN Refugee Agency, (UNHCR) also donated supplies to Paga Port Health and NADMO's regional office. Pre-positioned emergency relief items ensure quick support for affected communities in case of a cross-border humanitarian crises. All SIMEX-related activities were realised thanks to the support from the U.S. Department of State: Bureau of International Narcotics & Law Enforcement (INL).

# UN and Ghana Immigration Service collaborate to expand migration data management in border operations



*GIS officers with the mobile MIDAS equipment.  
Photo: ©IOM Ghana/Francis Kokoroko*

**IOM Ghana has been working with the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) over the past four years to enhance migration data management through digitizing traveller processing across various border posts in Northern Ghana.**

The Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) has been installed at identified land border crossings to streamline data collection and support GIS border management operations.

After an expansion of the MIDAS network to new border crossing points in April/May 2024, the comprehensive system is in place as well as Mobile MIDAS kits which can be used at unapproved crossing points at five border crossings along Ghana's northern borders. This aligns with GIS's strategic objectives to digitize migration data and improve traveler facilitation and control. [Read ahead.](#)

In a related development, IOM Ghana partnered with GIS to hold a 5-day training of trainers workshop focused on Community Engagement and Policing (CEP). CEP as a framework, seeks to strengthen the safety and security of border communities through collaborative relationships and building trust between community members and law enforcement agencies

The 11 GIS officers who participated in the workshop are part of a pool of trainers selected from GIS offices across Ghana. Thanks to the training, they are equipped with the skills and tools needed to provide training to GIS officers at the regional and local level, including in remote parts of the country, thus contributing to building local capacities of GIS.

GIS will be in the position to effectively engage and partner with the border communities to implement activities to strengthen social cohesion and build resilience to security threats of border communities. The workshop was realized with funding from the U.S. Department of State: Bureau of Intl Narcotics & Law Enforcement (INL)

## Strengthening social cohesion and economic resilience in Upper-East Region

**In a continued effort to improve the resilience and security of border communities in Northern Ghana, IOM Ghana and STAR-Ghana Foundation have collaborated on a series of initiatives aimed at promoting peacebuilding and strengthening livelihoods. The partnership has not only focused on engaging border communities in discussions around social cohesion and security but also on providing practical resources for sustainable development.**

*Continued on next page.*

A week-long series of community sensitization activities were held across various border towns for hundreds of community members to discuss the prevention of violent extremism, the importance of social cohesion, and the critical role women and local stakeholders play in maintaining peace.

These discussions, complemented by workshops, radio broadcasts, and a peace walk, emphasized the need for unity, inter-ethnic tolerance, and cooperation between communities and security agencies. IOM Ghana and STAR Ghana Foundation also successfully handed over mechanized boreholes and fenced gardens to the border communities of Pulmakom and Namoo. [Read ahead](#)

Meanwhile, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Movement of Rural Entrepreneurial Women (MORE-WOMEN) have empowered women and youth in Ghana's Upper East Region to prevent violent extremism. With funding from Denmark, Australia, Norway, and Germany, they provided livelihood startup tools, training, and support to 258 beneficiaries. This initiative aimed to address youth unemployment, a key driver of radicalization, and promote sustainable peace and development. [Read ahead.](#)



*Pe Clement Atudipare (L), spokesperson of the Manyoro Overlord, exchanging handshake with Edward Ampratwum, Head of Governance and Inclusive Growth. Photo: ©UNDP*

# First of its kind Policy on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse & Harassment launched by the Ghana Immigration Service



*Stakeholders at the PSEAH Policy launch of the GIS  
Photo: ©IOM*

**The Ghana Immigration Service (GIS), with support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), launched a Policy on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH).**

A first of its kind in GIS's history, the policy is designed to create a safe and respectful environment for both GIS staff and the diverse populations GIS officers interact with in their daily work, including migrants, people on the move and vulnerable groups. [Read the full story here.](#)

# Building a coalition of actors to advocate for sustainable domestic financing for family planning using the SMART advocacy concept

Given the critical need for predictable sustainable funding for family planning (FP) in Ghana, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) convened a high-level SMART Advocacy workshop, bringing together diverse stakeholders from government, civil society, the private sector, and academia. The collaborative effort focused on building a strong coalition of advocacy actors for increased domestic financing using the SMART advocacy approach.

A strategic action plan was developed, and an advocacy steering committee was formed to oversee its implementation. Three ambitious SMART goals were set. First was a \$1,050,000 budget allocation for FP commodities by December 2024. Second was mobilizing \$1.2 million from the mining sector by mid-2025 and third is FP in private healthcare insurance schemes by June 2025.

Further plans include engaging Ghana's Parliamentary Health Committee to elevate 3 TRs as a priority in policymaking and explore opportunities to integrate FP funding into national budgeting processes.



*A cross section of some participants during the event. Photo: ©UNFPA*

# UN in Ghana continues to support Ghanaian returnees and survivors of trafficking

In the last quarter, the International Organization for Migration (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 (NIB).

Together with our partners, they will ensure the sustainable reintegration of these returnees into their communities. This support was made possible thanks to the Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa (MPRR-SSA) funded by the European Union.



*IOM colleague receiving a Ghanaian migrant at the airport . Photo: ©IOM*

To enhance efficiency and reduce processing time during the reception process, IOM also held a workshop with Government partners to develop an integrated data collection framework that will be used to streamline arrival procedures, enabling us to better support migrants throughout their reintegration journeys.

Additionally, IOM continues to work with its government partner to tackle human trafficking. This year, to commemorate World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, IOM joined forces with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP)'s Human Trafficking Secretariat (HTS) under the theme "Leave No Child Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking,". Football, Ghana's favourite sport, was used as a tool for youth empowerment and unity. Read more [here about the event](#) and [here about all related activities](#).

IOM Ghana culminated its anti-human traffic efforts by handing over office equipment and awareness-raising materials to the Ghana Police Service (GPS) Anti-Trafficking Unit. IOM Ghana Chief of Mission, Ms Fatou D. Ndiaye, commended the Service on its work to end human trafficking and acknowledged IOM's long-standing partnership with the GPS.

Additionally, IOM, with funding from the U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office), held a lessons learned workshop for the Enhanced Reintegration Support to Survivors of Trafficking (ERS) project in Ibadan, Nigeria and in Accra, Ghana. The workshops marked the conclusion of a 20-month initiative aimed at providing long-term support to survivors of human trafficking. Launched in October 2022, the ERS project has successfully assisted 58 survivors from Nigeria and Ghana by offering comprehensive reintegration services including social and psychosocial support, business mentorship, and business skills development training. [Read ahead](#).

# Stakeholders in shea nuts service and value chain agree to appropriate pricing



*Group picture. Photo Credit: Alhassan Sumaila/ILO*

**In August 2024, the Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture, Mr. Mohammed Hardi Tuferu, officially announced the minimum price for a kilogramme of shea nuts as GHS4.74 (USD0.30) for the 2024 shea season. This announcement resulted from over 16 weeks consultations with stakeholders in the sector through technical and financial support from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to the Tree Crops Development Authority (TCDA).**

The launch of the minimum prices took place at the end of a three-day Shea Expo from the 8th-10th August 2024, under the theme “Nurturing Growth, Empowering communities”. The expo highlighted innovations in the shea industry and created opportunities for producers to market products and network. The Government of Ghana in collaboration with the Savannah Golden Tee Limited, and the University for Development Studies organized the expo.

The Productivity Ecosystem for Decent Work project in 2022 conducted a study on shea nut and used the findings of the Shea Sector System Analysis report to inform its interventions in consultations with the ILO’s tripartite constituents. The report revealed that high price volatility at the farmgate continued to discourage upstream actors, particularly women collectors and primary processor of shea. [Read further.](#)

# From Ghana to the global stage: a journey of youth empowerment



*Benjamin Dadson and Grace Gyan Darkwa at the United Nations Headquarters, New York - USA for UNGA79. Photo ©UNICEF.*

**Two young UNICEF members, the Youth Participation Officer, Grace Gyan Darkwa and the Digital Communication Officer, Benjamin Dadson had the privilege of representing UNICEF Ghana at the UN Summit of the Future in New York, USA.**

This global event brought together young people and world leaders from all over the world. As a precursor to the summit in New York, UNICEF Ghana and the government had previously organized the Children’s Model Summit and SDG Action Summit in Accra, Ghana this year.

The summit in New York served as the culmination of activities held in Ghana that ensured meaningful youth participation.

At the summit, Benjamin and Akua had the opportunity to participate in relevant side events including Proven Solutions for Children,

the National Development Planning Commission and Ghana SDG Advisory side event, and Generation Unlimited side events; Green Visions and Thriving Futures, as well as a Breakfast forum in partnership with the African Union to scale up opportunities for 100 million youth across Africa.

This experience at the UN Summit of the Future in New York was a fantastic opportunity for these young UNICEF staff to understand how conversations about young people are happening at the global stage. This platform enriched their understanding of young people’s role in the fight for meaningful youth participation in decision-making at all levels. Additionally, they gained valuable insights and made meaningful connections during their time in New York. [Read ahead.](#)

# Civil Society Organizations converge in Accra to strategize for increased legitimacy, effectiveness, and sustainability



*Group picture of dignitaries at the forum Photo: ©UNIC Accra*

**Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) serve as crucial pillars in driving societal progress and development worldwide. In Ghana, this was prominently underscored at the recent Ghana Civil Society Forum, where over 30 CSOs converged at the Swiss Alisa hotel in Accra. The event, organized by the Star Ghana Foundation (SGF) in partnership with the United Nations (UN) in Ghana and other stakeholders, focused on the theme "Civil Society at an Inflection Point; Strategizing for Increased Legitimacy, Effectiveness, and Sustainability."**

The United Nations in Ghana presented on Branding and Communicating Impact as part of the activities for the event. The forty-five-minute presentation engaged participants actively, exploring effective communication strategies crucial for sustainability and impactful branding such as understanding the audience's preferences and behaviour, and leveraging various channels and platforms to make communication more efficient.

The two-day event enabled participants to deliberate on three sub-themes: ensuring legitimacy with constituents and stakeholders, achieving effectiveness as organizations, and ensuring sustainable operations, revenues, and impacts. Additionally, it called for Ghana to adopt alternative economic models to address the country's economic crisis, citing the need for more inclusive and sustainable policies. [Read ahead.](#)



# UN in Ghana supports Ghana's social service workforce launch and training programme



*Group photo of participants, partners and stakeholders at the launch of the Social Workforce Training in Accra, Ghana. Photo: ©UNICEF*

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MOGSCP) and the Office of the Head of Local Government Service has launched an initiative aimed at improving social services in Ghana. The 7-week certified in-service training program for Ghana's Social Service workforce was launched by MOGSCP with support from UNICEF, USAID and partners.

The training will upskill 60 social welfare and community development workers from all 16 regions, empowering them with the skills and knowledge to operate in a more impactful way in the communities they serve. It will also empower Ghana's social sector workers by providing specialized training to address the most pressing issues affecting Ghana's children, families, and marginalized groups.

This initiative marks a significant milestone in UNICEF's commitment to strengthening Ghana's social service sector. With the program's launch, UNICEF and its partners are laying the foundation for an effective and responsive social worker who can better deliver for children, especially the most vulnerable ones. [Read ahead.](#)



**CLIMATE CHANGE,  
BIODIVERSITY  
LOSS &  
POLLUTION**

# Paving the way for a sustainable built environment in Ghana



*National Stakeholders and partners in a working session to validate the Roadmap document. Photo: @UN-HABITAT*

**Ghana's rapid urbanization present both opportunities and challenges. While urban growth drives economic development, it has also placed pressure on infrastructure, housing, and environmental resources.**

Recognizing the urgent need for sustainable solutions, UN-Habitat Ghana, in collaboration with UNOPS, UNEP, the Ministry of Works and Housing, national stakeholders and development partners have developed the "Roadmap Document on Transforming the Built Environment in Ghana." This groundbreaking initiative aims to promote lower emissions, efficient, and resilient built environment. It will address pressing issues such as climate resilience, affordable housing, sustainable infrastructure, and improved urban governance.

The success of the roadmap lies in its inclusive and participatory development process. UN-Habitat Ghana worked closely with relevant stakeholders to ensure that the roadmap reflected diverse perspectives.

This collaborative approach fostered ownership and accountability, laying the foundation for a collective commitment to transforming Ghana's built environment. The roadmap has begun shaping policy conversations and urban development initiatives nationwide. Several cities have adopted pilot projects, including eco-friendly housing developments and green infrastructure, with plans for scaling these efforts. Its alignment with Ghana's broader development agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensures that its impact will contribute to long-term progress on multiple fronts, from climate resilience to economic inclusivity.

Additionally, the roadmap has also succeeded in mobilizing support from development partners and international organizations, with new funding commitments aimed at implementing its key priorities. It strengthened partnerships between the public and private sectors, particularly in areas like sustainable construction and urban planning innovation.

# FOREST Okyeman” Project: building capacity of Okyeman Area’s CREMA leaders on natural resource management.



Swearing in of CREMA officials. Photo: @UNU-INRA

The UN in Ghana, represented by UNU-INRA, UNEP UNDP, UNICEF and WHO, together with other partners including OEF, A Rocha-Ghana, Forestry Commission, Government ministries and traditional authorities, collaborated to provide capacity-building training workshops on sustainable ways of addressing key interconnected challenges, on forest degradation in the Okyeman area.

These trainings were geared towards economic, environmental, political, educational, nutrition, and health insecurities through a human security approach.

These capacity building workshops, served as a major component of the FOREST Okyeman project, which aims at safeguarding natural resources and assisting communities to revive existing resource management groups and establish landscape-level governance structures through the Community Resource Management Areas (CREMA) model.

The CREMA model, made up of farmers, local chiefs, government representatives, opinion leaders, the private sector, and landowners, was created to co-manage natural resources and create awareness, address violations, strengthen accountability, and build capacity on best agroforestry practices, while empowering the local communities to manage their natural resources.

The capacity building workshops were held in 8 communities with training sessions ranging from legal frameworks for natural resource (water, wildlife, minerals, forest, land etc.) management, sustainable agriculture, ecology and monitoring protocols for forests as well as identifying natural resource enterprises and value chains to improve livelihoods of the community.

## Annual Geographers Association Conference takes place in Ghana

The 2024 Annual Geographers Association Conference, aimed at exploring the interactions between humans, space and technology in achieving sustainable development was held in Ghana. Organised by the Ghana Geographers Association in partnership with the UN University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA), the theme of the conference was: “Advancing Human, Space and Technology Nexus for Sustainable Development”.

The conference explored how human ingenuity, cutting-edge technology, and the vast expanse of geographic space are being used to propel sustainable human development, fostering a harmonious coexistence with planet earth and beyond. It brought together researchers, practitioners and graduate students from different fields of geography.

# Ghana hosts its first electric mobility conference



*The UN Resident Coordinator in Ghana, Mr. Charles Abani, interacting with one of the vendors showcasing electric bikes. Photo: @UNIC Accra*

**The shift to electric vehicles could significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reliance on fossil fuels, contributing to cleaner sustainable energy.**

In a significant effort to advance energy solutions across the continent, Ghana hosted its first Electric Revolution Africa (ERA) E-Mobility Conference in Accra under the theme “The New ERA: Innovation and Sustainability,”.

The two-day conference organized by Energy Quest Foundation in partnership with the UN in Ghana and other partners sought to foster business collaboration, address policy challenges, and accelerate the growth of Africa’s e-mobility ecosystem. It included dialogues on environmental sustainability, climate change, energy transition, and investment opportunities within the Electric Vehicle (EV) industry.

Key highlights of the conference include exhibitions showcasing cutting-edge EV technologies, corporate networking sessions, and an electric vehicle show (EV Experience). This unique opportunity offered firsthand insights into the future of E-Mobility. The conference brought together innovators, policymakers, investors, and enthusiasts to explore the vast potential of E-Mobility. [Read ahead.](#)



*Group picture of dignitaries at the conference @UNIC Accra*

# Ghana signs historic Presidential Compact on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene to accelerate universal access to WASH services



*President Akufo-Addo of Ghana and United Nations Resident Coordinator, ad interim, Ms Ifeoma Esther Charles-Monwuba exchange signed copies of the Presidential Compact on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. Photo: ©UNIC Accra*

**Ghana and the UN have signed a Presidential Compact on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, a framework designed to accelerate the achievement of SDG 6.**

The Compact, with a commitment of \$1.7 billion in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) annually until 2030, Ghana has raised WASH to the highest political level to make WASH services accessible to all. It demonstrates the government's commitment to expedite access to WASH services across the country, and forms part of the government's commitment to improving public health and increasing climate resilience.

The President of the Republic of Ghana, H. E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, signed this historic Compact at a ceremony held at the Jubilee House on Wednesday, 28 August 2024, one year after it was announced as a commitment at the UN 2023 Water Conference. The United Nations Resident Coordinator, ad interim,

Ms Ifeoma Esther Charles-Monwuba signed on behalf of the UN and development partners.

The Compact, the third of its kind in Africa, is the result of an extensive consultation process with government agencies, development partners, the academic community, and local civil society organizations.

It is supported, under the Heads of State Initiatives, by the Government of the Netherlands, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, UNICEF, the Sanitation and Water for All partnership and IRC WASH. These partners will serve in an advisory capacity for the Compact's implementation, providing technical expertise and coordinated advocacy.

[Read ahead.](#)



**UN DAYS &  
OBSERVANCES**

# Ghanaians urged to #PledgeforPeace as International Day of Peace is marked



Participants during the peace walk. Photo: ©UNIC Accra

As elections approach in Ghana, the calls for peace have never been more crucial. This year's theme for the International Day of Peace, "Cultivating a Culture of Peace," emphasizes the importance of cultivating peace in the minds of people through both formal and informal education across countries and generations.

To commemorate this significant day, the UN in Ghana partnered with the National Peace Council (NPC) and other stakeholders in a vibrant event featuring performances by musical bands from the various security services including the Ghana Prisons, Ghana Police and Ghana Immigration Service. Referred to as the Bands Competition of Security Agencies (BACOSA), these bands played to showcase the unifying power of music as a tool for peace. Their music was interspersed with remarks and statements from several dignitaries from the UN, NPC, Government of Ghana and Labone Secondary School.

Prior to the main event, a peace walk through the Teshie township encouraged residents to pledge for peace before, during, and after the elections, amplifying the UN's peace campaign - #IPledgeforPeaceGh. [Read ahead.](#)



# The Power of 12 Million - World Population Day 2024



Market women receiving t-shirts during a UNFPA outreach. Photo: ©UNFPA

**UNFPA Ghana in partnership with NPC and in collaboration with the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), University of Ghana, organized the launch of World Population Day in Accra.**

The event brought together government agencies, academia, development partners, CSOs, NGOs, students, researchers, and the media. Key messages were shared with the chairperson of NPC, the Country Representative of UNFPA Ghana, and representatives from the Ghana Statistical Service, RIPS, and other stakeholders. RIPS leveraged on the occasion to launch the World Population Prospects Database, a global demographic information database for policy formulation and research.

This sparked media engagement and conversation on the results, their implications, and policy briefs at the national level. There was also a panel discussion with representatives from CSOs, NGOs, government agencies, and youth groups,

who shared their various contributions of how they are involving young people in their various spheres, thereby contributing to Ghana's development. The last activity for the day was an open forum which gave the youth the platform to openly and honestly share their perspectives or concerns on issues either of interest to them or bothering them.

Several youths engaged in this activity in a float, while interacting with traders and pedestrians on the importance of youth involvement, engagement and participation in national development.



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



for every child



UN-HABITAT



UNU  
INRA



United Nations  
Information Centre



World Food  
Programme

DELIVERING AS ONE

Contributing agencies



# UN DAYS & OTHER EVENTS

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024

October	November	December
<u>World Mental Health Day</u> (10 October)		World AIDS Day (3 December)
<u>International Day of the Girl Child</u> (11 October)	16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence (25 November)	International Human Rights Day (10 December)
<u>International Day of Rural Women</u> (15 October)		<u>International Migrants Day</u> (18 December)
<u>United Nations Day</u> (24 October)		



# UNITED NATIONS GHANA



United Nations Resident Coordinator Office  
P.O. Box GP 1423 Accra, Ghana  
Tel.: +233 (0) 302 215670-9/ 215680-3  
Fax.: +233 (0) 302 772836 / 773899

---