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In this edition

HIGHLIGHTS

- UN in Ghana's Dry Spell Response Programme: Restoring hope and food security for Bismark and his family
- UN-France Food Assistance Programme impacts over 10,000 beneficiaries in Ghana since its inception
- Strengthening Migration Governance and Development in Ghana
- UN in Ghana advances women's empowerment through strategic partnerships and support Services
- Driving Growth for Ghana's MSMEs: A Comprehensive Approach to Digital Transformation
- Bringing History to Life: Ghanaian youth explore and reconnect with Ghana's rich cultural heritage
- From Screens to Stage – UN Ghana Unites for #ZeroDiscrimination



FOOD SYSTEMS

UN in Ghana's Dry Spell Response Programme: Restoring hope and food security for Bismark and his family



Bismark showing the mobile money message from WFP. Photo credit: @WFP/Daniel

In Blema, a community where residents rely on their farms for survival, the worst and most prolonged dry spell since 1983 devastated the area. Farmers lost their crops to the relentless heat as the rain ceased for over two months.

Bismark Wulo, a 28-year-old graduate from Wa Polytechnic, turned to farming after years of job searching. He supports his family of nine, including his son and elderly parents, through farming. Despite living with a disability, Bismark believes in self-reliance:

"After I graduated from Wa Polytechnic in 2018 and couldn't find a job, I didn't want to be a burden to others, so I started farming. It provided food and money to take care of myself and my family." Starting with 2 acres of maize, Bismark soon realized the potential of farming and expanded his operations to include cashew, groundnut, soybean, and rice.

In the 2024 farming season, he borrowed GHS 2,000 to invest in his farm, hoping for a good season to repay his loan and make a profit.

"This year has been very bad. When the crops were just about to fruit, the rains stopped, and I lost everything. I only got half a bag of maize compared to 6 bags last year. My whole family will have to depend on this until the next harvest season. I can't repay my loan, and the lenders have been calling me for their money." As Bismark wondered how his family would survive on half a bag of maize for the next 9-11 months, the World Food Programme (WFP) brought hope with the Dry Spell Response Programme. The WFP, with support from its partners, provided cash assistance to smallholder farm families affected by the dry spell, helping them meet their food and nutritional needs.

"One day, the World Food Programme came to our community, and I was fortunate to be selected. One morning, my son asked for money for porridge to go to school. I didn't have the money and didn't know what to do. Then, the World Food Programme sent me GHS 1,000. I couldn't hide my joy and told my son he would not only get money for porridge, but I would also buy a bag of maize for the family."

UN-France Food Assistance Programme impacts over 10,000 beneficiaries in Ghana since its inception



Cross section of stakeholders at the review. Photo: © UNIC Accra

The United Nations (UN) in Ghana, led by Resident Coordinator Mr. Charles Abani, recently met with officials from the Embassy of France in Ghana, led by the Head of Cooperation and Cultural Affairs, Mr. Julie Lecas, to review a UN Joint Programme funded by the Government of France

Launched six months ago in Bolgatanga, the UN-France Food Assistance Programme has impacted over 10,000 beneficiaries in Northern Ghana through combined initiatives by the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The 18-month project is being implemented by WFP, UNICEF, and IOM, in collaboration with UNHCR and partners.

Mr. Abani expressed optimism about achieving the program's goals and objectives, highlighting the coherent collaboration among UN agencies. Mr. Lecas commended the work done so far and welcomed the review report as a valuable initiative to share with Paris.

Fostering Innovation in Agribusiness



Bakari Abdul Majeed, a beneficiary of the Young Africa Innovates (YAI) programme happily inspecting his hatched eggs in an incubator with a smile. Photo: ©UNDP/Ernestina Ocansey

Bakari Abdul Majeed, a 21-year-old from Ghana, has turned his passion for animal rearing into a successful business despite facing setbacks. He designed and built an innovative incubator using discarded materials and achieved a breakthrough in hatching eggs. Bakari's vision is to establish a large-scale hatchery to provide high-quality chicks to farmers, enhancing food security and economic opportunities.

His innovative idea caught the attention of scouts from iValley Ghana under Young Africa Innovates programme, a flagship initiative supported by Mastercard Foundation and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ghana.

Through a strategic partnership, Bakari was identified as a rising talent in the Savannah Region of Ghana

The Young Africa Innovates Programme is designed to empower young innovators like Bakari, providing a springboard to propel their ideas to new heights with access to critical funding, expert mentorship, and invaluable networking opportunities. [Read more.](#)

Resilience in action: Francis Hevi's journey to success



Francis Hevi a vulcanizer at New Powmu, Asuogyaman District in the Eastern Region of Ghana: ©IFAD

In the heart of rural Ghana, where opportunities are often scarce, resilience can light the path to success. This is the story of Francis Hevi, a 28-year-old man whose journey from adversity to triumph is nothing short of inspiring.

Born with an arm disability and orphaned at the tender age of 14, Francis faced a tough journey from the start. Without his mother's support, he had to drop out of school and take on small jobs just to survive. Yet, despite these hardships, Francis refused to see his disability as a barrier. Instead, he was driven by a fierce desire to succeed and build a better future.

In 2015, an experienced vulcanizer took Francis under his wing as an apprentice. By 2018, Francis had completed his apprenticeship, eager to strike out on his own but constrained by limited resources. His opportunity arrived in 2021 when the Rural Enterprises Programme (REP), supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), stepped in to change his trajectory.

he Programme equipped Francis with essential business skills, financial literacy, and a startup kit—including a compressor and tools—giving him the resources he needed to launch Hevi France Enterprise, a vibrant vulcanizing shop in New Powmu in the Asuogyaman District of Ghana.

Today, Francis's business is thriving, serving a growing customer base and earning him up to GHS 250 a day. What once seemed impossible—saving money, supporting his family, and planning for the future—is now his reality. "I've started saving, which is a huge accomplishment for me," he proudly shares.

Francis's dedication has earned respect in his community and transformed him into an inspiring role model—proof that physical limitations do not determine one's potential. His dreams now extend beyond running a successful business. He envisions expanding his shop, acquiring land, and creating opportunities for others by training apprentices. "I hope to expand my business, get my own land, and help others by passing on my skills," he explains.

As Francis looks ahead, his story reinforces the importance of inclusive development programs. His experience underscores that with the right support, passion, and resilience, individuals facing unique challenges can achieve extraordinary success, inspiring others along the way.

"I want to show that disability is not inability. With perseverance and the right support, anything is possible," Francis affirms, a shining example of hope and potential for all.



**DIGITAL
CONNECTIVITY**

Strengthening Migration Governance and Development in Ghana



IOM Chief of Mission handing over the equipment for the MICs to the Comptroller-General of Immigration
Photo: © IOM Ghana/Angela Bortey

The UN Network on Migration (IOM) Ghana and GIZ Ghana deepened their longstanding collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to address both regular and irregular migration challenges. This strategic partnership builds on years of joint efforts in reintegration, policy development, and diaspora engagement, aiming to support sustainable development through the promotion of regular migration pathways and stronger migration governance. Complementing this commitment, IOM and the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) upgraded Migration Information Centres (MICs) across the country with essential equipment, including computers, mobile devices, and signage.

These improvements, based on findings from a joint needs assessment, enhance awareness-raising, data management, and service delivery—empowering migrants with accurate information to make informed and safe migration decisions. To further reinforce migration management capacities, IOM led technical sessions during a migration management course held in February at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Accra. The course gathered 34 mid-level humanitarian professionals from 10 African countries, exploring key themes such as internal migration, border management, mobility-induced crises, and policy development. The initiative, funded by the Swiss Embassy, fostered regional knowledge-sharing among migration practitioners and policymakers.

IOM also partnered with the Ministry of Labour, Jobs, and Employment to conduct targeted training programs in Accra and Kumasi for Private Employment Agencies and Labour Inspectors. Supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), these sessions focused on promoting ethical recruitment practices, protecting migrant workers, and reinforcing regular labour migration channels—recognizing Ghana's dual role as a country of origin and destination for migrants.

Co-designing clean agricultural technologies to reduce drudgery and increase productivity among smallholder farmers



Some of the innovators at work. Photo: ©UNU INRA

After winning a sum of \$7400 each in 2024, 10 young INFoCAT Innovation Challenge winners have recently gone through a series of activities (field trips), with the INFoCAT Ghana team and experts in the agriculture and renewable energy sector. The aim of these trips is to help innovators fine-tune their innovations and manufacture these clean agritech machinery, to best suit the needs of smallholder farmers in communities involved in the INFoCAT project.

In the first phase of the field trips, the INFoCAT (Ghana) team visited smallholder farming communities across 3 regions in Ghana: Central, Eastern and Volta.

Each community engagement involved introduction of innovators and their innovations to the farming communities. The farming communities also pointed out the challenges they faced in their farming processes. This was to help the INFoCAT Ghana team identify with experts, how to help the innovators develop their agritech innovations, to be user friendly, efficient (reduce emissions, energy saving, quality processing), cost effective, and most especially, to help reduce drudgery in farming activities.

With inputs from smallholder farmers on their pertinent agricultural machinery needs and recommendations from experts, the second phase of the INFoCAT field trip, was a follow up with innovators on the assembling and fine-tuning phase of their innovations. [Read More.](#)



EDUCATION

Investing in midwives to save mothers and babies



A midwife holding a baby. Photo: © UNFPA

To promote quality midwifery education and bridge the gap between theory and practice in Ghana, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Ghana is supporting the implementation of the Midwifery Centres of Excellence to equip selected midwifery schools and practice areas to attain international standards.

The Korle Bu Nursing and Midwifery Training College and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology Midwifery Schools have been selected as the initial sites for the Centres of Excellence.

Again, UNFPA Ghana is supporting the sites with faculty capacity development, establishment of leadership and governance structures, and equipment this year. Working with the Ministry of Health, UNFPA Ghana has supported the development, launch, and dissemination of the 3rd Nursing and Midwifery Strategic Plan (2024–2028), which outlines a comprehensive roadmap for the development of the nursing and midwifery professions over the coming years.

In 2024, UNFPA strengthened the capacity of 120 midwives in emergency obstetric and newborn care (EmONC), enhancing the quality of maternal and newborn services across the Networks of Practice. UNFPA also strengthened technical and financial support towards the capacity development of 60 midwives and community health officers in Long-acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC). [Read More.](#)

Bringing History to Life: Ghanaian youth explore and reconnect with Ghana's rich cultural heritage



Performers of Mansa World on stage. Photo: ©UNESCO

Recently, the National Theatre in Accra became the gateway to ancient West Africa for hundreds of students from selected second-cycle public schools, thanks to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s support for the epic stage production "Mansa Musa and the Trail of Lost Gold, The Prelude".

This initiative was not only a celebration of storytelling through the arts, but also a significant highlight of Ghana Heritage Month, observed in March to encourage citizens - especially the youth - to explore and reconnect with the country's rich cultural heritage. This initiative formed part of UNESCO Accra Office's broader commitment to promoting creative learning and cultural education among young people through the arts.

The play, a historical journey told through performance, introduced students to influential West African figures such as Sundiata Keita, Sumanguru Kante, and Mansa Musa, offering an immersive experience of pre-colonial African history. By participating in this initiative, students were given a unique opportunity to deepen their historical understanding beyond the classroom through an engaging and artistic lens.

The initiative aligns directly with the UNESCO General History of Africa (GHA) programme, which encourages young people to explore African heritage and identity through innovative mediums, including theatre, literature, and visual arts. It also reflects Outcomes 1 and 5 of UNESCO's global cultural objectives: Promoting the diversity of cultural expressions, and enhancing the quality of education, nurturing creativity and promoting respect.

Feedback from schools has been overwhelmingly positive, emphasizing both the educational and inspirational impact of the production:

"[UNESCO's] support has significantly contributed to the academic and cultural development of our students. This sponsorship will go a long way in enhancing the standard of academic excellence and nurturing the artistic potential of our students." - Stephen Adjrago, Headmaster, Presbyterian Senior High School – Adeiso.

UN in Ghana Supports Cholera Response in Ada East



Community Health Nurse demonstrating proper hand washing for a household.

Photo: ©IOM Ghana/ Emmanuella Okai

The UN Network on Migration (IOM), in partnership with the Ghana Health Service, successfully completed a "Rapid Cholera Response" project in the Ada East District of the Greater Accra Region. This initiative aimed to enhance community resilience against cholera outbreaks by providing essential knowledge and resources.

Key activities included participatory mapping, training for health workers, location assessments, and public awareness campaigns. The project also involved distributing cholera prevention kits and conducting a Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices (KAP) Survey. Following the project's completion, a review workshop was held to discuss findings from the Population Mobility Mapping exercise and to ensure ongoing disease surveillance, IOM donated mobile tablets for community health nurses.

[Read more](#)

On the frontlines of this response is Georgina Gyamfi, a dedicated community health nurse in Totopé, who plays a vital role in safeguarding the health of both residents and migrants in her community. [Read more about her mission to protect her community against cholera.](#)

Among those impacted were the Agbaklas, a local couple who transformed their personal battle with cholera into a mission for public advocacy. Their story highlights the power of community action and the importance of inclusive health responses during crises. [Read how the love birds beat the outbreak together.](#)



JOB CREATION & SOCIAL PROTECTION

Empowering women and youth to break the cycle of violence



In the frame is Elizabeth Abule Yilewole, receiving her tools to enhance her skills and generate income for her under the UN Peacebuilding Fund Project from Edward Ampratwum on the left. Photo Credit: ©UNDP/Ernestina

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Ghana, with funding from the UN Peacebuilding Fund, has supported over 850 women and youth in Northern Ghana with vocational tools and equipment to enhance their skills and income-generating activities.

The initiative aims to address the root causes of violence and promote sustainable development and peacebuilding.

Beneficiaries have received training and resources to start their own businesses, empowering them to break the cycle of poverty and violence. The initiative is part of UNDP's broader strategy to promote inclusive governance, social cohesion, and economic empowerment. [Read more.](#)

Mothers of persons with intellectual disabilities share heart-wrenching stories, call for government support

Mothers of persons with intellectual disability took to the streets of Accra for a solidarity walk to raise awareness about their struggles. The event was organized by the Roschelle Brago Boakye Foundation (ROBB Foundation) in collaboration with the UN Information Centre, Accra, ahead of World Down Syndrome Day, observed annually on March 21.

The 3-kilometer walk began at the Efua Sutherland Park in Accra, with families, caregivers, and individuals with intellectual disabilities carrying placards denouncing stigma and discrimination while calling for stronger support systems. Participants highlighted the urgent need for better resources and services for individuals with Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities. [Read more.](#)



Sirina, a 21-year-old with Down Syndrome holding a placard during the walk. Photo: © UNIC Accra

Bridging the Gap: UN in Ghana and GTEC lead Bold Effort Towards Employable Graduates



Group photo: ©UNCDF.

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), in partnership with the European Union and the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC), has launched an initiative to bridge the gap between education and employment for tertiary students in Ghana.

The program aims to align academic curricula with labor market needs, ensuring graduates are equipped with relevant, practical skills for emerging industries.

The initiative has gained strong support from the Ministry of Education, emphasizing the importance of preparing young Ghanaians for the workforce. A recent workshop convened stakeholders from government, academia, and the private sector to establish the National Advisory Group (NAG), a strategic body tasked with guiding policies to enhance graduate employability—especially in green and digital sectors.

The workshop discussions highlighted crucial areas such as curriculum alignment, workforce readiness, and academia-industry linkages. Participants identified gaps in digital literacy, career services, and industry collaboration, proposing actionable steps to address them. Key recommendations included structured decision-making processes, stakeholder incentives, and financial sustainability for NAG.

Looking ahead, the group plans to finalize its Terms of Reference by April and hold its inaugural meeting by mid-2025, aiming to create a more responsive, future-ready education system that supports national economic growth. GTEC sees this effort as a transformative step toward ensuring that every graduate leaves school ready to contribute meaningfully to Ghana's development.

How one MSME owner hopes to thrive in Ghana's digital economy through a joint UN intervention

Maria Adams is owner of Maria Fashion House in Accra, Ghana. A determined entrepreneur, she started her fashion business with a passion for Afrocentric clothing production and dreams of building a brand that could one day expand beyond the shores of Ghana. Yet, like many women and youth-led MSMEs, she has encountered hurdles that hinder her growth. These include inadequate digital skills, limited access to finance, and in reaching broader markets.

"I have customers who love my products, but reaching a wider audience online is a challenge. I'm stuck on Facebook, which limits my growth," Maria shares. "But I know that as my business grows with the right support, I won't have to rely solely on my savings or reinvest every little profit just to stay afloat. I'll have more diverse funding options."

Maria's is one of many. Across Ghana, thousands of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), particularly those led by women and youth, face similar challenges. While MSMEs contribute significantly to the economy, making up 92 percent of businesses in the country, their potential remains stifled by systemic barriers such as lack of access to finance, limited digital skills and literacy, and inadequate market linkages.

Recognizing these obstacles, the United Nations in Ghana under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) and the Ministry of Trade & Industry (MoTI), has launched a transformative Joint Programme to support MSME owners like Maria. Implemented by the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the joint programme seeks to strengthen Ghana's digital ecosystem and empower 25,000 youth and women-led MSMEs through financial inclusion, digital skills training, a conducive e-commerce environment and enhanced market access.

By aligning with Ghana's digital transformation agenda, the programme is not only providing immediate support but also paving the way for long-term economic resilience.

[Y01]Can we bring the second quote on access to market first. MSMEs will not be receiving direct funding from this project, this might be a bit confusing as the first quote



Maria guiding a team member through a step in the sewing process. ©UNCDF

Cont'd



Maria showcases some of her handmade clothing in her showroom Photo: © UNCDF

For entrepreneurs like Maria, securing loans or investment capital remains one of the greatest hurdles. "Our interest rates in Ghana are exceptionally high.

When we participate in international exhibitions, for instance, we often find our counterparts offering their products at much more competitive prices. Then it really dawns on us that the high borrowing costs is one of the reasons we are not competitive in the global market," she explained. Traditional financial institutions often perceive MSMEs as high-risk, leaving them with limited funding options.

Through this Joint Programme, financial service providers will develop tailored digital financial solutions, including digital payments, savings products, and innovative credit facilities that cater to the unique needs of MSMEs.

Beyond financing, the joint programme is committed to supporting young people in ways that drive MSMEs growth.

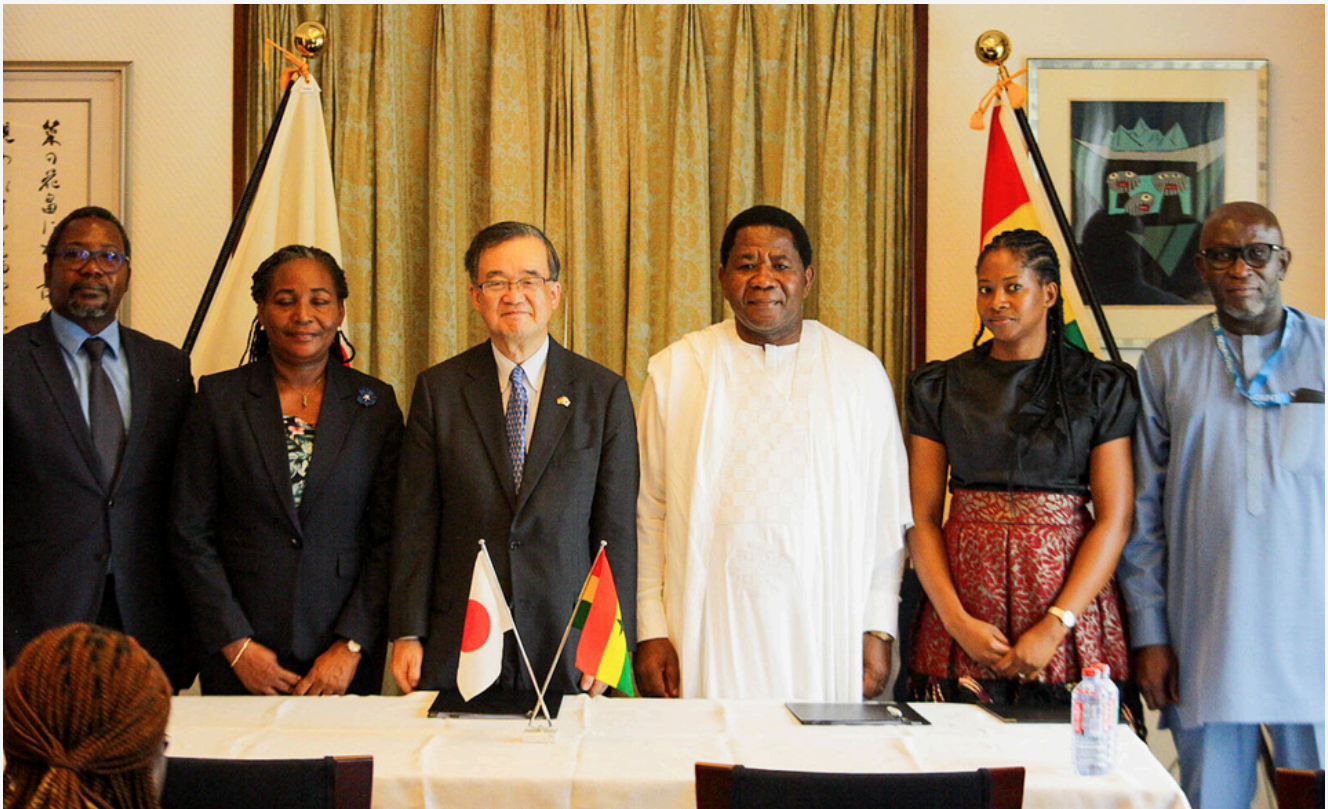
For instance, 25,000 youth and women led MSMEs should access new or adapted digital financial services; 10,000 youth and women-led MSMEs will receive tailored digital and financial skills training; and Over 7,500 MSMEs will receive skills training and e-commerce support from innovation hubs, ESOs and Business Advisory Centres (BACs

Additionally, over 7,500 MSMEs will be able to access business advisory support and other support services from a digital gateway platform launched by the Ghana Enterprises Agency, while the Government of Ghana will unveil an e-commerce strategy and integrate a digital platform for planning and monitoring e-commerce reforms.

According to Maria, the Joint Programme offers more than just business support, it represents hope.

The goal of the UN Joint Programme is not just to provide short-term solutions but to drive systemic change. Additionally, the Joint Programme aligns with Ghana's digital transformation goals and aims to generate over USD13 million in co-financing to serve as a catalyst for further investment in Ghana's MSME sector. The broader vision is to create a financial ecosystem where MSMEs are no longer sidelined but are empowered with the tools, skills, and support needed to thrive. The ripple effects of this transformation will not only benefit individual entrepreneurs but also contribute to Ghana's broader economic resilience.

UN in Ghana partners with WRCGH and Japanese Embassy to launch Water-Related Disaster Resilience Project in Ghana



Group Photo Credit: UNESCO

In a significant move to enhance Ghana's resilience to water-related disasters, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in collaboration with the Water Resources Commission of Ghana (WRC) and the Japanese Embassy, signed off on a pioneering project aimed at developing Integrated Early Warning Systems (EWS). This initiative seeks to mitigate disaster risks and strengthen the country's capacity to respond to water-related crises, including floods, droughts, and other extreme weather events.

The project, which was formalized at a signing ceremony in Accra, aims to provide an advanced framework for early detection and response, ultimately saving lives and reducing economic losses caused by such disasters. Integrated Early Warning Systems are designed to provide timely, accurate, and actionable information to local communities, governments, and relevant stakeholders. The collaboration between UNESCO, WRC, and the Japanese Embassy underscores the importance of international partnerships in addressing climate change and water management challenges.

Japan's expertise in disaster risk reduction, particularly in managing water-related disasters, has been instrumental in shaping the project's design. During the signing ceremony, UNESCO's representative, Mr. Edmond Moukala, emphasized the importance of early warning systems in building resilience and reducing the vulnerability of communities to water-related disasters.

Partners unite to end Female Genital Mutilation in Ghana



UNFPA Ghana Deputy Country Representative (1st role, 2nd right) with Partners. Photo: ©UNFPA

Stakeholders in Ghana have reaffirmed their commitment to ending Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), a practice that continues to undermine the health, dignity, and human rights of women and girls.

Under the theme "Strengthening Alliances, Building Movements: Protecting the Rights and Dignity of Women and Girls," policymakers, traditional and religious leaders, civil society organizations, youth advocates, and survivors gathered to advance a unified strategy to eliminate FGM. By working together, stakeholders can create a Ghana where women and girls are protected from harm and can thrive.

The fight against FGM requires a coordinated, multi-sectoral effort, and stakeholders are committed to making this a reality. [Read more.](#)

Building a resilient agricultural sector in Northern Ghana through communities' involvement

A joint delegation from the EU, FAO, and Ghana's Ministry of Food and Agriculture visited beneficiary communities in Central Gonja under the €10 million EU Food Security Response Project.

The visit highlighted community-level interventions including vaccination of small ruminants against PPR, distribution of improved seeds, and training in good agronomic and livestock practices. Beneficiaries expressed appreciation for the support, which has improved food security and livelihoods. The delegation also visited post-harvest storage facilities and held a Project Steering Committee meeting in Tamale to review progress and approve the 2025 work plan. Key officials reaffirmed the importance of strong coordination, local engagement, and market integration in sustaining project impacts, particularly in the face of climate shocks and economic pressures. [Read more.](#)



Ramatu Awudu holds one of her small ruminants after a vaccination exercise against Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR)

©FAO/George Koranteng

From Screens to Stage – UN Ghana Unites for #ZeroDiscrimination



Beyond the walls play being staged Photo: © UNAIDS

In a powerful display of unity and advocacy, the UN family in Ghana, led by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), marked Zero Discrimination Day 2024 with a month-long digital and theatrical campaign themed #ShunTheYawa—a phrase meaning “don’t discriminate” in Ghanaian vernacular.

The campaign, which gained over 50,000 social media engagements, mobilized youth voices across digital platforms to confront stigma and discrimination in all its forms—including HIV stigma, racism, gender bias, ethnocentrism, and ableism. Highlights included a selfie challenge, a live X-space dialogue, and themed daily posts from key UN agencies—including [WHO](#) and [UNFPA](#)—addressing context-specific forms of discrimination.

Culminating the campaign was the special edition performance of “Beyond the Walls”, staged at the National Theatre in Accra in March. Supported by UNAIDS and UNICEF, the play shed light on the lived realities of incarcerated women, revealing the deep intersections of social stigma, particularly around HIV. The line, “Stigma can hurt more than the condition itself,” echoed through the auditorium, resonating with an audience of over 2,000.

Preceding the performance, a youth-led exhibition featuring - Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana and PSF Ghana offered resources and interactive learning on sexual health and stigma. Over 7,200 condoms and 150 self-test kits were distributed, reinforcing the message of empowerment through information and access.

This year’s Zero Discrimination commemoration affirmed a shared call: to go Beyond the Walls of prejudice and #StandTogether for equity and inclusion—online, offline, and on every stage of life.

UN in Ghana Supports Ghana's Rollout of Global Compact for Migration through Rights-Based Governance



Participants at the Migration Coordination Platform (MCP) meeting. .Photo: © IOM Ghana/Jessica Menyah

The UN Network on Migration, in collaboration with the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), held a capacity-building workshop in Accra to support the protection of migrants' rights.

This workshop marked the formal launch of Ghana's National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the Global Compact for Migration (GCM). It equipped CHRAJ staff with tools to enhance rights protection, improve monitoring and reporting, and align national practices with international human rights standards—reinforcing Ghana's commitment to integrating human rights into its migration governance framework.

In line with this momentum, Ghana's Migration Coordination Platform (MCP) held its first coordination meeting to discuss the NIP's implementation. The meeting also introduced "ATUU", a European Union-funded project implemented by IOM, designed to enhance national migration governance. "ATUU" focuses on strengthening migration frameworks, improving data systems, and supporting vulnerable migrants. In early 2025, the Project Technical Committee of "ATUU" convened its inaugural meeting, reviewing progress and aligning on next steps. Building on previous EU-IOM collaborations, the initiative promotes policy dialogue, data-driven decision-making, and comprehensive migrant protection.

UN in Ghana advances women's empowerment through strategic partnerships and support Services

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Ghana joined the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service to commission laboratory services for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) at the DOVVSU One-Stop Centre in Accra, Ghana to further deepen the collaboration between UNFPA and DOVVSU.

Great appreciation is extended to the Ghana Police Service and the leadership of the Director of DOVVSU, Assistant Commissioner of Police Owusuwaa Kyeremeh. Dr David Wilfred Ochan, UNFPA Ghana Country Representative, noted that the establishment of the laboratory services, jointly supported by UNFPA and other partners, demonstrates the transformative power of partnership and collaboration in driving meaningful change. The laboratory services demonstrate the transformative power of partnership and collaboration in driving meaningful change. [Read more.](#)

Additionally, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Ghana marked International Women's Day with initiatives supporting women affected by migration and trafficking.

In partnership with the Ghana Psychological Association (GPA), IOM conducted a psychosocial support session for returned migrant women participating in a Business Development Training in Kumasi.

Funded under the EU's Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa (MPRR-SSA), the session aimed to strengthen participants' mental well-being as they rebuild their lives through entrepreneurship. The activity focused on resilience building, work-life balance, and self-care—promoting holistic well-being for women reintegrating into their communities.

In a parallel initiative, IOM Ghana staff collected donations for residents of the Human Trafficking Secretariat's shelters, which provide temporary care for women and children survivors of trafficking.

The support contributes to their well-being as they await safe return to their communities or countries of origin.

Adding their voices to the celebration, IOM Ghana's Chief of Mission and Goodwill Ambassadors Kofi Kinaata and Ama K. Abebrese reaffirmed commitment to advancing gender equality, protection, and dignity for all women on the move



UNFPA Ghana CO Representative with DOVVSU
©UNFPA



IOM Staff handing over the donation to the Shelter manageress of the Human Trafficking Secretariat's shelters. ©IOM Ghana/Jessica Menyah

Strengthening Protection Against Human Trafficking and Supporting Migrant Reintegration in Ghana



IOM Staff and stakeholders welcoming migrants at the Kotoka International Airport, Accra. Photo: © IOM Ghana/ Jessica Menyayl

The UN Network on Migration (IOM) Ghana took significant steps to address human trafficking and support returning migrants through collaborative efforts with and key national stakeholders.

Under the EU-funded Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa (MPRR-SSA), IOM concluded a three-day workshop for mental health practitioners. The training equipped professionals with skills to support the psychosocial well-being of returned migrants, covering assessments, psychological support, counselling techniques, and data management.

Around the same time, the Ministry of Sports and Recreation and IOM, with funding from the IOM Development Fund, hosted the kick-off meeting for the project "Addressing Human Trafficking in Sports in Ghana." This initiative aims to prevent trafficking through evidence-based policy development, stakeholder training, and awareness-raising to protect young sporting talents. Continuing anti-trafficking efforts, IOM and the Human Trafficking Secretariat (HTS) of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection met with the ECOWAS Resident Representative, Ambassador Mohammed Lawan Gana,

in initial engagements for the regional project "Support to ECOWAS Member States for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking." The Ambassador also visited the HTS shelter to assess existing support systems. The project will enhance Ghana's national capacity for victim reception, care, and long-term protection.

Between February and March, IOM and the Government of Ghana facilitated the voluntary return of 462 Ghanaian migrants from Libya via three chartered flights. A key event on 20 March saw Hon. George Opare Addo, Minister of Youth Development and Empowerment, and IOM Ghana Chief of Mission, Ms. Fatou Diallo Ndiaye, welcome 145 returnees. Immediate humanitarian support was provided, including food, hygiene kits, and transportation. To further support reintegration, IOM engaged a consultant to review reintegration strategies. On 28 March, stakeholders convened to discuss the findings, identifying key services and partnerships needed for sustainable economic, social, and psychosocial reintegration of migrants.



**ENERGY ACCESS &
AFFORDABILITY**

UN in Ghana launches electric vehicle and market opportunity study



Group Photo of participants at the launch of its first electric vehicle and market opportunity study. Photo Credit - Louisa Antwi/UNDP

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Ghana has launched its first electric vehicle and charging station, marking a significant step towards green mobility. The initiative, part of the Greening Moonshot program, aims to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable transport. A market opportunity report on EV charging stations was also released, outlining strategic opportunities for scaling up EV infrastructure in Ghana.

The project was implemented by UNDP's team of green energy and technology experts, following UNDP's 7-Step Process for implementing Smart Facilities. This ensures long-term sustainability through comprehensive site assessments, continuous monitoring, and a strong focus on capacity-building. With the transition to EVs, an estimated 5.23 tonnes of CO₂ emissions will be avoided annually, alongside cost savings of over US\$2,138, supporting UNDP's global Moonshot Target to reduce vehicle-related greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030. [**Read more.**](#)

High-Level mission paves way for new green innovation hub in Zimbabwe



UNU delegates at a facility. Photo: ©UNU INRA

The United Nations University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA) undertook a high-level reconnaissance mission to Zimbabwe to assess the feasibility of establishing a new operating unit focused on energy transitions and green industrialisation.

The mission was met with broad-based support from the Zimbabwean government, civil society, and the UN system, with strong alignment around national priorities such as just energy access, critical minerals, and youth entrepreneurship. The proposed Operating Unit is envisioned as a strategic platform, embedded in Zimbabwe's innovation ecosystem and networked across ministries and universities, to inform policy, research, and capacity building across Africa.

For years, UNU-INRA's mandate to contribute to the sustainable development of Africa's natural resources has been possible because of our extended networks and work with experts in established operating units in Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Namibia and Zambia.

With major advancements happening in Zimbabwe's energy and renewable energy sector, this partnership when finalised, will extend INRA's research base, reach and impact in Africa's natural resource management sector. [Read more.](#)



**UN DAYS &
OBSERVANCES**

UN in Ghana celebrates International Education Day 2025 in Akuapem South and North Districts



The UNESCO Representative to Ghana, Mr. Edmond Moukala plastering in one of the classroom blocks at Agyemantin M/A Basic School, also in the Eastern region of Ghana
Photo: © UNIC Accra

In honor of International Education Day 2025, UNICEF Ghana, the World Food Programme (WFP) Ghana, and UNESCO Ghana came together to celebrate the importance of education at selected schools in the Akuapem South and North Districts. The event highlighted the global commitment to education, showcasing ongoing efforts to improve access to quality education for all, particularly in underserved communities.

International Education Day, celebrated annually on January 24, serves as a reminder of the vital role education plays in building a better future for individuals and societies. The day focuses on increasing awareness of the importance of education as a fundamental human right and a critical enabler of sustainable development, peace, and prosperity.

The event in the Akuapem Districts involved educational outreach activities in local schools, where students, teachers, and community members participated in discussions, workshops, and interactive sessions. These efforts aimed to inspire and empower the next generation to value education and use it as a tool for change and development.

UNICEF Ghana, WFP Ghana, and UNESCO Ghana have been working together for years to address the challenges faced by communities in accessing education. Their collaboration on International Education Day 2025 underscores the importance of ensuring that no child is left behind, especially in rural areas where educational resources are often limited.

Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations attends Presidential Inauguration ceremony in Accra



The United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Amina J. Mohammed, extending her congratulations to President John Dramani Mahama. Photo: © UNIC Accra

The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina J. Mohammed on Tuesday, 7 January 2025 attended the Presidential Inauguration in Accra, Ghana.

The vibrant and inspiring Presidential Inauguration of H.E. John Dramani Mahama as the next President of the Republic of Ghana following his victory in the 2024 Presidential and Parliamentary elections also marked a historic milestone with the swearing-in of Ghana's first-ever female Vice President, Professor Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang.

Amina J. Mohammed was accompanied by the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, Ambassador Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Mr. Leonardo Santos Simão, and the UN Resident Coordinator in Ghana, Mr. Charles Abani. Also present were the Heads of UNESCO and UNHCR country offices, Mr. Edmond Moukala and Mrs. Needa Jehu-Mazou respectively. [**Read more**](#)

Fish processing facility inaugurated in Axim



Empowered at last, fish processors in action at the newly built facility designed to enhance safety and productivity. Photo: ©FAO

For years, the women, who work tirelessly behind the scenes of Ghana's vibrant fisheries sector, have lacked a safe space to process fish, rest, and organize. This year, on International Women's Day 2025, that changed.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), together with the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, commissioned a new fish processing and hostel facility in Axim, built with and for the women who form the heart of post-harvest fisheries. The moment was more than symbolic. It marked a turning point in how Ghana values and empowers the women keeping its food systems alive.

The initiative supports Ghana's implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, especially those focused on decent work, gender equality, and equitable access to resources. By recognizing women's contributions and equipping them with the right infrastructure and leadership training, the effort advances Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5, 8, 10, and 14, gender equality, decent work, reduced inequalities, and life below water respectively.

This intervention is also a clear example of how inclusive actions can accelerate key development transitions, strengthening food systems, generating decent jobs, advancing social protection, and tackling climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

In alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) priority on Inclusive Economic Transformation, the project gives women in fisheries not just a better workspace, but a platform to lead.

With a newly inaugurated management and oversight committee trained in participatory governance and maintenance, the facility is not only built to last, but also to empower.

FAO's work in Ghana continues to demonstrate that when women are given the tools to lead, entire communities thrive, not as beneficiaries, but as agents of change.



Food and Agriculture Organization
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DELIVERING AS ONE

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