



**Ghana United Nations
Development Assistance
Framework (UNDAF)**

**Annual Report
2016**

United Nations in Ghana



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Preface

In 2016, Ghana was successful in holding peaceful, transparent and credible Presidential and Parliamentary elections. This was the country's 7th peaceful Presidential Election, which led to its third tranquil transition of power from the incumbent to the opposition under the 1992 Constitution.

The professional conduct of the elections and the smooth transfer of power again earned Ghana the rightful respect of the international community and reinforced its reputation as a beacon for democracy in the region.

The effective democratic process is a critical asset for Ghana in advancing economic and social development and in respecting and protecting human rights.

This report summarises key development results achieved in Ghana in 2016 with UN support in the penultimate year of implementing the **UN Development Assistance Framework 2012-17** (UNDAF). The UNDAF, which was signed with the Government in 2011, reflects Ghana's national goals and its commitments to global development initiatives, and sets out the UN system's collective contributions, from nearly two dozen UN Agencies, to help the Government and other stakeholders achieve these strategic goals.

This report also highlights findings from the independent UNDAF Evaluation and the Common Country Analysis on how we, the UN Ghana Country Team, can do even better in the future. These assessments found that the UN's value to Ghana lies primarily in its ability to share technical expertise, its objectivity, and its normative standards. Throughout this report, you will find illustrations of how the UN's policy research, advisory services, demonstration projects, advocacy, technical support and knowledge-sharing is contributing to agricultural modernisation, food security and nutrition, environmental sustainability, water and sanitation, effective public health, education and social services that reach the marginalised and most vulnerable, refugee protection, effective migration policies and systems, and institutional capacity for good governance.

The UN Country Team in Ghana will increasingly focus its partnerships towards bolstering Ghana's efforts to meet its commitments to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (as agreed by 193 Heads of State at the UN in New York in September 2015), the development finance agenda (set out at the International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa in July 2015), agreements on combatting climate change (made at the UN Climate Change Conference COP21 in Paris in December 2015), and the integration of the humanitarian and development agendas (agreed at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in May 2016).

The Sustainable Development Agenda is a political commitment and a technical road map to end extreme poverty in all its forms, decrease inequalities between and within countries, spur economic growth and decent jobs, improve infrastructure and cities, speed up industrialisation, transform agriculture, address climate change, protect natural resources, and ensure access to justice by all. It is one unified and universal agenda for economic, social and environmental development and for leaving no one behind, made concrete and measurable through the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

National governments take the lead in localising and achieving these goals, but such an ambitious agenda requires collective efforts. The UN Country Team's partnership going forward will need to reflect the integrated and indivisible nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and support the realisation of its promises for all Ghanaians.

Christine Evans-Klock
UN Resident Coordinator for Ghana

Contents

Preface	i
Abbreviations and Acronyms	iii
Executive Summary	1
Country Context and Development	4
Lessons from the UN Common Country Analysis and UNDAF Evaluation	6
Thematic Area 1: Food Security and Nutrition	7
Outcome 1: Agricultural Modernisation	8
Outcome 2: Nutrition.....	12
Thematic Area 2: Sustainable Environment, Energy and Human Settlements	15
Outcome 3: Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction.....	16
Outcome 4: Affordable and Sustainable Housing.....	20
Outcome 5: Water and Sanitation	22
Thematic Area 3: Human Development and Productive Capacity for Improved Social Services	24
Outcome 6: Maternal and Child Health	25
Outcome 7: Social Services	27
Outcome 8: HIV/AIDS	29
Outcome 9: Education	33
Thematic Area 4: Transparent and Accountable Governance	35
Outcome 10: National Institutions on Democracy and Peace	36
Outcome 11: Data for Evidence-based Planning and Decision-making.....	39
Cross-Cutting Themes	41
Human Rights.....	41
Gender	42
Humanitarian Assistance	44
UN Delivering as One	45
Operating as One	45
Communicating as One.....	46
Conclusions and the way forward	47
Annexes	48
Annex 1: UN Country Team in Ghana	48
Annex 2: National Policies, Strategies, Plans, Legislation 2016	50
Annex 3: Financial Reporting 2016	52

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AfDB	African Development Bank	MOTI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
AU	African Union	NADMO	National Disaster Management Organisation
CHRAJ	Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice	NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
DaO	Delivering as One	NPC	National Peace Council
FAO	UN Food and Agricultural Organisation	OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
FDA	Food and Drugs Authority	PPP	Public-Private Partnership
GAC	Ghana AIDS Commission	QCPR	Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review
GDHS	Ghana Demographic and Health Survey	RCO	UN Resident Coordinator Office
GHS	Ghana Health Service	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
GoG	Government of Ghana	SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
GSGDA	Ghana Shared Growth & Development Agenda II	UNAIDS	Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS
GSS	Ghana Statistical Service	UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	UNDAF	UN Development Assistance Framework
ILO	International Labour Organisation	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
IMF	International Monetary Fund	UNESCO	United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organisation
IMO	International Maritime Organisation	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
IOM	International Organisation for Migration	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
JUTA	Joint UN Team on AIDS	UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
LEAP	Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty programme	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
LTNDP	Ghana Long-term National Development Plan (2018-56)	UNIC	United Nations Information Centre
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agencies	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
MESTI	Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation	UNOHCHR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
MMDAs	Metropolitan, Municipal & District Assemblies	UNOPS	United Nations Operations
MoE	Ministry of Education	UNU-INRA	United Nations University – Institute for Natural Resources in Africa
MoF	Ministry of Finance	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Health
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture	WASH-in-HCF	Water, Hygiene and Sanitation in Healthcare Facilities
MoFARI	Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Regional Integration	WB	World Bank
MoGCSP	Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection	WFP	World Food Programme
MoH	Ministry of Health	WHO	World Health Organisation
MoJAGD	Ministry of Justice and Attorney General Department		



Executive Summary

The **UN Country Team (UNCT)** in Ghana in 2016 comprised representative offices of FAO, IFAD, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNU-INRA, WFP, and WHO. Additional UN agencies provide advisory support and backstop technical support programmes from their regional or global Headquarters: IAEA, ILO, IMO, OCHA, OHCHR, UNCDF, UN Environment, UN-Habitat, UNIDO, UNODC, and UN WOMEN (see Annex).

This team of UN Agencies engages the Government of Ghana (GoG) and stakeholders in extensive consultations and strategic planning every four or five years to review past work and agree on new priorities. This results in the **UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)**, a signed agreement between the UN and the Government that sets out the UN system's collective contributions to Ghana's national development goals.

The current UNDAF (2012-17) is the fourth in the series of development frameworks agreed between the GoG and the UN since 1997. The medium-term *Ghana Shared Growth Development Agenda (GSGDA)* 2010-13, and its successor, GSGDA II (2014-17), and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) provided the basis for the UN's strategic positioning in Ghana.

Throughout the implementation period, the UNCT has been making progress applying the Delivering as One (DaO) approach recommended by the UN General Assembly to ensure coherence, avoid duplication, reduce costs of doing business, and maximise synergies in the UN's work at the country level. **NKONSONKONSON**, or "In Unity Lies Strength", is the localised approach for DaO that has put in place the DaO pillars of *One Programme* (captured in the UNDAF), *Operating as One* (to achieve efficiency gains), and *Communicating as One* (for coherent messaging). The *Common Budgetary Framework* pillar (including joint resource mobilisation) may be instituted in the next UNDAF cycle.

The **UN Resident Coordinator** provides leadership within the **UN Country Team**, comprising the heads of the UN resident agencies and designated senior programme officers or other representative of the non-resident UN agencies.

Under *One Leader*, they carry the responsibility to implement the agreed *One Programme* and the promotion of all other aspects of the UN mission: human rights, peace and democracy, and resilience to humanitarian crises.

Expanding the recognition and protection of **human rights** is embedded throughout all the technical and policy work of the UN, and features particularly strongly in the support for migrants and refugees. The UN Gender Team (UNGT) and the Joint UN Team on AIDS (JUTA) take a rights-based approach to supporting gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, the protection of rights, access to care, and freedom from stigma and discrimination for persons with HIV/AIDS. In 2016, the UNCT carried out a human rights assessment to identify groups in Ghana that are most at risk of having their human rights not recognised and protected. This Human Rights Up Front approach will inform the preparation of the next *One Programme*, expected to cover 2018 through 2022.

Throughout 2016, the UN was a key player in supporting national institutions of **democracy** and the electoral processes. The UN supported the National Peace Council in organising a peace forum on 1 December 2016 where all the Presidential Candidates signed the *Public Re-Affirmation of the Declaration against Electoral Violence, Impunity and Injustice*. The UN Country Team supported the good offices of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel in working with Political Parties and civil society to avert political violence, increase participation of women and youth in political processes, and support the peace forum.

Strengthening resilience to **humanitarian crises** is led by the Inter-Agency Working Group for Emergencies, comprising both UN Agencies and key NGOs, which works closely with the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO). Work on disaster risk reduction focuses support on crisis prevention, preparedness and response. Its ongoing work is informed by lessons learnt through community and urban simulation exercises conducted throughout 2016.

Report Content

This report begins with a brief overview of the country context, highlighting the electoral process, macroeconomic conditions and development planning. The bulk of the report summarises UNDAF implementation in 2016, starting with a short summary of the findings of the UNDAF Evaluation and the Common Country Analysis (CCA). Key results are highlighted under each of the four strategic thematic areas in the *One Programme* and the cross-cutting themes of human rights, gender equality, and humanitarian support. This is followed by updates on the UN Country Team's progress in *Operating as One* and *Communicating as One*. Financial reporting, for the year and cumulative since 2012, is provided in the Annex. The final chapter indicates the way forward, drawing lessons from the year's work, the evaluation, and the commitment to target support towards enacting the 2030 Agenda through the national development plan.

Specific outcomes were identified in each of the following **four UNDAF strategic thematic areas**, for a total of 11 major outcomes. Advancing gender equality and empowerment, respect for human rights, and resilience and environmental sustainability were mainstreamed across this work.

Food Security & Nutrition: UN support focused on expanding the reach of agricultural extension services, building up capacities of smallholder farmers, strengthening value chain development in selected commodities, and facilitating policy coordination on nutrition. Encouraging results are being seen in private sector growth in agriculture and adoption of new techniques to enhance resilience of farming to the effects of climate change. Much remains to be achieved for agricultural growth and nutrition improvement through increasing local-produced foods in the popular diet. The Ghana Zero Hunger strategic review was launched and is being led by former President John Kufuor, informed by the *Ghana Cost of Hunger Analysis* published in 2016.

Sustainable Environment, Energy & Human Settlement: The Ghanaian delegation to the signing ceremony of the Paris Climate Change Agreement in April 2016 in New York presented prioritised investment sectors to meet international obligations on climate change and mobilise support from development partners. Parliament passed legislation to strengthen NADMO and make realistic provisions for the management of disasters and emergencies. A joint UN programme (led by UN-Habitat, with UNICEF, UNDP and WHO) piloted a community-based approach to develop flood-resilient water and sanitation facilities combined with good health practices and disaster early warning systems, which is now informing sanitation and disaster prevention policies. Environmental degradation persists, resulting from deforestation, unregulated informal mining and over-fishing. Meeting the human rights and basic needs of urban slum dwellers continues to be daunting in the face of burgeoning urbanisation. The Partnership for Action on Green

Economy and Switch Africa Green (led by UNDP, with UN Environment, UNIDO, UNU-INRA and ILO) is supporting Ghana's green economy transition.

Capacity in Social Services: The UN works with many Government partners to increase access to high impact health, education, social protection, and HIV/AIDS programmes and services, especially for disadvantaged groups. The Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) programme has grown to reach some 945,000 persons, including more than 375,000 children. Important new legislation is entering into implementation on gender equality, child protection, early education, and maternal and child health. Continued reduction of HIV prevalence indicates progress, however prevention of mother-to-child transmission and coverage of paediatric antiretroviral therapy remains unacceptably low, while stigma and discrimination continue to hamper uptake of services. The Joint UN Team on AIDS (led by UNAIDS) is supporting the Ghana AIDS Commission in incorporating the global 90-90-90 strategy in national plans, and the GoG in taking up the Presidency of the UNAIDS' Programme Coordinating Board. The UN Joint Programme on Ebola preparedness (led by WHO and UNICEF, with eight other UN agencies) concluded in 2016 with the preparation of a joint Ministry of Health and UN review of public health emergency response, preparedness and resources. This drew lessons from the implementation of the National Ebola Viral Disease (EVD) Preparedness Plan and extended the discussion on preparedness to recurrent health emergencies such as cholera and meningitis.

Transparent & Accountable Governance: The UN responded to requests to support key institutions in electoral processes. South-south knowledge sharing was facilitated on good practices from around the region on voter registration. Gender policies and implementation strategies were also developed with the major political parties and the UN support to the National Peace Council promoted the signing of the national accord for peaceful elections. The UN Data Group coordinated support for the intense effort by the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) to expand the collection, use, and dissemination of data for benchmarking and monitoring the SDGs. Efforts are accelerating to expand national identification and birth certification, which will provide more accurate data for policy formulation and evaluation, help reduce statelessness, and improve confidence in voter registries. The national migration data sharing framework was developed and will be fully operational in 2017.

Across these strategic areas of work, the UN takes a coordinated approach to catalyse change in the most impoverished regions of the country. Synchronising work at the district level in the mutually-supporting areas of nutrition, sanitation, maternal and child health, and resilience (implemented by WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, and UN-Habitat) has improved the efficiency and impact of UN Agencies' efforts. In 2016, the management of the joint UN office in Tamale (led by WFP) responded to requests from UN Country Teams elsewhere for examples of regional or zonal UN coordination.

Country Context and Development

Ghana's continued success in managing **electoral processes** enhanced its reputation in governance and rule of law across Africa, which in turn strengthens the enabling conditions and raises expectations for inclusive economic development and for the recognition and protection of human rights for all Ghanaians.

Throughout 2016, the UN Country Team and Resident Coordinator supported the extensive work of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel, Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, to strengthen electoral processes, and facilitated dialogues with representatives of Political Parties, the Judiciary, Security Forces and civil society organisations.

The newly elected Government has already articulated an ambitious vision for agricultural modernisation, industry diversification, and job growth – especially targeting young people. It has placed improving fiscal space at the top of its agenda in order to be able to launch programmes in these areas while also expanding public services in under-served areas and making substantial investments in transportation infrastructure.

The country faces severe **macroeconomic challenges** in implementing this agenda. At the end of the second year of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) three-year Extended Credit Facility of US\$ 900 million, signed in April 2015 to resolve protracted balance of payments problems, an IMF technical team estimated that the growth rate for 2016 was 3.6%, exceeding the target of 3.3%. However, the target on inflation was not met and the fiscal deficit was nearly double the 2016 target: 9% of GDP (on cash basis) compared to the 5.25% target. The government debt-to-GDP ratio increased to an estimated 74% at the end of 2016.

Part of the deterioration was due to lower than expected oil and non-oil revenues. However, the IMF reported "significant public spending commitments that bypassed public finance management (PFM) systems" at the end of 2016 which accounted for a substantial share of the growth in the fiscal deficit. Throughout 2016, there was also increasing concern about the extent of the debt of the state-owned enterprises in the energy sector and the full extent of Government obligations. The new Government announced its intention to conduct a full audit of outstanding obligations to determine how financial commitments had bypassed the accountability mechanism and a review of public contracts in the energy sector.

The problems in PFM are jeopardising the provision of essential public services. For example, financial arrears in the National Health Insurance Scheme to its providers threaten the long-term sustainability of this milestone achievement towards universal health care coverage. Substantial funding from PEPFAR (U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief), the Global Fund, and GAVI (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation) is contingent on the Government meeting various financial arrears in its commitments for co-financing or reimbursements.

The Government's actions to strengthen the PFM reforms and meet financial obligations in social sectors will go far to regain the confidence of bilateral development partners and the private sector. In the longer term, as a lower middle-income country, the imperative is mounting for Ghana to improve domestic revenue mobilisation in order to finance its own development investments, including in achieving the goals under the Agenda 2030 and the African Union Agenda 2063.

The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** was launched in Ghana at a national workshop in February 2016 where both the Majority and Minority Leaders in Parliament committed to looking at Ministerial budgets through the lens of SDG implementation. At this workshop, the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) explained how the SDGs were being localised and integrated in Ghana's national development plans. This event celebrated the appointment of then President John Dramani Mahama as Co-chair of the Secretary-General's Group of Eminent SDG Advocates, which recognised Ghana's achievements under the MDGs, its contributions to the development phase of the SDGs and its potential to lead SDG attainment across Africa. (In early 2017, newly-elected President Nana Akufo-Addo was likewise named Co-chair of the SDG Advocates by UN Secretary-General António Guterres.)

Throughout the early part of 2016, multiple consultations with the UN Country Team and Development Partners were organised with NDPC leadership on the integration of SDGs into national development plans. Representatives from NDPC and the Ministry of Finance participated in UN Country Team retreats (held in January and November) to explain and update their planning processes and discuss how MDAs were aligning budget requests to the SDGs. In early 2017,

the new Government announced that their vision document, the constitutionally-mandated “*Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies*” and its operationalisation through the Medium-term National Development Plan 2018-21, expected mid-2017, will map national priorities against the Agenda 2030 and the AU Agenda 2063 objectives.

While SDG implementation strategies awaited the outcome of the general elections at the end of 2016, the country made notable progress in two crucial areas: internalising the SDG indicators and developing strong grassroots advocacy for SDG implementation and accountability.

The GSS and NDPC have exerted substantial leadership in organising the generation of **statistical data** to be able to benchmark, monitor and report on the SDGs. The UN Data Group was established to coordinate support to GSS and NDPC on SDG indicators and statistics capabilities, drawing together substantial statistical expertise on agriculture, health, social protection, environment etc. UNICEF and UNDP supported GSS and NDPC in holding the *National Forum on Strengthening Data Production and Utilisation in National Development* in November. The Forum identified substantial challenges. The first challenge has to do with the ability to capture data that is produced routinely as Ministries, Departments and Agencies go about their normal business, a veritable treasure of important data that is not yet being thoroughly mined; and the second borders on making better use of the data that is being produced by sharing it more broadly – across Ministries and agencies, and with both policy makers and civil society.

In 2016, the UN formed a partnership with the **Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) Platform on SDGs**. This umbrella group brings together over 100 CSOs in Ghana to plan, strategise and coordinate initiatives for the achievement of the SDGs. The CSO Platform is a strong and well-organised partner for the UN and the country in ensuring that no one is left behind and in building local accountability mechanisms for SDG implementation. This approach builds on lessons from MDG implementation that found weaknesses in local awareness and ownership at the community level and seeks to strengthen demand for and participation in achieving the SDGs.

The Heads of Cooperation of Development Partners, with GIZ technical and financial support, mapped **development partnership**, in terms of both budget support and projects, against the 17 SDGs and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) sector classification. The results, which were shared with the Ministry of Finance, NDPC and all Development Partners, revealed where there was substantial Development Partner support, potential duplication of efforts, and remaining gaps across the SDGs in the country. It provided a good benchmark of UN and Development Partner support and identified greater potential for synergies between the UN and bilateral development partners in catalysing national achievement of the SDGs.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



UNDAF Results and Achievements

Lessons from the UN Common Country Analysis and UNDAF Evaluation

In 2016, the UN Country Team completed the independent UNDAF Evaluation and the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and vetted the findings through stakeholder workshops. The Evaluation and CCA were carried out in tandem, simultaneously, from July through September. Stakeholders and UN staff were asked to contribute to the exercise which was designed to build coherence between lessons from past work and assessment of development challenges going forward.

The Evaluation and CCA process, led by international/national consultant teams, facilitated teamwork through extensive consultations with the UN Country Team, Results Groups, DaO working groups, Ministries, Implementing Partners, and Development Partners. Representatives of the Ministry of Finance, NDPC, and Civil Society participated in UN strategic planning workshops in 2016 where they presented views on SDG implementation challenges, recommendations and lessons from MDG experience.

This process benefited from lessons learned from global experience on UNDAF design, implementation and evaluation through participation in the African regional workshop for UN Country Teams in the process of preparing new UNDAFs (Malawi, March 2016). The Ghana UN Country Team delegation was able to bring back experiences from other countries and explain the new UNDAF guidelines and DaO expectations to UN Country Team members. This guided the design of and facilitated stakeholder agreement on the UNDAF road map and setting up the UNDAF Evaluation and CCA management team representing both UN programming and operations and the NDPC.

The independent evaluation reviewed UNDAF implementation from 2012 through mid-2016. In its summary conclusions, the authors confirmed that the UNDAF design was relevant to the Ghanaian context and had taken into consideration country systems and policies. In terms of implementation, they concluded that progress on achievements on the UNDAF results were generally positive, with a few exceptions. About 60% of its intended results had been achieved to date.

In terms of how these results were achieved, the Evaluation report noted that *“the effectiveness of DaO leaves a lot of room for improvement in working together more closely in joint programming, delivering together, harmonising processes, better coordination and joint resource mobilisation. In terms of efficiency, gains have been made in areas such as the UN zonal office in Tamale benefitting from cost sharing mechanisms and working together in common areas of interest. Sustainability of UN results is a complex issue and the readiness of country systems to sustain gains of the UN is an area of further study. However, the support of the UN in policy development, research and capacity building will endure.”*

Some common views on how the UN works emerged from the stakeholder consultations, as stated in the CCA: *“The UN is seen as a neutral and honest ‘broker’, with the capacity to convene and channel resources and expertise to support national priorities. Its strengths lie with its advocacy role especially in relation to the global development agenda and international standards; its sectoral, technical expertise and its capacity to work both at field and policy level; and its potential to leverage international experiences and facilitate exchanges.”*

The findings revealed significant opportunities to improve how the UN system works in Ghana and acquire further experience in delivering together. They reported that there is a perception of some duplication of efforts, of competition at times among UN agencies, and of weak involvement and buy-in by Ministries in DaO. It was acknowledged that in countries where DaO is most effective, there is strong Government leadership for it. DaO cannot be only “supply-driven” by the UN system; it is also the responsibility of Governments to expect it, enable it, and hold Ministries and UN Agencies alike accountable for achieving its potential to improve efficiency and impact.



Thematic Area 1: Food Security and Nutrition

Thematic area 1 aims to contribute to improved food security and nutrition, agricultural productivity and competitiveness, and enhance integration into domestic and international markets integration. Following the 2014/2015 trajectory, Ghana continues to make steady progress towards agricultural transformation and reduction of malnutrition with the private sector increasingly investing in agriculture. These glimpses of success offer an inspiring new vision of a future in which farming as a struggle to survive gives way to farming as a business that thrives. This is further exemplified in the recent launch of the “Planting for Food and Jobs Campaign” (April 2017) by the Minister for Food and Agriculture, which aims to expand output of selected crops, increase productivity and facilitate private-sector job creation within agriculture and related sectors.

However, much remains to be done to sustain past gains and achieve new ambitions to transform agriculture and to ensure a better life for all as laid out in the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods; and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Increased food demand and changing consumption habits driven by demographic factors such as population growth and urbanisation are leading to rising net food imports. These rising imports are indicative of a broader opportunity to transform agriculture construed as a business and that demand exists, if a vibrant private agribusiness sector in Ghana can be stimulated to service it. These food imports also represent a diverse set of markets, both in key commodities as well as processed goods.

Additionally, new technologies, especially the application of information and communication technologies to agriculture, as well as financial and information services present major opportunities to modernising value chains in an inclusive manner. Tackling climate change and its effects also means that climate smart agriculture (CSA) is now no longer an option but a core necessity of any strategy to deliver results. Despite the impressive decline in the prevalence of anaemia in Ghana, it continues to be a public health problem. Most vulnerable are children under five, adolescent girls age 15 to 19, and pregnant women. There is also a need to promote behaviour change among both food-secure and food-insecure areas for appropriate complementary feeding practices.

A critical global development in 2016 emerged from the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference (COP21). The Paris Agreement — which addresses greenhouse gas emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance beginning in 2020 — was ratified by 126 countries, including Ghana, and entered into force in November 2016. These commitments to climate action are critical for food security and nutrition, given the ways in which agriculture is both affected by and contributes to climate change. Furthermore, COP22 in 2016 galvanised the launch of related efforts such as the initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture, which aims to reduce the vulnerability of Africa and its agriculture to climate change.

Information provided by

FAO, WFP, UNICEF, WHO, IFAD, UNAIDS, UNHCR, UNIDO, IAEA

Outcome 1: Agricultural Modernisation

UNDAF intended results

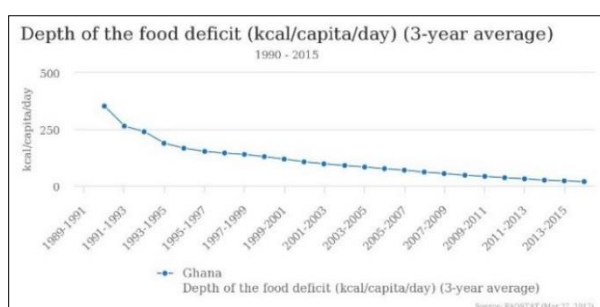
- Enhanced access to agricultural extension services and markets
- Increased access to agricultural inputs
- Capacity development for effective extension delivery and adoption of Good Agricultural Practices by agricultural extension agents and small holder farmers
- Value chain development for selected commodities (maize, soy beans, rice cowpea, fish, cassava, horticultural crops)

Key messages

- Strong policies and institutional arrangements are central to increasing agricultural productivity.
- Large and growing net food imports demonstrate that there are substantial markets for prospective agribusiness investors.
- Private-sector led approaches to mobilising resources are becoming increasingly important and show great promise for improving access to finance for agricultural development.
- Climate smart agriculture (CSA) has emerged as an approach that enhances the resilience of farm systems to the effects of climate change.

Significant national achievements and constraints

Ghana's per capita availability of food — expressed on the basis of dietary energy in calories (depth of food deficit) — has continuously improved. This has generally been driven by technical innovation, scale economies, shifts to higher-return crops and animal products associated with urbanisation and improving market access conditions.



Source: FAOSTAT, 2017

Sustaining this progress will require doubling efforts to effectively address remaining key challenges in terms of meeting funding targets, creating the required technical and institutional capacities at all levels, and further improving inter-ministerial coordination. Also, although participation of non-state actors has become more institutionalised, there is a need to further empower and enhance the leadership role of non-state actors. Furthermore, adapting agriculture to climate change and its effects is likely to require public and private investment (where relevant) in 1) meteorological information; 2) improved inputs (seed, fertilizers and

irrigation); 3) new crops and varieties; 4) appropriate management of soil fertility to improve water harvesting and nutrient supply; and, 5) strengthening of research and advisory services to develop, demonstrate and implement new technologies and management systems.

UN contributions towards national achievements 2016

In 2016, focus areas for the UN included: enhancing access to agricultural extension services and markets; increasing access to agricultural inputs; capacity development for effective extension delivery and adoption of GAPs by agricultural extension agents and smallholder farmers respectively; and value chain development for selected commodities (maize, soya beans, rice, cowpea, fish, cassava, horticultural crops).

Productivity improvements: Efforts towards productivity improvement were directed at increasing the production of selected commodities in the crop, livestock and fisheries sub-sectors. The UN facilitated access to agricultural inputs through the provision of starter packages and equipment (along the maize, rice, aquaculture, cassava, soybeans, cowpea and vegetable value chains) for over 10,257 smallholder and medium-scale farmers in ten regions. Access to micro/small irrigation schemes was also improved through the rehabilitation of the Weija and Ashaiman Irrigation Schemes (to serve over 2200 small-scale farmers) in the Greater Accra region and construction of dug outs in the Upper West region. Furthermore, construction of two

warehouses in the Ejura-Sekyedumase districts, with a combined capacity of 450 megatonnes (MT), has been initiated to help reduce post-harvest losses and help the aggregation and marketing of quality grain. An integrated agriculture and nutrition value chains programme has been initiated, providing impetus to farmers to produce quality grains for sale to selected industrial food processors, who will be producing specialised nutritious foods according to international standards.

Extension services delivery for productivity improvements: The need to strengthen the delivery of extension services for productivity improvements has been important. Thus, UN support concentrated on appropriate skills development, training of extension personnel in GAPs for crop, livestock, fish and aquaculture production and development. Over 10,000 smallholder farmers (45% of them being women) and an additional 5,000 members of 210 farmer organisations and CSOs along the maize, rice, cassava, soybean, cowpea, and vegetable and aquaculture value chains were trained on various GAPs. Technology transfer (mainly through the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach) for safe disposal of obsolete pesticides, climate smart agriculture, conservation agriculture and post-harvest loss reduction was conducted. These FFS schools served as demonstrations for specific technical and organisational skills ensuring that – beyond agricultural production – entrepreneurial, marketing and financial skills are core components of the learning process.

Major impacts have been: 1. increased curriculum development capacity of extension personnel, with a greater emphasis on learning-by-doing and practical skills building; 2. improved farmer training methodologies and techniques; 3. incorporation of government policy and development themes into curricula; and 4. greater participation of farmers in educational programmes.

Policy advice and strategy development: The UN provided both technical and financial support towards the development of the Ghana Livestock Development Policy and Strategy (2016-2025), which was launched in November 2016. It seeks to address a myriad of issues, such as the excessive import of livestock and livestock products, especially poultry, increased incidence of emerging and re-emerging animal diseases, inadequate supply of vaccines and veterinary pharmaceuticals, inadequate livestock infrastructure, transhumance, financing, research and technology dissemination in the livestock industry, among others. Further support was provided towards the development of the Veterinary

Act and Livestock Improvement Act aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity for development of livestock/meat and dairy value chains. The UN contributed to the review and validation of the National Irrigation Policy.

Within the framework of the 'One Health' approach, the UN provided technical and financial support for the development of the National Policy on Antimicrobial Use and Resistance (AMR). The policy, which draws on the World Health Organisation's Global Action Plan to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance, seeks to provide direction and guidance for all stakeholders who are affected by or use antimicrobial in the health, animal health, agriculture and aquaculture sectors. The major elements in the policy include interventions to raise awareness and understanding of AMR, increase the national surveillance system for antibiotics, and reduce the incidence of infections.

Research: An Emergency Food Security and Market Assessment (EFSA) was conducted to identify the ten most highly food insecure districts in the Northern Savannah Ecological zone which is the most vulnerable part of the country. The UN has facilitated the use of nuclear techniques (i.e. pollen irradiation) for the production of hybrid palm oil. Activities within the year under review involved the propagation of the second mutant on trial basis in pilot plantations at the Oil Palm Research Centre in Kade. This, when successfully implemented, is expected to increase yield six to ten times. This will help Ghana produce high germplasm, higher yielding commercial lines as well as produce commercial seeds for local and regional use.

Other projects undertaken within the year were to improve the nutritional qualities of yam species, *Dioscorea esculenta* and extend its postharvest shelf life using mutation technique, to increase awareness on utilisation of *D. esculenta* tubers, to achieve long-term conservation of the crop using in vitro and in vivo modes of conservation, to strengthen laboratory capacities for the rapid specific and accurate detection of the causative agent by applying modern advanced molecular assays, to ensure the full characterisation of the disease agents for the development of effective vaccines for the control of such diseases in the long term and to support the transfer of appropriate technologies to farmers and to enhance livestock breeding for improved productivity.

The results obtained from research showed that irradiation of *D. esculenta* tubers extends the shelf life for over three months with nutritional analysis scheduled for May 2017. Post-harvest shelf life has been

extended from one week to over three months (14 weeks) thereby allowing flexibility in the utilisation of the crop. Also, postharvest rotting has been reduced. Tuber size has been marginally improved in an earlier experiment using recurrent irradiation. An in vitro conservation method has been developed.

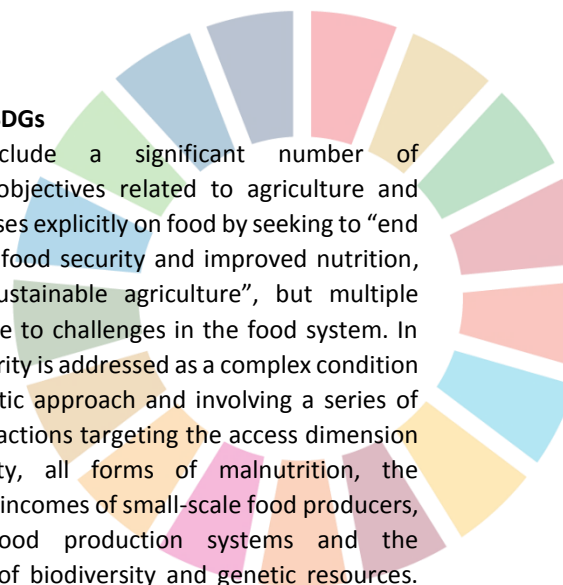
The UN provided technical and financial support to testing institutions and regulatory authorities in the export of food products and crop production. Testing equipment was provided to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - Soil Research Institute (SRI) and the Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate (PPRS) of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) to improve their testing methods for soil, fertilizer and seed for planting.

Further information:

- Agricultural Sector Annual Progress Report (2016)
- FAOSTAT: www.faostat.fao.org
- UN annual and project reports (2016)
- The State of Food and Agriculture: Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (FAO, 2016)
- Africa Agriculture Status Report: Progress towards Agricultural Transformation in Africa (AGRA, 2016)
- Emergency Food Security and Market Assessment, Ghana (WFP, 2016)

Relation to the SDGs

The SDGs include a significant number of interconnected objectives related to agriculture and food. SDG 2 focuses explicitly on food by seeking to “end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture”, but multiple other goals relate to challenges in the food system. In SDG 2, food security is addressed as a complex condition requiring a holistic approach and involving a series of complementary actions targeting the access dimension of food security, all forms of malnutrition, the productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, resilience of food production systems and the sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic resources. From ending poverty and hunger to responding to climate change and sustaining our natural resources, the 2030 Agenda recognises that we can no longer look at food, livelihoods and the management of natural resources separately. A focus on rural development and investment in agriculture – crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture – are powerful tools to end poverty and hunger, and bring about sustainable development.



Rehabilitation of Weija Irrigation Scheme restores productive capacities for over 2,200 agricultural households in the Greater Accra region

On 3 June 2015, heavy torrential rainfall led to severe flooding in Accra, and its environs, resulting in the loss of lives, displacement of vulnerable persons, destruction of farmlands, damage to the water supply and irrigation systems, and the destruction of key infrastructures. Among key infrastructure damaged was the Weija Irrigation Scheme that supplies water to farmers in the Greater Accra region to cultivate over 2,800 Hectares of vegetables, rice, maize and other food crops to feed Accra and parts of the Central region.

Following the devastating effect of the flood, the Government of Ghana, through Ministry of Food and Agriculture, requested financial and technical assistance to restore the lost livelihoods of agricultural households whose farming activities were destroyed by the severe floods in the region. With the Ghana Irrigation Development Authority (GIDA) as executing partner and in collaboration with NADMO, rehabilitation of the Weija Irrigation Scheme was conducted in 2016.

The open canal system has been changed to the use of conduit pipes to curb the perennial silting of the open canals. The over 7.4 km stretch of canal embankment to the storage reservoir has been cleared and desilted using heavy earth moving machines and excavators. Beneficiaries were fully engaged in the removal of remaining silt that the excavator bucket could not completely remove in the canals. Similar works have been conducted at the Ashaiman and Dahwenya Irrigation Schemes. Beneficiary farmers were trained on vegetable and crop production approaches to reduce their vulnerabilities to disasters and climate change. Over 62.36 metric tonnes of assorted seeds were distributed.



FAO Country Representative Mr. Abebe Haile-Gabriel and FAO Regional Representative Mr. Bukar Tijani tour pumping station at Weija Irrigation Scheme (Photo: FAO Ghana)

Outcome 2: Nutrition

UNDAF intended results

- Development of the National Nutrition Policy
- Expanded regional coverage of Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System
- Reduced micronutrient deficiencies
- Increased consumption of locally available nutritious foods by vulnerable groups
- Improved capacity of service providers to deliver quality nutrition interventions

Key messages

- Diets are changing with rising incomes and urbanisation — people are consuming more animal-source foods, sugar, fats and oils, refined grains, and processed foods. Dietary changes and their nutrition impacts — together known as the “nutrition transition” — are strongly linked with increasing burdens of overweight, obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease.
- Experience from existing inter-sectoral and inter-ministerial mechanisms for implementing nutrition policies indicates that interventions are more likely to succeed with top-level commitment, appropriate human and financial resources, and social participation.
- At least 12 of the 17 SDGs contain indicators that are highly relevant for nutrition, reflecting nutrition’s central role in sustainable development.
- Every \$1 invested in proven nutrition programmes offers benefits worth \$16.

Significant national achievements and constraints

Ghana is on course for meeting the global World Health Assembly (WHA) targets related to stunting, wasting, and overweight among children under the age of five and exclusive breastfeeding; as well as for meeting targets on anaemia in women. While nutrition continues to be an acknowledged development priority, the challenge of translating commitment into action for accelerated progress remains.

Along with continuing economic development, Ghana, like several other developing countries, is facing a “nutrition transition”. This term describes the shifts in physical activity levels and dietary patterns that go along with improvements in people’s living standards and changes in their livelihood activities and lifestyles. Shifts in dietary patterns give rise to new nutritional challenges such as overweight/obesity and related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke, and hypertension. These health issues have emerged as public health concerns, alongside continuation of relatively high levels of stunting and micro-nutrient deficiencies in some regions, particularly in the Northern Region. The rapid transformation of food value chains is also contributing to diet changes, as multinational agribusinesses, food manufacturers, retailers, and food service companies are increasingly influencing what is grown and consumed.

Notable developments were observed in 2016 in the global commitment to ending hunger and undernutrition and to promoting sustainability. The UN endorsed the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) Framework for Action, and declared 2016 to 2025 a Decade of Action on Nutrition to reduce hunger and malnutrition and meet the SDGs. The aim is to provide an umbrella for a wide group of actors to work together to make progress toward SDG 2 to end hunger and malnutrition in all its forms. The UN also declared 2016 the “International Year of Pulses” to highlight the nutrition and sustainability benefits of high-protein crops. Other important developments included the Nutrition for Growth process, and Japan’s growing leadership on nutrition in the lead-up to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

UN contributions towards national achievements 2016

Advocacy and strategy development: The UN supported advocacy events including:

- Commemoration of the 7th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security with the theme “Investing in Food Systems for Improving Child Nutrition: Key to Africa’s Renaissance”. Among others, advocacy was built around the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition; mutual accountability for achieving Nutrition Commitments of the Malabo Declaration; ICN2 and the SDGs; integration of sustainable school food

and nutrition programming; and the Africa Leaders for Nutrition initiative

- Launch of the Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) report for Ghana, an advocacy tool and a call to action around the economic and social impacts of child undernutrition;
- Commemoration of the 2016 World Food Day on “Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too” and the 2016 World Breastfeeding Week with the theme “Breastfeeding: A Key to Sustainable Development”;
- Advocacy for the development of guidelines for addressing anaemia in young children, adolescents and women of child bearing age.

In terms of strategy development, the UN supported:

- National Food Safety Plan to implement the National Food Safety Policy;
- Plans of action for nutrition specific (health sector) and nutrition sensitive (agriculture) actions;
- Food and nutrition component (of the Social Development Strategy) of the Long-term National Development Plan;
- Tools and guidelines for the decentralisation of the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI);
- Revision and printing of national guidelines and job aids on Community Management of Acute Malnutrition and infant and young child feeding.

Capacity development: The UN supported the orientation of the BFHI Authority on the New Global Code Monitoring Initiative (Net Code). Capacity of regional level health staff in the assessment and designation of health facilities as baby friendly was enhanced. Staff were trained on infant and young child feeding in 36 districts in the Central and Eastern Regions. Staff from the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) and Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) were trained on risk-based food safety management. The UN also contributed to the revision of anaemia training materials and facilitated the development of posters, flip charts and brochures on nutritious local foods to improve feeding of infants and young children. A South-South Cooperation (SSC) study tour exchange to Ethiopia was organised on the use of a Web-based E-Monitoring & Evaluation and Reporting System for Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) with the main objective of using information technology to strengthen M&E functions for Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). The “Fill the Nutrient Gap” tool was employed to increase partners’ knowledge on possible optimal packages of interventions to improve nutrient intake, with a focus on the first 1,000 days of life. Under the

Enhanced Nutrition and Value Chains (ENVAC) initiative, partnerships were formed with two private sector agro-processing firms to upgrade their equipment, and improve food safety and quality processes for the production of specialised nutritious foods in Ghana.

Supplementation and treatment of chronic and severe acute malnutrition: Specialised Nutritious Foods (SNFs) in the form of small quantity lipid-based nutrient supplements (SQ-LNS) were provided in the Upper East Region (for 1,217 children aged 6 to 23 months), for the prevention of stunting and micro-nutrient deficiencies. This went hand in hand with nutrition education and social behaviour change communication (SBCC) on healthy eating and proper Infant and Young Child Feeding practices, training of health staff and volunteers on SBCC messages, and on routine health data collection and attendance tracking through an electronic platform. Over 10,000 children (nationwide) with severe acute malnutrition were treated and their parents educated on appropriate child care.

Research/assessments: The UN provided both technical and financial support towards the conduct of a country assessment titled “Assessment of the Enabling Environment for the Achievement of Food and Nutrition Security for All in Ghana”. It took stock and analysed the various policies, strategies and programmes that have contributed to the reduction of malnutrition in Ghana. A bottleneck analysis of six nutrition specific interventions was also conducted. Initiated in 2016, the UN is supporting a secondary analysis of national surveys in Ghana to assess the key drivers of the nutrition situation in Ghana. A sampling and nutrient analysis of 25 locally available nutritious foods was conducted to update the West Africa Food Database.

Relation to SDGs

Nutrition is a powerful driver of sustainable development — it can either propel the agenda forward or hold it back. Nutrition must therefore be understood as both an input to, and an outcome of, the SDGs as a whole. The many manifestations of malnutrition derive not just from a lack of sufficient and adequate nutritious and safe food, but from a host of interacting processes linking agriculture, health, care, education, sanitation and hygiene, access to resources, women’s empowerment, and more. The Decade of Action on Nutrition, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2016, reinforces countries’ commitment to achieve the global nutrition targets by 2025. The SDGs have given us an even broader scope and five additional years to fight different forms of malnutrition and potentially eliminate some of them.

Strengthening local food-based approaches for improved nutrition and stunting reduction

Under the home fortification component of the pilot project “Local Food-based Approaches for Improved Nutrition (LoFAIN)”, being implemented in Ghana’s northern savannah ecological zone, a locally produced small quantity lipid-based nutrient supplement named GrowNut is being provided through electronic vouchers to children within the target age in the Central Gonja District of the Northern Region and the Bolga Municipality of the Upper East Region.

Aishetu Issah, a volunteer working on the LoFAIN project in Yapei community in the Central Gonja District, says that most mothers she interacts with testify that their children appear much healthier after they have been given GrowNut for a short period. And they love the peanut taste. “We are not only provided with GrowNut but have also been taught to improve our nutrition by eating healthy local foods,” said Salamatu Alhassan, whose 11-months old son Adam is enrolled in the programme.

The GrowNut product is being scaled up for use in six other districts with high stunting rates in the Northern Region.



*Mothers like Salamatu Alhassan have learnt a lot through social behaviour change communication
(Photo: WFP/Vera Boohene)*

Further information:

- UN annual and project reports (2016)
- Global Nutrition Report 2016: From Promise to Impact: Ending Malnutrition by 2030. Washington, DC (IFPRI, 2016)
- 2017 Global Food Policy Report. Washington, DC (IFPRI, 2017)
- Fill the Nutrient Gap Ghana (WFP & GHS, 2016)
- Cost of Hunger in Africa, Ghana report – Social and Economic Impact of Child Undernutrition on Ghana’s Long-Term Development. NDPC, WFP, ECA & AUC (2016)



Thematic Area 2: Sustainable Environment, Energy and Human Settlements

Thematic Area 2 supports priorities in three inter-linked areas: climate change and resilience; urban development and slums upgrading; and water and sanitation. Work under these three outcomes is aligned with the GSGDA II focus area 3, which includes natural resource management, and focus area 5, which includes human settlement development.

GoG has taken steps to act on its global commitments to combat climate change made at the Climate Change Conference in Paris at the end of 2015. In April 2016, Ghana signed the Paris Agreement at the high-level event in New York, which was ratified by Ghana's Parliament. These high-level commitments set the foundation for implementing specific policies and enabling private-sector investment in energy efficiency, renewable energy and recycling. Ghana has likewise made commitments to sustainable and inclusive urbanisation through its participation in Habitat III (October 2016, in Ecuador).

Coherence between meeting environment commitments and meeting growing demand for reliable electricity and urban housing presents challenges in most countries, and Ghana is no exception. During 2016 the country largely overcame problems of irregular electricity supply that had affected business and households alike the previous year. Long-term challenges persist, including meeting financial arrears in state-owned energy enterprises, implementing new electricity regulatory and payment schemes, managing electronic waste and sanitation, and accelerating reforestation efforts.

Sanitation remains an urgent issue in Ghana, where open defecation rates are still significantly high. Government and CSO partnerships on community development, public health, and education are building alliances to improve sanitation facilities, expand public health information, and challenge cultural attitudes. This work emphasises community-based leadership and resilience, and demonstration work on WASH in flood-prone areas is now informing national guidelines and policies.

Information provided by

UNDP, UN Habitat, UNICEF, FAO, WHO, IAEA, UNIDO, UNESCO, WFP, UNU, IOM, UN Environment

Outcome 3: Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

UNDAF intended results

- Support for national climate change plans and programmes to reduce carbon emissions
- Increased community resilience to climate change
- Ability of national authorities to access international funds on climate change
- Increased renewable energy production
- Strengthened disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies and strategies
- Reinforced national and local disaster preparedness capacities and coordination on disaster response
- Biodiversity and land management issues integrated in national and local level policy and planning

Key messages

- Ghana ratified the Paris Agreement on Climate Change
- Parliament approved the E-Waste Bill and the NADMO Bill.
- Building urban resilience must be conducted in an inclusive manner.
- Electricity reliability improved, but financial situation of the energy sector is an issue of concern.
- Deforestation is estimated at 2% per annum. Its key drivers must be addressed in a comprehensive manner. This includes the unregulated artisanal and small-scale gold mining (galamsey), which is a threat to agricultural land, forests, water resources and public health.

Significant national achievements and constraints

Climate change: Following the climate change conference held in Paris in December 2015, Ghana signed the Paris Agreement at a high-level ceremony hosted by the UN Secretary General in New York on 22 April 2016. The Parliament of Ghana then ratified the Agreement on 4 August 2016. Ghana has therefore officially joined the global commitment to limiting global warming to below 2°C. Full implementation of this pledge hinges on mobilising financial resources, as well as ensuring coordination and accountability across multiple sectors. It also calls for policy coherence in how Ghana pursues its commitments to simultaneously meet energy needs and reduce its carbon footprint.

Disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response: Parliament passed the new NADMO Bill, which aims at reorganising the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) and making realistic provisions for the management of disasters and emergencies. In 2016, major disasters included a cholera outbreak in the Central Region (596 cases), and fire outbreaks that led to the destruction of economic assets and forests.

Energy: Electricity reliability improved substantially in 2016, although financial arrears in the energy sector pose persistent challenges to public finance management. According to the IMF¹, indeed, the Energy Sector Levy Act (ESLA) introduced in 2016 has helped restructure debt obligations to domestic banks, but the sector's debt reached an estimated \$2.4 billion (over 6% of GDP) at the end of 2016.

Environmental pollution: The Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control Management Bill was passed into law by Parliament in 2016. It aims to regulate electronic waste management in the country, in part through the creation of an e-waste collection/recycling plant and an e-waste fund. Significant challenges still persist, such as unregulated small-scale and artisanal mining (galamsey) and its rampant use of mercury and destructive mining methods. About 75% of river bodies have been affected by galamsey, which is also contributing to land and forest degradation. In 2016, legislative instruments were laid out under the leadership of MESTI and EPA towards the ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury².

¹ IMF: <http://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2017/04/13/ms041317-ghana-staff-concluding-statement-of-the-2017-article-iv-consultation-discussions-for-ecf>

² Major highlights of the Minamata Convention include a ban on new mercury mines, the phase-out of existing ones, the phase-out and phase-down of mercury use in a number of products and processes, control measures on emissions to air and on releases to land and water, and the regulation of the informal sector of artisanal and small-scale gold mining. The Convention also addresses interim storage of mercury and its disposal once it becomes waste, sites contaminated by mercury as well as health issues.

The Convention was ratified on 23 March 2017 and its implementation mechanisms and structures are being put in place (with support from UNDP and UNIDO). These are expected to help fulfil the current administration's commitment to effectively deal with galamsey.

Forestry: The country still faces challenges with an annual rate of deforestation estimated at 2%. This trend has implications for not just the forest and biodiversity but also for livelihoods, ecosystem functions and services that support Ghana's predominantly agrarian economy. In 2016, the Government adopted three strategic national documents (Forestry Master Plan, National REDD+³ Strategy and Ghana Forestry Plantation Strategy) to effectively tackle the key drivers of deforestation including charcoal production, wildfire, intensification of illegal logging and agriculture expansion, and small-scale illegal mining. Actual implementation will entail developing viable forest and wildlife based industries, promoting research and mechanisms for transparent governance, addressing tree tenure and land tenure rights issues, and establishing 500,000 hectares of forest plantations.

UN contributions towards national achievements 2016

Climate change: The UN supported the signing and ratification process for the Paris Agreement. For example, UNDP supported Government to engage with different stakeholders, which resulted in a broader and shared understanding and ownership of the agreement and its implications. The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) led a national roadshow in six regions involving over 1000 stakeholders (in particular traditional authorities and decentralised Government agencies), to explain Ghana's climate commitments and get useful feedback for the implementation of the agreement. Political parties also participated in a policy dialogue to publicly reflect on the climate compliance of their manifestoes ahead of the national elections.

With technical support from UNDP and UNITAR, a National Climate Change and Green Economy Learning Strategy was adopted to create a sustainable pool of human resources with the necessary technical expertise and to equip the public with basic climate change and green economy knowledge through the provision of holistic learning at all levels of education, technical skills training, and increasing public awareness.

The UN provided technical and financial support to the Government (in particular MESTI and MOF) to access, manage and monitor climate finance. UNDP and UN Environment have jointly been working with Ministry of Finance to increase the readiness of the country to access the Green Climate Fund (CGF). As part of this support, the development of three proposals was initiated and submission to the GCF is expected in 2017. Considering the important role of the private sector in implementing Ghana's climate agenda, UNDP facilitated a partnership between MESTI and the Private Enterprise Federation (PEF) to sensitise the private sector about climate related investment opportunities and to create a platform for dialogue and partnerships with Government and multilateral agencies. In the area of transparency and accountability, UNDP supported the Ministry of Finance to develop a climate finance tracking tool that is expected to improve public expenditure reviews, and helped EPA upgrade its Climate Data Hub in order to enhance stakeholder access to information of climate change projects.

The UN also supported several downstream interventions to increase the resilience of communities to climate change and climate related events. For instance, FAO contributed to strengthening technical, policy and investment capacities of the agricultural sector to enable sustainable increases in agricultural productivity and incomes, and the promotion and diversification of livelihoods to reduce dependence on climate-sensitive resources. WFP undertook community asset creation/rehabilitation projects to increase resilience of lives and livelihoods to climate change. UNU researched the impact of climate change on agricultural trade flows within and outside the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and provided a policy brief to inform decision making. UNU also promoted the integration of food and feed crops among farmers in Northern Ghana to enhance soil resilience, livelihoods and food security in the region.

Disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response:

The UN implemented a series of initiatives to build capacity of various stakeholders to better prepare and respond to different types of disasters. For instance, simulation exercises were conducted at the national, regional and district levels to assess the level of preparedness and improve contingency planning (see also chapter on Humanitarian Assistance below); UNDP and NADMO entered into a partnership agreement with the University of Cape Coast to build the capacity of

³ REDD+ stands for "Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries."

policy makers and government cadres on disaster risk reduction; UNDP provided support to the development of floods disaster preparedness and response plans for 24 Districts, incorporating WASH considerations; FAO conducted national capacity development activities to control H5N1 outbreaks (avian influenza or "bird flu") and mitigate risks for virus spread; WHO reviewed the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) guidelines and training manuals and conducted an orientation for 239 community health volunteers in five border districts.

The UN also collaborated to increase awareness on disaster related issues and resilience. For example, two high-level advocacy events were organised to highlight the critical link between governance and inclusive urban resilience, and to identify strategies to mainstream DRR in local development through inclusive planning and effective coordination. Fire safety and flood awareness materials were developed. In addition, UNDP supported NADMO to sensitise 24,000 people in 265 communities on flood preparedness, and WHO worked with the Ministry of Health to adopt, print and distribute advocacy materials on International Health Regulations.

Energy: With the power crises that hit the country in recent years, the UN proposed a broad base approach to solving the power supply problem in a sustainable manner. UNDP, for example, supported national processes to develop a Renewable Energy Master Plan, which is expected to be finalised and approved in 2017. The plan is to help boost investments in the renewable energy sector. UNIDO has been partnering with the Ministry of Trade and Industry to improve industrial-scale biogas technologies for electricity and contribute to inclusive and sustainable green industrial development. This support led to the installation of the first biogas plant in West Africa at the Kumasi Abattoir.

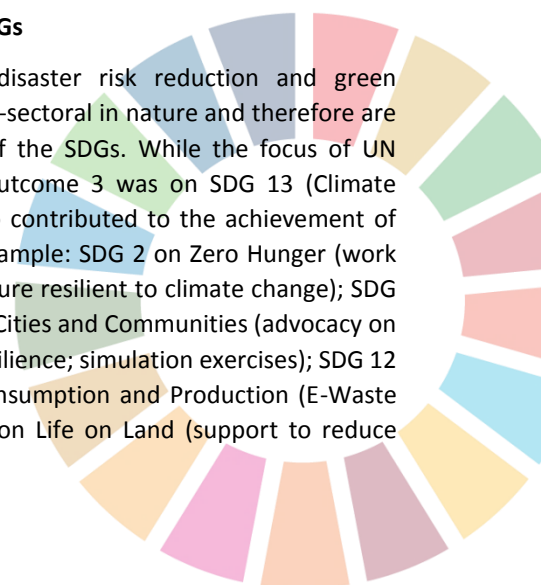
Through IAEA training and public awareness programmes, stakeholders and the general public were made aware of the benefits of nuclear power programmes making it clear that Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs) can produce reliable electricity at stable and predictable prices. IAEA's models were used to identify the role of nuclear power in the national energy mix with reference to its share in the coming years in relation to Ghana's 40-year development plan.

Green economy, environmental pollution and biodiversity: Through its SWITCH Africa Green joint project, the UN supported a series of initiatives at legislative/policy, research and project demonstration levels to promote a greener economy, including support to the development and adoption of the E-Waste Bill, review of building codes, establishment of an Eco-Business Development Centre, and establishment of an industrial symbiosis network.

The UN provided technical support to support Government to reverse the deforestation trend and protect biodiversity. As part of efforts to ensure that the country meets the standards required by the VPA (Voluntary Partnership Agreement), FAO built the capacity of the Forestry Commission to engage in responsible Off-Reserve Logging (ORL) negotiation and implementation, and developed a wood tracking system to help identify illegal logging activities. UNDP worked with stakeholders to develop modalities for the registration of planted trees in off-reserve areas, and supported the operationalisation of a Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) in the Asunafo North District as an innovative natural resource governance and landscape-level planning tool that authorises communities to manage their natural resources for economic and livelihood benefits. UNESCO provided training and business start-up equipment to 232 beneficiaries who live in and around the Bia Biosphere Reserve situated in the Juabeso Bia District of Ghana, to undertake apiculture, snail rearing, mushroom farming and palm oil extraction in a sustainable manner.

Relation to the SDGs

Climate change, disaster risk reduction and green economy are cross-sectoral in nature and therefore are related to most of the SDGs. While the focus of UN activities under Outcome 3 was on SDG 13 (Climate Action), these also contributed to the achievement of other SDGs, for example: SDG 2 on Zero Hunger (work on making agriculture resilient to climate change); SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities (advocacy on inclusive urban resilience; simulation exercises); SDG 12 on Sustainable Consumption and Production (E-Waste Bill); and SDG 15 on Life on Land (support to reduce deforestation).



Environment & well-being: UN supports use of improved cook stoves

To help reduce reliance on wood fuels in Ghana, the UN system in 2016 demonstrated, deployed and transferred low-carbon energy technology to users of wood cook stoves in some parts of the country. Working through the UNDP-GEF Small Grant Programme, the UN supported the Turkson Foundation to provide efficient institutional cook stoves to 800 palm kernel oil producers in the Bekwai municipality. Similar support was given to the Nalerigu Nursing Training School in the Northern Region. The improved cook stove uses less fuel, produces minimal smoke, and has a chimney that directs the smoke upwards and drastically reduces the operator's exposure to smoke.

"We have seen a drastic reduction in our dependence on wood fuel since the arrival of the improved cook stoves," says Abiba, one of 750 women beneficiaries in the Bekwai municipality. "Before the intervention, we spent GH¢ 20 on wood fuel for every two gallons of palm kernel oil produced. But now, we can produce 20 gallons of oil using the same quantity of wood fuel wood. It has really boosted our incomes."

At the Nalerigu Nursing Training School, the impact is similar. "Now that we are using the improved stove, it takes only two hours to cook for more than 1,800 students, compared to the traditional burner which takes more than three hours. Moreover, we use less wood fuel for cooking which has greatly improved the health of the kitchen staff who previously were heavily exposed to smoke," says Bako Kobra, matron of the school.

Large-scale cooking using rudimentary cook stoves requires large volumes of wood fuel, which contributes to deforestation and climate change. By supporting initiatives that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods, the UN demonstrates that community action can maintain the balance between human needs and environmental imperatives.



Hajia Abiba is one of 750 women in the Bekwai municipality who have benefitted from improved cook stoves to produce palm kernel oil (Photo: UNDP Ghana/Bossmann Owusu)

Outcome 4: Affordable and Sustainable Housing

UNDAF intended results

- Improved access to affordable, sustainable housing through livelihood training/improvement for women, youth
- Dissemination of information on the National Housing Policy and Strategic Plan
- Increased resilience in disaster-prone communities

Key messages

- Ghana's participation in the Habitat III process and the adoption of the New Urban Agenda should be followed with conscious efforts and interventions targeted at sustainable urbanisation.
- The urbanisation challenges outpace the rate of implementation of urban and housing policies.
- The statistics for Ghana's slum population are inadequate for comprehensive planning for resilient urban communities.

Significant national achievements and constraints

The 2016 National Urban Forum provided a platform for stakeholders to consciously work towards sustainable urban development in the country and assisted in consolidating Ghana's common position on sustainable urban development ahead of the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in October 2016 in Quito, Ecuador. In line with the common positions of Ghana and Africa, the delegation to the third and final preparatory session (prepcom3) held in Surabaya, Indonesia, in July 2016, contributed to discussions on crucial points of the final draft of the New Urban Agenda, which was subsequently adopted at the Habitat III Conference in Quito.

With housing and urban policies in place and a growing urban population, the GoG led various initiatives to promote issues of sustainable urban development, slums and livelihood improvement, and increased resilience in disaster-prone communities as part of the sustainable urban development in Ghana. The consultation meetings for the National Slum Upgrading Strategy were very participatory and the outcomes are expected to lead to measures to improve the lives of slum dwellers. The development of an Investment Plan to guide cities/local authorities in the prioritisation of urban infrastructure, based on the action plan to implement the urban policy, were positive and will provide a necessary impetus for urban development and housing delivery in the country. The Urban Development Unit of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development undertook a regional sensitisation of relevant stakeholders on the SDGs.

UN contributions towards national achievements 2016

The UN facilitated Ghana's preparations of and participation in the Habitat III Conference including the process leading to the drafting of Ghana's common position for the Conference. Furthermore, the Africa Urban Agenda, facilitated by UN-Habitat, was successfully used as a platform to harness inputs to a common African stance ahead of the adoption of the New Urban Agenda in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016.

The framework for the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme integrates spatial planning, community development, local economic development and poverty reduction as overarching goals within which slum upgrading interventions are implemented. Specific interventions under the programme in Ghana have resulted in the establishment of community funds and the introduction of microfinance to support traders in beneficiary slum communities. This has led to improvements in the livelihoods of community members, especially women, who have benefitted from the fund.

As a follow-up to a 2015 request from the UN Secretary-General for the UN to collaborate with the Government of Ghana and assist with efforts towards mitigating the negative effects of rapid urbanisation, a vision and plan for the Ningo-Prampram City extension were finalised and are being subjected to further consultations prior to implementation. When implemented, the Ningo-Prampram City extension will ensure the protection of the land allocated for urban development and avoid urban sprawl and encroachment.

Relation to the SDGs

The achievements and UN contribution to Outcome 4 mainly support the achievement of SDG 11 to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. They also contribute to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, which was approved in 2016 and constitutes the global vision on urban development for the next 20 years.

Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme helps traders improve their livelihoods

The UN system integrates community development, local economic development, spatial planning and poverty reduction into its slum upgrading programmes. Led by UN-Habitat, the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme has established a community fund and introduced microfinance to support traders in Ga Mashie, a suburb in Accra.

A Community Development Committee (CDC) implements a common micro-lending scheme in collaboration with the private sector, in which beneficiaries receive credit to improve their livelihoods. The loan attracts no collateral, has lower interest rates and the repayment period is flexible. Mobile bankers are deployed to beneficiaries when repayment is due.

Hannah Doruwah, a resident of Ga-Mashie in the Greater Accra Region, is one such beneficiary. In 2016, after unsuccessful attempts to qualify for credit from several financial institutions to expand her trade, she chanced on a van announcing the credit facility to the community.

“I felt it was too good to be true. After further enquiry from the GN Bank (the subsidiary dispensing the credit), I decided to take a GHC1,000 (about US\$ 250) credit. It was a big help at the right time,” says Hannah. “I couldn’t believe it when I was told there was no need for a collateral. The best part was the 10% interest rate compared to 30% charged on commercial loans.”

Today, Hannah is a supplier and distributor of bread in her community. She earns her family’s livelihood. Through the assistance received under the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, Hannah employs five young women who support her business. The scheme has also benefitted other women in the community to improve their livelihoods.



Hannah Doruwah (left) attends to a customer in the Ga-Mashie community (Photo: Solomon Tetteh)

Outcome 5: Water and Sanitation

UNDAF intended results

- Strengthened enabling environment for improved WASH behaviour
- Increased share of the population with access to safe drinking water and to improved sanitation facilities
- Behaviour change motivated on WASH

Key messages

- National guidelines were developed for flood-resilient water and sanitation facilities.
- National guidelines were developed for financing rural sanitation.
- Ghana's rate of access to basic sanitation remains among the lowest in the world.
- Fewer than two in five Ghana Basic schools (38%) have access to improved water and fewer than three in five (56%) have toilet facilities.
- Improved cross-sectoral coordination contributed to suppressing the 2016 Cape Coast cholera outbreak.

Significant national achievements and constraints

Significant national steps were taken in 2016 to address the major water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) challenges in Ghana. Strategies included the development of guidelines for water and sanitation facilities for flood-prone communities and for sanitation facilities and services in poor urban communities, a review of sanitation behaviour change approaches in both rural and urban environments, and the development of national guidelines for financing of rural sanitation. Tools were developed to support the roll-out of the National Drinking Water Quality Management Framework at community level. 2016 also saw the roll-out of sanitation marketing, a strategy to engage the private sector to leverage better sanitation outcomes.

National guidelines for flood-resilient water and sanitation facilities were developed to provide flood-prone communities with options to address their water and sanitation challenges. These guidelines provide a range of options to suit financial constraints and household desire to invest in sanitation facilities. These technical guidelines have been supported by the development of guidelines for financing rural sanitation options, identifying a combination of social protection, village savings and loan schemes, microfinance and government financing mechanism options. This is a critical step in harmonising financing approaches across the sector, providing a consistent agreed way forward for all stakeholders.

The Government's strategic review of the behaviour change components of the Rural Sanitation Model and Strategy (RSMS) identified key bottlenecks and provided innovative approaches to build decentralised technical,

management and financial capacity and accountability, including partnering CSOs to work directly in district government offices. Implementation of this approach has seen a dramatic increase in communities achieving open defecation free (ODF) status from under 10% in early 2016 to over 50% in implementing districts by early 2017.

The rural sanitation approaches are being complemented by the development of behaviour change approaches for urban household sanitation and targeted infrastructure investment, including the construction of a major sludge treatment plant in Accra. National guidelines were developed to provide urban household toilets and sanitation services, which were complemented by sanitation marketing strategies implemented in urban areas to facilitate the private sector's engagement and to meet the growing demand for urban toilets.

Whilst the Cape Coast cholera outbreak in late 2016 highlighted that many of the underlying WASH challenges remain, the rapid coordinated cross-sectoral response at both national and decentralised levels were significant factors in controlling and ultimately stopping the outbreak. This reflected significant improved cross-sectoral capacity in cholera response.

Despite these successes, implementation challenges remain. District assemblies still need more support to deliver on sanitation results at the required scale; sectoral monitoring remains a challenge, but ongoing work on the sector information systems should improve the situation in 2017. Affordable options for poor household sanitation in urban and flood-prone areas are limited, which is further complicated by high

interest rates restricting financing options. Work continues across the sector to identify scalable technology/financing options. The WASH in Schools approach is still at a high cost, limiting capacity to scale solutions nationwide. Water supply systems still face sustainability challenges, but private sector models piloted in 2017 will explore ways to make sure the taps stay on for everyone.

UN contributions towards national achievements 2016

The Joint UN WASH Programme provided significant cross-cutting support in building resilience of WASH facilities and services to flooding, as well as strengthening national systems for managing water quality. Individually and collectively, the Joint Programme agencies (UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNDP, and WHO) have built the capacity of national and decentralised Governments to implement these guidelines and strategies in the three northern regions of Ghana. Support was also provided for Ghana to pilot global finance tracking approaches under the UN GLAAS TrackFin initiative, providing Ghana with a better understanding of sector financing and cashflows from the household to national Government level.

Collaborative work between UN agencies in building cross-sectoral preparedness and response capacity, built on research into responses to previous outbreaks, helped Government to prepare for and respond to the Cape Coast cholera outbreak.

UNICEF supported the Government's review of the rural and urban sanitation behaviour change approaches, including piloting of revised approaches and the piloting of closer partnerships between decentralised Government bodies and CSOs. Support was also provided to Government in the development of financing guidelines and in piloting market-shaping solutions to meet urban and rural sanitation demands. This was supported by work to identify suitable financing mechanisms for rural and urban sanitation and community water supply.

In supporting Government to develop strategic solutions to deliver sustainable, resilient WASH services, UN support enabled over 100,000 people to access latrines, with over half of them living in open defecation free (ODF) communities. Furthermore, water supply reached over 73,000 people.

As groundwater levels in Ghana have been predicted to decline, the IAEA supported the Water Resources Commission to carry out research on groundwater potential. The data generated have been beneficial in policy formulation, development and the adoption of appropriate water resources management strategies to safeguard the water resources in the Lower Volta River Basin.

Relation to the SDGs

While all 17 SDGs are integrated and support one another, access to water and sanitation is a foundation for development towards health, equity, gender equality and education. SDG 6 addresses water and sanitation: it aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. But water and sanitation challenges are closely connected with most of the SDGs, including Goals 3 (good health), 4 (quality education) and 5 (gender equality). Failure to address such challenges could therefore affect the overall attainment of the global goals.

Whilst Ghana achieved the MDG for access to improved water supply early, the SDG targets under goal 6 highlight Ghana's poor water quality, with fewer than two in five Ghanaians drinking safe water. The situation in schools was similarly challenging, with two out of every five schools without toilets and three out of every five without water supplies.

The commencement of the SDGs saw significant challenges facing Ghana in 2016, particularly in sanitation, with only one in seven Ghanaians having access to improved sanitation. The national strategy to raise rural demand for sanitation facilities had achieved only limited success, whilst the poor in flood-prone areas were particularly vulnerable, without appropriate affordable flood-resilient technologies. The complex nature and high costs of urban environments, and the lack of a national strategy for urban sanitation, mean that millions of urban poor are reliant on shared and public toilets, with the poorest less likely to have access than wealthier people.

The strategies adopted by Government and supported by the UN in 2016 position Ghana to better address these challenges through 2017 and beyond.





Thematic Area 3: Human Development and Productive Capacity for Improved Social Services

UNDAF Thematic Area 3 seeks to support national capabilities for delivering quality services to all Ghanaians in the critical public services. This work is organised under four outcomes: maternal and child health; social protection; HIV/AIDS; and education.

The priority in health care is to bridge equity gaps in access to quality medical and nutrition services; strengthen governance in health service delivery; improve access to quality maternal and child health services and intensify prevention and control of non-communicable and communicable diseases, in particular HIV and AIDS, Malaria and TB.

Despite substantial progress, Ghana continues to strive to meet national goals on maternal and child mortality and HIV prevalence. The country has set ambitious strategies to consolidate the achievements made in reducing HIV prevalence and to reduce stigmatisation and discrimination which impedes meeting the 90-90-90 fast track targets for testing, treating, and reducing AIDS mortality.

Ghana has continued to expand its Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) cash transfer programme to target groups, in particular vulnerable women and children, as well as to provide emergency relief following natural disasters. Progress in 2016 focused on improving the efficiency and transparency of operating this milestone programme.

Ghana has made substantial progress in bridging the gender gap in access to primary and JHS education. Current challenges are in improving the quality of education to bring up reading scores to grade levels, integrate life skills into curriculum, improving accessibility, and enabling young people to stay in school.

Information provided by
WHO, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNFPA, and WFP

Outcome 6: Maternal and Child Health

UNDAF intended results

- Strengthened capacity of health care providers in deprived Northern regions in areas of maternal and child health services
- Improved coverage of nutrition interventions at community level
- Improved availability of family planning services
- Harmonised systems for data collection and management
- Improved MNCH policy implementation capabilities

Key messages

- The increasing improvements in access to and utilisation of antenatal care and facility-based delivery services resulted in reduced neonatal and child mortality.
- Community-based health services continue to expand, but are not yet sufficiently covering the Northern Region.

Significant National Achievements and Constraints

The Ministry of Health maintained maternal and child health as a sector priority with implementation of the MDG Acceleration Framework for maternal health and roll-out of the newborns health strategy.

The overall survival rates and health outcomes of children in Ghana have improved over the past ten years with a 46% reduction in under-five mortality, from 111 in 2003 to 60 per 1,000 live births in 2014. However, reductions in neonatal deaths have been much slower with a decline of only 33% between 2003 (43/1,000 live births) and 2014 (29/1,000 live births). Improvements in health outcomes for children appeared to occur most prominently among households in the middle wealth quintiles.

Neonatal deaths account for about 48% of under-five mortality, and three diseases (malaria, pneumonia/Acute Respiratory Infections and diarrhoea) account for a significant proportion of the mortality in children under five years.

The high maternal and neonatal mortalities occur in the context of improved access to and utilisation of maternal and newborn care services: 97% of pregnant women attended at least one antenatal care (ANC) visit with 87% of them attending at least four ANC visits, whilst 73% of pregnant women were supported by skilled birth attendants during child birth. Similarly, 81% of women received postnatal care (PNC) within 48 hours of delivery; however, only 30% of newborns received PNC. Immunisation coverage has of late been witnessing a declining trend from 79% complete

immunisation in 2008 to 77% in 2014⁴. The apparent contradiction between improved access to Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) services and high maternal and child mortalities, especially neonatal mortality, points to the fact that the quality of MNCH services needs to be improved.

UN Contribution towards National Achievements 2016

Several initiatives were supported by the UN and contributed to Ghana's progress toward the reduction of child and maternal mortality and improving childhood nutrition.

Policy advice and advocacy: The UN continued its partnership with bilateral and multilateral donors to support the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ghana Health Service (GHS) to develop policy and strategic documents relating to quality of clinical care, adolescent health and disease control.

A National Healthcare Quality Strategy was developed and launched. The MoH and GHS were supported to develop a quality improvement model dubbed the Mother-Baby-Friendly Health Facility Initiative (MBFHI). This quality improvement model is based on the global "Every Mother Every Newborn" and WHO quality standards for Maternal and Newborn care. Equipment, technical support for capacity building by way of training, coaching, monitoring and supervision was provided to 24 health facilities in four districts in the Upper East region to implement the quality improvement model. As part of improving the quality of care, the UN advocated for integration of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Healthcare Facilities (WASH-

⁴ Ghana Demographic and Health Survey 2014

in-HCF) into the infection prevention and control programme for safe and quality healthcare delivery. This advocacy led to the development of national guidelines and standards for WASH-in-HCF. The GHS was also supported technically and financially to develop the national Adolescent Health Service Policy and Strategy to improve sexual and reproductive health services and rights within the global programme against child marriage. Technical assistance was provided to the National Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) for the review and update of the National EPI Policy.

Evidence generation and knowledge management: A comprehensive assessment of the status of WASH in Hygiene and Sanitation in Healthcare Facilities (WASH-in-HCF) was conducted in 28 health facilities in two districts of the Northern region which brought to bear inadequacies, especially in deprived communities.

Furthermore, a study was conducted on the burden of Obstetric Fistula (OF) in Ghana which brought to the fore an incidence of between 700 and 1300 new cases annually and highlighted the gaps in maternal health delivery and the influence of negative socio-cultural practices.

The UN also supported the conduct of a needs and gaps analysis of the midwifery and nursing programmes in the country.

Capacity building: A total of 1,339 health workers comprising medical doctors, Community Health Nurses (CHNs), midwives, disease control officers, lecturers and tutors from health training institutions were trained on maternal and newborn care including breastfeeding and immunisation as well as life-saving skills, family planning and adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights. The UN also supported GHS to train 75 master trainers who then trained 670 health staff from Greater Accra (280), Eastern (70), Central (250) and Western (70) regions on the cholera standard operating procedures (SOPs). These trainings contributed to build the skills of health workers on proper management of cholera cases. A zero-case fatality recorded in the cholera outbreak that hit the Central Region at the end of 2016, with over 591 cases, could be attributed largely to good management, amongst other factors. Six surgeons were supported to enhance the knowledge and skills of health workers in OF management and repairs. Additionally, the UN built the capacity of 70 service providers, including the media, on the minimum initial service package for reproductive health in crisis

situations using a multi-sectorial approach. The UN, as part of its capacity enhancement, procured skills laboratory equipment for 23 midwifery institutions to enhance the quality of education.

Service delivery support: In 2016, the UN continued to provide procurement services for all the country's vaccines and immunisation, and supported the switch from trivalent Oral Polio Vaccine (tOPV) to bivalent Oral Polio Vaccine (bOPV) and the introduction of Meningitis A vaccine into routine immunisation. Cold chain equipment comprising 105 vaccine refrigerators, 1,500 vaccine carriers and 900 temperature recording devices for refrigerators were procured and delivered to GHS for 15 districts and 85 hard-to-reach sub-districts in the three Northern regions. Ten regional vaccine storage Cold Rooms were equipped with continuous temperature monitoring systems - Multilog. These are to improve cold chain management and enhance quality of vaccines stored therein, and of immunisation at large. Additionally, 125 motorcycles were procured for the Northern (45) and Upper East (80) regions to facilitate the conduct of integrated Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health and immunisation outreach service delivery through the Community Health Planning Service (CHPS). The UN also procured fistula repair kits for six health facilities in the Northern, Upper East, Upper West and Central regions. Additionally, the UN procured reproductive health commodities including contraceptives and oxytocin for the country.

Relation to the SDGs

Attaining universal health coverage in order to ensure health and well-being for all hinges a lot on improving access to quality care for mothers and children. Ghana made significant progress in improving coverages of maternal and child health interventions under the MDGs but the quality of health services is critical to achieving effective universal health coverage (UHC) and meeting the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Maternal and child health remain critical in the health developmental goal of Ghana, hence SDG 3 is pivot for the attainment of such goals. Key targets, particularly for Goal 3, relate to the reduction in maternal, neonatal and child mortalities. Ghana's commitment to the global network for improving the quality of care for mothers and children will give impetus to Ghana's likelihood to achieve the health-related SDGs by 2030.



Outcome 7: Social Services

UNDAF intended results

- Operationalisation of a strengthened National Social Protection Policy
- Expanded access to social services by disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.
- Improved capacity of key social welfare providers to deliver quality welfare and protection services

Key messages

- Key elements of the Social Protection Policy have been operationalised.
- Operational capacity of the LEAP and Ghana School Feeding Programme has been improved.
- LEAP has become more inclusive as it expands to more women, children and victims of natural disasters.

Significant National Achievements and Constraints

The MoGCSP continued to deliver on its commitment to expand the national coverage of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) programme with an additional 65,000 families, from 147,000 to 213,000 families in 2016. These new households are now also entitled to access the free enrolment onto the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) provided to all LEAP households. The recent expansion also included families with pregnant women and children below one year of age, making LEAP more inclusive. In total, LEAP currently reaches approximately 943,440 people, of which over 375,000 are children, about 193,600 are working age women and 205,200 are elderly. Nearly 3,000 victims of natural disasters in the Upper East also received support under the emergency LEAP.

The MoGCSP continued to strengthen the broader social protection system. After the approval of the new Social Protection (SP) Policy in December 2015, the Ministry undertook a number of activities to operationalise some of the policy's key structures, focusing on the SP directorate, national targeting system, and SP monitoring and legal frameworks. In terms of advocacy, coordination and generation of political support for child protection, the MoGCSP and its Department of Children took the lead in establishing a national Child Protection Coordination Committee with regional committees replicated in all ten regions. Through these structures, implementation of the Child and Family Welfare Policy, Justice for Children Policy and the related Operational Plans were tracked and reported, from regional to national level.

UN Contribution towards National Achievements 2016

The UN contributed to ensure that families across the country access and utilise improved social protection services through its support to the MoGCSP.

Policy support: The UN supported several initiatives to further strengthen the social protection system in Ghana. A public launch of the SP Policy and subsequent dissemination has extended engagement to a broader group of stakeholders, promoting dialogue and consultative input into a draft implementation plan. The implementation plan, presented in December 2016, offers a detailed road map to operationalise the main elements of the policy.

Evidence generation and knowledge management: Results from the LEAP 1000 Baseline Evaluation, which was commissioned by the UN, highlighted the strength and accuracy of the revised targeting modality that was tested by the LEAP 1000 pilot with support from the UN. These findings have informed the replication of the targeting for the 2016 LEAP expansion as well as for the implementation of the Ghana National Household Registry.

Capacity building: The UN provided technical support to the MoGCSP to restructure the Social Protection directorate to enhance the efficiency of its operations and strengthen oversight. In collaboration with the MoGCSP, the UN led an independent assessment of the operations of the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP) which is now informing revisions to implementation and management of the programme, and which is expected to improve the delivery of school meals to children across the country. Capacity building for child protection service providers – in particular social workers and community development workers – commenced in 20 districts across Ghana's ten regions.

The process which was led by the Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS), a national institute responsible for capacity building of civil servants at district level, aimed at bringing practices in line with expectations of the new Child and Family Welfare and Justice for Children Policy. The work undertaken by ILGS is built around a structured process of facilitated learning and reflection with stakeholders, and will focus on the key changes required to put the policies into practice. In this regard, it is important to create greater synergies between formal and informal welfare actors, document learning about practices on the ground, analyse and reflect on emerging ideas and practices for consolidation of such learning into guidelines to support system reform, and build capacity at national scale. To document this process, a formative evaluation has been designed to provide continuous feedback and reflection of results.

Service delivery: The UN contributed to the expansion of LEAP. Some 65,000 additional families were added to the programme using an innovative targeting approach which proved to be more efficient and inclusive than the previous method. The new LEAP category of pregnant women and children below one year of age, approved in 2015, was added for the first time during this expansion.

To address social norms and beliefs perpetuating child protection violations, a new 'social drive' (movement)

was conceptualised for the promotion, prevention and protection of children against harm. Through a unifying 'brand', the movement aims to bring together a broad coalition of people supportive of the well-being and protection of children, and gives visibility to the desired and positive change. The movement is expected to increase the "talkability" of child protection issues across the country.

Relation to the SDGs

It has been widely acknowledged that social and child protection plays a key role in transforming the lives of vulnerable and poor segments of our population and helps in building human capital over time. Social protection also promotes economic development, political cohesion and social inclusiveness. The provision of social welfare services and interventions closely aligns to and is key in the achievement of SDG 1, to end poverty, SDG 2, to end hunger and achieve food security and improved nutrition, SDG 3, to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, SDG 5, to ensure gender equality, SDG 10, to reduce inequalities, and SDG 16 with target 16.2 to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.



Outcome 8: HIV/AIDS

UNDAF intended results

- Implementation of National Strategic Plans for HIV and AIDS and the 90-90-90 fast track targets.
- Effective strategies target most at risk populations
- Elimination of stigma and discrimination and other challenges affecting service uptake.
- Greater capacity of health care providers to expand outreach of effective HIV support services

Key messages

- HIV prevalence is rising among pregnant women.
- HIV prevention among key populations (KPs) has been scaled up significantly.
- PMTCT, Adult and Paediatric ART coverage remains unacceptably low.
- Physician-led ART programme is inadequate to achieve 90-90-90 targets hence the development of task sharing guidelines.
- Random discriminatory attitudes exist both at community and in health care settings.
- Reaching 90-90-90 fast track targets will require innovation and a focus on PMTCT, including partners of HIV+ pregnant women and their children.
- Need to implement a Patient's Charter adopted in 2002 as a key innovation for ensuring health, non-discrimination and dignity for all, including PLHIV.
- Strengthening health systems including SCM and data systems would lead to improved provision of HIV services.
- HIV prevention among the general population needs to be scaled up to reduce yearly infection numbers.

Significant National Achievements and Constraints

In 2016, Ghana adopted the UNAIDS fast track 90-90-90 targets to consolidate the achievements made over the years and to ultimately end AIDS by 2030. As indicated under SDG 3 on Good Health, the 90-90-90 targets mean that by 2020, 90% of people living with HIV will know their HIV status, 90% of all people diagnosed with HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy, and 90% of all people on antiretroviral therapy will achieve viral suppression.

Evidence from the most recent HIV Sero Surveillance study (HSS 2016) indicate that HIV prevalence among pregnant women attending ANC has increased by 50% from 1.6% in 2014 to 2.4% in 2016. HIV prevalence in the general population (age 15-49) has remained relatively stable (2.2% in 2006 compared to 2% in 2014). Two non-priority regions, Brong-Ahafo and Volta region, now have the highest prevalence of HIV, thus making the current prioritisation of four regions based on HIV prevalence invalid. HIV testing (6% men, 13% women) and comprehensive knowledge about HIV remain low and women continue to bear the brunt of all HIV infections. Heterosexual intercourse is the main mode of HIV transmission accounting for over 70% of total HIV infections.

The smart financial and technical investments, primarily from the Global Fund, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and Government of Ghana, have led to increased programme impact: 35%, although only 28% children were on treatment by end of 2016. Mother-to-child transmission rate is high at 12%, while rates for men who have sex with men (MSM) and female sex workers (FSW) are at 17% and 7% respectively. In the general population, HIV testing among men is 6%, and 13% among female, while condom use is 19% among men and 11% among women. Comprehensive knowledge has declined in the last ten years, and it is assumed to be due to less focus on HIV prevention programmes for the general population.

Despite existence of restrictive laws, KPs receive HIV testing at rates that are higher than the general population. In the 2015 Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveillance Survey (IBBSS), 72% female sex workers had ever had an HIV test while 53% had a test in the 12 months preceding the survey. In comparison, 48.5% of women in the general population had a HIV test and 12.9% had one in the 12 months preceding the survey. Among men in the general population, the figures were 22% and 6% respectively. Ghana AIDS Commission programmatic data (from GF and PEPFAR programmes) shows that 50% of MSM and 74% of FSW

who were reached received a HIV test in 2016. Prisoners are offered a HIV test at least twice a year.

Random discriminating attitudes of some health workers towards PLHIV and key populations, including prisoners, occur and act as barriers to accessing testing and treatment services. Furthermore, the mere existence of standalone ART clinics promotes and sustains stigma because anyone entering these ART centres is assumed to be HIV+. Other barriers include the cost and recurrent non-availability of baseline tests necessary for ART initiation, including transport costs (distance) to the distant ART sites especially when clients are referred from one clinic to another. To reduce stigma and address these barriers the country plans to phase out stand-alone HIV clinics and instead provide HIV care in the general outpatient clinic, and ensure that all positive pregnant women receive ART at ANC.

HIV testing coverage among pregnant women has remained stagnant at 62% in 2016 compared to 61% in 2011. The coverage of pregnant positive women given ARVs is low and flat over time, ranging from 30-40%, largely because there are 3000 ante-natal clinics and only 245 ART centres, due to a physician-led ART policy. In 2016, various policies were adopted to give the country the necessary backing to scale up HIV services. These included the test-and-treat-all policy, Paediatric acceleration plan and task sharing policies. The majority of funding for the response is provided by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) and PEPFAR towards treatment related interventions.

The Ghana AIDS Commission bill was passed by Parliament in 2016 to provide the legal framework needed to guide the governance of the national response.

UN Contribution towards National Achievements 2016

2016 witnessed Ghana becoming the political centre of HIV after it has been nominated Vice Chair (and Chair in 2017) of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB), and extensive lobbying by Ghana to ensure that the 2016 political declaration of the UN High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS was adopted. Commitment have been made to ensure that investments are directed towards the three 90's ensuring that no one is left behind when it comes to treatment. With the shift to "treat all", Ghana has to scale up annual initiation from 14,000 people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) between 2010 and 2015 to approximately 26,000 annually from 2017 onwards. The supplementary funding of US \$23.7 million from PEPFAR for the

procurement of commodities and US \$12.6 million investments for KPs programming has been approved. The funding will focus on the provision of high-quality ART services, and will: 1) address targeted testing, so that PLHIV know their status; 2) initiation at 90%, retention at 90%, viral suppression at 90% of those on treatment; 3) ensure access to high quality viral load testing for patients; 4) ensure Government meets on-budget planning and funding commitments; and 5) provision of technical support to data systems that enable tracking of patients across the cascade and support uninterrupted supply of health commodities to the last mile facility strengthened by improved management systems at all levels.

Policy support: The evaluation of the 2010-2015 National Strategic Plan (NSP) and the finalisation and launch of the National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan 2016-2020 was greatly supported by the UN through the provision of needed technical and financial resources to ensure that the strategic results of the NSP are aligned to the UNAIDS Fast Track Strategy and the SDGs.

After the 2012 Law Review and its recommendations, the Joint UN Team on AIDS (JUTA) supported national dialogues on HIV and the law leading to the passing of the Ghana AIDS Commission Act 2015. The Act gives legal backing for the establishment of the Ghana AIDS Commission and the National HIV and AIDS Fund, and makes provision for anti-stigma and discrimination to protect the rights of people living with HIV and AIDS.

A Treat All policy was adopted in 2016 to increase ART coverage. Currently the Treat All policy has been initiated in four priority regions, namely Ashanti, Greater Accra, Eastern and Western regions, and plans are underway to scale up to the remaining six regions of Ghana. JUTA also provided technical support in the harmonisation of registers and reporting tools, development of mother-baby pair records (Road-to-health and antenatal cards) to enhance early infant diagnosis (EID) and mother-baby pair monitoring and the development of SOPs for integration. Provision of nutritional support to PLHIV improved adherence to ART. Other related support from JUTA included revision of National HIV testing algorithms; paediatric acceleration plan which seeks to provide the roadmap to the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, development of a task-sharing policy following the realisation that the existing physician-led approach to ART is a barrier for achieving the 90-90-90 goal. Meetings between JUTA, PEPFAR, GFATM and the Ministry of Health were held to monitor implementation of the GFATM and PEPFAR investments

and ensure that Government commits to reinvesting funds to replace medical supplies lost during a fire that destroyed the Central Medical Stores (CMS) in 2015.

Over 1.5 million people were reached through engagements with Mama Zambia Foundation, Rally for the Goals, Fashion icon awards, Football associations, ATUABO Free port, Moremi Initiatives, Paddies, Contagion and Exclusive Men's Award, among others, to scale up testing and tailored HIV prevention messages to audiences using a variety of channels, including social media and radio. The Ghana Educational Services was supported to commence a review of the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) curriculum to assess its relevance and the scope of its contents.

Evidence generation and knowledge management: The UN provided support for the development of the 2015 HIV sentinel surveillance report and the generation of HIV estimates and projections for 2016. Support was also provided for the development of the protocol, data collection tools for the Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveillance Survey (IBBSS) and data validation exercises.

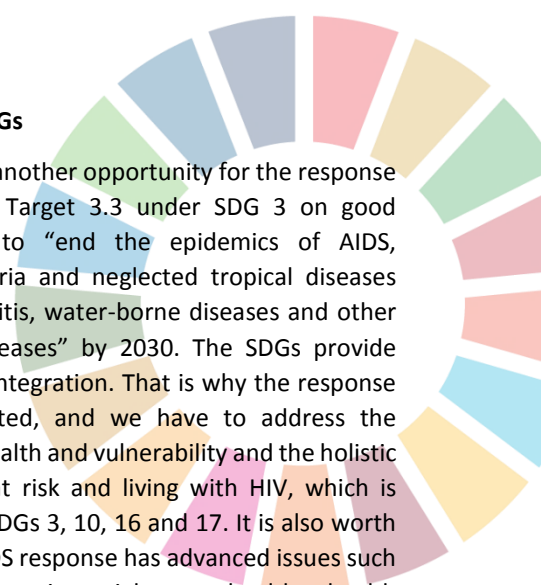
Capacity building: To scale up "Preventing Mother-to-Child Transmission" (PMTCT) services, the UN supported the capacity building of midwives and nurses on the new WHO guidelines on PMTCT in high HIV burden regions. Further support was provided to GHS through the deployment of mobile technology to fast track EID services in selected districts in the Eastern region.

Technical assistance: Technical assistance was also provided to scale up paediatric HIV treatment care and support, and to develop task-sharing guidance and the Ghana 90-90-90 road map in 2016.

Furthermore, JUTA continues to strengthen the capacity of CHRAJ and CSOs to improve reporting on stigma related issues.

Relation to the SDGs

The SDGs provide another opportunity for the response against HIV/AIDS. Target 3.3 under SDG 3 on good health envisions to "end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases" by 2030. The SDGs provide opportunities for integration. That is why the response cannot be neglected, and we have to address the determinants of health and vulnerability and the holistic needs of people at risk and living with HIV, which is addressed under SDGs 3, 10, 16 and 17. It is also worth noting that the AIDS response has advanced issues such as commodity security, right to health, health information systems, legal barriers and gender equality, all of which are lessons that are key to progress across the SDGs.



Stigma and discrimination a major barrier for women

Patience Eshun, a widowed grandmother who lost her daughter last year to HIV, knows how destructive HIV-related discrimination can be. “My daughter refused to go hospital to receive drugs. My daughter died because of the fear of stigmatisation and discrimination,” she said.

Patience has experienced the impact of stigma and discrimination towards those living with HIV. Her daughter stopped taking medication because of fear of being identified as a PLHIV in the community. Her daughter felt ashamed when she went to the clinic to get her medication. This, coupled with gossip within the community, led her daughter to stop taking medication. Patience believes her daughter’s death could have been prevented if people were more accepting of PLHIV. Patience is one of 8000 widows UNAIDS interacts with through the Mama Zimbi Foundation (MZF), an NGO which seeks to empower and support widows and women living with HIV through its Widows Alliance Network (WANE).

In Ghana, women are among those most affected by HIV, and widows are among the poorest women. Their poverty is linked to the deprivation of their rights and lack of access to justice because of discriminatory customs, traditions and religious codes. They regularly lose land and other possessions, and are evicted from their homes once they lose their spouse. For widows living with HIV, challenges, stigma and discrimination are often exacerbated.

Responding to these challenges, Akumaa Mama Zimbi, a Ghanaian women’s rights leader, launched the Widows Alliance Network (WANE), a project for sustainable socio-economic development of widows. It equips widows and their daughters with skills to improve their employability, and offers human rights education, reproductive health and social integration programmes. Through WANE, over 400 widow groupings have been formed in Ghana, with membership of over 8,000 women nationwide. The organisation also provides small income generating and training workshops for widows in dressmaking, bread baking, beekeeping and small-scale farming.

“We passionately advocate for a comprehensive policy and legal direction for elevating the standards of widows, and all women, in Ghana. We need to empower women, and make sure men are also fully part of the discussion - we need to work together for a better future,” Akumaa Mama Zimbi said.

During dialogue sessions with UNAIDS to address issues around stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV, Patience and other widows explained a widow facing injustice has little or no recourse within her community and within the courts. At the 2016 National Widows Alliance Forum in Accra, women shared their experiences of HIV-related discrimination through dance, community theatre, poetry and story-telling. Patience and other widows within the Mama Zimbi Foundation committed to working with community leaders and other widows to ensure that stigma and discrimination is eliminated, thereby removing barriers to accessing prevention and treatment services.



(Photo: UNAIDS Ghana)

Outcome 9: Education

UNDAF intended results

- Improved access to education for vulnerable and marginalised children
- Reduced number of out-of-school children through complementary basic education and other interventions
- Improved quality of education with focus on early grade reading

Key messages

- Initiation of a review and development of the Education Sector plan in alignment to the SDGs and AU Agenda 2063
- Launch of Inclusive Education Policy and implementation plan
- Deployment of National Service Personnel to the Complimentary Basic Education Programme
- Targeted support for the implementation of the new Pre-Tertiary Teachers Professional Development and Management Policy

Significant National Achievements and Constraints

In 2016, the Ministry of Education (MoE) conducted a mid-term review of the Education Sector Strategic Plan (2010-2020), and initiated the development of the National Framework of Action on Education (also referred to as the Education Strategic Plan 2018-2030) to align with the SDGs and the African Union's Agenda2063.

In terms of enrolment at the basic education level, a marginal increase was recorded between 2014/15 and 2015/16 for Primary and Junior High School (JHS⁵): At the Primary level, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) increased – respectively – from 110% to 111% and from 91% to 92%; and the JHS GER increased from 85% to 88%, while the JHS NER increased from 49% to 50%. Gender parity was maintained at the kindergarten and primary level; while it has steadily increased at the JHS level and reached parity (0.97) for the first time in 2015/16.

The progress on learning achievements has been slow as documented by the 2016 reports of the National Education Assessment for P4 and P6, and the Early Grade Reading Assessments (EGRA) and Early Grade Mathematics Assessments (EGMA) for P3. Both showed continued under-performance at the assessed grade. Less than 25% of the pupils met the proficiency cut-point in P4 and P6 mathematics, and less than 40% achieved proficiency in P4 and P6 English.

UN Contribution towards National Achievements 2016

The UN contributed to promoting access to and quality of Inclusive Education (IE) in Ghana through multiple interventions targeting right-age enrolment, bringing back out-of-school children, provision of a policy framework, inclusive education and systemic approaches to learning such as setting up standards for Kindergarten education, developing educational materials and improving quality of instruction.

Policy support: The UN advocacy for inclusive education achieved a milestone with the launch of the national Inclusive Education policy in April 2016, together with Standards and Guidelines (S&G) and a costed Implementation Plan.

Furthermore, the UN successfully advocated for deployment of nearly 80 National Service Personnel (NSP) for Complementary Basic Education (CBE) across 14 districts. The inclusion of the NSP in the programme helped to strengthen the quality of instruction and run CBE in communities where literate facilitators are not available; and provided a good practice to inform the future financing of the initiative through Government resources.

Evidence generation and knowledge management: The UN supported the Ghana Education Service (GES) with a formative assessment of the kindergarten programme, which will provide information on policy and implementation gaps in the sub-sector.

As part of efforts to improve the availability of quality real-time data using the mobile school report card

⁵ Education Sector Performance Report, 2016, MoE

introduced in 2015, the UN scaled up the number of districts implementing this data collection method to ten. The mobile school report card continues to demonstrate its potential showing improved preparedness of teachers and attendance in the targeted districts.

Capacity building: In an effort to strengthen the management and supervision of education at national, regional, district and local levels, the UN supported the training of officials at these levels using Leadership for Learning and Leadership for Change modules reaching about 1,000 officials in seven regions.

As part of continued support to improve teaching of literacy/numeracy skills at kindergarten and primary level, the UN supported the training of approximately 4,940 kindergarten and primary 1 to 3 teachers (2,551 males and 2,389 females).

In 2016, the GES initiated the roll-out of the Communication for Development strategy starting with 20 districts on a demonstration basis levels, with a focus on promoting right-age enrolment, retention and completion, and addressing the issue of overage children.

Service delivery: The UN contributed to the reduction of out-of-school children through the implementation of Complementary Basic Education (CBE) in four districts. Approximately 3,520 out-of-school children (2,160 boys

and 1,360 girls) between the ages 8 and 14 benefitted from this second-chance opportunity resulting in 84% of them being integrated into the formal primary schools after completion of the CBE programme.

Relation to the SDGs

Education is explicitly formulated as a stand-alone goal – SDG 4. Numerous education-related targets and indicators are also contained within other SDGs. Education is both a goal in itself and a means for attaining all the other SDGs. It is not only an integral part of sustainable development, but also a key enabler for it.

SDG 4 aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Achieving inclusive and quality education for all reaffirms the belief that education is one of the most powerful and proven vehicles for sustainable development. This goal ensures that all girls and boys complete free primary and secondary schooling by 2030. It also aims to provide equal access to affordable vocational training, and to eliminate gender and wealth disparities with the aim of achieving universal access to a quality higher education. Thus, the interrelation of SDG 4 and other goals is clear: SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities).





Thematic Area 4: Transparent and Accountable Governance

Thematic Area 4 supports the implementation of national priorities in the following areas: general elections; anti-corruption; rule of law and access to justice; gender equality and women's empowerment; peace building and conflict resolution; improving local governance; data improvement for development and planning; evidence-based planning and decision-making. This thematic area is grounded in two of the GSGDA II pillars, namely the 7th on human development, productivity and employment, and the 8th on transparent, responsive and accountable governance.

2016 saw Ghana cement its reputation for democratic governance through the 7 December Presidential and Parliamentary elections which were widely hailed by domestic and international observers as being the result of fair, transparent, and credible election processes. The UN worked with governance institutions, civil society and political parties to support the electoral process and facilitated the signing of a Peace Accord by all Presidential candidates.

The UN also supported national efforts to ensure the participation of women, young people and people with disability in political processes and strengthened the national peace architecture at the national and subnational levels.

Work under this theme also supported national policy development and implementation with respect to access to justice, effective migration policy, and meeting the needs of refugees in the country.

The UN has also adapted its support for national development planning and decentralisation towards supporting the localisation and implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 through national development plans. This has included support for Ghana's analytical work globally in determining SDG indicators and its work nationally to identify reliable data sources, expand data collection, and develop ways to expand data dissemination in support of policy planning, monitoring, reporting and accountability.

Information provided by:

UNDP, UNESCO, IOM, UNHCR, ILO and UNICEF

Outcome 10: National Institutions on Democracy and Peace

UNDAF intended results

- Greater institutional capacity of key national bodies to deepen democracy and implement justice sector reforms
- Advancements in local governance and decentralisation
- Greater awareness of women's rights and inclusion of women and youth in democratic processes and local governance
- Strengthened institutions in the national peace architecture and anti-corruption campaign

Key messages

- The Electoral Commission (EC) implemented some 27 reforms for an inclusive and participatory electoral process.
- Legal Aid Services have been expanded through a collaborative working arrangement between private and public legal aid and ADR practitioners.
- CHRAJ has launched mechanisms and tools to enhance transparency and integrity in public sector.
- The Affirmative Action Bill has been approved by Cabinet.
- National and Regional Peace Councils convened presidential candidates for a peace accord.
- The EC expressed appreciation for the support of the UNCT to the electoral process.

Significant National Achievements and Constraints

Successful Elections and Peaceful Transition of Power:

The Electoral Commission of Ghana efficiently managed and transparently conducted the 2016 elections. For the third time since the 1992 Constitution, Ghana demonstrated its maturing democracy with an improved electoral process, free participation, timely concession by the incumbent President, and peaceful transfer of political power. However, improvements are needed in managing the transition from one government to another and curbing post-election violence.

Addressing Corruption: The Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) led efforts to improve accountability which resulted in increased capacity for transparency in the management of public affairs. Interventions such as Integrity Complaint Tools were operationalised in 2016. However, the condoning of certain forms of corruption within the society is yet to be addressed. The Government recognises this constraint and has shown commitment to address it.

Gender equality and women's empowerment: The Affirmative Action Bill that seeks to improve participation of women in decision-making processes was approved by Cabinet and is in Parliament for consideration; and a maternity protection bill to extend maternity leave from 12 to 14 weeks was submitted to Parliament too. Notably, female members of Parliament increased from 11% to 13.5% in 2016, although this remains below the AU average.

Peace and justice: Public and private Legal aid/ADR practitioners agreed to work collaboratively in increasing access to justice by women and children countrywide. The National Peace Council (NPC) maintained the public's trust and that of the contending presidential candidates to convene a peace accord, the Accra Declaration, as well as to promote peaceful electioneering throughout the country.

UN Contribution towards National Achievements 2016

Supporting the electoral process: The UNCT facilitated constructive discussions with a wide range of stakeholders to provide technical assistance and mobilise resources to support the electoral process and mitigate against identified electoral risks. To increase coherence between priority needs, UNDP, together with the EU, supported the Electoral Commission to coordinate a Working Group of Development Partners, key Governance institutions and civil society. UNCT supported the EC in establishing a National Collation Centre and enhanced transparency of the process by providing screens for public viewing in all Constituency Collation Centres (CCCs). The media were supported to develop a code of conduct for its members and the capacity of District Electoral Officers was enhanced through election management training as part of the electoral assistance.

Peace building and conflict resolution: Strengthening Ghana's peace architecture in 2016 was the core of the UN's electoral support and contributed significantly to the peaceful elections. The UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) assisted in defusing political

tensions and promoting peaceful elections by sending four missions to Ghana. The UNCT facilitated a joint mission with UNOWAS, the African Union (AU), ECOWAS as well as the NPC and other partners that ensured the signing of a Peace Accord ahead of the elections. The UN supported capacity building of various stakeholders in peacebuilding and conflict mediation and provided logistical support, including vehicles. Citizens' understanding of peace, as well as voter and civic education was deepened through community engagement.



A voter casts her ballot (Photo: Wendy Laryea, TV3)

Gender: The UN supported a gender policy dialogue to discuss women's participation in political processes and parties. Participants included female election candidates. The highest number of women in Ghana's history contested in the 2016 election, an encouraging indication of reduced gender barriers. However, the share of women elected to Parliament remains below AU average and targets. The Affirmative Action Bill is currently awaiting discussion in Parliament after several advocacy efforts supported by UNDP. The UN, through ILO, supported the Ratification of C183 of Maternity Protection for working/breastfeeding mothers and the submission of the new Maternity Protection Bill to Parliament that extends the maternity leave from 12 to 14 weeks and assures the protection of women's participation in the workforce and livelihoods.

Addressing corruption: CHRAJ, with support from UNDP, introduced a prototype client charter for public sector organisations for enhancing accountability and transparency in the public service. In addition, with UNDP support, several integrity compliance tools were developed by the National Ethics Advisory Committee and will be rolled out in 2017. To implement recommendations of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) Ghana review report, the UN continued its support of processes for the amending and

approving of two anti-corruption bills. The drafted Witness Protection Bill, the Conduct of Public Officers' Bill and the amended Whistle-blower Bill have received Cabinet approval and are awaiting adoption by Parliament. UNDP also supported the establishment of hotlines for reporting corruption involving customs officers, and supported training of Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) Customs staff to champion the changes.

Rule of law and access to justice: The following interventions were accomplished with UN support to the Legal Service and Justice Sector Reform Programme: finalisation and validation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), staff training, and implementation of a Change Management Strategy. UNDP also supported the development of communication and gender policies for various political parties and strengthened their membership database management skills.

Local government and decentralisation: The development of a Policy Framework and Practitioner Manual provides a guide for District Assemblies across the country for citizen engagement on governance; promoting accountability through the establishment of Local Accountability Networks (LANETs). Advocacy on youth engagement contributed to consideration of the Youth Service Bill 2016, which is in Parliament for passage. Participation in governance processes of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) was promoted by creating a platform that facilitated integration of their issues into Party Manifestos and the development plans of District Assemblies.

The Ghana Districts League Table: Following its launch in 2014 with the support of UNICEF, the Ghana District League Table (DLT) was once again successfully utilised in 2016. The DLT is a social accountability tool that ranks progress toward delivering wellbeing in key basic services across the country's Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies. Like previous years, the 2016 DLT generated a huge wave of public interest, discussions and greater calls for accountability and equity in service delivery.

Relation to SDGs

Governance issues fit squarely into SDGs 16. However, since good governance is the backbone of socio-economic and environmental development, it propels the attainments of other SDGs. This makes the sustainable development framework complete.



Women and youth contributed to peaceful elections

In November 2016, the Women's Situation Room (WSR) Ghana was launched to help ensure a peaceful election process in Ghana ahead of, during and after the 7 December elections. The Ghana WSR was supported by the Governments of Norway and Canada, UN Women, the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel, and UNDP.

The goal of the WSR – a pan-African initiative – is to eliminate obstacles to women's participation in electoral processes, especially violence against women in all its forms, which has been identified as a major obstacle to women's involvement in political affairs.

The first WSR was established in 2011 in Liberia, and has since been replicated in many other countries across Africa, such as Senegal, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Mali, Guinea Bissau, Nigeria and Uganda.

It has proved to be a powerful peacebuilding platform that rallies women, youth, media, stakeholders, professionals, religious and traditional personalities and institutions to ensure a transparent and peaceful electoral process.

The initiative enabled Ghana's women and youth to organise peace advocacy and activities across all 10 regions, such as: a march for peace involving 10,000 women across the country from various communities, women's groups, youth, and women leaders of the various political parties; inter-party youth and women dialogues; advocacy in the media; Youth Peace Torch; and the operation of a physical situation room. 120 focal persons covered the identified hotspots and reported on early warning signals. 10 Regional Hubs engaged women, youth and communities in the process for peaceful elections.

Stakeholders across board lauded the initiative as it did not only contribute to peace, but also enabled women to participate in the electoral process, including elections observation.



Launch of the Women's Situation Room in Accra (Photo: UN Ghana/Juliane Reissig)

Further information:

- www.gh.undp.org/content/ghana/en/home/ourwork/democraticgovernance/overview
- www.chraighana.com
- www.mint.gov.gh/peace
- www.legalaidghana.org
- www.unicef.org/ghana
- [www.cddgh.org/publications/Free Publications](http://www.cddgh.org/publications/Free%20Publications)

Outcome 11: Data for Evidence-based Planning and Decision-making

UNDAF intended results

- Improved production of reliable and timely data by GSS and key MDAs
- Improved capacity of policy-makers to use data in evidence-based planning and monitoring wellbeing of all social groups
- Enhanced planning processes and implementation monitoring of medium-term frameworks
- Partnerships facilitated with Ghanaian Diaspora to support socio-economic development

Key messages

- GSS has produced high quality data on a timely basis.
- However, data collection and use is not well-coordinated across GoG institutions.
- Ghana has identified and formulated SDGs targets and indicators to be monitored.
- NDPC has developed planning and M&E guidelines for the preparation of the next medium-term national, sectoral and district plans.
- The Ministry of Interior has prepared a National Action Plan to improve qualitative and quantitative data on stateless populations, increase in birth registration, accession to the UN statelessness conventions and issuance of nationality documents to those who are entitled to it in the bid to end statelessness in Ghana.
- Ghana was not able to accede to the statelessness conventions before the end of 2016.
- Data collection and management have been limited due to institutional capacity constraints and inadequate implementation support.

Significant National Achievements and Constraints

Data: The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) has continued to produce high quality data (disaggregated by sex, age, geography and other variables) for evidence-based planning, monitoring and evaluation. GSS prepared and launched the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS II) in 2016. The GSS also identified and formulated targets and indicators for the SDGs to ensure coherent and quality reporting on the SDGs. In addition, the GSS has put in place the process of undertaking the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey in 2017 and the Ghana Living Standard Survey round 7 (GLSS 7), the data which is to be used to assess multidimensional poverty, inequality and other socio-economic indicators. However, it is worth mentioning that data is not well-coordinated and managed in the country, hence the need for a common data platform for ease of data retrieval, usage, and transparency.

Evidence-based policy and long-term planning: In 2016, the Government took steps for the formulation of medium-term and long-term development policy frameworks, sectoral and district plans by developing planning and M&E guidelines. By the end of 2017, the fifth development and policy framework is to be completed, pending implementation from 2018 to 2021. Plans to bridge the inequality gap between the

north and the south of the country and to explore the nexus between migration and development were also developed. In spite of efforts to develop plans and make policies to ensure inclusive growth and bridge the inequality gap, implementation of these policies and plans leave much to be desired.

UN Contribution towards National Achievements 2016

Data: The year 2016 saw tremendous support to the institutional and individual capacity building for GSS. This contributed to the enhancement of the production of quality disaggregated data to inform policy, planning and decision-making. The UN supported the preparation processes for GLSS VII which will run through 2017. The UN also supported the identification and formulation of indicators for the localisation of the SDGs to ensure the collection of disaggregated administrative data. The process led to the ground preparation for strengthening partnership among State data collection agencies to enhance data harmonisation and usefulness.

The Ministry of Interior was supported to prepare the National Action Plan to end statelessness. To further improve the identification of statelessness, CHRAJ was supported to undertake a background study which is currently ongoing. The UN further supported the assessment of organisational capacity of stakeholders in

migration data management in Ghana, and a National Migration Data Management Framework was developed.

Evidence-based policy and long-term planning: The UN supported the development of a national infrastructure plan to feed into the 40-year long-term development plan. To ensure that the next medium-term framework and plans facilitate achieving SDG principles to enhance equity and relevance, the UN provided technical and financial support to mainstream the SDGs into the formulation of planning and M&E guidelines to inform the next 2018-2021 medium-term development framework. The UN in Ghana also supported the production of analytical work in 2016, contributing to the policy space and development agenda of the country. For example, to enhance human development in the country through the extractive sub-sector, the UN has supported the domestication of the African Mining Vision (AMV) through consultations and analysis of the mining, oil and gas sectors. However, the integration of Extractives Sector Policy Priorities into the Development Plans and Strategies of Ghana are yet to be completed. The UN continues to encourage the implementation of the National Employment Policy, adopted in 2015, that seeks to coordinate government agencies and engage the social partners in promoting decent work, job creation, productivity and economic stability, free from child labour. This work has included support for the National Employment Coordination Council for the implementation of the National Employment Policy adopted in 2015.

Relation to SDGs

Data and planning processes are domesticating the implementation of the SDGs. This is what is called for under SDG 17, on implementation means and partnerships, as a foundation for the achievement of the entire Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.



Further information:

- <http://statsghana.gov.gh>
- <http://ss.ug.edu.gh/journal/vol.13>
- www.ndpc.gov.gh
- <http://sadagh.org/index.php/documents>

Cross-Cutting Themes

Human Rights

Ghana is party to all the main Human Rights instruments and International Labour Conventions and has strong institutions to support democracy and the rule of law. These assets rightly raise expectations for the recognition and protection of human rights for all Ghanaians.

At the UN's Human Rights Assessment workshop in May 2016, experts and CSOs identified groups who were at high risk of having their human rights not recognised and thus not protected in Ghana, in particular lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons, underage sex workers, intravenous drug users, and prisoners. Although the challenges differ by group, they share common concerns about personal safety, stigmatisation, lack of access to medical care and unmet needs for education and livelihood training.

The UNCT (led by UNFPA, UNAIDS and UNHCR) commissioned research to quantify the populations in these groups and created opportunities for members of these groups to share their experience and concerns with members of the UN Country Team. This methodology was designed to fully tap the limited existing information and to amplify the voices of those facing such severe discrimination that they are unable to freely speak their case, advocate for the realisation of their human rights, and seek protection from abuse and discrimination. One of the challenges Ghana faces in achieving the SDGs in terms of leaving no one behind is in extending access to justice – and hence access to social services, quality education, health care, and decent work – to individuals in ostracised groups.

UN work in 2016 further focused advocacy on meeting the human rights of women and children, persons with disabilities, slum dwellers, migrants and refugees. The UN is working with the relevant Ministries on implementation plans to ensure that the Gender Policy adopted in 2015 and the Affirmative Action Bill, which has been submitted to Parliament, achieve their desired impact. GoG has taken a leadership role in ensuring that adolescent girls are protected from child marriage and other forms of abuse. UNFPA and UNICEF support GoG and Civil Society strategies to end child marriage and expand access to information and services in the area of sexual and reproductive health.

The Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations (GFD) provides strong representation to Persons with Disabilities (PWD) in protecting their human rights. In 2016, the UN Country Team enabled a GFD

representative to participate in an international conference to look at disability inclusion in national SDG strategies. Their resulting priorities include improving data on PWD in SDG indicators and lobbying to improve public awareness of the number and living conditions of PWD in Ghana.

Meeting the right to housing and protection of rights of urban slum dwellers is an ongoing challenge in Ghana due to accelerating rates of urbanisation, which outpaces expansion of basic public services. The right to adequate housing is a human right that extends to slum-dwellers. The SDGs and the *New Urban Agenda* ratified at Habitat III in Ecuador in 2016 stress that ensuring the right to adequate housing is about living in security, peace and dignity for everyone. Ongoing work to improve the urban environment will need to continually engage community-based organisations in planning and implementation in order to meet the human rights of minorities, the homeless, those living in extreme poverty, and those who experience forced evictions and displacement.

Statelessness is a human right and a development issue and has become a barrier to providing protection and finding solutions for refugees in Ghana. In January 2016, pursuant to its commitments deriving from the *Abidjan Declaration of Ministers of ECOWAS Member States on Eradication of Statelessness*, Ghana developed a *National Action Plan to End Statelessness* that has been submitted to the Minister of the Interior and is pending approval.

Economic challenges are motivating a growing number of young people to engage in irregular migration towards Europe or enter exploitative domestic work streams in the Middle East. The National Migration Policy adopted in 2016 seeks to address these negative migration trends and better protect migrants' human rights. The U.S. Government's 2016 Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP) ranked Ghana Tier 2 Watch List for the second consecutive year, due to insufficient efforts to identify and assist trafficking victims and to prosecute and convict the perpetrators. Ghana faces an automatic downgrade to Tier 3 in the 2017 TIP Report if ranked Tier 2 Watch List again, which would trigger substantial cuts in US bilateral assistance. IOM has stressed the need for more effective prosecution of trafficking cases, alongside prevention and protection efforts, and for more media attention to successful prosecutions in order to deter potential traffickers.

Gender

Gender equality and women's empowerment has been recognised as a catalyst for the success of the SDGs. The UN in Ghana is joining the international efforts to reach gender equality and eliminate gender-based discrimination and violence. The UN's work on gender is carried out by individual UN agencies and coordinated by the inter-agency UN Gender Team (UNGT), which comprises gender focal points from a dozen UN agencies, and was chaired by UNESCO in 2016.

The UN, under the coordination of the UNGT, and working with the Government's gender sector working group – Gender Equality Sector Team (GEST) – continued to support the Government in the areas of advocacy, policy advice and development, public education, and capacity building initiatives. Most of this support is channelled through the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) and other sector institutions as well as Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). The results enumerated below were achieved through work led by UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, UNIC, UNV, FAO, UNESCO, UNHCR, and IOM, as well as their financial development partners.

Technical and financial support to MoGCSP was provided in the following areas:

- Development of MoGCSP's 5-year strategic plan, which was validated and finalised;
- Development of the National Strategic Framework and action plan to address child marriage (2017-2026), which was launched;
- Representation at and technical support to GEST meetings, chaired by MoGCSP and GEST's Development Partners, including internal planning meetings, for effective delivery of the Ministry's mandate;
- Development of a costed Action Plan/Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) to guide the implementation of the National Gender Policy, which has contributed to the integration and resource allocation for mainstreaming gender into national development plans. Development of a 5-year strategy to promote girls' education in Ghana through the Girls Education Unit (GEU) of the Ghana Education Service.

Results from UN support to **advocacy and public education initiatives** include:

- Students in the Northern, Ashanti and the Central regions enhanced their knowledge of gender issues

and the SDGs through a series of UN outreach programmes targeted at the youth.

- The findings of the global study on the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security were shared with journalists which subsequently enhanced their knowledge of the importance of women's participation in peacebuilding and conflict prevention.
- Gender parity in Junior High School has been increased in 2016 as a result of UN supported advocacy efforts which focussed on making the education sector more responsive to the issues of teenage pregnancy and gender-based violence.
- As part of its support to the 2016 elections, the UN raised awareness of the importance of women in political decision-making through a gender campaign dubbed #MoreWomenInParliament. This resulted in an increase of female Members of Parliament from 11% to 13.5% in 2016.
- The UN advocated for the passage of the Affirmative Action Bill: consensus was reached among political parties, and the media advocated for the participation of women in decision-making processes and in public life. In addition, five major political parties demonstrated their commitment to promote gender equality and women's political empowerment by developing gender policies and implementation strategies with UN support after a series of advocacy activities.
- Peer-to-peer education in refugee camps and volunteers' reporting and referral of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases to the appropriate authorities was improved following a training of 50 Peer Educators (30 refugees from Ampain, Egyeikrom and Krisan camps; 20 from host communities) on adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) and SGBV prevention and response.

Results from UN support to **capacity building initiatives** include:

- Improved knowledge and skills of partners on the prevention and management of SGBV and Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs), especially child marriage, which included traditional and religious leaders, the establishment of girls' networks to share information, and peer-to-peer support to report and refer cases of HTPs to the Ghana Police

Service's Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) and other duty bearers.

- 113 party executives (57 women, 56 men) from five political parties (CPP, NDC, NPP, PNC, PPP) enhanced their knowledge of gender mainstreaming and women's political participation through a UN supported training; they are now better positioned to promote gender equality and women's political participation.

Results of UN support to **research, assessments, publications, and data management** include:

- A Comprehensive Country Gender Assessment (CGA) of the Agriculture and Rural Sector (CGA-ARS) of Ghana led to increased knowledge of key stakeholders of gender inequalities in the Agric Sector and positioned them to develop strategies to address such inequalities in the future.
- DOVVSU has enhanced its data collection and analysis, enabling them to work with accurate, complete, authentic and reliable data through the establishment of a Data Management System (client and server side tool) with a data analyses option.

Results of UN supported **women and girls' empowerment initiatives**:

- The reportage and resolution of SGBV issues at refugee camps was improved as a result of regular meetings organised by the SGBV Taskforce in the Western and Central Regions.
- The interest of over 200 primary and secondary school girls to enrol in STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) related courses increased after a STEM clinic for girls was organised by the Ghana Education Service.
- Girls' school retention improved as over 68,000 school children were provided with child-friendly,

gender- and disability-sensitive WASH facilities, while over 4000 girls participated in Menstrual Hygiene Management programmes. 362 gender-sensitive Water and Sanitation Management Teams were constituted in communities across the country.

- The UN contributed to a reduction in Maternal and Infant Mortality through the disbursement of six cycles of cash grants financed by the UN for 6,217 poor households with pregnant women or infants less than one year old under the LEAP 1000 programme.
- Women across the country contributed to peace before, during and after Ghana's 2016 elections thanks to the activities of the Women's Situation Room (WSR) initiative.

Furthermore, the UN Gender Team (UNGT) supported national and international campaigns and cooperated with MoGCSP and other partners to raise awareness of gender issues and to call for gender equality at the occasion of International Women's Day and 16 Days of Activism, amongst others. The UNGT also supported a UN4U outreach event on the International Day of the Girl Child, involving over 200 Senior High-school Students.

Within the UN's own system, the UNGT continued to devote substantial efforts to increase gender mainstreaming within UN agencies as well as at inter-agency level. Throughout 2016, agencies implemented recommendations that came out of a 2015 UN Participatory Gender Audit rolled out in cooperation with ILO; the progress of agencies' gender record is currently being reviewed.

Going forward, the UN in Ghana will continue to support the country to deliver on its commitment to promote gender equality and women's empowerment; especially through working towards achieving SDG 5.



Humanitarian Assistance

In 2016, the UN's support to Ghana in terms of humanitarian assistance focused on preparedness for potential natural disasters and public health emergencies.

Drafting a National Contingency Plan

Ghana has periodically updated its National Contingency Plan, to enable the country to mount a timely, coherent, effective and coordinated response to floods and to minimise their potential humanitarian, economic and environmental consequences. In March 2016, the process of updating the National Contingency Plan was launched with support from the UN Country Team, led by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Dakar. The updated Plan will outline the different levels of preparedness as well as the coordination and management arrangements for each emergency phase. In addition, the roles and responsibilities of clusters and the immediate actions to be taken by these clusters in the initial hours of a crisis are to be clarified.

Inter-agency simulation exercise on urban flooding

In April 2016, the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO), along with their Government counterparts, OCHA, Office of the Resident Coordinator, the UN Inter-Agency Working Group on Emergency, comprising UN, NGOs and civil society partners, organised a flood response simulation exercise. The simulation exercise sought to reinforce the importance of collaboration – among national institutions, between national and local government institutions, and among humanitarian agencies with a view to strengthening their capability to respond to emergencies in a coherent and efficient manner. The exercise helped familiarise participants with their roles and responsibilities, highlighting immediate actions to be taken by these agencies in the initial hours of a crisis. Inter-agency coordination was the key focus.

All participants agreed that the simulation was valuable in helping identify key areas that needed improvement to further strengthen preparedness among humanitarian stakeholders for better coordination when responding to disasters. Chief among these was the need to develop Standard Operating Procedures for NADMO and the UN to use in putting into action the

Contingency Plans. To see whether recommendations for addressing identified gaps in the information flow and coordination between Government counterparts and other humanitarian partners, it was recommended that simulation exercises be conducted periodically.

Similarly, at the regional and district levels, the UN supported NADMO to conduct simulation exercises on water contamination, chemical spillage, flood and bushfires. These scenarios were built around the exigencies of real time, i.e. the wanton pollution of water bodies by wide-scale illegal mining and the uncontrolled transportation of toxic chemicals through human settlements for industrial purposes in the country. Illegal informal mining with its attendant challenges, including water pollution, is widespread in the Ashanti and Western regions, while flooding and bush fires are growing threats in the savanna zone of the country.

Preparedness for epidemics

Though Ebola did not spread into Ghana, the GoG and UN agencies agreed that substantive work remained to be done to enhance national preparedness capabilities for future epidemics. In this respect, the UN worked with the Government to undertake an evaluation of the preparedness and response mechanisms in place for Public Health Emergencies (PHE) and to gather information on the extent to which these mechanisms and interventions have strengthened PHE preparedness and response capabilities, especially for Ebola. The report of this assessment was vetted and validated by the National Technical Coordination Committee (NTCC) at its meeting in November 2016 and has since been published. Its findings and recommendations are intended to inform future policy formulation and strategic planning.

As a follow-up to the recommendations of the PHE assessment report, the UN Ghana provided training for health officials in the Central Region on Cholera control standard operating procedures, social mobilisation techniques, water quality assessment and WASH interventions. The implementation of these intensive high-impact interventions led to the effective control of the rapidly evolving cholera outbreak in Cape Coast (October 2016) within six weeks of onset.

UN Delivering as One

Operating as One

UN Operations is one of the key pillars of the Delivering as One (DaO) process in Ghana. The Operations Management Team (OMT) brings together Operational Managers of all UN entities working in Ghana. A secretariat dedicated to the coordination of OMT activities was created in June 2011 under the leadership of the UNCT. The OMT currently coordinates the activities of the procurement, human resources (HR) and ICT working groups to reduce costs of operations and duplication of efforts across Agencies. It is also aimed at increasing efficiency by reducing duplication of efforts across Agencies and ensuring high quality of the services purchased by the UN in Ghana. Additional Ad Hoc working groups are formed as and when need arises, under UNCT leadership.

Procurement Working Group: The use of common long-term agreements (LTAs) reduces the number of steps in the procurement process thereby minimising time and costs. The UN bargaining power is also strengthened through *procuring as one* rather than individual agency purchases. In 2016 the Procurement Working Group (PWG) signed five common LTAs for the following services: stationary and office supplies (with two suppliers); ICT equipment maintenance; general office maintenance; fuel (Total Ghana Ltd); and security (with three service providers). To increase the bargaining power of the UN, agencies are encouraged to make information on individual LTAs with suppliers accessible in a database for agencies looking for similar services.

HR Working Group: The HR Working Group was created in 2014 to harmonise common recruitment and staff needs of agencies. The activities led by the HR working group in 2016 included a pre-retirement seminar for UN staff members; development of a database of qualified candidates; and the review of local consultants. The UNCT endorsed the HR working group to organise the first ever pre-retirement seminar in 2016 for UN staff members. The seminar covered documentations, and psychological and financial preparedness. Based on the success of the event, the UNCT recommended to organise another seminar in 2017 for a larger group of staff members of 40+ years to help them prepare adequately for retirement. The HR group is currently working on the creation of a database to share recruitment information and a list of qualified candidates for generic positions; a UN orientation

booklet as a key tool to share information with newly recruited staff and help them acclimatise to the organisational culture, work ethics and expectations at the UN; and a review of the national consultant rates.

ICT Working Group: In support of the UNCT's efforts to improve internal communication, in 2016, the inter-agency ICT working group has initiated processes to establish a ONE UN Information Bank, platform to be used as an easy-access repository of digital documents for all UN staff in Ghana. Launch of the repository is envisioned mid-2017.

Business Operations Strategy (BOS): The Business Operations Strategy (BOS) is a voluntary framework focusing on joint business operations developed in close cooperation with the UNCT, allowing to take a strategic and results-oriented approach to planning, management and implementation of harmonised UN business operations in the country. BOS is a flexible and strategic tool, helping to focus on contextual and specific programmatic needs, while providing an easy-to-use monitoring, evaluation and reporting system to manage joint operations. As BOS is a part of the UN Development Group (UNDG) framework focused on enhancing functioning of the UN system at the country level, it is an essential tool to strengthen the linkages between business operations and programme delivery, particularly within the context of a Delivering as One (DaO) country such as Ghana.

In order to reduce the duplication of functions, administrative and transaction cost, the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) of the UN System by the UN General Assembly 2013-2016 recommended all UN systems to accelerate harmonisation efforts of business operations. In response to this, UNDG introduced the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) in 2012.

In Ghana, the UNCT committed to developing the BOS in close collaboration with the Programme Management Team with the aim of implementing it in 2018 in conjunction with the next UNDAF (2018–21) to improve cost effectiveness and quality of operations such as finance, human resources, information & communication technology, logistics & administration, and procurement in support of programme delivery.

Communicating as One

The UN in Ghana is committed to communicate with one coherent voice. This is critical for the positioning of the UN in Ghana. The implementation of the Joint UN Communication Strategy supports UN system-wide coherence within the UN and helps convey common and consistent UN messages to external audiences. Communicating as One works along the same principle as the overarching Delivering as One approach: pooling resources, sharing information and avoiding duplication.

The communication focal persons of the UN agencies based in Ghana join forces in the UN Communications Group (UNCG) to deliver on this important mission. The team has been working together since 2006 to ensure coherent reporting and communicating of results of the UN's work in Ghana, to raise awareness of the issues at stake in the country, and to form strong partnerships with a variety of actors to ensure as many Ghanaians as possible are well-informed.

In 2016, with the UN Information Centre (UNIC) Accra as Chair, the UNCG focussed on increasing the visibility of the UN and its contribution to Ghana's development priorities and on raising awareness of the SDGs.

In 2016, the UN Ghana website received a make-over and is now accessible at www.gh.one.un.org. It allows easier and user-friendlier access to news and information of the work the UN is doing in Ghana, collectively or through coordinated efforts of the individual agencies. A joint e-newsletter has been launched to inform stakeholders and the public about the latest developments on a quarterly basis.

A key mission of the UNCT in 2016 was to increase the general public's awareness of the SDGs with the aim of enhancing understanding of what the SDGs potentially mean for all Ghanaians and how they can be instrumental in achieving these goals. The UNCG helped to organise training for journalists on SDG reporting, with UNDP and UNESCO as the lead agencies. Out of the 30 participating journalists, three were recognised for their excellent reporting on SDG-related issues and promotion of the SDGs. Several outreach events to address students across the country were organised on various occasions throughout the year, such as on the International Day of the Girl Child. Specifically, three UN4U events involving over 3000 students to inform them about the UN's work in Ghana and the SDGs were organised by the UNCG. The UN in Ghana was the first

to translate the SDG brochure into Braille to ensure that persons with disability are not left behind.

Several international and UN days were commemorated jointly, including International Day of UN Peacekeepers (29 May), International Day of Peace (21 September), and UN Day (24 October).

Collaboration between the UNCG and the UN Gender Team (UNGT) helped deliver on the UNCT's commitment of mainstreaming gender. Joint UNCG-UNGT activities included events and social media campaigns on occasions such as International Women's Day (8 March), the International Day of the Girl Child (11 October), and 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (25 November-10 December).

During the 2016 Presidential and Parliamentary elections, various advocacy efforts (events, press releases, speeches, news stories etc.) supported the call for peaceful, transparent and credible elections.

Going forward, the UNCG is keen to further increase its advocacy on the SDGs. The first series of activities includes: training of SDG spokespersons to bring information on the SDGs to citizens in various local languages; encouragement and recognition of journalist who report on the SDGs; and stronger visibility of and advocacy for the SDGs on social media. The UNCG is also collaborating with the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) Platform on the SDGs, which was launched in 2016 and unites some 100+ CSOs from across the country and all work areas. The collaboration with the CSOs Platform aims to localise the SDGs and ensure that no one is left behind in knowing about the SDGs, and help inform people about what they can contribute to the success of the SDGs and how to hold duty bearers accountable.



Student reading the SDGs in Braille (photo: UNIC Accra)

Conclusions and the way forward

Originally set for 2012-16, the UNDAF was extended to December 2017 to synchronise the UN's planning cycle with Ghana's medium-term development planning cycle. The next *One Programme*, provisionally titled *UN Sustainable Development Partnership (UNSDP)*, will thus cover 2018-22 and will provide the opportunity to support the localisation and implementation of the Agenda 2030 in Ghana.

The UNDAF development Road Map for Ghana was agreed with the Ministry of Finance and NDPC in mid-2016. It timed consultations on priorities and outcomes to Ghana's electoral cycle, aligning UN planning with the development of the *Coordinated Program of Economic and Social Development Policies* and the medium-term national development plan expected to emerge in the first half of 2017. Implementation and monitoring of the UNSDP 2018-22 will require regular consultation between the UN Country Team and the Government through a Joint Steering Committee.

The Common Country Analysis (CCA) identified four interrelated 'core issues' as the root causes of development challenges in Ghana as a Lower Middle Income Country (MIC), which need to inform UN priorities in Ghana:

1. **Persisting inequalities**, measured in income and in access to quality health, education, and justice services, with growing polarisation between regions, rural and urban areas, and social groups.
2. **Low productivity**, dependence on exporting raw natural resources and unprocessed crops persists in an environment that does not yet facilitate transformation to higher-value activities, private sector growth and better jobs.
3. **Demographic dividend**, a workforce-age bulge, is a potential asset for economic development, but coupled with persisting regional disparities and poor education attainment drives internal and external migration, rapid and unplanned urbanisation, and burgeoning demand for decent work for young people. Unmet expectations deprive Ghana of human resource-led development and undermines social cohesion.
4. **Environmental degradation** and poor sanitation threaten public health, undermine future growth in forestry, mining, fisheries, and agriculture, and lowers resilience to natural hazards.

The CCA also concluded that in spite of the limited funding for UN agencies and in light of Ghana's lower MIC status, the UN *"can be instrumental to trigger change if strategically employed. In view of the evolving country context and new global agenda, according to its stakeholders the UN will need to revisit its agencies' mix and skillsets to more adequately respond to the country needs, as well as strategically reposition itself as one coherent, authoritative and respected partner and not only as individual, technically competent agencies."*

The UNDAF Evaluation recognised that national policy **implementation capabilities** have lagged policy adoption in many areas. The UN recognises the importance of building up capabilities all along the continuum from needs assessment to policy design, implementation and impact assessment. These later stages may merit a larger share of UN partnerships in the future.

UN support in meeting and reporting on Ghana's international commitments made in recent landmark UN summits – on sustainable development, climate change, development finance and humanitarian support – will help the country maintain its leadership in the international community. Work with the Ministry of Justice and CSOs could help raise public awareness and promote follow-up action of recommendations made through the human rights mechanisms, in particular through the Universal Periodic Review of Ghana coming up in 2017.

The 2016 UNDAF Evaluation and CCA pointed out opportunities for achieving more of the potential benefits, in terms of UN efficiency and results of the Delivering as One approach. Realising this potential, it was acknowledged, would require strong leadership from both the UN Country Team and the Government.

Additional opportunities for strengthening UN-Government partnership include reinvigorating the **Development Partnership architecture** to facilitate regular, strategic dialogue with all Development Partners. This would be efficient, lead to more coherent partnerships, and move away from project-based discussions. Effective **inter-ministerial coordination** is needed to address complex, cross-sectoral development challenges, such as meeting energy needs while reducing Ghana's carbon footprint, linking vocational training to private sector development, or bringing together multiple ministries, levels of Government and affected populations in urban development schemes. The way the UN works with Government partners may need to sustain mechanisms for meaningful inter-Ministerial coordination.

Annexes

Annex 1: UN Country Team in Ghana

Over 20 UN agencies, organisations and funds work in Ghana, together delivering the priority programmes of support agreed with the Government of Ghana under the UNDAF. The team works together, supported by the leadership and coordination of the UN Resident Coordinator, to support economic and social development, democratic institutions, peace, human rights and resilience to crises. Efforts in many of these areas are supported through cooperation with key international and regional organisations working in Ghana.

UN Offices in Ghana (UN Resident Agencies):

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) works to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to improve agricultural productivity and food security, and to better the conditions of rural populations.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) mobilises financial resources to improve productivity along agricultural value chains, leading to better food production and nutrition.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM) works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration and to promote international cooperation on migration issues.

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) is an innovative partnership that leads and inspires the world in achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) works with Governments and people at all levels of society to transform development, eradicate poverty and reduce inequality, strengthen governance and peacebuilding, and support climate and disaster resilience.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) promotes education for all, cultural development, protection of the world's natural and cultural heritage, press freedom, and communication.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity, and aims to ensure that "every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person's potential is fulfilled, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect."

United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) is the local office of the UN Department of Public Information, one of a network of 63 offices around the world that share the United Nations story with local populations, bringing the UN closer to the people it serves.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has a mandate to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees worldwide, and to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is mandated to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.

United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) helps expand the ability of its partners to manage projects, infrastructure and procurement in a sustainable and efficient manner.

United Nations University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA) supports African Governments and institutions to promote the sustainable management of the continent's natural resources through research, capacity development and policy advice.

World Food Programme (WFP) is the food aid arm of the United Nations system. WFP works to help prevent hunger, improve nutrition, meet emergency food needs and promote world food security.

World Health Organisation (WHO) coordinates programmes aimed at solving health problems and the attainment by all people of the highest possible level of health; it works in areas such as immunisation, health education, and the provision of essential drugs.

UN Agencies with project offices/collaboration in Ghana (UN Non-Resident Agencies)

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is widely known as the world's "Atoms for Peace" organisation within the UN family. The agency works with its Member States and multiple partners to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) promotes rights at work, encourages decent employment opportunities, enhances social protection and strengthens dialogue on work-related issues.

International Maritime Organisation (IMO) works to improve international shipping procedures, encourages the highest standards in marine safety, and seeks to prevent marine pollution from ships.

United Nations Office for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is the part of the United Nations Secretariat responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent response to emergencies, and to promote crisis prevention and preparedness.

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)'s mandate from the UN General Assembly is to "assist developing countries in the development of their economies by supplementing existing sources of capital," promoting Inclusive Finance and Local Development Finance in particular through microfinance and savings programmes.

United Nations Environment is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.

United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) promotes the industrial advancement of developing countries through technical assistance, advisory services, and training.⁶

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is the principal human rights official of the United Nations. OHCHR supports the work of the UN human rights mechanisms, including the treaty bodies established to monitor State Parties' compliance with core international human rights treaties.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was established to assist the UN in providing a coordinated, comprehensive response to the interrelated issues of illicit trafficking in and abuse of drugs, crime prevention and criminal justice, international terrorism, and political corruption.

UN Women is the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

Other International Organisations

African Development Bank (AfDB) spurs sustainable economic development and social progress in its regional member countries, thus contributing to poverty reduction, through mobilising and allocating resources for investment and providing policy advice and technical assistance to support development efforts.

International Finance Corporation (IFC) is an international financial institution which offers investment, advisory, and asset management services to encourage private sector development in developing countries. The IFC is a member of the World Bank Group.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) facilitates international monetary cooperation and financial stability, and provides a permanent forum for consultation, advice, and assistance on financial issues.

The World Bank Group provides loans and technical assistance to developing countries to reduce poverty and advance sustainable economic growth.

⁶ UNIDO has announced that it will re-open its representative office in Accra in 2017.

Annex 2: National Policies, Strategies, Plans, Legislation 2016

Policy	Key Ministry / GoG Agency	Status 2014-2016				UN support
		Being Developed	Pending approval	Adopted	Being implemented	
2015 Ghana AIDS Commission Act	OoP, GAC, MoH, MoGCSP, MoLG			2016		UNAIDS, UNDP, JUTA
Adolescent Health Service Policy and Strategy (2016-2020)	GHS/MoH			2016	✓	WHO, UNICEF
Affirmative Action Bill	MoGCSP		✓			UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP
Animal Health Legislation	MoFA			2016		FAO
Country Mining Vision	Minerals Commission	✓				UNDP
Diet, Nutrition and Physical Activity Strategic Plan	MOH			2015	✓	WHO
Early Warning System Master Plan	NADMO			2015		UNDP
Ebola Case management guide	MOH			2014	✓	WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA
E-Waste Bill	MESTI/EPA			2016		UNOPS, UNDP, UNEP
Family Planning Costed Implementation Plan (GFPCIP) 2016-20	MOH/GHS/NPC			2015	✓	UNFPA
Five Year Strategic Plan for the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection	MoGCSP			2016		UNDP, UNFPA, UN inter-agency Gender Team
Five Year Strategic Plan on Adolescent Pregnancy	MoGCSP	✓				UNFPA
Gender and Agriculture Development Strategy II (updates 2004 Policy)	MoFA			2015	✓	FAO
Ghana Health Financing Strategy and Implementation Plan	MOH			2014	✓	WHO
Ghana Health Sector Common Management Arrangement for implementing HSMTDP II	MOH			2014	✓	WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA
Ghana Health Sector Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	MOH			2014	✓	WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS
Inclusive Education Policy	MoE/GES			2015	✓	UNICEF, WFP
Livestock Development Policy	MoFA		✓			FAO
Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Sustainability Plan	MOH			2015	✓	WHO
Measles and Rubella Elimination Strategic Plan	MOH			2015	✓	WHO
NADMO Restructuring Bill	MoI			2016		UNDP
National Adolescent Reproductive Health Policy	NPC/GHS			2016	✓	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, UNAIDS
National Alcohol Policy	MOH			2015		WHO
National Child and Family Welfare Policy	MoGCSP			2016	✓	UNICEF
National Climate Change Master Plan	MESTI			2015	✓	UNDP
National Climate-Smart Agriculture and Food Security Action Plan of Ghana (2016-2020)	MoFA			2016	✓	FAO
National Employment Policy	MoELR			2015		ILO

National Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) Policy (revised version)	MOH			2016		UNICEF, WHO
National Food Safety Action Plan	FDA/GSA		✓			WHO, FAO
National Food Safety Policy	FDA/MOH		✓			FAO/WHO
National Gender Policy	MoGCSP			2016	✓	UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP
National HIV and AIDS Anti-Stigma Strategy	MOH		✓			UNAIDS, UNDP, Joint UN Team on AIDS (JUTA)
National Housing Policy	MWRWH			2015		UN-HABITAT
National Integrated Strategic Plan for Public Health Events of International Concern (2015-2019)	MOH/Veterinary Services, NADMO		✓			WHO
National Labour-intensive Public Works Policy	MoLGRD			2015	✓	ILO, World Bank
National Mechanisation Policy [<i>agriculture</i>]	MoFA	✓				FAO
National Medicines Policy	MOH		✓			WHO
National Newborn Health Strategy and Action Plan (2014-2018)	MOH			2014		UNICEF
National Nutrition Policy	NSDC, MOH, MoFA, MoGCSP		✓			WFP, FAO, UNICEF, WHO
National Policy on Migration	MoI			2016		IOM
National Population Policy	NPC		✓			UNFPA
National Quality of Care Strategy	MoH			2016		UNICEF, WHO
National Slum Upgrading and Prevention Strategy	MLGRD		✓			UN-HABITAT
National Social Protection Policy	MoGCSP			2016	✓	UNICEF, ILO, WFP, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNHCR
National Strategic Framework on Ending Child Marriage	MoGCSP			2016		UNFPA, UNICEF
National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS	GAC, MoH			2016	✓	UNAIDS, JUTA
Neglected Tropical Disease Master Plan	MOH				✓	WHO
Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA): Ghana Business Plan	NDPC, MoTI, MoH, MoFARI, MoST			2014	✓	UNAIDS, UNIDO, WHO
Policy and Strategy for Quality Assurance and Patient Safety in the Health Sector	MOH	✓				WHO
Policy on Antimicrobial Use and Resistance	MOH/MoFA		✓			WHO, FAO
School Feeding Policy	MoGCSP			2015		WFP
Tobacco Control Regulations Act	OoP, GAC, MoH, MoGCSP, MoLG			2016		WHO
Universal Salt Iodisation Strategy III	MoTI, MoH			2016	✓	UNICEF

Annex 3: Financial Reporting 2016

This annex provides an overview of UN expenditures for UNDAF programme implementation. UN agencies' financial resources come from three main sources:

- **Core resources** are provided to UN Agencies by Member States, and are subsequently allocated by headquarters to country offices to cover core programmatic functions.
- **Non-core resources** are raised by UN Agencies for specific programmes or projects, agreed between Agencies and a Member State. These may be the results of resource mobilisation efforts at country, regional or headquarters levels.
- **Joint programme resources** are provided through a pooled funding mechanism. They are the result of one or more financial partners funding a specific programme or project, which is then implemented by two or more UN Agencies at the country level.

The breakdown of expenditures by UNDAF thematic areas and outcomes is provided in Table 1 below. These figures include core and non-core resources. They do not include operational or overhead costs.

The data compiled show that the UN collectively expended just over US\$ 76 million in implementing the UNDAF in 2016. For the 2013-16 implementation period, the UN has documented a total of just over US\$ 253 million invested in supporting Ghana's social, economic, environmental, and institutional development.

The figures do not include loans made by the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to the Government for investment in agricultural productivity and value chain development, amounting to some US\$ 68 million during this reporting period, of varying duration up to 2020. Also, UNOPS began operations in Ghana in 2015, and as it was not part of the original UNDAF commitments its expenditures have not been including in this accounting. UNOPS expenditures in the area of maternal health facilities amounted to some US\$ 1.275 million in 2015-16.

Table 1: Expenditures by Thematic Area and by Outcome

Thematic Area	Outcome	Expenditures US\$					
		2013*		2014-15#		2016	
		Outcome	Thematic Area	Outcome	Thematic Area	Outcome	Thematic Area
1. Food Security and Nutrition	1. Agricultural Modernisation	1,973,143	4,820,979	5,307,036	15,072,582	4,154,713	8,397,165
	2. Nutrition	2,847,836		9,765,546		4,242,452	
2. Sustainable Environment, Energy and Human Settlements	3. Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction	6,846,264	14,249,942	19,421,378	37,778,736	6,513,957	24,098,005
	4. Affordable and Sustainable Housing	2,317,562		6,651,148		1,199,388	
	5. Water and Sanitation	5,086,116		11,706,210		16,379,660	
3. Human Development and Productive Capacity for Improved Social Services	6. Maternal and Child Health	8,816,507	23,477,288	27,970,649	63,303,431	10,706,574	30,804,041
	7. Social Services	7,373,894		13,830,083		12,308,693	
	8. HIV/AIDS**			3,265,380		758,653	
	9. Education	7,286,887		18,237,319		7,030,121	
4. Transparent and Accountable Governance	10. National Institutions on Democracy and Peace	2,317,562	2,838,449	8,033,761	15,502,109	7,659,759	12,875,441
	11. Data for Evidence-based Planning and Decision-making	520,887		7,468,348		5,215,682	
TOTAL			45,386,658		131,656,858		76,169,652

*Data reported in UNDAF Annual Report for 2013. Expenditures were not reported for 2012.

**2013 data not available for Outcome 8.

Data updated from UNDAF Annual Report for 2014-15

The following figures summarise cumulative expenditures through 2016 by thematic areas (Figure 1), outcomes (Figure 2), and UN Agencies (Figure 3).

Figure 1: Expenditures 2014-16 by Thematic Area

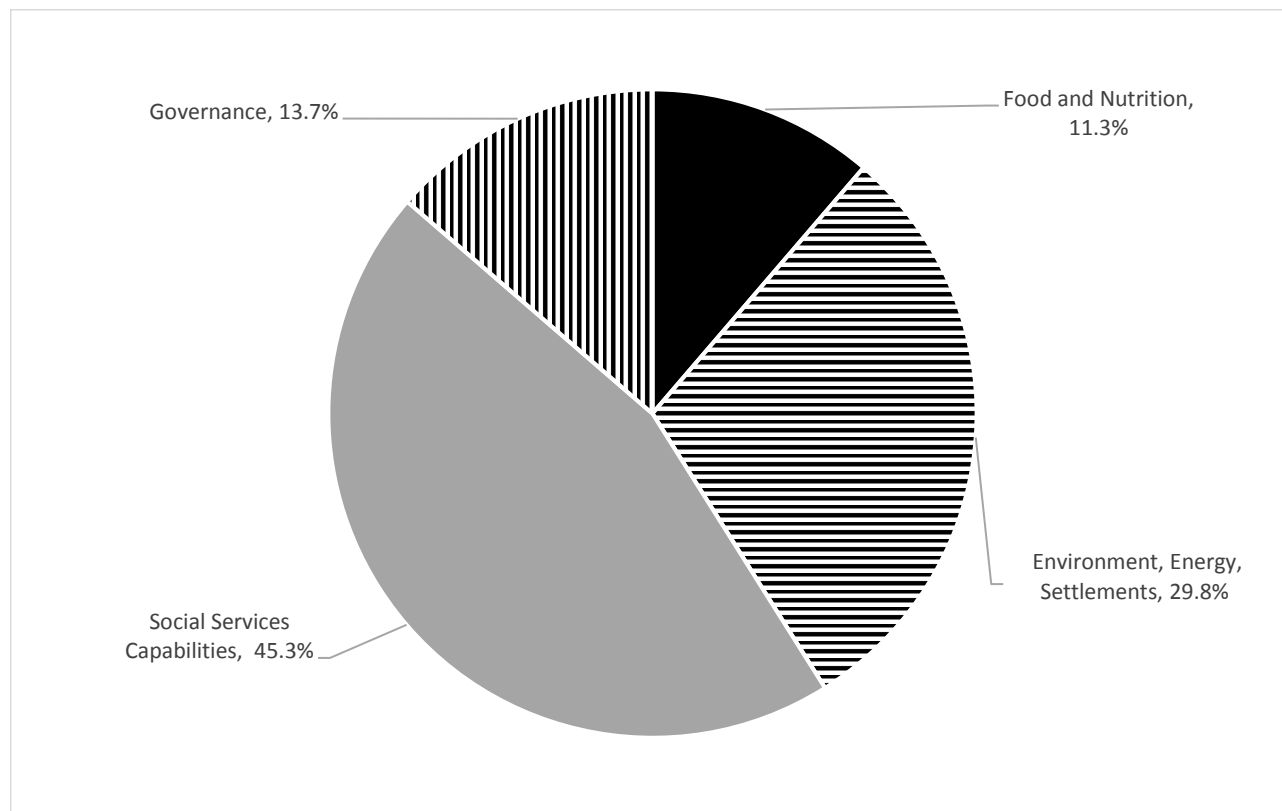


Figure 2: Expenditures per Outcome 2014-16, US\$ and share of total

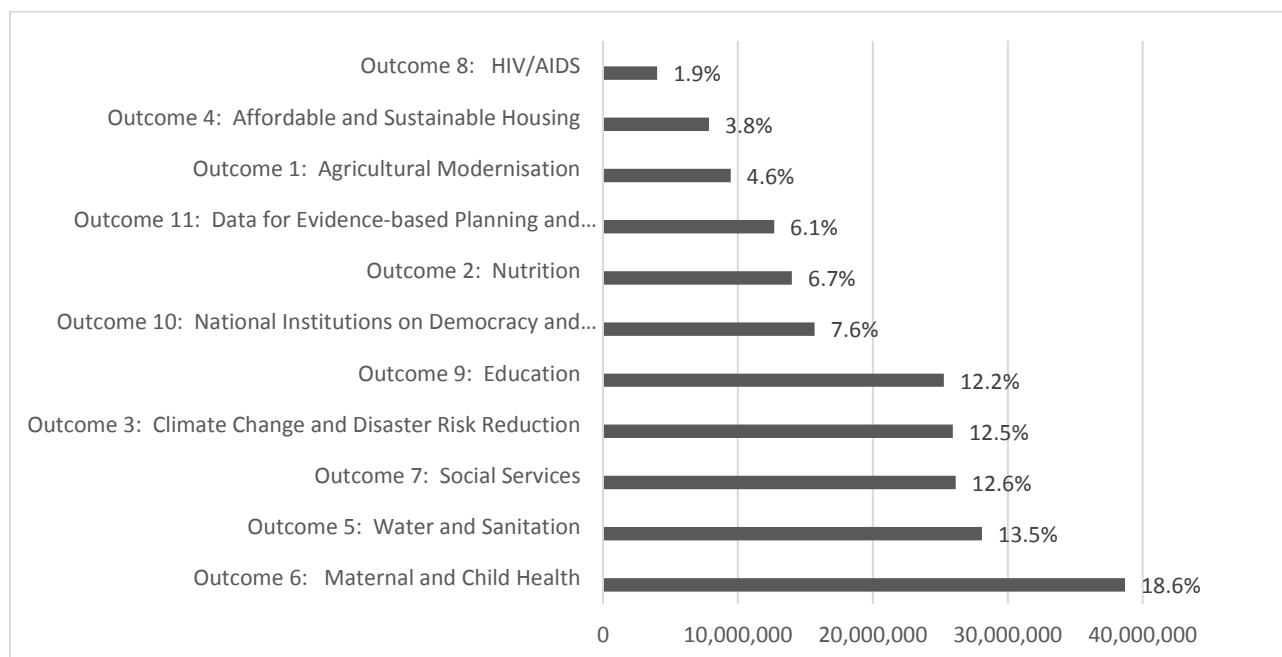


Figure 3: Expenditures US\$ by UN Agency 2014-16

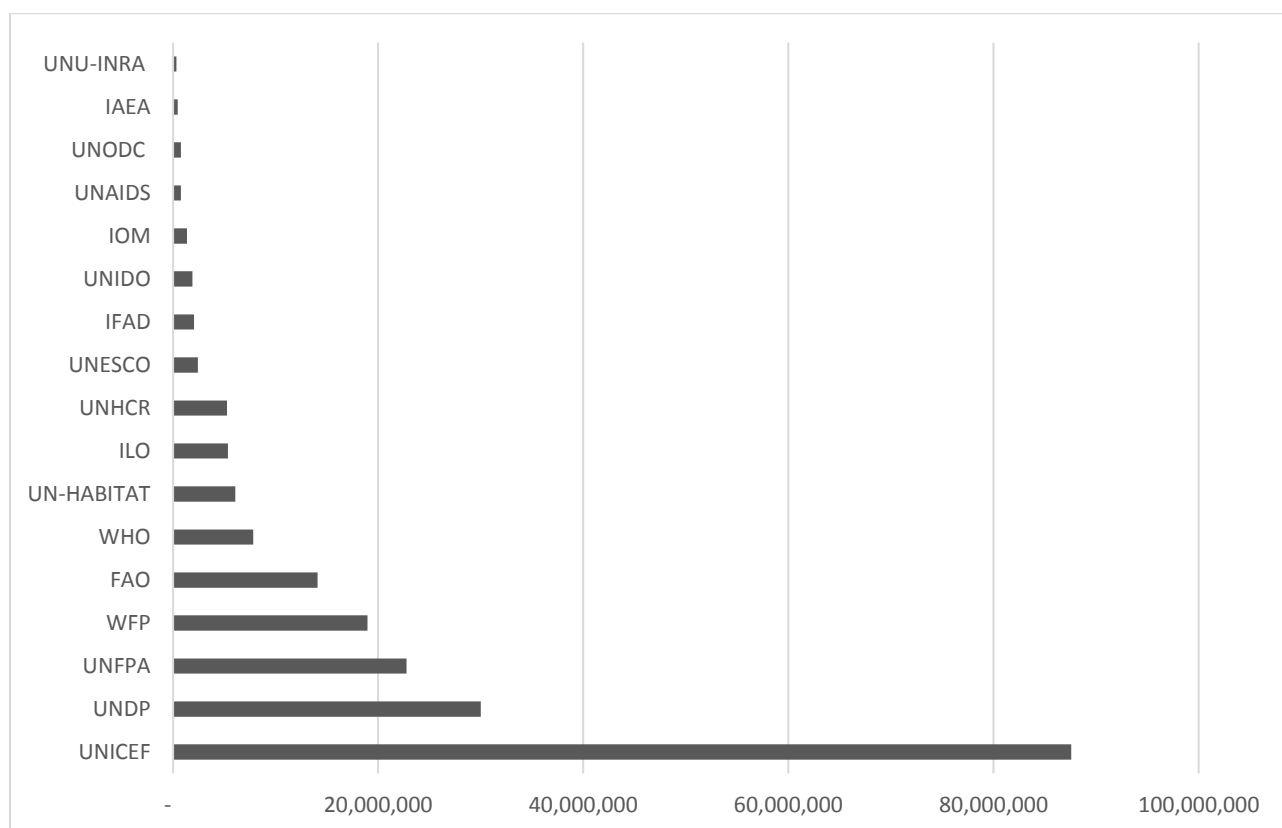


Table 2 below compares actual expenditures to the estimate in 2012 of the total resources that would be required to fully fund the activities anticipated under all the outcomes. A total of US\$ 520 million was estimated as this requirement. Against this, UN agencies expected to be able to commit some US\$ 284 million, leaving a gap of some US\$ 237. This gap represented the priority for resource mobilisation, jointly and by individual UN agencies.

Actual expenditures in the UNDAF implementation period totalled US\$ 253 million. This represents 89% of what UN Agencies estimated they would be able to devote to work in Ghana over the original 4-year UNDAF period, 2012-16.

However, the gap that was originally identified, between Agencies' expected resources and the financial requirements to fully implement the UNDAF, remains large. Only half of the total funding estimated as required to implement the entire work plan under the UNDAF had been mobilised by end 2016 – counting agencies' own resources and funds they mobilised from development partners.

Table 2 also indicates that distribution of funding shifted to reflect changing circumstances and priorities in Ghana, including addressing MDG achievement gaps. The distribution also reflects areas of congruence, or not, with the priorities of Development Partners with respect to Ghana and to multilateral development investments.

The next planning cycle with GoG on UN support will take into account new UN guidelines for the *One Programme* and budgeting processes for *Delivering as One* countries, as well as the implications for ODA for Ghana as a lower middle-income country, in the financial planning stage.

Table 2: Actual expenditures US\$ 2013-16 compared to UNDAF Action Plan estimated budget needs, Agencies' expected resources and gaps

		1=(2+3)	2	3	4	5	6	7=(4+5+6)/1	8=(4+5+6)/2
Thematic Area	Outcome	Estimated resources from UN Agencies			Actual Expenditures US\$			Expenditures as % of estimated	
		Estimated financial requirement 2012-16	Estimated available from core & non-core resources	Gap - for resource mobilisation	2013	2014-15	2016	Financial requirements	Available resources
					Outcome	Outcome	Outcome		
1. Food Security and Nutrition	1. Agricultural Modernisation	12,292,670	7,361,780	4,930,890	1,973,143	5,307,036	4,154,713	93.0	155.3
	2. Nutrition	36,398,000	19,021,749	17,376,251	2,847,836	9,765,546	4,242,452	46.3	88.6
	Total Thematic Area 1	48,690,670	26,383,529	22,307,141	4,820,979	15,072,582	8,397,165	58.1	107.2
2. Sustainable Environment, Energy and Human Settlements	3. Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction	56,843,911	35,721,040	21,122,871	6,846,264	19,421,378	6,513,957	57.7	91.8
	4. Affordable and Sustainable Housing	15,622,310	5,182,310	10,440,000	2,317,562	6,651,148	1,199,388	65.1	196.2
	5. Water and Sanitation	37,700,000	21,460,000	16,240,000	5,086,116	11,706,210	16,379,660	88.0	154.6
	Total Thematic Area 2	110,166,221	62,363,350	47,802,871	14,249,942	37,778,736	24,093,005	69.1	122.1
3. Human Development and Productive Capacity for Improved Social Services	6. Maternal and Child Health	88,237,450	27,671,667	60,565,783	8,816,507	27,970,649	10,706,574	53.8	171.6
	7. Social Services	104,872,696	90,587,496	14,285,200	7,373,894	13,830,083	12,308,693	32.0	37.0
	8. HIV/AIDS	17,714,000	8,020,991	9,693,009	-	3,265,380	758,653	22.7	50.2
	9. Education	42,000,000	13,215,000	28,785,000	7,286,887	18,237,319	7,030,121	77.5	246.3
	Total Thematic Area 3	252,824,146	139,495,154	113,328,992	23,477,288	63,303,431	30,804,041	46.5	84.3
4. Transparent and Accountable Governance	10. National Institutions on Democracy and Peace	65,704,117	31,220,000	34,484,117	2,317,562	8,033,761	7,659,759	27.4	57.7
	11. Data for Evidence-based Planning /Decision-making	42,989,960	24,229,960	18,760,000	520,887	7,468,348	5,215,682	30.7	54.5
	Total Thematic Area 4	108,694,077	55,449,960	53,244,117	2,838,449	15,502,109	12,875,441	28.7	56.3
TOTAL		520,375,114	283,691,993	236,683,121	45,386,658	131,656,858	76,169,652	48.7	89.3

Finally, core and non-core funding has been provided to support **Delivering as One** in Ghana. Core funding is allocated annually to the Office of the Resident Coordinator by the UN Development Operations Coordination Department (DOCO) from resources provided by Member States. Non-core support for UN coordination work was provided to Ghana directly by the Governments of Denmark, Germany, Norway and South Korea during 2014-16 in terms of United Nations Volunteers (UNV) in communication and in coordination (South Korea, 2014), UNV Communications Specialists (Germany, 2015-16), and Junior Professional Officer in Gender and Human Rights (Denmark, 2014-15).

Table 3: Resources to Office of the Resident Coordinator

Resource source	Expenditures US\$		
	2014	2015	2016
DOCO*	173,910	172,003	183,872
UN Agency Contributions	41,555	70,685	56,356
DOCO Innovation Fund for UNDAF preparation#			54,025
EVD Joint Programme##		16,901	69,102
Nkonsonkonson project**	212,915	85,443	
Total	427,980	345,032	363,355

*UN Development Operations Coordination Department

** Norwegian-funded project funds, concluded mid-2015

Funding for UN Human Rights Assessment

No cost extension to support national assessment in 2016

Table 4: Expenditures by the RC Office

RCO Result Areas	Expenditures US\$		
	2014	2015	2016
Common Country Programming (including UNDAF Evaluation; Common Country Analysis)			130,869
Advocacy and communication*	14,171	79,267	21,566
Humanitarian crisis preparedness	11,162	23,225	3,622
Gender		32,520	2,673
Human Rights		7,154	54,025
UN Country Team Coordination and Resident Coordinator's Office Capacity	298,296	131,429	81,498
Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa and Climate Change/Disaster Risk Reduction joint programmes	29,914		
Nutrition Advocacy Strategy	15,500		
EVD programme coordination		16,901	69,102
Other	58,938	54,536	
TOTAL	427,980	345,032	363,355

* Including UN at 70 celebration and large-scale survey undertaken in the development of the communication strategy in 2015.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



UN Family in Ghana



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