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UNCT
Results
Report
2020



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Foreword

The year 2020 was remarkably difficult, none of us escaped unscathed from the Covid-19 Pandemic. Even before the first case was confirmed on 12th March 2020, Government responded with a series of bold measures under its Coronavirus Alleviation Programme (CAP). Notably, the establishment of a GHS560million Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP); GH¢600 million Coronavirus Alleviation Programme-Business Support Scheme (CAP BuSS) for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, GH¢ 323 million vote for protection and incentives for frontline health workers (i.e. PPEs, tax waivers, allowances, transportation, COVID insurance, etc.). The Bank of Ghana also stepped in strongly to provide forbearance to the banks to facilitate increased liquidity to the public.

Through this difficult period, the United Nations (UN) continued to work in partnership with the Government and people of Ghana to help address the immediate health challenges by adjusting its work through the SocioEconomic Response and Recovery Plan (SERRP) to provide critical support to the Government of Ghana's socio-economic response.

This report, therefore, reflects the UN Country Team's collective contributions to help the Government and other stakeholders fight the COVID-19 pandemic and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It showcases the coherent and effective cooperation between the UN and Ghana and the combined efforts to leverage development resources and partnerships in advancing equitable economic growth, reducing poverty with a focus on the most deprived and vulnerable populations, as well as responding rapidly during a difficult year.

It is to all our collective credit that the results of the interventions implemented in the 2020 UNSDP Report aligns with the vision of Ghana's Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development (2017-2024) and the objectives of the Medium-Term Development Policy Framework (2018-2022). The results also contribute to the national achievements under this policy framework. They are also consistent

with and support the Ghana CARES Obaataan pa Programme, which seeks to accelerate Ghana's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, revitalise and transform our economy, thus giving effect to our Ghana Beyond Aid Agenda. Through our joint efforts, Ghana succeeded at halting the regression on achieving selected Sustainable Development Goals, especially with key indicators on social goals such as poverty, malnutrition, maternal mortality, and 'under-5' mortality. There has been general increases in access to health services and school enrolment, as well as gender parity attained at the basic level.

The UN has continued to provide support to the country's CARES response and recovery plan to protect lives and Build Back Better and Greener. The UN supported the bold and effective interventions of the first phase, the stabilisation phase, and also provided a comprehensive Socioeconomic Response and Recovery Plan (SERRP) package to support the second 3-year economic revitalisation and transformation phase of the CARES programme.

The results of this report are evidence of the effective, fruitful and sustainable development partnership between the UN and the Government of Ghana. Government also welcomes progress on the effective collective effort as the UN Country Team increases its 'Delivering-As-One' approach. Leveraging this synergy, we call on the UN to continue to focus on the priorities identified by the Government of Ghana - especially around the significant resources needed to achieve the SDGs as Ghana strides forward with its ambition to implement the SDGs, grow its economy, address inclusion and social mobility, and Build Back Greener. The UN remains a trusted and valuable partner as Ghana progresses to build a W.I.S.E.R. (Wealthy, Inclusive, Sustainable, Empowered and Resilient) society - a Ghana Beyond Aid.



Ken Ofori-Atta

Honourable Minister for Finance, Ghana



Introduction

I am delighted to present the 2020 Annual UN Country Results Report for the Republic of Ghana.

In 2020, the world suffered a global setback due to the COVID-19 pandemic, making 2020 one of the most challenging years in recent global history. The first cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in Ghana on 12 March 2020. The President of the Republic swiftly moved the country into response mode, issuing directives and rolling out a massive public health response to restrict the pandemic's early spread and devising a strategic response to combat the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic.

In Ghana, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) launched a coordinated approach to respond swiftly and support the Government of Ghana's (GoG) pandemic response encapsulated in the Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP), quickly identifying challenges, adapting, and finding innovative solutions to enable all stakeholders to play mandated roles appropriately. In designing the response, we ensured that all sections of society, including Ghana's most vulnerable populations - refugees, persons with disabilities, adolescent girls and women, and prison inmates - were included. As the pandemic deepened, in response to the socio-economic impacts, the UN conducted a rapid contextual analysis and developed the Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan (SERRP), recalibrating our efforts by repurposing over US\$ 91 million of existing funds. Additionally, we committed to raising an additional US\$ 39 million over the next 18 months, with a focus on Health First, Continuity of Basic Services, Economic Recovery, Macro-Economic Stability and Social Cohesion and Community Resilience, and aligning efforts to Ghana's response strategy - CARES "Obaatanpa" – with US \$91 million contributing directly to CARES pillars.

Simultaneously, we continued to deliver results to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets by supporting the government in the four result areas outlined in the UN Sustainable Development Partnership 2018-2022 (UNSDP) – shared prosperous economy, social investment in people, protected and

safe environment, and inclusive accountable government. The UN has responded to COVID-19 through strengthened and targeted resource mobilization and programmatic interventions – rallying around the themes of improving access to finance for the SDGs, green recovery, harnessing digital transformation and ensuring inclusion, working collaboratively to deliver as one UN. This report captures both results for 2020 as well as the headline priorities for the coming year. We will also be working closely with the government to improve the alignment of the UN cooperation framework to stated priorities identified through CARES and the Medium-Term Development Policy Framework. Our priorities in 2021 include coherent policy support to assist Ghana mobilize domestic and international resources supporting recovery and achievement of the SDGs, focusing on strengthening Ghana's green and economic recovery, digital transformation, inclusive growth and improving access to basic services, strengthening health systems, resilience, as well as its ambitions to become a regional and continental hub.

We appreciate the Government of Ghana for all the support and collaboration and thank our staff, who pledged to 'stay and deliver' as well as the true spirit of multilateral solidarity from development partners and donors, without whom these efforts would not have been possible. Building on lessons from a difficult year, the UN family in Ghana remains deeply committed to supporting Ghana to achieve the SDGs, and we will continue to strive to use innovative approaches and advocate inclusive and equitable policies to benefit everyone, ensuring that no one is left behind as Ghana seeks to build forward, overcoming the impacts of COVID-19, and marches towards its goal of self-reliance.



Charles Abani

**UN Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Ghana
Accra, March 2021**





UN Country Team

The new generation UNCT in Ghana, supported by the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system, is dedicated to delivering its commitment to achieving the SDGs and the GoG's ambitious vision and forward-looking development agenda. This report highlights the progress made under the UN reform agenda, with increased UNCT coherence, transparency, and accountability.

The UNCT in Ghana has 20 resident entities: **FAO, IFAD, ILO, IMO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNCDF, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNOPS, UNRCO, UNU-INRA, WFP, and WHO.**

Plus, five externally-based entities: **IAEA, OCHA, OHCHR, UNEP, and UN Women.**

The UN works with international partners, such as Global Affairs Canada, Norway, USAID, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Netherlands, European Commission, European Union, Government of Japan, Government of Germany, Republic of Korea, Korea International Cooperation Agency, Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, Commonwealth Human Right Initiative, EU Delegation

in Ghana, and World Bank Pandemic Emergency Fund (WB-PEF).

It partners with local organizations including Bank of Ghana, Water Research Institute, Association of Ghana Industries, Friends of the Nation, Development Action Association, Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana, Farm Radio International, Ghana Federation of Forest and Farm Producers, Dormaa East District Assembly, The Challenges Group Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and National Vocational Training Institute.

The UN collaborates with civil society organizations (CSOs) and NGOs such as the African Youth Advisory Board on Disaster Risk Reduction, Plan International, World Vision International, Netherlands Development Organization, Coalition of National Water Sanitation NGOs, Edsam Social Network, Rural Water Development Programme, Progressive Excellence Youth Organization Integrated Action for Community Development, and Africa 2000 Network. In line with the Global Goals for 2030, the UN is engaging partners in the private sector in Ghana, including Stanbic Bank Ghana, Private Enterprise Federation, Mondelez International, Coca-Cola Foundation, Serendi Palm Ltd, and Jekora Ventures.

Key development partners of the UN development system in the country

Ghana Government Agencies

Biotechnology and Nuclear Agriculture Research Institute (BNARI)	Ministry of Education (MoE)
Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (GHRAJ)	Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations (MELR)
Community Water and Sanitation Authority	Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI)
Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (COTVET)	Ministry of Finance (MoF)
Diaspora Affairs Office of the President (DAO)	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD)
Energy Commission	Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA)
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration (MFARI)
Food and Drugs Authority (FDA)	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP)
Forestry Commission of Ghana (FCG)	Ministry of Health (MoH)
Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC)	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MoLGRD)
Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC)	Ministry of Information (MoI)
Ghana Cocoa Board (GCB)	Ministry of the Interior (MINTER)
Ghana Commission for Small Arms and Light Weapons	Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources (MSWR)
Ghana Health Service (GHS)	Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI)
Ghana Immigration Service (GIS)	Municipal & District Chief Executives of Municipal & District Assemblies (MMDAs)
Ghana Journalists Association (GJA)	National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI)
Ghana Refugee Board (GRB)	National Peace Council (NPC)
Ghana Standards Authority (GSA)	National Public Health Reference Lab (NPHRL)
	National Media Commission (NMC)

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Chapter 1. Key developments in the country and regional context





Ghana's context for achieving its national development goals and the SDGs has both significant strengths, as well as some recognized areas for improvement. The strengths include solid democratic institutions, peaceful and credible elections, a substantial basis for improving data collection, management and its use for development, and a vibrant civil society with political space to promote public accountability. However, UNDP and World Bank's Business Tracker on COVID-19 impact, indicated that 35.7% of businesses closed down during the partial lockdown and 46.1% of businesses reduced wages.

Ghana took a leadership role in influencing the global development of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the SDGs and established an Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee to ensure their inclusion in national planning and budgets. At technical, strategic, and political levels, the inter-ministerial bodies recognize that the SDGs are interconnected, interdependent and interlinked, requiring a focus on sustainable solutions to address social, economic, and environmental challenges.

After a promising economic growth forecast for 2020, the pandemic gravely curtailed hopes for a better life for millions of Ghanaians, potentially the number of poor people facing extreme poverty by 1.5 million¹. To date, Ghana registered 92,856 confirmed cases, with 783 deaths. In Ghana's COVID-19 Common Country Analysis (CCA) and Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan (SERRP) 2020-2021, the UN identified a severe negative socio-economic impact on the most vulnerable populations in Ghana.

COVID-19 led to higher inflation and a significant decline in the GDP growth for 2020, as external demand and domestic economic activity decreased, and poverty, unemployment and vulnerability increased as lockdown restrictions and social distancing measures disrupted the formal and informal sectors. UNDP and World Bank's Business Tracker on COVID-19 impact, indicated that 35.7% of businesses closed down during the partial lockdown and 46.1% of businesses reduced wages.

The UN's 2016 CCA for Ghana identified 'persisting inequalities and growing polarization of income, consumption, access to quality services as the most complex and obvious deterrent to human development in Ghana.' COVID-19 has significantly exacerbated the existing challenges and must be addressed as

a core part of a holistic National Response built on Ghana's development priorities and commitment to the SDGs.

Responding to the pandemic, UNCT marshalled collective support to immediately fill critical national response gaps in CPRP, fully aligning with WHO's Global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19. CPRP supports case management, operations, logistics, surveillance, rapid response, coordination, planning and monitoring, Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), strengthened national laboratories, and risk communication and community engagement to create safe spaces, reduce stigma and discrimination in order to break the chains of transmission and mitigate the impact of COVID-19. UNCT also responded to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 through the development of SERRP, creating a five-pillar plan to address socio-economic needs, support national development objectives, and align with the UN Secretary General's Framework for a Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19. The government developed the CARES programme for alleviating and revitalizing the economy. The SERRP aligns with the CARES programme and the national social inclusion agenda through the five pillars underpinning response and recovery activities, namely:

- I. Health First** - Ensuring essential health services nutrition availability and protecting health systems.
- II. Protecting People** - Helping people cope through social protection and continuity in basic services.
- III. Economic Recovery** - Protecting jobs, supporting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and informal sector workers through economic response and recovery programmes.
- IV. Macro-economic Response & Multilateral Collaboration** - Supporting the necessary surge in fiscal and financial stimulus to make macro-economic policies work for the most vulnerable and strengthening multilateral and regional responses and collaboration.
- V. Social Cohesion and Community Resilience** - Promoting social cohesion and investing in community-led resilience and response systems.

¹ MOF (2020). Mid-year of the 2020 Budget. www.mofep.gov.gh

2 Chapter 2. UN development system support to national development priorities through the Cooperation Framework





2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

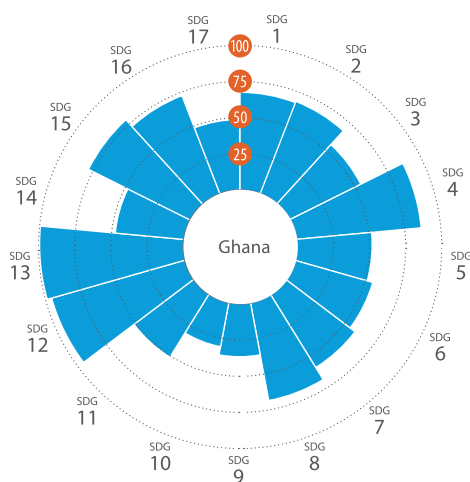
The United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership (UNSDP) 2018-2022 guides the UN's work in Ghana, outlining goals and commitments to global development initiatives. It identifies the collective contributions of 25 UN agencies working in Ghana to help the government and other stakeholders achieve their goals.

Complementing the government's priorities and actions, the UNSDP also takes a proactive approach to ensure that all Ghanaians can participate in and benefit from private sector-led economic growth, as only inclusive growth leads to sustainable development.

The UNSDP also summarizes the CCA (2016) findings of the underlying development challenges in Ghana and the Human Rights Assessment (2016) to identify those at risk of not having their human rights protected and thus being left behind. It aims to activate the UNCT's vision of collective efforts leveraging development resources and partnerships to support inclusive, sustainable and equitable development for all in Ghana.

The UNSDP is aligned to the UN's overarching programming principles of being gender-sensitive, human rights-based, environmentally sustainable, and focused on developing national capacities for results. Ghana has played a significant role in the global development of the 2030 Agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Average performance by SDG



The priorities outlined align with Ghana's medium-term development aspirations as defined in the President's *Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies, 2017-2024*. Titled **An Agenda for Jobs: Creating Prosperity and Equal Opportunity for All**, this coordinated programme highlights the government's vision to create 'An optimistic, self-confident and prosperous nation, through the creative exploitation of our human and natural resources, and operating within a democratic, open, and fair society in which mutual trust and economic opportunities exist for all.'





Trends



Source: Sustainable Development Report 2021, Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

“ Ghana has achieved 65.37% across all SDGs.
It has completely achieved SDGs 12 and 13 targets.

The USNDP articulates four Result Areas:

-  1. Shared Prosperous Economy
 -  2. Social Investment in People
 -  3. Protected and Safe Environment
 -  4. Inclusive, Accountable Governance
-

Seven Outcomes articulate the 'high-level' national changes expected in the Results Areas identifying the UN agencies' strategic interventions.

- **Outcome 1:** Productive agriculture drives sustainable industrialization, improves livelihoods, and ensures a hunger- and malnutrition-free nation.
 - **Outcome 2:** Competitive private sector generates decent jobs that increase opportunities for more inclusive economic growth.
 - **Outcome 3:** The GoG delivers equitable, quality, and financially sustainable social services.
 - **Outcome 4:** Marginalized and vulnerable populations demand and utilize social services.
 - **Outcome 5:** Environmental governance at national and local levels is effective, efficient, and coherent.
 - **Outcome 6:** Urban and rural communities have access to affordable services, knowledge, and tools to increase their resilience.
 - **Outcome 7:** Transparent, accountable institutions at all levels protect the rights of all people.
-

The USNDP comprises a joint accountability framework where the government monitors and supports the UN partnership's relevance to, and impact on, national development goals. This includes regular implementation review, collaborative problem solving, supporting resource mobilization with development partners, and participation in the mid-term review and final evaluation.

The UNCT is committed to the Delivering as One approach to targeting strategic priorities, avoiding duplication of efforts, and ensuring policy coherence while achieving mutually reinforcing results and outputs to contribute towards national development objectives and the SDGs.

The UN has been present in Ghana since the early 1960s and works in partnership with the Government and people of Ghana for sustainable economic and social development, peace, and human rights.

Guiding Principles

The UN actions will help achieve **cross-cutting priorities** that reflect its values on human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, disability inclusion, youth participation, data for development, HIV-AIDS, resilience, and preparedness for humanitarian crises.

The dual focus on targeting duty-bearers within the government and rights-holders in NGOs and CSOs promotes capacity development, sustainability of results and the commitment to self-reliant democratic development.



Key highlights of the year

810,000 
people reached with
critical WASH
interventions (360,000
with supplies and 450,000
with infrastructure)

Over
6,278,000 
students supported
through home-based and
distance learning

Nearly
350,600 
community health
workers connected to GBV
prevention and response
information and services

A total of
120,000 
mothers and newborns
received access to
improved quality of care

**Key policy
documents** 
were developed, including
the Comprehensive National
Teacher Policy and the
School Establishment and
Inspection Policy

About
68,000 
daily wage earners
received cash transfers
supporting their food
security and nutrition

**Five policy
initiatives
and strategies** 
supported to aid job
creation, entrepreneurship,
creativity, innovation and
encourage formalization
and growth of MSMEs

41,774 
(18,460 male, 23,314 female)
vulnerable and marginalized
groups of people living with
HIV (PLHIV) and people with
disabilities (PWD) in 165
districts reached with
COVID-19 prevention
messages in friendly and
accessible formats



Building back better: COVID-19 Health and Socio-Economic Response

In Ghana, the government responded quickly to COVID-19, building on the “National Preparedness and Response Plan for Prevention and Control of Ebola” in readiness for an outbreak and taking immediate measures to stop the spread of infections and develop resilience. Supporting the response, the UN promptly introduced the COVID-19 CPRP, adjusting its support to align with the GoG to strengthen existing national capacities to accelerate an effective response to the immediate health emergency caused by the pandemic. Additionally, in collaboration with key stakeholders, the UN developed a COVID-19 SERRP for the immediate socio-economic response. This called for investing in health systems, protecting people, promoting economic recovery, creating macro-economic stability, and investing in social cohesion. The SERRP repurposes circa US\$ 91 million of existing resources and commits to raising an additional US\$ 39 million over 18 months. Building on the CPRP, the plan was developed in consultation with key stakeholders from government, civil society and the private sector and assists Ghana to recover and build forward better from the pandemic more sustainably and inclusively.

While COVID-19 has presented severe challenges to Ghana, it offers an opportunity to prioritize access to basic services – health, social protection, education, water and sanitation, and a growing urban reality - at the core of the SDGs.

The UNCT’s position helped address the multi-faceted aspects of the increasing COVID-19 challenges. It undertook various steps to address these challenges, including conducting rapid assessments, reviewing and reprofiling its programmatic and non-programmatic portfolio, and identifying key immediate challenges, including the need for closer cooperation within the UNCT as well as multilateral cooperation and International Financial Institutions.

The cross-sectoral approach helped bolster the national response to mitigate the impact on the health, nutrition and development of children, adolescent girls, and women.

The technical and financial support contributed to strengthening Ghana’s national and subnational coordination mechanisms for COVID-19 preparedness and response. This included supporting the National Task Force in providing technical advice and input to the Ministerial Coordinating Body chaired by the president.

The support to develop the preparedness and response plans, guidelines and protocols has been crucial to the response. Ghana’s health workforce’s capacity has been developed in surveillance, case management, IPC, testing and data management.

Essential core relief items such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and WASH facilities were supplied to health staff and facilities across the country to enable health workers to carry out their duties effectively and minimize risk.

Facilitating the development of national standards for hand sanitizers and facemasks and empowering MSMEs to repurpose their production lines and obtain accreditation for local production and supply of alcohol-based hand sanitizers closed the demand-supply gap. Distributing items such as dignity kits, sanitary and disinfection products ensured access and strengthened community structures’ capacities to respond to SGBV, thereby empowering marginalized adolescent girls and women.

Promoting social inclusion efforts included refugees and their host communities in supporting the national effort to promote public education and increase knowledge with clear messaging on COVID-19 prevention. Also, the UN placed a special focus on communities in slums and informal settlements, reaching 300,000 people directly and 450,000 indirectly in the municipalities within the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area with improved knowledge for good hygiene practices.



The five pillars of response, with progress in each per global indicators:

Pillar	Indicator	Number
1. Health First	People accessing Maternal Health Services	160,000 mothers
	People accessing Nutrition Programmes (Children 0-59 months)	1,300,000 children
	People accessing Vaccination Programmes	3,375
	Health facilities that received UN support to maintain essential immunization services since COVID-19 disruptions	900
	Health facilities supported through immunization training and supplies	1,684
	Community health workers receiving support to connect to GBV prevention and response information and services	384,124
2. Protecting People, Social Protection, & Basic Social Services	People reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	810,000
	Children supported by distance/home-based learning	6,278,484
3. Economic Recovery	Private sector companies and formal and informal sector workers supported during and after the COVID-19 crisis	5,139 MSMEs and 1,825 informal sector workers and 4 private sector companies
	Whether the country undertook socio-economic impact assessments in response to the COVID-19 crisis, with a focus on vulnerable groups, directed at-risk populations	Yes - Macro-meso economic needs assessment; Labour market impact assessment; Multi-sectoral and sectoral needs assessments; Fiscal and public debt assessment; Human impact needs assessment for at-risk populations & gender-sensitive impact assessment conducted
4. Macro-economic Response & Multilateral Collaboration	Whether the country is implementing policies informed by a socio-economic impact assessment, directed at-risk populations	Yes- Fiscal Policy & Social Protection Policy
5. Social Cohesion and Community Resilience	Community-based organizations capacitated to respond to and mitigate the pandemic, fight against COVID-19 related domestic violence	10 Community Organizations & 16 National Human Rights Organizations
	Social dialogue, advocacy and political engagement spaces facilitated with the participation of at-risk populations and groups	26 National Social Dialogue Spaces and 2 Subnational Social Dialogue Spaces



Key results

- The SERRP presents the recalibrated UN offer in Ghana in the context of COVID-19 – aligning US\$ 91 million of existing funds and committing to raising an additional US\$ 39 million over the next 18 months.
- Over 322,000 households received advanced payments under the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) programme.
- Over 350,000 girls received Iron folate tablets to prevent anaemia among adolescent girls.
- Over 21,560 persons with disabilities, including the visually impaired, physically challenged and hearing impaired, in 165 districts received COVID-19 information in accessible formats (including braille and sign language).
- Over 8,600 PCR test kits, 8,500 RNA Extraction kits and 1 COVID-19 testing lab equipment have been procured and delivered. Twenty-seven thousand PPE and 8 COVID-19 testing lab equipment were delivered to support 27,000 frontline healthcare workers to decrease infection risk.
- A total of 6,440 facemasks, 460 pieces of soap, 230 bottles of hand sanitizers, 230 mosquito nets, ten gallons of bleach cleaning detergents and 344 sanitary pads were distributed to government officials working on migration, through reprogrammed EU Trust Fund for Africa funds.
- A total of 11,150 liters of hand sanitizers were produced and distributed to 21 health facilities in partnership with Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital.
- 8,800 environmental health workers were trained on WASH IPC measures, reaching over 5 million people with risk communication and community engagement messages.
- Nearly 7,500 frontline health workers and 45 community members were trained on IPC. Around 20 million people received messages on COVID-19 prevention through radio, TV, SMS, van announcements, and market storms.
- Supported Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) to develop two national standards for hand sanitizers and facemasks.
- 34 MSMEs were supported to repurpose production lines and obtain accreditation for the production and supply of hand sanitizers with EU and SECO support, resulting in an average of 25% increase in revenue. Training in digital marketing and e-commerce provided to 30 MSMEs led to increased online presence and online sales and revenues.
- Upgraded National Seed laboratories to facilitate the delivery of standardized certified seeds to farmers.
- Improved access to WASH services enhanced the capacities of 36 healthcare facilities.
- Over 6,500 health workers were trained on national guidelines for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition service delivery.
- Over 60,000 posters and 11,400 booklets were printed and distributed to 5,700 health facilities in 9 regions to increase awareness and guidance for health staff and clients.
- 12,000 health personnel (60% female) in 800 health facilities deepened their knowledge on effective practices in healthcare waste management.
- 428 Rapid Response Team members and 905 contact tracers were trained and deployed to strengthen response capacity at the national, regional, district and sub-district levels.



The Radio, My Learning Companion Ensuring that #LearningNeverStops in the pandemic

Six-year-old Salifu Asana is in kindergarten at Kunguri District Assembly Primary, located in a disadvantaged region. Like others, her school has been closed since March 2020 due to COVID-19. Luckily, Asana's mother received training from the Ghana Education Services and can now help her young learner progress in the absence of formal schooling.

“My mother never went to school, but she can now help us with our studies, and it makes me so happy that I learn with my mom,” Asana says.

The “Volunteer Mothers” programme trains mothers for an hour a day on children's literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills in the local language through play, indoor and outdoor games.

Instead of cash, the participants receive skills training every month, such as good nutrition using locally available resources, preventing diarrhoea, malaria, and good parenting practices. And since schools closed due to the pandemic, they were trained to use the lessons transmitted by radio to assist learners in their homes.

“We use daddy's radio to learn. When we come back from the farm, mom sits with us to help us with our studies. We don't understand everything on the radio, so she explains the lessons and plays games with us,” Asana says. “It's a lot of fun,” she adds.

Empowering disadvantaged mothers to become teachers for their children in the absence of formal school is a great stride in ensuring that children are not left behind and are prepared to resume classes as soon as they reopen.

Source- The Radio, My Learning Companion | UNICEF Ghana



2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

Result Area 1



Shared Prosperous Economy

Outcome 1. Productive agriculture drives sustainable industrialization, improves livelihoods, and ensures a hunger- and malnutrition-free nation.

Outcome 2. Competitive private sector generates decent jobs that increase opportunities for more inclusive economic growth.

Enhanced data collection and information gathering for informed decision making, contributing to SDP outputs 1.1 and 1.3

A national monitoring exercise assisted in determining the impact of COVID-19 on food production and distribution. The government used the results to address systemic challenges in the agri-food sector, thereby enhancing the productive capacities and resilience of the populace. A Comprehensive Food Security Vulnerability Analysis Survey was also initiated across the country, leading to capacity development of extension officers and enumerators across all the 260 districts of Ghana.

Improved enabling environment for sustainable production, contributing to SDP outputs 1.1 and 2.2

A strategy on nutrition-sensitive agriculture was developed with the aim of enhancing the commercial production and utilization of Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potato in northern Ghana. Forest Farm Producer Organizations received support to unify under an umbrella body to position them as strong advocacy and policy influencers in the agriculture and environment sectors. The Transitioning to Formality Protocol for the informal sectors was developed and adopted by key social partners. The capacities of the Veterinary Services Directorate of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) to conduct various tests in line with one health were upgraded to include tests for COVID-19, and guidelines were developed for the effective working of veterinary laboratories in Accra, Takoradi, and Central Veterinary Laboratory at Pong Tamale.





Promotion of E-Agriculture and financial inclusivity supported digital transformation within the formal and informal subsectors, contributing to SDP outputs 1.2 and 2.5

MoFA received support in to design the Ghana Smallholder e-commerce Access project aiming to integrate one million smallholder farmers into organized value chains and structured markets. The Ministry of Finance (MoF) was supported to launch three policy initiatives to deepen financial inclusion and accelerate digital transformation. The policies encouraged job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, innovation, and formalization and growth of MSMEs.

Enhanced capacities of state and non-state stakeholders (MSMEs, youth and women) in the agricultural sector and rural communities for sustained and resilient productive growth, contributing to SDP outputs 1.3 and 1.4

The capacities of the Council of Scientific and Industry Research, the Grains and Legumes Development Board and seed producers were enhanced on production, handling and maintaining high-quality seeds. Smallholder farmers' knowledge of marketing was improved and they were connected to sustainable markets through training and linkages to food processors and other off-takers.

Enhanced business environment and private sector-led initiatives, contributing to SDP outputs 2.1 and 2.2

Technical and vocational skills training generated businesses and stimulated employment. Some returning migrants and potential migrants received socio-economic support to set up businesses and reintegrate into their communities. Two industrial food processors were provided with significant resources to aid production of special nutritious foods for the population at large.

Key results

Trainings and Capacity Building

- The capacities of 3 state and 20 non-state institutions were enhanced by introducing crops and seeds that are climate-smart, resilient, high-yielding, disease and pest resistant, with shorter maturity periods and with consideration for consumer health and safety.
- 670 seed inspectors, seed technicians, and farmers were trained on seed technology and quality agro-inputs delivery.
- 30,000 smallholder farmers received training on Good Agriculture Practices, Food Safety, and irrigation.
- 556 MSMEs were trained and supported in production, processing, and marketing.
- 60,000 people benefited from awareness and sensitization activities.
- Over 700 food vendors were trained and supported to maintain food safety and healthy diets.
- 44 laboratory staff, 80 MSMEs staff, and national experts were trained in national quality infrastructure.

Good Agricultural Practices

- Post-harvest loss management and access to markets have been improved through innovative storage and quality maintenance technologies, engaging aggregators-turned-institutional buyers, and establishing a traceability tracking system.
- Farmers' use of certified rice seed with complementary fertilizers increased from 6,544 tonnes in 2019 to 10,950 in 2020, potentially leading to more than 1,000,000 tonnes of rice production.

Stimulating the Business Environment, Financial Inclusion and Private Sector Development

- Equipping 264 beneficiaries with technical and vocational skills for stimulating employment has generated businesses.
- Nearly 1,100 returning migrants and potential migrants benefited from sustainable socio-economic support to set up a business and were reintegrated into their communities.
- Facilitated developing national standards for alcohol-based hand sanitizers and locally manufactured facemasks, including training of 45 cosmetics-producing MSMEs and the registration of alcohol-based sanitizer products from 34 MSMEs.
- Enhanced online presence and increased online sales and revenues of MSMEs through practical capacity building on digital marketing and e-commerce.
- At least 2,691 new MSMEs are accessing financial services.





Infrastructure, Equipment Provision and Agribusiness Support

- Enhancing the production capacity of two industrial food processors through support with resources has helped produce 600 tonnes of fortified super cereals per day.
- US\$ 420,000 spent to support community and medium-scale food processors for safe and blended flours (Northern Region).
- US\$ 50,000 invested in helping FDA and MoFA regional offices.
- US\$ 40,000 invested in post-harvest equipment services to aggregators.
- Key agricultural equipment procurement and infrastructure services were provided, including 134 units of agricultural equipment, 88 units of non-agricultural equipment, and a seed storage and packing building unit in Okyereko, benefiting approximately 5,000 people directly in the Central Region and 30,000 people indirectly.



Engaging with the private sector unlocks investments for achieving SDGs in Ghana

“Driving and funding the SDG agenda is of vital importance, requiring a global effort. Investing in the development space has become more clearly defined in recent years. Now is the time to start real innovation. Together with our partners, the Foundation encourages the business community at large to take part in driving innovation. Through healthy collaboration and strong partnerships, we can meet these ambitious targets.

Marius Døcker,
Managing Director of Business for Peace Foundation

The Joint UN SDG Fund contributes to the Ghana SDGs Investor Map that outlines 12 investment opportunity areas in five key sectors: agriculture, infrastructure, communications, healthcare, and consumer goods, aligned to the national policy priorities. Development needs are articulated in critical policy documents like the Ghana CARES and the Ghana@100 programmes aiming to accelerate economic growth.

Yofi Grant, Chief Executive Officer of the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre, emphasizes: “Partnership is critical in achieving the SDGs. We need to engage the private sector to understand the global goals and their role in attaining them”.

The financing gap for SDGs is enormous and is estimated at US\$ 43 billion per year, equivalent to 52% of the GDP, and demands accelerated actions towards achieving the SDGs.

Source- UNDP engages the private sector to unlock investments for SDGs attainment in Ghana | Joint SDG Fund



Result Area 2



Social Investment in People

Outcome 3. The GoG delivers equitable, quality and financially sustainable social services.

Outcome 4. Marginalized and vulnerable populations demand and utilize social services.

This result area focuses on providing essential services, developing required policy and technical documents in health, education, social protection, and reaching out to vulnerable populations in Ghana, including migrant and refugee groups.

Scaling up COVID-19 preparedness efforts in the African region and supported countries helped implement recommendations outlined by the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee. The UN released two documents on policy and technical guidelines for managing healthcare waste in Ghana.

In the education sphere, policy documents such as the Comprehensive National Teacher Policy and the School Establishment and Inspection Policy addressed key issues, including the unavailability of quality teachers and school regulations. The Safe School Policy advocates for making learning environments friendlier. The Back-to-School Campaign created national awareness, promoted safe school learning, and developed re-entry guidelines to encourage pregnant schoolgirls to return after childbirth. Additionally, the UN advocated for scaling up Early Childhood Education Policy implementation to develop the skills of young children (4-5 years) and helped launch the Standard Operating Procedures for Reintegration of Returnees in Ghana to ensure their safe return and reintegration.

The Ministry of Education was supported to develop teaching and learning support materials for HIV education and awareness campaigns in schools targeting young people with special needs and various forms of disability.

In the health sphere, a National Integrated Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health and Nutrition Strategic Plan has been developed, launched, and disseminated. Capacity development strengthened the government's capability to improve sexual, reproductive health and nutrition counselling for out-of-school adolescent girls. To ensure continuity of essential services amidst the pandemic, guidelines and clinical practice in obstetrics and gynaecology were strengthened. Ghana Health Service (GHS) launched a nationwide awareness campaign titled 'Start Right Feed Right- from birth to 2 years', aimed to promote optimal Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices.





The government received cohesive support to respond to the circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) outbreak. The National Strategic Plan for HIV 2021-2025 ensured adherence to international standards and reprogrammed the Global Fund New Funding Model (NFM) 2 funds to fill critical commodity gaps for HIV and TB. An HIV prevention roadmap has also been implemented.

Addressing social protection issues, the UN provided technical advice and supported Ghana's COVID-19 Social Protection response through Emergency LEAP cash transfers, supplementing Ghana's national flagship cash transfer programme. This strengthened the government's ability to inform and enhance its emergency interventions by testing new technologies, including mobile money for payments and SMS surveys for communications

and real-time monitoring and learning. National logistics and resources capacity for effective food assistance was enhanced through a Logistics Capacity and Market Assessment, which provided information on food availability by location. The MoFA increased rice production and productivity by selecting good varieties and seed distribution, providing training on cultivation techniques, and agricultural machinery support.

Together with the Ghana Refugee Board, the UN conducted training for frontline Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) staff in the Western, Western North and Bono Regions to respond to the possible influx of asylum-seekers from Cote d' Ivoire amidst COVID-19 restrictions. At least 30 GIS officials were trained on the International Protection Regime, emphasizing the principle of non-refoulement and adherence to COVID-19 protocols in the discharge of their duties.

Key results

COVID-19 Response

- 22 health facilities and 5 District Health Directorates received PPEs and hygiene products worth US\$ 320,000 in five regions and districts hosting refugees.
- 5,000 information, education, and communication materials on COVID-19 Public Health Mitigation were disseminated to refugees and host communities in five districts.
- Nearly 1 million people were reached with 203 awareness-raising activities promoting safe migration and COVID-19 prevention.
- Over 8,000 migrant, refugee and host communities were sensitized on COVID-19.
- Nearly 356,000 pregnant and lactating women received skilled counselling on maternal nutrition.
- Over 80,730 children, aged 6-23 months, benefited from micronutrient powders.
- Over 1,150 children, aged 6-59 months, received treatment for Severe Acute Malnutrition.
- Iron folate supplementation provided through health facilities benefited 350,000 out-of-school adolescent girls (10-19 years).
- About 3.7 million children received Vitamin A supplementation strengthening their immune systems and reducing child morbidity and mortality.
- Over 2,540 health workers received training to deliver essential health and nutrition services amidst COVID-19.
- Nearly 40,000 facemasks produced by refugees and returning migrants were distributed to refugee, migrant and host community populations to support national efforts to curb the pandemic.
- A total of US\$ 157,000 worth of PCR test kits, RNA extraction kits and lab equipment enhanced COVID-19 testing and early case detection capacity.
- A total of US\$ 200,000 worth of PPE and COVID-19 testing lab equipment reached 27,000 health workers, decreasing the risk of infection.

Masks for Refugees by Refugees' Project Makes a Difference

Sirge Allen furrows his brow in concentration as he leans over a sewing machine. The Ivorian refugee tailor is glad to be back to doing what he loves most – sewing.

Allen ran a busy tailoring shop in Ampain camp in western Ghana before tragedy struck- he had lost all his items when a fire broke out. Then came the pandemic, which worsened his situation. "Things were already difficult for me after the fire. When I was trying to get back on my feet, COVID-19 hit," he says.

Beside him is Kourou Miezan, equally hard at work. Also an Ivorian refugee, he was forced to close his shop for about two months, as customers were not coming for new clothes. "Due to the pandemic, people were not attending events," says Kourou, who had about 22 apprentices.

But the tide has turned for the refugee tailors who are now participating in a project supported by Nana Yaw Boamah, a Ghanaian fashion designer and head of the bespoke fashion brand 'Abrantie the Gentleman'.

The project, which has commissioned 40 refugee tailors and seamstresses, including Allen and Kourou, is expected to produce about 35,000 masks to be distributed to refugees and some host community members, creating economic opportunities for refugees. Another group of 100 refugees are involved in ironing and packing the masks under hygienic conditions. They will use locally available fabrics to produce reusable masks following FDA specifications.

Source- 'Masks for Refugees by Refugees' project takes off in Ghana – UNHCR Ghana





Health

- Over 100,000 girls received teenage pregnancy prevention and response services.
- About 6.2 million children under five years were protected against cVDPV2 with two rounds of vaccination in 179 districts across eight regions.
- The nationwide inactivated polio vaccine Catch-up Campaign achieved 89% coverage, while the Yellow Fever preventive campaign reached coverage of 94% (10-60 years).
- Averted 97,250 unintended pregnancies by procuring and distributing contraceptives.
- Distributed 2,263 cubic meters of commodities to health facilities through a public-private contractual arrangement.
- Over 1,200 service providers were trained in delivering provider-administered and self-injection.
- Over 54,000 vulnerable pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls and children received food assistance, improving the population's food and nutrition security.
- A total of 114 motorcycles and 449 bicycles were provided to 563 health workers at the community level to maintain essential health services.
- A total of US\$ 1.1 million worth of HIV Rapid Diagnostic Kits were distributed to assess the level of community infection.
- Over 8,870 National Health Insurance Scheme cards for refugees were renewed to enhance their access to healthcare services mitigating the economic impact of COVID-19.

Education

- Continuity of learning was ensured by delivering lessons over radio to learners in primary and high schools. 350 lessons based on core curriculum subjects were scripted, recorded and delivered through broadcasting to reach all learners, and Safe School Resource Pack was adapted and used for special schools.
- An Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) policy evaluation has been conducted with recommendations to inform the ECCD Policy review in 2021 to bring about systemic change in the delivery of early childhood education.
- Universal Design for Learning principles are mainstreamed in the government's Teacher In-Service Training Structure to bridge equity gaps and address the needs of children with learning difficulties across the country.
- The national teachers' Code of Conduct was revised, with technical support, in order to guide all teachers/headteachers in all pre-tertiary institutions.
- To encourage education in refugee settlements, the UN provided 350 e-readers to camp-based refugee and local community schools, installed 20 satellite televisions to promote distance learning, and built 78 handwashing facilities to provide facilities and reinforce the habit.
- To promote health education, over 7,000 community stakeholders were sensitized to support the delivery of Reproductive Health Education and HIV prevention programmes.
- Training was provided to 220 teachers and non-formal education facilitators to lead HIV Education in schools and communities. Additionally, 70,000 learners (40% girls) received Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV education in their various communities, due to schools' closure.



13-year-old girl champions the Yellow Fever Campaign in Ghana Eliminating Yellow Fever in the pandemic

13-year-old Sarah Zagbaki from the Oti Region went to Bonakye Health Centre and explained to the nurses that she heard about yellow fever, so she 'came to get vaccinated'. Sarah's community was part of the 86 districts targeted for vaccination this year.

Despite refusals based on rumours spreading in some districts, her teacher and pastor assured her that the vaccine was safe and free. She understood that getting the vaccine would keep her safe from yellow fever, so she decided to get vaccinated.

Shortly after receiving her shot, Sarah brought her friends to the vaccination point, convincing them that together they could make decisions that would keep them safe and healthy. All of Sarah's friends are now also vaccinated.

Source- 13-year-old girl champions the Yellow Fever Campaign in Ghana | UNICEF Ghana

Social Protection

- Enhanced the government's ability to learn from and strengthen its emergency Social Protection interventions through the testing of new technologies, including the use of mobile money for payments and SMS surveys for communications and real-time monitoring and learning.
- Approximately 1.5 million people received the double payment through the Emergency LEAP cash transfers in mid-2020.
- In total, 68,000 low-wage earners, 10,000 smallholder farmers, 30,000 street workers, orphans, persons with disabilities, and those impacted by floods in northern Ghana received ad-hoc payments.
- Budget advocacy contributed to an 18% increase to LEAP with an additional GHC 30 million.
- Engaged with 230 CSOs under the CSOs social accountability programme.
- Trained 70 CSOs, media organizations, and key social protection programme implementers on social protection.
- Supported shelter construction for 393 refugee households, while 716 households received cash support to meet basic needs.
- Supporting women and child victims of trafficking, two shelters (one for children, one for women) accommodating and assisting over 50 victims of trafficking. In addition, over 100 victims of trafficking received return and reintegration support.
- Over 720 refugees supported with cash grants for business startup and skills development.



Result Area 3



Protected and Safe Environment

Outcome 5. Environmental governance at national and local levels is effective, efficient, and coherent.

Outcome 6. Urban and rural communities have access to affordable services, knowledge, and tools to increase their resilience.

Environmental Pollution Management

The 2020 Ghana Country Environmental Analysis was published by the World Bank, generating relevant data and information for the environment sector. Ghana has made good progress in implementing measures in line with international environmental conventions. For example, the country has achieved its 2020 target for reducing Ozone Depleting Substances under the Montreal Protocol through enforcement and capacity building. Under the Minamata Convention on Mercury, a National Action Plan on ASGM has been developed.



Climate Action

Contributing to SDP outcomes 5 and 6, the UN continued to support Ghana in placing the building blocks to implement the Paris Agreement. For example, the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) initiated updating and raising the ambition of Ghana's Nationally Determined Contributions, in a gender-responsive manner, through an evidence-based multi-stakeholder process. Additionally, a National Adaptation Plan is being developed, and Municipal and District Chief Executives of Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) and various other sectors have been supported in mainstreaming and planning for climate action (e.g., integrating Climate Change and green economy into the school curriculum for primary and junior high school).

According to estimates, Ghana's climate agenda will require US\$ 22.6 billion for its implementation between 2020 and 2030. Given the country's tight fiscal space, UN support is expanding the range of opportunities to mobilize climate finance, and diverse related strategies are being developed and implemented. With UN facilitation, the Governments of Ghana and Switzerland have signed an historic bilateral agreement that brings to life the cooperative approaches of the Paris Agreement and sets the framework conditions for cooperation. The new partnership will enable the adoption of green and low carbon technology solutions across the country, resulting in many social and environmental benefits and empowering national businesses to drive climate action in the energy sector.

At the grassroots level, rural communities in deprived and climate risk areas are getting better access to knowledge and tools to increase their resilience, making them active participants in environmental conservation.

“ More than 90% of the households with children reported handwashing or sanitizing hands at least three times a day in the week preceding the survey.



Green Economy

The UN partnered with the GoG to develop policies, plans and strategies promoting a green economy in various sectors. For example, the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations developed and validated the National Green Jobs Strategy. The Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources adopted the National Solid Waste Management Strategy, based on the principles of Reduction, Recovery and Recycling. The UN advocated using Science, Technology and Innovation to drive the SDGs to relevant ministries and facilitated policy dialogues to discuss the policy and fiscal frameworks needed to increase access to green finance for MSMEs.

Reducing deforestation and forest degradation continues to be a key priority. Ghana has made significant progress in building the forest industry players' capacities for issuing Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade licensing under the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between Ghana and Europe. Numerous small producers' groups are now united under an umbrella group that represents nearly one million farm and forest producers and provides these constituents with greater economic and self-advocacy power. At the local level, farmers received support to adopt good environmental practices, and research has been carried out to reduce greenhouse gases emission in the agricultural sector.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Access to basic WASH improved in 2020, under challenging circumstances.

The health sector's capacity to promote preventative and curative health was enhanced by endorsing the National Costed Strategy for WASH in Health Care Facilities. The National Liquid Waste Strategy focuses on greater engagement of the private sector to leverage household investment in sanitation and better utilization of public sector resources. The government enhanced coordination mechanisms for the sector (e.g., WASH Sector Review) and improved capacities in Sector Information System and performance monitoring.

The National Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Guidelines were developed and disseminated and are expected to promote safe MHM among adolescent girls. The Open Defecation Free (ODF) Ghana agenda was a major focus of 2020, with the First Regional Ministers' Sanitation Summit and National ODF Advocacy event held to strengthen the high-level political commitment to spur nationwide social movements to accelerate change.

Additionally, the spearheaded Basic Sanitation Fund has been expanded from the five MMDAs to include Cape Coast and Elmina and was reviewed to identify actions to improve the loan disbursement and repayment rates.

Key Results

Climate Action

- Over 11,740 people (60% female) from 50 communities in Northern Ghana benefited from livelihoods diversification.
- The capacities of three District Disaster Response Teams were developed to provide sexual reproductive health and maternal health services effectively and efficiently during emergencies.
- Students from 12 high schools were sensitized on basic principles of disaster risk reduction and the Sendai Framework.
- The rehabilitation of 6 dams and 145 community boreholes benefited more than 12,000 and 40,000 people, respectively.



Green Economy

- A total of 100 leaders (60% female) of waste pickers and collectors' groups in Accra and Tema have improved knowledge of safe waste management.
- Over 670 jobs were created by ten businesses testing innovative solutions, recovering an estimated 1,200 tonnes of plastic waste in 2020 and 2021.
- More than one million smallholder producers are organized into the Ghana Federation of Forest and Farm Producers to promote sustainable charcoal production and other environmental campaigns targeting farmers through advocacy.
- Over 20,000 cocoa farmers (approximately 40% female) adopted environmentally positive cocoa production practices and partnerships with the Ghana Cocoa Board, the Forestry Commission, and Mondelez.

Environmental Pollution Management

- Environmental and analytical laboratory fully equipped to analyze plants, benefiting 500 people.
- Ghana's first 45kW micro-hydropower plant providing clean energy to about 250 households was made possible through a South-South cooperation partnership between the Bui Power Authority, Ghana's Energy Commission, and China.

WASH

- Nearly 93,000 people (51% female) accessed basic sanitation, and 78,000 people are accessing safe drinking water.
- Over 71,100 additional people (51% female) from 226 communities in seven regions achieved Open Defecation Free status.
- Supported 22 schools benefiting 5,056 children (50% female) with infrastructure and child-friendly WASH facilities and another 95 primary and junior high schools benefiting 10,144 schoolgirls.

Empowering women in climate action with alternative livelihood options

During the dry season in the Northern Region, family farms in Tampion, like that of Mali Yakubu, cannot farm. With climate change, their situation is deteriorating, as agriculture is a climate-sensitive sector. Subsistence female farmers like Mali often bear much of the brunt of climate change impacts- drought, desertification, erosion, and flooding. Due to limited access and control of resources such as irrigation facilities, land and technology, as well as limited income opportunities, Mali, and the women in her community, struggle to adapt.

Since February 2020, their situation changed for the better. Mali is among nearly 200 people in Tampion, including 20 men, who received training on alternative livelihoods through an agro-processing scheme. Women can now operate milling machines and process agricultural products such as soya beans, shea, and rice into various food products, such as soya milk, kebabs and flour, and shea

butter, which they sell in the local markets. "I produce about five bowls of soya kebab every week, which I mostly sell on market days. This dry season is unlike the other ones in the past, where we were mostly idle. For the first time in years, I made some profits this year and could cover for our basic needs", explained Mali.

Besides income, women and their families also consume the processed food products they are producing, gaining improved nutrition, and also using shea butter as a cosmetic. Today, over 7,200 women in 24 communities are supported by agro-processing facilities in four regions in Northern Ghana.

The four-year project is implemented by MESTI, in partnership with the UN and 46 local CSOs. Funded by the Adaptation Fund, the project aims to build the resilience of more than 100,000 people in 50 communities.



Result Area 4



Inclusive, Accountable Governance

Outcome 7. Transparent, accountable institutions at all levels that protect the rights of all people.

UN continues to support strengthening the capacity of Governance Institutions to be responsive, inclusive, gender-sensitive, transparent, and accountable. It empowers citizens to protect and demand their rights and hold the institutions accountable through three broad intervention areas.



Inclusive Participation & Rights Protection

Youth, women and marginalized girls such as Kayayei gained improved capacity to exercise their rights and effectively participate in the development process, through various UN support. Youth, for example, were provided with unique space to step up their engagement so that they can co-develop/create, co-lead and co-implement initiatives to attain the SDGs along with local communities, national and global organizations. The UN provided financial support for the recruitment of seven experts who supported the National Peace Council in the dialogue between the New Patriotic Party and the National Democratic Congress, which resulted in the development of a roadmap and code of conduct to eradicate political vigilantism in Ghana.

Key Results

- 38 females and 10 males of the Ghana Armed Forces have enhanced knowledge and skills relevant for their deployment for UN peacekeeping operations, improving Ghana's status as one of the countries with the highest female troop deployment.
- With enhanced capacity through training, over 1,000 male and female youth embarked on a peace advocacy campaign in their communities during the run-up to the elections. This contributed to the relatively peaceful 2020 elections in these hotspots as compared to previous years.
- A group of young people has been empowered through training and mentorship to find their roles as peacemakers, activists, entrepreneurs, and change agents. The Youth Civic-Pledge introduced by Ulti-Leaf Foundation, with financial support from the UN, has become a game-changer in building youth-adult partnership/interaction for engaging youth and contributing to the developmental agenda in communities.
- 8,200 adolescent girls and another 5,000 people, including head porters, health workers and COVID-19 patients, persons with disabilities, youth living with HIV, and in detention, can better take care of themselves with dignity kits support.



- 24,794 adolescent girls, especially marginalized and at risk of child marriage, were empowered with knowledge and skills to prevent and respond to child marriage, teenage pregnancy, and SGBV.
- 500 adolescent girls received apprenticeship opportunities in non-conventional trades such as masonry and carpentry, resulting in improved livelihoods.
- 51 migrant returnees in Accra and Tamale have been economically empowered with knowledge, skills and business sets for their effective reintegration.
- 9,938 marginalized girls (especially Kayayei) were empowered through various interventions.

Institutional Strengthening

The UN partnered with Ghana to strengthen legislation, policies, plans, strategies, and technical capacities to deliver on their mandates effectively. Among others, the support provided helped develop the Inter-Sectoral Standard Operating Procedures for child protection and family welfare services and to finalize the Social Welfare Service Workforce Capacity Assessment and Plan. UN also supported the Directory of Social Services as it developed training manuals for social welfare and community development staff and established referral pathways for child protection, social protection, and SGBV. These resulted in enhanced efficiencies in linking vulnerable populations to services.

Frameworks for child protection received a boost through the UN's technical and financial support for adopting the Registration of Births and Deaths Act (2020), which decentralizes birth registration and provides a legal basis for linking health and civil registration systems - a welcome move, given reported disruption to birth certificate issuance since March 2020. Also adopted was the Cybersecurity Act (2020), which strengthens the legal framework preventing sextortion, cyberbullying, cyber grooming, and other technology-enabled offences. In addition, three major frameworks were revised and updated to contribute to effective national prevention and response to SGBV: the National Policy and Plan of



Action for the Domestic Violence Act, the Reproductive Health Education and Services for Young People, and the Child Marriage Advocacy Toolkit.

UN technical and operational support for the Child Marriage Information Portal, a one-stop-shop system that readily offers information on child marriage, SGBV and related issues in an open-source application, has enabled the government to facilitate the coordination of child marriage issues. A national Reporting Portal, established with UN support and launched in collaboration with the Internet Watch Foundation, has accelerated the identification and removal of online child sexual abuse material. The UN also supported establishing the Child Protection Digital Forensics Laboratory, an operational body that enables the Ghana Police Service to establish electronic evidence to prosecute violence against women and children.

With financial support from the UN, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) and Pearl Safe Haven, SGBV shelters were re-furbished and operators and stakeholders trained on coordinated response, making available safe spaces with quality service delivery for victims of SGBV.



The Ghana Museums and Monuments Board, the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, and the National Commission on Culture received capacity-building support to develop and implement a Forts and Castles management plan. When implemented, the plan will enhance and safeguard culture, conserve the property, and contribute to sustainable tourism.

After developing a framework for using paralegals, the Ghana Legal Aid Commission is better positioned to expand access to justice for the poor and the vulnerable. Developed together with the UN, the paralegal framework will bridge a substantive gap in accessing lawyers for basic legal services.

A national coordinating mechanism for the safety of journalists has been put in place to address the increasing cases of assaults against journalists in the country.

The government's capacity for planning, data collection, analysis and use for COVID-19 recovery planning has been enhanced through training, development of monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and support for data collection on the impact of COVID-19 on businesses and local economies. This has resulted in the development of COVID-19 recovery plans and integrated financing frameworks for five district assemblies as well as Ghana CARES, the national alleviation programme.

The Government held virtual consultations on the Global Compact for Migration and launched its National Migration Profile, enhancing Ghana migration governance by increasing coordination and availability of relevant data for migration stakeholders, including policymakers and academia.

Key Results

- 60 social welfare workers from MMDAs received training to deliver quality and responsive integrated social services, focusing on child protection, SGBV, social protection, and health.
- 136 social workers and 18 police officers across 6 regions have enhanced capacities to support interventions to counter child trafficking in their areas.
- 380 prison officials and wardens from 12 prison facilities have improved capacity to prevent COVID-19 infection in prisons.
- 160 Municipal and District Chief Executives of MMDAs have incorporated child protection and SGBV related interventions in their annual action plans; 60 have already implemented the plans.
- 100 Law Enforcement Officers received training on SGBV case management and prevention.
- 296 community members from the Eastern and Northern borders of Ghana have increased knowledge of violent extremism threats and how to prevent radicalization.



Access to Information and Services by Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups

To ensure that no one is left behind, the UN continued its support to the vulnerable and marginalized populations, such as adolescent girls, persons with disabilities, migrants and people living with HIV, to access information and services for making informed choices and protect their rights and wellbeing. The UN and the National Peace Council organized two stakeholder dialogues in the run-up to the 2020 elections, bringing together 160 key stakeholders from all 16 regions to promote peace and security before, during, and after the elections. Along with other interventions, this contributed to the peaceful conduct of the elections. Participants included representatives of the media, religious and traditional leaders, youth, women and persons with disabilities, police, judiciary, and civil society. Participants were sensitized on the need to address security issues and form partnerships to address lingering threats of electoral violence and vigilantism.

Key Results

- 114,641 adolescent girls received prevention and care interventions to address child marriage.
- 75,980 adolescent girls and 6,473 stakeholders of identifiable groups were engaged to prevent SGBV and promote gender-responsive norms.
- 18,711 girls and 13,705 boys experiencing violence were reached by health, social work, or justice and law enforcement services.
- 354,411 women and 326,230 men were engaged with child protection tools on behaviour and social change.
- Nearly 1 million people were reached with 203 awareness-raising activities promoting safe migration and COVID-19 prevention.
- 114,641 at-risk adolescent girls and mothers received gender- and age-responsive maternal and newborn care services and information on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and COVID-19.
- 8,275 people received messages on gender-based violence prevention, protection, and response programmes using the Child Marriage Advocacy Toolkit.
- 21,566 persons with disabilities, including the visually impaired, physically challenged, and hearing impaired in 165 districts, received disability-friendly COVID-19 information.
- 5,451 persons living with HIV and 1,115 young people received messages to safeguard themselves.
- 530,854 people across 15 regions received COVID-19 prevention information.
- 5,297 young people meaningfully engaged in critical SGBV and pregnancy prevention through digital and other spaces, contributing to improving adolescent girls' sexual reproductive health.





2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

Despite the pandemic's challenges, the UNCT in Ghana mobilized resources and developed and enhanced partnerships with the government and other non-UN actors to continue the work.

Under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, the agencies worked together by leveraging resources, developing synergies and deploying expertise for sound priority interventions in Ghana.

In Result Area 1, the UN actively engaged with the FDA to support the supervision, monitoring, and adherence to the required food safety and quality management systems. It also helped in the certification of industrial food processors, street food vendors, and community and medium-scale food processors to enable processors to produce certified products.

Awareness created on post-harvest management, using Culture for Quality tools to assess quality awareness in the entire value chain, promoting the quality standards in the selected value chain and market linkages, has been largely achieved by working closely with Farm Radio International and the GSA. Collaborative efforts with private sector players like Sesi technologies to promote post-harvest technologies have played a key role in reducing post-harvest losses. The Global Affairs Canada project supported these initiatives through the Enhanced Nutrition and Value Chains project.

Partnering with African Development Bank helped establish five Technology Solution Centres hostels and common user facilities and soybean processing centres in collaboration with Malnutrition Matters, a Canadian social business. Online training in e-commerce and e-marketing with European Union funding also increased online sales and revenue of MSMEs; capacity provided to 34 MSMEs on the national standards for hand sanitizer and face-masks developed and led to an average of 25% increase in revenue.

For Result Area 2, the government finalized the country's Universal Health Coverage (UHC) roadmap to cover 80% of citizens having access to essential

health services. The strong partnerships with the Ghana Health Service and the private sector (local food processors) ensured improved nutrition for vulnerable populations even during the pandemic peak. Sustained nutrition advocacy has resulted in its increased prioritization by the government. For example, nutrition indicators are integrated with the national UHC roadmap, while adolescent nutrition indicators are integrated into the national District Health Information System, and the government used World Bank funding to procure nutrition supplies worth US\$ 900,000.

The Global Coalition for Education, with private partners (Huawei, Microsoft, Wikipedia, UBER, and others), are collaborating to support the government's digital literacy agenda for educators and learners.

The UN completed the five-year Human Rights strategy in partnership with Global Fund, Ghana-West Africa Program to Combat AIDS and STI, and Ghana AIDS Commission, and sensitized 19 media outlets and 19 regional directors from the Commission on Human Rights Administration for Justice on the existing national stigma.

For Result Area 3, Ghana's Waste Recovery Platform exemplifies how country-supported platforms can bring stakeholders together to define and implement COVID-19 responses. The forum convened stakeholders to discuss the pandemic's impact on the waste management ecosystem and identify solutions to address challenges.

The Urban Health Initiative collaborated with Local Governments for Sustainability on various fronts, such as country baseline data on climate change and health, existing policies, and partner mapping to ensure effective synergy building, objective setting, and targeting for maximum output.

In Result Area 4, the UN developed the integrated financing frameworks to implement the COVID-19 response plan in five districts and collaborated with the World Bank to produce the Business Tracker for collecting data on COVID-19 impacts on 4,000 businesses.



2.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency

In 2020, the UN reform contributed to joint efforts to support the government's vision of going beyond aid. Coordinated support has increased efficiency and effectiveness in project delivery, reducing duplication of efforts, and increasing synergies among agencies while mutually reinforcing development results towards achieving the SDGs.

UNICEF collaborated with other UN agencies, CSOs, government agencies, and academia to develop an inter-agency nutrition preparedness and response plan to COVID-19 and collaborated with GHS, WFP, and MoFA to set up a monitoring system from April 2020 to assess the impact of COVID-19 on food and nutrition situation. Rome-based agencies partnered with other bilateral partners to develop an emergency response for the COVID-19 crisis. For example, IFAD collaborated with FAO to implement climate change activities.

Different UN agencies collaborated to address key issues prevalent in the country. UN-Habitat and UNFPA worked on informal settlements in Greater Accra. WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, and UNOPS, in

partnership with the Okyeman Environment Foundation, secured funding from the UN-Human Security Trust Fund to implement actions on Accelerating the SDGs through a multi-stakeholder community-based approach to sustainable livelihoods and wellbeing.

Collaborations between WFP, UNICEF, MoFA, and GHS resulted in tracking food security and nutrition indicators to assess pandemic impact to help government and development partners develop strategies to minimize adversities. UNICEF and WHO helped implement advocacy initiatives to promote, support, and protect breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding, commemorating the World Breastfeeding Week and launched breastfeeding and food campaigns to reduce stunting in children under five years.

UNOPS and UNAIDS collaborated to support GHS to provide uninterrupted HIV service delivery through emergency procurement of HIV RDTs, particularly to remote communities throughout the country to assess the level of HIV infection.



WHO collaborated with UNICEF to provide technical support to develop the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan and is implementing a joint work plan on the Quality of MoFA to develop draft National Food-based dietary guidelines. WFP and UNICEF helped improve adolescent girls' health and nutrition in Northern Ghana through food assistance and distributed iron and folic acid tablets. UNHCR partnered with UNFPA to include four refugees in the YoLe Fellowship Programme.

Support from UNICEF, World Bank, and WHO helped build health workers' capacities by training a core team of trainers from all 16 regions in the WHO-adapted package on growth assessment and infant and young child feeding to scale-up nutrition services nationally.

UNESCO and UNICEF jointly helped develop the Safe Schools policy to facilitate a coordinated approach to making school environments friendly for all learners. UNESCO, UNICEF, UNHCR, ILO, and the World Bank, through the Norwegian Teacher Initiative, supported the government to develop key policy documents to promote the teaching profession.

UNFPA and UNICEF, with the government and CSO partners, implemented two joint programmes: Global Programme to End Child Marriage and Empowering Adolescent Girls.

UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, and WHO, working with government and CSO partners, implemented a joint programme addressing gaps in Ghana's Pandemic Response for the most vulnerable populations.

UNDP and UNIDO led a joint effort with EPA, Minerals Commission, and others under the Global Environmental Facility Gold+ initiative to reduce mercury use in the Ghanaian ASGM sector through

integrated formalization approaches while improving access to finance for miners. This will accelerate the uptake of mercury-free technologies and access to responsible gold supply chains.

ILO, UNIDO, UNDP, and UNEP collaborated to implement the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) to improve resource efficiency in various industries and sectors. In coordination with MoFA, FAO and UNIDO completed an assessment of the Opportunities for Employment of Youth in Agribusiness.

UNOPS and UNEP, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), Oxford University, and Global Center on Adaptation, put joint efforts to enhance the long-term resilience of Ghana's infrastructure against the threats of climate change, with a particular focus on the transport, water and energy sectors and on nature-based solutions for delivering services and enhancing the resilience of infrastructure systems.

Communicating and Advocating Together

The UN Communications Group (UNCG) constituted the Crisis Communications Group (CCG) following the outbreak of COVID-19, aligned to the UN Ghana COVID-19 Outbreak Contingency Plan. The CCG developed and implemented the crisis communication plan and worked closely with the various Crisis Management Team sub-working groups to roll out internal communications tools, such as guidance notes to prevent COVID-19, videos, and posters on psychosocial support, COVID-19 bulletins, and others.

The UNCG increased its digital presence through regular social media engagement, developing online publications for greater reach, and widely circulating videos in local languages via social media.

The team collaboratively worked with UN agencies and organized a national event in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration to commemorate UN@75 in Ghana. The team also observed UN days, with each event having an agency as lead and another in a supporting role.

UNCG leveraged agencies' capacity to facilitate some of its work. For example, UNFPA's YoLe Fellows, WFP's social media officer, and UNDP's Communications Assistant helped design social media cards, draft messages and stories, and plan events.



Implementation of Business Operations Strategy

The Business Operations Strategy (BOS) focuses on joint business operations to eliminate duplication and leverage the UN's common bargaining power and maximize economies of scale. The UNCT provides overall oversight of the BOS process, approval, sign-off on the final BOS and annual reporting.

BOS Ghana focuses on the following common services selected through a consultative process involving all entities:

- Common Administration
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
- Logistics
- Procurement services

Activities in each of these areas have contributed to a more effective and efficient delivery process despite the recognized resource constraints. For example, in the common Human Resources services, the UN provided joint counselling services to support a healthy work environment and offer several staff opportunities. This improved staff

welfare and performance. The agencies utilize one psychologist's services (consultant), thus saving costs compared to individually hiring one. Due to the pandemic, the Operations Management Team launched training programmes under the lead agency UNICEF, enabling staff to work from home smoothly and efficiently by improving their knowledge of the technologies needed.

Similarly, in providing standard ICT services, WFP led the delivery of sufficient affordable internet bandwidth to all UN agencies through negotiations and procuring bulk bandwidth, saving more than 55% of the cost while gaining a 120% increase in bandwidth.

Establishing long-term contracts with printing service providers, with UNICEF as lead agency, has helped by US\$ 323,836 in cost avoidance for the BOS. This process also endeavours to reduce administrative work resulting in huge transactional gains.

However, the BOS accounts for risks, such as lack of commitment to support common services, price fluctuations, poor quality from service providers, and delayed payment contribution to the common budgets.



2.5. Evaluations and Lessons Learned

The year has allowed the UNCT to reflect on the lessons learned and better prepare to tackle these:

- The pandemic disrupted field activities due to movement restrictions and access to markets, affecting the set targets. The planned financial resources did not materialize, partly due to the pandemic.
- More training and provision of appropriate technologies to households can help mitigate the post-harvest losses for smallholder farmers as it threatens Ghana's food security. Creating sustainable market linkages for smallholders needs time and largely depends on building strong farmer-based institutions or organizations that can engage with the private sector off-takers. Moving forward, the country office will promote demand-driven approaches to market linkages and promote innovations through e-commerce.



- Waste collection in slum areas remains a significant challenge due to multiple factors, such as lack of space for collection infrastructure and the high commercial activity level in the enclaves, including hawking, leading to increased waste generation. The Accelerator Lab supports Jekora Ventures (local waste services provider) to test bottom-up approaches to efficient waste collection in slums in the Klottey Korle Municipal Assembly.
- The body specifically mandated to manage migration in line with the National Migration Policy (NMP, 2016), is the Ghana National Commission on Migration (GNCM). Once established, the GNCM will coordinate the implementation of the NMP ensuring policy coherence with related sector policies.
- Increased engagement with the members of the UN Network on Migration is required to identify lessons learned and best practices in migration management. More resources are needed to support Ghana's implementation of the Global Compact for Safe and Orderly Migration.
- Coordination involving relevant partners, stakeholders, and the government can effectively strengthen mechanisms and efficient resources utilization in the pandemic.
- Having a well-trained workforce can lead to an enhanced response in the future. The skills acquired from IPC, surveillance, and case management training to effectively respond to a possible Ebola outbreak have been applied in the initial response to the pandemic.
- Adapting, relying, and improving on lessons learned and skills from past experiences can facilitate the response to new epidemics. Ebola documents guided most plans, guidelines, protocols and manuals developed during the pandemic.



2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

2.6.1. Financial Overview

2020 saw the UN mobilize additional resources and repurpose funds with Results Groups to respond COVID-19 through the CPRP, SERRP, and activities of the four SDP Results Groups. Overall, the total available resources across Results Groups, CPRP, and SERRP were US\$ 118,041,254 across all agencies, with a delivery rate of 84% (US\$ 99,739,609). The

financial year's total budget under the Results Groups was US\$ 101,398,748, with US\$ 72,441,402 available and US\$ 28,957,346 to be mobilized. Agencies were able to galvanize additional funding to bridge the funding gap, and joint resources mobilization efforts yielded positive results with coordination from the Resident Coordinator's Office.

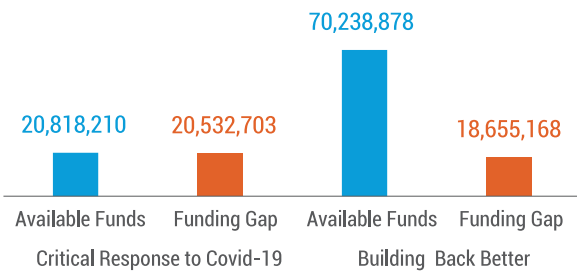
Below is the outcome-wise budget (in US\$) break down:

RESULT AREAS	OUTCOMES	2018-2022 Common Budgetary Framework			2020 Common Budgetary Framework	
		Total Required Budget	Available Resources	To be Mobilized	Total Required Budget	Available Resources
Result Area 1: Shared Prosperous Economy 	Outcome 1. Productive agriculture drives sustainable industrialization, improves livelihoods, and ensures a hunger- and malnutrition-free nation	50,902,000	28,832,000	22,070,000	23,966,435	20,930,768
	Outcome 2. Competitive private sector generates decent jobs that increase opportunities for more inclusive economic growth	21,776,000	9,210,000	12,566,000	3,037,450	2,071,621
Result Area 2: Social Investment in People 	Outcome 3. The GoG delivers equitable, quality, and financially sustainable social services	125,658,000	67,850,000	57,808,000	22,398,000	19,161,000
	Outcome 4. Marginalized and vulnerable populations demand and utilize social services	36,453,000	15,376,000	21,077,000	5,376,000	3,676,000
Result Area 3: Protected and Safe Environment 	Outcome 5. Environmental governance at national and local levels is effective, efficient, and coherent	36,995,000	8,220,000	28,775,000	10,999,400	3,101,600
	Outcome 6. Urban and rural communities have access to affordable services, knowledge, and tools to increase their resilience	87,756,000	33,395,000	54,361,000	18,047,382	12,922,382
Results Area 4: Inclusive, Accountable Governance 	Outcome 7. Transparent, accountable institutions at all levels protect the rights of all people	82,030,000	31,944,000	50,086,000	17,574,081	10,578,031
	TOTAL	441,570,000	194,827,000	246,743,000	101,398,748	72,441,402

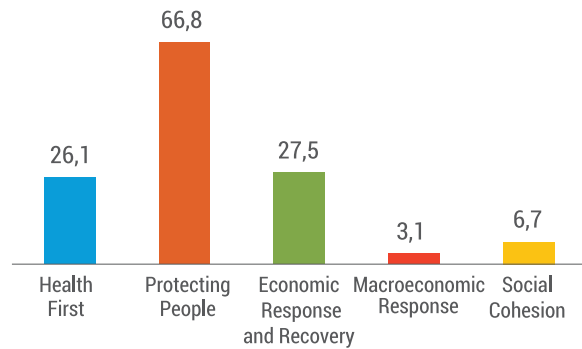


The below graphs show the status of resources to respond to COVID-19 and build back better, and the funding requirements for the five pillars of the SERRP.

SERRP Resources by Category in US\$



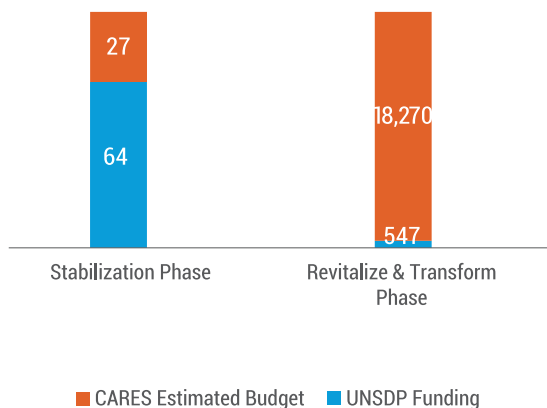
Requirements by Pillar in Million US\$



SDP result areas are aligned with the Government's CARES stabilization phase (July-December 2020) and as follows.



UNSDP Funding and CARES Programme (US\$ M')





2.6.2. Resource Mobilization

Despite Ghana's middle-income country status, which sometimes affects resource mobilization efforts, UN Agencies have fostered new partnerships to diversify their resource base to achieve the SDGs in Ghana.

A US\$ 800,000 partnership with JICA promotes SDGs 1, 2, 13, and 15 to build capacities and restore mine-degraded cocoa farms.

Mobilizing US\$ 4.6 million through a new partnership with Mastercard Foundation will develop and implement remote and distance learning content, protect vulnerable learners during school closures, promote re-entry of all learners, implement digital solutions, and build resilience.

An additional US\$ 1.3 million in funding through the UN's Global Education Coalition partners (Huawei and Wikimedia Foundation) supports the government's digital literacy agenda.

Technical and financial support to develop the NFM 3 grant application and the grant-making process has made available over US\$ 260 million to fight against HIV, TB, and Malaria and support Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health.

The UN helped obtain US\$ 16 million from the Global Fund COVID-19 Response Mechanism, successfully

mobilized US\$ 3 million from the WB-PEF and US\$ 1 million under the Multi-Partner Trust Fund to maintain essential health services for COVID-19 response.

Raising US\$ 407,487 enhanced access to SGBV, anti-stigma information, and essential services for vulnerable groups for effective prevention, mitigation, and response to COVID-19 impacts.

The Green Climate Fund approved a US\$ 30 million grant for the Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reductions Project, and the EU and the Netherlands are investing US\$ 4 million for the Boosting Green Employment and Enterprise Opportunities in Ghana project.

US\$ 500,000 helped to construct two isolation centres in the Western and Bono Regions to support COVID-19 cases and to distribute PPEs and hygiene products to 22 health facilities in five regions where refugees are hosted to support the government's COVID-19 response efforts.

The Japanese government has provided US\$ 732,027 to promote public health and social resilience against COVID-19 by strengthening the domestic supply chains of PPEs, disinfectants, and hygiene supplies under the Circular Economy approach.





3

Chapter 3. Key focus for next year





In 2021, in line with the SDP, SERRP and CPRP, the UN will provide a) coherent policy support, developing more integrated, cross-sectoral approaches responding to COVID-19, building resilience and supporting economic stabilization and inclusive growth b) results-focused programme implementation, ensuring that resources are directed towards improving development conditions for target populations, particularly marginalized and vulnerable groups, and c) strengthen, create, adapt, and maintain the capacity to sustain social, economic, and environmental development results. The UN will continue to support national recovery from COVID-19, focusing on leaving no one behind, developing synergies across partners and leveraging the UN's comparative advantage to catalyze and use human and financial resources towards achieving SDGs by 2030. This includes undertaking significant analysis, consultations, and planning for the next UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in Ghana.

The UNCT will provide technical and other support to the national COVID-19 response, including vaccination, coordination, surveillance, entry points, case management, risk communication, laboratories, vaccination, research, and operations and logistics pillars. The support will come through strategic documents and guidelines, training, data management support, providing equipment, reagents, vaccines and other supplies, and monitoring activities. In schools, UNCT will support school-level monitoring of COVID-19 protocols and build resilience in the education system to ensure access to continuous quality learning for all learners despite crises and emergencies.

The UNCT focuses on building resilience, mainstreaming gender equality, and promoting a circular and green economy. It will support the implementation of climate action, including building resilience to disaster and climate impacts, promote climate-smart agricultural practices by working with partners to promote conservation using drought-resistant seeds and energy-efficient technologies in post-harvest management. Prioritizing WASH will address the remaining gaps in Ghana through systems strengthening and leveraging public and private investments.

Digital transformation: The UN will use the Global Education Coalition platform to support the government to enhance internet connectivity and enhance the capacity of educators and learners in the use of digital tools to improve upon the quality of teaching and learning at all levels of the education system.

Gender equality is a key priority for 2021, including advocacy among smallholder farmer-based organizations farmers to support youth and women initiatives further. Girls' education will be supported by assisting the government in implementing its policy guidelines on pregnancy and HIV prevention in schools and re-entry for pregnant schoolgirls. The Ministry of Education will continue analyzing HIV indicator data, and with schools' reopening, it will strengthen HIV prevention education in schools for young people. The UN will ensure the implementation of the Human Rights strategy and support the scale-up and implementation of innovative human rights and HIV prevention policies. It will continue to develop capacities to expand nutritional assistance to more vulnerable populations, focus on adolescent nutrition, explore market-based approaches to addressing malnutrition and empower women beneficiaries through livelihood programmes. It will implement guidance documents on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition and work with the Ghana Health Service to review and strengthen the national guidelines for Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response.

A high-level dialogue planned on **social protection** financing will solidify the budget analysis and advocacy work of 2020 targeted at parliamentarians to influence the 2022 national budget process. It will consolidate the results of the emergency cash transfer programmes that can be institutionalized as part of Ghana's crises response. Within the government, the Social Welfare Information Management System will use a sector-wide approach to decentralize integrated social services and scale-up to 100 Municipal and District Chief Executives of Municipal and District Assemblies. It will help expand the child-friendly gender-based violence courts from the current 10 to 16 by the end of 2021, and amplify the voice and agency of women, youth, adolescent girls, and other marginalized groups through integrated, gender-responsive and rights-based approaches.

The UN will continue to promote data, analysis, and effective planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation for sustainable development. Throughout 2021, it will consolidate and scale up its relationships with engaged private sector entities and build new relationships to develop innovative financial solutions to set up a competitive financial ecosystem for more inclusive economic growth.



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UNITED NATIONS
GHANA



CONTACTS

United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
No. 2, Fourth Avenue, East Ridge
(Near Kempinski Gold Coast Hotel)
Ghana Post GPS: GA-078-3286
P.O. Box 1423 | Accra, Ghana
Tel.: +233 (0) 302 215670-9/215680-3
Fax.: +233 (0) 302 772836/773899
Email: rcs-unrecoghana@un.org