



NewsLetter

DECEMBER 2021



HIGHLIGHTS

UNCDF facilitates learning visit for Zambian officials.

Private sector urged to invest in climate

action.
Ghana makes a compelling presentation of its forest sector climate solutions to demonstrate action on the ground.

70% of Ghanaians have no access to insurance, UNDP report reveals
End of year message from the UN Resident Coordinator for Ghana, Mr. Charles Abani.

Resident Coordinator's end of year message

We have journeyed together over the year and despite the challenges due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we strongly believe the UN has made significant strides in its work to support Ghana's needs and development agenda.

Preparation of our new cooperation framework to run until the end of 2025, the document that reflects the UN development system's contributions in the country, is underway. This follows the review of our work in the past few years and a situational analysis of the state of development in the country to inform where to focus in the years ahead, especially as the world continues to reel from the impacts of COVID-19 and the climate crisis.

As we draw the curtain on 2021, I must say that I am very proud of what UN agencies, funds and programmes (and within that - indeed each team) has been able to accomplish. We have demonstrated our strength in unity by delivering as one for the people of Ghana in the areas of health, economic growth, environment, governance, peace, security and striving to ensure no one is left behind. Thank you to all staff in the UNDS - your dedication and commitment as staff of the United Nations has yielded much result.

Let us also appreciate the partnerships we have enjoyed - with the Government of Ghana and development partners. We owe our achievements to the support of our partners and donors, and more especially to the strong partnership we have enjoyed and continue to enjoy with the Government of Ghana.

Globally and locally, the challenges we have faced together have strengthened our resolve to push harder to ensure we accomplish a lot more. And there is much to be done as Ghana seeks to build back better - sustainably - amidst a dearth of resources and significant demands if we are to achieve the SDGs. We are positioning ourselves to deliver the highest possible impact with our work and optimistically look forward to a better 2022.

As we round up the year, let us focus on what lies ahead - the task of contributing towards a resilient and self-reliant Ghana, and remain resolute to make the world better.



Mr. Charles Abani
UN Resident Coordinator for Ghana

We have a charge to keep, and we must be thankful to have the opportunity to serve. This should spur us on.

With the festive season approaching, let me take this opportunity to wish all staff members, partners and the people of Ghana, happy holidays. Let us keep safe as we celebrate the season with loved ones, family and friends, mindful that the COVID 19 pandemic is still with us.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Prosperous 2022.



Ghana makes compelling presentation on its forest sector climate solutions

The UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, held from 31 October to 13 November concluded, in a spirit of collaboration and compromise, with a new global agreement to reduce the worst impacts of climate change. The Glasgow Climate Pact will set the global agenda on climate change for the next decade.

At Glasgow, Ghana made a compelling presentation of its forest sector climate solutions to demonstrate action on the ground with results. Out of 30 proposals submitted, Ghana emerged one of 5 winners and went ahead to sign a Letter of Intent to access part of the \$1b mobilized by LEAF Coalition committing to increase ambition to protect forests and reduce deforestation. UNDP, FAO and UNEP supported this proposal development in the con-

text of UN-REDD partnership.

By the end of the Conference, the President of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo signed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration, committing to end or reduce deforestation by 2030.

Acknowledging that climate change has already caused and will increasingly cause loss and damage, Accra, among 1000 cities, committed to net zero by 2050. This means Accra will have to radically re-think its approach to housing and other physical infrastructures, transport links, energy use, food, waste and more. The United Nations in Ghana continues to provide the necessary impetus to deepen Ghana's commitment and intensify initiatives towards the realization of its set climate action goals such as this.

Prior to COP26, the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ghana, Dr. Angela Lusigi met with the Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Hon. Henry Kwabena Kokofu. Their discussions centred around Ghana's updated ambitious climate action plan: the nationally determined contribution (NDC); and strengthening cooperation on climate action towards an inclusive and green economy and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more.](#)



Ghana's Energy Minister, Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh representing Ghana at a COP26 side event on energy

Innovative Financing Strategies for Infrastructure in Ghana

“Accelerating the Attainment of SDGs in Ghana: Innovative Financing Strategies for Infrastructure” project has ended. Implemented by the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), in collaboration with the University of Oxford, and the Ministry of Finance, the project assisted the Ministry of Finance and several other Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in building national capacity to use context-

tualised evidence-based tools for infrastructure planning and development: NISMOD and SIFT.

The National Infrastructure Systems Model (NISMOD) is a strategic infrastructure planning tool that assists decision-makers on whether proposed infrastructure projects are aligned with SDG objectives and the Paris Agreement by assessing prospective project impacts on 80 SDG indicators and the

country’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The Sustainable Infrastructure Financing Tool (SIFT) is a cutting-edge tool that assists governments in identifying evidence-based sources of infrastructure financing. [Read more.](#)



The UN handing over Infrastructure Financing Strategy (IFS) report to the Ministry of Finance at the project closeout event in Accra.

Building biodiversity resilience in Ghana

Ghana is preparing for the implementation of post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the Global Environment Facility-Small Grants Programme, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI) convened a stakeholder dialogue to mobilize support

for biodiversity conservation in Ghana and to tackle the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, as contained in the [draft](#) post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The dialogue is expected to build biodiversity resilience in Ghana. [Read more.](#)

Private sector urged to invest in climate action

Recognising the opportunities available for the private sector to unlock massive economic and social benefits when investment in climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives is increased, the UNDP and partners held a private Sector Climate Change Investment Forum.

The forum was to engage the private sector on the GCF financing processes to enable them to leverage the Green Climate Fund to boost investment in climate actions. [Read more](#)



Enoch Yeboah Agyepong of the Renewable Energy Association making a submission at the forum.



70% of Ghanaians have no access to insurance, UNDP report reveals

Changes in climate conditions have everything to do with our wellbeing and sustenance. In Ghana, most communities often have to find ways of coping with losses arising from major hazards such as fire, flood, drought, road accidents, pest infestation and diseases. These phenomena are being worsened by changes in climate conditions that are increasing the frequency, intensity, and unpredictability of severe weather events.

Despite increase in disaster risks, protection gaps persist, and COVID-19 has further exposed the extent of vulnerability. To identify challenges, opportunities, and solutions to increase inclusive insurance and risk financing towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UNDP commissioned a diagnostic study. This was supported by the UNDP's Insurance and Risk Financing Facility, which is a flagship initiative of UNDP's SDGs Finance Sector Hub and a product of a Tripartite agreement between UNDP, Insurance Development Forum, and the German Government. [Read more](#)



Flood in Accra. Photo Credit @NADMO

Creating increased awareness on the One Health

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) together with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and partners, have launched the 2021 commemorations of the International One Health Day, focusing on creating increased awareness on the One Health approach at community levels as well as bringing the attention of policymakers and donors to understanding the intricate interplay of One Health.

One Health is an integrated approach for preventing and mitigating health threats at the animal, human, plant, and environment interface to achieve public health, food and nutrition security, sustainable ecosystems and fair-trade facilitation. The Day recognizes that animal, human, plant, and environmental health are connected. [Read more.](#)



Health experts discussing the One Health approach

Prioritizing community health care delivery for vulnerable communities

Addressing the current health care delivery gaps and building resilience of community health systems are indispensable during this era of COVID-19 pandemic to ensure vulnerable communities are not left behind. A [project](#) by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership

with the Ghana Health Service and with funding from the Government of Japan is doing just that. The project aims at strengthening community health systems to support the continuity of essential services for the vulnerable during and post COVID-19. [Read more](#)



Health official using an automated handwashing stand.

Northern Regional Agriculture Department partners with WFP for Crop Pests and Diseases Management

In Ghana, WFP's vision is to support the country to attain efficient, equitable, resilient and inclusive food systems which contribute to the reduction of stunting and micronutrient deficiencies. Achieving this goal requires the adoption of good production practices, including control of pests and diseases, reduction of post harvest losses and food safety. In October, WFP supported the Northern Regional Department of Agriculture to enhance the knowledge and skills of its Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate, on crop pests and diseases management. The practical session involved a visit to some vegetable and other crop fields in the Tolon District to identify pest and disease conditions on the field. This afforded the trainees the opportunity to apply the knowledge gained. The trainees are expected to pass on the knowledge acquired to all technical staff in their respective offices and to use the knowledge gained to support smallholder farmers in controlling pests and diseases to improve yields.

Differentiated Service Delivery Strategic Initiative for HIV Launched

The UNAIDS Country Office joined the World Health Organization, Global Fund country team and the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) in a meeting with key stakeholders involved in HIV policy development and service delivery in Ghana to officially launch the Differentiated Service Delivery Strategic (DSD) Initiative. The forum also created a platform to discuss aligning all DSD technical assistance and other DSD implementation efforts.

The initiative, which is anticipated to be a game-changer in Ghana's HIV response, makes available essential technical assistance for the scale-up of differentiated HIV Testing Services (dHTS), differentiated HIV treatment (dART), and advanced HIV disease (AHD) care package. The DSD is a client-centred approach that simplifies and adapts HIV services across the cascade, in ways that both serve the needs of people living with HIV better and reduce unnecessary burdens on the health system.

UNDP and Ghana Food & Drug Authority join forces to strengthen regulation of health technologies

With support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-led global health project the [Access and Delivery Partnership \(ADP\)](#), Ghana is taking active measures to further strengthen the regulation of health technologies in the country. **[Cont. on pg.8]**



The ADP supports the Ghana Health Service to use rapid diagnostic tests (RDT) to detect yaws cases for treatment



Participants at the Differentiated Service Delivery (DSD) Strategic Initiative for HIV Launch

IOM Ghana goes pink to conclude Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Staff of IOM Ghana refreshed their knowledge about breast cancer: they learnt about causes, and how it can be prevented and treated; some myths and misconceptions were debunked; and they were reminded of how to do Breast Self-Examination (BSE).

“We need to stay healthy and do BSE every month,” urged IOM’s Migration Health Physician.

UNDP and Ghana Food & Drug Authority... [cont. from pg7]

Effective regulation is a critical component of a well-functioning health system, as it enables access to health technologies that are quality assured, safe, and effective. However, introduction of new technologies into national health systems require new skills and capacities, as well as robust institutional and regulatory frameworks, and safety monitoring systems to be in place. [Read more](#)

World Mental Health Day: Migrants’ and returnees’ mental health is key for their sustainable reintegration

Psychosocial support is a key pillar of IOM’s reintegration assistance, made possible thanks to the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration, funded by the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, and the GIZ Ghana and its Ghanaian-German Centre for Jobs, Migration and Reintegration (GGC).

“Access to mental health care remains unequal, especially for migrants. At IOM Ghana, we work with the Government of Ghana, migration stakeholders, other UN agencies, CSOs, communities and individuals to ensure that no migrant is left behind,” said Abibatou Wane-Fall, Chief of Mission IOM Ghana.

Find out more about [IOM Ghana’s psychosocial support](#), collaborations with Government and other migration stakeholders, and how this helps Ghanaian returnees to rebuild their lives in this video statement



IOM Ghana staff in pink ribbon

UNAIDS and partners hold 2021 responsibility matrix exercise

UNAIDS partnered with The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)/ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) / United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to conduct and complete the 2021 HIV/AIDS Responsibility Matrix and Sustainability Index and Dashboard (SID).

The exercises revealed great strides made to improve planning and documentation to address the AIDS epidemic in Ghana. It also revealed

the need for additional investment in the private sector and civil society engagement, public access to information and laboratory services.

The Responsibility Matrix is a biennial exercise conducted to assess better and understand the current distribution of HIV-related activities and responsibilities in Ghana. The SID is also a tool completed every two years by key HIV stakeholders to sharpen the understanding of each country's sustainability landscape and assist in making informed HIV investment decisions.



Participants at the responsibility matrix in a working session.

Ghana receives caravan torch to mark the Global Fund at 20

The 20th anniversary celebration of the Global Fund commenced with a ceremony to receive the torch caravan from Nigeria on 22nd October, 2021. **[Cont. on pg14]**



Group photo with the Global Fund at 20 torch

Ghana marks UN @ 76 with a flag-raising ceremony

The 76th anniversary of the United Nations was marked with a flag-raising ceremony jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration and the United Nations. The brief, but poignant ceremony was attended by Government officials, Heads of UN agencies, funds and programmes and members of the diplomatic corps, students and youth groups and representatives of various NGOs.

The Ghana Armed Forces mounted a parade and assisted with the raising of the UN and Ghana flags, symbolizing strengthened relationship between both Ghana and the UN.

The UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Charles Abani, informed the gathering of the UN's preparations to initiate the process to review its existing cooperation framework and define its new approach and areas of focus for the next four years. [Read more.](#)



TOP: The parade commander inviting the UN and Ministry for inspection. ABOVE: Some Heads of UN agencies at the event.

Young people call for policies that are more conducive and inclusive for the prosperity of Africa



Thousands of youths from across the African continent and beyond convened in Accra, and some virtually, to engage and discuss with policy influencers, political leaders, and public, private and development sector institutions to design, and accelerate youth empowerment efforts at a continental level.

The Youth Connekt 2021 Summit took place under the auspices of the Government of Ghana, through the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the National Youth Authority (NYA), in partnership with the UN system in Ghana, the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda.

After 3 days of engagement, the 2021 Youth Connekt Summit closed with a resounding call to ensure that formulation and implementation of policies are more inclusive and representative of Africa’s largest population – young people. [Read more](#)



TOP: Group picture of delegates at the event in Accra; ABOVE: Some delegates being assisted by volunteers at the opening ceremony in Accra

Accra named UNESCO World Book Capital 2023

UNESCO has signed an MOU with the City of Accra to solidify partnership to host the World Book Capital 2023. In September, Accra was named UNESCO World Book Capital 2023 implying a year-long of activities to promote books and reading for all ages in the city.



The Mayor of Accra, Hon. Elizabeth Sackey [L] and the Head of UNESCO Ghana Office, Mr Diallo Abdourahamane [R] exchanging signed copies of the MOU

GIPC and UNDP engage stakeholders on SDG Investor Map utilisation to channel investment for SDGs

The Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC), in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), held its first breakfast meeting on the utilization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Investor Map. The goal is to channel investments into major investment opportunity areas identified in the SDG Investor Map for Ghana.

The SDG Investor Map, an initiative of UNDP was introduced earlier this year to help steer capital into inclusive and sustainable investments in key economic sectors. The breakfast meeting focused on the health and ICT sectors. [Read more](#)

UNFPA and UNESCO partner to empower young people

Two UN agencies, UNESCO and UNFPA, have launched a partnership to intentionally integrate young people into their organization's activities, programmes and actions to fulfil their mandate of youth empowerment. The launch coincided with the International Day of Peace, observed each year on September 21 as a period of non-violence and cease-fire. Both UNFPA and UNESCO heads committed to working to highlight concerns of young people and engage them more frequently. [Read more](#)

IOM continues to support Government to improve migration governance

Migration stakeholders in Ghana have agreed to improve coordination of their respective migration-related interventions.

At the November Bi-Annual Meeting of the Migration Coordination Platform (MCP), initiated by international development partners (DPs) and multilateral agencies in Ghana, participants discussed the Government of Ghana (GoG)'s migration priorities and commitments about collaboration moving forward. [Read more.](#)

Furthermore, IOM, in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior and Ghana Statistical Service, and with funding from the IOM Development Fund, organised a workshop in September to support the Government of Ghana in building the capacities of its migration desk officers to analyze and disseminate migration data which was collected as part of the recent National Census. Enhanced migration data management will support the implementation of the National Migration Data Strategy as well as improve migration governance in the country. [Read more.](#)

Women shea butter producers urged to take advantage of AfCFTA to boost profitability

The Assistant United Nations Secretary-General and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa of the UNDP, Ms Ahunna Eziakonwa, has met with shea butter producers in Kumbungu in the Northern Region of Ghana. The producers, mostly women, have been supported by UNDP through the Glob-

al Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) to export organically certified shea products in the international market. During the visit, Ms Ahunna Eziakonwa encouraged them to leverage opportunities in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to export their shea butter beyond Ghana's borders for improved income. [Read more](#)



Some of the shea butter products by the women on display

UNCDF facilitates learning visit for Zambian officials

UNCDF organised a Peer Exchange High-Level visit with regulators, policy makers and industry players from the Zambia to Ghana in order to build their capacity and provide the opportunity to learn best practices on policy implementation from their Ghanaian counterparts.

The visiting team learned how digital financial services can be better delivered to underserved and unserved people, enabling for example, to digital payments for utilities and other critical products. The overall aim was to boost the growth of digital economies and enhance knowledge and use of digital financial services in Zambia. [Read more.](#)

EU Ambassador visits UNCDF project sites

Meanwhile, UNCDF has led the EU Ambassador to Ghana, H.E. Ambassador Irchad Ramiandrasoa Razaaly, on a three-day working visit to the Ashanti region where it is implementing the GrEEn project, a 4-year EU funded action that aims at creating greater economic and employment opportunities for youth, women and returning migrants by promoting and supporting sustainable, green businesses in the Ashanti and Western regions of Ghana.

The field visit was to afford the EU Ambassador, who assumed office in September, the opportunity to see at first hand some of the UN interventions being funded by the EU and to explore further partnership for future collaboration. [Read more.](#)



The EU Ambassador interacts with a beneficiary of the GrEEn Project, Cash for Work activity.

Actively involving communities to ensure sustainable reintegration of returnees

In October 2021, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Ghana, together with GIZ Ghana and thanks to local support from the NGO BOK Africa Concern, handed over four community-based reintegration (CBR) projects in the Bono region. These projects bring together returnees and community members – contributing to the development of the communities, supporting returnees to re-establish themselves sustainably, and reducing stigmatization.



The cattle ranch in Mpuasu

The communities themselves have selected projects that would benefit their members – migrants, returnees and others, especially the youth – such as two Gari factories, one in Jamera and one in Atuna; a cattle ranch in Mpuasu, as well as a Community Centre in Bibianiha. All of these communities are situated in rural Ghana and rely on agriculture as the major source of income.

UNCDF publishes OZE case study

Under the GrEEn project, UNCDF played a key role in supporting the partnership between OZÉ (fintech) and Ecobank (FSP) to promote financial inclusion among young entrepreneurs in Ghana. As a result of the synergy created, in March 2021, a pilot phase was commissioned to assess – with the OZÉ app – the creditworthiness of young entrepreneurs to provide them with a comprehensive and affordable set of financial services from Ecobank. Based on lessons learned during the pilot, UNCDF and OZÉ developed a case study titled A digital bookkeeping App to Improve Access to Finance: A case Study from Ghana, which was published and launched in November this year.

Click to download [case study](https://www.uncdf.org/article/7271/a-digital-bookkeeping-app-to-improve-access-to-finance-a-case-study-from-ghana): <https://www.uncdf.org/article/7271/a-digital-bookkeeping-app-to-improve-access-to-finance-a-case-study-from-ghana>

Global Fund caravan... [Cont. from pg9]

Delivering her remarks at the ceremony, UNAIDS Country Director, Angela Trenton-Mbonde stated that the torch Ghana received symbolizes the beacon of light and hope of the Global Fund, saving of lives.

The Country Director further acknowledged the vision of the former UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan in establishing a global financing agency to pool resources to address major gaps in HIV, TB and Malaria programmes in developing countries.

Ghana has since handed over the torch to Morocco. [\[Watch the ceremony\]](#)



Partnerships: the key to preventing violent extremism and enhancing border management

For many years now, violent extremism and terrorism have been a major threat to the peace and stability of states around the world. According to the [2020 Global Terrorism Index](#) (GTI), 63 coun-

tries recorded at least one death from terrorists attack in 2019.

As part of efforts to complement the government's interventions to keep Ghana safe from violent extremism and terrorism,

the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has engaged Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and relevant state institutions to build synergies for the prevention of violent extremism. [Read more](#)

IOM and partners kick off project to enhance border management capacity for responding to public health crisis including COVID-19

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and key migration stakeholders from the Ghana Health Service (GHS), the Ministry of the Interior, the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have kicked off a regional project 'Enhancing Border Management Capacity for Responding to Public Health Crisis In-

cluding COVID-19'. Funded by JICA, the project intends to strengthen overall border management capacities in five West African countries – Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Togo and Burkina Faso.

The project will ensure more effective preparedness and response to potential public health crises at selected points of entry (PoEs). The project will also conduct a com-

prehensive survey to evaluate the present situation regarding border management, trade facilitation and COVID-19 response measures at selected PoEs. Based on the findings, public health equipment and infrastructure needed to ensure more effective preparedness and response to potential public health crises will be procured and provided to States. [Read more.](#)



Officials at the launch of the project.

WFP supports GSFP to digitize its monitoring system

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has provided the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP) with tablets to digitize the monitoring of the school feeding programme. The initiative aims to reinforce transparency and efficiency by enabling real-time tracking of daily attendance and feeding in 260 pilot schools in all 16 regions of the country.

Over 300 people have been trained to use these

tablets to collect data. Tableau and ONA softwares uploaded onto the tablets provide users with visuals which are transforming the way they solve problems. Those trained include Headteachers who will use the tablets to track daily school attendance, Circuit Supervisors who monitor Headteachers and caterers' cooking schedules, and decision makers at the Ghana School Feeding Programme and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection. [Read more.](#)

Minister of Food and Agriculture visits Rice Value Chain Improvement Project site in Ghana



UNOPS staff briefing the Minister and his entourage on the activities being implemented by UNOPS

UNOPS, together with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) visited a "Rice Value Chain (RVC) Improvement Project" site in Okyereko, Ghana. The RVC project is part of a wider KOICA programme being funded by the KOICA and implemented by UNOPS and MoFA aimed at increasing rice

productivity and value among farmers in the Central Region of Ghana: Okyereko and Assin Akropong.

During the site visit, the Hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture paid a visit to the Okyereko Irrigation Scheme as part of his statewide tour to assess the Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) Program.

UN Resident Coordinator engages refugee leaders

The UN Resident Coordinator in Ghana, Mr. Charles Abani, has interacted with the leadership of the Ivorian refugee community in the Ampain Camp during a familiarization visit. He shared his personal experience of displacement as a child between 1968-1972 during the Nigerian Biafra war, becoming a beneficiary of essential food aid, and how he later transitioned to be a distributor of food aid by working with Oxfam.

The visit comes at a time when the 72nd session of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the High Commissioner's Programme in Geneva recommended the Cessation of refugee status for Ivorian refugees effective from 30 June 2022. The visit was therefore part of a UNHCR-led exercise to understand the durable solution options available to Ivorian refugee community to assist them to make informed choices for their future.

IOM, Kofi Kinaata welcome over 300 migrants back to Ghana

On 18 and 30 November 2021, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) assisted 306 migrants to return to Ghana from Libya, through the Voluntary Humanitarian Return Assistance Programme. Upon arrival of the second charter flight, IOM Ghana's Goodwill Ambassador Kofi Kinaata joined the IOM team to welcome the returnees at Kotoka International Airport in Accra. To ensure a smooth reception process, IOM worked closely with all key stakeholders of the Government of Ghana.



[IOM officials engaging some of the returnees](#)

The UN Resident Coordinator called on world leaders to be mindful of the untold impact of some of the bad decisions they make, leading to conflicts and displacements. He also called on Ivorian refugees in Ghana not to think of how to resist the upcoming Cessation of status but to think of meaningful ways to engage with partners to find durable solutions to their problems. [Read more.](#)



[UN Resident Coordinator, Charles Abani interacting with some Ivorian refugees in Ampain Camp](#)

The charter flights were made possible through the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration, funded by the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa. Launched in May 2017, the EU-IOM Joint Initiative is a comprehensive programme created to save lives, and to protect and assist migrants along key migration routes in Africa. [Read more.](#)

IOM continues to support Government's efforts to fight human trafficking

As part of IOM's continuous support to Government's efforts to fight #humantrafficking in the country, the UN migration agency has facilitated a meeting with representatives from the Interim Management Committee of the School of Social Work under the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) to discuss the integration of the "Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) to Combat Human Trafficking in Ghana, with an Emphasis on Child Trafficking" into the syllabus of the school.

Previously, in 2020, a training manual was developed to ensure the sustainable application of the SOPs which had been drafted together with government stakeholders in 2017.

#16Days Campaign in Accra

According to the World Bank (2019), 1 out of 3 women is affected by gender-based violence with about 35% of women globally having experienced some sort of sexual or physical violence, and with a staggering rate of 38% of murders of women committed by their intimate partners. Gender-based

violence (GBV) is the most pervasive violation of human rights, and is neither natural, nor inevitable, and so must be prevented.

This year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence focused on the theme, "Orange the world: End violence against women now". The national media

launch of the period took place on November 24 in Accra. In support of the United Nations in Ghana #NoManels initiative, the over 200 audience at the event took a pledge to drive the campaign of ensuring the participation and representation of women at meetings and processes in Ghana. [Read more.](#)



TOP: cross section of the audience at the launch holding placards with inscription calling for an end to gender-based violence. ABOVE: Heads of UN officials and partners leading the walk against gender-based violence.

#16 Days campaign in Accra [cont. from previous page]

Three Days later, on Saturday, November 27, the campaign gains momentum in Accra as the United Nations, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and partners took the streets for nearly 4kilomtre walk to sensitize the public on the negative consequences of gender-based violence. They participants held placards with inscriptions like “End gender-based violence now”, “No

means NO” and “Our bodies are not public property”. [Read more](#)

UNFPA also joined the campaign to create awareness and call for an end to gender-based with a street march.



International Day of the Girl Child: empowering girls in the digital era

Marking this year’s International Day of the Girl Child with students at the East Airport International School, IOM engaged students about maximizing opportunities and minimizing risks for girls in the digital space. They touched

on cyber bullying and what it means for young people’s mental health and the potential risks online, such as fraudulent recruitment agencies advertising employment opportunities abroad which may pose a danger for young girls of being trafficked. Colleagues from

the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) also took the students through career options for young women and girls in STEM.



Group photo of participants and UN staff

World Children’s Day

The Third Session of the National Children’s Parliament opened in Accra in observance of this year’s World Children’s Day. During the Session, children

spoke on issues they want addressed and proposed brilliant solutions to a number of issues affecting them, including climate change, child marriage and the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNICEF later unveiled a mural on its premises to illustrate the need for a conducive environment and care for every child.



Children performance during the official event to mark World Children’s Day.



The mural on the walls of the UNICEF Ghana office.

UNFPA supports first ever Fair for persons with disability

The first ever Ability Fair has taken place in Accra for persons with disability (PWDs), to exhibit their unique talents, artifacts, products, goods and services. The two-day fair was under the theme: “Creating Opportunities for Persons with Disability” and was organized by the Henry Dja-

ba Memorial Foundation (HDMF) in collaboration with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The Fair was to facilitate inclusion of PWDs and showcase their talents so as to provide the necessary marketing and employment opportunities for them.

Participating in the two-day event were a range of institutions including: The Dzorwulu Special School, Autism Awareness Centre and Akuropong School for the Blind. [Read more.](#)



Officials cut the ribbon to the exhibition stand.

New safe migration campaign targeting the youth in the making

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Ghana is engaging a creative group of young people in Sunyani, Bono region to design a new IOM X campaign in Ghana. The participants’ brilliant ideas developed and shared in a 3-day workshop (23-25 November) will contribute to impactfully rais-

ing awareness on safe migration, the dangers of irregular migration and opportunities at home under the hashtag #WAKAwellGhana.

Aware of a clear need for accurate information on migration and local opportunities for young people, as well as a strong desire by community members to be

active leaders in the design of messages and content, IOM X Ghana has identified 16 young people from Sunyani (Bono region), Techiman (Bono East region) and nearby communities to actively shape the design of the campaign.