



Republic of Ghana



UNITED NATIONS  
GHANA



# GHANA

# 2022 VNR

VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW





# Ghana's Voluntary National Review Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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# MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT

When, in September 2019, world leaders declared the period 2020 to 2030 as the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), I cherished strongly the hope that this would trigger the rapid scaling-up of sustainable solutions needed to address the critical challenges facing our world. Unfortunately, few months after this historic declaration, our world was hit by the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, pushing us into “unchartered territory”, while fear and sheer terror gripped many.

The pandemic has since had a devastating effect on lives, livelihoods, global supply chains, businesses, and significantly eroded the development gains made over the last decade. Indeed, the prospects of achieving the SDGs have become more daunting, but I dare say that giving up is not an option.



As the world re-opens up and begins to recover from the deleterious effects of the pandemic, the SDGs have, indeed, become even more relevant as they present us with a credible pathway for a prosperous, inclusive, resilient and peaceful world. Recovery measures and interventions cannot and should not be de-linked from actions to ensure prosperity, promote peace, protect people, and safeguard the planet. We have an opportunity to change course and reset our economies to make a tangible difference in people’s lives now and for future generations, as well as safeguard the health of our planet.

Ghana’s decision to conduct its second Voluntary National Review this year underscores our unflinching belief in, and commitment to, the 2030 Agenda. We are determined not to allow the devastating effects of the pandemic to deflate our efforts. My government is stronger and bolder in its resolve to achieve the SDGs with just over eight years left to the 2030 end-date. We will continue to strengthen our “whole-of-government” and “whole-of-society” approach, while more strongly exploring innovative financing arrangements to ensure that, indeed, No One is Left Behind. Key to success will be harnessing science, technology and innovation; deepening strategic partnerships, particularly, with the private sector and traditional leaders; and unleashing the enterprise of women and the youth.

As we scale up our efforts to achieve the SDGs, we call on all our partners to intensify their actions in integrating the Goals into their development and business decisions. We must do this with dogged determination in order to succeed, as engendering greater prosperity for our people and the world at large, and saving our planet are about humanity saving itself.

*Nannanana*

**Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo**  
President of the Republic of Ghana



# STATEMENT FROM THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COMMISSION



This VNR report is Ghana's second, following the one submitted in 2019. Drawing on lessons from the first VNR, this year's process took advantage of Ghana's well established multi-partnership mechanisms, to ensure an open, inclusive, transparent, and active engagement with stakeholders. The innovative use of social media and on-line meeting platforms enhanced the scope of engagement, especially



among the Youth and Development Partners. A rapid assessment was conducted to gain further insight into development issues, including the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and early results from Government's response measures.

Ghana, like many other countries, had its fair share of the dilapidating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, under the decisive leadership of H. E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, and in strong partnership with the Private Sector, Development Partners and Civil Society Organisations, the pandemic was proactively managed.

The theme for this year's HLPF - "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development " is timely. As we take steps to build forward better, it is of paramount importance that the underpinning principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are recognised. The 2030 Agenda remains a credible framework for addressing our critical development challenges, while ensuring that we pass on a prosperous world and a healthy planet to future generations.

The Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework (2022-2025) of the country has further integrated the 2030 Agenda with emphasis on "emergency planning and COVID-19 recovery response" to support the achievement of it's social and economic objectives. Moving forward, Ghana will continue to strengthen capacity for implementation of the SDGs at both national and sub-national levels. We will harness the opportunities provided by the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement to boost the productive sector including manufacturing; pursue the digitalisation agenda to improve efficiency and transparency in service delivery; and vigorously explore innovative ways of mobilising investments for critical SDG actions. In all these, we will take cognisance of the threats and opportunities posed by climate change, the conflicts within the West Africa sub-region, as well as global geopolitics.

We applaud the good work of all state and non-state stakeholders, including our Development Partners who worked tirelessly in ensuring a successful VNR process. Let us collectively put our shoulders to the wheel, while building synergies based on our relative capabilities, to give us a fighting chance of achieving the SDGs to build forward better.

**Professor George Gyan-Baffour**  
Chairman, NDPC

**Kodjo Esseim Mensah-Abrampa, PhD**  
Director General, NDPC



# STATEMENT FROM THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

With less than eight years to achieve the sustainable development goals, policymakers are increasingly focused on tracking country level SDG progress. Undoubtedly, the confluence of unprecedented external shocks, i.e., the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine War, have only underscored the fierce urgency to accelerate our efforts towards attaining each of the 17 Sustainable Goals, particularly for developing countries.



These cataclysmic events must not compromise our resolve to save our people and planet. There are some green shoots of hope. Locally, the Fintech industry has grown significantly since lockdowns caused a significant number of businesses to go online.

According to the Oxford Business group, as much as 79% of retail business was conducted online during the lockdown period, and the value of mobile money transactions stood at US\$99bn, exceeding cheque and cash transactions valued at US\$29 billion in 2020. According to Bloomberg, Global ESG assets are on track to exceed US\$53 trillion by 2025, representing more than a third of the US\$140.5 trillion projected total assets under management. Sustainability-linked loans and bonds have also turned out to be the fastest-growing category of sustainable debt and accounted for more than US\$530 billion in issuances in 2021.

Having already developed and published a Sustainable Financing Framework to enable us to direct more sustainable investments towards implementing the SDGs in Ghana, we are greatly encouraged by these investment trends, and potential asset swaps/monetisation of our natural resources such as carbon credits. We are confident and excited that our ongoing efforts towards accessing sustainable and innovative financing over the medium term will enable us to meet the ambitious 2030 goals. The need to mobilise more private sector capital has never been more urgent, and it is our firm belief that through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for climate-resilient infrastructure projects and more private sector engagements on the carbon markets, government and the private sector could unlock unprecedented mutual benefits on our journey towards a low carbon future and a 1.5-degree Celsius target. According to Ghana's updated Nationally Determined Contributions, Ghana will have approximately 24 million tonnes of carbon credits available for transactions on the compliance market by 2030.

We are assured that green businesses and jobs offer enhanced financial and social returns compared to "business-as-usual" private investments. Ghana's focus is therefore to ensure that Ghana's low carbon transition strategy creates a more stable and inclusive economy that will eliminate poverty, ensure shared prosperity and achieve President Akufo-Addo's vision of a Ghana Beyond Aid in a thriving world. We will do well to ensure that going forward, negotiations are not hijacked by the right is nothing more than what benefits the powerful, as Plato said, but to work in the spirit of our common human and economic mutuality. It is only then that we can be assured when we "return" to ask future generations – "where are thou?", they will confidently answer that they are in the garden and walking in the cool of the day because their world is not "naked".

**Hon Ken Ofori-Atta**  
Minister for Finance



# MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM

Ghana's second Voluntary National Review (VNR), following on from the first in 2019, represents an important progressive milestone for the country. This report is the result of a consultative and participatory process led by the National Development Planning Commission, involving Government of Ghana Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Civil Society Organisations (including representation of youth, women, children and persons living with disabilities), the private sector, UN Agencies and a host of development partners. We welcome, and commend, the Government of Ghana's strong commitment to the SDGs, as demonstrated through this process. We congratulate the Government for the inclusive, child and gender sensitive, 360-degree VNR process in Ghana. This included a series of wide-ranging consultations with a diverse set of key stakeholders and targeted rapid assessments and surveys to support reporting on SDGs, with a focus on leaving no one behind. The 2022 VNR will provide an invaluable snapshot of major SDGs progress, challenges, lessons learned, and help identify catalytic and transformative priorities and ways forward to enable and accelerate SDGs achievement, especially in the context of resource constraints occasioned by serial shocks such as COVID-19 and current ongoing conflicts.



The UN in Ghana actively supported the 2022 VNR process through technical, coordination and financial assistance. We are committed to supporting the Government of Ghana and other stakeholders in taking forward the recommendations and embedding the key learnings and opportunities arising from the 2022 VNR in our next United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). The UNSDCF will reflect the Government's expectations of the UN and drive the UN Country Team's joint response and contributions to national development priorities and SDGs, as well as strengthen and expand multistakeholder partnerships critical to achieving the SDGs.

Globally, the COVID-19 outbreak had a major impact that spanned across borders and sectors. In Ghana, the pandemic created significant upheaval beyond immediate health challenges (plus nutrition and food security), including major socio-economic disruptions, pushing new people into vulnerability, testing resilience, and threatening the gains made towards the SDGs progress reported in the 2019 VNR. The pandemic demonstrated that addressing challenges and tackling the future, now more than ever, requires joined-up multilateral collaboration and cooperation across the board. The UN's support to Ghana is set within this framework of global solidarity.

The findings of this 2022 VNR clearly demonstrate the need to redouble efforts in order to bring about critical socio-economic transformations and fulfill the transformative promise of the SDGs to "leave no one behind". This is a central ambition of the UN's work in Ghana and as part of our commitment, leave no one behind, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and Human Rights Based Approaches are core programming principle embedded in all of the UN's work. Participating in the consultations, the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children, particularly commended Ghana's achievements towards eradicating violence against children and women, while calling for more to be done.

The main messages emerging from the 2022 VNR, highlight Ghana's need to restore and transform the economy to create opportunities for all, especially young people; broaden





social protection for vulnerable groups, including persons with disability, to enhance social inclusion; strengthen innovative financing and resource mobilisation through expanded multistakeholder partnerships, especially with the private sector; build an integrated national financing framework and harness emerging opportunities such as the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement. Ghana will need to address infrastructure deficits in key sectors (health, education, and sanitation services); support the national digitalisation drive; and mitigate the impacts of climate change and variability for green growth.

We welcome this bold and positive contribution to Ghana building forward better through a peaceful, resilient and transformative march towards achieving self-reliance and the SDGs. We reiterate the importance of Ghana 'leading from the front' through commitment and resources to achieve the emerging recommendations from this process. The entire United Nations system in Ghana reaffirms its commitment to continue to support efforts towards achieving the SDGs, leaving no one behind and a Ghana Beyond Aid.

**Charles Abani,**

His Excellency the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ghana



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1DIF	One District, One Factory
ACARP	Accra Compost and Recycling Plant
ADCOM	Adaptation Communication
AfCFTA	Africa Continental Free Trade Area
AFJ	Aquaculture for Food and Jobs
AIS	Automatic Identification System
APR	Annual Progress Report
ARAP	Anti-corruption, Rule of Law and Accountability Programme
ART	Anti-Retroviral Therapy
ARV	Antiretrovirals
ATM	Automated Teller Machine
AU	African Union
BECE	Basic Education Certificate Examination
BPA	Bui Power Authority
CAP-BUSS	Coronavirus Alleviation Programme - Business Support Scheme
CARES	COVID-19 Alleviation and Revitalisation of Enterprises Support
CDC	Centre for Disease Control
CDPP	Centralised Digital Payment Platform
CEA	Complementary Education Agency
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women
CGD	Citizen-Generated Data
CHRAJ	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice
CMIP	Child Marriage Information Portal
CNS	Communication, Navigation and Surveillance
CPESDP	Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies
CPR	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate
CREMA	Community Resource Management Area
CRM	Cylinder Recirculation Model
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
CSIR-WRI	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research- Water Research Institute
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CST	Communication Service Tax
D/SGBV	Domestic or Sex and Gender Based Violence
DCI	Defence for Children International
DOVVSU	Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit
DPs	Development Partners
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
DVS	Domestic Violence Secretariat
ECCD	Early Childhood Care and Development
ECG	Education Capitation Grant
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EMIS	Education Management Information System
EKF	Eksport Kredit Fonden



EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
FOLU	Forestry and Other Land Uses
FP	Family Planning
FSSD	Fisheries Scientific Survey Division
FSHSP	Free Senior High School Programme
GAMA	Greater Accra Metropolitan Area
GAMA-SWP	Greater Accra Metropolitan Area Sanitation and Water Project
GASIP	Ghana Agricultural Sector Investment Project
GASSLIP	Greater Accra Sustainable Sanitation and Livelihoods Improvement Project
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GCMC	Ghana Cylinder Manufacturing Company
GCT	Ghana Chamber of Telecommunications
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GER	Gross Enrolment Ratio
GES	Ghana Education Service
GHANEPS	Ghana Electronic Procurement System
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GHS	Ghana Health Service
GIFEC	Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communication
GIFTS	Girls Iron and Folic acid Tablet Supplement
GIP	Ghana Industrial Policy
GIPC	Ghana Investment Promotion Centre
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GLSS	Ghana Living Standards Survey
GNDCP	Ghana National Development Cooperation Policy
GNI	Gross National Income
GPI	Gender Parity Index
GPS	Ghana Police Service
GPSNP	Ghana Productive Safety Net Project
GRA	Ghana Revenue Authority
GS	Ghana Standard
GSCSP	Ghana Secondary Cities Support Programme
GSFP	Ghana School Feeding Programme
GSS	Ghana Statistical Service
GYW	Girls and Young Women
HIV	Human Immune Virus
HLMC	High-Level Ministerial Committee
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
HNWI	High-Net-Worth-Individual
HPS	High-Pressure Sodium
HTML	HyperText Markup Language
ICC	Implementation Coordinating Committee
ICCES	Integrated Community Centres for Employable Skills
ICT	Information and Communications Technology



IDSR	Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response
IFA	Iron and Folic Acid
IFU	Investment Fund for Developing Countries
IHR	International Health Regulation
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IPPU	Industrial Process and Product Use
IRECoP	Integrated Recycling and Compost Plant Limited
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
JFAP	Justice For All Programme
JHS	Junior High School
JMP	Joint Monitoring Programme
KCARP	Kumasi Compost and Recycling Plant
KCCR	Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research
KG	Kindergarten
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
LEAP	Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
LICSU	Low-Income Consumer Support Unit
LNOB	Leaving No One Behind
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
LP4D	Liquefied Petroleum Gas for Development
LTE	Long-Term Evolution
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MDPI	Management Development and Productivity Institute
MESTI	Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MLGDRD	Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development
MMDAs	Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies
MMDCEs	Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Chief Executives
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoGCSP	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
MoH	Ministry of Health
MTS	Modified Taungya System
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MVA	Manufacturing Value Added
NABCo	Nation Builders Corps
NACAP	National Anti-Corruption Action Plan
NADMO	National Disaster Management Organisation
NAELP	National Alternative Employment and Livelihood Programme
NAFCO	National Food Buffer Stock Company
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
NCA	National Communication Authority
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution



NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NECC	National Employment Coordinating Committee
NEP	National Employment Policy
NER	Net Enrolment Ratio
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme
NITA	National Information Technology Authority
NMIMR	Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research
NMP	National Migration Policy
NPA	National Plan of Action
NPMP	National Plastics Management Policy
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSS	National Statistical System
NSPP	National Social Protection Policy
NTC	National Teaching Council
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
NVI	National Vaccine Institute
NYP	National Youth Policy
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OHI	Ocean Health Index
OIC-G	Opportunities Industrialisation Centres-Ghana
OPD	Out Patients Department
OSP	Office of the Special Prosecutor
PAH	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons
PBB	Programme Based Budgeting
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
PEMED/PEWED	Presidential Empowerment for Men and Women Entrepreneurs with Disability
PERD	Planting for Export and Rural Development
PFJ	Planting for Food and Jobs
PHC	Population Housing Census
PIM	Public Investment Management
PLHIV	People Living with Human Immune Virus
PLW/G	Pregnant and Lactating Women and Girls
PPA	Public Procurement Authority
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PTR	Pupil Teacher Ratio
PV	Photovoltaics
PVTS	Private Vehicle Test Stations
PWD	Persons With Disability
RFJ	Rearing for Food and Jobs
RHC	Residential Homes for Children
RLP	Rural LPG Promotion
RMNCAHN	Reproductive Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition
REP	Rural Electrification Project
RTI	Right To Information
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SHEP	Self Help Electrification Programme



SHS	Senior High School
SMEs	Small and Medium Scale Enterprises
SMS	Short Message System
SNF	Specialised Nutrients Foods
SORMAS	Surveillance Outbreak Response Management and Analysis System
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
T3	Test, Treat, and Track
TB	Tuberculosis
TC	Technical Committee
TDC	Tema Development Corporation
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
TVI	Technical Vocation Institute
UL	Unlock Literacy
UN	United Nations
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDESA	United Nation Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nation Development Programme
UNEP	United Nation Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHCR	United Nation Refugee Agency
UNICEF	United Nation International Children's Emergency Fund
UN-RC	United Nations Residence Coordinator
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
USCDC	United Center for Disease Control and Prevention
VLR	Voluntary Local Report
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WDI	World Development Indicators
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation
WIFA	Women In Fertility Age
WRC	Water Resources Commission
WQI	Water Quality Index
YAES	Youth Agriculture Enterprise Support
YEA	Youth Employment Agency



# HIGHLIGHTS

## Participation and Inclusivity

The 2022 VNR process was conducted in an open, inclusive and multi-stakeholder manner leveraging on technology such as Zoom and social media, to ensure participation of stakeholders at all levels (Box 1). It built on the maiden review submitted in 2019, and assessed progress of all 17 goals, with a total of 102 indicators reported as against 66 in 2019. The increase in the number of indicators was due to improvements in the statistical system, coupled with availability of data from the 2021 Population and Housing Census.

A rapid assessment was conducted to complement the quantitative data with qualitative information. In addition, case studies were gathered to provide innovative contributions of government and non-government organisations toward attainment of the SDGs. The coordination architecture of implementation remained the same as the maiden review. The report was finally reviewed by the Commissioners (the Board) of the National Development Planning Commission and submitted to the office of the President for endorsement.

### Box 1: Consultation Process

#### Key consultations

1. Inception meetings
2. Selection of indicators
3. Data validation
4. Report validation

#### Key Stakeholders

1. Ministries, Departments and Agencies
2. Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
3. Youth and children's groups
4. Private sector
5. Development partners
6. Persons with disability (PWDs) and vulnerable groups
7. Women groups
8. Civil Society Organisations
9. Traditional Authorities
10. Parliament
11. Ministers

## Status of SDGs implementation

Ghana's progress of implementation has been mixed. Gender parity and high completion rates have been sustained at the KG, primary, and junior high levels despite the pandemic, while the population participating in formal and informal education, and training has gone up. There has also been improved outcomes in tackling maternal mortality; obesity among children; women's participation in parliament and local government; access to improved drinking water services and electricity; illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; financial inclusion; and proportion of unsentenced detainees.

However, there are challenges of high unemployment rate among the youth; high plastic debris density; declining fish stock; degradation of forest area; and low proficiency in English and Mathematics. In addition, tax revenue as a proportion of GDP remains low.

## New and Emerging Issues

COVID-19 is estimated to increase the incidence of poverty to 25 percent of the population. This is coupled with the current low coverage of social protection, generally high food inflation, high unemployment rate among PWDs and youth, as well as disparities in access to basic services such as health, sanitation and nutrition. This however requires ensuring sustained





productivity and macroeconomic growth to improve livelihood particularly in providing the necessary opportunities to lift people out of poverty.

Although strides have been made to address the housing deficit, there are still significant number of people living in slums. There are also challenges in accessing basic sanitation services and addressing the surge in non-communicable diseases. Thus, expanding housing and sanitation coverage and promoting healthy lifestyles are critical. Efforts are also required to improve the quality of forest cover and waterbodies by addressing the adverse impact of illegal activities (such as “galamsey”) and high dependency on wood fuel. The boost in internet usage due to COVID-19, provides opportunities for expanding government’s digitalisation agenda. The introduction of the Electronic Transfer Levy Act, 2022 (Act 1075), is expected to increase the tax base of the country thereby improving revenue to finance government’s programmes and projects, among others.

### **Government response to the integrated and indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs and to the principle of leaving no one behind**

Government launched the GH¢100 billion Ghana COVID-19 Alleviation and Revitalisation of Enterprises Support (Ghana CARES) ‘Obaatampa’ Programme to provide financial support to businesses that were affected by the pandemic. While the first phase was on stabilising the economy, the next phase focuses on revitalising and transforming the economy. Also, the One constituency One warehouse initiative seeks to address post-harvest losses while the YouStart initiative seeks to encourage entrepreneurship among the youth. The digitisation drive of government has improved with most government services such as port operations, passport services, birth registration, court processes among others digitised. The Agenda 111 initiative of government is a direct response to build 111 health facilities across the country to

bridge the gaps in health infrastructure and ensure universal access to healthcare.

### **Leaving No One Behind**

Government’s initiatives such as Inclusive and Special Education Programme, review of the Persons with Disability Act, 2006 (Act 715), Planting for Food and Jobs, Planting for Export and Rural Development (PERD), One district, One Factory, and Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP), among others have shown strong synergies. For instance, inclusive and special education is contributing to expand access to education for special needs children, thereby helping in achieving Quality Education (SDGs 4). Also, Planting for Food and Jobs, Planting for Export and Rural Development (PERD) and One district, One factory is contributing to poverty reduction (SDG1), job creation (SDG8), and climate change adaptation (SDG13).

### **Good Practices, Challenges and Key Areas of Required Attention**

The coordination architecture being used in Ghana for the implementation of the SDGs continues to be highly reckoned. The SDGs have been integrated into the development agenda as well as budgets. This allows for analyses of resources spent on each SDG over a period. Development partners in the UN System enhanced their technical support and aligned their areas of operation and financial resources to the activities of the VNR roadmap, with funding coordinated through the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office. This ensured a fair distribution of financial support in all areas of the roadmap. There were also increased interests in the SDGs among Traditional Authorities, Faith Based Organisations, Youth Groups, among others.

Although some improvement has been made in respect of number of indicators reported, access to reliable and timely data at the appropriate levels of disaggregation for some Goals remains a concern. Thus, monitoring and evaluation systems needs to be strengthened; effective research



#StayAtHome



**"We know how to bring  
the economy back to life.  
What we do not know is how  
to bring people back to life"**

- President Akufo-Addo

   NAKufoAddo



# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana provides the expectations from government, citizens, other entities and what should be accomplished by the state. These expectations make room for human rights, balanced development, environmental protection, international affairs, among others. In the advent of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it was realised that Ghana's development expectations and aspirations are in sync with the requirement of the Agenda.

Successive governments in actualising these constitutional requirements have employed development frameworks and plans, and have by extension used them to operationalise international, continental, and regional development commitments. These include the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ECOWAS 2050, the African Union's Agenda 2063, African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The country's operationalisation strategy fashions out the conducive environments for enhancing coherence and coordination in the implementation of these commitments, while ensuring efficient use of resources.

## 1.2 The President's role as a global advocate for the Sustainable Development Goals

In recognition of Ghana's efforts in promoting the global development frameworks, two successive Presidents were selected by the UN Secretary-General as co-chairs of the Eminent Group of Sustainable Development Goals Advocates.

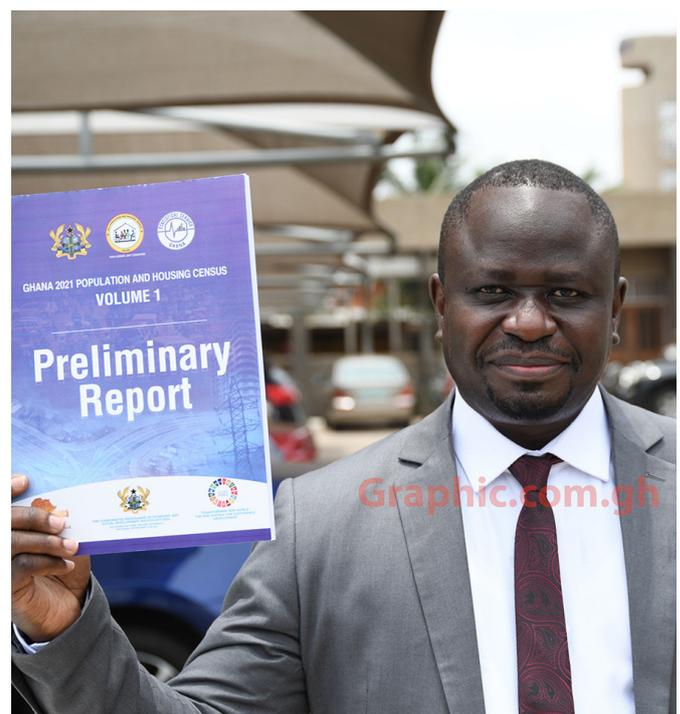
With a mandate to support the Secretary-General in his efforts to generate momentum and commitment to achieve

the SDGs by 2030, the Presidents and other advocates worked to promote the universal sustainable development agenda, raised awareness of the integrated nature of the SDGs, and fostered strong partnerships for the implementation of the global Goals. For example, President Akufo-Addo in 2017, hosted Thought Leaders from Africa and across the globe, on the policy imperatives for achieving the SDGs in Africa.

In recognition of his good efforts, the UN Secretary-General in March 2022 elevated President Akufo-Addo to the role of Co-chair of the Emeritus Group of SDG Advocates.

## 1.3 Number of indicators reported

A total of 102 indicators were assessed in the 2022 VNR compared to 66 in 2019 (Table 1). The increase in the indicators reported is due to data generated from the 2021 Population and Housing Census, as well as improvements in the National Statistical System. Indicators that were reported in 2019 but had no current information, were not included. In addition, indicators which were not reported in 2019 but data became available were added to the 2022 VNR.



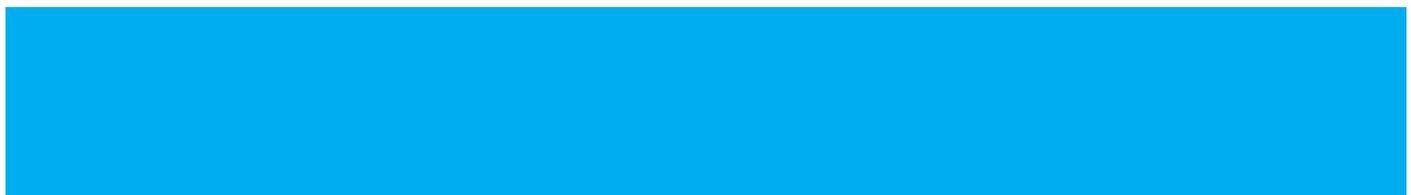
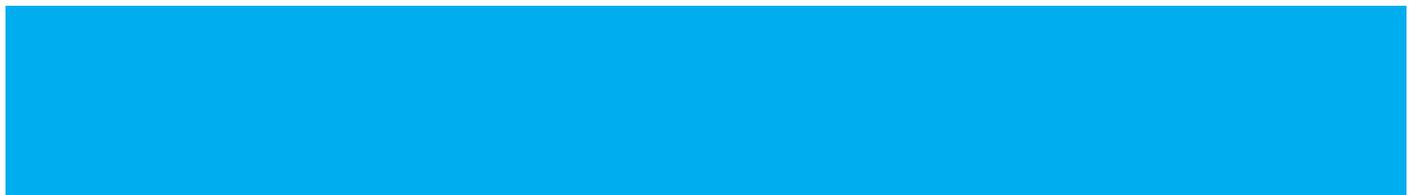
**Prof. Samuel Kobina Annim** ·  
Government Statistician



Table 1: Indicators reported in VNR, 2019 and 2022

GOAL	Indicators Reported		GOAL	Indicators Reported	
	2019	2022		2019	2022
1	5	5	10	2	2
2	3	5	11	2	4
3	10	11	12	1	4
4	5	8	13	2	4
5	4	5	14	1	7
6	3	6	15	1	4
7	3	4	16	9	11
8	5	8	17	6	8
9	4	6	<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>102</b>

Preparation and Field work on Rapid assessment





CONSULTATIONS WITH VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS



# THE REVIEW PROCESS



Ghana prepared its SDGs baseline report in 2018 to provide a basis for measuring progress of implementation. This was followed in 2019 by the first Voluntary National Review which was presented at the High-Level Political Forum in the same year. This report provided detailed analyses of progress made in implementing the 2030 Agenda. It also engendered ownership of the goals and built awareness and stakeholder involvement.

The 2022 VNR leveraged on the coordinating structure used for the 2019 VNR. The second VNR process was similarly coordinated by the Implementation Coordinating Committee (ICC) hosted at the National Development Planning Commission. The Technical Committee was re-activated to provide technical backstopping to the entire process.

## 2.1 The Genesis of the Process

Ghana's second voluntary national review kick started with a launch of the VNR process by the Chairman of the National Development Planning Commission in November 2021. The launch brought

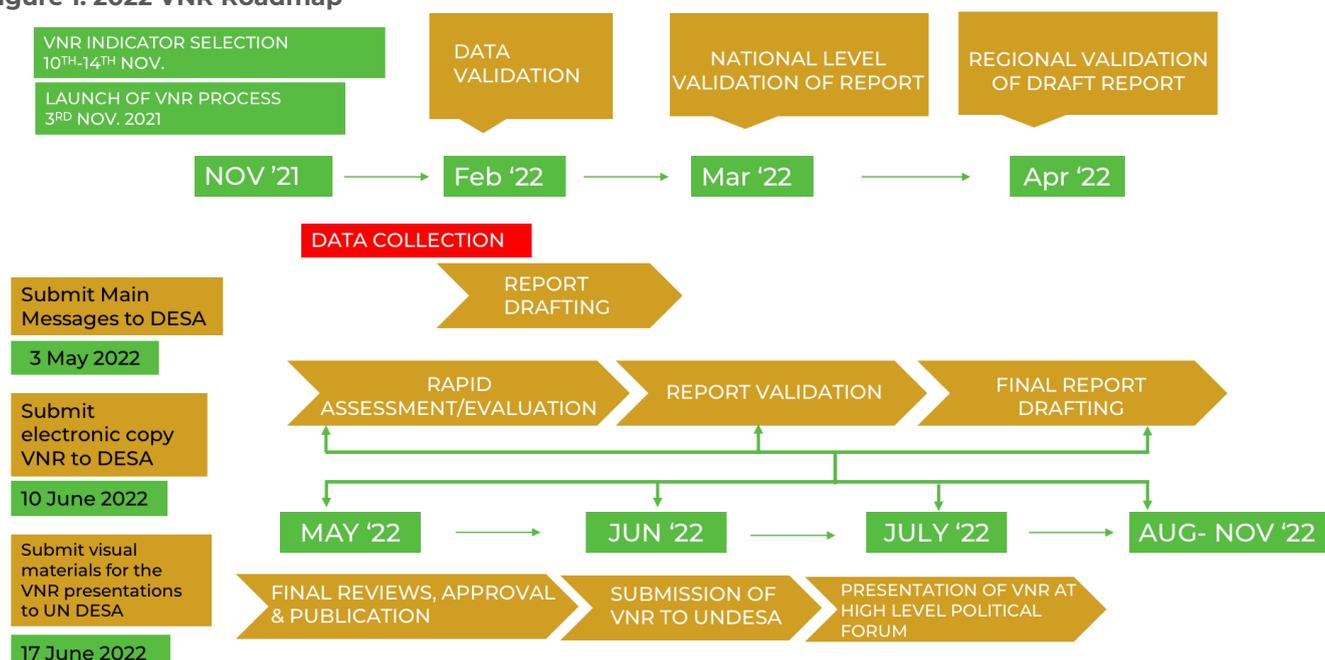
together key stakeholders whose inputs were key for the success of the review process and revived public discourse on the SDGs on television, radio as well social media.

A committee, made up of key technical institutions was set up to assess indicators the country could reliably report on. Led by the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), the committee came up with an initial consolidated framework comprising 140 indicators based on data availability, relevance, and timeliness.

## 2.2 Ghana's Roadmap

Ghana's roadmap for the VNR showing key activities is presented in figure 1. The roadmap informed the alignment of deliverables to ensure the report was prepared in time. A communication strategy was also developed that detailed the channels of providing information to stakeholders and the public. The UN and VNR communication teams collaborated to implement the communication strategy. Social media handles, as well as main stream media carried stories on the VNR processes and other ICC activities.

Figure 1: 2022 VNR Roadmap





## 2.3 Data and inputs

The data for in-depth analyses of the progress of implementation of the SDGs was central for the VNR process. The ICC mapped the identified indicators to relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) that could provide data for their computation. Subsequently, data collection templates earmarked for specific MDAs were developed and distributed to collect relevant information on the indicators. The GSS also computed indicator values from the 2021 Population and Housing Census (PHC) dataset. Also, a case study template was developed to receive information on innovative interventions that are contributing to the attainment of the SDGs. The template was circulated to MDAs, Metropolitan, Municipal, District

Assemblies (MMDAs), CSOs, Development Partners, Persons with Disability (PWDs), Youth Groups, Women's Group, Traditional Authorities, and the Private Sector.

The Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) platform on SDGs and the United Nations (UN) Agencies in Ghana provided technical support and relevant materials on the SDGs indicators. The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Ghana country office supported data collection by employing their free SMS platform (U- Report) to communicate and collect information from the youth on issues of COVID-19 and its effects, SDGs implementation, vulnerable groups and recommendations for "leaving no one behind".

### Box 2: COVID-19 Tracker Surveys

The Ghana Statistical Service, in partnership with UNICEF, UNDP, GIZ, the World Bank and IPA, conducted COVID-19 Tracker Surveys to ascertain the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic on households, businesses and the local economy.

The datasets are nationally representative and conducted through telephone surveys. Respondents for the Business Tracker were sampled from the 2014 Integrated Business Establishment Survey (IBES) and the 2016/17 Ghana Living Standard Survey Round 7 (GLSS 7), supplemented with listings of SMEs provided by the Ghana Enterprises Agency (GEA). The Household and Jobs Trackers were sampled from the GLSS 7. The Local Economies Tracker was based on the updated locality list from the recent Population and Housing Census conducted in 2021.

## 2.4 Rapid Assessment

In addition to the data collection approaches outlined above, a rapid assessment was carried out to provide qualitative information on some of the observed trends from the quantitative analyses. It also assessed the impact of COVID-19 in three focus areas, namely: children and youth development; water and sanitation; and employment and job creation. Eight out of the 16 administrative regions were purposively selected for the rapid assessment. Questionnaires were administered in two districts of dissimilar socio-economic characteristics in each of the selected regions.

## 2.5 Consultative and validation meetings

The report benefited from two levels of consultations. The first, focused on the requirements of the VNR and an indicative outline of Ghana's VNR report. These discussions centered on Ghana's journey from the start of implementation of the SDGs, the mainstreaming of the goals into national development policies and frameworks, the selection of indicators and expected contributions of stakeholders. This phase of the consultation relied largely on virtual mediums to engage participants.

The second round of consultations presented a zero draft of the VNR report to various stakeholders for their inputs and validation. The stakeholders engaged during this level of consultations



were MDAs, Persons with Disability (PWDs), CSOs, Traditional Authorities, Members of Parliament, Ministers, NDPC Commissioners, Development Partners, Private Sector and Business Groups. Others included Youth and Children's Groups, Women Groups, and the academia. These meetings were streamed live on NDPC's social handles and other SDGs platforms and also had sign language interpreters. Inputs from consultative meetings were reviewed and incorporated in the final draft report.

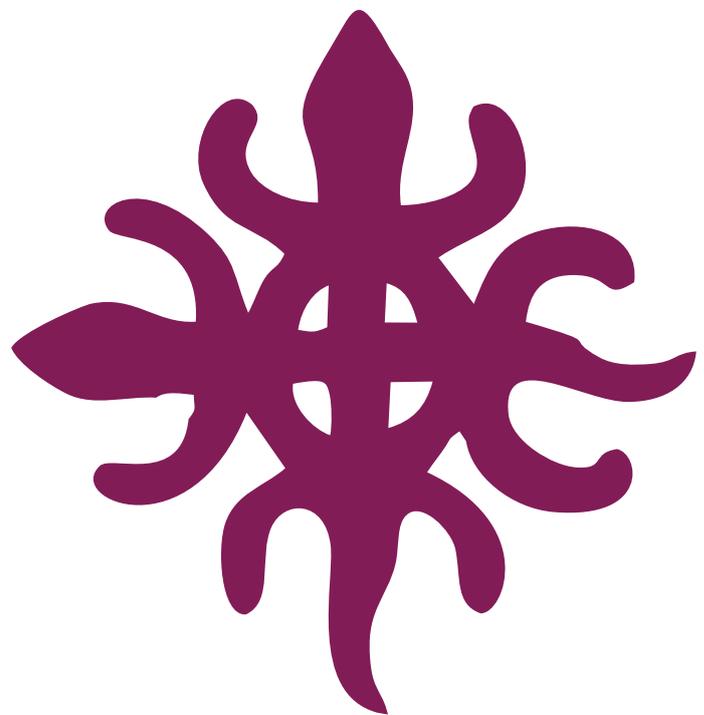
These consultations received financial support from Government and key stakeholders including the UN country team. The UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UN-RC) pooled together resources from UN agencies to support the VNR process which avoided duplication of efforts and reduced time and cost of engagement with the different UN agencies.

## 2.6 Workshops and Peer Learning Webinars

Members of the report drafting team and some members of ICC participated in several workshops and peer learning webinars organised at the regional and global levels. These included; first global webinar for VNR countries organised by UNDESA, a webinar organised by major groups and other stakeholders on stakeholder engagement in the VNR preparation, and a Spotlight session on the impact of COVID-19 on education organised by ECOSOC Partnership. Ghana made presentations in most of these webinars and workshops to share its experiences. The 8th African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development held in Kigali in March 2022, gave more insight into the preparation of VNRs and Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). The second global 2022 VNR preparatory workshop in Gaborone in March 2022 enhanced knowledge sharing among countries preparing their VNRs for presentation at the HLPF in July 2022.

## 2.7 Launch and Dissemination of VNR Report

After completion and endorsement of the report, it was submitted to the UN-DESA, and will be followed by a formal launch in Accra. The launch will provide a platform to trigger discussions on findings of the VNR, generate interest on the SDGs, and mobilise support for its implementation. During dissemination phase, awareness creation activities and training for targeted groups on the SDGs would be carried out. Audio and abridged versions of the report will also be produced and disseminated widely via social and traditional media platforms.



### *"Funtumfracu denkyemfracu"*

Conjoined crocodiles. A symbol of unity in diversity giving a common destiny;





# POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT



## 3.1 Ensuring ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals and the VNRs

A strong ownership of the SDGs is recognised across the country. This is expressed in Ghana's 'whole-of-society' and 'whole-of-government' approach to the SDGs. Ghana has since its first voluntary national review in 2019, continued to engage key stakeholders-including government officials, the private sector, CSOs, development partners, women, children, youth, PWDs, religious and traditional leaders, and academia, among others. This has fostered ownership at both the national and sub-national levels. Ownership has been ensured in the entire process of SDGs implementation, monitoring and evaluation, as well as dissemination and awareness creation.

## 3.2 Integration of the Sustainable Development Goals in national frameworks

The Sustainable Development Goals are integrated in Ghana's development agenda, as well as planning and budgeting processes. In particular, the SDGs are mainstreamed in the Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies (2017-2024) which outlines government's development aspirations. The policy objectives, strategies and result matrix of the Medium-Term National Development Frameworks (2018-2021 & 2022-2025) are also consistent with the SDGs, and translated into actions in the development plans of MDAs and MMDAs. In addition, the national budget has been aligned with the SDGs, with budget codes linked to at least one SDGs target.

## 3.3 Integration of the economic, social, and environmental dimensions

The three dimensions of sustainable development-social, economic and environment- are all integrated in national development agenda, sector policies, as

well as the plans at the national and sub-national levels. In the Ghanaian context, a fourth dimension-institutions-which covers governance, legal frameworks, transparency and accountability, participation and institutional frameworks has been added in recognition of the important role strong and efficient institutions play in delivering sustainable development outcomes. These dimensions are reflected in government's objective of building a prosperous country (economic); creating opportunities for all Ghanaians (social); safeguarding the natural environment and ensuring a resilient built environment (environment); and maintaining a stable, united and safe country (institution). In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ghana has explicitly integrated a new development pillar-emergency planning and response-that aims to build resilience to withstand different types of shocks, including COVID-19.

## 3.4 Leaving No One Behind

Leave no one behind (LNOB) is a cardinal principle in the 2030 Agenda. The United Nations approach to LNOB seeks to combat the root causes of discrimination and rising inequalities within and amongst countries. The attainment of the SDGs therefore relies on reaching everyone.

In Ghana, the principle is enshrined in Government's aspiration of creating opportunities for all Ghanaians. The maiden VNR assessment identified characteristics of deprived populations, areas of deprivation, including poverty dimensions and interventions to address emerging issues among the various groups. This second VNR builds on previous information and provides progress made in narrowing the gap in reaching the furthest behind.



## Rationale for LNOB

According to the World Bank, it is estimated that about 25.5 percent of the population live below the national poverty line in 2020. Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) also indicates that about 45.6 percent of the population are multidimensionally poor lacking access to basic services such as health insurance, nutrition, schooling and sanitation. Over 18 percent of the population are observed to be both monetary and multidimensionally poor. A number of these deprivations are predominant among children, women, girls, persons with disabilities, the elderly and rural populations.

The VNR process included series of consultations with targeted groups including women, children, youth and persons living with disabilities. These engagements discussed progress made to bridge the gaps, persisting issues relating to vulnerabilities as well as innovative actions to accelerate the attainment of the SDGs.

## COVID 19 Pandemic and LNOB

The adverse impact of COVID-19 highlighted the importance of expanding social protection programmes across all categories to reduce the vulnerability of the chronically poor, economically at risk and the socially vulnerable. Some social vulnerabilities were exacerbated by psychological distress, gender-based violence, child abuse and child labour during the peak of the pandemic. With regards to education, many children particularly in the rural areas and poor households could not access distance learning services because of lack of remote learning materials such as televisions, mobile devices, and internet.

The Ghana CARES programme supported vulnerable households with free electricity, water and food during the early period of the pandemic in 2020. Some businesses that were affected also received support (grant) from government. This aimed to minimise the extent of business and job losses, reduced household income, and

pay cuts among workers. Nevertheless, the potential medium-to-long term devastating effects of COVID-19 imply that a more innovative and sustainable approach to social programmes and policies are required to meet the socio-economic needs of vulnerable groups.

### Children



Many children reside in households that are multidimensionally poor, lacking access to basic services such as water, sanitation, health, education (learning and development), social protection and housing. Issues impeding the growth and development and further resulting in various vulnerabilities continue to persist across the country. These include: issues of child marriage; rising teenage pregnancies; rape; defilement; streetism; domestic violence; and child labour. These issues if not resolved in a holistic manner could pose a threat to their development, and the risk of being left behind. Government and stakeholders have demonstrated commitment in ensuring the protection, survival, participation and development of children in the country. There is however, the need to intensify actions towards empowering children and providing them with a voice to express their concerns as well as bridge the digital divide to enhance learning particularly in rural areas.

### The Aged



The aged (65 years and above) are a minority group, constituting 4.3 percent of the population. Some persistent challenges faced by the aged that puts them at risk of being left behind are poverty, inadequate coverage of pensions, and inadequate knowledge and understanding of ageing-related health issues leading to stigmatisation. Others are inadequate institutional care, and limited access to health services for the aged despite being exempted from paying NHIS premiums. Migration of young people from the rural areas and the breakdown of the extended family structure have also compromised traditional care for older persons. These



have necessitated geriatric care and assistance to reduce their neglect and rejection that makes them susceptible to social isolation and abuse.

## Persons with Disabilities

The proportion of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) among the population has doubled in a decade from 3.7 percent in 2010 to 7.8 percent in 2021. Inadequate data in the sector to better understand and contextualise the needs of PWDs is a major challenge. Presently, 13.5 percent of the labour force with disability are unemployed potentially making them susceptible to multiple forms of deprivation. Accessibility to information equipment, inadequate access to education and WASH facilities; high cost of assistive technology; inadequate skilled teachers; and the neglect of issues of mental health continue to affect PWDs. One of the effects of these challenges is the under utilisation of their full potential.

Although the Government is committed to providing social protection programmes for PWDs, the following remain priority in the short to medium-term: sustainable financing of disability related activities; implementation of an enhanced disability inclusive transport system; access to WASH facilities; and quality education.

## The Youth

The youth represent a large share of the population with majority living in urban areas. A large proportion of the youth remain unemployed, with a high labour underutilisation rate. The main challenges facing the youth include: lack of employable skills; the mismatch of education and industry needs; inability of the economy to create new jobs at a faster rate; limited access to start-up capital; limited opportunities to participate in political governance and decision making; and incidence of PLHIV.

Opinions of the youth as captured in the 2022 U-Report<sup>1</sup> indicated that there has been significant progress made in education but marginal progress observed in poverty reduction. The youth also opined that the best way to ensure no youth is left behind in the Sustainable Development Agenda is to provide them the requisite training and investment in the use of innovations to prepare and make the youth effective and efficient in work and life.

## Women and Girls

Women and girls are often characterised with multiple deprivations, harm and stigmatisation. According to the 2021 PHC more women are unemployed compared to men. There has also been marginal progress in the reduction of rape and defilement cases. The peak of the COVID-19 confirmed the high risk of various vulnerabilities faced by women and girls including loss of jobs, gender-based violence and abuse.

Despite these challenges, available statistics indicate improvements in education of girls particularly at the basic level, internet use, and in economic opportunities, and a near parity attained in land ownership by men and women for agriculture purposes. To accelerate and sustain efforts made in leaving no woman behind, the following short to medium-term measures are required: empower women in the informal sector with skills; develop and implement mentorship programmes for young women; and expand interventions to curb gender-based violence.

### 3.5 Institutional mechanisms

Ghana's second VNR leveraged on the already established institutional mechanism indicated in the first VNR in 2019. The architecture for implementation and coordination of SDGs operates within the decentralised planning system of the country. This has originally consisted of three-tier: the High-Level Ministerial Committee (HLMC), the SDGs Implementation Coordinating Committee

<sup>1</sup> U-Report Ghana (ureport.in) Accessed on 7th June 2022



(SDGs-ICC) and a Technical Committee (TC). The ICC continues to have representatives from government and non-government institutions including the private sector, development partners, civil society organisations, among other. The TC which constitutes representatives from sectors was directly involved in the data collection, validation and drafting of the report under the supervision of the ICC.

## 3.6 Systemic issues and transformative actions

### 3.6.1 Systemic issues

Informality continuous to dominate the Ghanaian economy. This is despite the numerous efforts aimed at expanding the formal sector while formalising the informal sector. The 2021 Census estimates the share of informality in total employment to be 77.1 percent. This places a significant share of the Ghanaian workforce outside the decent work conditions including better pay, social security and social dialogue.

Related to informality is the problem of narrow tax base. Efforts to tax the informal sector has generally been economically inefficient. It is estimated that less than 20 percent of eligible taxpayers are registered for personal income tax. Raising sufficient tax revenue is critical to addressing rising public debt and its associated consequences. Domestic tax revenue to GDP has hovered just around 12 percent of GDP since 2018 with debt stock increasing from 61.2 percent to 79.7 percent of GDP between 2019 and 2021.

Further challenges posed by informality are low productivity and poor quality of services. Activities within the informal sector are often outside quality standards and established regulations.

Despite the general reduction in poverty, the rural areas and the northern part of Ghana are disproportionately challenged with higher levels of different dimensions of poverty. The distribution of income has largely been uneven across the country.

This is evident by the consistent increase in national and rural inequality since the 1990s.

Issues of unemployment and underemployment have been a common phenomenon among the youth compared to other age groups. The 2021 Census reveals a transition of the dominant population age structure from children (0-14 years) to young people (15-35 years). This reinforces the urgent need to address the extent of labour under-utilisation among the youth. Illegal mining (galamsey) continuous to pose a threat to the environment. Both life below water and on land are threatened by the activities of illegal mining which damage water bodies, soils, settlements, farmlands and vegetation. Increase in social vices, child labour and security concerns are major issues in areas rife with illegal mining.

Sanitation management has been an area of great concern because of the growing challenges of improper solid and liquid waste disposal, weak enforcement of sanitation laws, inadequate sanitation infrastructure and bad practices. About 66.6 percent of household's solid waste is currently uncollected or dumped in public/open space, with 70.6 percent of households not having proper disposal system for liquid waste.

A consistent challenge to development policies and plans is inadequate and untimely release of data. Ghana currently benefits from many data sources - surveys, administrative sources, satellite imageries, citizen generated data, and population and housing census. However, there are still significant data gaps in reporting on several SDGs indicators. Surveys which provide a nationally representative data across many indicators are not conducted regularly and therefore does not generate data on an annual basis. Administrative sources which on the other hand provide data at more frequent interval are however not currently extensive enough to provide nationally representative data.



### 3.6.2 Transformative actions

These systemic issues require some transformative actions and initiatives. Government's recent programme on digitisation is a major means of transforming the economy particularly in formalising the informal sector. Digitising the various sectors of the economy can improve efficiency and productivity with the potential of increasing the tax-base, as well as the efficiency in revenue mobilisation at national and sub-national levels.

The youthful population offers a potential demographic dividend to be harnessed. Innovative actions are needed to address the rising challenges of unemployment and underemployment among the youth. Inculcating entrepreneurial spirit among the youth is key to job creation and economic transformation. The sustainability of government's initiatives on start-up capital and grant including the newly 'YouStart' programme are crucial for creating an entrepreneurial economy that empowers the youth to explore their talent to become job creators instead of job seekers.

Strict enforcement of laws against illegal mining is needed to reverse the adverse

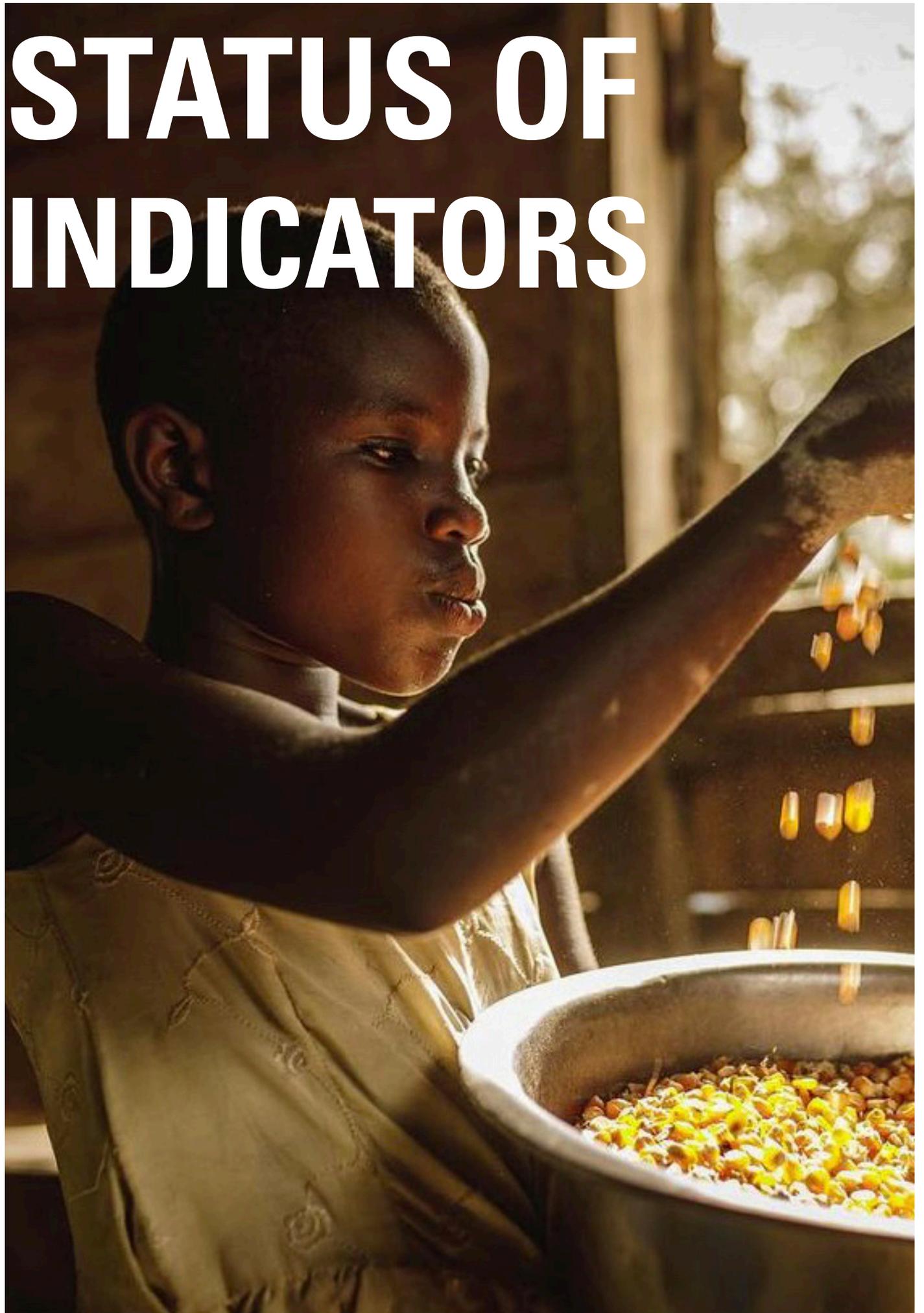
impact on the environment and livelihood. Afforestation is critical in degraded forest areas. The Green Ghana Project provides opportunity to restore degraded lands and improve forest cover through tree planting. The involvement of security forces in the fight against illegal mining should be restructured to make it more effective and sustainable.

Rethinking waste as a resource and building the requisite value chain to harness their benefit to improve livelihood, human health, and environmental conditions, calls for increased private sector innovation and investment.

In addressing data gaps, the Statistical Service Act, 2019 (Act 1003) places the Ghana Statistical Service as the core institution for the National Statistical System and strengthening of the production of quality, relevant, accurate and timely statistical information for the purpose of national development. Ensuring regulated and timely production of data including panel and regular surveys is critical for effective implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the SDGs. In addition, the administrative systems need to be strengthened to generate and manage administrative data on a regular interval.



# STATUS OF INDICATORS





# GOAL 1 END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORM EVERYWHERE

## Indicator 1.2.1: Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age

The percentage of the population who are categorised as poor per the national definition<sup>1</sup> reduced from 24.2 percent in 2013 to 23.4 percent in 2017 (Figure 2). The reduction in poverty between this period has largely been driven by general improvements in the macroeconomic fundamentals including sustained economic growth. In respect of children (1-17 years), 28.2 percent were categorised as monetary poor<sup>2</sup> in 2017. A higher percentage (44.5%) of poor children are found in rural areas compared to that of 9.8 percent in urban areas.

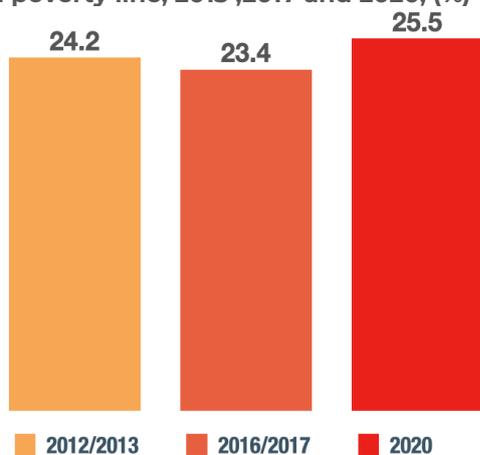
Following the on-set of the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly 3 out of 4 households reported a decrease in their income, and the proportion of households classified as poor is estimated to have risen to 25.5 percent<sup>3</sup> in 2020 from 23.4 percent in 2017. Poverty in Ghana is more prominent in rural areas and the northern part of the country.



### Box 3: Findings from the Rapid Assessment on Agricultural Livelihoods

Households' income reduced drastically during the peak pandemic periods, as the novel coronavirus disrupted local agricultural production. The closure of land, sea and air borders around the world impacted the supply chain directly affecting farmers. Also, most farmers had no alternative source of income to cushion their loss. This led to a drastic reduction in the income levels of those in the agricultural production, distribution, and consumption chain.

Figure 2: Proportion of Population living below the national poverty line, 2013, 2017 and 2020, (%)



Source: GLSS Round 6, 2014; GLSS Round 7, 2018; World Bank Macro Poverty Outlook, 2021

## Indicator 1.2.2: Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definition

Lack of access to basic services, a measure of multidimensional poverty, has reduced over time but is still higher than monetary poverty. As of 2017, the incidence of multidimensional poverty was 45.6 percent, a reduction from the 2011 figure of 55.0 percent. Male headed households (47.7%) were more multidimensionally poor<sup>4</sup> compared to their female counterparts (40.6%). About 19.3 percent of the population

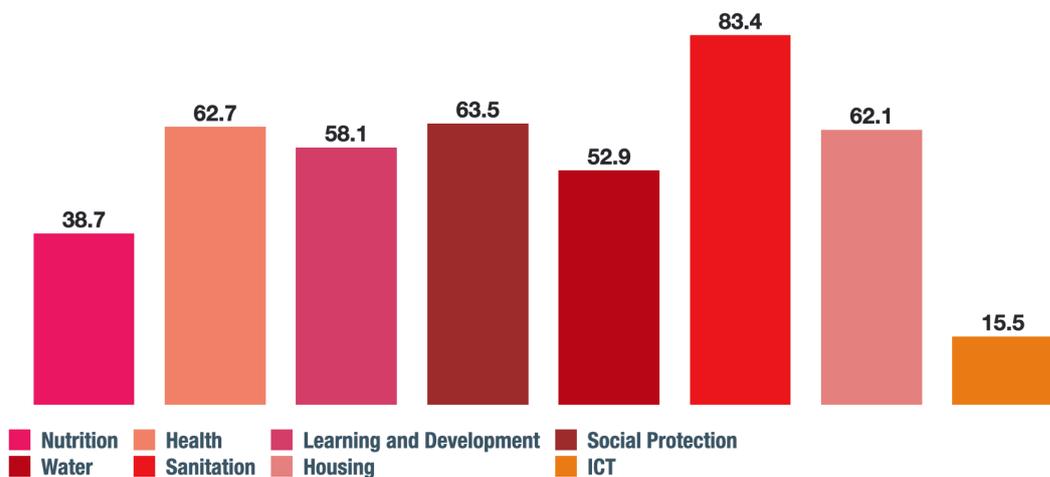
1 National poverty level is defined as total annual household consumption expenditure of less than GH¢1,314, while the threshold for extreme poverty is GH¢792.05.  
 2 A child is considered monetary poor if he or she resides in a household classified as living below the national poverty line.  
 3 Macro Poverty Outlook; Annual Meeting 2021  
 4 Multidimensional poverty is computed based on deprivations in the three dimensions of quality of living standards, access to education, and access to health services.



are both monetary and multidimensionally poor while about 26.3 percent who are not monetary poor lack access to basic services. The situation with children is dire. Every 3 out of 4 children are multidimensionally

poor. Apart from nutrition and ICT, over 50 percent of children are deprived in the other dimensions, with sanitation (83.4%) being the highest form (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Proportion of children (0-17years) deprived in various poverty dimension, 2017, (%)



Source: Multi-dimensional Child Poverty in Ghana, 2019

**Indicator 1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, new-borns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable**

The number of beneficiaries of the government’s social protection interventions have all improved over the years as shown in Table 2. For instance,

the Free Senior High School Programme has benefited about 1.25 million students between 2017 and 2020. Also, more than half of the population have access to affordable healthcare in 2020 under the National Health Insurance Scheme. However, some challenges exist including inadequate coordination and institutional arrangements for the implementation of social protection interventions and absence of a social protection law.

Table 2: Social Protection coverage

Social Protection Intervention	2016	2020	Challenges
Cash transfer coverage of extreme poor households under Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) programme	212,919 households	334,013 households	Payments are insufficient to lift families out of extreme poverty, and not all eligible persons are covered
Proportion of basic school students under Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP)	37.4%	73.2%	Lack of legal framework to ensure sustainability
Total Beneficiaries of Free Senior High School Programme (FSHSP)	361,771 <sup>5</sup>	1,248,432	Inadequate infrastructure to accommodate increasing enrolment
Proportion with access to affordable healthcare under National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)	38.4%	52.6%	Long period for reimbursement of claims though improved from 9 to 3 months
Amount disbursed to cater for school levies of basic public-school pupils under the educational capitation grant	GHS 25,317,531 (Number of pupils =5,626,118)	GHS 58,060,630 (Number of pupils =5,806,063)	Delay in the release of the grant





Source: Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection; Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health, 2016 and 2020

### Indicator 1.a.1 Total official development assistance grants from all donors that focus on poverty reduction as a share of the recipient country's gross national income

Grants received from all donors reduced from GH¢1.6 billion (2016) to GH¢1.2 billion (2020). Grants as a share of gross national

income reduced from 1.0 percent to 0.71 percent within the same period (Table 3). This was largely expected in view of the country's status as a lower middle-income country since 2010. Government is therefore pursuing a shift from aid reliance towards sufficient generation of domestic revenue to finance its development as enshrined in the Ghana Beyond Aid Charter.

Table 3: Grants as a share of country's gross national, 2016-2020

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
ODA (Million GH¢)	1,607	1,531	761	1,109	1,223
GNI (Million GH¢)	130,050	139,324	148,503	158,794	171,199
ODA as % GNI	1.00%	1.10%	0.51%	0.70%	0.71%

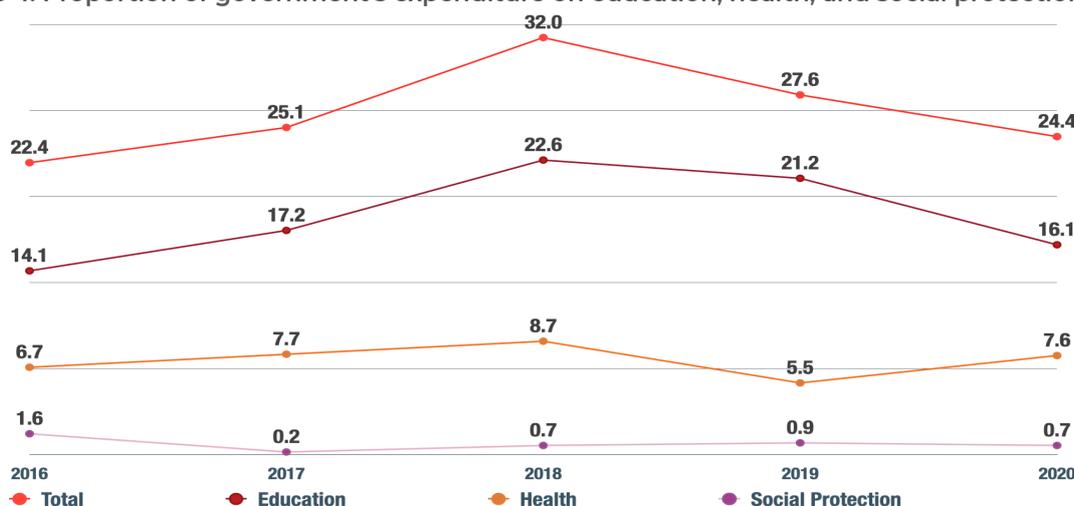
Source: MoF Fiscal Data, 2016-2020; World Bank WDI, 2020

### Indicator 1.a.2: Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health, and social protection)

Education continues to constitute the greatest proportion of government's expenditure on essential services, followed by health and social protection as shown in Figure 4.

The proportion of expenditure on education and social protection reduced between 2019 and 2020 while that for health increased mainly due to COVID-19 related expenditure. Government increased the initial approved budget for health in 2020 by 25 percent to GH¢8.85 billion as part of measures to strengthen the health delivery system in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 4: Proportion of government's expenditure on education, health, and social protection, 2016-2020, (%)



Source: Programme Based Budget of Ministries of Health, Education and Gender, Children and Social Protection, 2017 - 2022; Fiscal Data from Ministry of Finance 2016-2020

### Effect of COVID-19 on the incidence of poverty

An estimated 77.4 percent of households experienced a decrease in income affecting

approximately 22 million people. According to the COVID-19 Business Tracker Survey conducted in November 2020, 5.7 percent of small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs) shut down during the three-week



partial lockdown, with 16.1 percent of these businesses remaining closed after the easing of the lockdown restrictions. Some 46.1 percent of businesses reported reducing wages for 25.7 percent of the workforce (an estimated 770,124 workers).

With these developments, poverty is estimated to rise to 25.5 percent. UNICEF and International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates the impact of these developments on children to include an increase of at least 0.7 percentage points in child labour per percentage point rise in poverty. Hence, COVID-19 is seen to have the potential of disrupting progress, increasing the incidence and intensity of multidimensional and monetary poverty, which are already experienced by most children in Ghana before the pandemic.

### Assessment of recovery from the Pandemic

Assessment of waves 1 to 3 of COVID-19 Business Tracker Surveys shows indications of recovery by businesses. The third Wave data show varied levels of improvements across sectors in multiple channels such as sales, access to inputs, finance, cashflow among others. The key findings from the third round (Wave 3) shows a considerable

decline in the levels of reduction in hours worked, wages and leave without pay over the three data collection periods (Waves 1-3). Across business establishments, 1.0 percent of the workforce were laid off in Wave 3 compared to 1.3 percent in Wave 1. More firms embraced digitisation as almost 7 out of 10 firms used mobile money, with usage increasing from 35.7 percent and 53.4 percent (Waves 1 and 2 respectively) to 69.6 percent (Wave 3).

This indicates that government stimulus package has had a positive impact on firm's sales with an increase of 11.5 percent. This positive effect was evident among small businesses as their sales increased by 22 percent. Moreover, the Wave 3 data shows an increase in reopening of previously fully closed firms. Out of the over 30,000 firms that were previously closed at the time of Wave 2, about half were fully opened (15,179) in Wave 3. The top three policies that firms needed to become more resilient are loans with subsidised interest, cash transfer and access to new credit.

Other indications of recovery at the household level are shown in table 4.

Table 4: COVID-19 impact on work and income of households in Ghana, 2020-2021, (%)

Variable	Wave 1 – June 2020	Wave 2 – September 2020	Wave 3 - December 2021
Proportion of households that reported reduced income	77.4	65.9	68.2
Proportion of households that reported reduced income from their non-farm businesses	83.0	70.8	77.3

Source: COVID-19 Household and Jobs Tracker Surveys, 2020 - 2021



## Innovative interventions for accelerating attainment of SDG 1

Interventions being implemented by the government towards the attainment of SDG 1 include the following:

	Intervention	Remarks
1.	Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coverage expanded from 332,200 households in 2019 to 344,023 households (which translates to approximately 1.7 million individuals) in 2021</li> <li>Decentralisation of LEAP Management Information System and Digitisation of LEAP Reporting System (e-reporting) to all LEAP implementing districts</li> <li>Development and piloting of Beneficiary Charter of Rights in sixteen (16) districts as well as an improved operational manual to guide the operations of the LEAP programme</li> </ul>
2.	Ghana School Feeding Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coverage increased from 1,671,776 pupils in 2017/2018 academic year to 3,448,065 pupils in 10,384 public basic schools in Ghana</li> <li>Revised operation manual of the GSFP, innovative nutrition training was introduced, and caterers trained to improve on the nutritional value of meals served to the pupils</li> <li>Deployment of electronic monitoring tool to capture real-time performance of caterers at all beneficiary schools</li> </ul>
3.	Infrastructure for Poverty Eradication Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To help limit extreme food price volatility, 46 rural markets were constructed in 2020, bringing the total to 48 completed projects out of the target of 50, and are in use by the beneficiary communities</li> <li>One Village One Dam Initiative - In 2020, a total of 227 small earth dams were completed bringing the total to 427, and are being used by the beneficiary communities across the five northern regions for livestock watering, small irrigation farming, and other domestic uses</li> </ul>

## Emerging issues

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Reduced households' income levels    | 4. General increase in poverty  |
| 2. Loss of jobs                         | 5. Late release of LEAP payments  |
| 3. Low expenditure on social protection | 6. Low coverage and expenditure on social protection, currently below 1 percent as against the target of 4.5 percent. |









#### Box 4: Findings from the Rapid Assessment on the Cost of Food Production

The increasing cost of inputs owing to the effects of the pandemic, among others, continues to threaten the productive capacity of both poultry and crop farmers. The price of feed for poultry production has almost doubled since the pandemic; coupled with the limited ability to import day-old chicks from abroad particularly during the period of restrictions. For crop farmers, the cost of inputs have more than doubled since the pandemic, with various fertilizer brands experiencing substantial upward price hikes; thereby, subjecting farmers to unwholesome products with potential consequences on food and nutrition security.

##### Indicator 2.2.1: Prevalence of stunting (height for age $<-2$ standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age

Stunting among children, 5 years or younger, was 22.7 percent in 2011, and declined to 18.8 percent in 2014, and further to 17.5 percent in 2017. There are significant regional variations in the prevalence of

stunting. The prevalence was highest in the Northern Region at 28.8 percent and lowest in the Greater Accra Region at 12.6 percent. Stunting was more prevalent in rural than in urban areas, and more among boys than girls.

Low rate of exclusive breastfeeding among children under six months of age (45.7% in 2011 to 42.9% in 2017) and inadequate infant and child feeding practices contributed to the high level of stunting.

#### Box 5: Promotion of Nutritious Food to reduce Malnutrition

Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the World Food Programme (WFP) in Ghana and its partners, facilitated access to Specialised Nutrient Foods (SNFs) for vulnerable pregnant and lactating Women and Girls (PLW/G), adolescent girls, and children aged 6-23 months in nine districts with high levels of stunting and food insecurity. The pregnant and breastfeeding women were given Maizoya, a locally made fortified corn-soya blend, fortified vegetable oil, and iodised salt, or Maizoya and cash instead of the fortified oil and iodised salt. GrowNut or KOKO Plus (a micronutrient food supplement) were included in the children's meal basket (a small-quantity lipid-based nutrient supplement). Adolescent females were given either Maizoya and cash or Maizoya and a value voucher for food and sanitary supplies worth the same as the cash amount.

These interventions have put the participating districts on track to meet the national objective of 12.17 percent stunting prevalence by 2025. The frequency of stunting has steadily decreased in the target areas, from 29.4 percent in 2017 to 18.8 percent in 2019.

##### Indicator 2.2.2: Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height $>+2$ or $<-2$ standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)

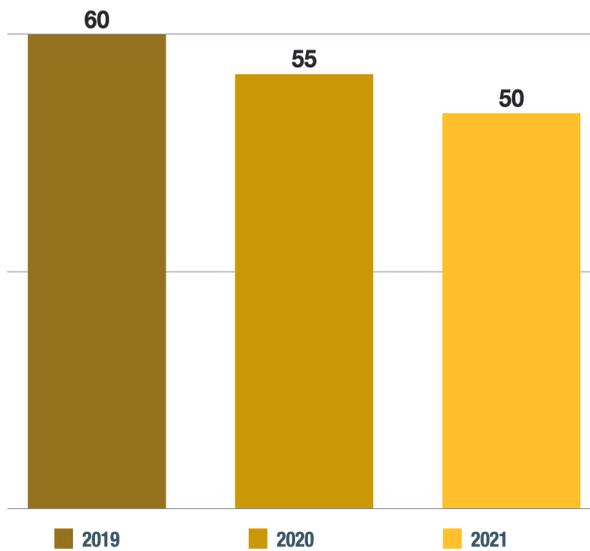
The prevalence rate for overweight children has declined steadily since 2011, reducing from 2.6 percent to 1.4 percent in 2017. The prevalence rate of underweight also declined from 13.4 percent in 2011 to 11.0 percent in 2014 but increased to 12.6 percent in 2017. Wasting declined from 6.2 percent in 2011 to 4.7 percent in 2014, after which it increased to 6.8 percent in 2017.

##### Indicator 2.2.3: Prevalence of anaemia in women aged 15 to 49 years, by pregnancy status (percentage)

The Prevalence of anaemia among children of school going age has recorded a 10-percentage point improvement between 2019 and 2021. Improvement in anaemia prevalence among girls of school going age has resulted from key interventions including Girls' Iron and Folic Acid Tablets Supplementation (GIFTS) programme and the Micronutrient Powder Initiative which were found to have contributed to a 26 percent adjusted reduction in anaemia prevalence between 2017 and 2018 in 60 schools in two regions (Northern and Volta)



Figure 6: Proportion of school going children with anaemia, 2019 - 2021, (%)



Source: Ministry of Health 2022 Programme Based Budget

### Box 6: The GIFTS Programme

The GIFTS Programme, the first of its kind in the sub-Saharan region, commenced in Ghana in October 2017 in four regions (Brong-Ahafo, Northern, Upper East, Volta). The programme aims at improving haemoglobin (Hb) levels of beneficiaries through free weekly Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation for in-school and out-of-school adolescent girls, and improved nutritional status through health and nutrition education sessions given to both boys and girls. Additionally, the programme is expected to contribute to strengthening the existing IFA supplementation programme for pregnant women. The program is implemented by Ghana Health Service and Ghana Education Service with technical and financial support from UNICEF, United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC)-Atlanta, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Government of Canada.

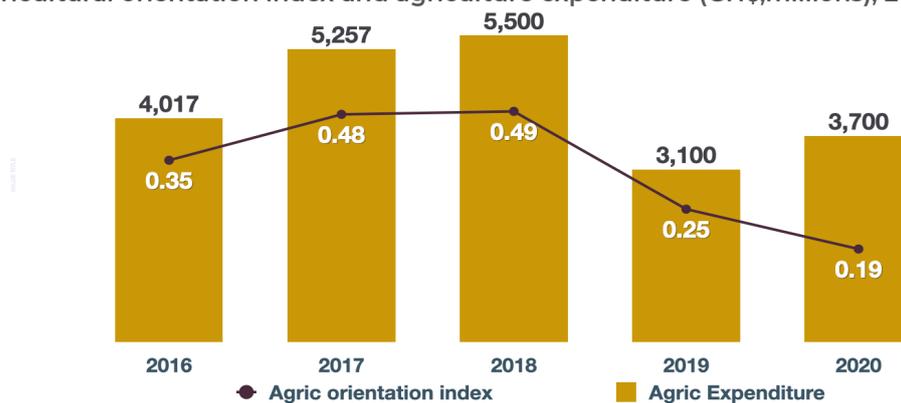
### Indicator 2.a.1: The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures

Government met the target of the Malabo declaration of agricultural sector expenditure of 10 percent of total expenditure in 2017 and 2018 but not in 2019 and 2020. The index of agriculture expenditure relative to contribution to GDP was at 0.48 in 2017 and 0.49 in 2018 but declined to 0.25 in 2019 and 0.19 in 2020 (Figure 7). This implies that there is

a low orientation by Government to the agriculture sector relative to agriculture's economic contribution.

Adequate funding and investment accessible to farmers and all stakeholders involved in the agriculture value chain are required to resolve issues of land acquisition and irrigation, access to fertilisers and farm implements, access to markets and storage facilities and post-harvest losses in Ghana's agriculture sector.

Figure 7: Agricultural orientation index and agriculture expenditure (GH¢,millions), 2016 - 2020



Source: Ministry of Finance, Fiscal Data, 2020; National Accounts, 2021; and Medium Term Development Plan of Ministry of Food and Agriculture, 2018-2021

### Effect of COVID-19 on Hunger, food security and nutrition

A survey by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Food Programme revealed that farm sizes of numerous staple crops in Ghana fell

because of the COVID-19 pandemic with the exceptions of rice which witnessed an increase of 54 percent followed by yam (26%), tomato (9%) and soybean (7%). The significant increase in rice production is partly attributed to the provision of special financing incentives for rice millers to



ensure continuous production. The survey also discovered that the average number of farm animals has decreased, while input supplies were not delivered on time. Credit to the agricultural sector reduced from GH¢19.6 billion in 2019 to GH¢1.5 billion in 2020.

### Assessment of recovery from the pandemic

Government provided cooked meals to 2,744,723 vulnerable persons and worked with Faith-Based Organisations to distribute uncooked food packages to 470,000 families during the three-week partial lockdown in 2020. In addition, hot meals were provided for 584,000 final year Junior High School students and 146,000 staff of public and private schools from August 24 to September 18, 2020 as they wrote their final exams. In 2020, the government instituted the National Food

Security Committee as part of measures to ensure food security.

The use of e-platforms increased. Digital tools and other ICT platforms were utilised to facilitate agricultural extension delivery. About 2,395 radio broadcasts and eight television productions on extension-related messages and technologies reached 1.2 million farmers across the country. The information disseminated centred on crops, livestock, food processing and marketing.

As a result of Government’s interventions, the proportion of households who reported not being able to buy at least one staple food declined from 15.9 percent in June 2020 to 13.4 percent in September 2020. Also, the proportion of households with children under 15 years who ate fewer meals than usual declined from 21.4 percent to 17.7 percent within the same period (Table 5).

Table 5: Indications of recovery relating to Goal 2, 2020

Variable	Wave 1 – June 2020	Wave 2 – September 2020
Proportion of Household not able to buy at least one staple food – rice, maize, yam and casava	15.9%	13.4%
Proportion of Households with children under 15 years eating fewer meals than usual	21.4%	17.7%

Source: GSS Household and Jobs Tracker Survey, 2020

### Innovative interventions for accelerating attainment of SDG 2

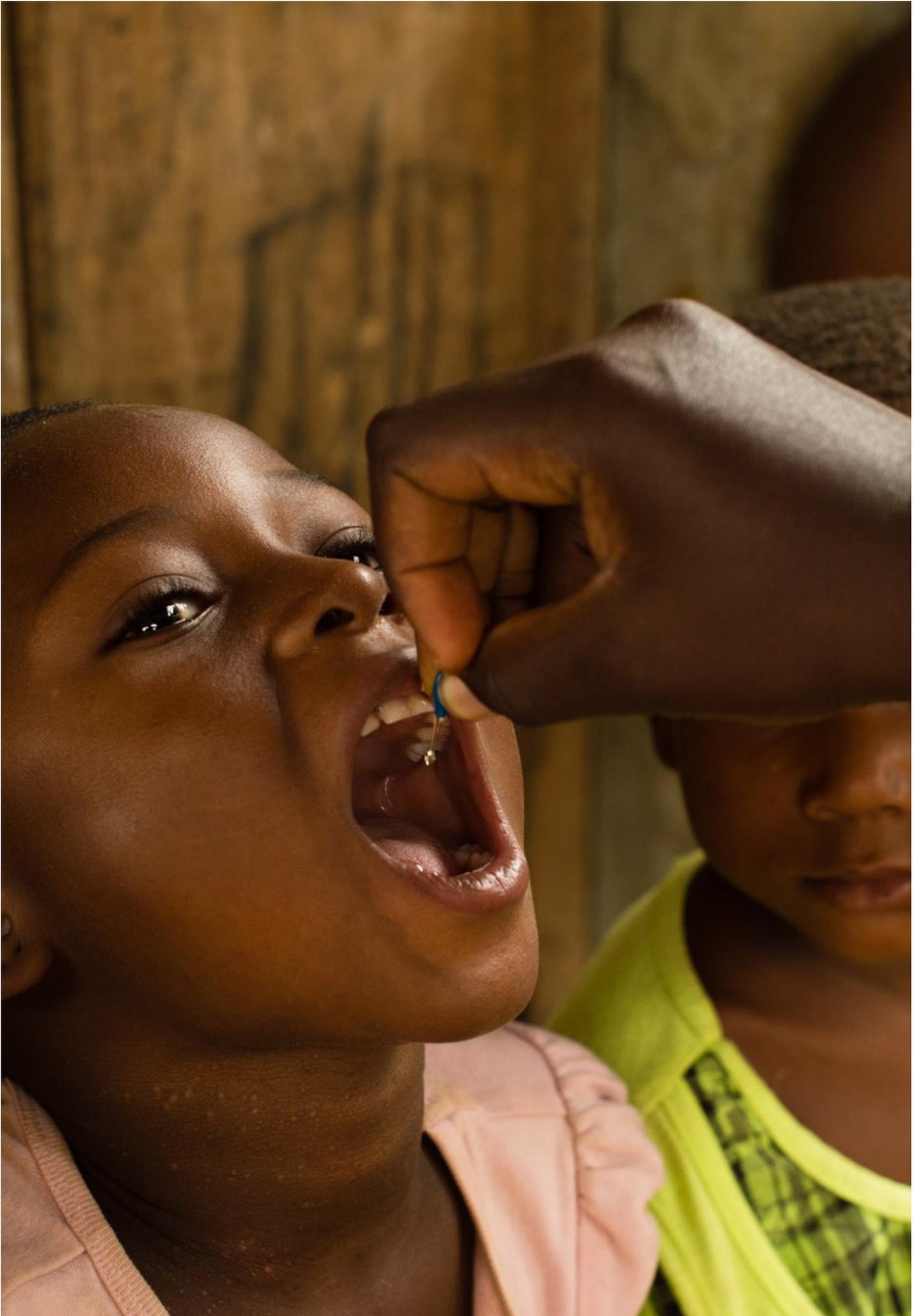
Interventions being implemented by the government towards the attainment of SDG 2 include the following:

s/n	key Intervention	Remarks
1.	Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As at the end of 2020, a total of 1,736,510 farmers had benefited from subsidized fertilizers and improved seeds. Such interventions among others have significantly increased yields of selected crops thereby sustaining and increasing the number of jobs in the value chain               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maize yields increased by 111.1 percent from 1.8mMT/Ha in 2016 to 3.8MT/Ha in 2019.</li> <li>Rice yields increased by 59 percent from 2.7 MT/Ha in 2016 to 4.3 MT/Ha in 2019.</li> <li>Soya yields increased by 29 percent from 1.7 MT/Ha in 2016 to 2.2 MT/Ha in 2019.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2.	One Village One Dam (IVID)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under the “One Village, One Dam” initiative, 507 small earth dams have been completed against the target of 560 as at 2021.</li> </ul>
3.	District Warehousing Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under the “One District One Warehouse Initiative” 42 out of the 50 Grain Warehouses initiated in 2018 were completed by end December 2020 and handed over to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Ghana Buffer Stock Company.</li> </ul>
4.	Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 3.4million beneficiary pupils in KG and primary schools in all the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) were provided with one hot nutritious meal every school going day in 2021.</li> </ul>



## Emerging issues

1. Marginal decrease in food insecurity
2. Increase in food inflation
3. Low orientation by government to agriculture
4. Decrease in farm animal production
5. Delay in input supplies



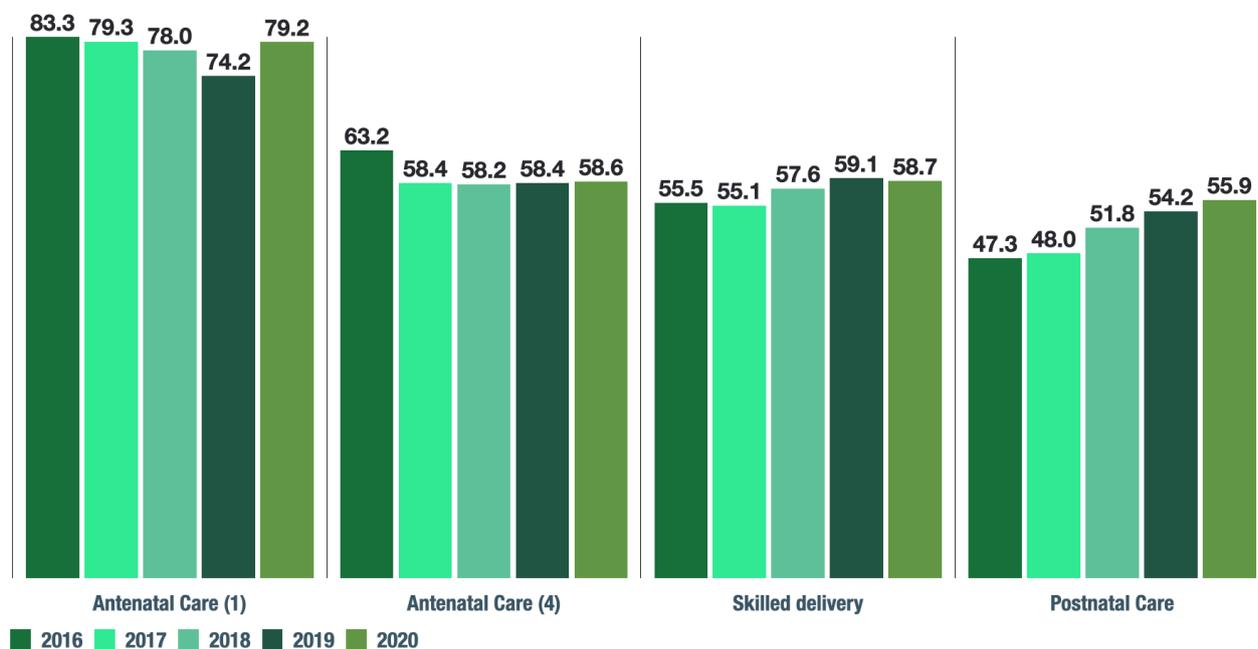




A marginal increase was recorded in the proportion of mothers who made at least 4 antenatal care visits and proportion of mothers and children receiving post-natal care within 48 hours after delivery between 2016 and 2020. The worsening situation

of first antenatal care visit since 2016 was reversed in 2020 (Figure 10). The increase in postnatal care is attributed to increased awareness of staff and community members about postnatal care schedule and its importance.

Figure 10: Antenatal, postnatal, and skilled delivery coverage, 2016 – 2020, (%)



Source: Holistic Assessment of the Health Sector, 2021

Table 6: Under 5 mortality rate and malaria case fatality, (2016 - 2021)

Indicator	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Institutional under 5 mortality rates	-	-	-	55	50	45
Institutional Under Five Malaria Case Fatality	0.32	0.20	0.16	0.02	0.02	0.12

Source: Holistic Assessment of the Health Sector, 2021; and Ministry of Health 2022 Programme Based Budget

### Indicator 3.2.1: Under-five mortality rate

Child death prior to the attainment of age 5 has been declining since 2016. Official survey results show a decline from 111 per 1,000 live births in 2013 to 56 per 1,000 live births in 2017 against the SDG target of 25 per 1,000 live births.

Facility level information also shows a declining trend from 55 to 45 per 1,000 live births between 2019 and 2021, representing a 3 percent average annual reduction over this period. Institutional under 5 malaria case fatality has continued to improve most especially between 2016 and 2019. However,

the rate marginally deteriorated from 0.02 in 2019 to 0.12 in 2021 (Table 6).

Penta-3 immunization coverage has been sustained above 90 percent level since 2016.

Factors such as inadequate and aging cold chain equipment and logistics, and inadequate numbers and mix of relevant staff have been consistently identified to affect the rate of childhood immunization.

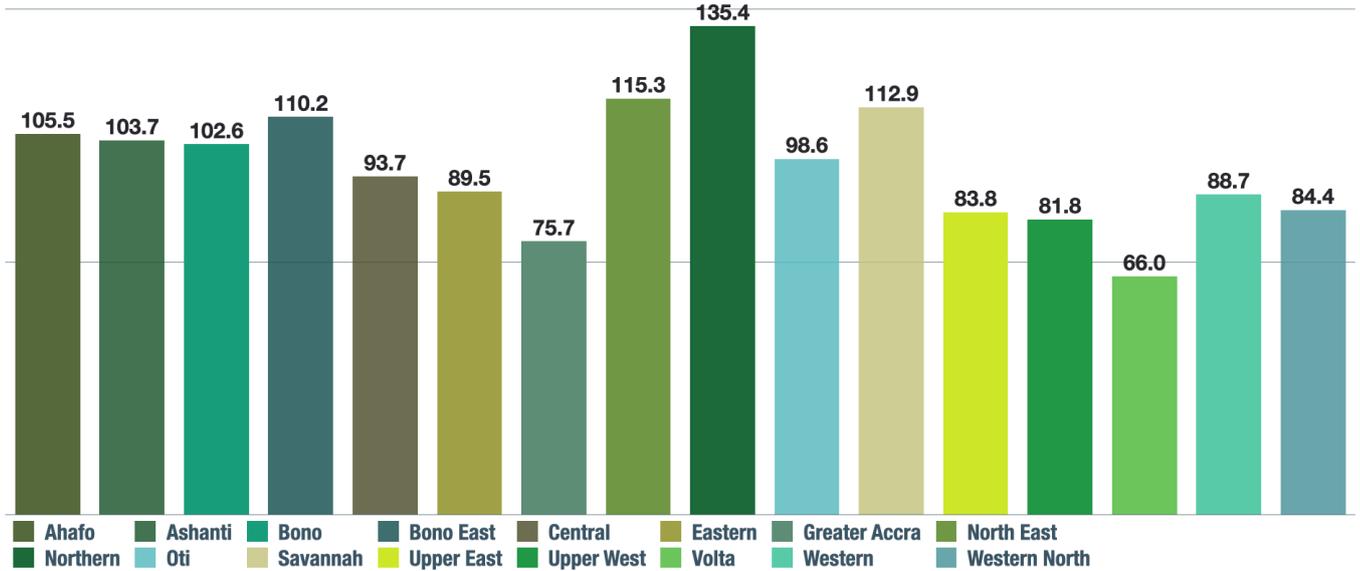
Seven regions have exceeded the 100 percent target, while Volta and Greater Accra Regions had less than 80 percent coverage in 2020 (Figure 11). These wide



regional disparities observed show the need for continuous investments in EPI

alongside targeted based allocation of funds to address existing challenges in the underlined regions.

Figure 11: Penta 3 immunisation coverage by region, 2020(%)



Source: Holistic Assessment of Health Sector, 2021

### Indicator 3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate

The proportion of children dying within 28 days of birth as recorded at health facilities declined from 8.4 per 1,000 live births in 2017 to 7.3 per 1,000 live births in 2019 (Figure 12). The rate increased marginally to 7.4 per 1,000 live births in 2020 partly due to COVID-19 but improved to 7.0 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2021. To achieve the national target of 4.8 deaths per 1,000 live births would require an average annual reduction of 0.24 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Figure 12: Neonatal mortality rate, 2016 - 2021, (per thousand live births)



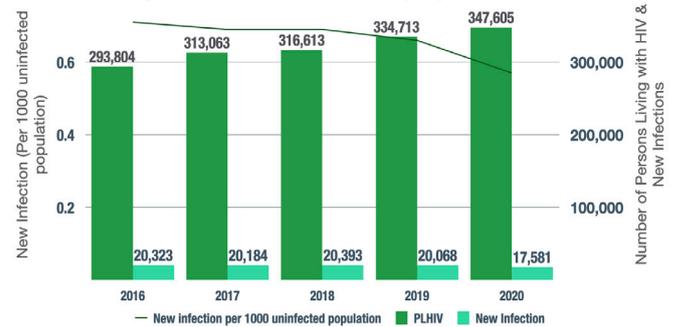
Source: Holistic Assessment of the Health Sector, 2021  
Ministry of Health 2022 PBB  
(\* As at June 2021)

### Indicator 3.3.1: Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected

### population, by sex, age and key populations

There was a decline in new HIV infections from 20,323 in 2016 to 17,580 in 2020, while Person Living with HIV (PLHIV) increased by 18 percent from 2016 to 347,605 in 2020 (Figure 13). HIV incidence has also declined over the same period, indicating some progress with the prevention of onward transmission of HIV.

Figure 13: Number of PLHIV, new infections, and new infections per 1000 uninfected population, 2016-2020



Source: National HIV Estimates and Projection, 2021

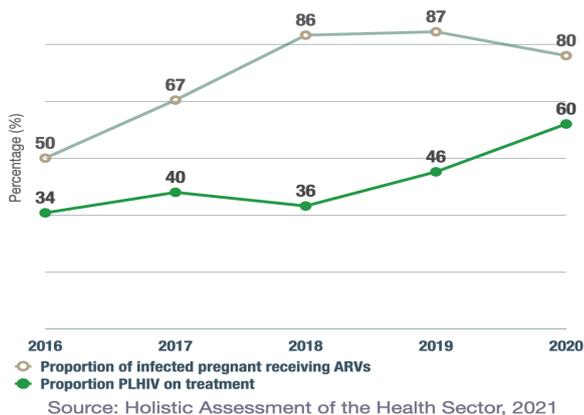
The rate of new infections declined from 0.71 per 1,000 in 2016 to 0.57 per 1,000 uninfected population in 2020. HIV deaths increased from 13,534 in 2016 to 14,275 in 2018 but declined in 2020 to 9,957.

HIV prevalence among adults is projected to have declined marginally from 1.7 percent in 2019 to 1.69 in 2020.



PLHIV receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) increased by 36 percent, from 153,901 (2019) to 208, 811 (2020). This high increase in ART treatment for PLHIV shows massive investments in the control of HIV/AIDs in the country. There was a significant increase in access to ARVs among pregnant women as a proportion of recipients increased from 50 percent in 2016 to 87 percent in 2019 but declined to 80 percent in 2020 (Figure 14).

**Figure 14: The proportions of PLHIV on ART and infected pregnant women receiving ARVs, 2016-2020, (%)**



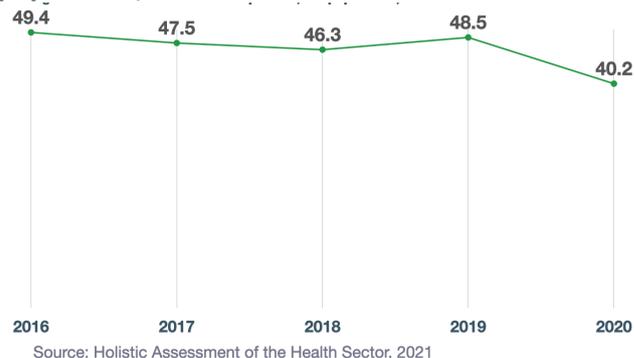
Ghana could not achieve any of the set targets for the 90-90-90 programme by the 2020 end date. The coverage for HIV persons knowing their status stood at 74 percent in 2020.

In addition, HIV positive persons on ART reduced marginally from 61 percent to 60 percent between 2019 and 2020. The highest gains in 2020 was with the HIV diagnosed persons on ART with viral suppression, which increased from 41 percent in 2019 to 74 percent in 2020.

### Indicator 3.3.2: Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population

The number of new Tuberculosis (TB) cases reduced by 2,159 between 2019 and 2020, translating into a reduction in TB incidence from 48.5 per 100,000 population in 2019 to 40.2 per 100,000 population in 2020 (Figure 15), which is far above the target of ending the epidemic of TB by 2030.

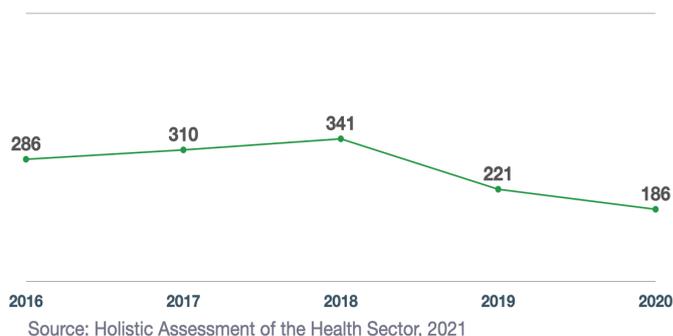
**Figure 15: Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population, 2016-2020**



### Indicator 3.3.3: Malaria incidence per 1,000 population

The worsening malaria situation between 2016 and 2018 has since been reversed. Malaria incidence has improved to 186 per 1,000 population in 2020, after a peak of 341 per 1,000 population in 2018 (Figure 16). The promotion of test, treat, and track (T3) malaria strategy; distribution of insecticide treated nets; improved malaria case management and supply of malaria Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs) at all service delivery sites have contributed to this improvement.

**Figure 16: Malaria incidence per 1000 population, 2016 - 2020**



### Indicator 3.4.1: Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease

In the past few years, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) have become one of the leading causes of death, becoming a public health threat. Deaths from non-communicable diseases increased by 12 percent from 2018 to 2020 suggesting that Ghana is not on track to achieve the SDG target by 2030. Available data shows

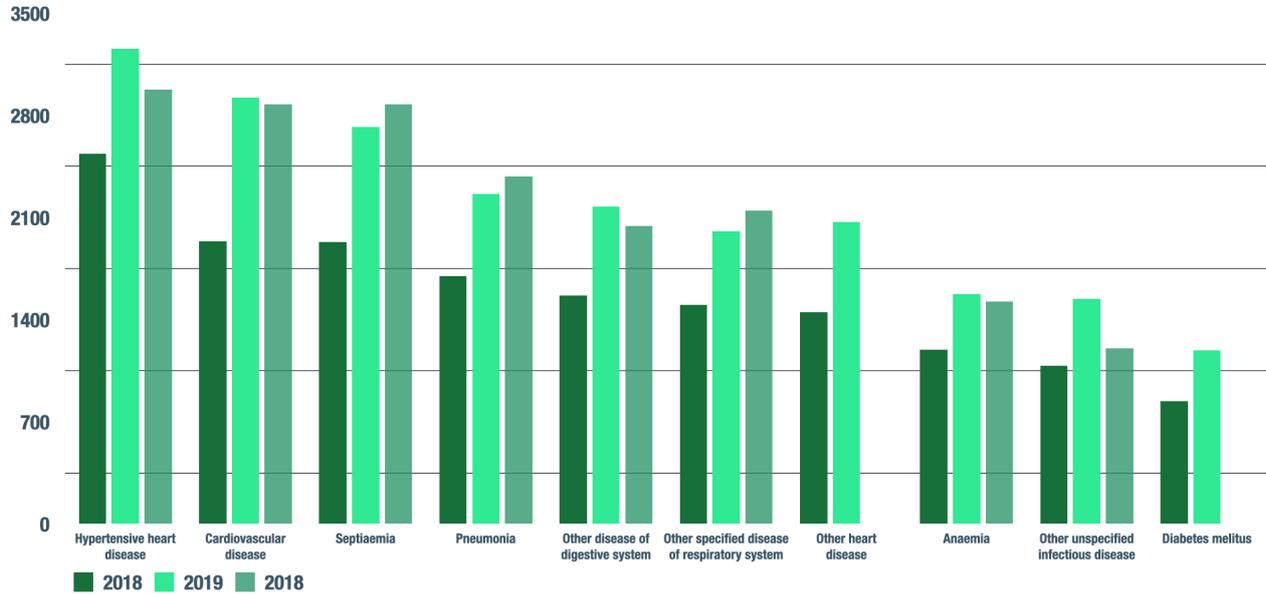


that cardiovascular diseases were among the top 10 leading causes of deaths in the country (Figure 17).

with pneumonia accounting for the largest share of these deaths. Hypertension was responsible for 2,978 deaths in 2020.

Deaths due to respiratory diseases increased from 3,195 in 2018 to 4,526 in 2020

Figure 17: Number of deaths from non-communicable diseases by cause of death, 2018 - 2020



Source: Holistic assessment of the Health Sector, 2021

### Indicator 3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods

Ghana Maternal and Health Survey estimated Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) to be 30.8 percent for married women in 2017 (compared with 22.2% in 2014) and 38.4 percent for unmarried women (compared with 31.7% in 2014).

Family planning (FP) acceptor rate peaked at 39.8 percent in 2019 but declined to 29.6 percent in 2020 (Figure 18). This decline can be attributed to shortage in commodities arising from the COVID-19 restrictions.

Poor access to quality FP services, characterised by few skilled providers and inadequate commodities that give the client little or no choice of methods of family planning, contributes to high levels of unmet need in the country.

Figure 18: Trend in family planning acceptor rate, 2016-2020, (%)



Source: Holistic Assessment of the Health Sector, 2021

### Indicator 3.c.1 Health worker density and distribution

Doctor to population ratio has improved consistently from 2016, reducing the case burden of patients on a doctor over the period. This improvement, however, falls short of the WHO minimum recommended threshold of one doctor to 1,000 population. The nurse to population ratio has improved significantly between 2016 to 2020, exceeding the WHO minimum recommended threshold of one nurse to 1,000 population (Figure 19).



**Figure 19: Doctor and nurse to population ratios, 2016**



### Indicator 3.d.1 International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness

Ghana is a party to the International Health Regulation designed to help protect all States from the international spread of diseases. The core capacities required are legislation and policy, coordination and partnership, surveillance, preparedness, response, laboratory, risk communication, points of entry, human resources, logistics and other resources (WHO, 2016).

Some achievements under the IHR include:

1. Establishment of a National IHR Focal Point located at the Disease Surveillance Department of Ghana Health Service (GHS)
2. Regular monitoring of progress of implementation of the IHR by the WHO Secretariat
3. Ghana has adapted the Second Edition IDSR Guidelines which also promotes IHR (2005) implementation
4. Development of IHR Website
5. Training of staff at designated Points of Entry on IHR Core capacity requirements

### Effect of COVID-19 on access and delivery of health services

The restriction of movements, fear on the part of health workers and clients, stigma and misinformation about COVID-19 affected healthcare delivery as many routine services were suspended. As a result, Outpatient Department (OPD) attendance, childhood immunization and all-cause deaths<sup>1</sup> performed below their respective targets.

COVID-19 also highlighted the unequal distribution of healthcare facilities in the country, showing concentration of healthcare infrastructure in Accra, Kumasi, and few other cities. Government increased investment in medical laboratories, particularly those capable of conducting PCR test from 2 to 16 nationwide in 2020. The change in government priority in favour of saving lives instead of investments in other sectors of the economy resulted in an unanticipated expenditure of GH¢17.7 billion (or 4.6% of GDP) in 2020.

### Assessment of recovery from the Pandemic

The early response and the interventions introduced led to recovery in most of the key service indicators towards the end of 2020. A remarkable progress was observed for maternal and child health indicators. Considerable improvements were also recorded in access to quality healthcare through expansion of services to the peripherals, increased recruitment of health personnel, and improved NHIS active membership.

Comparison of the Household and Job Tracker Surveys (waves 1 and 2) shows that efforts to reverse the impact of COVID-19 had yielded positive results (Table 7).

<sup>1</sup> This refers to death from any cause



Table 7: Health impact of COVID-19, 2020

Variable	Wave 1 – June 2020	Wave 2 – September 2020
Proportion of households that could not buy medicine	10.9%	10.9%
Proportion of households that needed healthcare and were able to access it	93.9%	95.7%
Proportion of children missing vaccinations	29.4%	20.6%

Source: Household and Jobs Tracker Survey, 2020

## Innovative interventions for accelerating attainment of SDG 3

Interventions being implemented by the government towards the attainment of SDG 3 include the following:

S/n	Key Interventions	Remarks
1.	Establishment and expansion of Medical Drone Delivery Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve Rural Healthcare, the Ministry of Health in partnership with Zipline established four Drone Centres in Omenako in the Eastern region, Mpanya in the Ashanti region, Vovsi in the North East region and Sefwi in the Western North region; to leverage technology to eliminate stock outs, cold chain breakages and accelerate emergency response, in 2020.</li> <li>By the end of September 2020, 79,000 products to 925 health facilities in deprived areas were delivered.</li> </ul>
2.	Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAHN) Strategic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2021, a comprehensive Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAHN) Strategic Plan aimed at ensuring increased and equitable access to high quality RMNCAHN services for all by 2030 was launched.</li> <li>Related policies and plans under the various components of RMNCAHN implementation include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Child Health Policy and Child Health Strategy (2017-2025)</li> <li>The National Newborn Health Strategy and Action Plan (2019 – 2023)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3.	Vaccine Development Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A comprehensive strategy has been put in place for the establishment of a National Vaccine Institute to lead in the domestic production of vaccines. The first phase of commercial production is expected to start in January 2024.</li> </ul>
4.	Health Infrastructure Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government has launched a programme to address infrastructure shortcoming in the health facilities. The Agenda 111, is being implemented. This comprises:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>standard 100-bed district hospitals for 101 districts without hospitals;</li> <li>six new regional hospitals for each of the six new regions;</li> <li>the rehabilitation of the Effia-Nkwanta Hospital in the Western Region;</li> <li>one new regional hospital for the Western Region; and</li> <li>three psychiatric hospitals for each of the three zones of the country, i.e., North, Middle and Coastal.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Emerging issues

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Increase in government expenditure on health | 4. Urgent need for Ghana Centre for Disease Control (CDC) |
| 2. High incidence of non-communicable diseases  | 5. High doctor to population ratio                        |
| 3. Urgent need for local vaccine production     | 6. Unequal distribution of health facilities              |





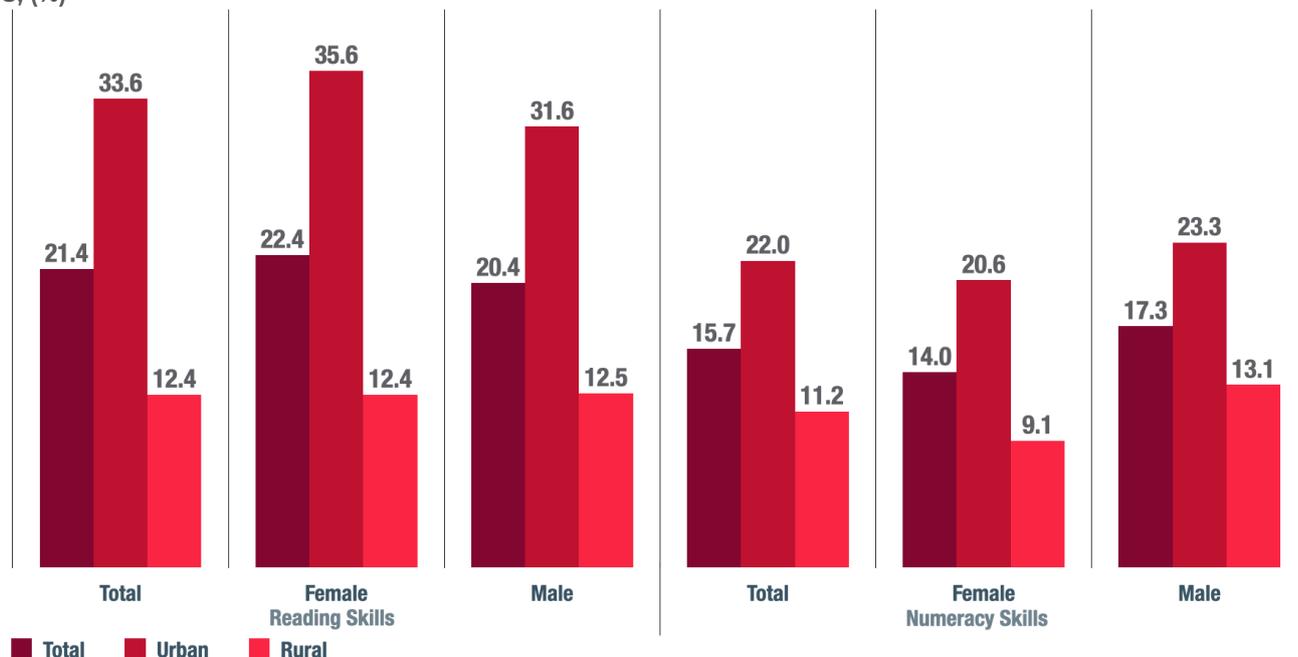


Table 8: Proportion of pupils in primary 4 and primary 6 that achieved minimum proficiency in Mathematics and English, 2016 and 2018, (%)

Class	Mathematics		English Language	
	2016	2018	2016	2018
Primary 4	22.0	19.0	37.2	25.0
Primary 6	24.9	22.0	38.0	25.0

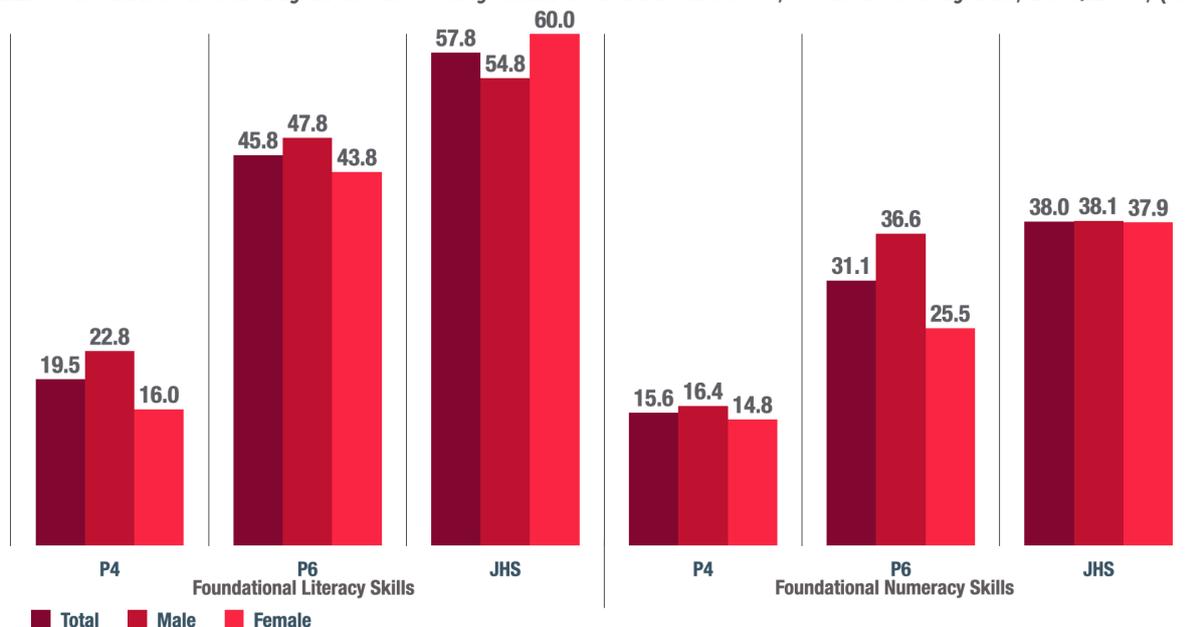
Source: Ghana National Education Assessment, 2016; Education Sector Performance Report, 2019

Figure 21: Proportion of children who demonstrated foundational literacy and numeracy skills by locality type, 2017/18, (%)



Source: MICS, 2018

Figure 22: Foundational literacy and numeracy skills of students in P4, P6 and JHS by sex, 2017/2018, (%)



Source: MICS, 2018



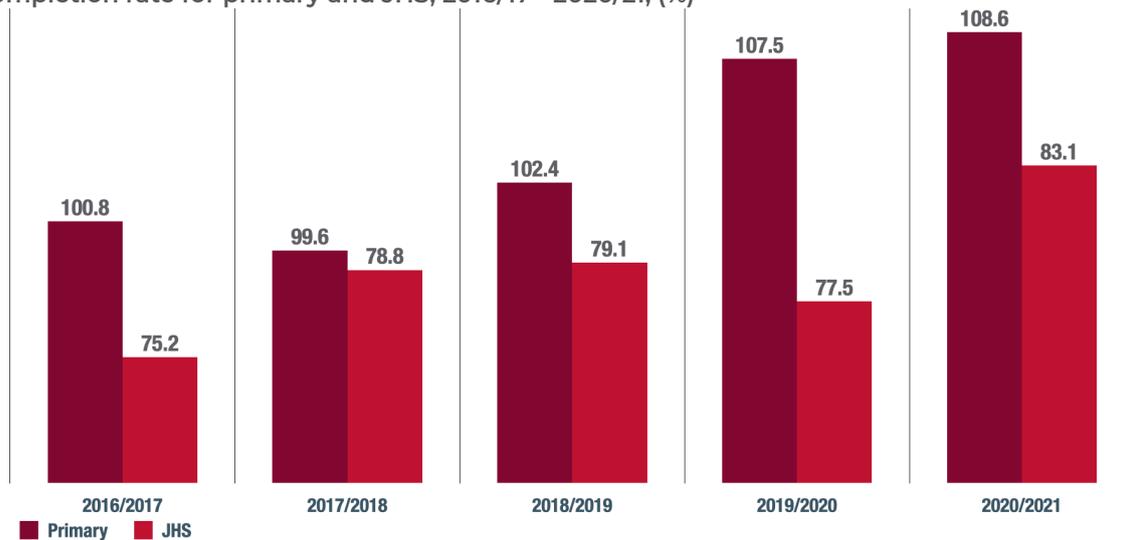
### 4.1.2: Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)

The completion rate in Ghana has improved at all levels. Education strategies have resulted in ensuring that, since 2016/2017 academic year, approximately all pupils stay and complete primary education. At the primary school level, completion rates from 2018/2019 to 2020/2021 academic

years exceeded 100 percent (Figure 23) largely due to repetitions.

The situation in JHS has also improved reaching 83.1 percent in 2020/2021 academic year albeit missing the national target of 92.0 percent for the academic year. The completion rates recorded at the JHS level indicates that a significant number of students drop out from school.

Figure 23 Completion rate for primary and JHS, 2016/17 - 2020/21, (%)



Source: Education Sector Medium-term Development Plan, 2022-2025

### Box 7: Findings from the Rapid Assessment on School Absenteeism and Dropout by Girls

Although school attendance and completion rates have improved at all levels, menstruation remains a major contributor to school absenteeism and dropout among girls particularly in the rural areas. This is a result of a myriad of challenges including:

- i. The increasing cost of sanitary materials, thereby resorting to unhygienic materials;
- ii. Menstrual pain and related health issues;
- iii. Fear of staining oneself and the perceived stigma;
- iv. The absence of a sick bay or rest area to help girls rest during painful menstrual cramps;
- v. No or limited access to water and sanitary facilities;
- vi. Washrooms not disability friendly for PWDs; and
- vii. Lack of convenient places to dispose used sanitary materials.

### Number of schools

Total number of schools increased across all the levels of education with an additional 2,849 schools established between 2018 and 2021. The highest addition was for KG (1,146), followed by primary (1,035) and the least was SHS with three additional schools (Table 9).

Table 9: Number of Schools, 2018 and 2021

Level	2018	2021
KG	26,184	27,330
Primary	26,272	27,307
JHS	18,335	19,000
SHS	1,183	1,186
Total	71,974	74,823

Source: Education Sector Medium-Term Development Plan, 2022 - 2025

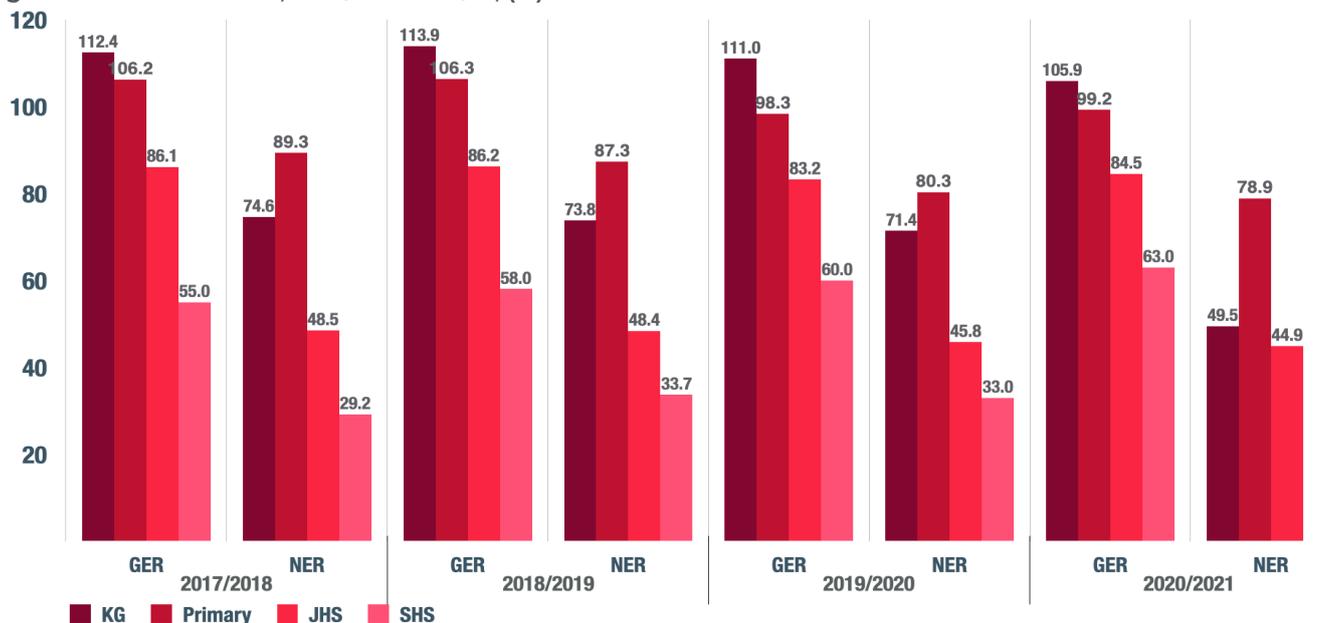


## Gross and Net Enrolment Ratios

Gross enrolment ratio (GER) is generally declining for all levels of education, indicating a shift from overage and underage to right age enrolment of pupils. Net enrolment ratio (NER) is also declining at all levels, indicating that several school

going age pupils are still not in school. The drop in the NER for the last two academic years at all educational levels is partly due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, with the largest drop at the KG level from 71.4 percent to 49.5 percent (Figure 24)

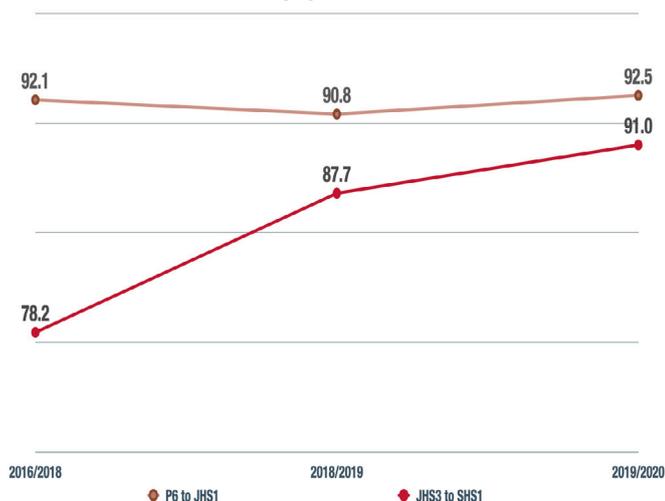
Figure 24: GER and NER, 2017/18 - 2020/21, (%)



Source: Education Sector Medium-term Development Plan, 2022-2025

## Transition between Primary, JHS and SHS

Figure 25: Transition between primary, JHS and SHS, 2017/2018 - 2019/2020, (%)



Source: Education Sector Medium-term Development Plan, 2022 - 2025

Students' progression between JHS and SHS has recorded an increasing trend from 2017/2018 to 2019/2020 academic years (Figure 25). On average, 8 percent of students did not transition from primary 6 to JHS1 between 2017/2018 and 2019/2020

academic years either due to dropping out of school or repeating the previous grade. A mass promotion policy and other interventions are being implemented to curb repetitions and school dropouts.

## Inclusive and special education

Ghana's 2015 Inclusive Education Policy promotes an approach that accommodates all children in schools 'regardless of their physical, intellectual, social, emotional, linguistic or other conditions.' It includes children with disabilities; gifted, street and working children; children from remote or nomadic populations; children from linguistic, ethnic, gender or cultural minorities; and children from other disadvantaged or marginalised areas or groups.

Enrolment of children with disabilities in schools remains very low, ranging from 0.2 percent to 0.4 percent of total enrolment between kindergarten and SHS. Children



with disabilities have lower enrolment rates compared to those without disabilities at all levels of pre-tertiary education, particularly at the SHS and TVET levels. In general, children with disabilities are not progressing through the education system, and a large proportion are over-age.

Inadequate disability-friendly facilities in basic and secondary schools adversely affects children with disabilities. Most regular basic schools do not have handrails,

disability-friendly WASH facilities, while only 8 percent are equipped with ramps. There are substantial gaps in learning outcomes in reading, writing, and mathematics for pupils with and without disabilities. These differences are particularly stark for writing in Ghanaian languages and mathematics. This sub-sector is also severely underfunded. In 2015, only 0.6 percent of total recurrent education expenditure was spent on inclusive and special education.

### Box 8: Findings from the Rapid Assessment on Treatment of PWDs

Treatment of PWDs is mostly influenced by the educational status and economic strength of the individual – those with an appreciable level of education and those with a relatively strong economic background are usually welcomed. On the whole, social acceptance of PWDs have largely improved over the years due to intensified awareness creation on how to embrace and support those with special needs.

However, the distance of specialised schools from the homes and communities of PWDs remain a challenge particularly for those in the northern regions. This creates a physical limitation influenced by prevailing economic conditions. Also, most school infrastructure are typically not disability friendly.

### Technical, Vocational Education and Training

From 2017 to 2021, the number of Technical and Vocational Institutes (TVIs) in the country remained the same irrespective of the increasing demand. This is partly due to funding challenges in providing new TVIs across the country. However, the enrolment figures in the MOE/GES TVIs have increased steadily from 54,186 in 2017 to 71,126 in 2021, representing an annual average growth of 7.8 percent (Table 10).

The percentage of TVIs using competency-based training methodology has considerably increased from 3 percent in 2017/18 to 46 percent in 2020/21, missing the national target of 80 percent.

The percentage of TVIs with disability-friendly facilities has increased. Between 2017/2018 and 2020/2021, the number of TVIs using disability-friendly facilities appreciated from 5 percent in 2017/2018 to 20 percent in 2019/2020 and 25 percent in 2020/2021. This is partly due to government's efforts to make TVET more accessible to persons with disability.

Table 10: Technical, vocation education and training statistics, 2017/2018 - 2020/2021

Indicator	2017/2018		2018/2019		2019/2020		2020/2021	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
Number of MoE TVIs	50	47	55	47	70	47	80	47
Enrolment	65,000	54,186	70,000	59,583	80,000	69,585	90,000	71,126
% of TVIs using competency-based training methodologies	40	3	50	10	70	25	80	46
% of TVIs with disability-friendly facilities	30	5	40	5	50	20	60	25
% female enrolment in MOE/GES TVIs	28	25.1	30	26.8	35	25.9	40	-
PTR	19	19	20	18.4	22	21.9	20	-

Source: Education Sector Medium-Term Development Plan, 2022 – 2025



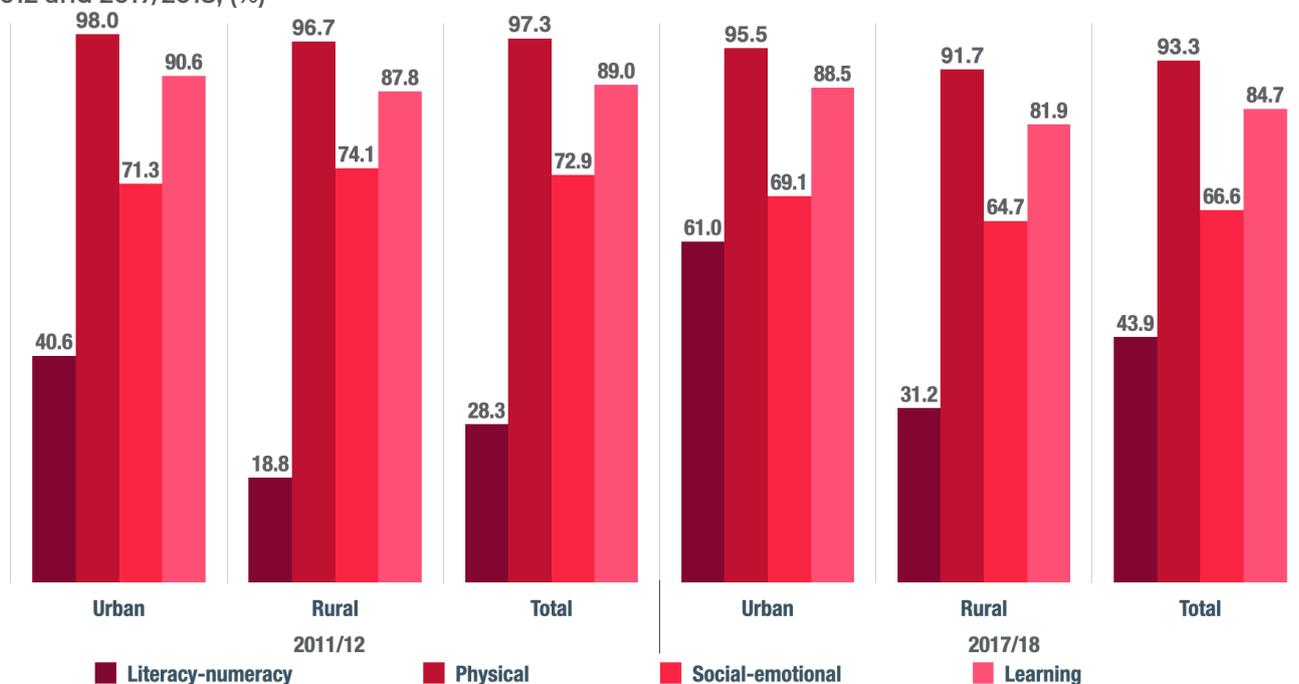
### Indicator 4.2.1: Proportion of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial wellbeing, by sex

Early childhood development, as reported by Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in 2012 and 2018, has not improved. It dropped from an index of 73.7 percent in 2011 to 68.4 percent in 2017. The index in 2017 was higher for girls (72%) than boys (65%). In both urban and rural areas, almost all children between the ages of three and four years were developmentally on track in the physical dimension, with the

least proportion being on track in literacy-numeracy (Figure 26). Generally, a higher proportion of girls were developmentally on track in all the domains than boys.

An Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Standards for Children 0-3 years was developed in 2018 to increase knowledge on the developmental milestones of children from birth to age three and improve the quality of care provided to them by promoting more purposeful and appropriate practices to support their development in the various developmental domains.

Figure 26: Proportion of children aged 3-4 years who are developmentally on track for indicated domains, 2011/2012 and 2017/2018, (%)



Source: MICS, 2011 and 2018

### Indicator 4.3.1: Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex

Both adult literacy classes and enrolment in face-to-face literacy programmes declined consistently between 2017 and 2021 (Table 11). This has been attributed among others to staff attrition without replacement, and emergence of COVID-19, leading to closure of schools and churches used as learning centres in most communities.

The use of volunteer facilitators enabled the establishment of classes in most rural communities which increased its visibility resulting in the share of rural enrolment in literacy programmes exceeding its targets since 2018. Poor motivation packages for facilitators and increasing scarcity of skilled persons to facilitate in local languages, as well as low budgetary support for staff capacity building, are key challenges.

The passage of the Complementary Education Agency (CEA) Act, 2020 (Act 1055) has expanded the mandate of the Non-Formal Education Division. The



Complementary Education Agency is expected to provide functional basic literacy education to disadvantaged groups, complementary education pathways or opportunities in formal education system

from primary to tertiary levels for persons including out-of-school children, and occupational skills training for different groups among others.

Table 11: Number of classes and enrollment in Non-formal Education, 2017 - 2021

	2017/2018		2018/2019		2019/2020		2020/2021	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
Adult literary classes	3,200	2,887	3,500	2,610	4,000	2,346	4,500	2,260
Enrolment in face-to-face literacy programmes	100,000	63,514	110,000	54,871	110,000	51,294	120,000	51,033
% Rural enrolment			20.0	30.0	22.0	29.4	24.0	25.0

Source: Education Sector Medium-Term Development Plan, 2022 – 2025

**Indicator 4.5.1: Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated**

Table 12: Gender Parity index, 2016/17-2020/21

Academic Year	Gender Parity Index (GPI)			
	KG	Primary	JHS	SHS
2016/17	1.00	1.03	0.97	0.96
2017/18	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.92
2018/19	0.99	1.00	1.02	0.95
2019/20	1.03	1.02	1.02	0.96
2020/21	0.99	1.00	1.00	-

Source: EMIS, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020

Gender parity on the average has been achieved and maintained at the basic level but progress at secondary level has averaged at 0.95. The index at both primary and JHS were higher in urban than rural areas (Table 12). The improvements in the basic level can be attributed to the continuous Girl-Child Education campaigns by Government through the MOE and MoGCSP with support from development partners and CSOs over the years.

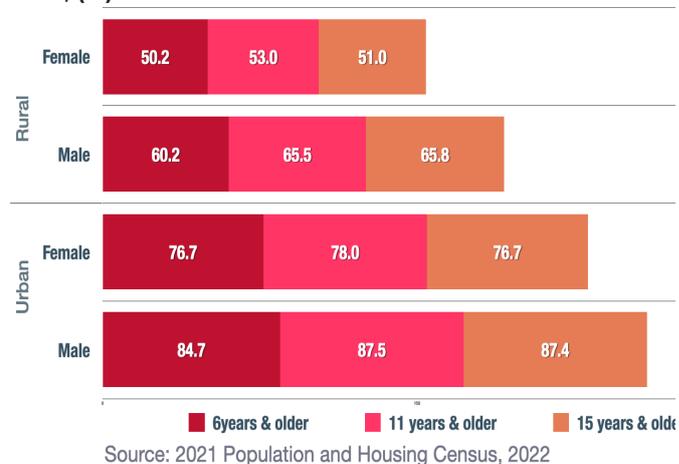
**Indicator 4.6.1: Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex**

According to the 2021 PHC, literacy among persons 6 years and older is 69.8 percent, and is higher for males than females for all

age groups and geographical areas (Figure 27).

Nine out of the 16 regions have literacy rates below the national average. Greater Accra region (87.9 %) recorded the highest literacy rate, which is more than double that of Northern (42.3%), North East (35.9%) and Savanna (32.8%) regions.

Figure 27: Literacy rate by age category, sex and locality, 2021, (%)



**Indicator 4.a.1: Proportion of schools offering basic services, by type of services**

Ghana has made some improvements in the proportion of schools accessing basic services particularly electricity, basic water services, and basic sanitation facilities (Table 13). The general increase in basic services in 2020 were partly attributed to the COVID-19 measures by government with support of stakeholders particularly in the areas of water and sanitation that



aimed at ensuring the safety of pupils in schools.

### Access to Electricity

The proportion of public schools with access to electricity service improved from 55 percent in 2018/19 to 60 percent in 2020/21. Similarly, the proportion of private schools with access to electricity improved from 75 percent to 77 percent.

### Access to Basic Water Services

The proportion of public schools with access to basic water services increased from 71 percent in 2018/19 to 75 percent in 2020/21. Within the same period, private

schools recorded a decrease from 89 percent to 83 percent.

### Access to Basic Sanitation Facilities

The proportion of public schools with access to basic toilet facility services increased from 65 percent in 2018/19 to 74 percent in 2020/21. A similar trend was recorded for private schools over the same period; increasing from 84 percent to 89 percent.

The proportion of public schools with good urinals increased marginally from 68 percent in 2018/19 to 69 percent in 2020/21. Similarly, over the same period, private schools with good urinals increased from 82 percent to 84 percent.

Table 13: Proportion of schools offering basic services, by type of services

Type of Education	2018/2019		2020/2021	
	Public	Private	Public	Private
Basic Toilet Facility	65	84	74	89
Basic Water Service	71	89	75	83
Good Urinals	68	82	69	84
Electricity Services	55	75	60	77

Source: EMIS, 2021

### Indicator 4.c.1: Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications, by education level

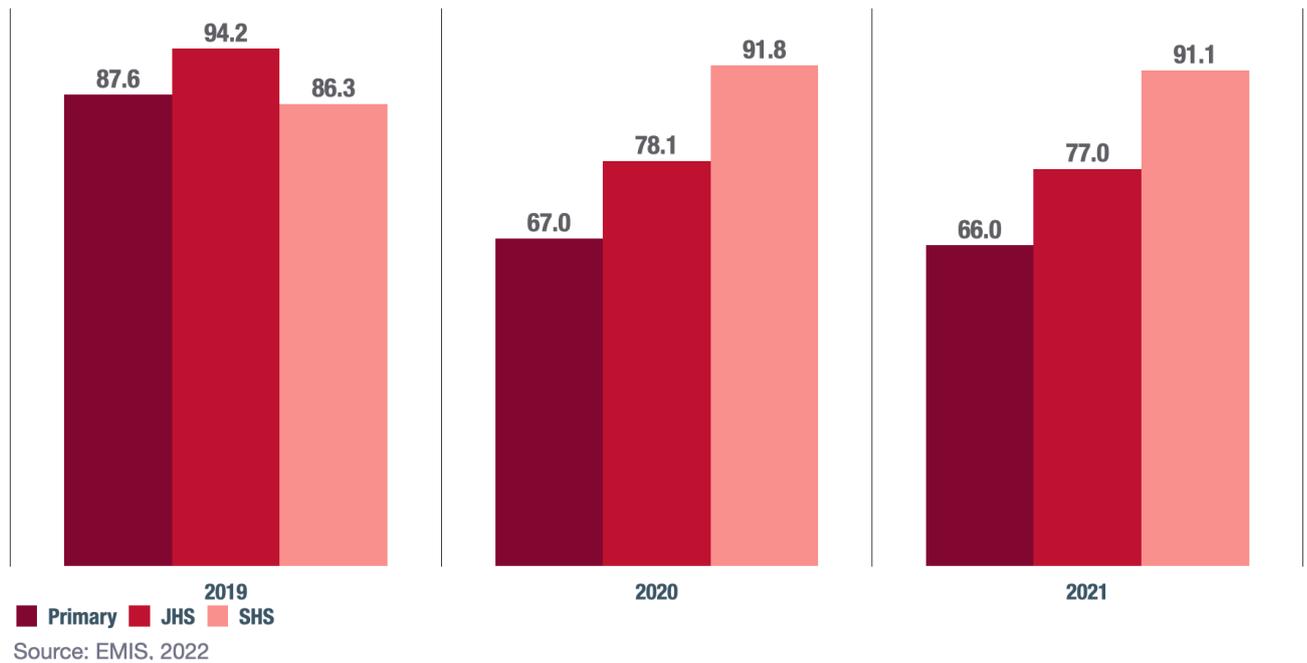
Proportions of teachers with the requisite minimum qualification have since 2019 declined from 87.6 percent to 66.0 percent for lower primary, and 94.2 percent to 77.0 percent for upper primary, while that of senior high has remained around 91.0 percent for both years (Figure 28).

As part of efforts aimed at streamlining the professional and career progression of teachers within the appropriate competency framework in the pre-tertiary sector, the National Teaching Council

(NTC) has so far issued a total of 128,789 licenses to teachers. The Council also inducted 26,100 newly qualified teachers. In addition, the training manuals for the National Pre-Tertiary Learning Assessment Framework and School-Based Assessment have been developed. In 2021, the Ghana Education Service (GES) introduced the use of aptitude test for qualified applicants as a means of curbing challenges with the conduct of interviews for the promotion of teachers at the pre-tertiary level. A total of 46,273 qualified applicants sat for the aptitude test of which 63.7 percent were successful.



Figure 28: Proportion of teachers with minimum required qualifications, 2019 - 2021, (%)



### Effect of COVID-19 on learning outcomes

During the peak of COVID-19, it was revealed through the household and jobs tracker survey that 35 percent of basic school children and 28 percent of SHS students were not engaged in any form of learning while at home. About 25.6 percent of basic school children and 32.7 percent of SHS students lacked access to basic tools such as computers and mobile phones to enable them to participate in e-learning activities. However, it revealed that 96.6 percent of children were likely to return once schools reopen.

### Assessment of recovery from the Pandemic

Data from household and jobs tracker surveys indicated that government interventions are having the needed impacts on access to education. Interventions such as the Ghana Learning Radio Programme which provided distance learning instruction in English and the 11 official Ghanaian languages, and e-learning platforms have helped improve the situation with regards to children engaged in learning activity from 62.2 percent to 71.3 percent for primary/JHS and 72 percent to 79.8 percent for SHS (Table 14).

Table 14: indications of recovery relating to SDG4, 2020

Indicator	Wave 1 – June 2020	Wave 2 – September 2020
Children likely to go back to school after mobility restrictions are lifted – Primary/JHS	96.0%	97.1%
Children likely to go back to school after mobility restrictions are lifted – Senior Secondary	98.0%	98.6%
Children engaged in any type of learning activity– Primary/JHS	62.2%	71.3%
Children engaged in any type of learning activity– Secondary	72.0%	79.8%

Source: GSS Household and Job Tracker Surveys, 2020



## Innovative interventions for accelerating attainment of SDGs 4

Interventions being implemented by the government towards the attainment of SDG 4 include the following:

s/n	Key Interventions	Remarks
1.	Free Senior High School Policy (FSHSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As of 2021, 1,261,495 students have benefitted from the policy. In addition, first year students received the following items in 2021:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4,135,284 exercise books;</li> <li>1,767,547 note books;</li> <li>395,571 physical education kits;</li> <li>1,734,800 cartridge art paper for visual arts students;</li> <li>34,696 water-based acrylic paints for visual arts students;</li> <li>27,391 technical drawing boards; and</li> <li>27,391 sets of technical instruments.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2.	Free Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2021, a total of 2,794 Master Craft Persons and apprentices were issued with vouchers to enable them access formal training in their respective trade areas. In addition, 2,446 competency-based training learners received National TVET Qualification Framework (NTVETQF) certification.=</li> <li>A TVET Service has been established pursuant to Section 55 of the Pre-Tertiary Education Act, 2020 (Act1049), to manage, oversee and implement approved national policies and programmes.</li> <li>First year students of the newly aligned TVET institutes were fully enrolled onto the Free SHS Programme in the 2021/22 academic year.</li> </ul>
3.	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2021, a total of 924 Mathematics and Science Teachers in beneficiary schools under the Secondary Education Improvement Projects (SEIP)<sup>1</sup> were trained in some challenging topics. In addition, digitized lessons of experienced teachers teaching these challenging topics in core subjects were distributed to all Senior High Schools.</li> <li>Construction of 20 STEM Centres across the country ongoing, and at various stages of completion.</li> </ul>
4.	Non-Formal Education Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2021, the Non-Formal Education Division of the Ministry of Education run 2,467 classes with 51,627 learners across the country. This was aimed at providing opportunities for those outside the formal education system to have free access to meaningful high-quality user-friendly education and training.</li> </ul>
5.	Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2021, over 3.4million beneficiary pupils in primary and KG schools in all the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) were provided with one hot nutritious meal for every school going day.</li> </ul>
6.	Inclusive and Special Education Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2021, a total of 1,281 teachers were trained on how to manage and support learners with Specific Learning Difficulties. In addition, 179 officers made up of partially sighted and blind teachers, teaching assistants and house mothers were trained on innovative teaching.</li> </ul>
7.	No Guarantor Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By way of increasing access to student loans at the tertiary level, a no guarantor policy has been implemented for the 2021/2022 academic year.</li> </ul>
8.	Secondary Education Improvement Programme (SEIP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, 28 Community Day Senior High Schools (E-Blocks) were completed.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> A US\$196 million World Bank credit facility (US\$156 million initial and US\$40 million additional financing) to the Government of Ghana to improve secondary education in the country



## Emerging issues

1. Widening disparities between urban and rural education outcomes
2. Limited access to alternative learning platforms for rural learners
3. Gradual improvements in JHS completion rate
4. Low literacy in rural areas and among females
5. Declining net enrolment rate at all levels
6. Low enrolment of children with disabilities in schools
7. Increasing TVIs with disability-friendly facilities
8. Stagnation of GPI at SHS level





5 GENDER EQUALITY

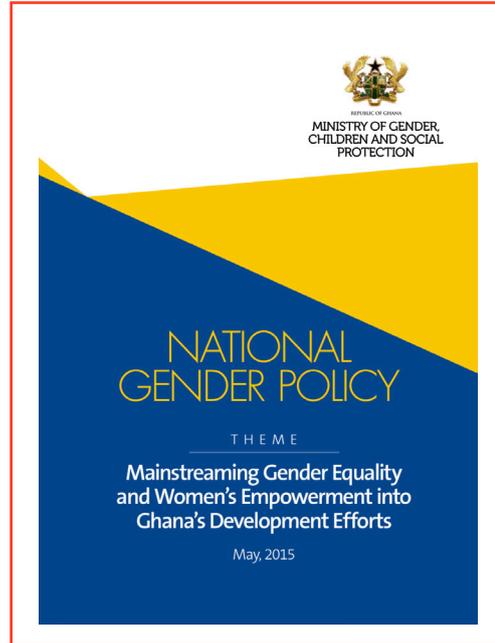


# GOAL 5 ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

## Indicator 5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and nondiscrimination on the basis of sex

The country has enacted laws and developed policies that have ensured non-discrimination based on sex. The laws and policies also cater for and enhance equality among the sexes.

Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) was established in 1998 as Specialized Unit within the Ghana Police Service in response to the increasing number of reported cases of abuse and violence against women and children.



### Gender Related Laws and Policies in Ghana

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Children's Amendment Act, 2016 (Act 937)                                  | 2. Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1965 (Act 301) |
| 3. Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice Act, 1993 (Act 456) | 4. Rent Act, 1963 (Act 220)                              |
| 5. Domestic Violence Act, 2007 (Act 732)                                     | 6. Rent Control Act, 1986 (PNDC Law 138)                 |
| 7. Ghana Aids Commission Act, 2016 (Act 938)                                 | 8. Right to Information Act, 2019 (Act 989)              |
| 9. Intestate Succession Law, 1985 (PNDC III)                                 | 10. The Wills Act, 1960 (Act 360)                        |
| 11. Labour Act, 2003 (Act 651)   | 12. Youth Employment Agency Act, 2015 (Act 887)          |
| 13. Marriages Act, 1884-1885 CAP 127   | 14. Land Act, 2020 (Act 1036)                            |
| 15. Matrimonial Causes Act (Act 367)   | 16. Real Estate Agency Act, 2020 (Act 1047)              |
| 17. National Pensions (Amendment) Law 2014 (Act 883)                         | 18. National Gender Policy, 2015                         |
| 19. National Pensions Act, 2008 (Act 766)                                    | 20. National Housing Policy, 2015                        |
| 21. Persons with Disability Act, 2006 (Act 715)                              | 22. Ghana National Social Protection Policy,             |

The Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) as a body receives complaints on discrimination, prejudice, mistreatment, torture among others for fair hearing. The Commission also carries out special investigations into human rights abuses that are systemic or cultural.

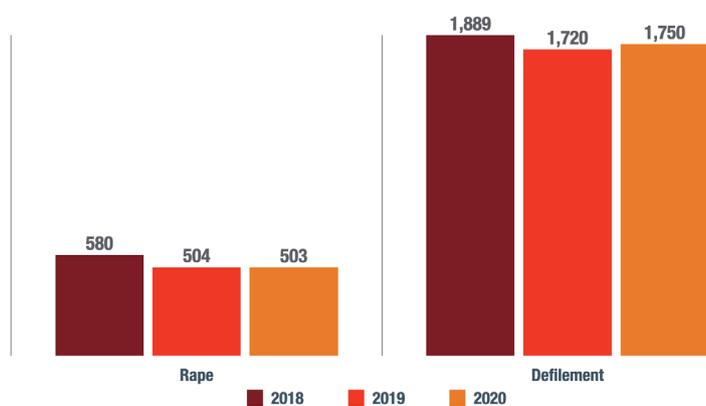
The legal systems provide safeguards for the rights of women and non-discrimination based on gender.



**Indicator 5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age**

Crime statistics as reported by the Ghana Police Service shows a decline of about 13 percent and 7 percent for rape and defilement between 2018 and 2020 respectively (Figure 29).

Figure 29: Reported cases of rape and defilement, 2018 - 2020



Source: Ghana Police Service, 2018 - 2020



**Box 9: Mobile Application for collecting Data on Gender Based Violence**

A Mobile application dubbed, "Let's Talk" is being developed by the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection in collaboration with the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH to address the deficiencies in the current traditional method of collecting data on GBV at the community level across the country.

The App will make available Citizens Generated Data (CGD) that seeks to bridge the information gaps created by the period nature of the population census and survey methods currently being used to collect GBV data. This is expected to address deficiencies in the current traditional method of collecting data on GBV at the community level across the country.

The App will be made available on google play store and apple IOS for citizens to download and install. The App was piloted in Buipe, Ga West, Ho and Techiman.

**Indicator 5.5.1: Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments**

Women's participation in parliamentary, political, and public life has averagely improved as at 2021. Except for Ministers and Chief Directors that declined in 2021, all others recorded improvements particularly for deputy ministers which increased to 27 percent from 14 percent in 2020. Despite this, all the targets for women participation were not achieved in 2021 (Table 15).

**5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure**

Ghana's agriculture land ownership arrangement is made up of own/freehold, inheritance, renting, sharecropping, squatting, trusteeship and others.

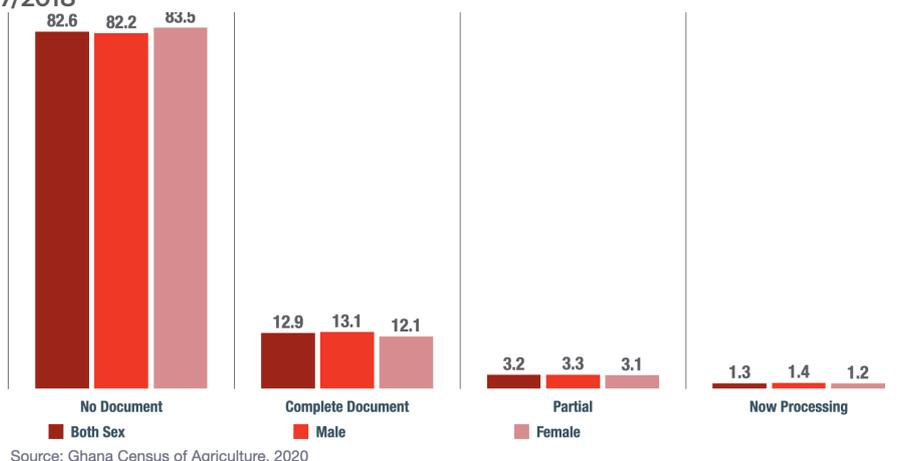


Table 15: Women representation in Public life, 2017 - 2021

	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Target	2021 Actual
Minsters	24% (9)	20% (10)	22% (13)	25% (9)	40%	20% (8)
Dep. Ministers	21% (8)	20% (12)	20% (10)	14% (7)	30%	27% (10)
MPs	11% (30)	14% (37)	14% (38)	14% (38)	40%	15% (40)
MMDCE	10% (20)	17% (36)	14% (37)	14% (37)	40%	15% (38)
Chief Directors	10% (4)	17 % (3)	24% (7)	31% (9)	>30%	30% (9)
Supreme Court Judges	23% (3)	26% (15)	26% (4)	28% (5)	40%	31% (5)
High Court Judges	38% (5)	38% (5)	36% (35)	36% (35)	40%	37% (44)

Source: Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection Annual Progress Report, 2022

Figure 30: Land parcels for agriculture by type of tenure arrangement and sex of holder, and by status of documentation, 2017/2018



More than half (56.7%) of these lands are cultivated on small-scale with the rest under medium-scale (25.6%) and large-scale (17.7%) cultivation. Of these lands, 82.6 percent used by holders do not have any form of documentation. Approximately, 13 percent have complete documentation while 3.2 percent have partial documentation.

The land ownership arrangement with most documentation is under own/freehold (16.0%), sharecropping (15.7%) and leasehold (13.4%) with squatting<sup>1</sup> having no documentation. There was a marginal difference between male and female lands under documentation (Figure 30).

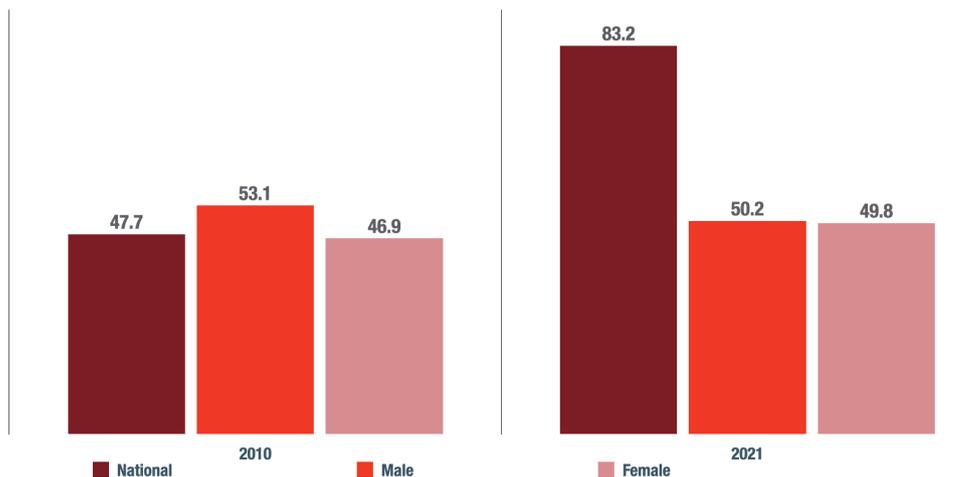
### Indicator 5.b.1: Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex

Proportion of individuals, age 12 years and above owning mobile phones has seen significant improvement over the last decade by 35.5 percentage points to 83.2 percent in 2021, with the share for females increasing from 46.9 percent in 2010 to 49.8 percent in 2021 (Figure 31). This performance is in conformity with the target which seeks to enhance the use of ICT to empower women. However, among the female population (79.7%) mobile phone ownership is lower than males (87.0%).

<sup>1</sup> The practice where a holder is using a parcel of private or public land without any clear ownership and/or permission of the owner



Figure 31: Proportion of population 12 years and above owing mobile phone by sex, 2010 and 2021, (%)



Source: 2010 and 2021 Population and Housing Census

### Effect of COVID-19 on gender equality, women and girls

Generally, the partial lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic led to families spending more time together. This largely exposed women and girls to increased risks of gender-based violence including sexual exploitation and abuses. In 2021, there were 467 cases of domestic violence reported through the Orange Support Centre.

Further, data from the Helpline of Hope Call Centre instituted by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection indicate that there were about 5,000 calls from the poor and vulnerable across the country, who received assorted food, sanitary materials, PPEs and other relief items.

### Assessment of recovery from the Pandemic

Government continued to implement the National Gender Policy, monitored the 5-Year Strategic Plan on Adolescent and Teenage Pregnancy as well as working towards the passage of the Affirmative Action (Gender Equality) Bill. The effective mainstreaming of gender concerns into national policies and plans are efforts towards empowerment to reverse the negative impacts of the pandemic. Other interventions towards the achievements of the other 16 SDGs are expected to result in gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.



## Innovative interventions for accelerating attainment of SDG 5

Interventions being implemented by the government towards the attainment of SDG 5 include the following:

S/N	Key Interventions	Remarks
1.	Domestic Violence Secretariat (DVS) and Human Trafficking Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2021, the Orange Support Centre was launched to provide information and support for survivors of Domestic or Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (D/SGBV) using a toll-free line and BOAME (Help Me) App for ease of case reporting and resolution.</li> <li>In 2021, the Domestic Violence Information Portal (DVIP) was launched to provide and enhance data sharing amongst all stakeholders in the fight against D/SGBV and Child Marriage. Since its inception, there have been 16 physical abuse, 12 sexual abuse, and 7 domestic violence cases recorded, of which female cases dominate.</li> <li>In 2021, the Child Marriage Information Portal (CMIP) was launched.</li> <li>In 2021, the Human Trafficking Secretariat provided comprehensive trauma informed care for 503 victims of human trafficking in Adult and Children's shelters for human trafficking.</li> </ul>
2..	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2021, Ghana prepared its Combined 8th and 9th Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Report.</li> <li>In 2021, a National Gender Equality Clinic was organised to promote sexual and reproductive health among adolescent girls.</li> </ul>

## Emerging issues

1. Lower mobile phone ownership among female population
2. Slow progress in rape and defilement cases
3. Decline in women representation in ministerial positions since 2019
4. Majority of agricultural lands are without documentation





## 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



# GOAL 6 ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

### Indicator 6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services

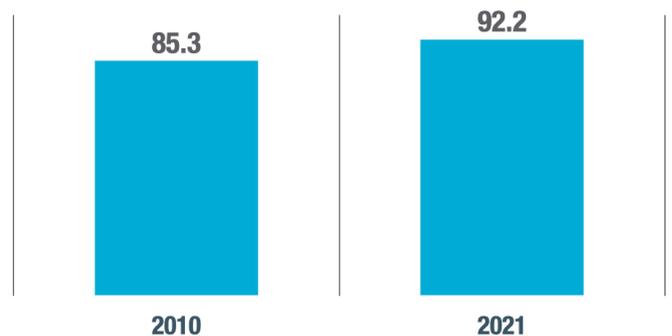
About 92.2 percent of households have access to improved drinking water sources<sup>1</sup> in 2021. This is an improvement of 7 percentage points from the level in 2010 (Figure 32). In 2021, access to basic drinking water service<sup>2</sup> stood at 87.7 percent.

Ghana is on the path to achieving its national target of equitable access to basic drinking water services by 2025. Higher proportion of households in urban than rural areas have access to improved drinking water sources and basic drinking water services. The two main sources of water are sachet water (51.5%) and pipe-borne water (33.6%) for urban, and borehole/tube well (33.6%) and pipe-borne water (28.8%) for rural.

While six regions<sup>3</sup> have almost achieved universal access, more than a fifth of the populations in 4 regions – Northern, Oti, North East and Savannah – lack access to improved water sources (Figure 33).

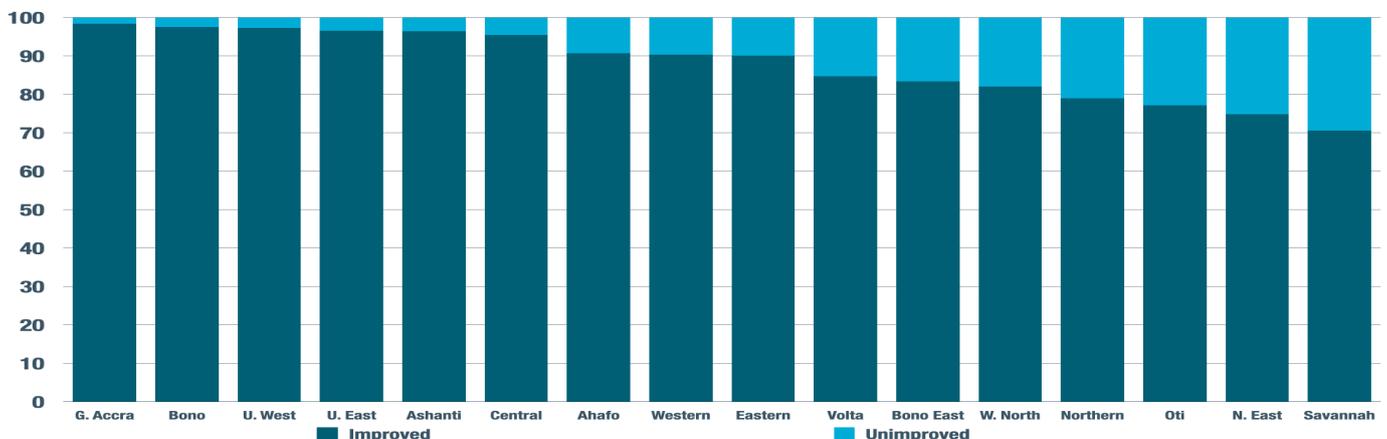


Figure 32: Access to improved drinking water sources, 2010 and 2021, (%)



Source: 2010 and 2021 Population and Housing Census

Figure 33: Proportion of households using improved and unimproved sources of drinking water by region, 2021, (%)



Source: 2021 Population and Housing Census, 2022

1 Improved drinking water sources include sachet water, pipe-borne, borehole/tube well, surface water, protected well and spring and bottled water

2 Refers to the provision of improved sources of drinking water either in the dwelling/yard/plot or within 30 minutes round trip collection time

3 Greater Accra, Bono, Upper West, Upper East, Ashanti and Central



## Box 10: Findings from the Rapid Assessment on Access to Water Services

Although several water extension and expansion projects aimed at increasing access to water services have been initiated and completed within the past years, the increasing cost of water is a significant blockade for promoting equitable access. This has been exacerbated particularly after the peak pandemic period where the uncertainties from the economic challenges including increases in fuel price, electricity tariff increases and high maintenance costs, continue to contribute to the price hikes.

Even so, apart from geographical and political disparities in water coverage, PWDs remain hugely disadvantaged due to the largely limited ease of access to WASH infrastructure.

### Indicator 6.2.1 Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water

Household toilet coverage has increased from 46 percent in 2010 to 59.3 percent in 2021. For both periods, access to toilets was higher among urban than rural households. Households that use public toilets have declined by 12 percentage points to 23 percent in 2021 (Figure 35). There was also a decline in open defecation by 2.3 percentage points to 17.7 percent in 2021. For Ghana to achieve the target of ending open defecation by 2030, it will require an average annual reduction of about 2 percent of population without toilet facilities.

Data from 2021 JMP report shows that the proportion of population using handwashing facilities with soap and water

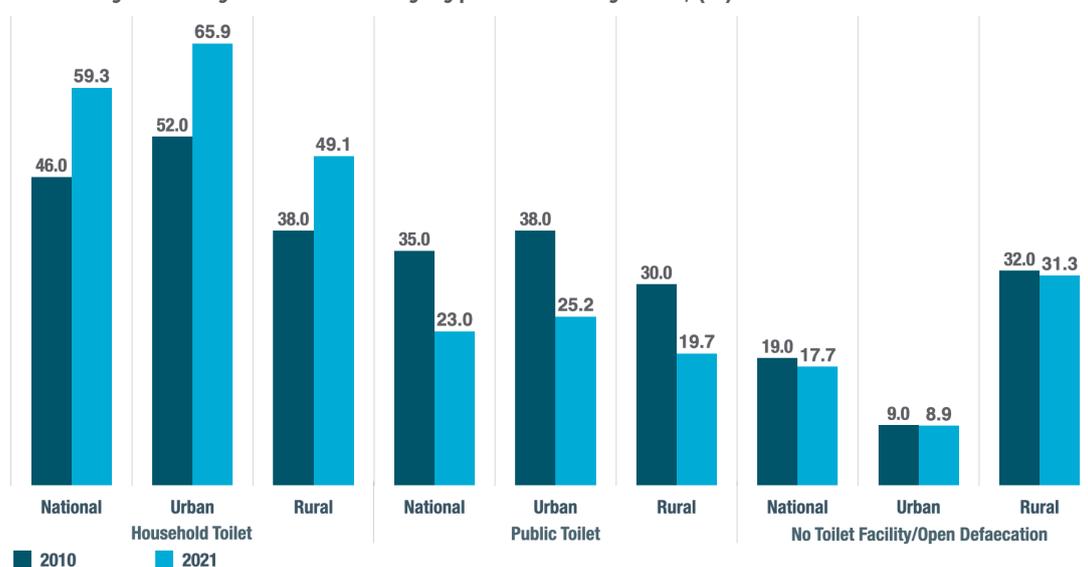
increased marginally from 41.3 percent to 41.5 percent between 2017 and 2020 (Figure 34).

About 47 percent of urban population have access to handwashing facilities with soap and water while 35 percent have access in rural areas in 2020.

Figure 34: Proportion of population using handwashing facility with soap and water, 2017 - 2020, (%)



Figure 35: Toilet Facility Used by Households by Type of Locality 2021, (%)





## Box 11: Findings from the Rapid Assessment on Access on Access to Sanitation and Hygiene Services

### Access to sanitation

Though several interventions have been instituted aimed at improving access to sanitation services, the increasing cost of sanitation and the lack of public and household toilets remains a challenge. The increasing cost has had a negative impact on household expenditure and led to some persons resorting to open defecation. PWDs remain hugely disadvantaged due to the limited access to sanitation facilities.

### Handwashing

Handwashing significantly improved during the peak of the pandemic. This was facilitated by the adherence of the COVID-19 protocols; government's directive promoting regular handwashing; free water initiative undertaken by government; distribution of 'veronica' buckets and tippy taps, and other WASH facilities; and frequent community visits by local authorities to inspect handwashing facilities.

After the easing of restrictions, there has been a reduction in handwashing activities owing to the perceived availability of vaccines and the discontinuation of the free water policy. Nonetheless, women still have a higher frequency in practicing handwashing, with men and the youth being the worst culprits.

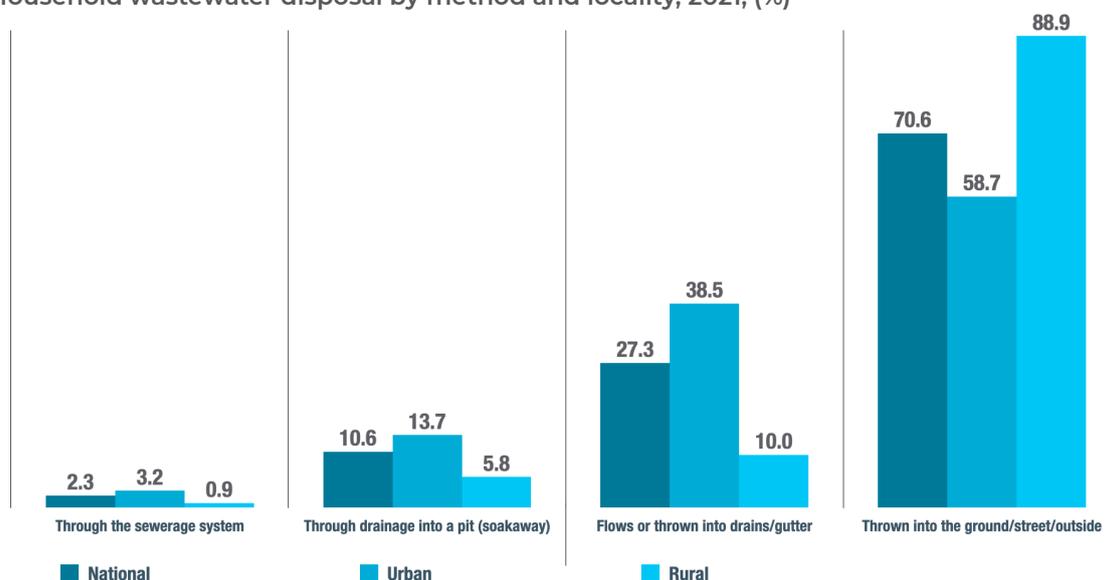
## Indicator 6.3.1 Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated

Data from the 2021 PHC revealed that majority (70.6%) of households dispose-off wastewater on the ground/street/outside. In terms of locality, this practice is more prevalent in rural (88.9%) than urban (58.7%) areas. Only 2.3 percent of households rely on sewerage system for waste water

disposal, and this is higher in urban (3.2%) than rural (0.9%) areas (Figure 36).

Regional discrepancies also exist with wastewater disposal method. Whereas the discharge of wastewater by soakaway is common in the Greater region (17.8%), the practice of throwing wastewater onto the ground/street/outside is dominant in Bono East Region (89.3%).

Figure 36: Household wastewater disposal by method and locality, 2021, (%)



Source: 2021 Population and Housing Census, 2022

## Box 12: Josping group commissions 20 million Euros Kumasi Wastewater Treatment Plant

A wastewater treatment plant has been commissioned to help in the management of liquid waste generated in the Kumasi metropolis and parts of the Ashanti Region. The thousand cubic meters'(1000m<sup>3</sup>) state-of-the-art facility is expected to eliminate the indiscriminate discharge of liquid waste into streams and other water bodies in the region. This is expected to address the discharge of liquid waste into streams within Dompase and its environs. Two other facilities with a capacity of 1000m<sup>3</sup> are being constructed in Tamale and Takoradi to treat waste water.

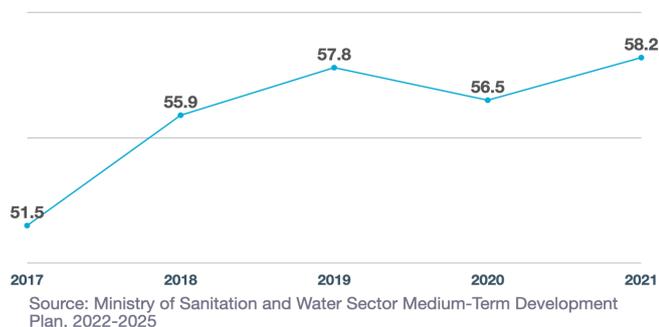


### Indicator 6.3.2: Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality

The Nationwide Water Quality Monitoring Programme was initiated to enhance the effectiveness of the protection of water from pollution. Overall ambient water quality for the major river basins is fairly good, having improved from an index<sup>4</sup> of 57.8 in 2019 to 58.2 in 2021 (Figure 37)

Despite the marginal improvements, the basins continue to be affected by activities of illegal mining, uncontrolled pollution and dumping of refuse into the river bodies.

Figure 37: Water quality index, 2017 - 2021



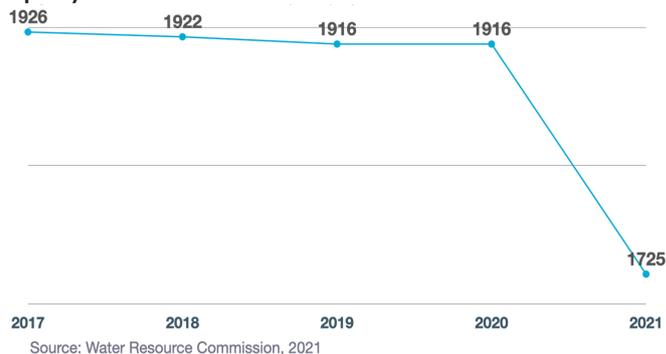
### Indicator 6.4.2: Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources

Water availability per capita has generally been declining over time. It declined from 1,926 m<sup>3</sup>/person in 2017 to 1,916 m<sup>3</sup>/person in 2020, and further to 1,725 m<sup>3</sup>/person in 2021 (Figure 38). Based on the 2021 population, the level of water stress is nearing the recommended minimum threshold of 1,700m<sup>3</sup> per capita.

Government through the buffer zone restoration schemes planted 16,937 tree seedlings in selected riparian communities within the Black and White Volta, Tano, Offin and Densu basins. The import is to restore degraded buffers around the river

bodies and reduce the negative impact of human activities on the water bodies.

Figure 38: Level of water stress, 2017 - 2021, (m<sup>3</sup> per capita)



### Indicator 6.5.1: Degree of integrated water resources management

The degree of water resources management<sup>5</sup> improved from 49 percent in 2017 to 51 percent in 2019. This further improved to 57 percent in 2021. This places Ghana close to the medium-high status (60) but far from achieving the very high status (100).

Under the Integrating Flood and Drought Management and Early Warning for Climate Change Adaptation in the Volta Basin (VFDM) project, an assessment of current capabilities and needs related to the development of risk maps was completed. This aims at helping the six countries of the Volta Basin (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo) to implement coordinated and joint actions to improve existing flood and drought Early Warning Systems and management plans, and to strengthen resilience at regional, national and local levels. Further, the Water Resources Commission with key stakeholders developed a web-based early warning dissemination interface platform to enable early warning information reach communities.

<sup>4</sup> WQI is a general water quality index where various physical, chemical, and microbiological variables are aggregated to produce an overall index of water quality to describe the state of water bodies. Classification system 80-100 is good unpolluted; 50-80 is fairly good; 25-50 is poor and 0-24 is grossly polluted.

<sup>5</sup> Degree of water resources management is measured biannually and based on the status of enabling environments, institutions and participation, management instruments, and financing integrated water resource management (IWRM)



## Effect of COVID-19 on water, sanitation and hygiene services

The practice of frequent and proper handwashing, and use of alcohol-based sanitizers improved due to their importance as a preliminary defense against COVID-19. Data from the household and jobs tracker Wave 1 indicate a change in behaviour patterns due to COVID-19, with 97.5 percent reporting more frequent handwashing in the seven days prior to the survey.

## Assessment of recovery from the Pandemic

Government instituted several interventions including the provision of free water, drilling of boreholes, supply of WASH materials to schools, hospitals among others. The household and jobs tracker wave 2 indicate that handwashing behaviour has improved to 98.4 percent.

## Innovative interventions for accelerating attainment of SDGs 6

Interventions being implemented by the government towards the attainment of SDG 6 include the following:

S/N	Key Interventions	Remarks
1.	Water management programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, under the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area Sanitation and Water Project (GAMA-SWP), access to potable water was provided to over 420,000 people (equivalent to 85,000 households) in GAMA. In addition, a Low-Income Consumer Support Unit (LICSU) was established to promote and sustain water supply delivery to the urban poor.</li> <li>In 2020, under the Sustainable Rural Water and Sanitation Project, 23 water systems were constructed within 11 regions. In addition, 250 boreholes were constructed in the Upper West Region, serving approximately a population of 325,000.</li> <li>In 2020, under the “Water for All” programme, 608 boreholes were drilled and the accompanying pads constructed, and 535 pumps installed.</li> <li>In 2020, under the Ghana-Spain Debt Swap for Development Programme (DSDP) 12 pipe water systems with some fitted iron removal plants have been completed. The project’s objective is to expand access to and ensure sustainable water supply and sanitation services in 36 rural and small town/communities in the Ho, Ho West, Agotime/Ziope and South Dayi Districts. In all, a total population of 69,000 people are to benefit from the project. .</li> </ul>
2.	Sanitation sector management programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, under the Street Litter Bin programme, 8,100 litter bins were deployed.</li> <li>In 2020, under the Greater Accra Sustainable Sanitation and Livelihoods Improvement Project (GASSLIP), 30 Communal Waste Skip Containers and 24 Waste Collection Equipment (Borla Taxis) were delivered to beneficiary MMDAs.</li> <li>In 2020, under the Sustainable Rural Water and Sanitation Project, 22,079 household toilets and 179 toilet facilities for teachers were constructed. As a result, 516 communities were certified as ODF.</li> <li>In 2021, under the GAMA-SWP, 34,496 household toilet facilities were constructed to serve over 275,968 people in low-income communities representing 34,496 households in GAMA of which most of the beneficiaries fall within the vulnerable bracket. In addition, 56km conventional offsite simplified sewerage systems was constructed to serve two low-income urban communities in Accra, namely Ashaiman New Town Community, TDC quarters and Bankuman.</li> </ul>



## Emerging Issues

1. More than 45 percent of households without toilet facilities
2. Slow progress towards ending open defecation
3. General decline in water availability per capita as a result of climate and high population.
4. Poor disposal of wastewater likely to reverse gains made in suppressing sanitation related diseases
5. Slow progress to achieving the very high scale of integrated water management
6. Water quality is challenged by illegal mining, uncontrolled pollution and dumping of refuse

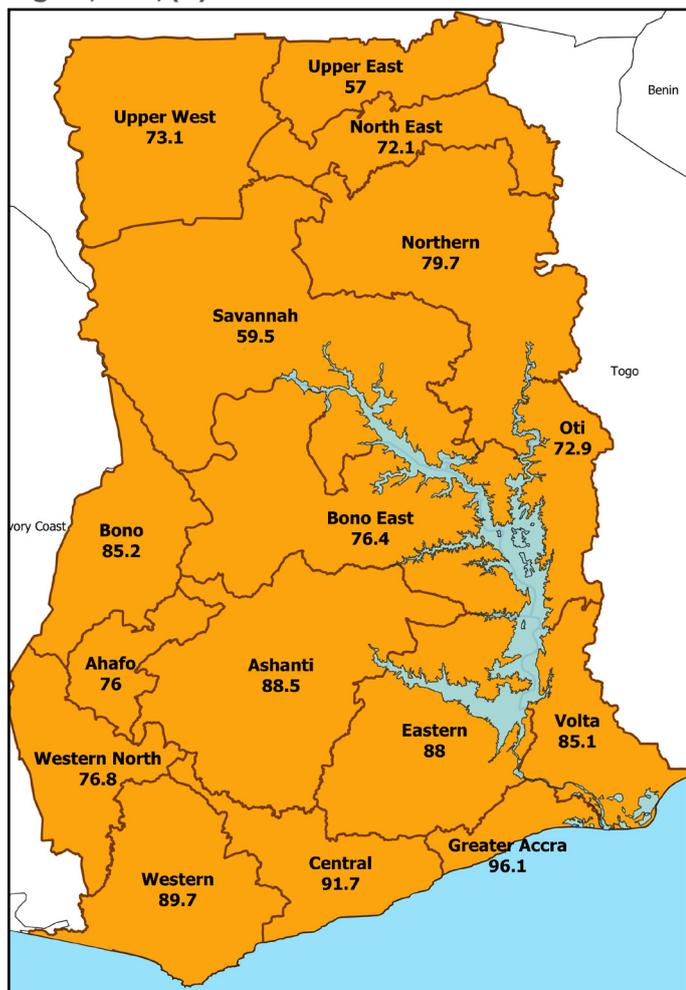








**Figure 40: Population with access to electricity by region, 2021, (%)**

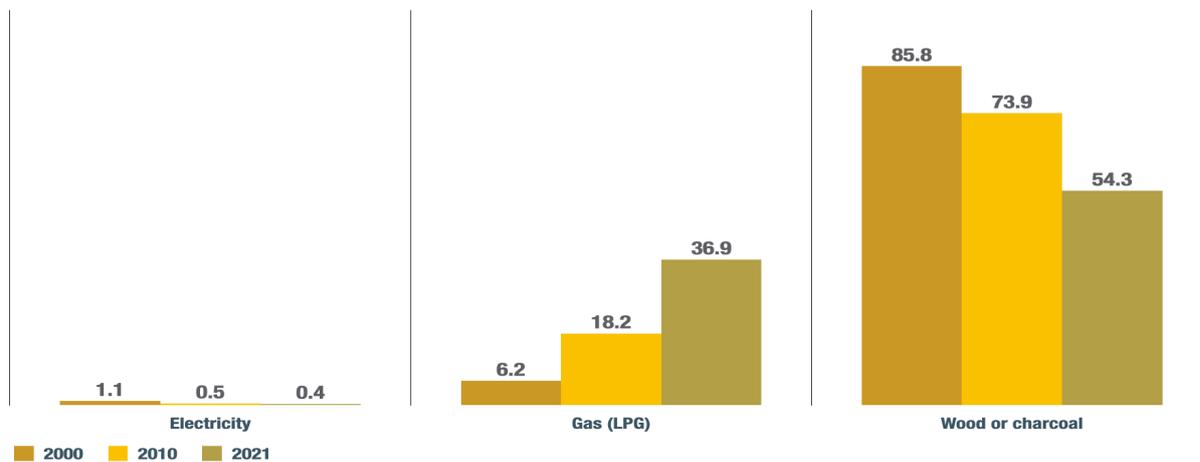


Source: 2021 Population and Housing Census, 2022

**Indicator 7.1.2: Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology**

The proportion of the households using gas (LPG) as their primary cooking fuel

**Figure 41: Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology, 2000, 2010 and 2021, (%)**



Source: 2000, 2010, 2021 Population and Housing Census

increased from 18.2 percent in 2010 to 36.9 percent in 2021, with rural areas having a far lower percentage (14.8%) than urban areas (51.3%). The breakdown by region shows that most people use LPG in the Greater Accra Region (68.2%) while North East Region (4.2%) has the least people using LPG.

The proportion of households using electricity as the main source of cooking declined marginally from 0.5 percent in 2010 to 0.4 percent in 2021 (Figure 41). Though the use of wood and charcoal has declined by 31 percentage points over the past two decades, it remains the main cooking fuel for more than half (54.3%) of households.

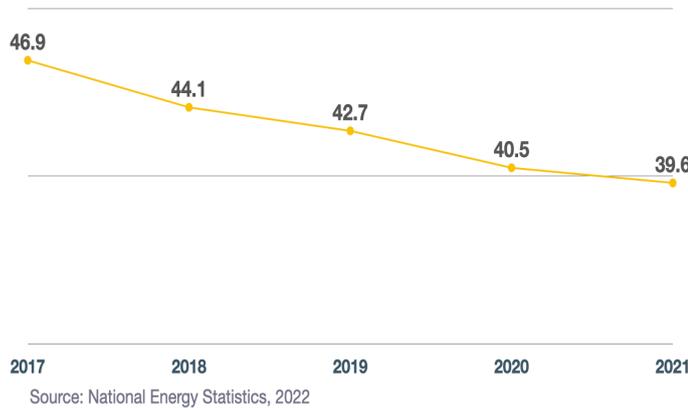
Government has established the Ghana Cylinder Manufacturing Company (GCMC) to produce gas cylinders locally and make them affordable to the public. The government also launched the Rural LPG Promotion (RLP) programme as part of efforts to minimise fuelwood usage (charcoal and firewood). Government has also distributed 134,300 LPG cookstoves under the Rural LPG Promotion Programme and 243,686 units of Improved Charcoal Cook Stoves. Other initiatives include the LPG for Development (LPG4D) Programme and Cylinder Recirculation Model (CRM).



### Indicator 7.2.1: Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption

The renewable energy share of total final energy consumption has been on the decline since 2017 despite the efforts to increase the renewable share in electricity generation. The share declined from 46.9 percent in 2017 to 42.7 percent in 2019 and further to 39.6 percent in 2021 (Figure 42).

Figure 42: Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption, 2017-2021, (%)



### Indicator 7.b.1: Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita)

The share of renewable energy-generating capacity is gradually increasing due to continuous decline in cost and concerted effort to diversify the mix. The electricity generation mix in Ghana is approximately 34.1 percent of hydro against 65.3 percent of thermal and 0.6 percent of renewables (Figure 43).

The installed renewable energy-generating capacity in Ghana in watts per capita has improved from 0.79 in 2017 to 1.91 in 2020 and further to 3.64 in 2021 (Figure 44).

Figure 43: Grid electricity supply by generation type, 2021, (%)

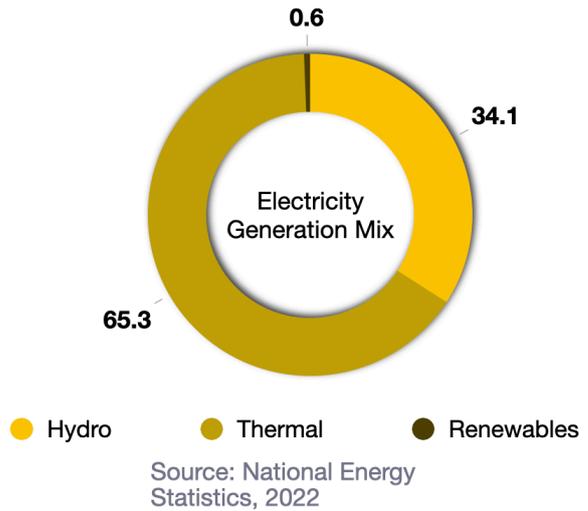
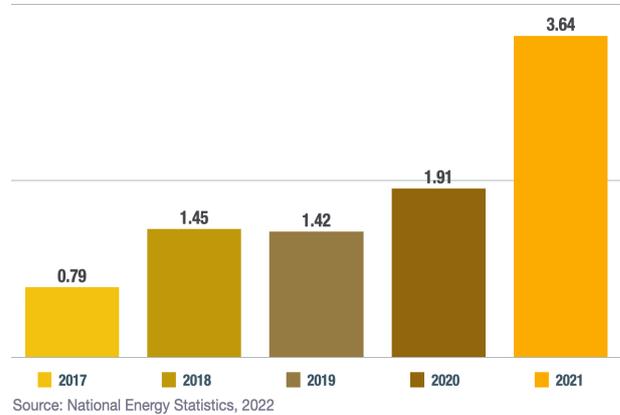


Figure 44: Installed renewable energy-generating capacity, 2017-2021, (watts per capita),



#### Box 13: Enhancing Renewable Energy Share of Energy Generation

The African Development Fund's Board of Directors has approved a \$27.39 million grant to Ghana for the development of renewable energy investments in the mini-grid and net metering space. This is to help the government's renewable energy initiatives as part of the Ghana Cares "Obaatanpa" Programme - Ghana's COVID-19 Recovery Programme. The Volta Lake area will benefit from the development of 35 mini-grids, standalone solar photovoltaic systems in 400 schools, 200 units in healthcare centres, and 100 units for community energy services centres. It will also install up to 12,000 net-metered rooftop solar photovoltaic systems for public institutions, small and medium-sized businesses, and select households. Government has also put in place incentives and created the enabling environment for local manufacturing and assembly of renewable energy technologies.



## Effect of COVID-19 on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

COVID-19 restrictions on business activities and movement of persons reduced energy demand in transport and industry, thereby decreasing energy consumption. These restrictions also resulted in weekly electricity demand decreasing by 10-35 percent across affected regions<sup>1</sup> during the three-week lockdown period.

## Assessment of recovery from the Pandemic

Data from the business tracker survey (Wave 3) of the COVID-19 tracker (September 2021) indicates that 95.7 percent of firms reported to be fully opened, an increase of 22 percentage points since Wave 1 (June 2020). The ease of restrictions and the subsequent increase in the number of firms restoring full service, improved energy demand. Data from the national energy statistics indicates that electricity consumption by the industry, services and agriculture sectors accounted for 53.0 percent of the total electricity consumed in 2021, a slight increase from 52.9 percent in 2020.

## Innovative interventions for accelerating attainment of SDG 7

Interventions being implemented by the government towards the attainment of SDG 7 include the following:

S/N	Key Interventions	Remarks
1.	Power Sector Development and Management Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, the Kintampo-Tamale and Tamale-Bolgatanga section of the 330kV Kumasi-Bolgatanga Transmission Line Project was completed and in service contributing to the export of power to Burkina-Faso.</li> <li>In 2021, the Amandi Power Project (200MW Twin City Energy Project) was completed. In addition, installed capacity improved to 5,481MW in 2021.</li> <li>In 2021, a total of 162 communities were connected to the national grid.</li> </ul>
2.	Energy Efficiency and Demand-Side Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, over 8.9 million LED bulbs (6W, 9W and 13W) were distributed to Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies in all 16 regions. Additionally, over 1.1 million of LED bulbs were distributed to some key government institutions.</li> <li>In 2020, a total of 6000 and 4,500 of 150W streetlights were respectively installed. In addition, there were rehabilitation and replacement of High-Pressure Sodium (HPS) Street lights in selected streets in Accra and Kumasi.</li> <li>In 2021, 154 Certified Electrical Wiring Inspectors (CEWIs) were trained to carry out inspection of wiring in commercial buildings.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iea.org/reports/renewable-energy-market-update/covid-19-impact-on-renewable-energy-growth>



S/N	Key Interventions	Remarks
3.	Renewable and Alternative Energy Development Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In 2020, a total of 60,283 Solar Lanterns (with phone charging functionality) were sold at a subsidized price to poor off-grid rural households to replace the use of kerosene as the main lighting fuel for non-electrified communities.</li><li>• In 2020, 1MWp of the 5MWp Floating Solar PV, the first of its kind in the sub-region of West Africa was completed.</li><li>• In 2020, the first phase (6.8MWp) of the 19.8MW Solar Project by Volta River Authority in Lawra and Kaleo in the Upper West Region was completed.</li><li>• In 2020, the first ever 45KW mini-hydro power plant at Alavanyo was completed and commissioned.</li><li>• In 2020, 43,400 units of solar lanterns were distributed to poor off-grid rural households to replace the use of kerosene lanterns in non-electrified communities.</li><li>• In 2021, the Bui Power Authority (BPA) 50MW Solar Power Plant and the VRA 13MW Kaleo Solar Project was operationalized.</li><li>• In 2021, a total of 151,000 units of Improved Charcoal Cook Stoves were distributed in a bid to reduce exposure to carbon monoxide emissions from the use of wood fuel for cooking and reduce deforestation.</li><li>• The first phase of the roadmap setup for the Ghana Nuclear Programme by the International Atomic Energy Agency was successfully completed</li></ul>

### Emerging Issues

1. Increasing cost of LPG
2. Gradual improvement in the share of renewables in energy generation mix
3. Decreasing cost of solar panels
4. Continuous disparity in access to electricity between the northern and southern parts
5. More than half of households depend on wood fuel/charcoal

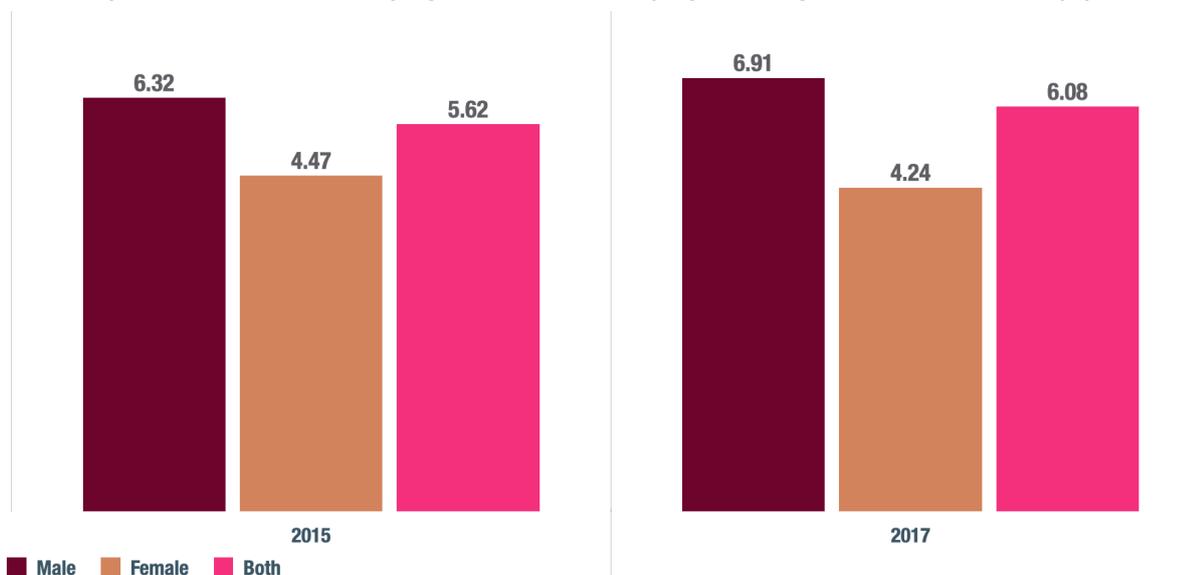






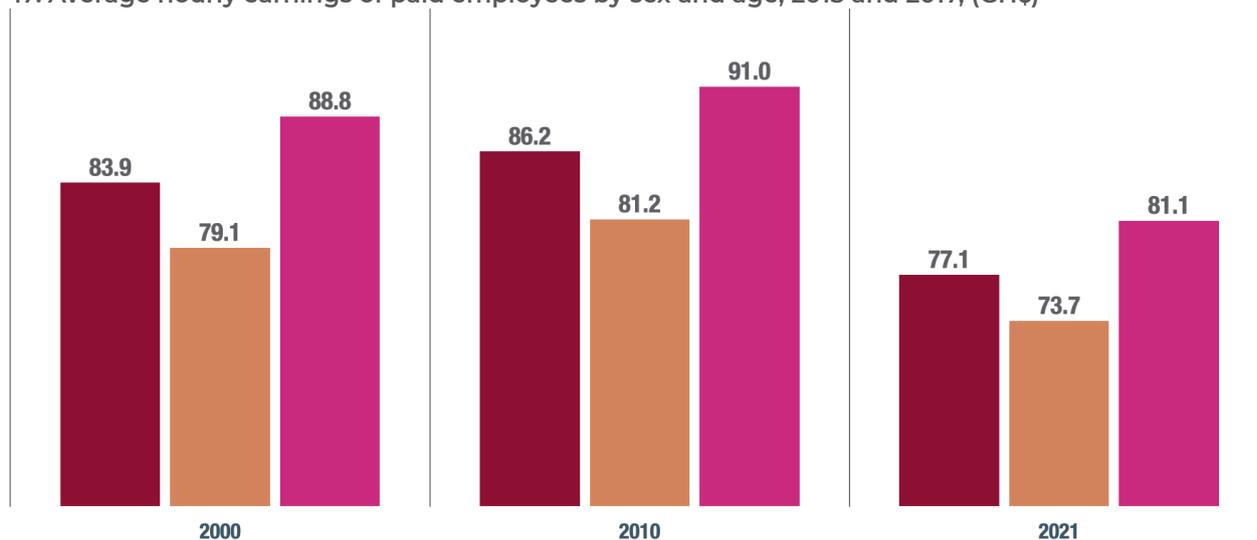
contribute to the general rise in income inequality over the past decades.

Figure 46: Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sex, 2010 and 2021, (%)



Source: Computed from Labour Force Report Report and GLSS7, 2016 and 2019

Figure 47: Average hourly earnings of paid employees by sex and age, 2015 and 2017, (GH¢)



Source: 2000, 2010, 2021 Population and Housing Census

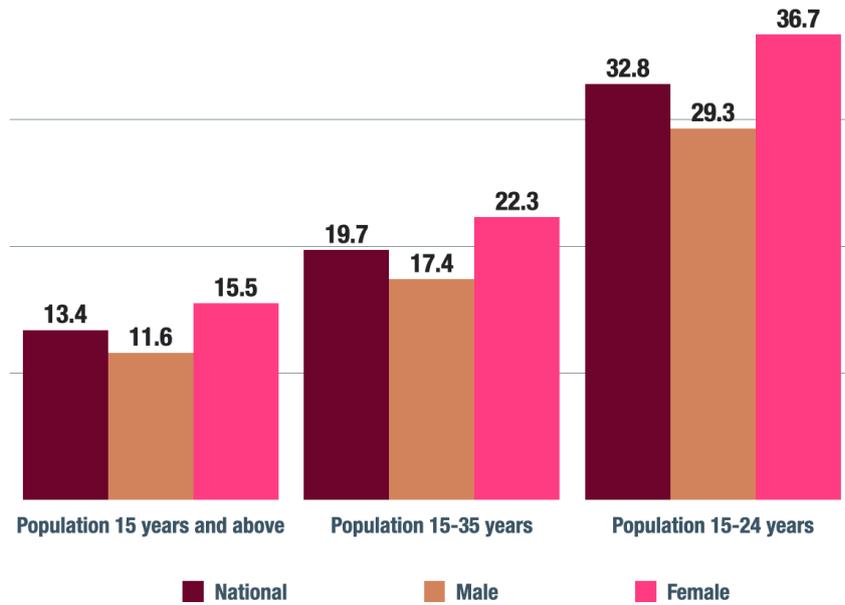
### Indicator 8.5.2: Unemployment rate by sex, age, disability and locality

Unemployment rate among the population 15 years and older is 13.4 percent and is higher for females (15.5%) than males (11.6%). Among the population 15-35 years, unemployment rate is 19.7 percent, and is even much higher for young adults 15-24 years (32.8%). Across all age brackets, unemployment rate is higher in urban than rural areas (Figures 48 and 49). In 2021, 13.5 percent of the labour force with disability were unemployed (male 11.1%; female 15.4%).

Successive governments have implemented several youth employment initiatives for the past 15 years. Government launched the One District, One Factory (1D1F) policy in 2017 as a structured, holistic private sector-driven rural industrialising programme involving the establishment in each of the 261 administrative districts of Ghana, at least one medium and large factory.

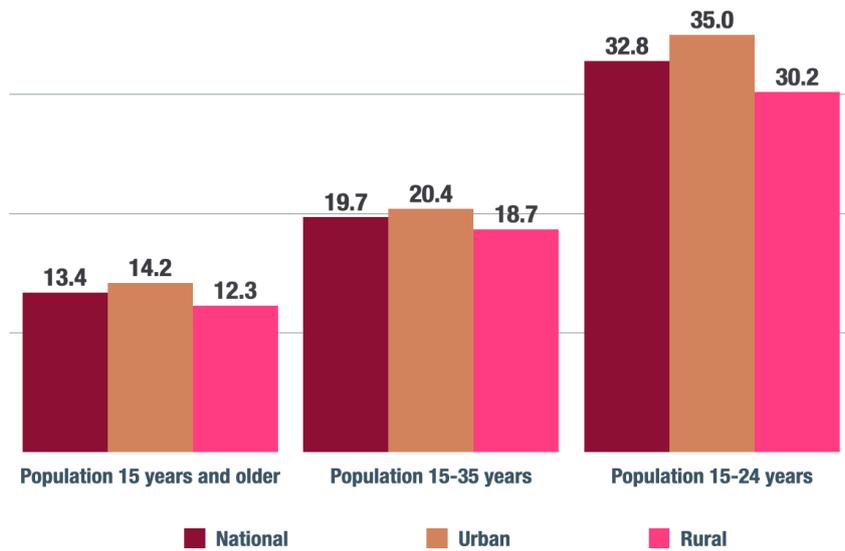


Figure 48: Unemployment rate by sex and age, 2021, (%)



Source: 2021 Population and Housing Census, 2022

Figure 49: Unemployment rate by age, and locality, 2021, (%)



Source: 2021 Population and Housing Census, 2022

In 2021, government launched the Community Improvement Initiative and the National Alternative Employment and Livelihood Programme (NAELP) and YouStart initiative to support the youth gain access to capital, training, technical skills and mentoring to enable them launch and operate their own businesses

Since 2006, government initiated the Youth Employment Scheme which provided meaningful employment avenues to many of the Ghanaian youth. Since then,

government have implemented several such schemes with the current ones being:

- Nation Builders Corps (NABCo) – about 100,000 youth covered;
- Youth Employment Agency (YEA) – 80,538 beneficiaries; and
- National Afforestation Programme - 44,682 youth engaged



## Box 14: Findings from the Rapid Assessment on PWDs Access to Employment Opportunities

PWDs continue to be limited in access to employment opportunities, due in part to societal perceptions on the kinds of jobs PWDs can undertake. This has resulted in PWDs being generally excluded from labour intensive jobs. Even for those that gain the skills through training, the lack of start-up capital affects their ability to participate in the job market.

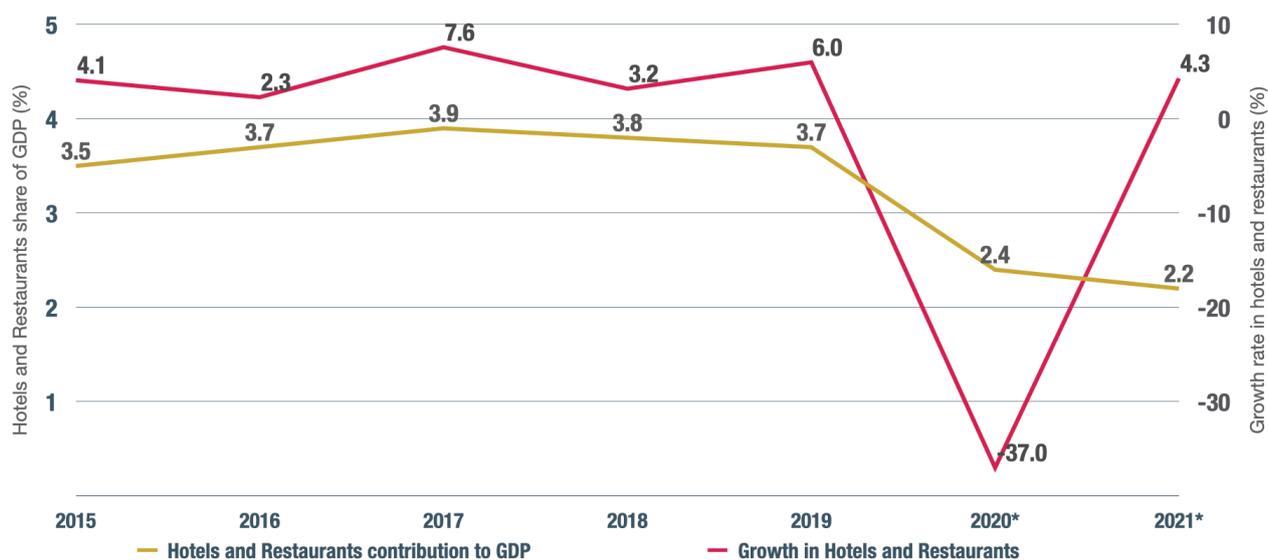
### Indicator 8.9.1: Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate

The contribution of hotel and restaurant to GDP has hovered between 3.5 and 3.8 percent from 2014 to 2018. It however decreased to 2.4 percent in 2020 and further to 2.2 percent in 2021 from 3.7 percent in 2019 (Figure 50). Its growth declined from 6.0 percent in 2019 to a contracted growth of -37.0 percent in 2020. COVID-19 provides some explanation to this poor performance. The hotel and restaurant sub-sector was severely hit by the restrictive measures imposed by nations across the globe. Among others, the lockdowns and movement restrictions adversely impacted travelling and occupancy at various hotels, with most hotels shutting down. This

contributed to large losses of revenue from the hospitality industry and for that matter tourism revenue, particularly international receipt. In 2021, its growth improved to 4.3 percent partly due to government initiatives instituted as well as easing of restrictions.

Government initiated support mechanisms to minimise the economic shock of the pandemic on businesses. The government expanded the coverage of its GH¢600 million Coronavirus Alleviation Programme-Business Support Scheme (CAP-BuSS) to other businesses to include the creative arts. This initiative was further complemented by government’s GH¢2 billion Guarantee Fund to support large businesses to borrow from banks at lower interest rates and for longer tenors.

Figure 50: Growth rate of hotel and restaurant sub-sector and its share of GDP, 2015-2021, (%)



Source: National Accounts, 2022

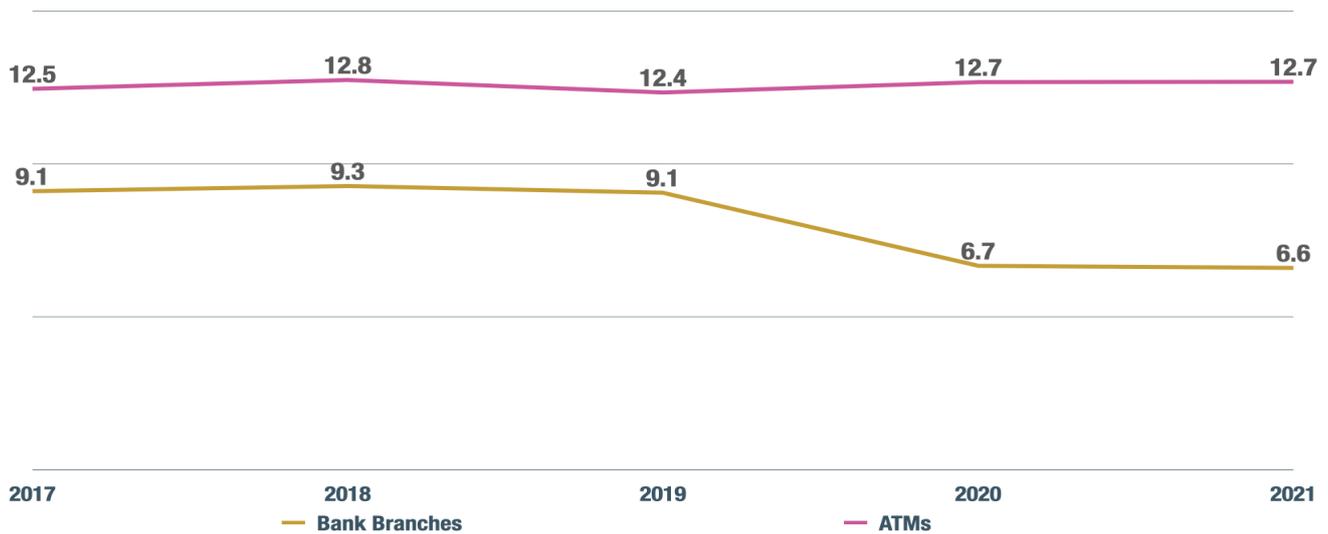
### Indicator 8.10.1 Number of (a) commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and (b) automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults

The total number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adult population

decreased to 6.61 in 2021 from 9.12 in 2017, while the number of ATMs per 100,000 adult population increased to 12.70 in 2021 from 12.47 in 2017 (Figure 51).



Figure 51 : Number of commercial bank branches and ATMs per 100,000 adults, 2017-2021



Source: Bank of Ghana, 2022

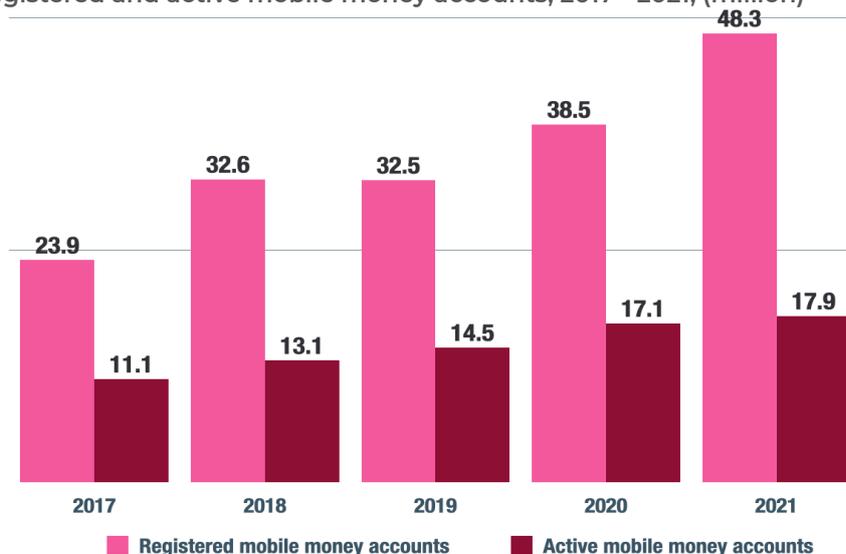
### Indicator 8.10.2P: Number of active mobile money accounts

Ghana has emerged as one of Africa’s fastest-growing mobile money market, with registered accounts increasing from 23.9 million in 2017 to 48.3 million in 2021 representing a 102.1 percent increase. The number of active<sup>1</sup> mobile money accounts also increased from 11.1 million in 2017 to 17.1 million in 2020, and further to 17.9 million in 2021 (Figure 52). Between 2018 and 2021, the value of transactions was estimated at GH¢2.1 trillion<sup>2</sup> with the COVID-19 period

(2020-2021) accounting for 74.3 percent. This digital innovation has helped to increase financial inclusion

Government through the Bank of Ghana instituted various policy measures that promoted digital payment as a means to help curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. These include: the expansion of daily limits and removal of charges for transactions up to GH¢100; and development of a universal QR Code payment solution (GhQR code) and National Interbank funds Transfer (PROXY PAY) for payments.

Figure 52: Number of registered and active mobile money accounts, 2017 - 2021, (million)



Source: Bank of Ghana, 2021

1 A mobile money account is considered active if there was at least one transaction on the account once in the 90 days prior to reporting

2 Bank of Ghana Summary of Macroeconomic and Financial Data and Bank of Ghana Annual Reports



## **Indicator 8.b.1 Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy**

Government recognises the problem of youth unemployment and underemployment as a major developmental challenge. Hence, employment creation has remained a major priority in Ghana's development agenda, and it is the goal of government to provide the youth with opportunities for employment and labour market information. Successive Governments have endeavoured to develop and implement policies to address the unemployment situation in the country.

In this regard, Ghana prepared a National Youth Policy (NYP) in 2010 to serve as a framework to facilitate and accelerate youth development. The policy is currently undergoing a review. Further, a National Employment Policy (NEP, 2015) was prepared to:

1. Provide a framework for accelerated decent job creation through sustainable growth in all sectors of the economy and provide strategic direction to reduce unemployment among the youth, early exiters, graduates, women and persons with disability;
2. Guide the process of prioritising employment creation strategies through well targeted policies and programmes;
3. Promote an enterprise culture that induces entrepreneurship, self-reliance, and a national environment that rewards effort and initiative; and
4. Facilitate mobilisation of resources for employment-creating programmes across all sectors of the economy.

## **Effect of COVID-19 on productive employment and decent work**

According to COVID-19 Household and Jobs Tracker (wave 1), three out of ten (30.2%) of respondents indicated that they had not worked in the previous seven days. Further, of the respondents who did not work, 36.0 percent (or 6.1% of all respondents) did not work due to COVID-19 related safety concerns. Also, 20.4 percent mentioned COVID-19 work suspension as the reason for not working, while 2.4 percent attributed it to reduction in staff due to a slump in business.

Similarly, results from the wave 2 of the tracker shows that two out of ten (21.8%) respondents had not worked in the previous seven days. The reasons they gave included business/government closure (6.3%); COVID-19 related work suspension (8.5%); COVID-19 safety concerns (9.3%); reduction in staff due to less business (1.1%); among others.

## **Assessment of recovery from the Pandemic**

Assessment of recovery from the Pandemic Data from Wave 3 of the Business Tracker Survey indicates that there have been some improvements in workers welfare because of government and other key stakeholder interventions. The proportion of workforce who had their wages reduced declined from 16.5 percent in June 2020 (Wave 1) to 4.1 percent in September 2021 (Wave 3). Over the same period, the proportion of workers laid off declined from 1.3 percent to 1.0 percent.

Government stimulus has also led to an increase in sales by 11.5 percent, with small firms benefitting the most with almost double the increase (22%).



## Innovative interventions for accelerating attainment of SDG 8

Interventions being implemented by the government towards the attainment of SDG 8 include the following:

S/N	Key Interventions	Remarks
1.	National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (NEIP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, under the “The Presidential Pitch” programme, GH¢1.0 million was disbursed to support 10 young entrepreneurs with brilliant and bankable business ideas to create about 200 jobs.</li> <li>In 2020, under the Presidential Empowerment for Men and Women Entrepreneurs with Disability (PEMED/PEWED), GH¢4.0 million was disbursed to 2,145 entrepreneurs with disability.</li> <li>In 2021, under the NEIP Business Support Programme, 45,000 businesses have received training and incubation services.</li> <li>Since 2021, 75 installed greenhouse domes at the Dawhenya irrigation site in the Greater Accra Region have been operationalized.</li> </ul>
2.	Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) and Rearing for Food and Jobs (RFJ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, under PFJ, a total of 1,736,510 farmers have benefited from subsidized fertilizers and improved seeds; thereby sustaining and increasing the number of jobs in the value chain.</li> </ul>
3.	Youth in Agriculture Programme (YIAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2021, 30 out of the 71 acres of land secured under the YIAP being used for the cultivation of pineapple, maize, ginger, rice and fish farming, provided 60 direct and 300 indirect jobs in selected Districts in the Ashanti Region.</li> </ul>
4.	YouStart Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2021, government launched the YouStart Initiative. The initiative is to support youth-led enterprises with soft loans of up to GH¢50,000 to help start-ups; GH¢100,000 for associations and groups; and a standardised loan package between GH¢100,000 to GH¢400,000 at concessional rates for SMEs from financial institutions</li> </ul>
5.	One District One Factory (1D1F)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, 76 factories were operationalised.</li> <li>In 2021, 106 factories were operational, 148 were under construction while 24 projects were being prepared. These created a total of 17,451 direct and indirect jobs.</li> <li>In 2021, under the Enable Youth 1D1F Initiative, 58 of the 278 1D1F projects were fully owned by youth groups mobilised by Government and supported with seed funding to establish their own state-of-the-art agro-processing factories in 58 districts.</li> </ul>
6.	MSME Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, 37 Business Resource Centres (BRCs) were established at the district level and are currently in operation with full deployment of staffing, equipment, and other facilities.</li> <li>In 2020, as part of mitigating the effects of COVID-19 on MSMEs, NBSSI disbursed GH¢502,500,000 to 289,047 beneficiaries.</li> <li>In 2021, under the Coronavirus Alleviation Programme Business Support Scheme (CAPBuSS), Ghana Enterprises Agency provided 302,001 successfully applicants with loans amounting to GH¢523.11 million. Out of the total number of beneficiaries, 208,381 were females.</li> <li>In 2021, the Ghana Enterprises Agency disbursed a total of GH¢22.1 million grants and GH¢12 million loans to 15,248 beneficiaries.</li> <li>In 2021, a total of 116,189 women were provided with business development services, and 57,657 enterprises participated in financial literacy programmes. Additionally, 1,332 MSMEs were provided with Japanese Kaizen training to improve efficiency.</li> </ul>



S/N	Key Interventions	Results
7.	Job Creation and Development Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, Youth Employment Agency (YEA) engaged 80,538 beneficiaries under the various YEA modules. The Agency also launched other innovative modules such as Artisan Directory and “The Job Centre” — an interactive web-based system that links job seekers to potential employers.</li> <li>In 2021, the Youth Employment Agency (YEA) engaged 82,869 beneficiaries under the various YEA modules.</li> </ul>
8.	Skills Development Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, as part of skills enhance drive, the National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI), Opportunities Industrialisation Centres-Ghana (OIC-G) and the Integrated Community Centres for Employable Skills (ICCES), together trained a total of 7,811 persons in vocational and technical skills. In addition, the Management Development and Productivity Institute (MDPI) trained 696 persons.</li> <li>In 2021, NVTI, OIC-G and ICCES trained a total of 7,472 persons in various trades. In addition, MDPI trained 633 persons in various productivity enhancement courses to improve their skills and productivity levels.</li> <li>In 2021, the NYA organised career enhancement programmes for self-employed and semi-skilled youth through short courses and workshops. The Authority also provided financial support, start-up tools and equipment to deserving beneficiaries.</li> <li>In 2021, the NYA collaborated with stakeholders to implement Skills Towards Employment and Productivity (STEP) and Youth Agric Enterprise Support (YAES) Projects.</li> </ul>
9.	Payment and financial systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government has also developed a National Payment Systems Strategic Plan (2019-2024), National Financial Inclusion and Development Strategy, Digital Financial Services Strategy, and Cash-Lite Policy to promote an enabling environment to develop the Ghanaian payment and financial systems. In addition, an E-zwich biometric card was launched to make it easier for all cardholders to recognise and use payment alternatives.</li> </ul>

## Emerging Issues

1. Increasing use of digitised platforms such as mobile money
2. High rate of unemployment amongst PWDs
3. Unemployment continues to be severe among the youth
4. Untapped job creation potential in manufacturing and agriculture sectors



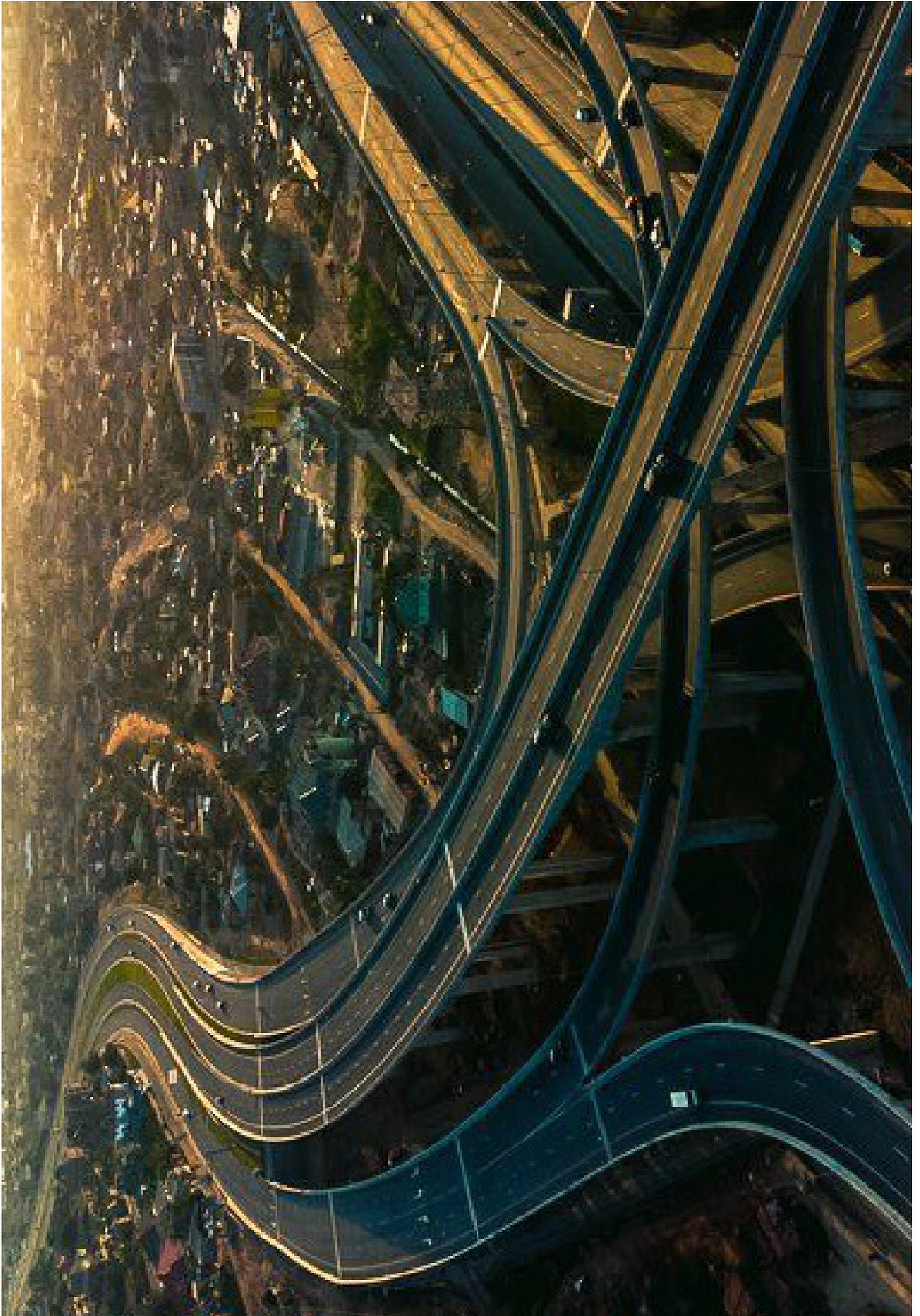
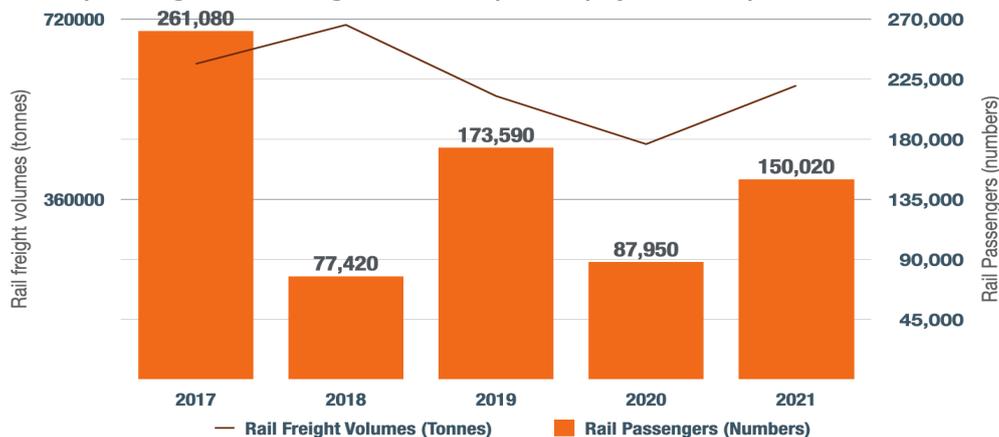






Figure 54: Number of passengers and freight volumes (tonnes) by rail transport, 2017-2021



Source: Ministry of Railways Development Annual Progress Report, 2022

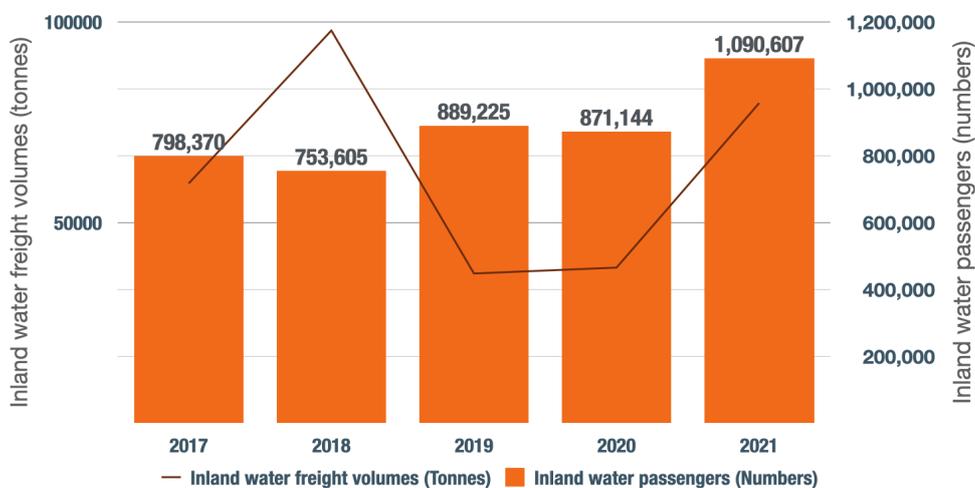
**c) Passenger and freight volumes (tonnes) by inland water and marine transport (million tonnes)**

Number of passengers ferried through inland water transport recorded an annual average increase of 9 percent between 2017 to 2021, while freight volumes increased by 23 percent averagely over the same period (Figure 55). In 2020, passenger volumes

declined by 2 percent, while freight volumes increased by 4 percent.

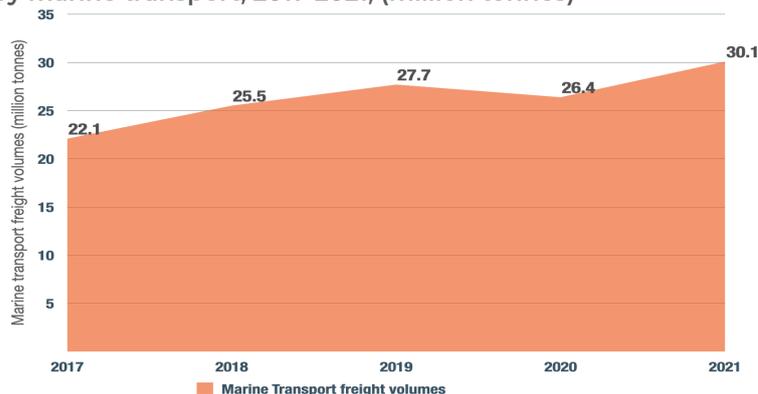
Freight volumes by sea increased between 2017 and 2019 but fell by 4.8 percent to 26.4 million tonnes in 2020. In 2021, it rose to 30.1 million tonnes due to the completion of the port expansion projects which expanded the country's capacity and allowed for the docking of larger ships (Figure 56).

Figure 55: Number of passengers and freight volumes (tonnes) by inland water transport, 2017-2021



Source: Ministry of Transport, 2021

Figure 56: Freight volumes by marine transport, 2017-2021, (million tonnes)



Source: Ministry of Transport, 2021



## d) Road infrastructure

Ghana’s road network accounts for the majority of passenger and freight movement. The network has improved from 71,401km in 2017 to 78,402km in 2021, comprising of 14,583km trunk roads, 15,462km urban roads and 48,357km feeder roads. This can be partly attributed to the continuous maintenance and rehabilitation of the road network and construction of new roads. Most of the network are in good (44%) and fair (34%) conditions with only 22 percent being in poor condition.

There has been a significant reduction in the incidence of overloading on the road network; declining from 3.2 percent in 2019 to 1.7 percent in 2020. The decline can be attributed to the implementation of the axle load programme in line with the Road Traffic Regulation, 2012 (L.I. 2180).

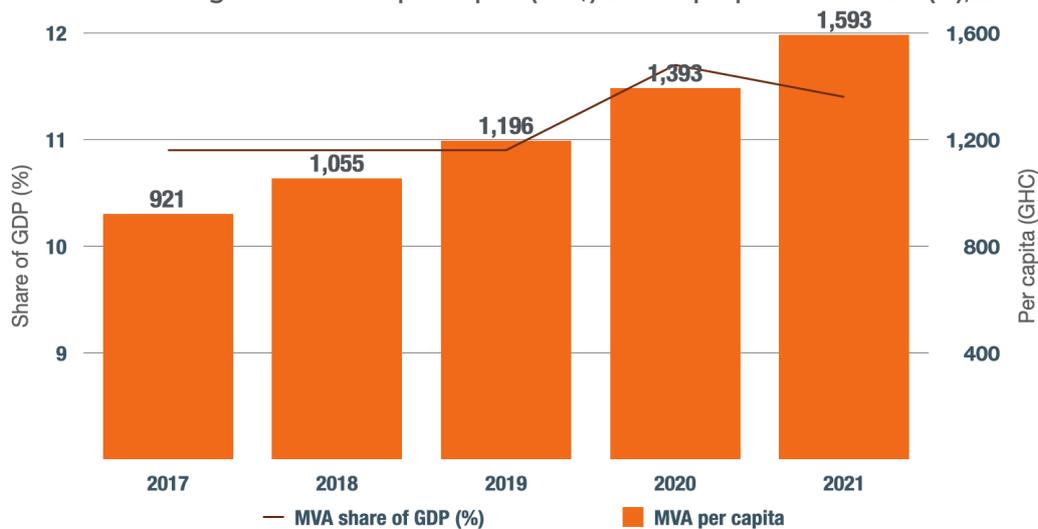
Government has undertaken various road infrastructure improvement programmes including: the construction of the Pokuase interchange; upgrading of Osiem-Begoro road (24.8km); completion of phase 1 of the Tema Motorway Project (3-tier Interchange); construction of Oil and Gas Enclave Roads (10km); and rehabilitation of

the Tarkwa Bogoso section (30km) of the Tarkwa–Bogoso–Ayamfuri Road (94.4km). Government also continued with the installation of Area-Wide Traffic Signal Control Systems and pedestrian bridges on the road network.

### Indicator 9.2.1: Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita

Manufacturing Value Added (MVA) as a percentage of GDP remained at 10.9 percent between 2017 and 2019. It however increased to 11.7 percent in 2020. The increment can be ascribed to the government’s industrialisation effort and the expansion of local manufacturing companies’ capacity to produce important COVID-19 pandemic items such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), medical scrubs, hand sanitizers, and some prescription medicines for COVID-19 management. The share has however declined slightly to 11.4 percent in 2021. MVA per capita, on the other hand, increased consistently from GH¢921 in 2017 to GH¢1,593 in 2021 (Figure 57).

Figure 57: Manufacturing Value Added per capita (GH¢) and as proportion of GDP (%), 2016-2021



Source: National Account, 2022

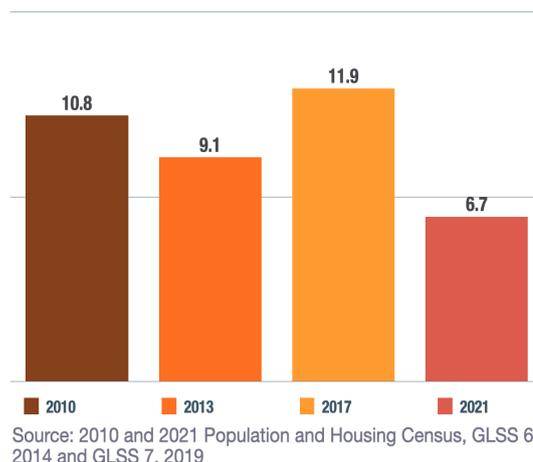


### Indicator 9.2.2: Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment

Manufacturing as a share of employment marginally declined from 10.8 percent in 2010 to 9.1 percent in 2013, before improving to 11.9 percent in 2017. However, due to the impact of COVID-19, the share declined significantly to 6.7 percent in 2021(Figure 58).

The Ghana Industrial Policy (GIP) and 1D1F policy developed by government seeks to expand employment in the manufacturing sector by promoting agro-based value-addition industrial development while promoting a good spread of industries to reduce poverty and income inequalities. Government estimates that the implementation of the 1D1F policy would create 350,000 direct and indirect jobs.

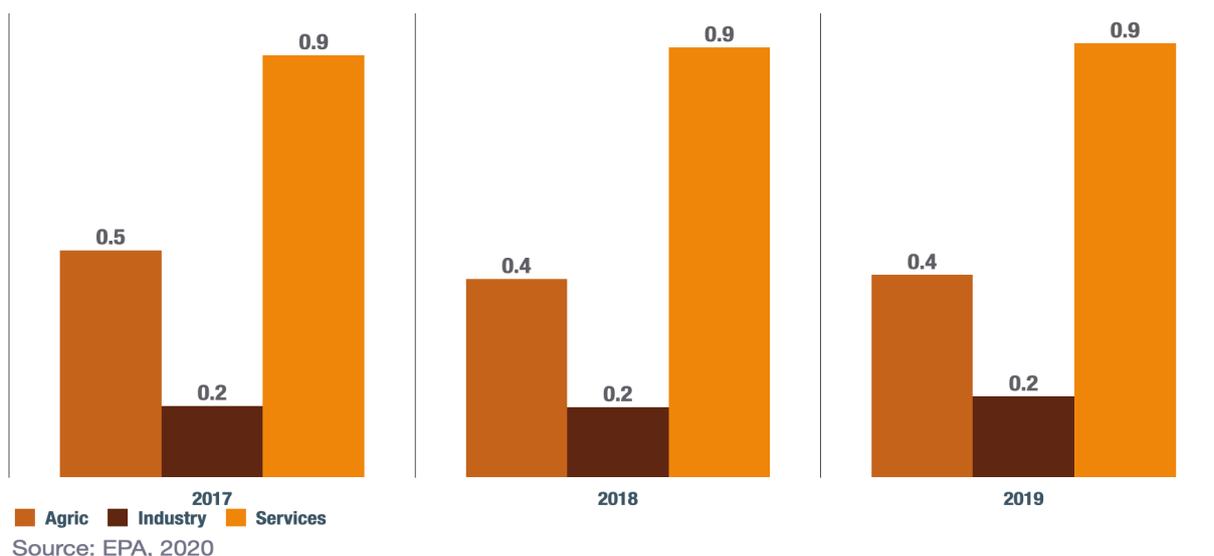
Figure 58: Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment, 2010, 2013, 2017 and 2021, (%)



### Indicator 9.4.1: CO<sub>2</sub> emission per unit of value added by sector

Between 2017 and 2019, the services sector had the highest greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per unit of value added, followed by agriculture and industry sectors (Figure 59). Emissions per unit value added from the services sector has remained fairly constant over the period. However, emissions per unit value added from the agric sector has declined consistently within the same period.

Figure 59: CO<sub>2</sub> emission per unit of value added by sector, 2017-2019 (kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per constant 2010 GDP \$)

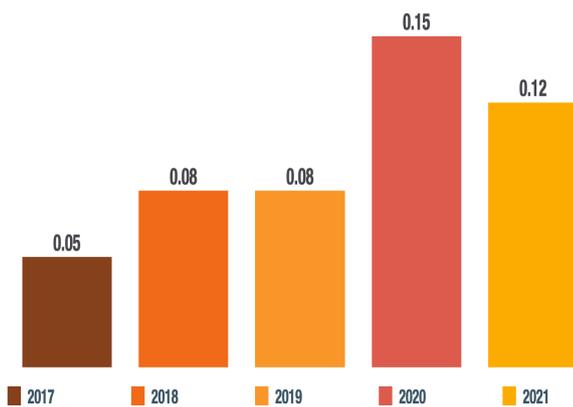




### Indicator 9.5.1: Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP

The share of government’s research and development (R&D) expenditure as a percentage of GDP was estimated at 0.05 percent in 2017 and increased to 0.08 percent in 2018 and 2019. In 2020, it further increased to 0.15 percent, before dropping to 0.12 percent in 2021 (Figure 60). The share remains below the national target of at least 1 percent of GDP. The 2020 performance can be attributed largely to government investment in the research and development sector, including the improvement of medical laboratories especially those capable of conducting PCR test from 2 to 16 across the country.

Figure 60: Proportion of R & D expenditure to GDP, 2017 -2021, (%)



Source: MESTI, 2022

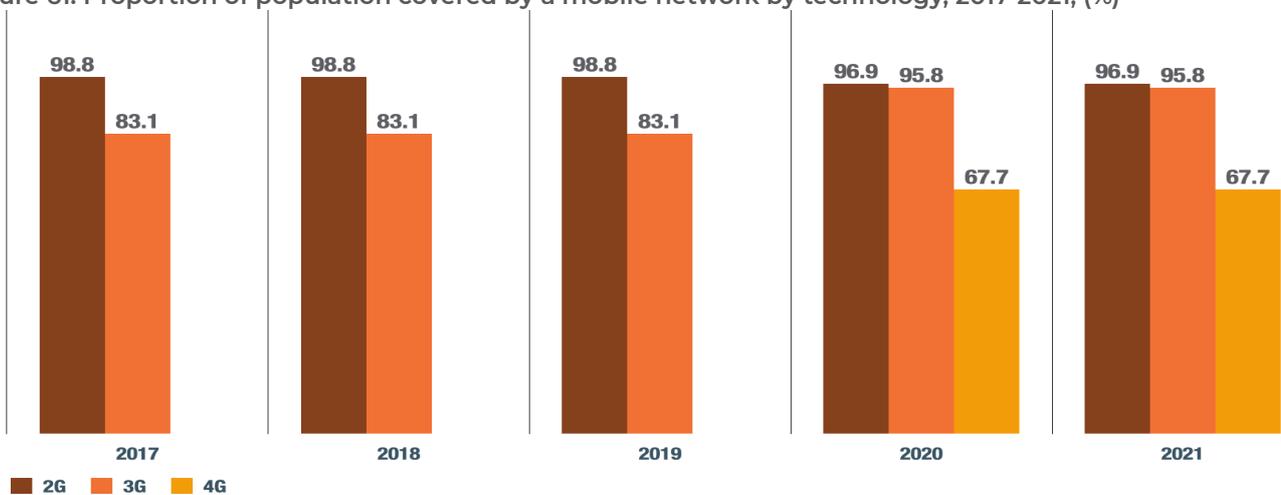
### Indicator 9.c.1: Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology

The proportion of the population covered by 2G, 3G and 4G/LTE mobile networks was 96.9 percent, 95.8 percent, and 67.7 percent, respectively in 2021 (Figure 61). Most of the communities without network coverage were in rural settlements, where the cost of deploying and maintaining a cell site is higher as compared to urban areas..

### Effect of COVID-19 on promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation

Data from Business Tracker Survey (Wave 1) indicated that 18.8 percent of manufacturing firms were not fully operational as at June 2020. While only 7.7 percent of manufacturing firms had increases in sales. Further, the manufacturing sector was challenged with access to inputs and finance, with only 3.4 percent and 1.9 percent of manufacturing firms having increased access to inputs and finance respectively. About 36.6 percent and 9.0 percent of manufacturing firms leveraged on mobile money and internet respectively for sales.

Figure 61: Proportion of population covered by a mobile network by technology, 2017-2021, (%)



Source: National Communication Authority, 2022



## Assessment of recovery from the pandemic

Data from Wave 3 (September 2021) indicates that there have been improvements in sales, access to inputs and credit by manufacturing firms, and usage of digital solutions. Only 3.2 percent of manufacturing firms were not fully opened as at September 2021. The

proportion of firms recording increase in sales improved significantly to 37.8 percent. Further, access to inputs and finances increased to 28.6 percent and 5.5 percent respectively. Manufacturing firms utilising mobile money and the internet for sales also increased to 76.2 percent and 12.4 percent respectively.

## Innovative interventions for accelerating attainment of SDG 9

Interventions being implemented by the government towards the attainment of SDG 9 include the following:

S/N	Key Interventions	Remarks
1.	Maritime Services Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, three berths of Dedicated Container Terminal (MPS Terminal 3) were completed and operationalised at the Tema Port.</li> <li>In 2020, the first phase of a Dry Bulk Jetty at the Takoradi Port was completed to reduce vessel turn-around time and cost of bulk cargo handling.</li> <li>In 2020, a new state of the art Liquid Bulk Terminal was developed at the Takoradi Port to support the Oil and Gas Industry.</li> <li>In 2021, the last of the four berths of the Dedicated Container Terminal (MPS Terminal 3) at the Tema Port was completed and commissioned.</li> <li>In 2021, feasibility studies for the Volta Lake Improvement Project were completed.</li> </ul>
2.	Aviation Development Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, ageing Communication, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS) equipment at the Tamale, Ho, and Kumasi Airports were replaced to ensure safety and security at the various airports.</li> </ul>
3.	Railways Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, the Railway Master Plan was developed to guide the systematic and sustainable development of the railway network.</li> <li>In 2020, rehabilitation of the Accra-Tema and Achimota-Nsawam sections of the existing narrow gauge Eastern Railway Line, and the Kojokrom-Tarkwa through Nsuta section of the existing narrow gauge Western Railway Line were completed. This resulted in an improvement in mineral haulage on the Western Line, as well as the re-introduction of passenger rail services.</li> <li>In 2021, there were refurbishment of the Railway Central Training Institute at Sekondi. Further, the Institute in collaboration with George Grant University for Mines and Technology, provided training for over 300 Ghanaian youth in various engineering degree programmes.</li> </ul>
4.	Road Rehabilitation and Maintenance Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, under the Urban Roads Asphaltic Overlay programme, 648km of asphalt overlay works were completed.</li> <li>In 2021, rehabilitation works covering minor upgrading and construction of culverts and drainage structures were carried out on 223km of trunk roads; 173km of the feeder road; and 102km of the urban road networks.</li> </ul>
5.	Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, under the Rural Telephony Project, GIFEC piloted a 45-kilometer aerial fiber cable which run on the ECG pylons to deploy a faster and more affordable internet connectivity in the Western Region.</li> </ul>



S/N	Key Interventions	Remarks
6.	Research and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In 2020, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) deployed technical expertise in virology and molecular genetics of infectious diseases to support the COVID-19 RT-PCR based testing at both Noguchi Memorial Institute (NMIMR) and Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research in Tropical Medicine (KCCR). In addition, the biomedical laboratory of the Water Research Institute (CSIR-WRI) was upgraded to Level 2, where some district hospitals were assigned to send suspected COVID-19 samples for testing.</li><li>In 2021, under the Modernising Agriculture in Ghana programme, CSIR developed the Digital Soil Map and AgricTech App which provides soil resources and information for agricultural planning, policy-making and technology transfer to ensure food security and efficient land use.</li></ul>

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### Emerging Issues

1. Under-utilisation of inland water and rail transport systems
2. Limited intermodal transport system
3. Increasing emission intensity of valued added by the services sector
4. Low government expenditure on R&D





## 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



# GOAL 10 REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

### Indicator 10.7.2: Number of countries with migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people

Ghana in 2016 developed a National Migration Policy (NMP) to promote the benefits and minimise the costs of internal and international migration through legal means with the rights and security of migrants well-respected to ensure socio-economic development in Ghana. Further, in 2020, Ghana developed a National Labour Migration Policy to ensure improved labour migration governance that harnesses the benefits of labour migration for socio-economic development.

Ghana as member of the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) and African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) recognises the importance of freedom of movement of persons and has therefore instituted measures to ensure the mobility of citizens of member countries.



### Indicator 10.7.4: Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin

Ghana's refugee population per 100,000 decreased by 7.2 percent from 2017 to 2018, 2.5 percent from 2018 to 2019, 3.4 percent from 2019 to 2020, and remained the same between 2020 and 2021 (Figure 62). Majority of Ghana's refugee population originate from neighbouring countries within ECOWAS particularly Cote d'Ivoire, Togo and Liberia. Cote d'Ivoire has remained the main source of refugee population in the country since 2017. Majority of these refugees are either being displaced by war or in search of better economic opportunities.

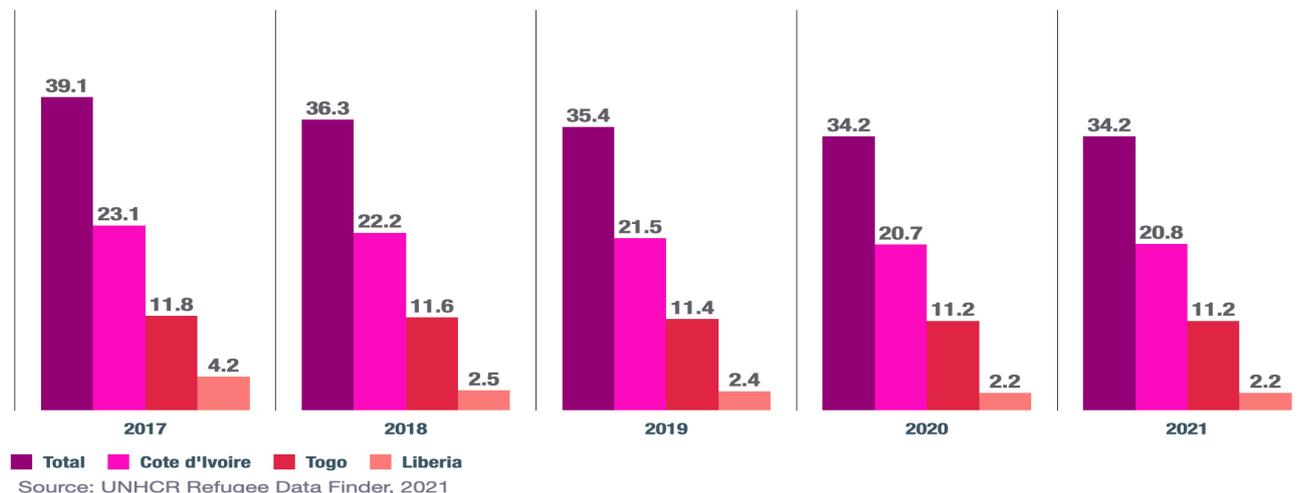
The Government has made conscious effort to improve the living conditions of refugees in the country with the establishment of the national refugee board that is responsible for the wellbeing of all refugees that arrive in the country. The board cooperates with other agencies like UNHCR, NADMO to ensure the successful transition of refugees in Ghana.

### Effect of COVID-19 on inequality

The rise in monetary poverty is likely to widen the inequality gap among socio-economic groups. COVID-19 highlighted the disparities in health, consumption patterns, income levels, among others.



Figure 62: Refugees per 100,000 population, 2017 – 2021



Data from Households and Job Tracker Survey (Wave 1 June 2020) indicates that 77.4 percent of households reported reduced incomes. This affected households' consumption habits, with about 21.4 percent of households with children under 15 years eating fewer meals than usual. Further, the proportion of households that needed healthcare but could not assess it was 6.1 percent in June 2020.

### Assessment of recovery from the Pandemic

Data from Households and Job Tracker Survey (Wave 3 September 2021) indicated there had been a decline in the proportion of households reporting reduced incomes to 68.2 percent. Further, households with children under 15 years eating fewer meals than usual declined to 17.7 percent. The proportion of households that needed healthcare but could not assess it also declined to 4.3 percent in December 2021.

### Innovative interventions for accelerating attainment of SDG 10

Interventions being implemented by the government towards the attainment of SDG 10 include the following:

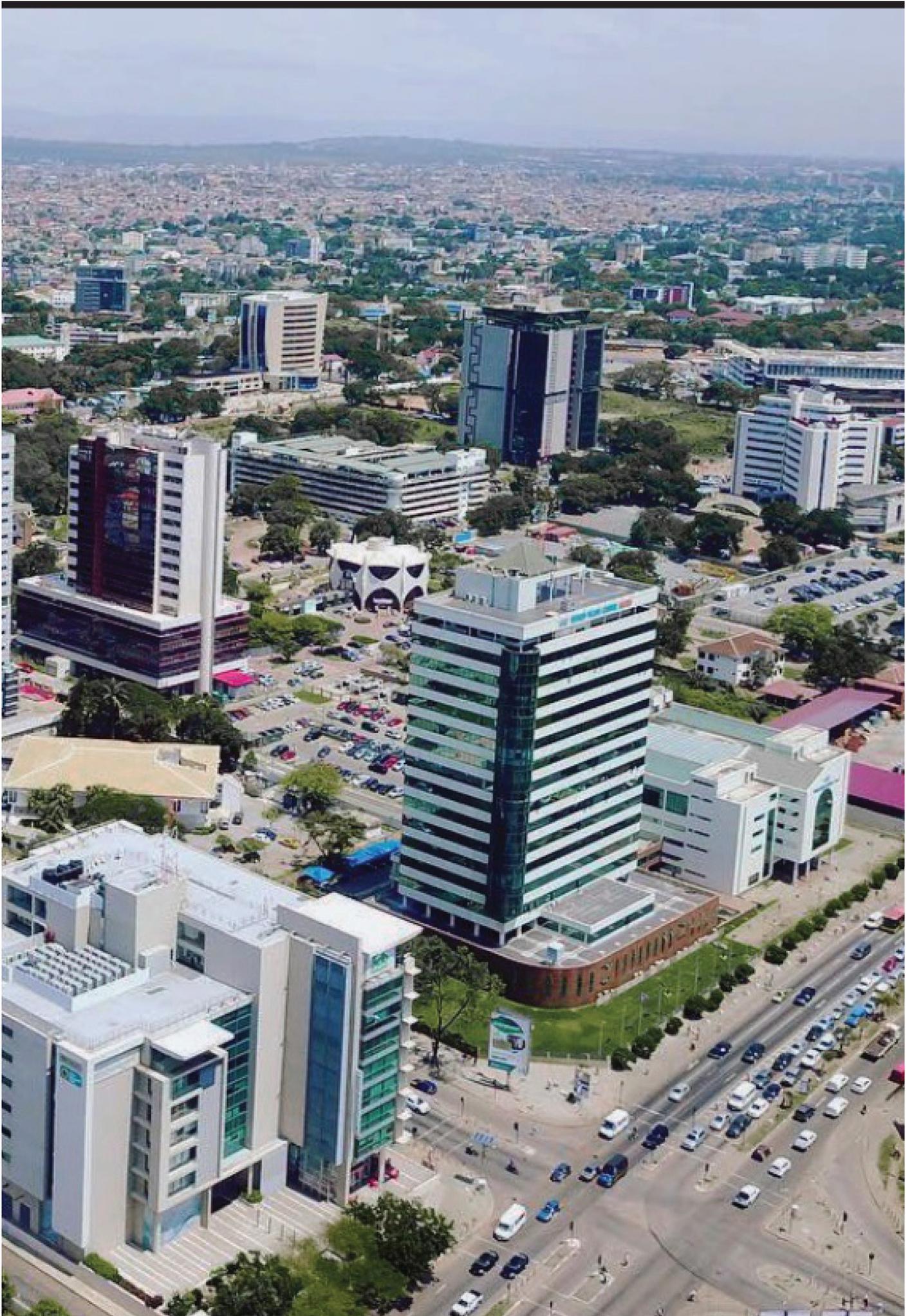
S/N	Key Interventions	Remarks
1.	Cash for Work (CfW) Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2021, under the CfW initiative, the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development released GH¢1.27 million to 6 beneficiary MMDAs to create greater economic and employment opportunities.</li> </ul>
2.	Ghana Productive Safety Net Project (GPSNP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, GPSNP provided jobs for 29,959 extreme poor persons, of which 62 percent went to females. In addition, approximately GH¢19 million in wages was transferred to extreme poor households across the country.</li> <li>In 2021, the GPSNP provided jobs for 33,952 extreme poor persons in 80 MMDAs with a total wage payout of GH¢53.43 million. In addition, a total of GH¢5.82 million was disbursed to 9,244 beneficiary households from 128 communities in 41 MMDAs in the five regions of the North.</li> </ul>



s/n	Key Interventions	Remrks
3.	Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In 2020, over GH¢50 million was transferred to 400,000 most-vulnerable individuals.</li><li>• In 2020, cash transfers were made to 334,438 beneficiary households (which translates to 1,451,747 extreme poor individuals). Further, personal protective equipment (PPEs) and cash grant for transportation was provided to beneficiaries.</li><li>• In 2020, 5,522 individuals were linked to other complementary and productive activities to help move them out of extreme poverty.</li><li>• In 2021, cash transfers were made to 344,023 households. IN addition, 76 percent of all beneficiaries were enrolled onto the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS).</li></ul>

### Emerging issues

1. Disparities exist in accessing basic services such as health, sanitation, nutrition, and social protection.
2. Marginal decline in refugee population since 2018







### protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by source of funding (public, private), type of heritage (cultural, natural) and level of government (national, regional, and local/municipal)

Between 2018 and 2021, the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture was allocated an annual average of GHS 88,230,658 for the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage among others. The potential of the sector to national development is immense, with tourism contribution to GDP estimated to increase from 6.2 percent of GDP in 2017 by 5.7 percent in 2028. To attain these benefits, Ghana has ratified several significant international legal instruments, including five conventions, relating to cultural development, cultural rights and cultural diversity.

### Indicator 11.5.1: Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population

The number of deaths, missing persons, and directly affected persons by disasters per 100,000 population has fluctuated over the years. In 2019, it was 739 per 100,000 population but increased to 1,184 in 2020 and decreased to 682 in 2021 (Figure 65).

The number of deaths attributed to disasters increased from 172 in 2018 to 294 in 2019 and dropped to 232 in 2020. The number of persons directly affected by disasters declined from 314,472 in 2018 to 233,549 in 2019 and then increased to 366,189 in 2020. Further, in 2020, disasters affected 3,526 communities, 255 schools, 29,738.55 hectares of farmlands and 16,713 houses, with 282 persons injured. The most common source of disaster was wind/rainstorm, followed by floods, domestic fires, and bush fires.

To reduce the impact of disasters, the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) carried out 7,099

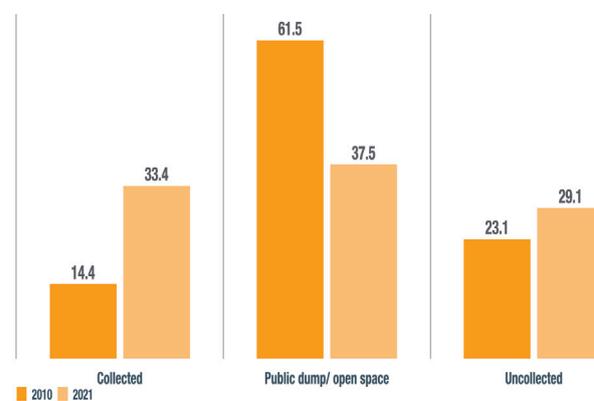
education and sensitization programs on disaster risk reduction and performed 4,241 field trips for assessments. NADMO also responded to 1,969 emergencies and supported 57,689 out of 366,223 disaster victims.

### Indicator 11.6.1: Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities

Data from 2010 and 2021 population and housing censuses indicates improvement in proportion of households that have their solid waste collected from 14.4 percent in 2010 to 33.4 percent in 2021. Dumping of solid waste by households in public dump sites<sup>1</sup> declined from 61.5 percent to 37.5 percent over the same period, while those whose waste are uncollected<sup>2</sup> increased from 23.1 percent to 29.1 percent (Figure 66). Public dumping remains the predominate method of solid waste disposal by households.

In urban areas, majority of households receive waste collection services (51.4%) while those in rural areas mostly dispose-off their solid waste at public dumping sites (57.3%). About a quarter of households in urban areas have their solid waste uncollected compared to a little over a third for rural areas (Table 16).

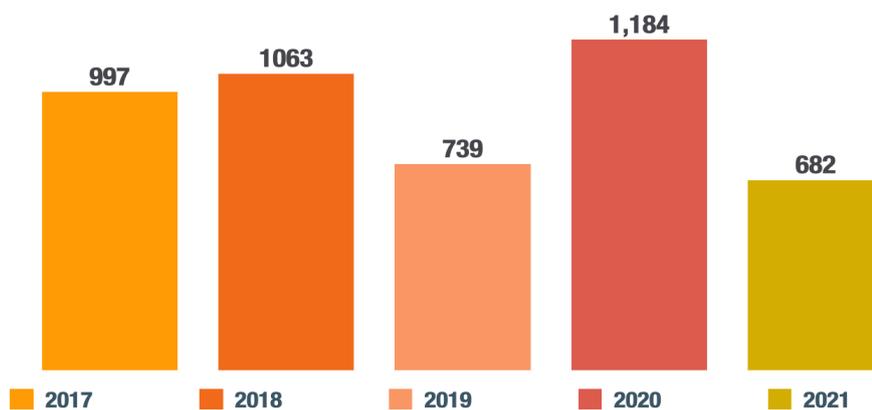
Figure 66: Households solid waste disposal, 2010 and 2021, (%)



1 Refers to a locally recognised place for the disposal of solid waste without environmental controls  
2 Refers to burying in the ground, burning, dumping indiscriminately, and others



Figure 65: Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected by disasters per 100,000 population, 2017 - 2021



Source: National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) Annual Report, 2022

Table 16: Household solid disposal methods by locality, 2021, (%)

Method of solid waste disposal	Urban	Rural
Collected	51.4	5.8
Public dumping/open space	24.6	57.3
uncollected	24.0	36.8

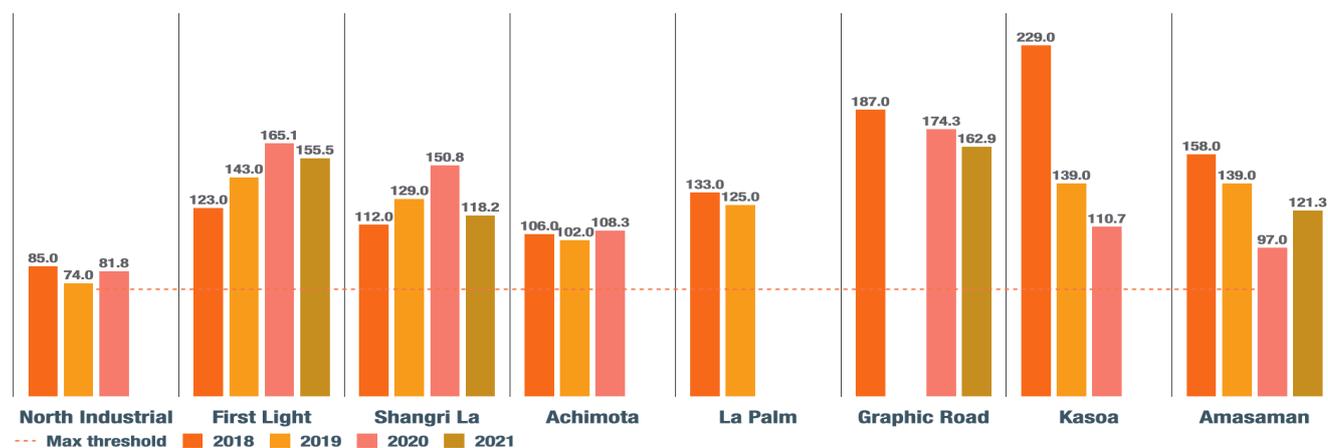
Source: 2021 Population and Housing Census

**Indicator 11.6.2: Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g., PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)**

Comprehensive data on particulate matter in all cities is not available. However, an assessment of air quality at selected

monitoring stations in some high-risk areas in Accra revealed that the levels of suspended particulate matter (PM10) were above the minimum threshold of 70µg/m<sup>3</sup> set in Ghana Standard GS 1236 of 2019 (Figure 67).

Figure 67: Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) measurement at selected locations in Accra, 2018 – 2021, (µg/m<sup>3</sup>)



Source: EPA, 2022



The level of air pollution is compounded by:

- Toxic smoke from car exhaust mostly from old vehicles
- High practice of open burning of residential trash
- Dust from unpaved and unvegetated surfaces

The levels ranged from 108.3 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (Achimota station) to 97 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (Amasaman station) on the Achimota-Amasaman route and 110.7 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (Kasoa station) to 165.1 µg/m<sup>3</sup> on the Kasoa-First Light route in 2020, indicating poor ambient air quality with the attendant health risks. On average, the largest pollution was recorded on the Graphic Road (174.7 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) while the lowest was recorded on the North Industrial area (80.3 µg/m<sup>3</sup>)

## Effect of COVID-19 on resilience of cities

The impact of the COVID-19 was devastating on cities because of the close down of businesses. UNICEF reported that between 52 and 62 percent of children were deprived of adequate housing conditions, experiencing overcrowded housing, no access to electricity in the household, or living in housing with walls, roofs, or floors made of inadequate materials.<sup>3</sup>

The year-long programme in 2019, “The Year of Return” provided Ghana with an economic boost of almost USD\$2 billion. However, the impact of COVID-19 has created implementation challenges for other initiatives planned such as “Beyond the Return”.

## Innovative interventions for accelerating attainment of SDG 11

Interventions being implemented by the government towards the attainment of SDG 11 include the following:

S/N	Key interventions	Remarks
1.	The Zongo Development Fund Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2021, 34 6-unit basic educational classroom blocks were completed. In addition, over 3,050 dual desks were supplied to basic schools in Zongo communities across the country.</li> <li>• In 2021, 252 household toilets were constructed in partnership with the Ga Mashie Development Agency. In addition, eight institutional toilet facilities were completed.</li> <li>• In 2021, 58 mechanised community water systems were constructed in 58 communities across the country.</li> </ul>
2.	Human Settlement and Development Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2020, under the National Housing Programme, the TDC Development Company Limited (TDCL) completed the construction of 204 housing units with ancillary.</li> <li>• In 2020, the State Housing Company Limited completed 52 housing units in Sangnarigu in the Northern Region.</li> <li>• In 2021, 1,339 Affordable Housing Units were completed at Asokore Mampong, Borteyman, Kpone, Koforidua, Tamale, Wa and Saglemi.</li> <li>• In 2021, government had commenced the construction of 121 housing units for public servants comprising 2- and 3-bedroom apartments as well as Townhouses at Airport Residential Area and Ridge in Accra.</li> </ul>
3.	Disaster Management Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2021, the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO), carried out 4,872 public education exercises to sensitise the populace on major hazards. In addition, 2,464 field trips for assessment were undertaken, 13 simulation exercises on flooding conducted, and 1,244 communities engaged on disaster risk reduction.</li> <li>• In 2021, 166 major drains were desilted. Also, more than 1,000km of drains were excavated, rechanneled and maintained across the country to reduce flooding.</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> UNICEF 2021, Effects of COVID-19 on women and Children



S/N	Key Interventions	Remarks
4.	Ghana Secondary Cities Support Programme (GSCSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>As of 2021, a total of GH¢242,430,252.58 was transferred to all participating Institutions (including OHLGS, 10 RCCs, and 25 MMAs), to implement their approved programme activities. These include roads, storm drains, markets, lorry parks and sanitary facilities. Out of the initial identified 65 sub-projects, 62 have been awarded and are at various stages of completion.</li></ul>

### Emerging Issues

1. Increasing share of households do not have their solid waste collected
2. Increasing number of people living in slums
3. Generally higher air pollution in selected high-risk areas in Accra
4. Limited digital transition of most creative and cultural businesses







### Box 13: Post-Harvest Technologies

Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) collaborated with key stakeholders to pilot innovative post-harvest technologies. These include:

Hermetic plastic silos – World Food Programme (WFP) provided 140 hermetic silos to smallholder farmers in the Northern Region to help save and store their grains to avoid losses recorded after harvest. Each silo stores 500 kilos of grains; maize, soyabean or cowpeas amongst others, preserving farmers grains from pest, fungal infection, and effects of high moisture levels

Grain Mate Moisture Meter - Sesi Technologies' Grain Mate Grain Moisture Meter (Kumasi, Ghana) is a low-cost grain moisture tester that helps grain farmers reduce post-harvest losses by making it easier to accurately measure grain moisture content before storage. At \$100, the Grain Mate is more than four times cheaper than conventional grain moisture meters and Sesi Technologies claims it offers superior accuracy.

### Indicator 12.5.1: National recycling rate, tons of material recycled

According to the National Plastic Management Policy published in 2020, about 82 percent of Ghana’s plastics waste could be readily recovered and recycled with existing technologies into value-addition products with high demand locally and within the West African Sub-region.

Government in collaboration with private sector is expanding capacity for recycling. Through this collaboration, Zoomlion Ghana Limited has commissioned and is operating three ultra-modern recycling plants. These are: Accra Compost and Recycling Plant (ACARP), Kumasi Compost and Recycling Plant (KCARP), and the Integrated Recycling and Compost Plant Limited (IRECoP), with a daily capacity of 1,200 tonnes, 1,000 tonnes, and 400 tonnes respectively. In addition, in 2017, Safisana, a global waste management and circular economy company, opened the first waste-to-energy plant in West Africa in Ghana. The recycling plant turns organic waste and faecal sludge into high-value products such as renewable energy, organic fertiliser and irrigation water.

### 12.7.1 Degree of sustainable public procurement policies and action plan implementation

The country passed the Public Procurement Act, 2003 (ACT 663) to establish a standardised procurement system. The Act created a central entity charged with harmonising procurement policy and ensuring efficient and transparent procurement. In 2016, the Public Procurement (Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act 914) was introduced which mandated the Public Procurement Authority to ensure that public procurement is undertaken in an “environmentally and socially sustainable” manner.

Global networks over the years have been explored to enhance sustainable public procurement. Ghana is a member of the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Procurement. Further, capacity development has focused on mainstreaming procurement training into education systems. New curricula have been developed in collaboration with Millennium Development Authority (MiDA) and the Millennium Challenge Corporation. Within the Public Service, PPA has proposed a scheme of service for procurement officers to enhance professionalism.

### Innovative interventions for accelerating attainment of SDG 12



Interventions being implemented by the government towards the attainment of SDG 12 include the following:

S/N	Key Interventions	Remarks
1.	Establishment of waste recycling factories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2019, two recycling facility were commissioned and operationalised in Kumasi and Accra.</li> <li>Government is collaborating with the Private Sector to construct 16 IRECOPs across the country.</li> </ul>
2.	Public Procurement Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2021, 151 procurement entities were trained on the Ghana Electronic Procurement System (GHANEPS). In addition, 1,268 procurement practitioners were trained in general public procurement management.</li> </ul>
3.	Post-harvest management loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, under the “One District One Warehouse Initiative” 42 prefabricated grain warehouses were completed.</li> <li>In 2020, as part of efforts to reduce post-harvest losses, government through the Ghana Agricultural Sector Investment Project (GASIP) constructed 74km feeder roads and farm tracks.</li> <li>In 2020, as part of efforts to reduce post-harvest losses and increase value-addition, 80 “Ahotor” ovens which reduces Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) concentration were constructed and distributed to fish processors.</li> <li>In 2021, under the “One District One Warehouse Initiative” 23 warehouses were completed.</li> </ul>

### Emerging Issues

1. Low level of waste recycling
2. High level of food waste and post-harvest loss





13 CLIMATE ACTION



# GOAL 13 TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

## Indicator 13.1.2: Number of countries that adopt national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with Sendai Framework Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

Climate change remains a priority area of focus for Ghana. As a signatory to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the country has ratified subsidiary instruments under the Convention such as the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement.

In recognition of its importance to national development, climate change has been mainstreamed in all national development policy frameworks, including the current one which spans 2022-2025. Included in the policy framework are focused areas and strategies with the aim to build and enhance resilience to climate, environmental and man-made threats.

These strategies have also been translated into development plans at the sector and subnational levels. Climate change issues have also been mainstreamed into guidelines for the preparation of the annual budget to ensure adequate funding for climate resilience and disaster risk programmes and projects.

## Indicator 13.2.1: Number of countries with Nationally Determined Contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, strategies as reported in adaptation communications and national communications

Ghana has developed a Climate Change Policy and Action Plan that seeks to enhance climate resilience and adaptation across all sectors. In addition, Ghana has also developed a National Climate Change Master Plan; a National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy; a National REDD+ Strategy (2016-2040); and Implementation



### Box 15: Recent Climate hazards and extreme events

Over the past five decades, Ghana has witnessed a significant number of climate hazards, including at least three (3) major droughts and nineteen (19) flooding events (35). By estimation, these extreme events have affected over sixteen million people and resulted in at least 444 deaths—excluding those undocumented. Flooding for example is ranked the second highest natural disaster after epidemics in Ghana. Economic losses caused by flooding alone between 1900 and 2014 is believed to be approximately US\$780,500,000.

and Investment Plan for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Ghana's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) identify emission reduction and adaptation actions to be undertaken in the energy, transportation, agriculture, forestry and land use, waste, and industry sectors. The first NDCs submitted in 2015 constituted 31 Programmes of Actions including 11 actions on adaptation and 20 on mitigation. Subsequently, the commitments were revised to comprise 47 Programmes of Actions translating into 13 adaptations and 34 mitigation measures, to be implemented between 2020 and 2030.



The higher ambitions in the updated NDCs affirm Ghana's resolve to address the impacts of climate change on the economy, environment and vulnerable people. The 47 climate actions are expected to build the resilience of over 38 million people, generate absolute greenhouse gas emission reduction of 64 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e (metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent), create over one million jobs, avoid 2,900 deaths due to improved air quality by 2030.

### Box 16: Financial Needs for Implementing the Revised Nationally Determined Contribution

Ghana requires between US\$9.3 and US\$15.5 billion of investment to implement the 47 nationally determined contribution measures from 2020 to 2030. US\$3.9 billion would be required to implement the 16 unconditional programmes of action till 2030. The remaining US\$5.4 billion for the 31 conditional programmes of action would be mobilised from the public, international, and private sector sources and carbon markets. Ghana will need an additional US\$3 million biennially to support coordination actions and the regular international reporting of the nationally determined contribution.

Source: Ghana's updated NDCs, 2020

In addition, the 4th National Communications Strategy was submitted to UNFCCC in 2020. The Implementation Plan for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) Investment

was also revised. The Government of Ghana has prepared its first Adaptation Communication (ADCOM) in line with Article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Paris Agreement through robust engagement with stakeholders. It also draws on the results of Ghana's National Adaptation Planning (NAP) process, which aims to fully integrate adaptation into economic, environmental and social decision-making.

### Indicator 13.2.2: Total greenhouse gas emissions per year

In 2019, Ghana's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions was estimated at 58.56 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e. This was 16 percent more than the 2016 level. The Energy sector has consistently been the most significant emission source since 2016. In 2019, 46.6 percent of the total national emissions came from the Energy sector and were followed by the FOLU<sup>1</sup> (25.5%), Agriculture (17.9%), Waste (7%) and IPPU<sup>2</sup> (3%) sectors.

When the emissions from FOLU are excluded from the national totals, the overall emissions were 44.04 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2019, with the Energy sector as the most significant source (Table 18). The emission spikes in 2011 and 2017 relate strongly with the increase in gas flaring in the offshore fields.

Table 18: Trends of greenhouse gas emission by sector, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2012, 2016 and 2019

Emission source/sink	Total emissions (MtCO <sub>2</sub> e)						Change 2016-2019
	1990	2000	2010	2012	2016	2019	
National Emissions with FOLU	24.78	25.59	37.88	41.86	50.47	58.56	16%
National Emissions without FOLU	10.20	12.29	24.35	28.34	37.10	44.04	19%
Energy	2.87	4.07	12.80	14.91	22.36	27.3	22%
Industrial Processes and Product Use	1.96	0.90	0.94	2.02	1.68	1.73	3%
Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use	18.82	18.97	21.25	21.83	22.80	25.41	11%
Waste	1.13	1.65	2.89	3.10	3.63	4.12	13%

Source: Ghana's Third Biennial Update Report, 2021

1 Forestry and other Land Uses  
2 Industrial Processes and Product Use





## Box 17: Ghana Carbon Market Engagement

### Background

As Party to the Paris Agreement, Ghana has voluntarily decided to implement Article 6.2 cooperative approaches on carbon market. Ghana is cooperating with the Governments of Switzerland, Sweden, and Singapore to implement Article 6.2 projects. The cooperation is expected to increase private sector participation in carbon market, create jobs, promote technology transfer and unlock business opportunities in the climate change space.

### Targets

Environmental – aiming at reducing 24 million tonnes of carbon emission by 2030 through carbon market

Economic - Job creation in private companies, technical auditors, commercial banks, and project monitoring companies

### Engagement with Private sector

Six entities are involved in the development of the carbon market project in Ghana - Klik Foundation; UNDP; Trifiaguria; Mercuria Energy; Tullow working with Burn; and Zoomlion Ghana Limited.

### Projects

Some carbon market projects are being developed in the following areas: (1) Solar PV Improve cookstove, (2) Composting, (3) Landfill gas management, (4) Biomass briquette, (5) Green cooling, (6) Waste water management, (7) Forest management, (8) Development and operationalisation of Ghana's Article 6.2 Framework to guide the generation, authorisation, transfer, adjustment, settlement, and reporting of carbon credit.

## Indicator 13.3.1: Number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula

Climate change has been integrated into school curriculum at all levels. This is evident in the new kindergarten and primary school curricula, particularly Science, Our World Our People, and Religious and Moral Education.

As part of the efforts to address climate change issues, a National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) has been developed to provide a clear pathway to deal with emerging climate change-related challenges. In addition, the country has a Climate Change Master Plan developed to deal with the sectoral implementation of climate actions. The National Climate change and Green Economy Learning Strategy has also been developed to operationalise the capacity building component of the Master Plan.

## Effect of COVID-19 on Climate Actions

The socio-economic stress of the COVID-19 pandemic has understandably shifted government's focus to a quick recovery of the economy. As the government re-sets its priorities, it is likely that the emphasis will be on investing in highly impactful interventions that will result in a quick rebound and revitalisation of the economy, thereby shifting resources away from critical climate actions.

Ghana needs to mobilise US\$4.21 billion from local resources and US\$ 8.29 billion from international sources to fully implement the adaptation actions, as stipulated in the Nationally Determine Contributions submitted to the UNFCCC. The effects of the pandemic have significantly reduced government's internally generated revenue, while donor support has become more difficult to come by.

Recent trends indicate a reduction in official development assistance. Many countries and funding agencies have, because of the pandemic and the nature



of associated impacts, turned inwards to manage their economies and businesses.

## Innovative interventions for accelerating attainment of SGD 13

Interventions being implemented by the government towards the attainment of SDG 13 include the following:

S/N	Key Interventions	Remarks
1.	Drive Electric Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In 2019, the "drive electric initiative" was launched to promote electric vehicles and create demand and drive the productive utilisation of electricity in the system.</li></ul>
2.	Strengthening vehicle inspections and standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Twenty-seven Private Vehicle Test Stations (PVTS) have been authorised to conduct roadworthiness inspection tests using state-of-the-art equipment. In addition, Ghana has adopted motor vehicle emission standards and developed a regulation to back its implementation.</li></ul>
3.	Adaptation Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ghana has organised national and sub-national adaptation capacity building programmes to enhance adaptation actions at various levels.</li></ul>

## Emerging issues

1. Ghana remains vulnerable to the effects of climate change including floods, tidal surges and high temperatures.
2. Increased exposure to environmental and man-made disasters
3. Inadequate early warning system







# GOAL 14 CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## Indicator 14.1.1: (a) Index of coastal eutrophication; and (b) plastic debris density

It is estimated that Ghana generates around 1.1 million tons of plastic waste per year, out of which about only 5 percent is collected for recycling. Most of the plastic waste generated is poorly managed, resulting in littering and clogging of drains and watercourses, with an estimated 250,000 tons<sup>1</sup> dumped into the Atlantic Ocean annually.

Ghana’s plastic debris density increased by more than five folds between 2016 and 2019 reaching about 179.8million/km<sup>2</sup> (Table 19). It however dropped to 152.1 million/km<sup>2</sup> in 2020 potentially due to COVID-19 effects including ban on social activities at beaches and general slowdown of commercial activities.

Table 19: Plastic debris density, 2016-2020

Year	Plastic Per Square Kilometre
2020	152,134,672
2019	179,760,103
2017	56,875,108
2016	33,579,283

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2021.

## Indicator 14.2.1: Number of countries using ecosystem-based approaches to managing marine areas

Since 2019, Ghana has been practising seasonal closures for artisanal fishers as a means of conserving and managing fisheries. It forms part of strategies agreed with stakeholders to reduce the excessive pressure and over-exploitation of stocks in the marine sub-sector, and to help replenish Ghana’s falling marine fish stock. The “closed season”, also referred to as “biological rest period”, refers to the

<sup>1</sup> Adika et al., (2020)



stopping of fishing during the spawning period. It is a way of reducing fishing pressure on stocks when they are most productive in terms of allowing the fish a chance to lay their eggs and increase fishing stock. The one-month long period “closed season” for artisanal fishers and semi-industrial fleet is observed before or during the major upwelling season, which typically spans July to September. The major upwelling season is a period of high spawning activity for both small pelagic and demersal species. Industrial trawlers observe a 2-month “closed season”.

Following the positive outcome of the “closed season”, stakeholder consultations are underway to assess the prospects of introducing a second “closed season” during the minor upwelling season (December – February).

During the “closed season”, government provides food items to fishers and fish processors in deprived communities to reduce the adverse effects. The fisherfolks are also supported to undertake alternative livelihood activities.

## Indicator 14.4.1: Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels



A study<sup>2</sup> conducted in 2019 on Ghana’s fish stock estimated that biomass of the Sardinellas and Anchovy was 10,000 and 20,000 tonnes respectively. The estimated biomasses of valuable demersal on the shelf within a depth of less than 100 metres were: Seabreams – 11,598 tonnes; Grunts – 624 tonnes; Croakers – 1280 tonnes; Groupers – 431 tonnes; and Snappers – 1,026 tonnes.

In 2020, biological studies conducted on four small pelagic and six demersal species (Round sardinella, Flat sardinella, Chub mackerel, European anchovy, Burrutto, Red Pandora, Cassava fish, Red mullet, Angola dentex and Bigeye fish) revealed that the mean length of the species were between 9.1 cm to 21.7 cm (Table 20).

**Table 20: Mean length of fish species, 2020 (cm)**

Species	Mean length (cm)
Round sardinella	17.7
Flat sardinella	16.2
Chub mackerel	20.2
European anchovy	9.1
Burritto	13.4
Red Pandora	16.2
Cassava fish	21.7
Red Mullet	17.5
Angola dentex	20.3

**Source: Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, 2021**

### Indicator 14.5.1: Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas

Ghana’s marine protected area accounts for 0.097 percent (221.0 km<sup>2</sup>) out of the total marine area of 226,739.0 km<sup>2</sup><sup>3</sup>. The marine ecosystems are saddled with inappropriate fishing techniques such as light fishing, pair trawling, the use of toxic chemicals and pollution from local communities. In addition, the rate of depletion of fish-stocks remain a significant food and nutrition challenge, while endangered species including marine mammals and sea turtles are major concerns for many fisher-folk and residents of coastal communities.

<sup>2</sup> Stock assessment survey by R/V Fridtjof Nansen in July/August 2019

<sup>3</sup> (UNEP-WCMC, 2019)

<sup>4</sup> A score is 100 if its benefits are maximized without compromising the ocean’s ability to deliver those benefits in the future. Lower scores indicate that more benefits could be gained or that current methods are harming the delivery of future benefits

Based on the improved method of assessing Ocean Health Index<sup>4</sup> (OHI), Ghana recorded an overall OHI score of 63.26 in 2021 compared to the global average of 70.0 (Table 21). While the scores have generally declined across many of the indicators, the scores for “coastal protection” and “carbon storage” have remained constant over the period, while “tourism and recreation” have experienced year-on-year improvements.

### Indicator 14.6.1: Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

Ghana has over the years combatted illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in line with international instruments such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1882 (UNCLOS), and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995). Ghana in 2014, developed and implemented a 5-year Fisheries Management Plan (2015-2019) to ensure long-term conservation of its fish stocks while contributing to improvement in food and nutritional safety. In 2018, Ghana was assessed to be in Band 4. This improved to Band 5 in 2022, which is the highest level of implementation. The improvement can be attributed to the increase in observer missions and intensified sea, land and quayside patrols, leading to arrest and prosecution of over 80 vessels; and continuous implementation of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and Automatic Identification System (AIS).

As part of enhancing law enforcement in the fisheries sector, Ghana is undertaking a review of its existing Fisheries Act, 2002 (Act 625) and Fisheries Policy, among others, to address issues of climate change, small-scale fisheries, gender and youth, gear technology, optimise fisheries infrastructural development and promote post-harvest fish management and trade.



Table 21: Ghana's Ocean Health Index, 2016-2021

Goal	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Index	63.19	63.74	63.92	63.44	63.32	63.26
Artisanal opportunities	72.01	71.12	69.9	69.05	68.33	67.95
Biodiversity	81.30	81.14	80.5	80.49	80.46	80.46
Coastal protection	98.0	98.0	98.0	98.0	98.0	98.0
Carbon storage	99.09	99.09	99.09	99.09	99.09	99.09
Clean water	35.55	35.25	35.25	33.61	33.49	33.37
Economies	98.32	98.32	98.32	98.32	98.32	98.32
Fisheries (sub-goal)	50.11	49.82	49.28	48.61	47.71	47.22
Food provision	50.11	49.81	49.27	48.61	47.71	47.22
Habitat (sub-goal)	87.85	87.94	87.08	87.47	87.85	87.85
Iconic species (sub-goal)	68.18	68.14	68.1	61.76	61.63	61.49
Livelihoods & economies	93.84	93.84	93.84	93.84	93.84	93.84
Livelihoods	89.35	89.35	89.35	89.35	89.35	89.35
Lasting special places (sub-goal)	2.73	2.73	2.73	2.73	2.73	2.73
Mariculture (sub-goal)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Natural products	55.93	62.57	66.79	68.11	68.48	69.01
Sense of place	35.46	35.44	35.42	32.25	32.18	32.11
Species condition (sub-goal)	74.76	74.34	73.92	73.5	73.08	73.08
Tourism & recreation	10.65	11.12	11.15	11.35	11.60	11.58

Source: OHI, 2022 (NB: Data values are based on 2020 improved method and as such vary from data in previous reports for Ghana).

Score	Bands
>0 –< 0.2	Band 1: Very low implementation of applicable instruments to combat IUU fishing
0.2 –< 0.4	Band 2: Low implementation of applicable instruments to combat IUU fishing
0.4 –< 0.6	Band 3: Medium implementation of applicable instruments to combat IUU fishing
0.6 –< 0.8	Band 4: High implementation of applicable instruments to combat IUU fishing
0.8 – 1.0	Band 5: Very high implementation of applicable instruments to combat IUU fishing

### Indicator 14.b.1: Degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries

Ghana has developed several policies (Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy, 2008; Co-Management Policy for the

Fisheries Sector, 2020), plans (Fisheries Management Plan, 2015-2019, medium-term development plan, 2018-2021; 2022-2025), and legislations (Fisheries Act, 2002, Act 625; Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 2014, Act 880; Ghana Shipping (Protection of Offshore Operations and Assets) Regulation 2012, L.I. 2010; Fisheries (amendment) Regulations, 2015, L.I. 2217) that promote the development of the fisheries sector including the small-scale sector where majority of the Ghanaian fisher-folks work. These policies, plans and regulations recognise and provide protection for small-scale fisheries. A dedicated Ministry responsible for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development was created in 2017. These and other interventions by government has enabled Ghana to maintain the Band 5 – very high implementation of instruments for access to resources and markets for small-scale fisheries – since 2018.



## **Indicator 14.c.1: Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources**

Ghana has made significant progress in the ratification of international treaties and agreements in relation to the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources. Some of which include:

1. Agreement on Port State Measures to Deter IUU Fishing and Communication on Ghana Ratification of Agreement on Port State Measures on IUU Ghana – Ratified on 29 November 2016
2. UN Agreement for the implementation of UNCLOS relating to the conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks (1994) – Ratified on 27 January 2017
3. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982 – Ratified on 7 June 1983
4. Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (regarding the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national

jurisdiction) – Ratified on 23 September 2016

5. Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas 1993 – Ratified on 12 May 2003
6. International Convention-Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas of 1966 and updated through 2017 – Ratified on 17 April 1968
7. Paris Protocol – Ratified on 12 December 1988
8. Madrid Protocol – Ratified on 23 November 2001

### **Effect of COVID-19 on life under water**

There is evidence that the COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on the global marine ecosystem. This impact has largely been reported to be positive, particularly in the short-term during the period of restrictions; where the richness of species in protected areas increased<sup>5</sup>.

For the fishing industry in Ghana, the impact of the pandemic was experienced in many folds. Although fishermen were exempted from the restrictions imposed during the peak pandemic period, those in the upstream sector who use inputs such as fishing nets had challenges with importation and this inadvertently affected the cost of fish on the market.

<sup>5</sup> Molteni, C. (2021). A systematic review on the impact of COVID-19 on protected areas. Kawsaypacha Magazine: Society and environment, (8), 81-100. <https://doi.org/10.18800/kawsaypacha.202102.004>



## Innovative interventions for accelerating attainment of SDG 14

Interventions being implemented by the government towards the attainment of SDG 14 include the following:

S/N	Key Interventions	Remarks
1.	Aquaculture Development Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2021, under the Aquaculture for Food and Jobs (AFJ) Initiative, 24 aquaculture facilities at Ve-Golokwati, Akpafu, Mempeasem, and Osei Tutu Senior High School were constructed.</li> </ul>
2.	Fisheries Resource Management Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2021, a new Marine Management Plan was developed to consolidate the gains made from the implementation of the National Marine Fisheries Management Plan (2015-2019).</li> <li>In 2021, a Canoe Identification Card system was established to regulate and manage the open access fisheries. A total of 10,000 identification cards were validated for marine artisanal canoes for distribution to fishers.</li> <li>In 2021, under the Fisheries Input Support Scheme, government in partnership with the private sector provided outboard motors and fishing gear as well as facilitated the regular supply of litres of premix fuel to over 300 landing beaches across the country.</li> </ul>
3.	Aquatic Animal Health and Post-Harvest Management Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2021, government as part of measures to ensure hygienic and safe consumption of fish, procured and distributed 50 pieces of Torrymeters across the various beaches to detect the use of chemicals. In addition, 46 fisheries officers and 30 stakeholders were trained on the use of the device.</li> <li>In 2021, a total of 360 fish processors and traders were trained on the use of improved fish processing technologies, hygienic handling of fish and group dynamics in the Upper East and West Regions.</li> </ul>
4.	Plastics Recycling programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2019, the National Plastics Management Policy (NPMP) was developed to provide strategic actions and support required for market-driven large scale plastic recycling. In addition, Public-private partnerships have been adopted to improve waste management and the recycling capacity in Ghana.</li> </ul>

## Emerging Issues

1. Low level of plastic recycling
2. Increasing plastic debris in the oceans
3. Over-exploitation of Ghana's marine fisheries resources resulting in continuous decline of fish stocks.





15 LIFE ON LAND



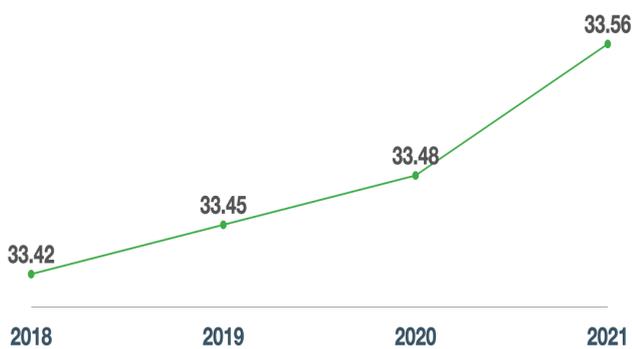
## GOAL 15 PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

### Indicator 15.1.1: Forest area as a proportion of total land area

Forest area as a proportion of total land area improved marginally between 2018 and 2021, from 33.42 percent to 33.56 percent (Figure 68). Under the National Afforestation Programme, a total area of 17,118.3ha of forest plantation was established against a target of 15,000ha. In addition, 19 million seedlings, including ofram, emire, wawa, kokrodua, teak, cedrela, gmelina, cassia, eucalyptus and mahogany species were planted.

The forest areas are threatened by illegal logging and mining activities – galamsey. Other pressures on the forest include farming and fuelwood collection and the uncontrolled conversion of forest areas to other land uses. Deforestation and forest degradation continue to be the greatest threats to sustainable natural resources management.

Figure 68: Forest area as a proportion of total land area, 2018-2021, (%)



Source: Forestry Commission, 2022



### Box 18: The Green Ghana Project

The President of the Republic, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, in 2021, launched the Green Ghana Project, as part of an aggressive afforestation and reforestation programme. The key objectives of the Project are to create enhanced national awareness of the necessity for collective action towards restoring degraded landscapes in the country, inculcating values of planting and nurturing of trees in the youth, mitigating climate change, and beautifying our communities and environment.

The President led the country to plant over 7 million trees, exceeding the target of 5 million in 2021. On March 1, 2022, the President launched the 2022 edition of the Green Ghana Day under the theme “Mobilising for a Greener Future.” The target for Green Ghana Day, slated for June 10, 2022, is to plant, at least 20 million trees across the country.

Ghana, from 2024, is committed to reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 10 million tonnes through Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+, one of five ecological landscape-tailored programmes in Ghana’s REDD+ Strategy”.

### Indicator 15.2.1: Progress towards sustainable forest management

A total of 19,900 km<sup>2</sup> of land is currently under long-term forest management. This represents 24.86 percent of the

total forest area of the country as of 2021. Various institutions are implementing policies and strategies on forest and wildlife development throughout the country geared towards sustainable forest management. These include:

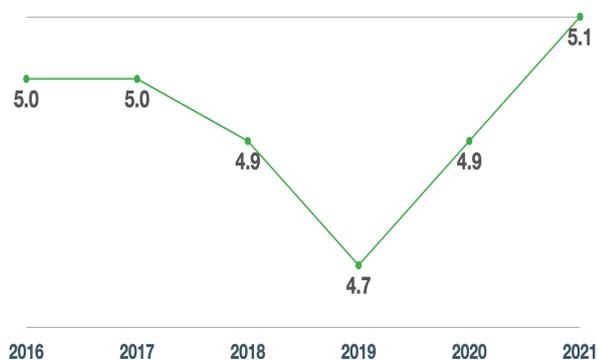


1. Ghana’s Forest and Wildlife Policy, 2012;
2. Forestry Development Master Plan, 2016-2036;
3. National Forest Plantation Strategy, 2016-2040;
4. Ghana REDD+ Strategy, 2016-2035;
5. Forest and Wildlife Resources Management Plans;
6. Ghana’s Cocoa-Forest REDD+ Programme;
7. Ghana Forest Investment Programme; and
8. Ghana Wood Tracking System and Legality Assurance System.

**Indicator 15.3.1 Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area**

Degradation of protected areas has been increasing since 2019, reversing the downward trend since 2016. It increased from 4.7 percent in 2019 to 5.1 percent of total land area in 2021 (Figure 69). Since 2017, emphasis has been placed on developing forest plantation as one of the strategies to address deforestation and provide forest goods and services to deliver a range of economic, social and environmental benefits including raw materials for the timber industry.

Figure 69: Proportion of degraded land of total land area, 2016-2021 (%)



Source: Forestry Commission, 2022

An estimated area of 44,118ha of plantation of different species (e.g., ofram, teak, wawa,

kokrodua, cedrela, eucalyptus) have been established by Government. The private sector has also established an area of 18,083ha. The main infractions recorded in protected areas are illegal harvesting of timber, forest fires, illegal chain sawing and more recently the upsurge in illegal mining.

**Indicator 15.6.1: Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits**

There are four forms of benefit sharing arrangements in Ghana’s forest sector (Table 22). These arrangements aim at creating effective incentive regimes for rewarding individuals, communities, organizations and businesses for actions that change unsustainable land-uses practices and reduce emissions.

**Effect of COVID-19 on sustainable use of land resources**

Forest management and protection was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The background paper prepared for the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat indicates that illegal harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) has been on the rise due to reduction in monitoring activities by public sector forest agencies.

This has resulted in communities dependent on forest-based tourism for jobs and livelihoods experiencing declines in their incomes. This increases their probability of engaging in illegal activities such as poaching and illegal timber production<sup>1</sup>.





**Table 22: Benefit sharing arrangements in forest sector**

Type	Percentage Share	Purpose
1. Constitutional timber revenue benefit sharing	Forestry commission – 50% District Assembly – 25% Stool – 11% Traditional Authority – 9% Office of Administrator of Stool Lands – 5%	The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana guides the benefit sharing of timber revenue accruing from forest reserves and off-reserve areas
2. Modified Taungya System (MTS) benefit sharing scheme	Forestry Commission – 40% Farmers – 40% Landowners – 15% Forest Fringe Communities – 5%	Introduced to fully involve farmers and resource-owning communities in the rehabilitation of degraded forest reserves while enhancing rural livelihoods and reducing poverty
3. Commercial Private Plantation reserve sharing (Reserve/off-reserve)	Private Entity – 90% Landowner – 6% Forestry Commission – 2% Local Community – 2%	To increase forest cover and reduce deforestation by allocating portions of degraded forest reserves to private entities for plantation development.
4. Community Resource Area (CREMA) Managent	CREMA communities and authorities develop their own benefit-sharing arrangements. in a typical CREMA, 5-10% of revenue goes to the CREMA Executive Committee, while 90-95% is allocated to the communities for development purpose.	To involve adjoining communities in wildlife management while providing them with economic incentives through sustainable income-generating activities compatible with wildlife management.

## Innovative interventions for accelerating attainment of SDGS 15

Interventions being implemented by the government towards the attainment of SDG 15 include the following:

S/N	Key Interventions	Remarks
1.	National Afforestation Programme (NAP)	• In 2021, under the National Afforestation Programme, 75,170ha had been planted with suitable tree seedlings as part of a landscape restoration model. This comprised 14,057ha of new forest plantations, and re-establishment of 10,495ha failed areas. Also, 3.7 million seedlings, including Cassia, Cedrela, Emire, Eucalyptus, Gmelina, Kokrodua, Mahogany, Ofram, Teak and Waw species were planted on 50,618ha farm lands.
2.	Youth in Afforestation Programme (YIAP)	• In 2021, 72,000 persons were engaged in the programme to assist in various planting activities.
3.	Forest reserves and wildlife protected areas education programmes	• In 2021, a rapid response team was formed to undertake forest conservation education to reduce illegalities in forest reserves and wildlife protected areas.
4.	Timber and Industry development	• In 2021, the Forestry Commission facilitated the export of 234,247m <sup>3</sup> of wood which generated €114.35 million equivalent to GH¢804.20 million.

## Emerging issues

1. High illegal mining in forest and protected areas
2. Poor protection of protected areas

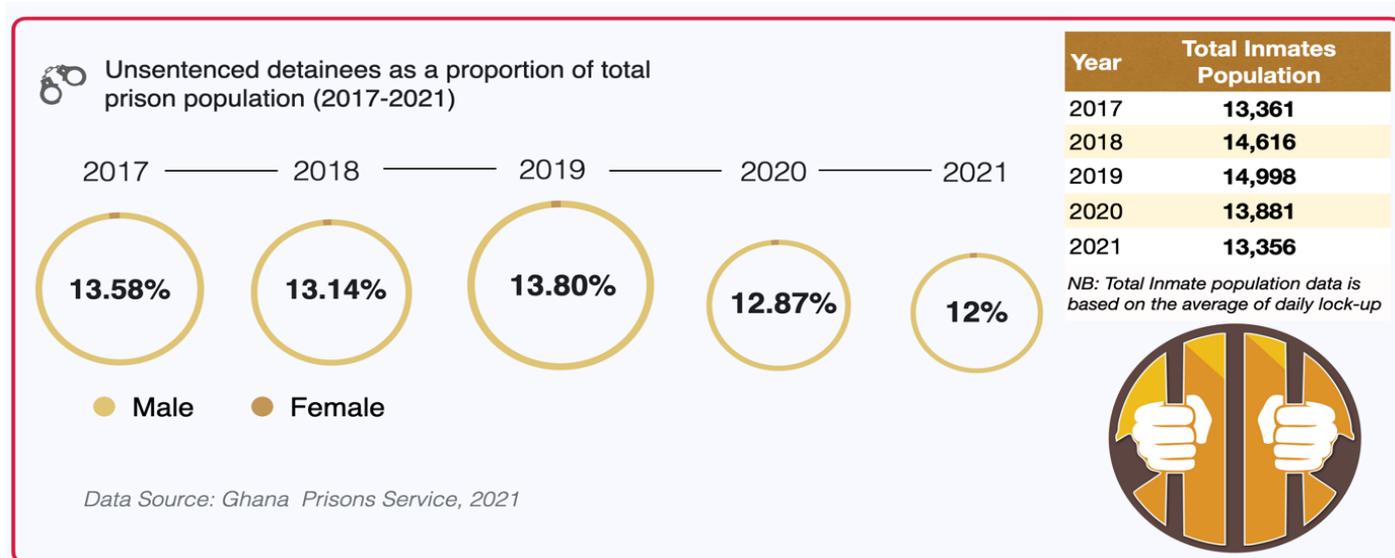






overcrowding contributed to the reduction in unsentenced detainee population. The programme has also helped the law courts to dispense justice swiftly, particularly, for inmates who were in custody without any

cause. Total inmate population in Ghana's prisons which stood at nearly 15,000 in 2019 has in the last two years declined to 13,356 due to sustained initiatives such as the JFAP to decongest the Prisons.

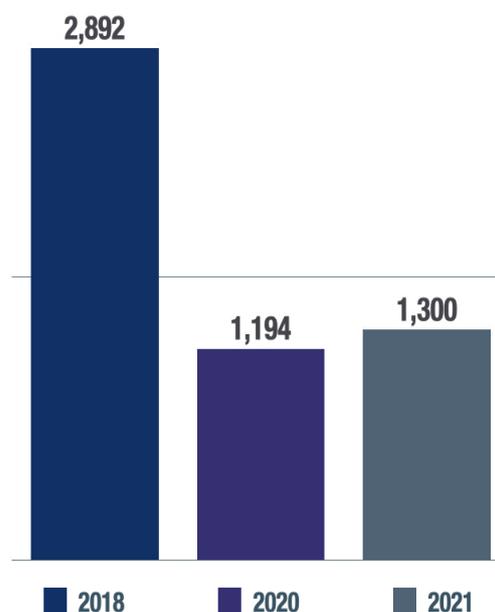


### Indicator 16.4.2: Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments

The National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons, from 2018 to 2021 has seized a total of 5,386 illicit arms (Figure 71) as part of measures to reduce their proliferation, thereby reducing criminal and armed violence and fostering peace.

The Commission has developed and piloted a software application that helps to track surrendered arms across the various police stations. It also launched the Ghana Arms Database System also known as "The GAD" to respond to obligation under the ECOWAS Convention and other international instruments on database and recordkeeping.

Figure 71: Number of illicit arms collected and destroyed, 2018, 2020 and 2021



Source: Ministry of Interior Programme Based Budget, 2021 and 2022



### Indicator 16.5.1: Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months

Transparency International’s Global Corruption Barometer estimated that 33 percent of public service users paid a bribe in the previous 12 months in 2019. This is

a marginal improvement over previous assessment in 2015 (36%). The report also indicated that 60 percent of respondents perceived that ordinary citizens could make a difference in the fight against corruption. However, only 35 percent of respondents were of the view that they can report on corruption issues without fear. The police service is perceived as the most corrupt institution (Table 23).

Table 23: Top three perceived corrupt institutions, 2015 and 2019, (%)

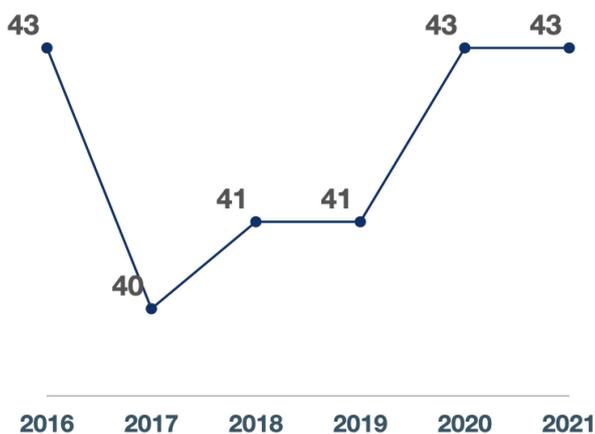
2015	2019
1. Police (64%)	1. Police (59%)
2. Government Officials (53%)	2. Judges ad Magistrates (38%)
3. Judges ad Magistrates (49%)	3. Government Officials (35%)

Source: Global Corruption Barometer, 2015 and 2019

### Indicator 16.5.2L: Corruption Perception Index

Ghana’s corruption perception index declined from 43 in 2016 to 40 in 2017 but improved to 43 in 2020 and 2021 (Figure 72). Ghana’s score exceeds the sub-Saharan score of 33 and is equal to the global average in 2021. The country improved its rankings by 2 points, from 75 to 73 out of 180 countries between 2020 and 2021.

Figure 72: Corruption perception score, 2016 to 2021 (out of 100)

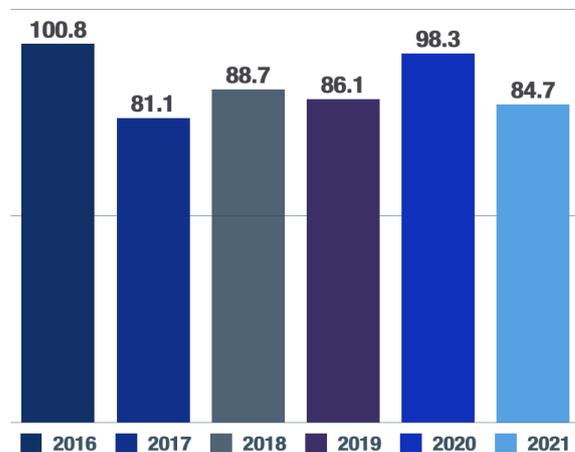


Source: Transparency International, 2016-2021

### Indicator 16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)

Except for 2016, Government have been responsible by keeping expenditure within original approved budget up to 2021. This performance was not affected by the increase in government’s unanticipated and unavoidable expenditure due to COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, recording a 98.3 percent expenditure share of approved budget.

Figure 73: Total expenditure as a share of approved budget, 2016 - 2021, (%)



Source: Ministry of Finance Fiscal Data, 2016-2021



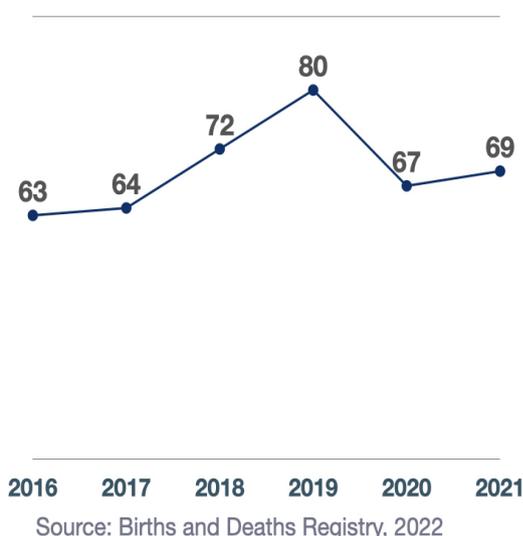
### Indicator 16.7.1: Proportions of positions in national and local institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups

Women representation in the Parliament of Ghana continues to be very low although records show that there have been marginal increases over the past decade and half. The 275-members of the 8th Parliament has only 40 women MPs; 20 each on both the majority and minority sides. This makes up 14.5 percent of the total population of MPs compared to 13 percent in the 7th Parliament. The current figure is lower than the African and global averages of 24 percent and 23 percent respectively (based on women representation in unicameral parliaments or the lower house of parliaments).

### Indicator 16.9.1: Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

Birth registration of children recorded significant improvement prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing from 63 percent in 2016 to 80 percent in 2019 (Figure 74). Due to restriction in movements and lockdowns, birth registration coverage declined in 2020 but increased marginally to 69 percent.

Figure 74: Birth registration, 2016 - 2021, (%)



### Indicator 16.10.2: Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information (RTI Law)

The right to public information as a human right is enshrined in the 1992 Constitution. Article 21(1) (f) of the constitution states that “All persons shall have the right to information subject to such qualifications and laws as are necessary for a democratic society”. Access to information is also recognised by the UN as a tool for promoting open governance and transparency.

The Right to Information Act (ACT 989), was passed in 2019 when the President of the Republic, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo assented to it. The application of the RTI Act, 2019 (ACT 989) began in January 2020. Since the passage of RTI, a total of 223 information has been requested from 47 government institutions. Out of these, 180 (80.72%) of information was supplied.

### Indicator 16.a.1: Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles

CHRAJ is established as the National Human Rights Institution of Ghana to protect universal human rights and freedoms, especially those vested in the 1992 Constitution, including civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. Specific mandates concerned with the protection of human rights are found in Article 218 (a), (c) and (f) of the 1992 Constitution and Section 7 (1) (a) (c) and (g) of the CHRAJ Act, 1993 (Act 456). As the National Human Rights Institution of Ghana, the Commission has a duty to promote and protect fundamental human rights and freedoms in Ghana. The Commission’s human rights functions are in two categories, namely:

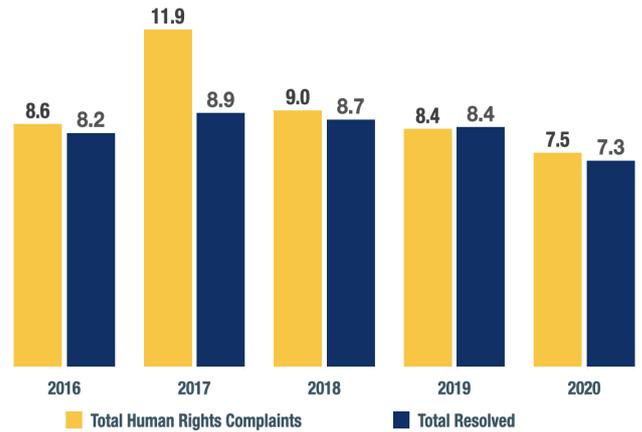
- i. Promotion and Prevention,
- ii. Protection and Enforcement.

The Commission has resolved almost all human rights complaints received in 2020, while the share of human right cases of total complaints has declined consistently



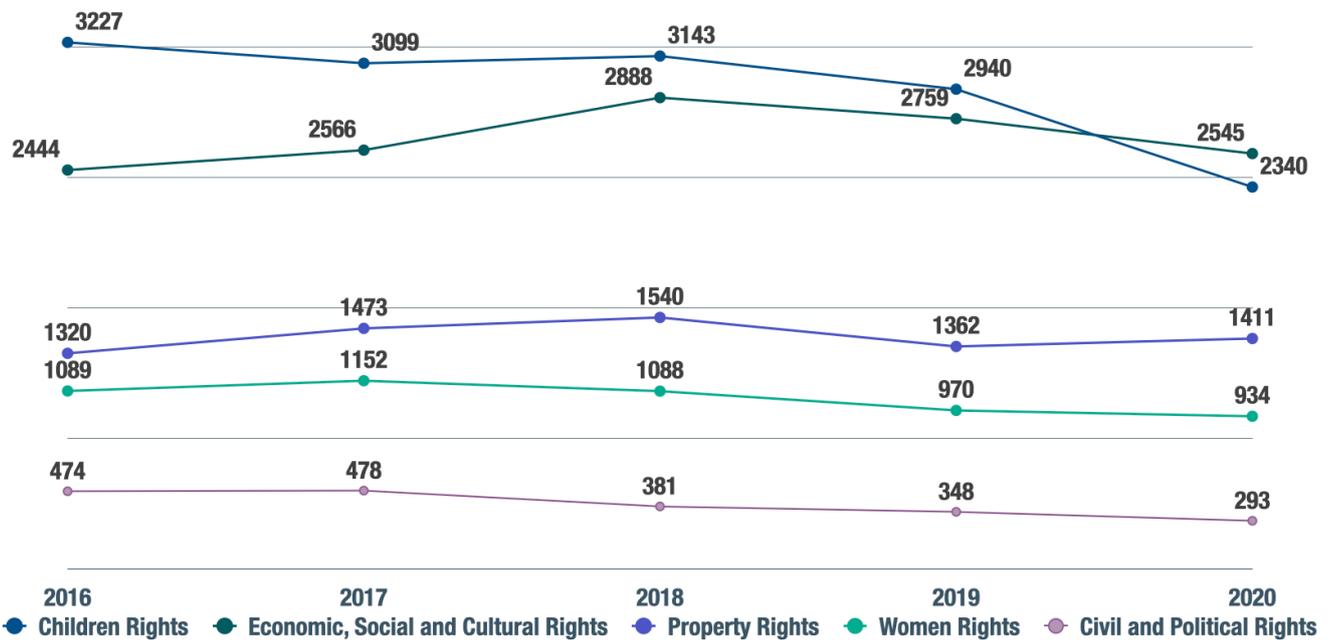
from 2017 (Figure 75). Between 2016 and 2019, children’s rights cases constituted the most human right cases received. There was a significant drop in child cases in 2020 (Figure 76).

Figure 75: Human rights complains, 2016 - 2020 (thousand)



Source: CHRAJ Annual Progress Report, 2017-2021

Figure 76: Human rights cases, by type, 2016-2020



Source: CHRAJ Annual Progress Reports, 2017-2021

### Effect of COVID-19 on peace and inclusiveness of societies

With the onset of the pandemic, there was a decline in the number of unsentenced detainees who could have had their freedom through the Justice for All Programme. The fear of contracting the pandemic derailed planned sittings and as a result, the panel for the programme attended to fewer cases in 2020 than usual. The proportion of children whose births were registered dropped by 13 percentage points between 2019 and 2020 due to restrictions and fear of visiting public places. The closure of borders, in some cases, increased irregular migration patterns.

The COVID-19 Households and Jobs Tracker Wave II revealed that there was an increase in violence between members of the same households.

### Assessment of recovery from the Pandemic

The Justice for all programme adopted virtual sittings which subsequently resulted in an upward trend in terms of the number of cases attended to. Data from the Births and Deaths Registry also shows an increase in the proportion of children under 5 years whose births were registered.



## Innovative interventions for accelerating attainment of SDGs 16

Interventions being implemented by the government towards the attainment of SDG 16 include the following:

S/N	Key Interventions	Remarks
1.	Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>As of February 2022, the OSP was investigating 45 cases of suspected corruption and corruption related offences.</li></ul>
2.	Births and Deaths Registration Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In 2020, the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 2020 was passed to integrate the registration system into the local administration setup.</li></ul>
3.	Crime Management Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In 2021, a new prison camp was commissioned to reduce overcrowding in the prison system.</li><li>In 2021, The Ghana Police Service (GPS) in conjunction with other security agencies, launched "Operation Peace Trail" to secure the Eastern and Western Borders.</li></ul>
4.	Anti-Corruption Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In 2021, CHRAJ visited 135 MMDAs and 150 MDAs to verify National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP) implementation reports for 2017-2019. In addition, the Commission disseminated the 2020 NACAP Annual Progress Report and commenced preparations for the first Actual Corruption Survey in Ghana.</li><li>In 2021, an end-line survey was conducted on the State of Corruption, Public Accountability and Environmental Governance to assess progress made on key indicators of Anti-Corruption, Rule of Law and Accountability Programmes (ARAP).</li></ul>

## Emerging Issues

1. Perception of corruption among public institutions remains high
2. Decline in the number of unsentenced detainees
3. Innovations in birth registration





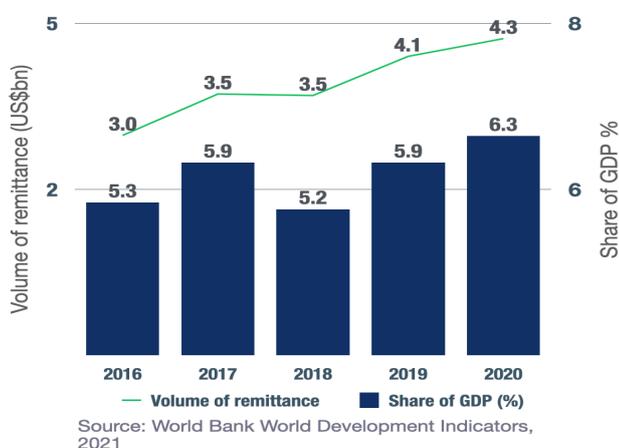




### Indicator 17.3.2: Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP

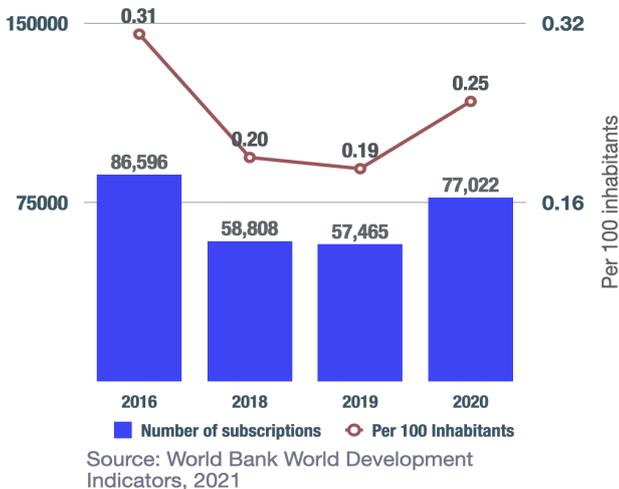
Total volume of remittances has increased by about 44 percent from the 2016 figure to US\$4.29 billion in 2020. Its share of GDP has averaged around 5.72 percent over the period (Figure 79). In 2020, the share of GDP (6.3%) was above the average of 4.5 percent for lower-middle income countries. Remittances constitute a potential source of revenue to be mobilised for social and economic development

Figure 79: Remittances volume and share of GDP, 2016 - 2020



### Indicator 17.6.1: Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed

Figure 80: Fixed Broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, 2016-2020



Subscriptions of fixed internet broadband has been declining due to the switch to mobile internet service. Subscriptions

declined from 86,596 in 2016 to 57,465 in 2019 but improved to 77,022 in 2020 due largely to high demand for internet service during the COVID-19 lock downs and restrictions.

According to the Household ICT Survey carried out in 2019, households in Ghana that had access to fixed internet services was 16.8 percent in 2019. Access to fixed internet services was higher in urban (20.0%) than rural (12.8%).

### Indicator 17.8.1: Proportion of individuals using the Internet

Over the last decade, use of internet has increased significantly from 7.8 percent to 77.2 percent among the population 12 years and above (Figure 81). The gender divide with use of internet is also closing with usage by women increasing from 36.6 percent in 2010 to 48.2 percent in 2021 (Figure 82). More urban (66.8%) than rural (33.2%) dwellers use the internet.

Figure 81: Use of internet by 12 years and above, 2010 and 2021, (%)

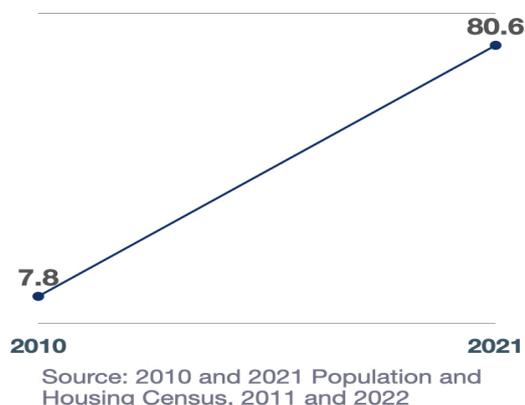
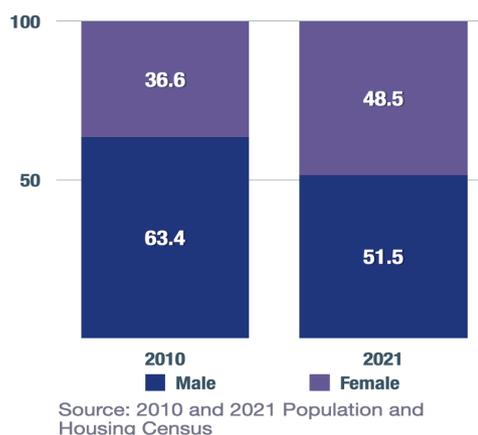


Figure 82: Internet usage of persons 12 years and above by sex, 2010 and 2021, (%)





There was an increase in demand for internet services for educational and remote working purposes. Among other interventions, the government provided free access to critical websites and Government portals that provide COVID-19 awareness and safety protocols to enable citizens access information for free. Government also reduced the Communications Service Tax (CST) from 9 percent to 5 percent to promote remote

working and online services. Government also provided network related data to facilitate contact tracing assistance and infection monitoring led by the COVID-19 taskforce and Ghana Health Service (GHS) teams.

The Ghana Chamber of Telecommunications (GCT) rolled out interventions to support the public and government to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 (Table 24).

**Table 24: Interventions by Ghana Chamber of Telecommunication to mitigate COVID-19 Pandemic**

Public	Government
Free access to over 100 educational online sites, e-learning platforms and libraries (public, private, foreign	On-going Collaboration with National Information Technology Authority (NITA) to zero-rate Government of Ghana Smart Workplace Portal to enable government workers work from home
Free calls to the National COVID-19 response number (112) as well as other emergency service numbers	Provision of network related data through our regulator to facilitate contact tracing assistance and infection monitoring led by the COVID-19 taskforce and GHS teams
Collaborated with the Bank of Ghana to offer free of charge Mobile Money transactions below GH¢100 to promote digital forms of payments and augment social distancing rules which reduce the rate of new infection	Zero-rate calls to the National COVID-19 response number

**Indicator 17.18.2: Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**

Ghana’s national statistical legislation complies with the fundamental principles of Official Statistics. In 2019, the new Statistical Service Act, 2019 (Act 1003) to replace the Statistical Service Law, 1985 was enacted to reflect the changes in statistics landscape worldwide. The new Act provides for the Ghana Statistical Service as the central statistics producing and coordinating institution for the National Statistical System and to strengthen the production of quality, relevant, accurate and timely statistical information for the purpose of national development.

The development of all surveys and censuses in Ghana are underpinned by the fundamental principles of Statistics. In line with the principles, the understanding and collection of statistics of all statistical departments of Ministries, Departments and Agencies has been enhanced

through the implementation of the National Statistical Development Plan. In addition, in line with the Local Government (Departments of District Assemblies) (Commencement) Instrument, 2009 (LI 1961), statistical departments have been established at the local level, to help improve and ensure conformity of data generated to the principles of official statistics.

**Indicator 17.18.3: Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding**

The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) 2018-2022 is a comprehensive strategic document which seeks to guide the evolution of the National Statistical System (NSS) to enable it to produce the statistical knowledge the country needs to fulfil its development potential. This NSDS is primarily concerned with setting a vision for the next 5 years (2018- 2022) and providing milestones that the NSS must reach to make that vision a reality. This strategy seeks to create a system



which is capable of being responsive to users' needs by providing a basis for results-oriented strategic management of the NSS and acting as a framework to mobilise and manage resources.

**Indicator 17.19.2: Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100 percent birth registration and 80 percent death registration**

Ghana has conducted six post-independence population censuses in 1960, 1970, 1984, 2000, 2010 and 2021, with the last three having a module for housing census. These censuses have been designed to generate essential statistics for policy and planning purposes. In 2021, Ghana's births and deaths registration stood at 69 percent and 43 percent.

**Effect of COVID-19 on strengthening means of implementation**

The closure of businesses, coupled with restrictions had negative effects on revenue mobilisation. Though, the revenue share of GDP had generally declined prior to the pandemic, 2020 had the lowest share recorded due to the adverse effect of COVID-19. Data from the Household and Jobs Tracker Survey (Wave 1) indicates that 80 percent of the households had their

remittances reduced due to COVID-19, as compared to before the outbreak of the pandemic. It further showed that a common action of households to cope with the effects of COVID-19 was to rely on savings (47.4%), of which remittance constitutes a major source of savings for households. The impact of COVID-19 distorted the operations of Ghana Statistical Service in conducting the 2021 Population and Housing Census. It also increased expenditure in conducting the Census due to the provision of other essential services which were required for the Census to be conducted.

**Assessment of recovery from the Pandemic**

Data from the Household and Jobs Tracker Survey (Wave 2) indicate that 6.3 percent of households reported an increase in their remittances from abroad. Further, evidence from the Business Tracker Survey (Wave 2) shows that there has been an improvement in businesses reporting declining sales from 91 percent to 80 percent. This shows that Government interventions such as the stimulus package has had a positive impact and this has a direct impact on revenue mobilisation through the payment of more taxes from the sales generated. Also, the implementation of E-Levy is anticipated to enhance revenue mobilisation by broadening the tax base.



## Innovative interventions for accelerating attainment of SDGS 17

Interventions being implemented by the government towards the attainment of SDG 17 include the following:

S/N	Key Interventions	Remarks
1.	Economic Policy Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, the Public Investment Management (PIM) Regulations, 2020 (L.I. 2411) was passed and Public Investment Plan (PIP), 2021-2024 developed.</li> <li>In 2020, the Public Private Partnership Act, 2020 (Act 1039) was passed to provide legal, regulatory and institutional framework for the governance of Public-Private Partnerships.</li> <li>In 2021, all MDAs, RCCs and MMDAs were trained on the Public Investment Management (PIM) Regulations, 2020 (L.I. 2411).</li> <li>In 2021, The PIP for the 2021-2024 Budget was uploaded onto the Hyperion and over 900 projects reflected in the Programme Based Budget Documents of MDAs.</li> </ul>
2.	Resource Mobilisation and Management Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, government organised the 2020 Accra SDGs Investment Fair on the theme “Regaining Momentum in SDGs Implementation during and post COVID-19.</li> <li>In 2020, the Revenue Administration (Amendment) Act, 2020 (Act 1029) was passed to establish an Independent Tax Appeals Board and enhance the existing voluntary disclosure procedures.</li> <li>In 2021, as part of creating a cash-lite economy, the Integrated Tax Application and Preparation System (iTaPS), the Personal Income Tax, PAYE, Corporate Income Tax, Withholding Tax and Tax Clearance Certificate modules were deployed.</li> <li>In 2021, a mechanism for taxing High-Net-Worth-Individuals (HNWIs) was deployed, with about 150 HNWIs identified and their tax affairs being managed by the HNWI unit of Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA).</li> <li>In 2021, the Centralised Digital Payment Platform (CDPP) – Ghana.Gov Platform, was launched to facilitate payments due Government from tax and non-tax revenue sources, and for services rendered by government agencies to the general public.</li> </ul>
3.	Investment Promotion and Management Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) registered 69 new projects with foreign participation for the year. The estimated value of the newly registered projects was US\$688.74 million. The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) component of this value was US\$627.52 million.</li> <li>In 2021, the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre registered 173 new projects with foreign participation valued at US\$1.19 billion. The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) component of this value was US\$1.03 billion.</li> </ul>
4.	Statistical Development Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2020, the Ghana Statistical Service produced the Household and Jobs Tracker, Business Tracker and Local Economies Tracker (Wave I &amp; II).</li> <li>In 2021, the Ghana Statistical Service produced the Household and Jobs Tracker, and Business Tracker (Wave III).</li> <li>In 2021, the enumeration phase of the 2021 Population and Housing Census was completed.</li> </ul>



S/N	Key Interventions	Remarks
5.	ICT Development Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In 2020, the Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC) under the Rural Telephony Project piloted a 45-kilometer aerial fiber cable which run on the ECG pylons to deploy a faster and more affordable internet connectivity in the Western Region.</li><li>• In 2020, 410 solar powered cell sites were developed to cover unserved population.</li><li>• In 2020, a 5-year National Cybersecurity Awareness Programme, dubbed “A Safer Digital Ghana” was launched to build capacity and create awareness on cybercrime and improve on Ghana’s cybersecurity readiness</li><li>• In 2020, 1,800 digital and 2,200 ancillary jobs were created at the Accra Digital Centre for the youth and vulnerable persons from low-income communities.</li><li>• In 2021, under the Rural Telephony and Digital Inclusion Project, 506 towers were erected to serve towns and communities where Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) do not operate.</li><li>• In 2021, the Girls-in-ICT Initiative was launched and 2,000 girls trained in basic computer literacy, coding, programming and HTML. In addition, 50 women from selected tertiary institutions were trained in various programmes, including Artificial Intelligence, Deep Learning, Machine Learning, Cloud, and Cyber Security.</li><li>• In 2021, 20,000 girls from the girls’ senior high schools in the Ashanti Region were trained in Cyber Hygiene and the contents and implications of the Cyber Security Act 2020, Act 1038.</li></ul>
6.	Cooperation Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Ghana National Development Cooperation Policy (GNDCP) has been finalised to shape the interaction with DPs towards the effective mobilisation of resources</li></ul>

## Emerging Issues

1. Debt burden and high debt service
2. Budget rigidities
3. Increasing use of digital platforms to boost domestic revenue generation
4. Low revenue to GDP
5. Increasing volumes of remittances
6. Increasing usage of internet
7. Increasing interest by the private sector and traditional authorities in development agenda



“Sankofa”

Go back and get it. A symbol of the wisdom of learning from the past to build for the future.



# MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The results of 2019 and 2022 VNR of Ghana shows progress with the SDGs, though more work needs to be done towards 2030. The COVID-19 pandemic has introduced new challenges. With eight years to the target period, renewed efforts are required within the context of the decade of action to scale-up investments to deliver the SDGs as declared by world leaders.

Ghana continues to strengthen collaboration between Government, UN Country Team, Development Partners, Civil Society Organisation and other stakeholders to build the necessary and adequate momentum that can deliver the SDGs. The essential features of Ghana's strategy to pursuing the 2030 Agenda are:

## **Better alignment of planning and budgeting processes for the SDGs.**

The current Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework (2022-2025) has integrated the 2030 agenda, with a renewed attention on emergency planning and COVID-19 response. Furthermore, the framework includes Strategies aimed at making coordination, monitoring, and evaluation more effective and to enhance SDGs implementation.

Annual allocation and expenditure have also been aligned to which allows for annual tracking of SDGs financing through the SDGs budgeting reports. This enables Government, Private Sector, Developing Partners, Civil Society Organisation and Traditional Authorities to better engage on funding for the implementation of the SDGs.

## **Innovative financing**

The country's Financing Roadmap on the SDGs estimates the annual funding gap at US\$43 billion. Government is exploring innovative financing arrangement at both national and sub-national levels to fill this gap. Opportunities inherent

in diaspora Funds, SDGs Investor Maps and SDGs Investment Fair, integrated national financing frameworks and African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement are being harnessed.

- **SDGs Investor Maps** - will provide market intelligence on investment opportunities in Ghana and related impact data to identify and increase SDGs-aligned investments
- **Development Bank of Ghana** - will help address long-term funding of the productive sectors of the economy, to accelerate attainment of the SDGs
- **The Integrated National and Assembly Financing Frameworks** – introduced by the United Nations, is one of the innovative initiatives that map the landscape for financing sustainable development at country level; and lay out a financing strategy to implement targeted policies and reforms to achieve the SDGs. Ghana's fiscal decentralisation drive and the changing development finance landscape informed the decision to adopt a bottom-up approach
- **SDGs Delivery and Green Funds** – these funds were launched by the CEOs Advisory Group in 2019 to mobilise domestic private resources to support bankable SDGs projects and initiatives.

## **Strengthening and broadening partnerships**

The Government is fully committed to strengthening partnership with the private sector, traditional authority, civil society organisations, diasporan community among others around the SDGs. The President oriented stakeholders to conceive the US\$43 billion annual financing gap as a business and investment opportunity. The business opportunities inherent in the SDGs are being demonstrated to private sector to attract investment. Standard



Chartered Bank Opportunity 2030 Report estimates the financial opportunities with delivering the SDGs to include:

- US\$7.8 billion in universal access to electricity
- US\$0.8 billion in clean water and sanitation
- US\$6.9 billion in digital access
- US\$4.1 billion in infrastructure services

Partnerships with Traditional Authorities are being strengthened to enhance local governance for sustainable development actions. Partnerships are being established around specific SDGs as well. More recently the Kyebi Traditional Area has shown commitment towards increased urgency to accelerate climate action<sup>1</sup>. The Volta

Regional House of Chiefs are championing “innovation and entrepreneurship” among the youth.

### Improving data and evidence

Technology is being harnessed to provide alternative data sources such as citizen-generated data (CGD), mobile data, geospatial data, and big data to report on the SDGs. These measures are complementing official statistics. In strengthening the data ecosystem to report on the SDGs, Ghana Statistical Service aims to make data more open for reuse, ensure better communication, and visibility of data, ensure data connects to decision-making and meets user need and ensure that data is interoperable and harmonised.

<sup>1</sup> The Kyebi declaration: A call for increased urgency for climate action with local communities



# CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

The 2022 VNR report takes inspiration from the 2019 VNR report, adopting a country-level review process to promote participation and inclusivity. Consultations and review meetings were held with different stakeholders such as youth and children’s groups, private sector, development partners, persons with disability (PWDs), women groups including queen mothers, and civil society organisations to identify the challenges and the way forward to achieving the 2030 Agenda. The report is expected to be formally launched and further discourse held with targeted stakeholders on major issues emanating from it. Further, dissemination would be organised at the sub-national level, the base of development, to ensure that no one is left behind.

Box 17 highlights key lessons from the VNR process that can be leveraged for peer learning with other countries.

Box 17: Lessons learnt from implementation and reporting on VNR	
Key Areas	Lessons Learnt
Multi-stakeholder partnerships	Provided opportunity for leveraging data from key stakeholder, including the U-report and technical support for the preparation of Youth VNR report
Data quality assurance	Provided platform for certification of data by the Ghana Statistical Service. Increased indicator reporting due to capacity enhancement of MDAs in relation to administrative data
Coordination among Ghana UN Country Team	Provided platform for unified and concerted technical and financial support through the Resident Coordinator Office on timely basis

Digital Platforms	Enhanced communication and ensured continues engagement with stakeholders in spite of COVID-19
Plan and Budget alignment to SDGs	Provided opportunity for better alignment of planning and budgeting process for the SDGs.

The assessment of the progress on implementation of the SDGs shows a high level of access to water and electricity (almost at universal levels), gender parity at the KG, primary and JHS levels and high completion rate despite the COVID-19 Pandemic. There have been improvements in maternal mortality, child obesity and participation of women in Parliament and local government. That notwithstanding, unemployment and inequality have been exacerbated by COVID-19. Open defecation, waste collection and management though improving but at a slow pace. Other process-related challenges include a huge funding gap, low adoption of science, technology and innovation, and timely access to reliable data with the right levels of disaggregation.

Achieving the SDGs will require deliberate and comprehensive efforts towards recovering from the impact of COVID-19 pandemic while enhancing socio-economic development and opportunities, as well as safeguarding the natural environment. This will require taking into consideration the following:

## Strengthen financially and resource mobilisation mechanisms

Achieving the SDGs largely depends on sustainable and innovative financing mechanisms. The government has demonstrated its commitment to ensuring SDGs are aligned with the national budget, yet financing gaps remain a challenge. This requires a deliberate effort to connect private enterprise, development partners,



social entrepreneurship, innovation, and research to critical SDGs action. Though some gains have been made in private sector contributions, there remains enormous and untapped investment opportunities around the SDGs at both national and community levels. There is a need to strengthen the coordination system to leverage these opportunities to help bridge this financing gap. Also, Government efforts to digitise the various sectors of the economy have a huge potential of increasing the tax base and improve efficiency, thereby improving revenue mobilisation at national and sub-national levels to support the implementation of the SDGs. The introduction of the Electronic Transfer Levy Act, 2022 (Act 1075), is expected to increase the tax base of the country thereby improving revenue to finance government's programmes and projects, among others.

### **Address major socio-economic and environmental challenges to sustain achievement of SDGs**

Issues such as unemployment, inequality, open defecation, waste collection and management, need to be given special attention. There is the need to strengthen investment in the youthful population to address the rising unemployment. The YouStart initiative provides opportunities to support youth entrepreneurs with start-up capital. AfCFTA agreement provides an opportunity to boost the productive sector of the economy and address unemployment especially for the youth.

Addressing vulnerabilities including PWDs requires the widening of social protection coverage towards social and economic inclusion, and intensification of infrastructure provision in key sectors such as health, education, and sanitation services. The Agenda 111 of government provides opportunities for bridging the health gap, and ensuring that there is access to quality healthcare for all. In addition, government digitalisation drive provides opportunities for enhancing financial inclusion for all including the vulnerable.

Climate change effects on development cannot be overemphasised given its direct impact on the economy and livelihoods. Addressing the menace of illegal mining is critical for curbing the degradation of the forest and water resources and protection of both terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity. Government's Green Ghana Day initiative provides opportunities for restoring degraded lands and increasing forest cover.

### **Intensify and improve data collection structures and mechanisms**

Data gaps remain a challenge to the effective tracking of progress towards the attainment of the goals. These gaps are manifested in the quality, relevance, accuracy and timely release of statistical information. This is as a result of capacity and funding challenges in the statistical system to generate administrative data, and the long span between surveys (typically five years). The Capacity for a robust system for data production and management at national and sub-national levels should be strengthened.

### **Strengthen innovative research, monitoring and evaluation systems**

Effective research, monitoring and evaluation systems are required to evaluate the impact of programmes and projects to identify critical success factors, bottlenecks and if some population groups are being left behind. There must be deepened effort to advance collaboration between local and international research institutions and implementers at all levels. Promoting the "Leaving No One Behind" agenda requires strengthening the research capacity, especially at the local level. This can be achieved through collaborative efforts to build the capacity of MMDAs and MDAs and establishing the strong connections between CSOs and research institutions to help encourage tracking progress. Further, there needs to be a platform to coordinate the efforts of private sector, faith-based organisations, and traditional authorities towards the attainment of the SDGs.



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# ANNEX 1: CASE STUDIES



# GOAL 4: UNLOCK LITERACY PROJECT - WORLD VISION GHANA

A baseline survey conducted by World Vision Ghana in the Afram Plains South District revealed that less than 1% of grade two children could read (WVG UL project baseline report, 2019). Unlock Literacy (UL) is an evidence-based literacy approach to improve children's core reading skills. The model subscribes to the early-exit bilingual literacy approach which posits that, children learn to read fast and better, when they start learning to read in their Mother Language. The reading skills acquired in Mother Language help children to learn a second language faster. The four main steps of the model are:

1. Reading assessment
2. Teacher training
3. Community action (Parents attend monthly Reading Awareness Workshops and children attend after school reading camps and borrow books from a book-bank)
4. Material procurement and/or creation

A total of 8,385 children (4,333 boys and 4,052 girls) children in kindergarten 2 to Basic 3 were reached with the intervention. Other resources included space provided by the communities for the hosting of after school reading camps, communities supporting to write and develop their own stories. With the introduction of this project, the children who can now read and comprehend in English have increased from a baseline of 1% to endline of 43.93%. There was also significant improvement of children who could read and comprehend

in the two local languages used (Akwapim Twi – 2% at baseline and 52.64 at endline; and Ewe- 1.2% at baseline and 40.55% at endline). Currently, 8,385 children (4,333 boys and 4,052 girls from the 81 schools in 7 project communities can read and comprehend which will take them up their educational ladder and have a lifetime impact on them. So far, 540 teachers have been equipped to teach literacy with 160 head/assistant of school and 30 District Teacher Support Team trained on instructional and continuous coaching; 16 Community Action Care Group members trained to provide technical support to reading clubs and other community action initiatives; 124,000 copies of supplementary readers distributed to schools and reading clubs; 50.8% of children assessed confirmed to having storybooks in their homes, as against 13.5% during baseline; 157 out of school Reading Clubs established, with over 8,000 children in attendance with 403 volunteers trained; 54% of sampled learners have improved their functional literacy skills.

The use of the mother tongue has ensured significant number of children breaking through to literacy. A major challenge of the programme is the transfer of teachers trained on UL methodologies to upper primary which affects the frequency and quality on literacy instruction in lower classes. There is also a gradual reduction in the frequency of reading camp sessions held weekly and high-level attrition of some experienced reading camp volunteers due to low community support and lack of motivation.



# GOAL 5: CARE REFORM, HOSPITAL WELFARE SERVICES AND EMPOWERMENT OF PWDS CARE REFORMS



**Some PWDs being trained in hair dressing**

In the past, close to 4,500 children lived in Residential Homes for Children (RHC) instead of living with families. This was against the rights of the child to enjoy parental care. The Care Reform Program seeks to de-institutionalize the children living in RHC, place them in Family-based care, and reduce the number of RHC in the country. According to GSS (2019) there are 139 RHC with the majority operating below standards. In 2021, 286 children were placed in foster care, 416 reunified with their families and 10 RHCs closed.

## **Hospital Welfare services**

Hospital Welfare services mainly address the psychosocial needs of patients/clients and their relations by ensuring their social and medical needs are met and maintained throughout their medical treatment. Social Welfare Officers placed at the major hospitals and clinics provide services such as conducting investigations, assisting abandoned patients, counselling, advising on disability, contact tracing among others. In 2021, a total of 2,082 patients/clients were assisted to have their social and medical needs met.

## **Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)**

Persons with Disability (PWDs) received rehabilitation services including vocational and life skills training from the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) to develop their potential and integrate them into mainstream society. There is ability in disability and therefore currently 250 PWDs are receiving training in the DSW Rehabilitation Centers to make them employable.

## **Orange Support Centre**

COVID-19 lockdown brought an increase in issues of sexual and gender-based violence and domestic violence cases globally including in Ghana. Victims found it difficult to seek help and this necessitated the establishment of the Orange Support Centre. It is a call center with a toll-free line (0800-111-222) that provides coordinated responses to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence through psycho-social, medical and legal services to the general public. This initiative has provided a response mechanism in which victims/survivors have had their cases resolved either through the court system or any other appropriate system. The centre received 8,378 and received 1,100 cases as at December 2021.



# GOAL 5: ENHANCING SHEA VALUE CHAINS FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION - A ROCHA GHANA

Low incomes and informal traditional picking and trade in shea nuts resulted in poor living conditions of women involved in the trade. The women's associations were not able to get premium prices for their handmade shea butter or access export markets. Felling of the shea nut trees by charcoal producers and transportation of shea nuts between the shea parklands and the community were major challenges. The intervention being implemented sought to formalize and ensure value addition, by organizing the women into functional cooperatives, supporting with training on best practices for collecting, storing, and processing shea nuts as well as vegetation management to ensure long-term sustainability of the production stock as business booms through better commodity outputs.

The women associations were facilitated to form Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) for self-help financial inclusion to enable them to undertake self-funded social and welfare capital intensive projects. The women's associations collaborated with different actors to strengthen their activities by establishing a green value chain for a quality hand-made shea butter products addressing the complete value chain from tree seedling to butter. The value chain partners include community organisations (women's cooperatives and the Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) Committees that has devolved and participatory governance and management of natural resources at the local level) and the private sector partners.

The private sector brought equipment and technologies, purchase the product, empowered them with new skills and capacities such as organic shea butter production and quality assurance. Currently, the entire value chain – tree

seedling nurseries to tree planting to sustainable organic shea nut collection to shea butter processing and marketing – is thriving. As demand from large scale buyers for their top-quality handmade shea butter continue to grow, replication of this model across Ghana's savannah & other dryland areas of West Africa is both highly feasible. An Ultra-modern circular shea processing facility equipped with fryers, crushers, boilers, packaging facilities and briquette making facility to reduce dependence on woodfuel has been built in Murugu-Mognore CREMA.

Women have been provided with 12 tricycles to facilitate transportation of sheanuts to the processing facility, 11 warehouses within the landscape for storage of sheanuts, 130 tarpaulins for drying sheanuts. So far, about 800 women employed in Shea value chain under the initiative (data source A Rocha Ghana). At least 6 partnerships created under the initiative.



# GOAL 5: SHE LEADS PROGRAMME - DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL (DCI) GHANA

Girls and Young Women (GYW) between age 14 to 24 years, particularly are often denied the opportunity to voice their interests and to participate meaningfully in decision-making processes. While many countries have made impressive strides in, for example, GYW's access to education and contribution to new laws against Gender Based Violence (GBV), their socio-political participation continues to be much lower than that of boys and young men. The status and roles of girls and young women in the Ghanaian society have changed over the past few decades, including a slow increase in the socio-political and economic participation of Ghanaian women.

Despite these strides, gender disparities remain prevalent. Women contribute significantly in providing food, shelter, health and education, but lack decision-making power and control over resources. The She Leads consortium brings together child rights organisations, feminist/women's rights organisations, and GYW-led groups and aims to increase sustained

influence of GYW on decision-making and the transformation of gender norms in formal and informal institutions. The consortium envisages to achieve this through three interrelated domains: enhancement of collective action of girls and young women in a gender-responsive civil society (civil society domain), support by increased acceptance of positive social gender norms (socio-cultural domain) and enabling meaningful participation of girls

and young women in decision-making by political institutions. The targets include: GYW living in poor, remote rural and urban slums; GYW experiencing gender-based violence (particular girls who have married early; GYW with disabilities; and Girls who are out of school including teenage mothers.

So far, one women-led group (Rights and Responsibilities Initiatives Ghana) has been strengthened and its capacity built. Another, GYW-led (Erudite Women's Empowerment Foundation) organization as well as 16 GYW groups including out-of-school girls, victims of sexual abuse, girls with disabilities and girls living in slum communities are on the She Leads agenda in the Ashanti Region. Following the capacity support and engagement with the GYW, there is an increased activism by GYW in promoting girls' rights, women's economic empowerment and GYW involvement in local governance. The GYW groups continue to advocate that parents and duty bearers support girls' empowerment and create a civic space for them to participate in decision-making in the home, the community and the district. Some critical issues often raised were the visibility on women's unpaid care work. Capacity discussion meetings and seminars have been organised to sensitise and promote exchanges on gender equality and feminism as well as formation of a social movement to promote the She Leads agenda.





# GOAL 13: SOCIÉTÉ-GENERALE SIGN A LANDMARK TRANSACTION TO FINANCE LOW-CARBON CEMENT PLANT FOR CBI GHANA.

CBI Ghana Limited, producers of Supacem Cement, has signed an \$80million contract to construct the world’s largest Green Cement Production Plant at the Tema Free Zones Enclave in Ghana. The plant will use a pioneering technology developed by FLSmidth A/S to substitute 20 percent of clinker, the raw material used to make cement, with environmentally-friendly clay sourced from Ghana. On completion, the plant will have a capacity to produce 405,000-ton-per-annum plant, making it the largest calcined clay plant in the world.

The project is made possible through an innovative financing arrangement backed by the Danish Export Credit Agency – Eksport Kredit Fonden (EKF) in partnership with Société Générale Group. The Norwegian Investment Fund for Developing Countries (Norfund) is also investing alongside the Danish Investment Fund for Developing Countries (IFU) and

the engineering firm FLSmidth as equity investors. The Financing is categorised as ‘Green’, as the project is eligible under the category of ‘Energy efficiency/Eco-efficient adapted products.

Globally, cement production accounts for about 7.5 percent of CO2 emissions. Using calcined clay to minimise the need for traditional, carbon-intensive clinker is a major advancement toward eliminating the negative environmental footprint of cement production. With the new technology, between 30-40% of imported clinker can be substituted with locally sourced clay, which will lower raw material, energy, and fuel costs while providing immense environmental and social benefits. This translates to about 40% CO2 emission reduction per tonne of Calcined Clay cement compared to the traditional Ordinary Portland cement.





# GOAL 15: REGREENING AFRICA PROJECT - WORLD VISION GHANA

The Savannah Areas in Ghana are characterised by overgrazing, rampant bush burning, indiscreet felling of trees, acute and protracted dry seasons among others. These have culminated in the decline of the forest cover, loss of indigenous biodiversity and increased soil infertility.

Regreening Africa's project is designed to create a sustained approach to reversing land degradation and integrating food production through agroforestry. The project addresses these pressing challenges of the Savanna Areas. Farmer-managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) is one of the key approaches being used for restoring degraded lands.

The project is aimed at most vulnerable smallholder farmers, pastoralists, national policymakers, implementers, development partners and policy makers, Savings for Transformations Groups (S4T), Traditional Authorities, Assembly Members, Governmental Departments and Agencies, Peasant Farmers & Faith Based Organisations

Investments have been made but not limited to the following areas;

- a) Technical capacity building of farmers, NGOs/CBOs and government partners
- b) Public campaigns and advocacy on sound environmental management.
- c) Gender, Equity, and Social Inclusion into household decision-making.

The project fund is 1,003,483 euro from the European with a 13% co-funding from World Vision Ghana and Australia. The project has an innovative app for capturing and monitoring field level land restoration practices. This app has been used to capture data on households engaged in one or more restoration practices.

- 9,520 lead farmers and fire stewards adopt Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) in 238 communities in the Bawku West and Garu-Tempene district.
- 238 FMNR fields (Forest) established in Bawku West and Garu-Tempene District.
- The project has worked towards gender and financial inclusion by introducing S4T interventions to 6500 (87% female) beneficiaries in the Bawku West and Tempene District





# ANNEX 2: SDGs INTERVENTION UNDERTAKEN BY SOME PARTNERS

SDGs	Intervention
1.	<p>DSM-WFP Nutrition Retail Programme seeks to promote the purchase and consumption of local nutritious foods and food products with the Obaasima seal.</p> <p>( <a href="https://twitter.com/WFP_Ghana/status/1487071850479996934?s=20&amp;t=IpTxbuZXRcXx3eIC-ODKb0g">https://twitter.com/WFP_Ghana/status/1487071850479996934?s=20&amp;t=IpTxbuZXRcXx3eIC-ODKb0g</a> )</p> <p>Projecting the efforts of youth in agriculture</p> <p>Documentaries about young farmers who are cultivating crops and raising animals to help alleviate hunger and enhance their economic standing:</p> <p>(<a href="https://twitter.com/WFP_Ghana/status/1481933604137619458?s=20&amp;t=IpTxbuZXRcXx3eICODK-b0g">https://twitter.com/WFP_Ghana/status/1481933604137619458?s=20&amp;t=IpTxbuZXRcXx3eICODK-b0g</a> )</p> <p>Turning Rice Husk into Briquette (<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRJmUCHCib8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRJmUCHCib8</a>)</p> <p>Capacity Development of Farmer-Based Cooperatives and Farmer-Based Organizations (FBCs/ FBOs) in Northern Ghana (<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OG2d7eZsrEI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OG2d7eZsrEI</a> )</p>
2.	<p><u><a href="#">Enhancing Ghana’s food security through the Enhanced Nutrition and Value Chain (ENVAC) project</a></u></p> <p>( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmYntKh1A_o">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmYntKh1A_o</a> )</p>
3.	<p><u><a href="#">WFP’s livelihood Programme for People Living with HIV</a></u> (<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQSPhu6hq3g&amp;t=54s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQSPhu6hq3g&amp;t=54s</a> )</p> <p><u><a href="https://www.gh.undp.org/content/ghana/en/home/presscenter/articles/2021/healing-with-plants.html">Healing with Plants:</a></u> ( <a href="https://www.gh.undp.org/content/ghana/en/home/presscenter/articles/2021/healing-with-plants.html">https://www.gh.undp.org/content/ghana/en/home/presscenter/articles/2021/healing-with-plants.html</a> )</p> <p><u><a href="#">Supporting health workers in various CHPS Zones to ensure quality health for various individuals:</a></u> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Bgg5EHLGVY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Bgg5EHLGVY</a></p> <p><u><a href="#">Using Technology to improve maternal health in Ghana.</a></u> (<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKF1LiR0k_w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKF1LiR0k_w</a> )</p> <p><u><a href="#">Project for Improving Community Based Primary Healthcare through CHPS Strengthening”, also known as the KOICA CHPS+ Project:</a></u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QrjC8yjCjBA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QrjC8yjCjBA</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7Npxwcl7al">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7Npxwcl7al</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rC2At4zaF88">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rC2At4zaF88</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2Suk-OuKn4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2Suk-OuKn4</a></li> </ol>
4.	<p><u><a href="#">WFP’s technical support to the Ghana School Feeding Programme to enhance the availability of nutritious school meals.</a></u></p> <p>(<a href="https://twitter.com/WFP_Ghana/status/1366335824686645251?s=20&amp;t=IpTxbuZXRcXx3eIC-ODKb0g">https://twitter.com/WFP_Ghana/status/1366335824686645251?s=20&amp;t=IpTxbuZXRcXx3eIC-ODKb0g</a> )</p>
6.	<p>City waste Recycling (<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZzbTywEKqc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZzbTywEKqc</a>)</p>



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8. The future of work (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUMfHYoCn-k>)

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  9. The Tiger Nut 'Gold' Business: ([https://www.gh.undp.org/content/ghana/en/home/presscenter/articles/2021/the-tiger-nut-\\_gold-business.html](https://www.gh.undp.org/content/ghana/en/home/presscenter/articles/2021/the-tiger-nut-_gold-business.html))

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  10. A young Ghanaian making information accessible to the hearing impaired. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKnEFb90O7c>)  
  
Providing support to help physically challenged individuals (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C39NRXRC8vo>)

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  13. Over 500,000 people to benefit from Shea Landscape Emission Reductions Project (<https://www.gh.undp.org/content/ghana/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2022/over-500-000-people-to-benefit-from-shea-landscape-emission-redu.html> )

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  15. [Okyenhene Reiterates Commitment to Paris Climate Accord](#)  
( [Okyenhene Reiterates Commitment to Paris Climate Accord | Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation \(mesti.gov.gh\)](#) )

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  16. UNDP and Partners Move to Improve Capacity of Journalists in data storytelling (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXSDqe25xuE&t=12s>)

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  17. TThe Integrated National Financing Framework: ( <https://youtu.be/4a8RKGVmy4Y>)

UN Country Programme in Ghana:

2020 UNCT results report:

UN in Ghana website below which will have relevant information and stories plus a dedicated SDGs page.

