Economic Development in Ghana

Ghana’s economy has been growing at a significant pace (average 7% per annum) and the country graduated to a lower middle-income country (LMIC) status in 2010. The country also achieved the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1 (eradication of extreme poverty & hunger) and several other MDGs by 2015. Poverty is estimated to have fallen from 51.7% in 1992 to 24.2% by 2013, and the proportion of the extreme poor decreased from 36.5% in 1992 to 8.4% in 2013.

However, development challenges exist and inequality has been rising (urban-rural and north-south). The private sector has also faced constraints in creating jobs over the years, leading to rising unemployment. Environmental degradation and energy problems need to be addressed to ensure sustainability of growth pathways.

The country has relevant policy and strategic frameworks, but mechanisms to ensure policy integration and coherence are mostly inadequate. The government is promoting a shift to a “Ghana Beyond Aid”, to enhance the pace of domestic resource mobilization and promote effective use of Ghana’s financial, human and natural resources.

In terms of data use in development planning, Ghana does well, but more needs to be done to utilize administrative and innovative data sources.

UNDP Support to Ensure Inclusive Growth

UNDP seeks to support Ghana in realizing its national development vision of moving towards an optimistic, self-confident and prosperous nation.

We contribute to the promotion of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in various ways. These include support for data production and use, mainstreaming of the SDGs into national and local plans, promotion of policy coherence through capacity building and engagement with civil society organizations (CSOs) and academic institutions on advocacy on development issues.

UNDP provides collaborative support for:

- national development planning and monitoring.
- capacity strengthening to ensure inclusive development especially for the poor.
- the production, sharing and use of data; and support the national statistical system through the UN Data Group and Ghana’s SDG Data Road Map process.
- the production of flagship reports and topical knowledge products such as National Human Development Reports (NHDRs); discussion papers on fiscal space, illicit financial flows, inequalities as well as reports on emerging areas such as extractives for human development. These reports provide policy directions on critical development challenges and constraints.
- the roll-out of innovative platforms which aim to address information gaps, promote coordination, connect users and producers and catalyze inclusive development.
**Recent Achievements: Key Facts**

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<td>• Produced National, Regional and District Human Development Reports (HDRs). The 2008 HDR successfully advocated for and led to the creation of a development authority to accelerate development in Northern Ghana. • Collaborated with the University for Development Studies (UDS) to incorporate human development concepts into the university's curriculum.</td>
<td>• Supported the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) to conduct quality surveys to inform policy decision making. (Examples: Ghana 6th Living Standards Survey, Ghana Demographic and Health Survey 2014, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2014 and 2017, production of MDGs reports, and data readiness for SDGs). • Collaborated with National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) to assist MDAs and MMDAs to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate National, Sector and Local level Medium Term Development Plans/ Policies. • Worked with the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA) to reposition the organization on a firmer footing and supported the development of SADA’s draft transformational regional master plan; GIS mapping and M&amp;E Framework.</td>
<td>• Supported Domestic Resource Mobilization, Aid Coordination and Effective Use of Resources. Supports included fiscal space and illicit financial flows analyses to inform policy decisions. • Partnered with the Mineral Commission (MC) to produce Social Analysis of Ghana’s Artisanal Small Scale Mining (ASM) sector; and worked with the MC on the sector's strategic plan and processes to align with African Mining Vision (AMV). • Collaborated with African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to produce African Economic Outlook (2014-2017), by providing Ghana Country Notes on Sustainable Cities; Spatial Inclusion; Industrialization and Entrepreneurship.</td>
<td>• Collaborated with Ministry of Trade to create the Ghana Commodity Stock Exchange, supported incubating of the system for fair and transparent pricing of agricultural produce. • Supported SADA with a One Stop Shop/ Information Platform to facilitate access to data, planning, coordination and partnerships in the North. • Local development initiatives - e.g. support for women-led shea butter producer groups in Northern Ghana to improve livelihoods; and the use of local materials for sustainable housing. • <strong>Going forward:</strong> youth-led platforms and ICT4SDGs.</td>
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### National Development Planning Commission (NDPC):
UNDP works with the NDPC to produce development plans, monitor and report activities relating to the mainstreaming of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

**Mineral Commission (MC):** UNDP is partnering with the MC on a development of a Country Mining Vision (CMV) in line with the African Mining Vision (AMV) that Ghana has signed onto. A strategic plan for minerals and mining policy has been prepared.

**Ghana Statistical Service (GSS):** Collaborative support to the GSS on major surveys, capacity strengthening, statistical analyses/reports based on research findings. Also support the GSS leadership role in promoting quality data readiness for the SDGs (including co-leading on the SDG Data Roadmap Forum and follow-ups).

**Civil Society Platform for the SDGs**  
Working with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to promote knowledge sharing on the SDGs and engagement on selected activities

### Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA):
Institutional strengthening and collaborative support for SADA’s regional coordination infrastructure, draft regional Master Plan, M&E framework, the one-stop-shop/ information platform and GIS mapping to inform spatial planning.

**University for Development Studies (UDS)**  
Collaborate with the UDS to produce human development report for the Northern Region, and also on human development courses.

**University of Ghana**  
Partnership with different divisions (GIS laboratory of the Geography Department; Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER); and Business School) at different points in time to produce data for decision making.

For more information on projects in this cluster, please visit: [http://www.gh.undp.org/content/ghana/en/home/ourwork/povertyreduction/overview.html](http://www.gh.undp.org/content/ghana/en/home/ourwork/povertyreduction/overview.html).