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### A New Country Programme for Sustainable Development in Ghana

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ghana commences the implementation of a new Country Programme for 2018-2022, focusing on two programme priorities. These aim at ensuring accountable, transparent and responsive governance; and on promoting green, equitable and resilient development.

The new programme is in line with UNDP’s global Strategic Plan for 2018-2021, which seeks to help countries to eradicate poverty, accelerate structural transformation and build resilience to crises and shocks. It is also underpinned by Ghana’s Coordinated Program of Economic and Social Development Policies (CPESDP) for 2017-2024 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership (UNSDP) 2018-2022 for Ghana, which are all policy frameworks with a key objective of promoting the achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The details of the new UNDP Ghana’s country programme are summarized below:

#### Accountable, Transparent and Responsive Governance

Under this programme, UNDP is working with government institutions to:

- improve capacities to ensure cost-effectiveness, efficiency and accountability;
- ensure access to justice, conflict prevention and resolution;
- produce quality data, and the use of the data for evidence-based planning at the national and local levels; and
- develop and implement constitutional, electoral and legal reforms.
Our Programme

Green, Equitable, and Resilient Development

UNDP is partnering with national partners to:

- strengthen capacity of public institutions to reduce environmental degradation and implement climate action;

- facilitate access to information, knowledge and tools to promote green jobs, citizen participation in environmental conservation, and community resilience; and

- enhance capacity to improve policy coherence, gender-sensitive business environment; and to promote inclusive value chains in extractives, especially for neglected minerals.
Planning Ministry Engaged on SDGs-related Planning and Policy Advocacy

On the front row is Ms Gita Welch, UNDP Country Director (right) and Prof. George Gyan Baffour, Minister of Planning (middle)

The Country Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Ghana, Ms. Gita Honwana Welch led a delegation from UNDP to pay a courtesy call on the Minister of Planning, Prof. George Gyan Baffour, to discuss various development topics to improve collaboration between UNDP and the Planning Ministry.

The meeting discussed UNDP’s new strategic direction in the context of the UN’s new Sustainable Development Partnership (UNSDP) with Ghana, which aims to support the Government of Ghana to achieve its national development goals and the country’s commitments to global development initiatives.

Highlights of the discussion centered on the potential to tap into new approaches for planning and projects implementation, using new technologies, and action-oriented multi-stakeholder platforms that bring together partners including the private sector, to explore solutions to development challenges.

Ms. Welch seized the opportunity to thank the Planning Minister for agreeing to be the Keynote Speaker at the launch of UNDP’s upcoming Human Development Report (HDR) for Northern Ghana. The Hon. Minister commended UNDP for the latest HDR on Northern Ghana, and further indicated his commitment to sign the forward and co-launch it with the President’s Coordinated Program of Economic and Social Development Policies (CPESDP 2017-2024) in the North. Prof. George Gyan Baffour thanked UNDP for contributing to the development of the CPESDP and for supporting the Ministry to have a Senior Technical Advisor who provides advice to the Minister on many policies and initiatives.

The Northern Ghana HDR is the second of such regional reports developed by UNDP Ghana. The report explores human development outcomes in the context of significant socio-economic disparities and how best to promote transformation. It is expected that findings and recommendations from the report will provide useful inputs for policy discussions and for the development of integrated strategies.
The Young Visionary Leaders Ghana (YVLG), a non-governmental organization (NGO) in Accra, in collaboration with the Ghana Education Service (GES), the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Accra and UNDP, launched a new initiative dubbed High School SDGs Clubs to increase awareness on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in senior high schools.

The High School SDGs Clubs, which is building on previous SDGs sensitization programmes in schools, aim to encourage young people to be role models, doing things that will help protect the environment, and helping to sensitize their peers, families and communities on issues that the global goals seek to address.

The Clubs has so far been formed at the St John’s Grammar School, Amasaman Senior High Technical School and Twumasi Boateng Senior High Technical School, all in Accra under the slogan, "Think Global, Start Local". The events sensitized over 4,500 students on the SDGs.

The presenters, including the Communication Analyst of UNDP, Ms. Praise Nutakor and the National Information Officer of UNIC Accra, Ms. Cynthia Prah urged the students to get involved to create awareness on the SDGs.
National Medicines Policy Launched

With funding from the Government of Japan, UNDP supported the development of the third edition of the National Medicines Policy for Ghana, to help bridge equity gaps in access to health technologies in the country. Support for the development of the policy was through the Access and Delivery Partnership (ADP) programme, which is a global multi-agency collaboration between World Health Organization (WHO), the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (WHO-TDR), PATH and led by UNDP.

The second lady of Ghana, Her Excellency Samira Bawumia, the special guest of honor at the launch, in her keynote address, reiterated government’s commitment towards ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare.

In a remark on behalf of the UNDP, Mr. Louis Kuukpen, Assistant Country Director of UNDP, emphasized the importance of the policy and indicated that it will provide direction for all stakeholders in the pharmaceutical sector to develop innovative solutions to promote access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines. Mr. Kuukpen called for active stakeholder collaboration towards the implementation of the policy and for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly the SDG 3, which is on good health and well-being.

The Access and Delivery Partnership (ADP) programme is a strategic partnership between the Government of Japan and UNDP, which aims to promote access to and delivery of new health technologies in low-and middle-income countries.

KAIPTC and UNDP Engage the Government of Japan to Improve Partnership

The Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) and UNDP undertook a 5-day official visit to Japan to improve and reaffirm the working relations between the Government of Japan, UNDP and KAIPTC.

Led by the KAIPTC Commandant, Air Vice Marshal Griffiths S. Evans, the delegation engaged the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Cabinet and allied institutions in Japan to strengthen existing partnership through the Japan-UNDP Global partnership framework which is a development cooperation towards sustainable development.

The team which comprised the Assistant Country Director of UNDP Ghana, Mr. Louis Kuukpen, seized the opportunity to commend the Government of Japan for its continued funding assistance towards capacity development for peacebuilding and security in Africa. He assured the people of Japan that UNDP will continue to play its key oversight role in ensuring that resources are efficiently and maximally utilized.
A Pledge to Beat Plastic Pollution in Ghana

On World Environment Day (WED) 2018, environmental stakeholders in Ghana pledged to protect the environment from plastic pollution.

Speaking on behalf of UNDP at an event organized by the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to mark the day, Mr. Louis Kuukpen, Assistant Country Director of UNDP emphasized UNDP’s commitment to work in partnership with Government to protect the environment from plastic pollution.

Mr. Kuukpen seized the opportunity to announce UNDP’s new initiative “Multi-Stakeholder Platform for Waste Recovery Exchange and Solutions”, which aims to create a digital platform to connect all stakeholders in the waste management chain, to address the current information, coordination, and knowledge gaps in waste management.

The theme for this year’s WED is “Beat Plastic Pollution: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle”. It calls on the public to reject single use plastic and refuse what can not be reused.

Also present at the event is the Head of the Sustainable Development Cluster of UNDP, Mr. Paolo Dalla Stella (middle on the front row)
The Autoclave Machine provided to the Cape Coast Teaching Hospital

Waste bins supplied to the hospitals

A nurse demonstrating the use of safety boxes provided by the project

Hospitals Supported with Environmentally Friendly Healthcare Waste Management Technologies

Three health facilities were supported with non-incineration waste management technologies (autoclaves) and other equipment to improve healthcare waste management and reduce the release of toxic substances into the environment.

The beneficiary hospitals are the Cape Coast Teaching Hospital, the Koforidua Regional Hospital, and the Tegbi Health Centre, Keta. Two other hospitals, Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital and Winneba Trauma Hospital, which are already using acceptable waste treatment technologies, received assorted personal protective equipment and waste bins.

The support was provided within the Medical Waste project, which is being implemented by UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Ghana Health Service, World Health Organization (WHO) and the NGO Health Care Without Harm.

Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the project aims to introduce best environmental practices and best available technologies in four Sub-Saharan African countries, namely Ghana, Madagascar, Tanzania and Zambia, to help reduce harmful releases from the health sector.
UNDP, in partnership with Albany Associates which is a communications company, developed a mobile application on tackling extremist narratives. The mobile app, developed with funding from the Government of Japan, provides guidance to development practitioners and specialists to develop effective communication strategies and interventions in Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE).

The first of its kind, the app provides a comprehensive set of tools on all stages of developing effective communications strategies, focusing on themes mostly relevant to analysis, strategy and messaging. It provides a practical step-by-step guide on strategic and communications elements – from basic concepts of narrative to campaign planning; and incorporates a number of case studies, tips, templates and online resources.

UNDP in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), trained selected Journalists on Climate Change and Green Economy, and urged the Journalists to report more on climate change and green economy issues to increase awareness to facilitate climate actions.

The training, organized within the United Nations Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) project aimed to strengthen the media’s capacity to report effectively on climate change and green economy related SDGs (which involved all the 17 goals).

The facilitators, Mr. Peter Dery, Head of Climate Change and Sustainable Development Unit at MESTI, Mr. Kingsley Bekoe, Programme Coordinator, UNDP and Ms. Praise Nutakor, Communications Analyst at UNDP, urged the Journalists to apply the knowledge gained from the training to report on climate change and green economy issues to increase awareness creation, transparency and accountability, especially on the parts of Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs).

There were 60 participants including thirteen females coming from various media houses from all regions across Ghana. The training was organized in two zones, with the Southern Zone taking place in Aburi, and the Northern Zone in Kumasi.
This initiative aims to create a digital platform to connect all stakeholders in the waste management chain and address the current information, coordination, and knowledge gaps in waste management. It will also demonstrate the economic opportunities that lie in waste like plastic by providing data, tools and seed funding for the operationalization of business models on plastic waste recovery.

The initiative, which was launched on 12th July 2018, has the following key targets:

- Create a platform for collaboration among key stakeholders
- Develop waste resource map for Ghana
- Build local capacity for improved sanitation
- Create market for innovative solutions for waste resource utilization in Ghana
- Create awareness on segregation at generation points
- Promote academic research for improved and efficient waste management

**Coordinators**

Paolo Dalla Stella, (left), Programme Specialist & Head of Sustainable Development Cluster, UNDP and Joel Ayim Darkwah (right), Assistant Programme Officer, UNDP

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With funding from the Government of Japan, the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center (KAIPTC) in collaboration with UNDP, is implementing this project to enhance the operational effectiveness of peacekeepers in Africa against terror attacks through research and training.

The project, which was launched at UNDP, is focusing on training 100 personnel from the training units of seven Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) namely Togo, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal.

Present at the launch was the Ambassador of Japan, H.E. Mr. Tsutomu Himeno, who reiterated his country’s commitment to supporting peacekeeping in Africa. Other key personalities at the launch include Ms. Christine Evans – Klock, UN Resident Coordinator for Ghana; Ms. Gita Welch, UNDP Country Director; and AVM. Griffiths S. Evans, KAIPTC Commandant.

**Participations at the launch of the project. From the extreme right is Ms. Gita Welch, UNDP Country Director, H.E. Mr. Tsutomu Himeno, Japan Ambassador to Ghana, Ms. Christine Evans – Klock, UN Resident Coordinator, and AVM. Griffiths S. Evans, KAIPTC Commandant**

To commence the implementation of the project, a policy seminar on the status of Terrorism Prevention Training for Peacekeepers in Africa was held in Dakar, Senegal. The seminar discussed new strategies and experiences in preventing terrorism in peacekeeping theatres in Africa.
Our New Staff

Gita Honwana Welch, Country Director

Gita Honwana Welch, is currently the Country Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ghana. Between 2011 and 2013, she was the Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Service Centre for West and Central Africa, based in Dakar, Senegal. Prior to that, she served as UNDP Country Director in Angola (2006-2010), and as the Head of Democratic Governance at the Bureau for Development Policy at UNDP Headquarters in New York (2001-2006).


Gita Honwana Welch is from Mozambique. She holds a Master’s degree from Columbia University, New York, and a D.Phil (PhD) in International Law, from Oxford University, UK.

Rokya Ye Dieng, Deputy Country Director, Operations

Rokya brings to her position more than 19 years of experience in the field of Operations Coordination and Management at various levels of leadership in countries such as Cote d’Ivoire, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Republic of Congo, Madagascar and Liberia.

She has proven experience in logistic management, project planning, contracting, and supply chain management in Inter Agency setting.

She is also endowed with skills and experience in liaison with donor representatives for resource mobilization from various implementing partners and Government Agencies. Rokya also has private sector experience in Audit and Banking before joining the UN.

She holds a Masters degree in Business Administration and Finance as well as a Masters degree in law.
Our New Staff

Praise Nutakor, Communications Analyst

Prior to joining UNDP as a Communications Analyst, Praise previously worked as a Communications and Public Relations Associate at the United Nations University (UNU), where she headed the UNU communications unit for Ghana and Africa.

She also worked as a Senior Communications Officer with Strategic Communications Africa (Stratcomm Africa), where she was the communications consultant for many reputable organizations including Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Ghana Electrometer (GEM), Mobile Telecommunications Network (MTN) – Ghana, and Renaissance Group. She also served as a Project Manager with West African Consulting Group; as an Adjunct Lecturer at the African University College of Communications (AUCC) in Accra; a Teaching Assistant at the University of Ghana; a Communications Lecturer at Sikkim Manipal University (SMU) in Accra; a Research Methods Lecturer at the TransAfrica University College of Communications (Accra); and a Business Communications Lecturer at Cambridge University Centre in Ghana (Techy Consult).

She holds an Mphil. degree in Communications and Media Studies and a Bachelor's degree in French and Linguistics. She is a member of the Institute of Public Relations (IPR), Ghana, and fluent in English and French.

Steven Agyare, Human Resource Associate

Stephen Yeboah Agyare comes into this role with over 8 years of Human Resource experience in Recruitment, Compensation and Benefits, Employee Engagement and Human Resource Information Systems.

Prior to being appointed as Human Resources Associate, Stephen worked with Beza Lel Water and Agro Services as Human Resource and Administration Supervisor for 2 years and with World Vision International, Ghana for over 6 years where he held various positions as People and Culture Systems Officer and Interim People and Culture Manager; Recruitment, Compensation and Benefits and played key roles in executing major Human Resources Projects like the introduction of a new medical insurance, introduction and training of staff on new human resource information system (HRIS) and Payroll systems and also performance management systems.

Stephen holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Sociology from the University of Ghana. He is a member of Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM).

Melody Asiasim Azinim, Programme Analyst – Peace

Melody Asiasim Azinim holds a BA in Integrated Development Studies from the University for Development Studies and an MA in Conflict, Peace & Security from the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center (KAIPTC). In addition, she has a Diploma in Peace & Security for Africa from Uppsala University, Sweden.

Prior to joining UNDP, Melody worked with ActionAid Ghana for several years. Joining as a Project Officer, she rose through the ranks to become a Senior Programme Officer and eventually a Regional Programme Manager where she worked on various programmes from access to quality public education for boys and girls to violence against women and girls among others.

Melody also worked with the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding both at the national and regional offices on various peacebuilding and governance initiatives in Ghana and other countries within the West African Sub-region.
Defining Climate Finance: A Challenge?

By Ayirebi Frimpong

Addressing the challenges posed by climate change requires substantial funding. In recognition of this, the Copenhagen Accord of 2009 pledged that rich nations would provide $100 billion a year by 2020 to contribute to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries and to support actions that enhance resilience in the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change.

However, aside challenges with meeting the targeted $100 billion per year by 2020, there is a lack of a common definition for climate finance. The UNFCCC, for example, defines climate finance as “finance that aims at reducing emissions, and enhancing sinks of greenhouse gases and aims at reducing vulnerability of, and maintaining and increasing the resilience of human and ecological systems to negative climate change impacts”. While some have argued that this represents the broadest definition for finance for climate change, others think it still fails to capture all the relevant issues.

It, however, seems fair to ask that vital question: “Why are we arguing over a mere definition?” One reason perhaps could be that, a proper definition of climate change finance could allow for a more transparent means of tracking, reconciling and verifying support provided to developing countries in the fight against climate change, which would be challenging to do without a universally accepted definition.

While the definition is uncertain, one certainty is that the devastating effects of extreme weather events and its implications on agriculture, healthcare, etc. in developing countries like Ghana continues unabated.

Changes in climatic conditions such as temperature, humidity, rainfall, wind, and severe weather events are indeed causing frequent and intense drought, storms, floods, rising sea levels and warming oceans, and these are negatively affecting many communities and ecosystems. The time for all key stakeholders to come to an agreement on what really constitutes climate finance is now.