



The new Global Goals fly high in Ghana

On 25 September 2015, the world witnessed the historic launch of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which succeed the Millennium Development Goals starting 1 January 2016. At the UN Sustainable Development Summit held in New York, more than 150 world leaders adopted the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

On this day, some UN Ghana staff, led by the Resident Coordinator, Ms. Christine Evans-Klock, observed a brief flag-raising ceremony to symbolically mark the historic launch of the SDGs in the country.

The new Global Goals are ambitious, comprising 17 goals and 169 targets, with the aim to end poverty, hunger and inequality, take action on climate change and the environment, improve access to health and education, build strong institutions and partnerships, and more.

As the lead UN agency mandated to eradicate poverty, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has played a central role in shaping the new global development agenda.

UNDP helped governments get together with civil society, the private sector and with people around the world to decide what the world's priorities were for the SDGs and make the process to determine the 2030 agenda open, transparent and global.

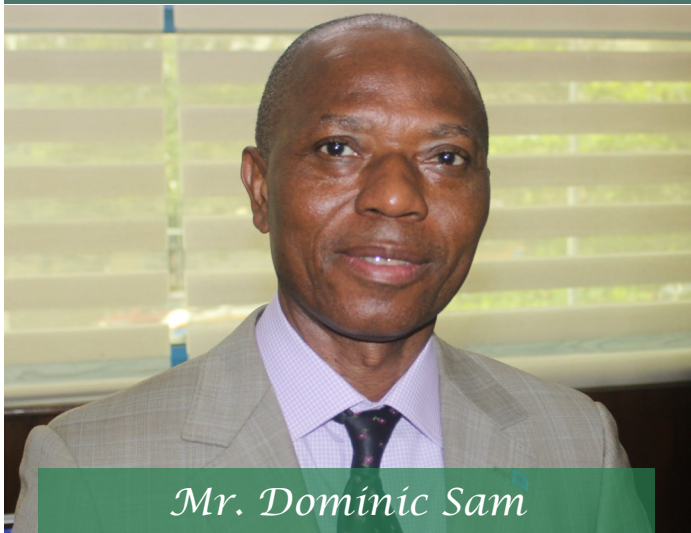
Since 2012, UNDP has led the global conversation on what to include on the agenda on behalf of the UN Development Group. The UNDP will support governments around the world including Ghana in tackling the new agenda and taking it forward over the next 15 years.

In this issue:

- The new Global Goals fly high in Ghana [1](#)
- Message from the Country Director [2](#)
- Why invest in UNDP's core funding? [3](#)
- The Sustainable Development Goals—The Global Goals [4](#)
- COP 21—The 21st Conference of the Parties on Climate Change [5](#)
- Events [6](#)
- Where is "Health" in the new Global Goals? [11](#)
- Our Success Stories [12](#)
- Projects Update [14](#)
- New Projects [18](#)
- UNDP 50th Anniversary [20](#)



Message from the Country Director



Mr. Dominic Sam

2015, was a year of significant achievements.

An ambitious and far reaching sets of development agendas and frameworks were adopted at the global level. These include the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Agreement on Climate Change at COP 21 in Paris, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development and the Sendai Framework Agreement for Disaster Risk Reduction. Little wonder 2015 has been aptly described by Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator, as "An Unprecedented Year"! UNDP Ghana is proud to have worked closely with the government, civil society and other development partners to ensure Ghana's effective participation and leadership in the lead up to the elaboration and adoption of these development agendas and frameworks.

At the regional level, the fight against Ebola, made significant strides to the point that UNMEER (the UN mission set up by the UN Secretary General in 2014 to lead the coordination of the global efforts to fight the pandemic) was drawn down. Ghana's leadership role, its hosting of UNMEER and serving as a coordination and logistics hub for the Ebola response brought it much credit.

At country level, a high quality programme delivery rate of 90% plus was maintained despite additional workload for Ebola-related support. At the same time, opportunities to coordinate for results and to identify synergies were boosted by the tireless efforts of Christine Evans-Klock, the UN Resident Coordinator, to ensure that UN Delivers as One! Catalytic partnership support to SADA in its efforts to promote socio-economic transformation in the north showed results.

Preparations for the Green Climate Fund as well as targeted support towards Ghana's definition of its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) were also quite conclusive.

With a view to assisting Ghana to tap into private giving and to leverage the creative and timely support of global and local philanthropy, the Ghana Philanthropy Platform for the SDGs was launched in July, and is housed by UNDP. Our work in governance is highlighted by a number of articles in this newsletter. This includes the focus on access to justice for all through support to the Legal Aid Scheme, strengthening political party participation, and most importantly, a continued emphasis on building a robust national peace infrastructure and providing support to the 2016 elections.

2016 is the year that Ghana consolidates not only its democratic stature in the continent but also moves forward with "*Consolidating Progress towards a Brighter Medium Term*", assuming that the IMF programme stays on track, the energy crises is finally dealt with, and the long term planning process is able to provide for policy continuity and to catalyze critical investments.

The 2016 elections, obviously will take a good part of our strength and measure of support. Through support to the Electoral Commission and other national stakeholders, and working with other UN agencies and Development Partners, UNDP looks forward to supporting ongoing electoral reforms. We will, at the same time, continue to focus our attention on assisting Ghana with identifying new and more effective ways to tackle issues of poverty and inequality, and to mainstream gender equity and disaster risk reduction and climate change into its policy frameworks. We also look forward, within the context of our joint UN work, to assisting Ghana with domesticating the SDGs into its long term plan in line with its national context and aspirations.

2017 marks the end of our current programme cycle. We will join with other UN sister agencies to engage with the government and development partners to develop our Country Programme Document within the framework of a new United Nations Development Framework (UNDAF) to be better aligned with the timelines of Ghana's own planning frameworks.

Let me take this opportunity to recognize and acknowledge the contributions of all our partners. I also welcome new staff who joined UNDP in 2015. What a team!

Why invest in UNDP's core funding?

Partners that invest in UNDP's core funding:

Join forces with a leading sustainable development organization and ensure global impact

- UNDP offers 50 years of experience in sustainable development and remains the partner of choice for governments and other actors across the globe to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities and exclusion.
- Core resources enable UNDP to provide the international community with the most extensive field-based presence of the multilateral system to help countries deliver on internationally agreed development goals. UNDP's global reach represents the most cost-effective and strategic complement to bilateral cooperation.

Promote coherence of the UN Development System, effectiveness and transparency

- Core resources form the bedrock of the UN Resident Coordinator system at country level - managed and principally funded by UNDP – that brings together all UN development agencies for coherence, effectiveness and impact. This is crucial for UN country teams' support to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Core funds support the high standards of efficiency, quality assurance and transparency UNDP has attained. The new organizational structure is leaner by 10% at headquarters and regional level, and by 30% in New York, allowing us to operate even more closely to country level. Tighter standards for project quality were introduced, integrating UNDP's new social and environmental standards. In 2014 UNDP ranked as the most transparent organization in the world on the International Aid Transparency Index.

Support the most vulnerable, promote equity and enable prompt response to crisis

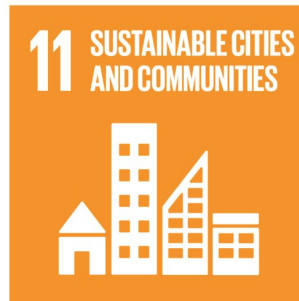
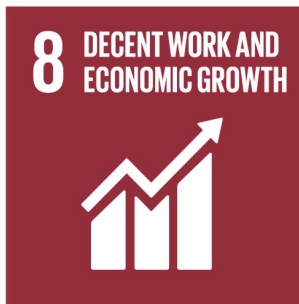
- Core funds are the pillar of our support to the world's poorest countries. In 2014, UNDP allocated 90% of core programme resources to Low Income Countries (LICs) and 74% to Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Although only 10% of UNDP's core programme resources goes to Middle Income Countries (MICs), for every \$1 of core resources invested in MICs, UNDP leveraged \$25 in other resources.
- UNDP's core funds enable us to respond quickly and flexibly to crises. The UN Secretary-General has tasked UNDP with leading the UN system's support for economic recovery from the Ebola crisis. In 2014, UNDP allocated \$5.45 million of core funds for the immediate Ebola response and helped pay 100% response workers in affected countries to ensure uninterrupted health services, case tracing, and safe burials.

Effect measurable improvement in the lives of millions of people

- Without core resources, UNDP cannot effectively implement its Strategic Plan, maximize the best value from other forms of financing and achieve development results. In 2014, UNDP's work in 161 countries helped:
 - Close to 1 million new jobs, 41% for women
 - 11.2 million people improve their livelihoods, more than half of whom are women
 - 1.33 million people improve their access to energy
 - 1.4 million people receive HIV antiretroviral therapy
 - Increase citizen participation in electoral processes, with 18 million new registered voters.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Key Facts

- The SDGs comprise 17 goals and 169 targets that cover economic and social development, environmental protection and good governance.
- They are the result of a negotiation process that involved the 193 UN Member States and also saw unprecedented participation of civil society and other stakeholders. This led to the representation of a wide range of interests and perspectives.
- The SDGs will start implementation on 1 January 2016 and expected to be achieved by 31 December 2030.
- The SDGs will apply to all UN member states - developed and developing countries alike.
- Successful implementation of the SDGs will rely on countries' own sustainable development policies, plans and programmes.
- The SDGs implementation will be monitored and reviewed using a set of global indicators, complemented by national and regional level indicators.
- The SDGs will be financed with resources mobilized from domestic and international sources as well as public and private sectors.

COP 21—The 21st Conference of the Parties on Climate Change

After four years of negotiations, 196 delegations have adopted the Paris Agreement on Climate Change during the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). A deal was reached during the historic meeting held in Paris from 30 November— 11 December 2015.

The deal represents an unprecedented opportunity to keep the planet safe while advancing human development and a strong signal that countries, rich and poor, are committed to work together to tackle climate change, building a more resilient and equitable world for all. The deal also puts all countries on the path towards zero-carbon, sustainable development and to galvanize action and solidarity amongst all stakeholders to adapt to the long-term impacts of climate change.

The

Deal

The Paris outcome includes many elements such as the following:

- To reach a **global goal** to “hold the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius... and to pursue efforts to limit temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.”
- To provide scaled-up **financial resources** through a new collective goal from a floor of USD 100 billion per year. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) will continue to play a major role and, in the new finance regime, those other than developed countries may also provide support on a voluntary basis.
- To further clarify the rules for Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (**INDCs**), including the transition from INDCs to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the process by which they will be reviewed every 5 years. NDCs will be recorded in a public registry.
- To establish a global goal on **adaptation** to enhance adaptive capacities, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability. They also agreed to submit adaptation communications with priorities, support needs, plans and actions.
- To establish a new Paris Committee on **Capacity Building** to address gaps and needs, both current and emerging.
- To require reporting on both actions and the support provided by countries to enhance **transparency** (monitoring, reporting and verification).



PARIS2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
COP21-CMP11

- To require reporting on both actions and the support provided by countries to enhance **transparency** (monitoring, reporting and verification).
- To encourage countries to take action on conserving and enhancing sinks and reservoirs of GHGs, including in forests, and to implement activities related to and in support of **REDD+**.
- To recognize the importance of addressing **loss and damage** associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

In an unprecedented move, the Agreement also acknowledges that climate change is a common concern of humankind and recognize human rights, health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity.

UNDP's support to climate action and the implementation of the Paris Agreement

In the lead-up to COP21, UNDP helped countries [develop and finalize their respective climate targets](#) and actions (known as Intended Nationally Determined Contributions or INDCs). The INDCs are meant to ensure that each country has identified its own contextually-appropriate targets and actions.

In Ghana, UNDP supported Government, under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation to develop its INDC, relying on two technical working groups (one for mitigation, one for adaptation) made of experts from the public sector, academia and civil society.

Ghana's goal is to lower its greenhouse gases emissions by 15% relative to a business-as-usual (BAU) scenario emission by 2030. An additional 30 percent emission reduction is attainable on condition that external support is made available to Ghana to cover the full cost of implementing the mitigation action (finance, technology transfer, capacity building). With this external support, a total emission reduction of 45% below the BAU emission levels can be achieved by 2030.

Looking beyond Paris, UNDP will continue working with its partners as they begin to implement actions, and aim to achieve success against their targets.

Events

Social Good Summit in Ghana focuses on the SDGs

To raise awareness around the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ghana partnered with the Multimedia Group Limited (MGL) to hold a Social Good Summit on 25 September 2015.

"The Social Good Summit is a flagship event for UNDP," says UNDP Administrator Helen Clark. "We plan to use the Social Good Summit's platform and audience to help governments and partners launch the Sustainable Development Goals to help make the new Global Goals a household name everywhere."

The event, supported by Unilever, Standard Chartered Bank and the Global Compact Network featured a panel discussion of Ghana's MDGs achievements and lessons for SDGs implementation.

With the theme, "New Goals. New power. New technology," the Social Good Summit in Ghana was held at the Alisa Hotel where students, academia, policy analysts, private sector, civil society organizations and government officials interacted on the implications of the SDGs implementation for Ghana.

The Social Good Summit in Ghana is part of more than 100 Social Good Summits organized around the world to raise awareness of Sustainable Development Goals in September. Making the Goals famous will be the first important step in achieving

this new and ambitious development agenda.

Adopted by all 193 UN Member States, the Sustainable Development Goals are 17 ambitious goals to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice and tackle climate change for everyone by 2030.

UNDP Ghana stands as a ready partner to support Ghana and others to carry forward achieving the Goals at the national level by 2030.



Mr. Mulugeta Abebe, UNDP Deputy Country Director for Operations delivers the keynote address during the Social Good Summit 2015.

Each September, world leaders come together at the United Nations General Assembly to discuss global issues and ways in which to tackle them. Recognizing that the voices and ideas of concerned global citizens connected by social media and technology can be powerful forces for change, UNDP Mashable, 92nd Street Y and the United Nations Foundation first partnered in 2009 to host the Social Good Summit in New York to expand the UN conversations to include innovators, activists and entrepreneurs around the world.

Now in its sixth year, the Social Good Summit continues to grow in impact and reach to unite global citizens to unlock the potential of technology to make the world a better place.



A panel discussion of Ghana's MDGs attainment and lessons for SDGs implementation: (L-R: Nana Osei-Bonsu, CEO of Private Enterprises Federation; Mr. Kordzo Sedegah, UNDP Economics Specialist; Dr. Grace Bediako, National Development Planning Commission; Mr. George Osei Obimpeh, SEND Ghana and Mr. Vincent Nhyira Addo, Multimedia Group Ltd and event moderator.

Ghana joins Philanthropy Platform for Sustainable Development

Ghana has joined Kenya, Colombia, and Indonesia as a country of focus for philanthropy engagement on the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since July 2015, two separate sessions of stakeholder engagement on philanthropy have taken place in the country.

The maiden session occurred on 9 July 2015, during which the SDGs Philanthropy Platform was launched in Accra. More than 100 leaders participated in the event to discuss how to join forces to collectively implement the 17 Global Goals in Ghana. The event brought together representatives from philanthropy, governments, civil society, businesses and the United Nations, to identify opportunities within the country to collaborate on achieving the global goals. Participants also discussed a broad array of challenges relating to water and sanitation, education, livelihoods, youth employability and more.

In special attendance were Hon. Mona Quartey, Deputy Minister of Finance, Mr. Dominic Sam, UNDP Country Director, Mr. Edmund Cain, Vice President for Grant Programs at the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and Bradford K. Smith, President of Foundation Centre based in New York.

Following the successful launch of the SDG Philanthropy Platform, a sequel meeting was held on 9 December 2015 to discuss the practical implementation of the Platform.

More than 60 participants drawn from government, philanthropy and civil society identified priority challenges relating to the three thematic areas of Water, Education and Livelihood in Ghana, and how these could be addressed effectively. The event also afforded the new National Coordinator of the Platform, Ms. Pearl Darko, the opportunity to dialogue with stakeholders on ongoing initiatives, interests, plans for expansions and collective actions.

The National Development Planning Commission shared government's plans related to SDGs prioritization and implementation. Meanwhile, government has reiterated its strong commitment to the SDGs Philanthropy Platform. Mr. Michael Ayensu, Director of External Resources Mobilisation (Multilateral Division) of the Ministry of Finance intimated that the Platform would be brought under the oversight of the Head of UN System at the Ministry. A 12-member Advisory Group for the Platform has been set up.



L-R: Mr. Dominic Sam, Hon. Mona Quartey and Mr. Edmund Cain



A section of participants at the sequel meeting

SDG Philanthropy Platform is a collaboration between philanthropy and the greater international development community led by Foundation Center, United Nations Development Programme and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, and supported by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Ford Foundation and the MasterCard Foundation, the Brach Family Foundation, and key philanthropy networks such as Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support (WINGS) and Asociación de Fundaciones Empresariales (AFE) in Colombia, and Association of Philanthropy Indonesia (PFI) in Indonesia. Our goal is to enable partnerships on global development as we transition from the MDGs to the SDGs.

Ghana hosts the 2015 International Day for Disaster Reduction

The National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) in partnership with UNDP and the UN system jointly hosted the 2015 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDR) in Ghana. The national event took place at Anyamam, near Sege in the Ada West District of the Greater Accra Region on Tuesday, 13 October 2015.

IDDR is set aside by the UN General Assembly to encourage global citizens and governments to take part in building more disaster resilient communities and nations. Under the theme, 'Knowledge for Life', the 2015 IDDR seeks to raise awareness of the use of local, traditional and indigenous knowledge to complement modern science in disaster risk management and to add to the resilience of individuals, communities and societies.

The national event included activities such as community drama, drum performance, poem recitation, exhibition, speeches and publication launch. The event was attended by the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Christine Evans-Klock; NADMO National Coordinator, Brigadier General Francis Vib-Sanziri; UNDP Country Director, Mr. Dominic Sam; The World Bank Senior Country Operations Officer, Ms. Beatrix Allah-Mensah; Mr. Kwasi Assanu Brew of the Ministry of Interior; the District Chief Executive of Ada West, Mr. Anthony Kplokpa; the Chiefs and Traditional Council of Ada; staff of NADMO and UNDP as well as the inhabitants of Anyamam and surrounding communities.

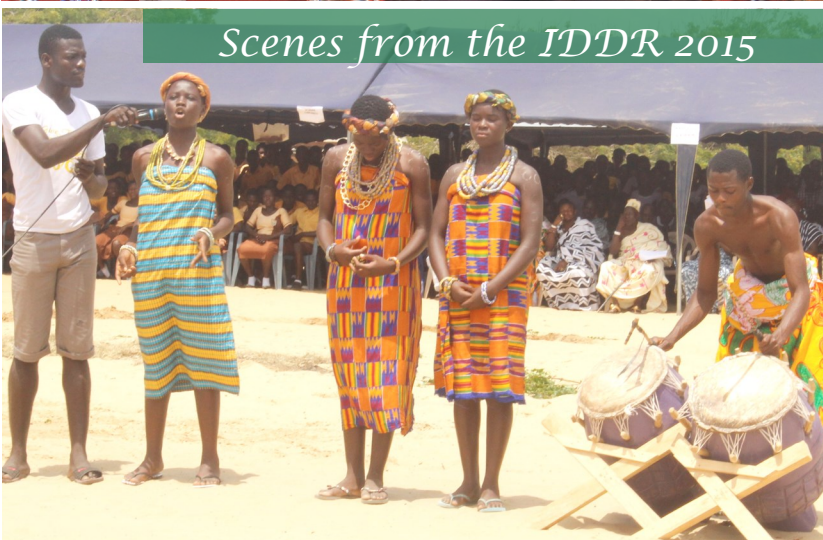
Did You Know?

Local knowledge has it that:

1. Whenever the ants are seen carrying their eggs from one point to the other, it signifies rainfall.
2. When the rainbow forms in the east early morning, it suggests less rainfall for the season. But when formed in the west, it suggests more rainfall.
3. When millipedes and centipedes are seen climbing to higher grounds when the rains start, it signals flooding. They are noted to first sense the flooding in the soil and they begin to move out to the higher ground or hills.



Scenes from the IDDR 2015



UNDP supports national efforts to conserve energy in Ghana

The Energy Commission in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), PHILIPS as well as Dutch & Co has formally launched a campaign to conserve energy in Ghana.

The campaign, dubbed “Cut and Save Energy, targets public sector institutions, particularly the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to create awareness on good practices for energy conservation and energy efficiency at their respective workplaces.

The campaign comes on the heels of an energy audit conducted by the Energy Commission in April 2015, which showed that in 19 out of 25 MDAs, air-conditioners, lighting systems and refrigerators consume in excess of 9 million KWh of energy each year, which translates into about GH¢ 5.5 million per annum.

“This situation places a heavy burden on the national grid and budget”, noted Dr. Kwame Ampofo, the Board Chairman of the Energy Commission.



L-R: Dr. Kwame Ampofo (Board Chairman of the Energy Commission and Mr. Paolo Dalla Stella (Sustainable Development Analyst, UNDP)

The “Cut and Save Energy” campaign seeks to raise awareness on energy conservation. It will be conducted through roadshows across the country to interact with the general public and Energy Managers – energy focal points at the various MDAs – who will serve as gatekeepers for energy conservation in their respective institutions.

Mr. Paolo Dalla Stella, UNDP Sustainable Development Analyst, applauded the Energy Commission for the good initiatives and leadership for energy conservation efforts in the country, noting that through this, Ghana has become exemplary in energy efficiency market transformation programmes in Africa.

The campaign leverages on other UNDP-supported initiatives undertaken by the Energy Commission such as the [Refrigerator Energy Efficiency Project](#). The project aimed at transforming the refrigerating appliance market in Ghana by introducing a standard and labelling regime, enforcing a ban on importation of used refrigerators, and introducing a rebate scheme to provide incentives to consumers to turn in their old refrigerators for new efficient ones.

Regional Workshop for Africa and Arab States: Engaging the Private Sector to Contribute to Climate Change Mitigation

From 3-5 November 2015, UNDP held this workshop to initiate a public-private dialogue on how to stimulate the involvement of the private sector in climate change mitigation actions.

The workshop discussed experiences in private sector participation on mitigation actions and engaged various actors in discussions on policy objectives and innovative approaches to support nationally appropriate mitigation actions. Participants also discussed and exchanged lessons learned on improving market conditions to enhance private investment.

UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) programme was launched in January 2011 and it is a country-driven collaborative programme supporting 25 countries to build public- and private-sector capacities to scale up climate-change mitigation actions.

Did You Know?

1. Since 2008, UNDP has supported 140+ countries to access more than \$2.3 billion in grant finance to develop and implement climate change initiatives.
2. UNDP remains the largest service provider in the UN system supporting countries on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Ghana launches Green Climate Fund Readiness Programme

The Government of Ghana in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has officially launched the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Programme in Accra.

The GCF is a new international financial mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), designed to disburse new and additional resources for climate change mitigation and adaptation activities in developing countries.

The Programme will support the Government of Ghana in strengthening its national capacities to plan for, access, deliver, and monitor climate finance in particular through the GCF. In addition, the Programme will build capacity of private sector and non-governmental stakeholders to unlock their potentials for their enhanced access to climate finance.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Dominic Sam, UNDP Country Director, lauded the government for launching this important initiative. He explained how Ghana is affected by the increasing threat of climate change and how this trend has increased the call for nationwide investment to adapt to climate change and prevent its negative impacts.

The launch of the GCF Readiness Programme comes on the heels of Ghana's successful launch of the National Climate Change Policy in 2014 and the nation's commitment to the climate change deal reached in Paris in December 2015.

Hon. Mahama Ayariga, Minister of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation was also in attendance and emphasized the huge cost associated with climate change mitigation and adaptation actions in Ghana. He expressed optimism that the GCF Readiness Programme would prepare Ghana for the opportunities ahead. "We will blend support from donors with national resources, both private and public, to address climate change", he added.

The GCF has so far mobilized USD 10.5 billion to support climate projects in developing countries.

Hon. Mona Quartey, Deputy Minister of Finance said this fund is expected to increase over time to reach a hundred billion dollars per year by 2020. She assured that the Ministry of Finance, as the National Designated Authority for the GCF, will provide needed support and leadership for the smooth interface between the country and the fund.

Over the past few years, Ghana has been making major strides in its response to climate change. The United Nations (UN) system in Ghana has been working with government, private sector, financial institutions, and civil society groups to support national efforts across various sectors toward Ghana's successful mobilization and delivery of climate finance at scale.



L-R: Hon. Mona Quartey; Hon. Mahama Ayariga and Mr. Dominic Sam



Mr. Kwadwo Ayirebi Frimpong, GCF Project Coordinator

Where is “Health” in the Sustainable Development Goals?

By Belynda Amankwa

Programme Specialist, Access and Delivery partnership; HIV, Health and Development, UNDP



In September 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted with much pomp. From world leaders through to pop stars everyone hailed the adoption as a ‘truly defining moment’ in human history. Personally, I was also thrilled because finally we had truly *global* goals. Unlike the MDGs, the SDGs were for everyone, no dichotomy, no distinction, goals for all humanity one might add.

I have heard arguments though that health has been “diluted or diffused” in the SDGs. This is because compared to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which had 3 (MDG, 4, 5, 6) out of the 7 goals geared towards health, the SDGs have only one goal (Goal 3) out of the 17 goals that talks directly about health. I am however of this opinion: not only can we see health in

almost all the 17 goals (personally I counted 12 out of the 17 goals), but also the SDGs provide us with the opportunity to work together to consolidate gains made in health over the past decade.

Consider **SDG 1**, to *end* poverty in all its forms. Poverty and health are intimately linked. For instance, a poor mother is less likely to know of and access maternal health services and thereby more likely to suffer negative birth outcomes. Poverty affects a girls’ education which ultimately affects her health outcomes. This is because educated women tend to be healthier, more economically empowered, have smaller family sizes and can generally provide better health for their children. Further, teenage pregnancies accompanied by its attendant health problems, is more pronounced in poorer communities. The nexus of child health and poverty are well documented. Children growing up in poor settings are more prone to infant mortality, developmental delays, malnutrition, etc.

Spare a thought too, for the 17 Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) such as yaws, leprosy and onchocerciasis that still plague millions because they are just that -diseases of neglect and poverty. So by addressing poverty, the cause of ill health in these situations, we would make huge inroads in improving the health of populations.



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Goal 6 aimed at ensuring clean water and sanitation, is also a ‘health goal’ by all accounts. UNICEF highlights malaria, cholera and diarrhea as diseases of poor sanitation. According to WHO, in 2013, an estimated 437 000 African children died before their fifth birthday due to malaria and more than one in ten deaths of children is due to diarrhea. How many of these deaths could have been averted by clean water and sanitation, your guess is as good as mine!

Thus, it very clear that until we address the social and structural deficiencies that cause ill health, or what is often referred to as the **social determinants of health** we would not be able to meet the ambitious targets set out in the SDGs. This approach means that we look at the underlying causes of ill health as opposed to merely treating the presentation of ill health. We learn to look beyond our individual mandates to see how we can work across sectors, adopting a **multisectoral approach to health**. An approach championed by UNDP and premised on the fact that actions *outside* the health sector have as much effect on improving health outcomes as the health sector itself. This thinking is what underpins UNDPs work in promoting enabling legal environments for HIV responses, improving access to medicines through the use of TRIPS flexibilities or competition law and combating Non Communicable Diseases.

Thus, instead of seeing it as a narrowing of health goals in the SDGs, we should see the so called ‘diffusion’ as a good thing. It is an opportunity for all of us to come to the table as it were, irrespective of our core mandates, to see health in all we do, to do things un-usual, because as it is often said just as health shapes development, development shapes health.

Our Success Stories

Justice now within the reach of the poor in Ghana

"I am a happy wife. My husband has quit drinking and our children are now in school, says Faustina Agbesi, a 37-year-old resident of Duayaw Nkwanta.

"Whenever my husband got drunk, he would pull a knife and threaten to kill me. There was no food at home and the children were mostly out of school. Finally, we separated", says Faustina.

In Ghana, like many African countries, it is difficult for the poor and vulnerable to access justice, due partly to high cost of legal services. It even becomes more challenging when it comes to legal representation for cases such as child care, criminal justice and domestic abuse including unending disagreements between partners.

Established by an Act of Parliament, the Legal Aid Scheme is Ghana's effort at ensuring that constitutional democracy, rule of law and access to justice extends to the poor and vulnerable, who would otherwise be excluded from the formal justice delivery system. Its purpose is to ensure equality of access to justice and treatment before the law by serving as a public defender for the poor in need of justice.

When cases are reported to legal aid offices, the parties involved are first invited for hearing. By means of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, cases are resolved where possible. Where cases are beyond the resolution of a legal aid office, free legal representation is secured for the clients to pursue the case in a law court.



Mr. Ofose and two beneficiaries of the Legal Aid Scheme at Duayaw Nkwanta

UNDP has been supporting the scheme since 2013 to enable them provide efficient and effective legal services to the needy in all 10 regions and 16 districts across Ghana, including Duayaw Nkwanta in the Brong Ahafo Region. Faustina is one of the more than 10,000 persons who have benefitted from the scheme since UNDP's support began. "Thanks to the intervention of the Legal Aid office in my area, my husband and I are now together again with our four children. We can share laughter as a family", she says.

UNDP's support to the Legal Aid Scheme also includes staff training, provision of logistics for the opening of district offices and equipping of the regional offices, the development and implementation of a five-year strategic plan as well as the development of a legal aid guide and a communication strategy which has helped improve the efficiency and quality of services provided to clients.

In addition, UNDP has supported the scheme to develop a website, printed more than 70,000 brochures, and organized legal aid clinics in 10 districts to increase access and knowledge of legal aid to deprived communities.

"I feel so elated to see my clients resolve their differences", says Ismael Yeboah Ofose, Dispute Resolution Officer at Duayaw Nkwanta.

Environmentally friendly practices boost cocoa production in Ghana

Cocoa farmers in Ghana can now turn to sustainable, climate smart farming practices to boost cocoa production in the country, thanks to their increased understanding of its benefits. Cocoa, which is the main source of income for more than 800,000 smallholder farmers in Ghana, is also a major foreign exchange earner for the country.

For most farmers, expanding cocoa farms means clearing forests. Lack of incentives and understanding of smarter ways to incorporate trees in cocoa farms result in several farmers removing trees on their cocoa farms. This practice has been one of the main contributors to the loss of more than 135,000 hectares of forests each year.

"I have seen over the years that this phenomenon is not only adversely impacting on cocoa production, but also affecting plant and animal life as well as water resources", says Mr. Daniel Amponsah Gyinayeh, a cocoa farmer.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD), and with financial support from Mondelēz International Cocoa Life Programme, introduced farmers to environmentally friendly practices that can also boost cocoa production and rehabilitate degraded cocoa landscapes.

Through the implementation of the three-year project ["Environmental Sustainability and Policy for Cocoa Production in Ghana"](#) "ESP project", [more than 9,600 smallholder farmers](#) have been incentivized to adopt sound farming practices that reduce climate change and improve environmental quality.

This has occurred largely through training of cocoa farmers and community extension agents in environmental cocoa production practices, forest laws and regulations, and community tree tenure rights. The [US\\$ 1.7 million initiative](#) has also piloted the establishment of Community Resource Management Areas (CREMA) involving [36 communities](#) in the Asunafo North Municipality to promote community rights to manage and benefit from natural resources.

The project has distributed [more than 787,000 economic tree seedlings to farmers and rehabilitated 8,600 hectares of forests](#) along waterways and protected areas. Field monitoring records have shown a progressive planting success. This has motivated farmers to plant more trees, which shield the cocoa plants from excessive sunlight and keep the soil moist during dry seasons. The trees also serve as carbon sinks and provide oxygen, which replenishes the environment.

"We are happy to work with the farmers on climate smart farming practices", says Namho Oh, a Programme Analyst at UNDP. "We hope that through this intervention we can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation and ensure increased cocoa productivity and income for farmers."

Now, Daniel, like other farmers, is upbeat about the future. On his farm, he has planted hundreds of economic tree seedlings he received under the project. He looks forward to a good return on his hard work. "Thanks to UNDP and COCOBOD, I can benefit from my trees and expect increased cocoa yield through the improved farming methods," he says.

The "ESP project" is also supporting Ghana's land and tree tenure policy reforms by providing concrete policy recommendations and facilitating dialogues with the COCOBOD, Forestry Commission, and other key stakeholders. The initiative builds on national efforts to improve Ghana's progress on the MDG 7 establishing tree plantations and replanting degraded forests to reduce deforestation, which is estimated at 2% per annum. It also offers a good prospect for Ghana's attainment of the new Sustainable Development Goal 15 which seeks to, among other things, help countries sustainably manage forests.



Mr. Daniel Amponsah Gyinayeh, a beneficiary of the ESP project

Joint Political Party Support and Strengthening seminar

UNDP brought together the five main political parties in Ghana and the Electoral Commission for a joint party support and strengthening (J-PASS) seminar in Accra. The purpose was to raise awareness of the J-PASS project and to sensitize the political parties about their roles for its successful implementation.

The J-PASS project is based on the premise that the quality of political parties determines to a large extent the quality of political governance in any political system. "Political parties which are structured and built to function as institutions of governance will be better equipped if elected into power", said Mr. Dominic Sam, UNDP Country Director. "When elected into power, they are better prepared to govern and articulate programmes and policy directions more clearly to the people".

Political party representatives acknowledged the need for gender parity and promised to put measures in place to ensure this. They called for a change of mindset among political players to encourage more women and youth to participate in political processes in Ghana.

The participants also called on the Electoral Commission to be more visible among the populace and sensitize Ghanaians about their roles in the electoral process. They were grateful to UNDP for the technical and financial support as well as its quest to promote credibility and transparency in Ghana's electoral process.

UNDP designed the J-PASS project jointly with political parties to deepen Ghana's democratic gains. The project seeks to boost public confidence and participation in the 2016 general elections. It also aims to promote trust in political parties and election results as well as promote the participation of women and youth in decision making processes in Ghana's multi-party democracy.

The five main political party include the National Democratic Congress, Convention People's Party, New Patriotic Party, People's National Convention and the Progressive People's Party.

Project Staff



Mr. Chika Charles Aniekwe
JPASS Project Manager



Ms. Jennifer Esme Tetteh
JPASS Project Assistant

J-PASS in 2016

In 2016, J-PASS will continue the implementation of its project activities. More attention will be paid to supporting the political parties to strengthen their internal democracy and develop gender policies. The project will also support the training and mentoring of female candidates for the 2016 elections as well as support the development of membership database for the parties amongst.

J-PASS will publish the outcome of two studies in Internal Gender and Communication Policies for political parties in Ghana. J-PASS will also launch its website where information regarding the project will be shared with stakeholders and public. It will also serve as a knowledge sharing platform for the Inter-Party Platform of the Joint Party Support and Strengthening Project.

Consolidating Peace in Ghana

Highlights of key activities

Reconstitution of the Bawku Inter-Ethnic Peace Committee: On 17–19 September 2015, UNDP supported the Upper East Regional Peace Council to build the capacity of the newly constituted members of the Bawku Inter-Ethnic Peace Committee (BIEPC). The mandate of the new committee is to, among other things, consolidate the gains of an earlier committee in bringing peace to Bawku. It is a sequel to UNDP's support to resuscitate the BIEPC in 2014, an effort which led to the turning in of guns and has contributed significantly to the peace in Bawku.

Stakeholder dialogue on Elections 2012: In October and November 2015, the National Peace Council (NPC) with UNDP's support organised a dialogue session with peace stakeholders including governance institutions, media and civil society on Elections 2012. The forum appraised activities of the actors in the 2012 election with a view to strategizing for Election 2016. The forum also afforded each of the institutions the opportunity to interact directly with the EC and the Ghana Police Service, with the goal of building a formidable relationship and collaboration for Election 2016.

Strengthening the capacity of Boards of Regional Peace Councils: From July to December 2015, the NPC in collaboration with UNDP has built the capacity of the recently inaugurated boards of nine Regional Peace Councils. Members were taken through the rubrics of mediation and the detection of early warning. Equipped with the needed skills arising largely from the training, the Northern Regional Peace Council has intervened in the Bimbilla conflict, bringing the key parties to the negotiation table. The aim is to chart a common path for lasting peace in Bimbilla.

Upcoming events

Event: Capacity building for Traditional and Religious Authorities

Date: March 2016

Venue: University of Cape Coast

Background: Traditional and religious authorities play a crucial role in mediation and peacebuilding in Ghana. However, a study conducted by the National Peace Council revealed that these actors do not have the requisite skills and tact to appropriately engage in mediation. As such, some of their attempts at mediation have either exacerbated the conflict or made them part of the conflict. Cognizant of their role in mediation and the gap identified therefore, the UNDP in collaboration with the NPC and the University of Cape Coast have developed a manual for the training of traditional and religious leaders in mediation. The training has been scheduled for February 2016 and will also create a platform where selected traditional and religious leaders with vast experience in mediation will share their first-hand experience with their colleagues.

Emerging initiative

Support to Curbing Political and Electoral Violence in 2016

As the 2016 election approaches UNDP with support from other development partners including the EU and USAID, seeks to strengthen the capacity of actors in the peace architecture to prevent and manage electoral and political violence for consolidated peace in Ghana. The intervention targets the National Peace Council, National Commission for Civic Education, National Media Commission and selected civil society organisations. It will focus on five areas: enhanced peace education, strengthened early warning, strengthened institutional capacity in peacebuilding, promoting issue-based dialogue and enhanced capacity of media in election reporting. The overall aim of this intervention is to contribute to a peaceful and credible election to consolidate Ghana's democratic gains.

Consolidating Transparency and Accountability in Ghana

UNDP's work on Transparency and Accountability (T&A) focuses on three broad themes: Anti-Corruption, Access to Justice and Service Delivery.

Anti – Corruption: Since the adoption of the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP) in 2014, UNDP has been supporting the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) to coordinate its implementation by establishing a National Implementation Support Unit (NISU). UNDP has provided the NISU with the requisite logistics and offered training to its staff to enable them function effectively.

As part of the Public Service Integrity Programme, a key component of the NACAP, UNDP has supported the establishment, training and activities of a High Level Implementation Committee, chaired by the Chief of Staff at the Presidency. The committee has representation from key national institutions to guide the NACAP implementation. UNDP has also helped the establishment and training of a monitoring team, which has since developed an M&E framework for tracking progress on NACAP implementation.

With UNDP's help, officers from 35 public institutions have received training on ethics and integrity to adequately serve their institutions in related capacities. Moreover, almost all of CHRAJ's investigators across the country have been trained in the Code of Conduct for Public Officers. Finally, both the National Ethics Advisory Committee and the monitoring team have been inaugurated, laying the foundation for the full implementation of the public sector integrity programme.

UNDP also supported a baseline survey conducted by the Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority, which revealed that corruption is not just a perception within the division. The survey has been validated by stakeholders including the Commissioner of Customs, all sector commanders of the Division, Freight Forwarders, Importers/Exporters, Shippers Council as well as the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority.

Significant recommendations have been made to address corruption in the service. An integrity curriculum and manual has been developed for staff training.

Access to Justice: Currently, UNDP is supporting the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Department to implement the Legal Service and Justice Sector Reform Project (JUST). The goal is to ensure that the legal service as well as the justice delivery system is more accessible, fair, responsive, accountable and structured to provide legal services efficiently and improve access to justice.

So far, 150 staff of the various sector institutions have been sensitised on core elements of the reform and their expected roles for successful implementation. Currently, the Justice Ministry has recruited six consulting firms with UNDP's support to lead a change management process, develop a communication and coordination strategy. The firms will also develop standard operating procedures and training plans for the criminal justice institutions as well as the ministry and its agencies. It is expected that all these documents would be developed and validated for use by the end of the first quarter of 2016.



L-R: Kwadwo Frempong, Programme Manager; Angelina Amponsah, Administrative Officer; Abigail Gyimah, Programme Officer; Sandra Thompson, Technical Advisor and Vincent Kumah, Programme Accountant.

Support for the implementation of the 5 years strategic plan of the Ghana **Legal Aid Scheme (LAS)** is another key element of the UNDP Access to Justice programme. Thus far, UNDP has assisted the Legal Aid Scheme to train its staff across the country on service delivery standards and community outreach. This is to improve staff skills to effectively deliver services to clients.

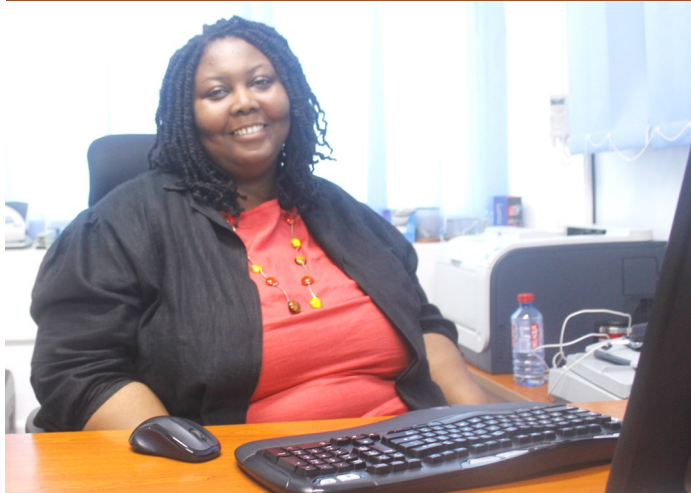
Additionally, two consultants have been recruited to assist the LAS develop a communication strategy and outreach plan for internal communication and community outreach initiatives. The exercise will also map out private Legal Aid and Alternative Dispute Resolution providers across the country. This is to help Legal Aid fulfil its constitutional mandate of setting standards for Legal Aid delivery in Ghana.

Service Delivery: As part of improving public service delivery, UNDP has since 2013 been supporting the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) to train its core staff across the country on its Ombudsman function, with the third module occurring in 2015.

CHRAJ reports that the trainings have resulted in an increase in the number of administrative justice cases received and effectively dealt with in its offices across the country.

In addition, UNDP has been supporting the implementation of a roadmap by CHRAJ and the Public Sector Reform Commission to guide the development of client service charters to serve as a benchmark for assessing public service delivery. A consultant is conducting a baseline survey on existing charters to provide lessons for the development of new ones.

New Head of Governance Cluster



Nana Teiba Chinbuah is a Programme Specialist and Head of the Democratic Governance cluster of UNDP. She brings to her position ten years' working experience in the governance practice area. Within the governance practice area, her work has focused primarily on Peace, Human Rights, Access to Justice, and Anti-Corruption.

Strengthening early warning systems to improve disaster preparedness

The Community Resilience through Early Warning (CREW) Project is a collaboration between UNDP and the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) with financial support from the Government of Norway.

Under this collaboration, a comprehensive Early Warning Gap Analysis at the National and in 10 Pilot Districts has been developed. The results of this gap analysis have led to the development of Early Warning Master Plan for priority disasters in Ghana. Web-Based Emergency Operation Centers (WEBEOC) have been established.

The WEBEOC exist on an expert system running on a central server that can be accessed by forecast experts from NADMO, Hydrological Service Department and Ghana Meteorological Agency. The expert system feeds a web-based dissemination dashboard that provides forecast and warning data to the districts and regions. The dashboard shows the district disaster management officers specific areas in the district where warning is active.

The floods and drought risks maps and assessment reports were also launched with full participation from disaster management officers and the media at a short ceremony in Accra on 19th October 2015. These risk assessment reports and maps will increase knowledge and better understanding of disaster risks for better decision making and evidence based environmental planning in Ghana.

To enhance data quality for Early Warning in Ghana, the CREW project has also procured and installed Seven Automated Weather Stations in different locations in Ghana.



An automated rain gauge located at Bunkpurugu in the Northern Region provided by the CREW project

New Projects

Advocacy and capacity building for disaster risk reduction and preparedness in Ghana

With funding from the World Bank's Global Fund for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), UNDP has initiated this project to support Ghana's efforts at implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030).

It has the following specific objectives:

1. Advocate for disaster preparedness and risk reduction at national and regional level through high level advocacy and operationalization of the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction.
2. Strengthen capacities in disaster preparedness and risk reduction of government cadres, particularly those in professional functions at NADMO, other national agencies, regional, provincial and local administration, through the design and implementation of a core training curriculum for their staff.
3. Foster disaster preparedness at national level through national simulation exercises and enhanced coordination with the international community through the United Nations Inter Agency Standing Committee.



Ms. Akosua Bireduaa Aninakwa, Project Associate, Advocacy and Capacity Building on Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness in Ghana

SWITCH Africa Green Project

SWITCH Africa Green (SAG) Project is a UN inter-agency project implemented by UNEP, UNOPS and UNDP and funded by the European Union. It aims to support 6 African countries: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa and Uganda to achieve sustainable development.

It seeks to do this by engaging in transition towards an inclusive green economy, based on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns, while generating growth, creating decent jobs and reducing poverty. The objective will be achieved primarily through support to private sector led inclusive green growth.

The project has three components: policy support, business development and networking facility. The business development support component has given grants to five intermediary organizations: Environmental Protection Agency, Association of Ghana Industries, Kumasi Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industries, University of Cape Coast and Ghana National Cleaner Production Center to provide direct interventions for Micro, Small and Medium Scale enterprises (MSMEs).

In Ghana, the implementing national entity is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with oversight from its parent Ministry of Environment Science Technology and Innovation (MESTI). UNDP is ensuring in-country coordination of the project and implementing monitoring and evaluation in relation to the business development component.



Mr. Kingsley Ansa Bekoe, National Coordinator, SWITCH Africa Green Project

China-Ghana South-South Co-operation on Renewable Energy Technology Transfer

The project is a collaboration between the Energy Commission of Ghana, the Ministry of Science and Technology in China and UNDP in Ghana and China, with funding from the Danish Government.

The project aims to facilitate the development and transfer of renewable energy technologies from China to Ghana along with the support required to make the technologies effective, including training and capacity building, transfer of know-how and best practices. The project will operate both at the upstream level (supporting the creation of an enabling environment for technology transfer) and downstream level (actual transfer and demonstration of technologies with potential upscaling by the private sector).

The project aims to address Ghana's need to increase the universal energy access by effectuating off-grid community-based electrification, increasing the share of renewable energy, and promoting the productive uses of energy, in line with the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) Action Plan. The project is therefore supporting broader socio-economic and environmental objectives, most notably poverty reduction through employment generation and supporting action on climate change mitigation. The project will focus on the following technologies: solar/wind for productive use, biogas, mini-hydro and improved cookstoves.

Did You Know?



- More than 1 billion people worldwide lack access to electricity. Over 95% of these live in sub-Saharan Africa or developing Asia
- Global energy demand will grow up to 33% from 2010 to 2035
- Equipment maintenance, thermostat settings, and upgrades can reduce emissions up to 50%.
- Investing \$170 billion annually in energy efficiency worldwide could generate an average rate of return of 17%

Reducing Unintended Persistent Organic Pollutants (UPOPs) and Mercury Releases from the Health Sector in Africa

The overall objective of the initiative is to reduce harmful releases from the health sector by implementing sound environmental practices.

It will introduce non-incineration healthcare waste treatment technologies and mercury-free medical devices in four Sub-Saharan African countries including Ghana, Madagascar, Tanzania and Zambia. It is funded by the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and implemented by UNDP in partnership with WHO and a non-governmental organisation, Health Care Without Harm.

The project will contribute towards creating favorable market conditions, market demand and stimulate the growth of non-incineration health care waste management systems and mercury-free technology distributors or manufacturers in Africa.

This is expected to reduce the spread of infections and improve human wellbeing at healthcare facilities and other places where healthcare waste is handled.

New Communications Associate



Ms. Matilda Dennis Quaicoe has joined the UNDP Communications Unit as a Communications Associate. She brings on board more than 10 years of experience in Communications, Media and Public Relations. Matilda is keen on supporting the Country Office to communicate our results through video production.

Appointment of Assistant Country Director & Head of Programmes

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Louis Kuukpen as Assistant Country Director and Head of Programmes at UNDP.

Until his appointment, Mr. Kuukpen was the Monitoring and Evaluation Analyst (2010—2015) with the Country Office. Prior to this, he was a Programme Officer with the Democratic Governance cluster (2007—2010), Project Manager at the Danida Centre for International Business (2004—2006), and a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University of Ghana Business School and a Corporate Assistant Manager with Barclays Bank Ghana Limited.

Louis holds MA in Economic Policy Management, MPhil in Finance and a BSc Administration degree in Finance and Banking, all from the University of Ghana.



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UNDP 50th Anniversary

Early in 1966, United Nations leaders fighting poverty came together to form UNDP.

Since that time, we've played a transformational role in eradicating diseases, reducing hunger, creating jobs, empowering women, cutting infant mortality, protecting the environment, and lots more in the nearly 170 countries where we work.

On the occasion of our 50th anniversary, UNDP is looking toward the future of people and planet. That future is uncertain. On the one hand, climate change, political turbulence, economic inequality, and other challenges. On the other hand, technological advances, tremendous economic growth, and an unprecedented global consensus about the best way forward.

At UNDP, we are committed to finish the job we started 50 years ago, and end poverty once and for all. We imagine a world where all people prosper, societies are more inclusive, and the planet is protected from the worst effects of climate change.

We want to leave no one behind. This is the agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals, also known as Agenda 2030, and it's what guides our work for the next 15 years. Agenda 2030 is the most ambitious effort on development in world history. UNDP is prepared to lead the way to achieve this global agenda.

We will connect the dots and integrate diverse efforts internationally, such as on health, energy, work and climate—so that we're advancing development on all fronts.

We'll constantly look for multiplier effects that yield big benefits—such as our work on women's and girls' education, which advances life in other areas, such as health and governance.

And we'll identify points where we can accelerate our progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The final result: a more prosperous, fair, and inclusive world for all.

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