SDG
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GHANA

PROGRESS ON THE SDGS:
TELLING THE GHANAIAN STORY
THROUGH THE LENS OF CITIZENS

Civil Society Organisations Shadow Report on the Voluntary National Review

Prepared by the Ghana Civil Society Organisations Platform on the Sustainable Development Goals

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AAP	Annual Action Plans
ANAM	Asutifi North Ahonidie Mpontuo
CBOs	Community-Based Organisation
CEOs	Chief Executive Officers
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
GFD	Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GSS	Ghana Statistical Service
HLMC	High-Level Ministerial Committee
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
ICC	Implementation Coordinating Committee
ICT	Information and Communication and Technology
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MMDAs	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
MTDP	Medium Term Development Plans
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NTC	National Technical Committee
NTSC	National Technical Steering Committee on SDGs
OSP	Office of Special Prosecutor
OWG	Open Working Group
PEF	Private Enterprise Federation
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
RCCs	Regional Coordinating Councils
RIT	Right to Information
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VNRs	Voluntary National Reviews

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FOREWORD

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations Member States in New York on 25th September 2015. The seventeen (17) SDGs and their 169 targets sought to address the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and represented the vision of the world that its citizens wanted by the year 2030.

Strong partnerships between all stakeholders are paramount to the achievement of the SDGs and the translation of the Goals into actions with tangible results by the year 2030. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), private sector, the media, development partners and all citizens have critical roles to play in the achievement of the SDGs. Crucially, CSOs work with the most vulnerable and deprived in rural communities, making the SDGs mandate of *"leaving no one behind"* the cornerstone of civil society's contribution to the achievement of the Goals.

The Ghana CSOs Platform on the SDGs (hereafter "CSOs Platform") was established in 2015 to bring together CSOs working on the SDGs under one umbrella. The CSOs Platform is made up of 18 Sub-Platforms, seventeen (17) of these are linked to the SDGs, with a Sub-Platform on youth issues. Each Sub-Platform has a convener and between two and five co-conveners.

With over three hundred (300) members covering the range of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) in Ghana, the CSOs Platform provides an avenue for CSOs to foster joint efforts, build partnerships with key stakeholders, and ensure effective advocacy for achieving the SDGs at the district, regional and national levels.

The CSOs Platform has played a major role in encouraging and strengthening a multi-stakeholder approach towards the implementation of the SDGs in Ghana. For the first time, CSOs have been mainstreamed into the national development implementation structure, with representation on the various national SDGs implementation committees and entities. Through their representation on these national platforms, CSOs in Ghana have had the opportunity to make direct inputs into national policies and contribute to the development of SDGs-related frameworks.

The civil society voluntary Shadow Report was developed by a team of consultants with support from the CSOs Platform's National Secretariat. The report concentrates on the six SDGs that are the focus of the 2019 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). A Technical Committee was established to oversee the preparation of the Shadow Report, consisting of the

Conveners of the six SDG Sub-Platforms, District Sub-Platform representatives and the Ghana Federation of Disability (GFD) Organisations. A series of meetings and workshops were organised with the Technical Committee members to review the tools, to agree on the approach, to format and to focus areas of the report, and to ensure fair representation of CSOs working on the implementation of the SDGs.

The purpose of the Shadow Report is to complement the Government's Voluntary National Review (VNR) report and to promote mutual accountability on the implementation of the SDGs. The report is expected to showcase the efforts and initiatives by civil society to implement the SDGs. The findings of the report will help to strengthen national interventions on Ghana's SDGs process. Members of the CSOs Platform will use the outcomes of the report for advocacy and public awareness as well as for strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships at the sub-national level. Most importantly, the report will be useful in highlighting the challenges with civil society's coordination, monitoring, and reporting on the SDGs. It will also outline recommendations for effective advocacy on the SDGs in Ghana.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The objective of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) is to facilitate sharing of experiences and mutual learning, including successes, challenges, and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development. Reports from VNR processes form the basis of annual reviews at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

Ghana will present its first VNR report in July 2019. In line with international good practice, the Ghana Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) Platform on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (hereafter "CSOs Platform") has prepared this Shadow Report to complement the Government of Ghana's VNR report. Through this Shadow Report, a more comprehensive picture of the progress on the SDGs in Ghana is provided. This report captures CSOs' contributions to the implementation of the SDGs, assesses levels of public awareness on the SDGs, and presents the experiences and perceptions of households from across the country. It also presents an assessment of Ghana's implementation arrangements and the involvement of CSOs in data collection. The report provides complementary evidence to hold the government accountable for delivering on various aspects of the 2030 Agenda and as a basis for behavioural change among citizens.

The Shadow Report process adopted a mixed methodology with qualitative and quantitative aspects. Respondents' experiences and perceptions were collected from government officials, CSOs, and 1000 households across the country through questionnaires, key informant interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). Key policies guiding progress towards the six (6) Goals selected for review by the 2019 HLPF were reviewed. These selected Goals are SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals). Results were analysed and presented in simple charts and graphs.

Key Messages

A. Strong National Level Institutional Arrangements, but Weak Local Level Coordination

Ghana has adopted an inclusive and multi-stakeholder partnership approach to the implementation of the SDGs, backed by sound institutional arrangements and high-level political support. National planning and budgeting processes take account of the SDGs. However, these structures that operate at the national level have not been successfully translated to the sub-national level, namely the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs). Activities related to SDGs at the local level are not well coordinated, which could undermine accountability and inclusiveness as well as efforts at achieving the targets. Although the MMDAs have integrated the SDGs into their local development plans, they have not done much to promote local ownership or awareness or to actively engage other stakeholders on the implementation of the SDGs. This integration could be achieved by the MMDAs replicating the national level implementation structures, such as the Implementation Coordination Committee (ICC).

B. Low Level of Awareness and Citizens' Ownership of the Goals

There is a low level of awareness and knowledge on the SDGs among households and citizens. Apathy, partisan politicisation of development issues, and polarisation hinder citizens' mobilisation around the SDGs. At a minimum, it is expected that citizens should know the key principles and concepts of the SDGs. Some of these key principles and concepts are inclusion, gender, climate change, partnerships, accountability, and "leave no one behind".

C. Significant Contributions to SDG Implementation by CSOs, but Requires

Replication and Scaling-Up

CSOs in Ghana are making significant contributions to the implementation of the SDGs at national, regional, and district levels. In relation to the six (6) SDGs for discussion at the 2019 HLPF, Education (SDG 4) had the most CSOs working in that sector. This was followed by CSOs working to address inequality (SDG 10), and then those involved in climate change (SDG 13).

Contributions of CSOs are mainly in the areas of public awareness creation; training of local NGOs and citizens to monitor progress on the implementation and service-delivery of programmes, such as the Ghana school feeding program, subsidised fertilizer, National Health Insurance, and quality healthcare; advocacy towards increased resource allocation and effective implementation; monitoring and reporting; promotion of innovative interventions, such as climate smart agriculture; and, holding government accountable for inclusivity.

However, CSOs need to step up service provision to complement public service delivery, particularly in hard-to-reach communities. One of the major challenges that hamper CSOs' contributions is a weak capacity of some organisations to design and to implement interventions related to SDGs in an integrated manner. Other hindrances include apparent mistrust between CSOs and government agencies as well as inadequate funding.

D. The CSOs Platform is a Vibrant and Catalytic Network, but its Presence at the Sub-National Level Requires Strengthening

The formation of the CSOs Platform has provided an avenue for engagement and collaboration among non-state civic organisations as well as with government and the private sector. The CSOs Platform has also resulted in a vibrant and united CSOs front for engagement with

development partners and other stakeholders. The emerging culture of collaboration between CSOs and government has resulted in the reduction of mutual mistrust and suspicion as well as increased partnership in the implementation of the SDGs. However, increased cooperation with government has not undermined the watchdog role that CSOs play on behalf of citizens. It has rather provided an avenue for CSOs to exact increased government responsiveness, as the latter takes the concerns of citizens on board to accelerate progress on the SDGs. At the same time, CSOs are aware that actions that compromise their role as watchdogs are counter-productive.

E. Three Years into Implementation, Ghana's Performance and Progress are a mixture of Successes and Challenges

Ghana's performance on the goals that will be the focus of discussions at the 2019 HLPF is mixed. Appreciable achievements have been made in some areas, but other areas need critical action to respond to the SDGs targets. Almost all respondents noted that the country had made significant progress in increasing access to education, however, there were concerns about the quality of education. About 80% of respondent households acknowledged Ghana's high economic growth rate, but asserted that the growth had not resulted in the needed decent jobs. An appreciable proportion of households (59%) believe that inequality was either on the rise or that Ghana had stagnated in relation to achieving equality. Most households interviewed (80%) were of the view that little or no effort had been made to address the issue of climate change. Less than 10% of respondents believed Ghanaians had high access to justice and public institutions, and 38% believed that citizens did not have access to justice and public institutions.

Thus, from the perspectives of citizens surveyed, Ghana is doing well on SDG 4 in terms of provision of access to education, particularly with the introduction of the Free Senior High School program and the redefinition of basic education to include high schools. However, the country can do better to improve the quality of education. On the other hand, much needed progress on Goal 8, by way of decent jobs for citizens, has not been made, although records on economic growth appear impressive. The country needs to do more to attain targets of Goal 10, since inequality is on the rise, according to both citizens interviewed and official statistics. Recent laws and actions of the government, such as the passage of the Right to Information Law (RTI), establishment of the Office of the Special Prosecutor, and the amendment of the Witness Protection Law, should go a long way to support the fight against corruption, thereby contributing to the achievement of Goal 16.

F. Weak CSO Involvement in Data Collection on SDG Implementation:

Out of every three (3) responding CSOs, two (2) were not collecting data on implementation of the SDGs. CSOs that were collecting some level of data were working in a limited number of themes. This indicated that CSOs were not involved in comprehensive data collection on the SDGs. Only one out of ten responding CSOs indicated that they collected comprehensive, disaggregated data, including information on gender, status of disability, location, and age at community, district, regional, and national levels. Limited data collection poses a serious challenge to integrating and monitoring performance on SDGs in the day-to-day projects of CSOs.

Bringing it All Together:

In summary, CSOs in Ghana are contributing to the implementation of the SDGs by:

a. Providing a platform and opportunities for engagement for

over 300 non-governmental organisations – national, regional, community-based, and international – and a spectrum of other stakeholders on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development;

b. Facilitating SDG-related discussions and providing information at global, regional, national, and sub-national levels for actors in civil society, thereby effectively positioning the Goals in the public mind-space;

c. Providing dedicated thematic and sectoral consultations and integrated discussions towards sustainable development;

d. Capturing the aspirations of specific constituents, including youth, women and Persons with disabilities (PWDs), that may otherwise be missing;

e. Taking forward the successes of, and lessons learned from, the consultative and participatory processes adopted in the development of the SDGs into the implementation process;

f. Strengthening capacity for integrated and participatory planning amongst CSOs and their partners, as well as building capacities of CSOs to enable them to integrate SDGs monitoring into their programs;

g. Advocating for improved access to government programmes by vulnerable and marginalised groups as well as the most vulnerable and fragile communities;

h. Providing a crucial link between the different administrative and social levels to address the identified gaps so that no one is left behind, in such a way that CSOs act as the voice of the marginalised and facilitate the definition of local priorities;

i. Promoting awareness on entitlements and methods of access amongst wide sections of the population;

j. Championing CSO-led local innovations in promoting access to entitlements, grassroots advocacy, and assessment studies on SDGs-implementation;

k. Producing alternative report cards on progress on SDGs based on comparative data generated from citizens and grassroots communities;

l. Improving penetration of, and access to, government programmes, leading to improved efficiency in the implementation of pro-poor service delivery and social protection;

m. Informing policy-making and policy-makers with real time grassroots perspectives for fine-tuning strategies and plugging implementation gaps, thereby influencing policy by feeding resulting inputs into policy-formulation processes;

n. Providing multiplier effects as agents of change and engaging with communities to spur demand and initiatives for progress on the SDGs;

o. Holding government accountable on behalf of the communities and the citizens they represent; and,

p. Strategically positioning CSOs to provide a reliable, disaggregated, and holistic overall review of Ghana's progress on SDGs and providing a platform for exposure of interest groups and the nation at large to best practices.

CSOs are learning lessons in the Implementation of the SDGs

Three years down the line in implementing the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, CSOs in Ghana have, in varied ways, initiated evidence-based stocktaking of progress. Generally, this has been guided by questions of whether Ghana is on track and whether there are any inspiring breakthroughs and success stories that show results and impacts. CSOs have

been concerned with good practices that can be replicated and scaled up as well as gaps and constraints in the implementation of the SDGs.

The main lessons learnt from the implementation of the SDGs include the following:

a. Adopting multi-stakeholder approaches to operationalising the SDGs has the potential to increase wide participation in policy formulation and implementation towards realising the SDGs targets;

b. Broad stakeholder engagement of, and consultation with, PWDs enhances their ownership and interest in the SDGs;

c. Coordinated approaches to implementing the SDGs that have been consolidated at the national level should be replicated at the sub-national level;

d. Stronger results are more likely where and when all stakeholders work towards shared goals;

e. Optimising coordination requires conscious efforts to break down "silos", build on commonalities, share information, and harmonise their efforts to create synergies;

f. Engaging and providing space for vulnerable groups is indispensable for "leaving no one behind" in pursuit of the SDGs;

g. Rapid societal transformation can only result from meaningful involvement of women in decision-making around the SDGs;

h. Citizens are empowered to effectively engage duty-bearers when they are educated about the SDGs and equipped with information and skills for deliberative dialogue;

i. Enhancing CSOs' roles in the implementation of the SDGs requires them to have improved capacities and better understanding of policies and relevant laws; and,

j. Sensitising communities and

mobilising collective action have the potential to reduce corruption.

Key Opportunities

Notwithstanding implementation challenges and weaknesses identified, several opportunities exist that Ghana can leverage to accelerate implementation of the SDGs. These include:

a. Comprehensive policies and programs for all the Goals: The National Development Agenda, *"Agenda for Jobs: Creating Prosperity and Equal Opportunity for All (2018 to 2021),"* has been designed to reflect the SDGs. In turn, all Medium-Term Sector and District Development Plans that are based on the national agenda have the SDGs translated into their provisions;

b. The Government's successful linkage of the national budgeting process to the SDGs: what remains to be done is to ensure that adequate resources are committed for implementation and that disbursements are done in a timely manner, since the Goals are time-bound;

c. A vibrant and united CSOs front: The presence of a united CSO Platform engaged in progress monitoring, pushing accountability frontiers, and mobilising citizens around the SDGs is strong. Through the CSOs Platform on the SDGs, CSOs have been able to coordinate their efforts and engage with stakeholders in a complementary and collaborative manner, which is a structure that can be maintained and enhanced;

d. Establishment and coordination of media platforms: this is critical for ensuring sustained public engagement and interest in the goals and, as a result, accountability in the SDGs implementation;

e. Increased leveraging of technologies to enhance implementation of SDGs: Government agencies, CSOs, and the private sector are taking

advantage of the technological revolution in planning, implementing, and monitoring activities, as well as in communications and the dissemination of information. ICTs have proven to have multiplier effects; and,

f. Emerging culture of collaboration and partnership between CSOs and Government: The successful practice of collaboration is a recipe for the successful implementation of the SDGs. It has reduced mutual mistrust and suspicion and increased synergy in the implementation of sustainable development. There is a congenial environment for replicating this partnership at the MMDAs level.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The VNR processes provide a significant and participatory platform for national introspection on the implementation of the SDGs. This Shadow Report is meant to deepen the exercise of 'stock-taking' by providing an independent assessment of progress being made from citizens' perspectives.

A key difference between government's VNR report and CSOs' Shadow Report is that while the former relied considerably on secondary information and the review of official statistics generated by government agencies, the CSOs' Shadow Report was to a large extent informed by primary information gathered from households and communities from all over the country to reflect citizens' perspectives on the SDGs. The CSOs' Shadow Report undertook primary data collection through interviews, focus group discussions, and surveys, whereas the Government VNR report mainly utilised secondary data. The data collection process for the CSOs' Shadow Report consciously sought to include the views of women, PWDs, and citizens in hard-to-reach communities. The government's VNR report reviewed all the 17 Goals, while the

CSO report concentrated on the six (6) Goals prioritised for the 2019 HLPF. In addition, the CSOs' Shadow Report focused on themes such as levels of public awareness, the extent of CSOs' monitoring of progress and collection of data, and the contributions being made by CSOs towards the attainment of the agenda 2030. The Government VNR report had goal synergies, leaving no one behind, and youth participation as its cross-cutting themes.

The potential for Ghana to achieve the targets of the SDGs abounds and good structures have been put in place for effective implementation coordination, particularly at the national level. While progress being made on the Goals and targets can be positively assessed, key weaknesses remain that require urgent attention. Given the emerging model of partnership between stakeholders around the SDGs, CSOs' potential contributions can be enhanced if their critical capacity constraints are addressed in a concerted manner.

The CSOs Platform has proven to be a robust vehicle for constructive engagement between non-state actors, government, and private sector operators. These stakeholders, although critical, are not exhaustive, as other potential partners such as traditional authorities, religious bodies, and the academia need to be engaged in a more institutionalised manner.

In conclusion, the on-going VNR process provides significant insights into the workings of the national institutional arrangements. At the national level, a well-coordinated institutional mechanism, the ICC, leads the SDG implementation effort. The ICC consists of government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), private sector operators, and CSOs. Unfortunately, this model has not been replicated at the local level and the low involvement of key, non-state stakeholders has the potential to undermine the achievement of key

principles. These principles include the need for accountability and inclusiveness, the desire to leave no one behind, and the need to ensure that the SDGs are fully integrated into the budget process at the MMDAs level. These should not be a part of an unconnected process, but must be addressed within the context a strong involvement of citizens in key SDGs-related actions. There is also the urgent need for CSOs to address critical capacity gaps regarding their involvement in monitoring progress and collection of data in relation to the implementation of the SDGs.

Recommendations

Based on the main findings, the following recommendations are made for consideration by government, CSOs, private sector, and development partners. In addition, general recommendations are directed at both government and the CSOs Platform to collectively work to address related challenges in the spirit of partnership.

General Recommendations

a. All stakeholders, particularly Government and CSOs, should step-up awareness creation and public education campaigns across the country to promote ownership and support for the SDGs. While awareness creation efforts should target citizens, conscious attempts must be made to design and target interventions at public sector workers for them to relate their work to the SDGs. This two-pronged approach addresses both the supply and demand sides of awareness, ownership, and collective responsibility for the attainment the SDGs within the stipulated implementation period.

b. Government and the CSOs Platform should take immediate steps to put in place mechanisms to improve coordination and multi-partnership collaboration at the district level. The leadership of the ICC must act through the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) to issue guidelines on the formation of district-based ICCs. The CSOs Platform, on the other hand, should step up its efforts to create district Sub-Platforms to provide a common avenue for CSOs and civil society to engage in the implementation processes.

c. The ICC and the CSOs Platform should approach regional structures, such as the regional house of chiefs and faith-based organisations to find a niche for them to be involved in the implementation.

Recommendations to the Government

a. The SDGs Technical Steering Committee should be divided into sub-groups to make it more manageable, focused, and effective. With over 80 members, the number is too large to allow for effective functioning and management of the committee. By establishing sub-committees to handle thematic implementation areas in between committee meetings, the effectiveness of the committee will be greatly enhanced.

b. The roles of the SDGs Advisory Unit in the Office of the President and the ICC should be more clearly delineated to reduce potential duplication. The Advisory Unit supports the President in his role as an international advocate. Facilitating regional progress monitoring and engaging with peer African leaders will help to accelerate continental efforts on the SDGs and the link to the African Agenda 2063.

c. Future VNR reports should go beyond national statistical reviews to include more focus on implementation efforts at the sub-national level. Sub-national analysis will reveal realities that are often

hidden by national averages, and the inclusion of district-focused details will provide an appreciation of what is working well and areas that require further attention. This approach is critical for ensuring that no one is left behind in the implementation of the SDGs and that the accounting and reporting processes are inclusive.

d. Article 42 of the Local Government Act 936, 2016 states that a District Assembly shall facilitate the establishment of a structure for stakeholder participation in development processes initiated by the Assembly. This presents a unique opportunity and the legal basis for MMDAs to replicate the ICC model. Replicating the ICC arrangement at the district level would be a means of formalising the collaborative arrangement, thereby creating a sense of ownership in the planning process and outcomes among all stakeholders.

Recommendations to CSOs

a. The CSOs Platform must work closely with Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and other stakeholders to improve members' capacities for data collection, analysis and reporting at national and sub-national levels. Strengthening the capacities of larger CSOs and equipping them to train other CSOs will have a multiplier effect and expand SDGs-related data collection in Ghana. If CSOs concentrate on grassroots-level data, they will produce complementary information to the national level data on which the government focuses.

b. CSOs should build their capacity to operationalise key principles of the 2030 Agenda in their activities. These principles include "leaving no one behind", "balancing the three pillars of sustainable development (social, environmental and economic)", and the Goals being

"integrated and indivisible". These could be the main entry point for CSOs to comprehensively integrate the SDGs into their programming. The principles will also serve as the basis for CSOs monitoring progress, promoting a behavioural change that is critical for realising some key SDGs, and to hold duty bearers accountable for effective implementation of the goals.

c. The CSOs Platform should endeavour to bring in more of the well-established national level CSOs to partner district-based members to promote skills and knowledge transfer on the best approaches to the implementation of the global development agenda.

Recommendations to the Private Sector

a. Key umbrella organisations such as the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) and the Private Enterprise Federation (PEF) should consider a common platform to synergise their engagement on the SDGs. A common platform for private sector operators, like the CSOs Platform, would provide valuable entry points for engaging with key players. It will also position private sector operators to account for their contributions collectively rather than on an individual basis. Through such a platform, their collective obligations and contributions to such urgent issues as employment creation for young people in Ghana can be harmonised. Other areas of common concern would be their support to the economy and solutions to challenges like the migration crisis.

b. The private sector's contributions to achieving the SDGs should include providing financial support to improving the capacity of non-state actors and sustaining efforts at holding duty bearers accountable. This is critical in view of the dwindling funding to CSOs in

Ghana. The private sector must reconsider its approaches to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to include support for monitoring of progress and advocacy on the SDGs.

c. The idea of businesses re-designing their operations to take the SDGs into account or that SDGs make good business sense is gaining ground in Ghana. However, there has been little systematic analysis on the ways in which businesses are engaging with the SDGs and their actual impacts. This information is required for the private sector in Ghana to strategise more effectively to align business activities with the transformative Agenda of the SDGs.

Recommendations to Development Partners

a. Development Partners should harmonise their support to CSOs working on the SDGs. Development Partners and the ICC should prioritise support to the platform in a more coordinated manner to ensure its sustainability and to work with CSOs through the Platform.

b. Development Partners should identify a way to report on their contribution to the implementation of the SDGs in Ghana be it technical or financial.

c. Ghana's Development Partners should be visibly promoting partnerships for effective development co-operation that provides a dedicated space for all stakeholders to advance the effectiveness of respective efforts. Development Partners should also drive political momentum on effective development co-operation and share evidence and lessons learned that both internal and external stakeholders can apply to their own contexts. Specifically, Development Partners should consider: 1) supporting the country's leadership in strengthening institutions and systems for effective implementation, 2) advocating for smarter and more transparent development co-operation, 3) delivering results that are predictable and aligned to Ghana's national priorities, 4) ensuring development partnerships involve a broad range of stakeholders to maximise impact, and 5) monitoring progress on the implementation of the development effectiveness principles through a process led by Ghana.

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8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

13 CLIMATE ACTION

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

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16 PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In September 2015, world leaders unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as the successor framework to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The new agenda sought to complete the unfinished business of the MDGs and promote balanced development by paying attention to the three pillars of sustainable development (social, environmental, and economic). The resulting Agenda comprised seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets.

The 2030 Agenda calls for collective action on the critical challenges to humanity and the planet. Governments, civil society, private sector entities and other development actors must work together on this agenda, with a view to leaving no one behind.

Paragraph 79 of the 2030 Agenda document[1], encourages member states to conduct voluntary, regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels with contributions from civil society, private sector, UN entities, major groups, and other relevant stakeholders. The objective of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) is to facilitate sharing of experiences and mutual learning on successes, challenges and lessons, with a view to accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda[2]. These reviews also serve as the basis for the annual High-level Political Forum (HLPF) meetings held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations, as well as the General Assembly every four years.

Ghana will present the findings of its first VNR in July 2019 at the HLPF. The process has involved the active participation of all segments of society and contributions from various levels of government. An approach involving the "whole of government" and "whole of society" has been adopted for the review. Ghana's VNR process is led by the SDGs ICC, which

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[1] https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld

[2] UN-DESA, https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/

includes a representative from the CSOs Platform. The main VNR report will be based largely on the analysis of data on the SDGs indicators produced by various government agencies; lessons from innovative SDGs initiatives; and performance on three (3) cross-cutting thematic issues, namely Children and Youth Engagement in the SDGs, Leave No One Behind, and Synergies among the Goals.

Following Ghana's decision to conduct its first VNR and present the findings in July 2019 at the HLPF, the CSOs Platform with financial and technical support from GIZ Support for Decentralisation Reforms Programme (SfDR) and their Agenda 2030 unit, decided to produce a shadow VNR report to complement the government's report to promote mutual accountability on the implementation of the SDGs. The Shadow Report is also expected to showcase the efforts and initiatives by civil society to implement the SDGs. Shadow Reporting is an accepted practice through which non-state organisations can supplement the information provided by the State and highlight the perspectives of citizens and CSOs. These reports provide an evaluation of country situations from the standpoint of civil society and are helpful in calling attention to critical issues that governments might have failed to highlight. It is important to note that Shadow Reports are not only about emphasizing the negatives of government's performance but also commending what is being done right.

1.2 Objective of the Report

The CSOs Platform has prepared this Shadow Report to complement the Government of Ghana's VNR report. By so doing, Ghana presents a more comprehensive picture of the nation's progress on the SDGs, particularly the priority goals for the 2019 HLPF. These are SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 13 (climate action), and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions).

This report captures CSOs' contributions to the implementation of the SDGs in some detail, assesses the level of public awareness on the SDGs, and presents the experiences and perceptions of households across the country. The Shadow Report also assesses the implementation arrangements, data collection processes as well as the management and usage of information at the sub-national level. In addition, the report provides evidence to inform advocacy, as well as engage government on improving accountability and inclusiveness in the implementation of the SDGs. Finally, the Shadow Report provides recommendations for improving CSOs' activities on the SDGs over the next few years, for strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships, for promoting ownership of the SDGs at the district level, and for changing behaviours that impede development.

METHODOLOGY

2.1 The Process and Approach used for the Development of the Shadow Report

Data collection for the preparation of the Shadow Report was conducted between March and April 2019. Members of the CSOs Platform as well as other stakeholders participated in the data collection process and facilitated interactions at the sub-national level. A series of meetings and workshops were organised among members to agree on the approach, format, and focus areas of the report. A Technical Committee was established to oversee the development of the report, consisting of the Conveners of the Sub-Platforms working on the 6 focal SDGs of the 2019 HLPF. The Technical Committee also included representatives of district Sub-Platforms and the GFD to provide perspectives of PWDs.

A team of consultants was hired to support the execution of the assessment and the formulation of the Shadow Report. The Technical Committee reviewed the data collection tools and draft outline of the report and also collated case studies from various CSOs, showcasing their efforts towards the implementation of the SDGs.

This study adopted both qualitative and quantitative approaches. It involved a desk review of relevant documents[3], semi-structured interviews with key informants, household surveys, and focus group discussions. Documents reviewed included various sector policy documents and reports on the SDGs. The design of the data collection tools was based on an initial desk review, bearing in mind the specific objectives of the study.

Senior officers at MDAs actively engaged in the implementation of the SDGs were interviewed on SDGs processes and challenges. At the regional level, CSOs were interviewed to explore their contributions to the implementation of the SDGs. Households were interviewed in ten (10) administrative regions[4] of the country to assess their level of awareness on the SDGs and their perceptions on the progress on implementation of the

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[3] The desk review included the following documents: 2019 national budget; Medium term development plans of District Assemblies; NDPC Acts 47 and 48; Coordinated Program of Economic and Social Development Policies 2017-24; Performance Audit Report on SDGs by Auditor General; National Policy on Public Private Partnership (2011); Child and Family Welfare Policy; Ghana Forest & Wildlife Policy; National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy; Ghana National Climate Change Master Plan Action Programmes for Implementation: 2015–2020; Ghana National Climate Change Policy; Health Sector Gender Policy; ICT in Education Policy 2015; Inclusive Education Policy; Justice for Children Policy; National Ageing Policy; National Decentralisation Framework; National Gender and Children Policy; National Social Protection Policy; and, the National Employment Policy.

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[4] Data was nationally collected along the structure of the 10 old administrative regions. Even though Ghana has recently added 6 regions, they were not included in the study, as they have not yet been administratively established.

selected six Goals for the 2019 HLPF (SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16, and 17).

The findings from the field research and recommendations were reviewed and validated at a meeting of the CSOs' Steering and Technical Committees. Members of the larger ICC were provided with the draft report and comments from members have been incorporated in the Shadow Report. The final draft was subjected to a further review and validation by a technical expert.

2.2 Sampling Framework and Data Collection Instruments

The Household Survey

Stratified, purposive, and quota sampling techniques were used to select 1000 households and targeted respondents to the questionnaires. During the preparation of the tools and review stage, the Technical Committee advised that all regional capitals be excluded from the sampled towns, with the objective to focus on rural and underserved communities, and that 40% women and 20% PWDs should be purposively sampled. For each of the 10 regions, a total of 100 respondents were sampled.

Twenty (20) PWDs were purposively selected with the assistance of the GFD in sampled districts to respond to the household questionnaire. Thus, a total of 100 PWDs were sampled purposively from five (5) selected districts. The five (5) districts were sampled randomly from each region. Each of the 5 selected districts was then divided into 5 sections and one community randomly selected from each of the 5 sections of the survey. To ensure that the quota for PWDs was met, a minimum of 4 PWDs per each community were located with the assistance of the GFD's district focal person. Thereafter, sixteen households were then selected at random from the communities to respond to the questionnaires. There was a deliberate effort to ensure that respondents included at least 40% women (as household heads), and children below 15 years to be as inclusive as possible in capturing citizens' perspectives. Although the target for the survey was 1000, the analysis was of 998 responding households.

The selection of 1000 households considered those who would ordinarily be left behind in the policy discourse. To address potential ethical issues involved in interviewing children less than 15 years of age, the team sought the consent of their parents/guardians. The actual interviews were conducted in the parents' presence. For data quality assurance purposes, enumeration teams involved members of the CSOs Platform operating in the particular districts. Their role was to monitor and supervise data collection and to provide interpretation services wherever language posed a barrier to communication between the team and respondents. The team also used the Ghana Postal Service's Global Positioning System (GPS) App to record the digital address of respondents where it was not boldly indicated on the house. Where there was no internet connectivity, the team used the existing house number. This was to ensure that information was collected from the sampled households.

Data Collection Instruments and Field Survey

Three (3) main instruments were used for data collection, namely the household survey questionnaire, interview guides for government functionaries, and the framework for the FGDs. Qualitative and quantitative data were collected using checklists and structured questionnaires. The questionnaires for the CSOs were developed to capture data on the 6 prioritised SDGs for the 2019 VNR (SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16, and 17). The tools for the household survey focused on citizens' awareness, ownership, and engagement of the SDGs at all levels. The FGDs were intended to triangulate information gathered from the field and provide further insights into data gathered from all sources. Three (3) separate FGDs involving 30 participants each (and a total of 90 participants nationwide) were organised in Tamale, Kumasi, and Cape Coast. The entire country was zoned ecologically into three with participants being drawn from each zone. All participants were drawn from CSOs, but conscious efforts were made to include member organisations that focused on youth, PWDs, children, and women.

Prior to the data collection exercise, enumerators were recruited and trained in all regions on the use of the tools, the sampling techniques, and on ethical and cultural considerations. Although the data collection tools were prepared in the English language, the field enumerators were trained to be able to explain the questions and issues in major local languages (including Twi, Ga, Fanti, Hausa, Dagomba, and Ewe) to respondents who were not fluent in the English language. The data collection tools were pilot-tested in three (3) regions with 15 respondents each. The results were reviewed, and challenges addressed before actual data collection started. At the end of each day's data collection, the team held a de-briefing session where emerging issues and challenges were discussed, and appropriate actions taken.

Interviews with CSOs

A selection of CSO respondents was drawn from the CSOs Platform's Database to identify members working on the 6 priority Goals. As much as possible, members of the relevant Sub-Platforms were requested to answer the CSOs' questionnaires to capture their activities related to the implementation of the SDGs. Other CSOs outside the Platform including International NGOs that were considered to have critical inputs were interviewed to generate information on their interventions in the selected Goal areas. In total, 88 CSOs responded to the questionnaires.

Interviews with Government Officials

Structured interviews with government officials from key MDAs connected to the 6 prioritised SDGs were conducted to gain insights into the implementation structures as well as their partnerships with CSOs and the private sector. The MDAs included the Ministries of Finance, Planning, Education, Interior, Defence, Justice, Foreign Affairs, Youth and Sports, Energy, Water and Sanitation, Gender Children and Social Protection, and Employment and Labour Relations. The agencies also included the National Youth Authority, Labour Commission, and the African Peer Review Mechanism.

Information from the questionnaires was coded and summarised using SPSS. Notes from the interviews and FGDs were summarised and analysed using content analysis by categorising verbal data to classify and summarise the information. The results were presented using charts and graphs.

NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE AND MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS

3.1 Introduction

This chapter outlines and analyses the implementation structure for the SDGs in Ghana. It highlights the multi-stakeholder character of the arrangements, critiques the operations so far, identifies what is working, and proposes areas that need strengthening.

3.2 Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships on the SDGs

Since the adoption of the SDGs in September 2015, various stakeholders have worked together to set-up a robust ecosystem that supports collaborations and partnership arrangements. Civil society, public entities, private sector organisations, traditional authorities, and development partners have found space to collaborate on several SDGs-related issues including data, awareness creation, mobilising resources, and capacity building. The following section describes the national implementation framework and civil society coordination structures.

3.2.1 The National SDG Implementation Framework

The primary vehicle for implementing the SDGs in Ghana is the decentralised planning system which assigns development planning responsibilities to the MDAs), and implementation roles to the MMDAs.[5] The Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs) coordinate, monitor, evaluate, and provide technical backstopping for the districts within their geographical area. The NDPC is the apex coordination body at the national level.

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[5]NDPC 2018, GSS, 2018

In February 2019, the Ghana CSOs Platform on the SDGs in partnership with the Government trained news editors and media reporters in Greater Accra on monitoring and reporting on the SDGs. A media network for the SDGs was created in Greater Accra following the training.

Some CSOs, private sector and traditional authorities partnered the Asutifi-North District Assembly to develop and implement a Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) master plan. The framework called Asutifi North Ahonidie Mpontuo (ANAM) seeks to achieve SDG 6 targets in the district by 2030. The Government, the CSOs Platform and PEF have collaborated to organise multi-stakeholder consultative meetings on the SDGs seeking to set the implementation of the goals on a sound footing at the time.

The planning system allows for participation of all stakeholders including civil society, private sector, traditional authorities, youth groups, PWDs, and other marginalised groups in all stages of the planning process.

To foster better coordination in the implementation of the SDGs, new structures have been set up to augment the decentralised planning system[6]. These new structures are the High-Level Ministerial Committee (HLMC), the SDGs ICC, and the National Technical Committee (NTC). These bodies have served as avenues for deepening inter-sectoral coordination and multi-stakeholder collaborations at all levels, and the CSOs Platform is represented on all three committees. The Minister of Planning chairs the HLMC with 15 ministers of state as members. The Director-General of the NDPC chairs both ICC and NTC. Whilst the ICC draws 15 members from selected MDAs and a representative of the CSOs Platform, the NTC comprises 80 members including 7 CSO representatives and 73 representatives from the MDAs.

Following President Nana Akufo-Addo's appointment as Co-Chair of the UN Secretary General's Eminent Group of SDGs Advocates, the SDGs Advisory Unit was established in the Office of the President to provide technical, policy, and strategic support to his advocacy efforts. The Unit's core functions include exploring innovative ways of promoting advocacy and implementation of the SDGs and leveraging the President's global role to support the domestic agenda to enhance prospects of realising the SDGs. A schematic representation of Government's implementation arrangement for the SDGs is shown in Figure 3.1.
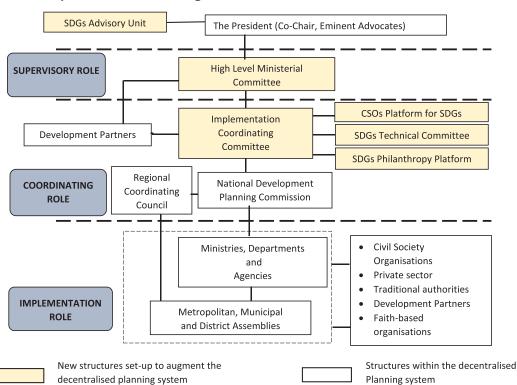
Figure 3.1: Implementation arrangement for SDGs in Ghana

Source: NDPC, 2018

[6]Ghana SDGs indicator baseline report, 2019

3.2.2 Civil Society Coordination Structures

Under the MDGs, a CSOs Platform was constituted to conduct progress-monitoring and advocacy activities. However, weak coordination with the Government and the inability to sustain harmonisation amongst CSOs limited its effectiveness. Follow-up activities in the post-MDG era, including negotiations for the SDGs and financing for development, encouraged the Government to engage civil society and include their perspectives in these processes.

In 2014, the Government, through the Environmental Protection Agency, formed the National Technical Steering Committee (NTSC) to coordinate Ghana's participation in the processes leading to the drafting and adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The NTSC was a multi-stakeholder group with representatives from government, civil society, private sector and academia. Through this arrangement, CSOs were able to make inputs to inform government's contributions on a range of issues that were captured in the outcome document[7].

In September 2015, when the SDGs were launched, the potential that a common civil society platform and voice offered was evident. The Government of Ghana appreciated the importance of a common platform through which to engage CSOs and invited civil society to form such an entity. A Coordinating Unit of CSOs was established and incorporated the lessons learned from organising around the MDGs. The notion of a decentralised structure owned by its members and Sub-Platforms was integrated into the design.

The CSOs Platform was formed with the aim of providing space for civil society actors to coordinate their efforts, jointly advocate for change, share information including best practices, and monitor progress in achieving the Global Goals by 2030. Although the CSOs platform was formed in October 2015, its vision of being "the coordinating platform for CSOs in Ghana in pursuit of achieving the SDGs by 2030" was articulated in May 2016. Its mission is to "bring civil society organisations across Ghana together to foster joint efforts, partnerships with key stakeholders and effective advocacy for achieving the SDGs at the national, regional and international levels".

The CSOs Platform presently coordinates over 300 CSO members, including coalitions, associations, unions, community-based organisations, local, national and international non-governmental organisations, as well as religious groups (as of May 2019). It has 18 Sub-Platforms, seventeen (17) of these linked to the SDGs and a youth-led and youth-focused CSOs Sub-Platform. A Convener and between two to five Co-Conveners manage each Sub-Platform and three Co-Chairs supervise the activities of the Secretariat (see Figure 3.2 for a schematic structure of the CSOs Platform).
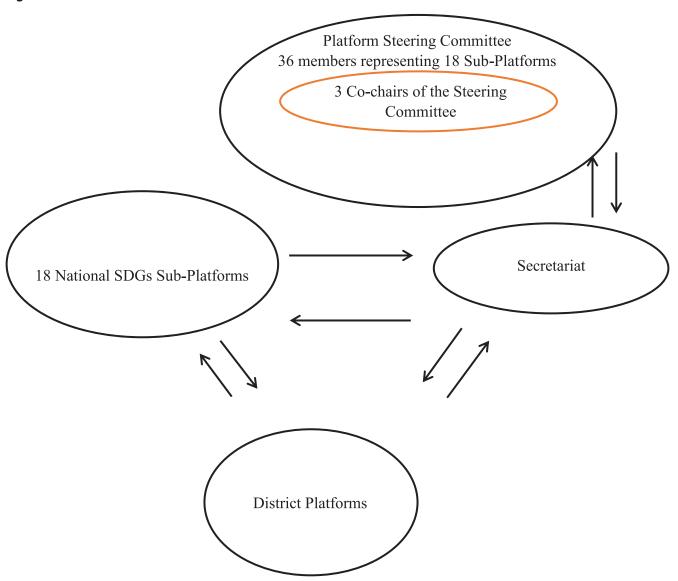
In 2017, the CSOs Platform was formally inaugurated and has since been governed by a Steering Committee and the Co-Chairs. With the formalisation of the CSOs Platform, the Coordinating Unit was dissolved. The CSOs Platform has relied on its members to host meetings, sponsor events, and support its activities. The first coordinators volunteered their time and institutional members, such as CARE International Ghana, provided initial support for piloting innovative approaches, such as the establishment of district Sub-Platforms.

In order to promote national ownership of the CSOs Platform, the Secretariat was established in the offices of SEND GHANA. Funding support for the coordinator's

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[7]*Transforming Our World: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*

position was provided later that year by Oxfam in Ghana. The CSOs Platform has since received support for further activities and projects through STAR Ghana and GIZ Support for Decentralisation Reforms Programme, Agenda 2030 Unit. However, the culture of members hosting and self-financing Sub-Platform meetings, Steering Committee meetings, and Annual General Meetings continues to be strong.

Figure 3.2: Schematic Structure of the Ghana CSOs Platform on SDGs

Source: Ghana CSOs Platform on SDGs

The CSOs Platform on the SDGs serves as the focal point for engagement between CSOs, the private sector, and government on the SDGs. It has observer status on the HLMC and is a member of both the ICC and the NTC. Since its formation, the CSOs Platform has provided opportunities for civil society actors to influence and actively participate in SDGs-related activities including the preparation of the SDGs indicator baseline report, the SDGs indicator monitoring framework, participation in the HLPF as part of Government delegation, development of the Data Roadmap for the SDGs, and the VNR process. The working relationship between the Government of Ghana and CSOs is deemed to be a novelty and has received commendation at national, regional and global levels.

In April 2017, the CSOs Platform started setting-up district level Sub-Platforms. The first three pilot District Platforms were established in East Mamprusi, Garu Tempane and Nadowli Kaleo districts. Between December 2018 and April 2019, similar district level platforms were set up in Ho municipality as well as the Bongo and Offinso South districts. These Sub-Platforms are expected to coordinate the activities of CSOs at the district level and streamline efforts to achieve the SDGs locally.

3.3 Analysis of SDGs Implementation and Coordination Structures

3.2.1 Effectiveness and Benefits of the Structures

Ghana's institutional architecture for implementing the SDGs provides a good basis for engagement. The arrangements are participatory, inclusive, and encourage collaboration state and non-state development actors. It also promotes intra- and inter-sectoral collaboration. There is evidence of strong political support through the establishment of the HLMC by the President, which has the responsibility of overseeing the implementation of the SDGs in Ghana.

The SDGs have been integrated into planning and budgeting processes at national and sub-national levels. This is to ensure that Agenda 2030 is not pursued in Ghana as a separate project. With the implementation arrangement anchored on the decentralised planning system, the planning units of the MDAs and MMDAs do not have to prepare two separate plans to satisfy national and international requirements. The SDGs are therefore not perceived as an additional chore or separate project promoted by the United Nations, but as an essential part of their official mandate.

The adoption of a multi-stakeholder approach to the implementation of the SDGs has not only provided a more structured way for government and CSOs to engage, but has also enabled government and CSOs to engage other stakeholders, such as traditional authorities, private sector, media, and academia.

Key roles for the implementation of the SDGs are well defined, with NDPC leading planning and reporting-related activities, Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) in charge of data production and collation, and the Ministry of Finance responsible for mobilising and disbursing funds for implementation.

3.2.2 Challenges/Weaknesses of the Structures

The structures for effective coordination as they exist at the national level are not present at the MMDA level. As a result, coordination of implementation and engagement efforts at the local government level is weak. Despite the guidelines provided by NDPC for MMDAs to mainstream the SDGs into their medium-term plans and annual action plans, there is little concerted drive at the district level to promote action(s) to implement the goals.

The SDGs NTC has not been active since its formation. This could potentially be due to

difficulties in organising regular meetings for such a large group (with a membership more than 80 people). Consequently, the cross-sectoral discussion of technical issues to provide guidance for the implementation of the SDGs that had been envisaged has not been regular or institutionalised. There may be some merit in dividing the Technical Committee into sub-groups to ensure more effective operation of the Committee. The sub-divisions could be based on the 17 SDGs, the 5 P's of the SDGs (people, prosperity, planet, peace and partnership), or any other suitable criteria.

The current arrangements and coordinating activities revolve largely around civil society, private sector, development partners, and government. Other important stakeholders such as academia, traditional authorities, and faith-based organisations have not been as actively engaged in the SDGs discourse and implementation process. It is important to proactively bring all these other stakeholders on board and explore opportunities for forging partnerships to support the implementation of the SDGs.

Coordination between the ICC and the SDGs Advisory Unit needs to be strengthened particularly in awareness creation. It appears that some awareness creation campaigns by the SDGs Advisory Unit have taken place with little involvement of the ICC. Continued implementation of activities without strong involvement of the ICC has the potential to undermine institutional collaboration and coordination required for optimal results.

CHAPTER FOUR

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS' CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Introduction

Paragraph 89 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires stakeholders to report on their contributions to the implementation of the SDGs[8]. The roles of CSOs are to monitor progress (as watchdogs) and provide representation (as voices for the people, especially those 'left behind') in order to ensure the realisation of sustainable development outcomes in service delivery. This chapter contains information on how CSOs working in Ghana are responding to the call for stakeholders to report on their contributions to the implementation of the SDGs. Although many CSOs are implementing varied interventions that are related to the SDGs, the analysis in this report focused specifically on

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those whose contributions relate to the six (6) Goals that will be the focus of detailed discussions at the 2019 HLPF.

In accounting for CSOs' contributions to the SDGs, the following have been taken into account: first, the diversity of CSOs in terms of type, size, capacity, and focus, amongst other considerations; second, reporting on interventions and implementations already undertaken by CSOs; and third, the specific "value-addition" (results) notably related to the ideas of "leaving no one behind", universality, interconnectedness, and participation.

By reporting on their contributions, members of the CSOs Platform seek to fulfil the principles of mutual accountability, peer learning, coordination, and solidarity within the context of partnership for sustainable development.

Bringing it All Together: A Snapshot of CSOs' Contributions

The chapter presents an analysis of how CSOs in Ghana are contributing to the achievement of the six goals, including challenges, lessons learned, and opportunities going forward. A snapshot of CSOs' efforts to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs is indicated below.

Information Generation, Dissemination and Awareness-Raising

a. Organising over 300 non-governmental entities – national, regional, community-based, and international – as well as a spectrum of other stakeholders to make important contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
b. Facilitating discussions and providing information on the

implications of sustainable development at global, regional, national, and sub-national levels;

c. Promoting dedicated thematic and sectoral consultations as well as integrated discussions; and,

d. Promoting large scale awareness on entitlements and methods of access by championing CSO-led local innovations in entitlement access, grassroots advocacy, and studies on the level of implementation of the SDGs.

Monitoring and Accountability

a. Producing progress report cards on the SDGs based on data collected from grassroots communities, groups, and citizens and analysed against government's records;

b. Holding government accountable on behalf of communities and citizens, and thus, effectively positioning the SDGs in the public mind-space;

c. Improving penetration of, and access to, government programmes leading to improved efficiency in the implementation of pro-poor programs and social protection service delivery; and,

d. Purposefully engaging communities to spur the demand side to exact results and claim initiatives to achieve progress on the SDGs.

Representation and Voice

a. Capturing and presenting the aspirations of specific constituents and sections of the population including young people, women, PWDs, vulnerable, and marginalised groups;

b. Advocating for improved access to government programmes by vulnerable and marginalised groups and communities at the "last mile"[9];

c. Providing a crucial link between the different levels of governance to address the identified gaps so that no one is left behind and providing perspectives on realities on the ground;

d. Acting as the voice of the marginalised, facilitating the definition of localised priorities, and using this information to influence policy; and,

e. Informing policy makers using real-time grassroots perspectives to fine-tune strategies and plug implementation gaps.

Organising and Capacity-Building

a. Taking forward the successes of consultative and participatory processes adopted in the development of the SDGs into the implementation phase and building on these from lessons learned;

b. Strengthening the capacities of CSOs and their partners for integrated and participatory planning especially relating to the SDGs as well as for integrating SDG monitoring into their ongoing programmes;

c. Strategically positioning CSOs to review progress from disaggregated perspectives and exposing their audiences to best practices; and,

d. Promoting and achieving multiplier effects as agents of change.
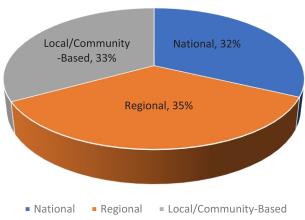
4.1.1 Background of CSO Respondents

A total of eighty-eight (88) CSOs working on the six (6) prioritised Goals participated in

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[9] A new approach targets and prioritises the idea of the "last mile". This concept that ordinarily refers to the end-user is used in the context of the SDGs as including the poorest of the poor and also the household, sub-national, and small enterprise levels that are under-served and excluded, where development needs are greatest, and where resources are most scarce. A focus on getting to the last mile is one way of meeting the aspiration to "leave no one behind". UNDP (2016) Getting to the Last Mile in Least Development Countries. United Nations Development Programme: 10th November, 2016.

the survey. There was reasonably balanced representation of those working at the national (32%), regional (35%) and community (33%) levels as depicted in Figure 2 below.
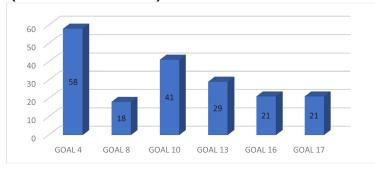
Figure 4.1: Diversity of CSOs Reporting on their Contributions to the Six Goals

Source: Field data, April 2019

The majority of CSO respondents worked on Goals 4 (education) and 10 (inequality), 58 and 41 organisations respectively. As shown in Figure 3 below, the rest are fairly distributed across the remaining prioritised goals. The concentration of CSO respondents' efforts on Goals 4 and 10 had been informed mainly by their programming focus. Issues of education and inequality are critical and a priority in the effort to address national development challenges.

Figure 4.2: CSOs working on SDGs (in absolute numbers)

Source: Field data, April 2019

4.2 Contributions to the Attainment of Goal 4 – Access to Quality Education

Fifty-eight (58) organisations, or about 66% of responding CSOs, were engaged in educational activities in relation to SDG 4 targets. Successive governments in Ghana have prioritised education policies in their plans for accelerated development. This is in recognition of the fact that education is an important vehicle through which knowledge, skills, attitudes, values, and character are acquired to build the human capital necessary for socio-economic development. Public and private investments over the past decade have led to significant expansion of facilities across all sectors of education[10]. This expansion and the introduction of policies aimed at removing cost-related barriers have led to improved access. This notwithstanding, several educational facilities are dilapidated, need rehabilitation or are simply inadequate[11]. In some cases, children still study under trees, while others walk long distances to school. Many educational facilities are not disability friendly. These factors have led to several CSOs channelling their contributions towards addressing challenges in the education sector to complement government's efforts, while also demanding performance and accountability.

A summary of key areas in which CSOs have intervened to ensure the attainment of targets under SDG 4 has been presented below.

	KEY INTERVENTIONS AREAS
a.	Promoting local ownership of education related-SDGs
b.	Mobilising and facilitating citizens to influence educational policy formulation
c.	Monitoring government's implementation of education policies/ programmes to ensure effectiveness in delivery of desired outcomes
d.	Initiating community, district, and national dialogues to create awareness on relevant educational related targets and indicators
e.	Initiating community, district and national dialogues to create local Sub-Platforms
f.	Supporting outreaches by national government and non-state actors targeting poor and vulnerable groups
g.	Advocating comprehensive social protection to enable universal quality education for all Ghanaians
h.	Programmes facilitating access to basic educational services for all
i.	Community empowerment projects to increase accountability in the education sector
j.	Awareness raising among poor and vulnerable groups for development accountability purposes, for example older persons and PWDs, on the need for civic responsibility
k.	Mobilisation of poor and vulnerable groups for awareness raising, advocacy, and generation of citizen data.
l.	Provision of accessible educational infrastructure
m.	Provision of teaching and learning aid
n.	Building capacity of school management committees
o.	Building capacity of teachers
p.	Promoting inclusive education

Source: Field data, April 2019

The interventions by the CSOs towards ensuring and promoting quality education resulted in the following broad outcomes:

a. Provision of ICT essentials leading to improvement in examinations results at the basic level in the Tema municipality;

b. Attainment of inclusive education through increased enrolment of street children and girls in Tema, Accra, Kumasi, and Tamale;

c. Increased responsiveness of over 57 MMDAs through the provision of educational infrastructure in rural communities;

d. Increased girl's enrolment through the provision of free school uniforms and other educational materials in the Tamale municipality;

Box 1: Ensuring Quality Education – An Initiative by Centre for Learning and Childhood Development-Ghana

In 2017, the Center for Learning and Childhood Development-Ghana initiated a project dubbed 'Challenges Basic School Students Face in Solving Word Mathematical Problems'. The project was initiated to address poor performance of Ghanaian students in both local and international mathematics tests, most prominently in word problems. The project focused on addressing target 4.1 of SDG 4, which seeks to ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes by 2030.
The project, which is located in the Greater Accra Region, seeks to achieve the following objectives:
   a) Identify the challenges basic school pupils face in solving mathematics word problems,
   b) Examine the differences between high performing versus low performing schools regarding the errors students make in solving mathematical word problems, and
   c) Characterize student-level factors that are associated with making errors above the transformation level of the Newman procedure (high content knowledge).

The project used a cross-sectional, quantitative study to investigate the types of errors students made on mathematics word problems and compared high versus low performing schools to identify innovative areas to improve the performance of low performing public schools. A hundred and twenty (120) students were selected at random from 6 public Junior High Schools in the Tema Municipality to complete five word problems and a survey. The Newman Error Classification Procedure (reading, comprehension, transformation, processing and encoding errors) was used to systematically categorize the types of errors students made. Multiple logistic regression was used to determine student level and factors linked to high mathematics content knowledge.

The results show that students made errors the most in transforming word problems in English into mathematical operations (44.4%). About 88% of the errors that students from the low performing schools made were in reading, comprehension, and transformation compared to 25% in the high performing schools. Receiving help with mathematics at home was the strongest predictor of high mathematics content knowledge (Adjusted OR: 3.22; 95% CI: 1.02-10.3).

Lessons and findings from this initiative are being used to improve mathematics performance and schools are being engaged to invest energy in teaching children reading and comprehension. Consequently, students are being prepared not only for reading subjects but also mathematics. Also, parents are being engaged with innovative strategies to help students with mathematics at the home.

4.2.1: CSOs' Observations on Policies and Practices that Need Improvement

CSOs observed the following challenges to achieving the goal of quality education for all:

a. High deficits in the availability of educational infrastructure;
b. Most of the educational infrastructure available in Ghana is inaccessible to learners with disabilities;
c. Focus on and attention to children with special needs by the Ghana Education Service (GES) is woefully inadequate;
d. Blatant refusal and unwillingness of some parents to take children with special needs and wards with disabilities to school is due to their limited or lacking knowledge about appropriate institutions for their wards;
e. High stigmatisation and negative

perception regarding disability serves as a significant barrier to children with disabilities being admitted into schools;

f. Non-participation of blind and partially sighted learners in mathematics and science in the second cycle schools also narrows the scope of learning for these students;

g. Current nature of existing educational curriculum at the secondary and tertiary levels are often not modified to take the peculiar needs of learners with disabilities on board, thereby narrowing their opportunities, extent of learning, and future career options;

h. Social issues including child rape, teenage pregnancy, sexual harassment and inadequate WASH facilities threaten girls' access to education;

i. Inadequate teaching and learning materials, especially for children with special needs, threaten the attainment of targets related to quality educational outcomes;

j. Poor collaboration, coordination, and inordinate bureaucratic processes in education management hamper effectiveness within the sector;

k. Schools curricular do not provide adequate career guidance and counselling support; and,

l. Poor supervision by circuit supervisors due to logistical constraints.

4.3 Contributions to the Attainment of Goal 8 – Economic Growth and Decent Work

The availability of jobs and their quality are among key indicators of the health of an economy and CSOs are engaged in efforts aimed at providing and advocating for decent jobs for all Ghanaians of working age. Eighteen (18) organisations, or about 20% of responding CSOs, were engaged in Goal 8-related activities, that is Economic Growth and Decent Work. Out of the six selected Goals, this Goal had the lowest number of CSOs indicating their involvement in the area.

In the last 16 years, economic growth has averaged 6.3% per year, compared to the 4.3% registered for the preceding 16 years[12]. Concerns have been raised about the quality of Ghana's economic development since employment growth has generally been slower than overall economic progress. It is estimated that 3.9 million people are jobless, representing 24.4% of the working age population. Estimates show that unemployment doubled from 3.1% in 2006 to 6.5% in 2013, while youth unemployment remained high at 13.5% in 2013.

Key interventions areas that CSOs indicated they were involved in to contribute to the achievement of the targets under Goal 8 have been presented below.

[12]Ibid

	KEY INTERVENTIONS AREAS
a.	Promoting local ownership of economic growth and job related-SDGs
b.	Facilitating access to work in the formal sector for PWDs, youth, and women
c.	Mobilising and facilitating citizens to influence policy on decent work and economic growth
d.	Monitoring government's implementation of policies/programmes to ensure provision of decent work and economic growth
e.	Initiating community, district, and national dialogues to create awareness on relevant targets and indicators of SDGs 8
f.	Initiating community, district, and national dialogues to create local Sub-platforms for decent work and economic growth
g.	Supporting outreaches by national government and non-state actors targeting poor and vulnerable groups
h.	Programmes/projects facilitating access to decent jobs
I.	Community empowerment projects to increase accountability in job creation
j.	Awareness raising among poor and vulnerable groups on rights to decent jobs and equal economic opportunities
k.	Provision of employable skills to vulnerable groups

Source: Field data, April 2019

Through these interventions the following results have been attained:

a. 250 youth trained in entrepreneurship;
b. Employment of over 400 young women through the Young Urban Women Project; and
c. Increased advocacy for employment for 100 PWDs.

4.3.1 CSOs Observations on Policies and Practices that Need Improvement

CSOs observed the following challenges to achieving the Goal of decent work for all and economic growth:

a. Lack of coordination of programmes and employment data across sectors and providers impedes effective assessment of results. Inadequate data on the incidence of youth and PWD unemployment poses a challenge to monitoring interventions aimed at providing job opportunities to these groups;

b. Political interference and politicisation of state-led employment initiatives is leading to the creation of unsustainable jobs, because the underlying policies and strategies have short-term outlooks;

c. There is weak compliance relating to pro-disability employment legislations;

d. Weak knowledge on labour policies has led to low compliance and abuse of workers' right;

e. Limited or no knowledge on

Box 2: CSOs Supporting PWDs to Access Decent Jobs: Intervention by the Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations

The Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations (GFD) has been at the forefront of ensuring that PWDs are not left behind in the implementation of the SDGs. In pursuit of its mandate, the organisation identified lack of access to decent job opportunities as a critical challenge limiting the contributions of PWDs to the economic growth of the country. In response to this challenge, the organisation embarked on a project titled 'Integrated Employment Programme for Persons with Disabilities in Ghana' in 2016.

The project seeks to reduce high unemployment rates among PWDs through engagement and negotiation with employers for job and internship opportunities. The project also builds the capacities of PWDs in relevant skills to enhance their job marketability. For example, the project is improving the capacity of PWDs in ICT, interviewing skills, and preparation of resumes. In order to achieve the overarching objective of leaving no PWD behind in the quest for decent jobs for all productive Ghanaians, the GFD is using the following strategies:

- Engagement with, and sensitization of, employers on the potential capabilities of PWDs
- Engagement with stakeholders and policy makers to influence policies and practices in favour of employment of PWDs

Through these interventions, the capacities of 212 PWDs who were in the final year of schooling at various tertiary institutions were built in the preparation of resumes and career development and linked to employers in the formal sector. Consequently, over 100 PWDs have secured employment in the formal sector through this initiative. In addition, a draft Employment Equity Policy has been developed and submitted to the government for consideration.

Notwithstanding these successes, there is the challenge of getting some employers to understand, recognise, and appreciate the capabilities of PWDs. While some employers are concerned with the 'additional' cost associated with the provision of reasonable and convenient office accommodation for PWDs, absence of clear policies for employment of PWDs remains a disincentive to the hiring PWDs. However, through this initiative, GFD is learning that: (1) deliberate engagement with employers can open opportunities for PWDs in the job market, since most of the employers become eager to explore how it feels to work with PWDs and become satisfied thereafter; (2) most employers are willing to employ, but do not have the technical knowhow on working with PWDs; and (3) most employers are willing to partner with GFD and to learn more about disability.

4.4 Contributions to the Attainment of Goal 10 – Reducing Inequality

Forty-one (41) organisations, or about 47% of responding CSOs, were engaged in Goal 10-related activities on reducing inequality. Recent statistics indicate that inequality in Ghana is on the ascendency. CSOs have been strategic in the fight against inequality. Some have formed coalitions against inequality while others are collaboratively engaged in the national effort of strengthening social protection services and promoting progressive tax regimes. Some of the initiatives that CSOs indicated that they were involved in towards the attainment of targets under Goal 10 are as follows.

	KEY INTERVENTIONS AREAS
a.	Promoting ownership of interventions that seek to reduce inequality
b.	Promoting innovative, sustainable solutions to address inequality
c.	Advocating comprehensive social protection service delivery
d.	Mobilising and facilitating citizens to influence social protection policies
e.	Monitoring government's implementation of social protection programmes to ensure effectiveness in delivery of desired outcomes
f.	Initiating community, district, and national dialogues to create awareness on the state of inequality in Ghana
g.	Supporting outreaches by national government and non-state actors targeting poor and vulnerable groups
h.	Advocating for progressive tax regimes/initiatives/policies
I.	Engaging in programmes to facilitate access of all sections of the population to basic services
j.	Community empowerment projects to increase accountability in service delivery
k.	Awareness raising among poor and vulnerable groups for development accountability purposes, for example older persons and PWDs
l.	Provision of services to underserved communities
m.	Advocating development interventions to address spatial inequality

Source: Field data, April 2019

The interventions undertaken by the CSOs towards reducing inequality have yielded the following results so far:

a. Improved understanding of systemic and structural underpinnings and drivers of inequality in Ghana, thereby shaping the discourse around poverty interventions and programming as well as social protection service delivery;

b. Increased awareness on the state of inequality in Ghana and demand for state responsiveness;

c. Increased advocacy for comprehensive policies and strategies to address inequality;

d. Increased government responsiveness to advocacy on more progressive tax initiatives;

e. Increased demand for accountability in pursuing equitable public service delivery;

f. Eight hundred (800) PWDs have economically been empowered with entrepreneurial skills leading to expansion of their micro businesses;

g. Establishment of 9 Youth Parliaments in 9 districts has enhanced accountability; and,

h. Improved capacities of over 300 young people in communication, debating, negotiation, and journalism skills, thus enhancing their employability.

Box 3: Addressing Growing Inequality: An Intervention by Christian Aid (Ghana)

Through a project titled 'Growing Economic Opportunity for Sustainable Development' (GEOP), Christian Aid Ghana is implementing an integrated, SDGs- related project. The initiative seeks to meet some targets of Goals 1, 5, and 10. In the effort to reduce poverty, promote gender equality, and reduce inequality, the project targeted PWDs, young people (15-35 years), women, welding master-craft persons, MMDAs' revenue teams, and traditional authorities. The project trained young people, women, and PWDs with employable skills. It also sought to build the capacity of MMDAs for innovative revenue mobilisation and sustaining efforts at promoting youth employment. The project has had the following results.

Employment Creation for Young People and Vulnerable Groups
The project has trained 135 young people in hairdressing, dressmaking, and phone repairs, as well as 60 young women in catering. These young people have been given the opportunity to be economically active in ways that enable them to contribute to local and national development. Also, the capacity of 132 PWDs has been built in making soap, detergent, shampoo, and hair food, amongst other products. Welding practitioners consisting of 128 Mastercraft Persons and SHS leavers have also been trained. Income levels have increased amongst these new entrepreneurs, thereby contributing to the national agenda.

Increased Revenues and Revenue Sources
The project has trained revenue officers in the newly created Ayawaso East Municipal Assembly, the Accra Metropolitan Assembly, and the Ellembelle District Assembly. The training focused on innovative ways of increasing the revenue streams of the Assemblies and building partnerships for improving locally generated revenue. This has contributed to increases in local funds available for development projects without recourse to the District Assembly Common Fund. The new partnerships between civil society and the private sector have facilitated these efforts.

Access to Land for Women
The project has advocated for the release of land to women in various communities in the Ellembelle District and its environs for productive purposes. This intervention supports national advocacy on increasing the economic opportunities available to women.

Increased Dialogue between Civil Society and State Actors
As part of the project, dialogue between local level actors and the MMDAs, especially in relation to revenue issues, has been supported. Non-state actors have contributed to monitoring the business climate, effectiveness of development approaches, and the overall direction of development in partner districts. There is renewed civil society interest in participating in Assembly budget hearings, public hearings, and business forums. This has enriched and strengthened local governance.

The project has been able to achieve great success because of the close involvement of various citizens' groups, including Noyaa Kome Foundation, Nima Citizens Watch, and the United Civil Society on National Development. These CBOs have provided support for the selection and subsequent monitoring of the trainees selected within their respective localities. This has ensured project buy-in at the local level and increased retention during the trainings.

Collaboration between the Project and Technical Institutions
Another success factor is the close collaboration with technical institutions with both the mandate and professional capacity to execute various tasks under the project. The National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI) equipped trainees with financial and entrepreneurial skills. GRATIS Foundation trained welding Mastercraft persons. Young people were also trained in welding at Kikam Technical Institute, National Vocational Training Institute, Accra Technical Training Centre, and Ghana Technical Training Centre.

4.4.1 CSOs' Observations on Policies and Practices that Need Improvement

The views expressed by responding CSOs about the key challenges to fighting inequality converged with earlier research findings and the results of FGDs conducted for the Shadow Report. The research on building a more equal Ghana[13] was conducted by SEND Ghana, Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition and Oxfam in Ghana (members of the CSOs Platform). The following were observed:

a. Poor public financial management is undermining efforts to tackle inequality;
b. Ghana is failing to mobilise enough tax revenue progressively;
c. Constraints on availability and affordability of public services are reinforcing inequalities in Ghana;
d. Work and wages are not raising incomes for most people;
e. Gender inequality systematically excludes women;
f. Political capture and corruption drive inequality; and,
g. Uncoordinated implementation of social protection programs limits national efforts to meet the needs of the vulnerable.

4.5 Contributions to the Attainment of Goal 13 – Climate Action

Climate change actions require a concerted effort, for which CSOs' initiatives are needed to complement government's interventions. Both at the national and district levels, CSOs are engaging, via varied approaches, in the fight against climate change. Twenty-nine (29) organisations, or about 33% of responding CSOs, were engaged in Goal 13-related activities related to climate action. A synthesis of how CSOs are contributing to the fight against climate change is presented below.

	KEY INTERVENTIONS AREAS
a.	Promoting local ownership of climate related SDGs
b.	Mobilising and facilitating citizens to influence environmental/climate policy/programme formulation
c.	Advocating comprehensive social protection service delivery
d.	Monitoring government's implementation of climate change adaption and mitigation policies/programmes to ensure effectiveness in delivery of desired outcomes
e.	Supporting outreaches by national government and non-state actors targeting poor and vulnerable groups whose lives are most affected by climate change
f.	Community empowerment projects to increase accountability in climate finance
g.	Building capacity for climate change advocacy, adaption, mitigation and service delivery
h.	Promoting disaster risk management
I.	Providing relief services to affected communities, especially during floods

Source: Field data, April 2019

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[13]https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/620549/bp-building-more-equal-ghana-190918-en.pdf (accessed on May 1 2019)

CSOs' actions aimed at addressing climate change have resulted in the following results so far:
a. Institutionalisation of change-smart clubs into the Ghana Education Service curriculum;
b. Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction promoted in several rural communities in northern Ghana;

c. Reduced bush burning and increased community-driven tree planting initiatives;
d. Communities empowered to engage state institutions, particularly the Environmental Protection Agency and the Forestry Commission, for support with seedlings for reforestation.

Box 4: Civil Society Organisations Readiness for the Green Climate Funds: An Initiative of Care International Ghana and KASA Initiative Ghana

An initiative to address low capacities of CSOs for effective engagement related to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) has been implemented in Ghana across 89 districts. The project is intended to equip CSOs to effectively influence GCF processes in Ghana. The project approach has included CSOs' capacity strengthening, creating space for engagement, and networking for joint-advocacy. Some of the results of the interventions include:

1. Enhanced capacities of 111 civil society activists with stronger knowledge of GCF processes
2. Strengthened dialogue and more trust between civil society and national GCF stakeholders
3. Increased learning and sharing between CSO Sub-Platform on SDG 13 and other relevant stakeholders on national climate policy (the Sub-Platform on SDG 13 is convened by KASA and CARE);
4. Advocacy strategy on GCF has been developed and used for engagement to foster openness and accountability in the GCF management.

The initiative has yielded various lessons. First, leveraging on existing CSOs platforms has created trust with key stakeholders required for effective GCF implementation in Ghana. Second, collaboration with private sector actors has led to innovative enterprise-based solutions to climate change. Finally, taking advantage of the SDG implementation framework and government's commitment to engagement has enabled CSOs to benefit from the space to increase dialogue on the GCF.

4.5.1 CSOs' Observations on Policies and Practices that Need Improvement

CSOs observed the following challenges for effective climate action:

a. Limited technical innovation in the fight against climate change;
b. Lack of data for monitoring progress on climate action;
c. Under-funding of climate action initiatives;
d. Weak enforcement of environmental related policies and laws, particularly mining laws; and,
e. Decision-making on climate change excludes PWDs.

4.6 Contributions to the Attainment Goal 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

The Government of Ghana, over the years, has implemented policies and programmes aimed at maintaining peace and stability and strengthening governance institutions. Currently, the government's policy seeks to deepen governance, fight corruption, and

enhance public accountability as a means of maintaining a stable, united, and safe country.

Interventions being implemented are focused on deepening democratic governance; reforming and transforming public institutions; effective management of public policy; improving human security and public safety; accelerating and sustaining decentralisation; fighting corruption and economic crimes; promoting respect for law and order; promoting culture for national development; promoting values for national development; and engaging with civil society, religious bodies, traditional authorities, and the media. CSOs are involved in the agenda to increase access of citizens to justice and public institutions, largely through leveraging various partnerships.

For this study, 21 organisations out of 88 responding CSOs (24%) indicated activities related to Goal 16. In order to support and promote citizens' access to justice and public institutions and to make these institutions more accountable, CSOs have

	KEY INTERVENTIONS AREAS
a.	Promoting local ownership of initiatives for increasing access to justice and holding public institutions accountable
b.	Mobilising and facilitating citizens to influence policies for promoting peace, justice and strong institutions
c.	Monitoring government's implementation of policies/programmes to ensure effectiveness in delivery of justices and strong public institutions
d.	Monitoring public sector corruption and promoting good governance practices
e.	Initiating community, district, and national dialogues to create awareness on relevant targets and indicators of SDG 16
f.	Mobilising and supporting grassroots non-state actors to combat corruption in MMDAs
g.	Supporting outreaches by the national government and non-state actors targeting poor and vulnerable groups whose lives are greatly affected by acts of corruption
h.	Advocating for comprehensive legal reforms to boost the fight against corruption
I.	Advocating for legal and social justice for all, especially children
j.	Programming that facilitates access to justice for all
k.	Community empowerment projects to increase accountability in the public institutions
l.	Awareness raising among poor and vulnerable groups for development and public accountability
m.	Conflict mediation, resolution, and prevention initiatives, especially in Northern
n.	Advocating for justice for vulnerable groups
o.	Peace building in conflict-prone communities

Source: Field data, April 2019

Through the interventions, the following results have been achieved so far:

a. Increased access to justice through the promotion and adoption of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms;
b. Increased number of reported cases on corruption;
c. Increased community and grassroots activism for the fight against corruption;
d. Provision of toll-free line services for corruption reporting and complaints mechanisms;
e. Increased transparency and accountability in the management of public resources by the some MMDAs, especially in the use of Internally Generated Funds. The affected MMDAs openly display information on how public funds are used in their jurisdiction; and,
f. Effectively advocating for legal reforms and institutions to fight corruption (RTI Act, establishment the office of the special prosecutor).

Box 5: Creating Anti-Corruption Voices in the Implementation of the SDGs: Joint Effort by the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC) and Ghana Integrity Initiative

Corruption presents a real threat in the achievement of the SDGs and several reports indicate the pervasiveness of corruption in the national environment. The broad nature of the SDGs could potentially make related interventions susceptible to corruption, thereby reducing the expected impact on national development. The project has therefore focused on reduction of corruption in the implementation of the SDGs. It seeks to enable Ghana to optimise the potential of the SDGs and to promote impactful and equitable growth. The project focuses on addressing structural and systemic factors that could create fertile ground for corruption in SDGs-related service delivery. Given that a considerable proportion of Ghana's budget goes into health and education, the project is focused on Goal 3 and 4.

The overall goal of the intervention is to reduce corruption in the implementation of SDGs 3 and 4 by:

1. Supporting CSOs Platform members to integrate anti-corruption targets in the SDGs
2. Strengthening the CSOs Platform on SDGs to combat corruption in SDG related service delivery
3. Facilitating CSOs to demand compliance with anti-corruption norms, laws and policies in the implementation of the SDGs.

The project has successfully promoted anti-corruption awareness within the SDGs (particularly Goals 3 and 4); the development of action plans by respective partners to monitor corruption in service delivery; the localisation and integration of other anti-corruption indicators within Goals 3and 4; and the evolution of a comprehensive capacity needs assessment that ascertained the capacity needs of the SDG 3 and 4 Sub-Platforms in mainstreaming anti-corruption measures into their operations.

Based on the capacity needs assessment, two (2) tailor-made training programmes were organized on mainstreaming anti-corruption measures within SDGs 3 and 4. A training workshop on Anti-Corruption Strategies and Approaches in Monitoring the SDGs was also conducted. About 90 partners of the targeted Sub-Platforms have been involved in these efforts and the fight against corruption. Through the project, the implementing organisations (GACC and GII) have learnt that leveraging on the Ghana CSOs Platform on the SDGs to reach out to the CSOs community is cost-effective. This approach also provides a focus for collective action on the SDGs. In addition, where capacity interventions are tailor-made, the willingness of Platform members to engage on anti-corruption initiatives is enhanced.

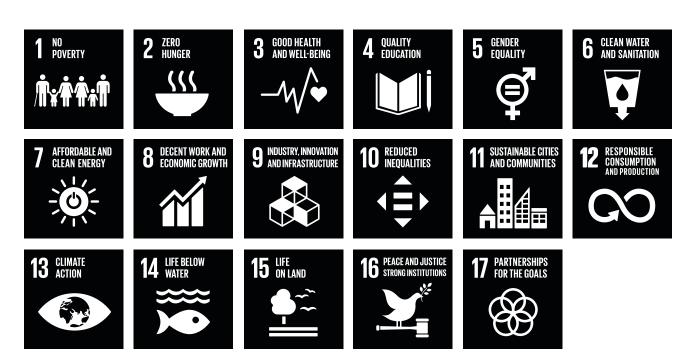### 4.6.1 CSOs' Observations on Policies and Practices that Need Improvement

CSOs observed the following challenges to achieving the goal of access to justice, democratic institutions and the eradication of corruption:

a. Weak accountability systems in public institutions, meaning that public institutions do not only seek to meet supply-driven accountability mechanisms to the neglect of demand-driven accountability initiatives, but they also have often been cited as breaching laws that govern them;
b. Public accountability institutions are underfunded;
c. Weak institutional and inter-agency collaboration;
d. Poor coordination and implementation of open government action plans;
e. Weak enforcement of governance related laws and policies;
f. Culture of pervasive corruption and citizens unwillingness to report crime;
g. Individuals' perception about the difficulty associated with working with the police and court systems affect access to justice; and,
h. Inaccessible nature of the justice delivery service and infrastructure to PWDs.

4.7 Contributions to the Attainment 17 – Promoting Partnerships for the Goals

It is significant to stress that 'leaving no one behind' means the inclusion of all people in all processes, at all levels. Effective development processes must include the people who are most adversely affected by decisions of the those in positions of power at all levels. The realisation of the SDGs is premised on true partnerships, in which all stakeholders engage in processes to enrich the outcomes and bring more value towards the attainment of the Goals. For this study, 21 organisations out of 88 responding CSOs (24%) indicated activities related to Goal 17. In accounting for their roles in promoting partnerships towards Goal attainment, CSOs in Ghana have been involved in the following initiatives.

	KEY INTERVENTIONS AREAS
a.	Promoting local ownership in the SDGs
b.	Building partnerships with national level government institutions
c.	Fostering partnerships with regional level governmental institutions
d.	Nurturing partnerships with district level government institutions
e.	Promoting partnerships with Development Partners
f.	Developing partnerships with private sector operators
g.	Furthering partnerships with the media
h.	Encouraging partnerships with academia
l.	Promoting partnerships with international organisations
j.	Maintaining partnerships with other civil society organisations
k.	Promoting multi-stakeholder engagement on the SDGs
l.	Joint monitoring of partnerships and stakeholder involvement on the Goals
m.	Promoting citizen-centric, collaborative governance
n.	Joint awareness creating on the SDGs
o.	Co-founding of interventions
p.	Joint coordination of implementation activities
q.	Joint data collection
r.	Monitoring government-civil society relationships
s.	Initiating community, district, and national dialogues to create local Sub-Platforms
t.	Supporting joint outreaches by national government and non-state actors
u.	Promoting mutual accountability

Source: Field data, April 2019

These interventions have led to the following results:

a. Institutionalised partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs, especially at the national level;
b. Development of an integrated anti-corruption mechanism to enhance service delivery in SDGs implementation;
c. Establishment of partnerships with selected MMDAs for coordinating SDGs implementation;
d. Increased involvement of youth in the SDGs; and
e. Joint advocacy for gender-sensitive educational system leading to institutionalisation of gender friendly initiatives in Senior High Schools by the Northern Regional Education directorate and Conference of Head of Assisted Secondary Schools.

Box 6: The Ghana CSOs Platform on the SDGs and Facilitating Partnerships

The CSOs Platform seeks to provide an avenue for CSOs to come together to foster joint efforts, build partnerships and ensure effective advocacy for achieving the SDGs at the district, regional, and national levels. Specifically, the CSOs Platform seeks to: 1) identify and cluster all CSOs and CBOs working on specific SDGs together; 2) provide common ground for members to engage with government on the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs; 3) identify and build synergies between the different programmatic areas of members to increase impact; and 4) provide a marketplace for CSOs and CBOs working on different SDGs and targets to meet, learn, and share knowledge

Approach: The CSOs Platform is the first-ever attempt at coordinating efforts of non-state actors by establishing a transparent governance structure, with daily activities coordinated by a National Coordinator. The Platform is organised along 18 Sub-Platforms, one on each of the 17 SDGs and an additional Sub-Platform for youth-led and youth-focused CSOs. Each Sub-Platform has a convener and a group of 2 to 5 co-conveners. There are 36 members constituting a National Steering Committee (SC), which is made up of the convener and one appointed co-convener from each of the Sub-Platforms.

The members of the SC are drawn from organisations with track records and experiences in the management of networks and coalitions as well as the promotion of sustainable development and capacity strengthening. Some SC members were involved in advocacy around the MDGs. Others have technical competencies and serve on various national SDGs implementation committees. Others are engaged in SDGs implementation monitoring at various levels. By promoting collaborative partnerships, the Platform has become the "one-stop shop" for CSOs on the SDGs. When government ministries, private sector, and other stakeholders want to engage civil society on the implementation of the SDGs, their first avenue is the CSOs Platform, because of how it is positioned. The Platform can account for the following results:

Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and Collaboration Results: Within the past three years, the CSOs Platform has made significant progress in strengthening structures for effective coordination. It has ensured effective coordination of multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration between CSOs, government, and private sector. The Platform has initiated advocacy to localise the SDGs as well as leveraged technology to enhance information sharing and public awareness on the SDGs.

The CSOs Platform has been recognized as the primary strategic civil society partner within a multi-stakeholder partnership arrangement that brings together civil society, private sector, and government for the achievement of the SDGs. The Platform has sustained representation on the ICC,

the Data Roadmap Advisory Committee and the NTC. The CSOs platform has also been given approval to sit as an observer on the HLMC on the SDGs.

Partnership with government and the private sector has resulted in regular participation and involvement of MDAs and the business community in programmes and events organized by the CSOs Platform and vice versa. This partnership has given civil society the opportunity to participate in high level meetings and programmes and to make inputs into policy documents, particularly those related to the SDGs. For example, representatives of the Platform were part of Government's official delegation to the HLPF in July 2018, which afforded the delegates opportunities to learn about innovative practices from other countries on the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

As part of its partnership with key stakeholders, the CSOs Platform collaborated with the government to train media practitioners on the SDGs. As a result of this collaboration, a media network on SDGs has been established to monitor and report on progress on the implementation of the SDGs. The partnership also led to the first multi-stakeholder conference on the SDGs in November 2017, organised jointly by the CSOs Platform, Deloitte (a private consulting firm), NPDC, and GSS, under the auspices of the Office of the President' SDGs Advisory Unit. The conference discussed the need for a framework for strategic partnerships on the SDGs and formulated modalities on how government, private sector, and CSOs could contribute to the effective implementation of the SDGs in Ghana. Following the conference, a multi-stakeholder partnership approach was formalised at the launch of the Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies (CPESDP) by H.E. the President on 11th April 2018.

Having a platform that provides space for CSOs' engagement and partnership has enhanced donor confidence in civil society in Ghana. The CSOs Platform is the main avenue through which Development Partners reach when seeking collaboration with CSOs on the SDGs. The CSOs Platform, in partnership with the United Nations Communication Group (UNCG), also published a pamphlet on the SDGs, titled 'The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) in Ghana, why they matter and how we can help'. The collaboration with UNCG helped to avoid duplication in production of materials of similar content on the SDGs. Furthermore, STAR Ghana Foundation, a national development partner, has identified the CSOs Platform as a strategic partner in all of its SDGs-related engagements. As part of this collaboration, a series of activities have been undertaken including the first National Health Dialogue across the ten regions of Ghana and a review of National Health Sector Medium Term Development Plan. The Sub-Platform on SDG 3 made inputs into the Health Sector Medium-Term Development Plan for the first time.

Influencing and Advocating for Policy Change: The CSOs Platform has played a key role in influencing policies and budgetary allocations to finance the SDGs. In 2018, for example, the Sub-Platform on SDG 10 undertook ground-breaking research to highlight the underlying causes of inequality in Ghana. Prior to this report, information on inequality had focused on the state of inequality rather than the systemic causes. Key government agencies and parliamentary committees have committed to addressing the issues highlighted in the report. Furthermore, the CSOs Platform undertook advocacy campaigns to ensure that national and sub-national budgets are aligned with the needs and investments required to achieve the SDGs. Arising from this, the CSO Platform coordinated inputs from members on priorities for the 2019 budget to ensure that it was aligned with, and would support, the achievement of the SDGs.

Promoting Local Ownership: Through its ongoing localisation project, community-based NGOs are being mobilised into district Sub-Platforms and strengthened to enhance their participation and contribution towards the attainment of the SDGs at their local levels. To date, six (6) district Sub-

Platforms have been put in place in Nawdoli-Kaleo, Garu-Tempane, East Mamprusi, Ho, Bongo and Offinso South. The CSOs platform is advocating for greater coordination through a multi-stakeholder approach at the local level, replicating the national implementation structure. As a result of the establishment of the district platforms, CBOs in the target districts are now able to operate under one umbrella and jointly implement projects, instead of duplicating efforts.

Additionally, promoting local ownership has also resulted in strengthening collaboration between local authorities and civil society on the SDGs. District Sub-Platform members in the six districts have been introduced to the district authorities and are consequently engaging them directly and participating in various interventions geared towards achieving the SDGs. In Garu-Tempane, the District Coordinating Director has been involved in the sensitisation of CSOs in the district on the guidelines and processes for developing the Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP). This provided an opportunity for the district–based non-state actors to influence the development of the MTDP. Local authorities have been sensitised to replicate national implementation structures leading to stronger partnerships between government and civil society in some MMDAs.

In the course of promoting partnerships around the SDGs, the CSOs Platform has learnt the following lessons:
1. Building partnerships with government promotes complementarity in the implementation of the SDGs.
2. Government's recognition and appreciation of the role of civil society as partners in national development is critical for harnessing complementary competencies and skills, promoting mutual accountability and reducing suspicion and mistrust.
3. The Platform has strengthened civil society voices and inclusion in national development planning and budgeting processes.
4. By promoting a model that emphasizes shared responsibility, Ghana is on course towards deepening local ownership of the SDGs.
5. There is a need to strengthen local level platforms to support participatory and inclusive local decision-making on the implementation of the SDGs.

4.7.1 CSOs' observations on Policies and Practices that Need Improvement

CSOs have observed the following challenges to strong partnerships:

a. CSOs continue to have difficulties in collaborating with Government's Agencies;
b. Traditional leaders are weak to enforce their own community regulations/by-laws;
c. Some traditions, such as the establishment of witch camps, hinder smooth implementation of programs;
d. Insufficient funding due to donors reducing their focus on Ghana, which threatens the sustainability of many CSOs who have traditionally relied on donor funding;
e. Some state agencies feel CSOs are on inquisition when it comes to accountability issues;
f. Time consuming to reach out and build the capacity of communities on accountability issues;
g. Lacking commitment from partners;
h. Interventions are time bound; and,
i. Socio-cultural norms that affect implementation of programmes.

4.8 Operational Challenges Confronting CSOs in Contributing Towards the Implementation of the SDGs in Ghana

A key priority that was commonly endorsed during the negotiations and agreement on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was that stakeholders would address its implementation in an integrated and indivisible manner due to the inter-linkages among the goals. Therefore, stakeholders must commit to regular engagement in review and follow-up processes. This also calls for all stakeholders, such as CSOs, to act in collaborative partnership to implement the Agenda. However, working collaboratively on the implementation of the SDGs has not come without systemic and operational challenges to CSOs in Ghana. These challenges have the potential to stall the contributions of the CSOs if they are not addressed. In this section, we present the key challenges confronting CSOs in relation to the implementation of the SDGs. The challenges are categorised into three broad categories: 1) challenges encountered by working with government institutions, 2) challenges associated with engagement with actors in the private sector, and 3) challenges related to partnerships between CSOs.

4.8.1 Challenges Associated with Collaboration with Government

Challenges that have arisen in efforts to work with government agencies include the following:

a. Difficulty in accessing information from MMDAs fuelled by bureaucratic processes that tend to delay data releases even when there is willingness to cooperate with CSOs;
b. Absence of a culture of transparency and accountability among key government institutions involved in programme implementation. Successive Auditor-General's Reports (particularly between 2015 and 2018), have cited several state institutions as having committed infractions on the relevant laws bordering on financial irregularities, embezzlement, and misappropriation of public funds, among others. Even where CSOs have taken the initiative to demand accountability, many public institutions have not been fully responsive;
c. Some CSOs are perceived as agents working against government's policies, which may result in those CSOs not receiving full cooperation from duty bearers; and,
d. Some CSOs do not provide up-to-date information to the MMDAs on their activities at the sub-national level, which means that they do not fulfil their part of the accountability principles.

4.8.2 Challenges Associated with Collaboration with Private Sector

a. The profit-driven mandate of the private sector may sometimes overshadow the interests of civil society in project implementation, and business practices and procedures may also impact the flexibility and creativity of civil society;
b. Collaboration with private sector can be event driven and, in such cases, may not be predicted or factored into the institutional arrangements, which has implications for forging long-term relationships on issues;
c. Limited number of private sector actors prioritising the SDGs;
d. Limited funding from the private sector for SDG-related causes;
e. Weak coordination of private sector

engagement in the SDGs;

f. Divergent interests among private sector stakeholders; and,

g. Tendency of CSOs to approach private sector entities individually or on singular basis rather than through their associations.

4.8.3 Challenges Associated with Collaboration among CSOs and Communities

a. Weak capacity of CSOs for implementing SDGs-related interventions in an integrated manner. The novelty of the SDGs comes with the challenge of implementation in an integrated or cross-cutting manner. This calls for changing from the "silo" or "sectoral approaches" that CSOs have previously adopted to working across sectors and in partnerships;

b. Weakness or absence of CSO structures for coordinating SDG-related engagement with state actors at the local level, particularly MMDAs. Except in few districts where there are structures in nascent stages of development, coordinating mechanisms for SDGs activities at the local level are weak;

c. Rapid societal transformation can only result from meaningful and effective participation of women and PWDs in decision-making around the SDGs;

d. Limited funding for CSO engagement in SDGs implementation, thereby affecting their potential contributions, such as independent monitoring, generating data for monitoring, provision of voice for citizens and vulnerable groups, and organisation of platforms and services to those who are being left behind;

e. Citizens' mobilisation around the SDGs hindered by apathy, partisan politicisation, and polarisation;

f. Competition for resources giving rise to mistrust and limiting open and transparent information sharing between CSOs;

g. Lack of resources and capacity to pay "transportation" expenses of participants hindering effective meetings, engagements and networking; and,

h. Uneven technical expertise amongst members in such areas as data collection can hamper collaboration.

4.9 CSOs are Learning Lessons from the Implementation of the SDGs

Three years into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, CSOs in Ghana have initiated evidence-based stocktaking of progress. Generally, this has been guided by the questions of whether Ghana is on track. CSOs have also been concerned about good practices that can be replicated and scaled up as well as gaps and constraints in the implementation of the SDGs. Inspiring breakthroughs and success stories that show results and impacts have also been solicited.

The main lessons learnt from the implementation of the SDGs so far include the following:

a. The use of a multi-stakeholder approach in the implementation of the SDGs has the potential to increase involvement of various interest groups to influence the formulation and implementation of policies to attain SDGs targets;

b. National level structures for coordinating the implementation of the SDGs should be replicated at the sub-national level;

c. Stronger results are likely to be achieved when all stakeholders work towards a shared goal;

d. Collaboration is effective when various stakeholders share

information and coordinate their efforts to create synergies and break down barriers or "silos";

e. Engaging and providing space for vulnerable groups in the implementation of the SDGs is indispensable for leaving no one behind;

f. Ensuring broader stakeholder consultations with PWDs improve their ownership of the SDGs and makes interventions more responsive;

g. Rapid societal transformation can only result from women's meaningful and effective participation in decision-making around the SDGs;

h. Educating communities about the SDGs, particularly on inequality issues, empowers citizens to effectively engage duty bearers, especially when they are empowered with information and skills for deliberative dialogue;

i. Improved capacity and better understanding of policies and relevant laws are crucial for enhancing CSOs' roles in the implementation of SDGs; and,

j. Sensitisation and mobilisation of community actions have the potential to reduce corruption.

Key Opportunities

Notwithstanding implementation challenges and weaknesses, several opportunities exist that Ghana can leverage to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. They include the following:

a. The existence of comprehensive policies and programs with provisions for all the goals. The national development agenda, *"Agenda for Jobs: Creating Prosperity and Equal Opportunity for All"*, has been designed to reflect the SDGs. The Agenda provides a basis for all the Sector and District Level Medium Term Development Plans to reflect the SDGs;

b. Government has also been successful in linking the national budget processes to the SDGs. What remains to be done is to ensure that adequate resources are committed for implementation and that disbursements are timely, as the goals are time-bound;

c. There is a vibrant and united CSOs front that is engaged in progress monitoring, pushing accountability frontiers, and mobilising citizens around the goals, especially at the national level. There is greater coordination of CSOs' efforts through the CSOs Platform, through which other sector stakeholders can engage in a complementary and collaborative manner;

d. The establishment and coordination of media platforms is critical for ensuring accountability in the SDGs and sustaining public engagement and interest in the goals;

e. Increasingly government, CSOs, and the private sector are leveraging technologies that enhance the implementation of the SDGs, since ICT has proven to have a multiplier effect;

f. The emerging culture of collaboration and partnership between CSOs and government which reduces mutual mistrust and suspicion and increases synergy in the implementation of the sustainable development provides a

CITIZENS' PERSPECTIVES AND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGS

5.1 Introduction

The SDGs are a set of global promises made by our government. However, it is noteworthy that accountability in relation to the SDGs is about more than just holding government accountable, but is also about citizens' duties to the state and others as well. However, there are general concerns about the extent of citizens' participation in SDGs-related activities.

In Ghana, the SDGs will not be achieved without adequate public awareness and engagement. Citizens must be able to hold the government accountable for the promises to deliver on the SDGs, both at national and local levels. Given the country's experience of unequal economic growth and skewed social benefits, there is an urgent need to find innovative ways of raising public pressure to deliver a more just, equitable, and sustainable Ghana by 2030.
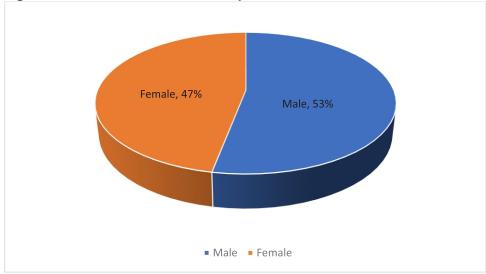
CSOs can raise awareness about the importance of the Agenda 2030 in their local contexts and thereby actively contribute to the development of their communities. Citizens' awareness of the SDGs is also important because many of the SDGs can only be achieved through behavioural change. This implies that citizens must also buy into the SDGs and make the necessary changes at their levels.

In this chapter, we present an analysis of citizens' awareness of the SDGs, perspectives on how they assess progress by the three key stakeholders – government, private sector, and CSOs – as well as how their respective MMDAs are engaging them on the SDGs. Perceptions regarding SDG targets or indicators were not explored due to the generally low level of awareness and knowledge on SDGs among the public.

5.2 Background of Respondents

In line with the principle of leaving no one behind, efforts were made to be inclusive in the selection of respondents for the survey. The 998 respondents were evenly distributed among men (53%) and women (47%), as shown in Figure 5.1 below. Efforts were made to include the views of children below 15 years, and they made up approximately 4% of respondents. The rest of the respondents have the following age distribution: 15-24 years (18%), 25-34 years (34%), 35-54 years (34%), and above 55 years (9%).
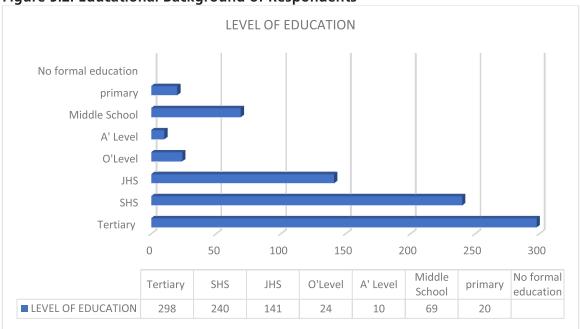
Figure 5.1: Sex Distribution of Respondents

In relation to their educational backgrounds, most of the respondents had attained formal education except for about 18%. Just 2% had primary level education. Details are presented below in Figure 5.2.

Figure 5.2: Educational Background of Respondents

	Tertiary	SHS	JHS	O'Level	A' Level	Middle School	primary	No formal education
■ LEVEL OF EDUCATION	298	240	141	24	10	69	20	

5.2.1 Disability Status of Respondents

Conscious effort was made to include PWDs in the survey, in line with the principle of inclusion. In all, 200 people constituting 20.4% of the respondents had various forms of disability, details of which are outlined in Figure 5.3 below. Unlike other respondents, PWDs were purposively sampled, as their views are critical for ensuring that no single citizen is left behind.

Figure 5.3: Disability Status of Respondents

5.3 Citizens' Awareness and Knowledge of the SDGs

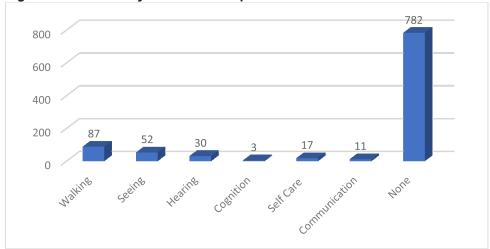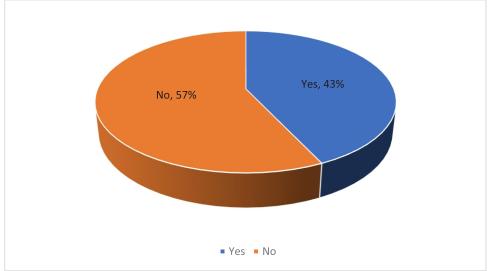Government institutions and CSOs seeking to achieve the SDGs need to engage with citizens, listen to them, and mobilise them into action. Understanding what different constituencies know and think about the SDGs is a crucial starting point. This section presents results from the household survey on awareness and knowledge of the SDGs. The results underline how much work lies ahead for the government at the national and MMDA levels, as well as for advocates of the SDGs. They also reveal the gaps in citizens' knowledge about the SDGs.

As indicated in Figure 5.4 below, approximately, 57% of respondents have never heard of the goals. This suggests that most Ghanaians have a low level of awareness of the SDGs.

The above findings are further supported by evidence on how they heard about the SDGs, as indicated in Figure 5.7. It turned out that 15% (the largest sample of respondents) heard about the SDGs through media outlets, largely via news coverage. This may not have provided in-depth information to guarantee knowledge on the Goals. Sensitisation by CSOs only contributed to 10% of the awareness, whilst government institutions represented by the MMDAs and the Information Services Department (ISD) had only contributed to 2.9% and 0.2% of awareness respectively. What these findings suggest is that, at the current level, demand-driven accountability on the SDGs is weak due to low citizens' ownership of the Agenda 2030, as well a correspondingly low responsiveness from the MMDAs.

Figure 5.4: Citizens Awareness/Knowledge on the SDGs.
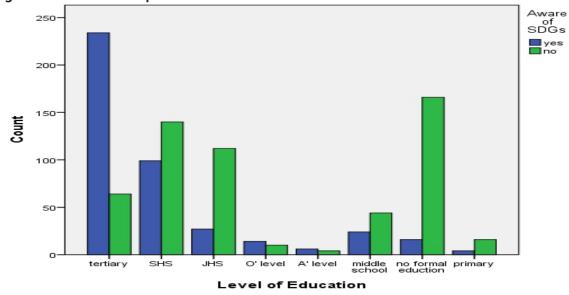
Source: Field data, April 2019

As depicted below in Figure 5.5, awareness of the SDGs correlated with level of education. Largely those with tertiary level qualification had heard about the Goals. However, it is important to note that SDGs awareness does not necessarily translate into knowledge. Glocalities (2016)[14] finds that across 24 countries, only around 1% of citizens surveyed know the SDGs 'very well', with 25% knowing the name 'SDGs' only.

It is possible that several of those who had heard about the Goals did not necessarily know the Goals well. This is corroborated by evidence from the field. As shown in Figure 5.6 below, only about 20% of respondents acknowledged that they knew about all 17 Goals. In probing further, only 22% of respondents were able to indicate the year of adoption of the Goals/2030 agenda.

Figure 5.5: Relationship between Level of Education and Awareness on the SDGs.

Source: Field data, April 2019

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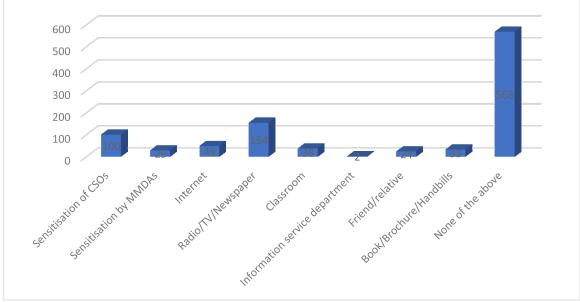
[14]Glocalities: Towards 2030 Without Poverty (2016); available at https://www.glocalities.com/reports/towards-2030-without-poverty (accessed on 29th April 2019)

Figure 5.6: Knowledge of the Number of SDGs

Yes, 17%
Don't Know, 76%

■ Yes ■ Don't Know

Source: Field data, April 2019

Figure 5.7: Sources of Citizens' Awareness of the Goals

Source: Field data, 2019

5.4 Citizens' Awareness of Responsibilities for Implementation of the SDGs

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development stresses the importance of partnership. In a 2016 survey, Accenture and the UN Global Compact[15] found that 84% of CEOs want more collaboration between business and government on SDG action plans. A key strength in Ghana's

[15]https://www.accenture.com/us-en/insight-un-global-compact-ceo-study

SDGs implementation arrangement is the emphasis that is being placed on multi-stakeholder partnerships involving government, CSOs, development partners and the private sector.

Sampled respondents were asked to name entities responsible for the implementation of the SDGs. While over 56.4% did not know whose responsibility it was to implement the SDGs, none cited the private sector at all. Only 1.7% thought it was the responsibility of CSOs, and another 21.5% suggested that the government had to implement the Goals alone. An even smaller number of respondents (1.5%) citied the United Nations as responsible for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Those who thought that it was the collective responsibility for everyone to implement the Goals constituted 18.2% of the respondents.

This largely confirms findings from similar surveys elsewhere. A compilation of survey reports by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Communication Network revealed[16] a large share of businesses (49%) and citizens (44%) said that only governments bore core responsibility for achieving the SDGs. However, in the same survey 90% of citizens thought that it was important for businesses to sign up to the SDGs.

These results imply that knowledge of citizens' on the SDGs is low and that there is little sense of ownership of the Agenda 2030 amongst respondents. Much as the ultimate responsibility for implementing the SDGs (including ensuring adequate funding) rests with national governments, the private sector has a role in this regard. Similarly, CSOs and citizens do not only have to promote demand-side accountability in the SDGs, but also have to scale-up monitoring and provision of service delivery to especially those who are being left behind. Without knowledge on these respective roles, citizens cannot hold the stakeholders accountable on the SDGs.

The implication of these findings is that respondents do not have the necessary level of knowledge to effectively own the SDGs and apply knowledge to hold their leaders' accountable for the SDGs.

5.5 Citizens' Assessment of Efforts by Government, CSOs and the Private Sector to Attain the SDGs

The task of tracking progress on the SDGs and identifying implementation challenges is crucial to advancing the 2030 Agenda. Since implementation was envisioned as a collaborative effort, respondents were asked to evaluate the efforts of government, CSOs, and the private sector towards the attainment of the SDGs in Ghana.

Figure 5.8 reveals that just about 18% of respondents thought that the government was doing enough to achieve the SDGs. While about 38% of the respondents did not think government was doing enough, a considerable 44% did not know whether government was making any effort on the SDGs.

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[16]The survey was compiled by the OECD and it focused on what people know and think about the SDGs. It is available at https://www.oecd.org/development/pgd/International_Survey_Data_DevCom_June%202017.pdf (accessed on April 29)
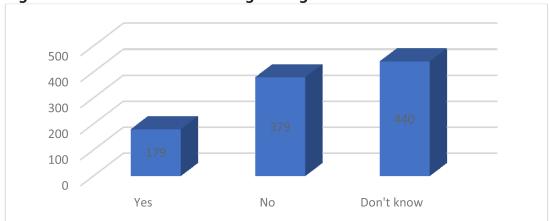
Figure 5.8: Is Government Doing Enough to Achieve the SDGs?

Source: Field data, April 2019

The assessment of citizens who responded to the survey of the efforts by CSOs and the private sector was not substantially different from their evaluation of government's initiatives.

About 47% did not know what CSOs were doing to aid the attainment of the SDGs. On the other hand, 26.3% asserted that CSOs were doing enough towards the achievement of the goals. A comparable number (about 25.9%) considered the efforts of CSOs as inadequate for the realisation of the 2030 Agenda.

In relation to the private sector, 31% of respondents indicated that they did not think the private sector was doing enough towards the attainment of the SDGs. Another 47.5% stated that they did not know of any effort by the private sector towards the achievement of the goals.

The above findings suggest that generally respondents, and by extension citizens, are not satisfied with, or informed about, the efforts being made by the three sets of actors towards the realisation of the Goals. It may well be that a lot of efforts are on-going, but the fact that citizens, do not see

them or are not aware of them, indicates that the three key players (government, CSOs and the private sector) have not engaged citizens enough in relation to the implementation of the SDGs.

At the level of districts and communities, little effort has been made to link current and ongoing development interventions to SDGs inspired-plans. In other words, citizens do not know what inspires an intervention or initiative, neither do the stakeholders use the 'SDGs language' to communicate about interventions they are undertaking. This revelation surfaced during focus group discussions.

5.6 Sampled Citizens' Assessment on Progress on Selected Goals

The government's VNR report relied extensively on official statistics. To provide complementary information and to ensure that citizens had their voices heard in the VNR process and the SDGs implementation in general, respondents were asked to assess the progress the country was making towards the achievement of targets of prioritised goals for this year's HLPF.

5.6.1 Citizens' Perceptions on Progress Made Towards Providing Accessible and Quality Education (SDG 4)

Overall, most respondents agreed that the country had made a lot of progress meeting targets 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 of SDG 4[17]. However, many them were unsatisfied with progress on target 4.6 (all youth and a substantial proportion of adults of both men and women achieve literacy and numeracy), claiming that the quality of Ghana's education at the basic level is low.
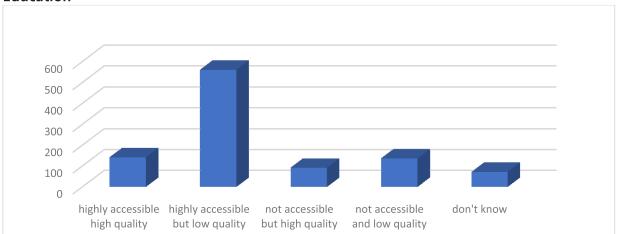
Figure 5.9 provides breakdown of the data collected from the household survey. A key area that respondents expect government to address is ensuring access to education without compromising on quality so that products from the education system can meet the labour needs of the country. This finding confirms a recent World Bank

Human Capital Report on Ghana, in which doubt has been cast on the quality of Ghana's education system and products[18].

5.6.2 Citizens' Perceptions on Economic Growth and Access to Decent Work (SDG 8)

Most citizens sampled ranked the country's economic growth rate as high (over 80% combined) but over 70% asserted that the economy did not provide access to decent jobs. This implied that respondents were satisfied that Ghana was making significant progress towards attaining target 8.1, but the same could not be said of target 8.3. We present the details in Figure 5.10 below. These findings are supported by available statistics, as the country has experienced relatively stable growth averaging 7% per annum in the decade. This growth is not matched by the trends in employment

Figure 5.9: Citizens' Perception on Progress Made Towards Providing Accessible and Quality Education
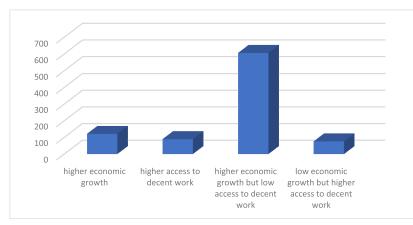
Source: Field data, April 2019

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[17]All girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education; ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education; ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.
[18]https://www.worldbank.org/en/data/interactive/2018/10/18/human-capital-index-and-components-2018 (accessed on April 27 2019)

[19]https://www.unicef.org/ghana/Ghana_Poverty_and_Inequality_Analysis_FINAL_Match_2016(1).pdf (accessed 30th April 2019)

Figure 5.10: Citizens' Perceptions On Economic Growth And Access To Decent Work

Source: Field data, April 2019

creation, however, with the level of unemployment estimated at about 24%.

5.6.3 Citizens' Perceptions on the State of Inequality in Ghana (SDG 10)

Consistently, Ghana has experienced appreciable levels of economic growth over the past two decades, culminating in a re-classification of the country at a lower middle-income status. Consequently, the country's per capita growth remained relatively high. Also, poverty levels dropped, leading to Ghana meeting MDG 1 of halving poverty levels. Despite the increased growth and reduced poverty levels recorded, analysis by UNICEF (2017) based on the Ghana Living Standards Survey 6 (GLSS 6) shows that levels of inequality have increased in the country[19]. Given the importance of ensuring inclusion and equality in relation to the SDGs, respondents were asked to share their views on inequality and whether national policies had contributed to reducing or increasing inequality.

From the household survey, approximately 40% and 19% of the citizens sampled believed that inequality was on the rise or stagnated respectively. Yet almost a third of the respondents (31%) thought that inequality was reducing. However, 10% did not know about the state of inequality in Ghana. This implies that approximately 60% believe that Ghana is not making enough progress on targets 10.1 to 10.4 of SDG 10.

5.6.4 Citizens' Perceptions on Progress to Tackle Climate Change in Ghana (SDG 13)

Ghana has developed a comprehensive climate action policy to combat climate change. The country has also been a beneficiary of climate change financing mechanisms. Respondents were asked to assess the success or otherwise of the level of effort and the commitment of government to addressing climate change and the related targets of SDG 13, three years into the implementation of the SDGs.

Six out of ten (60%) respondents believed that very little effort was being made on climate action. Two (2) out of 10 respondents were conclusive that nothing was being done to tackle climate change. The remaining 2 out 10 respondents assessed efforts to tackle climate change as adequate. This implies only 20% of respondents think that Ghana is making progress on attaining the targets of SDG 13.

5.6.5 Citizens' Perceptions on Access to Justice and Public Institutions in Ghana (SDG 16)

SDG 16 promises access to justice for all, but current plans for measuring progress are far too limited. Thousands of Ghanaians live at the margins, meaning that they are pushed or kept out, often in silence, do not have adequate access to justice, are denied healthcare and decent work, suffer discrimination or stigmatisation, and face

problems that are both real and relentless, all of which impacts their ability to reap the benefits of sustainable development. In addition, many reports have revealed increased public corruption – perceived and actual experiences – due to consistent breaches and weak enforcement of laws (Oxfam, 2018)[20].

When respondents were asked whether they have access to justice and public institutions, only 8% admitted high accessibility to justice and public institutions. A little over 50% think that access to justice and public institutions is moderate, while about 38% did not think justice and public institutions were widely or easily accessible to citizens.
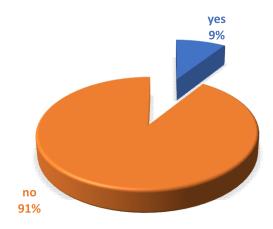
5.7 Assessment of MMDAs' Engagement on the SDGs

The objective of transforming economies and societies, especially those of developing countries such as Ghana, with a view to eliminating poverty by 2030 imposes greater responsibilities on local and sub-national governments. From the global consultations on the localisation of the SDGs, these levels of government are essential for promoting inclusive and sustainable development within their territories[21]. It is expected that local governments should foster broad-based ownership, public awareness, commitment, and accountability in the implementation of the SDGs.

Local governments are represented by MMDAs in Ghana and are expected to proactively shape Agenda 2030 locally and in consultation with citizens. MMDAs are expected to foster inclusiveness. However, the findings of the survey indicate that the level of citizens' involvement by MMDAs to shape the implementation of the SDGs leaves much to be desired.

Only 9% of the sampled respondents had either (at the invitation of the MMDAs) attended a workshop, forum, or meeting on the SDGs as demonstrated in the Figure 5.11 below.

Figure 5.11: Citizens' Attendance of Workshop, Forums or Meetings Organised by MMDAs on SDGs

Source: Field data, April 2019

[20]Oxfam (2018) Building a More Equal Ghana: A Five-Point Action Plan to Close the Gap Between the Rich and the Rest. Report by Oxfam, SEND Ghana and Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition

[21]The consultation was led by the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, UN Habitat and UNDP. Details of the report can be found on https://www.global-taskforce.org/

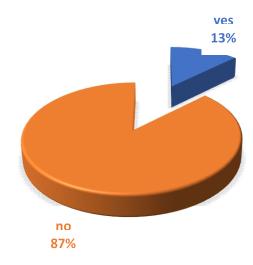From other consultations, it emerged that it could be that MMDAs had made the effort to promote inclusion in activities related to the SDGs but may have attracted low responsiveness from citizens. However, the FGDs involving government officials, CSOs working at the local government level and citizens reinforced the perception that MMDAs had made little or no effort to involve citizens in the implementation of the SDGs. This corroborated the findings from the household survey.

An emerging challenge facing countries in the implementation of the SDGs is ensuring appropriate governance and coordination structures at all levels of government. Implementation of the SDGs at the local level entails the involvement of different stakeholders including traditional authorities, faith-based organisations, CSOs, PWDs, youth, women, and people living in the 'hard-to-reach' places. This implies effective coordination as well as shifts in the prevailing governance culture to include citizens more effectively. Therefore, MMDAs were required to demonstrate changes in "business as usual" approaches towards more proactive agendas. It also called for absolute compliance with relevant laws and guidelines on participatory planning.

Even where MMDAs might have made efforts at promoting inclusiveness, accountability in the SDGs, ownership, localisation, and promotion of special SDGs interventions, most of the respondents appeared unaware of such actions. In Figure 5.12 below most sampled respondents (87%) were not aware of any special initiatives being undertaken by their respective MMDAs to achieve the SDGs.

Figure 5.12: Citizens' Level of Awareness on Initiatives by MMDAs to Achieve the SDGs

yes
13%

no
87%

Source: Field data, April 2019

Although the MMDAs generally confirmed that the SDGs framework had inspired development of the existing Medium-Term Development Plans (MTDP), it appears that the 'inspiration' of the MMDAs to anchor development initiatives on the 2030 agenda was top-down driven[22]. MMDAs efforts aimed at coordinating awareness creation on such initiatives had not yielded the needed results. Obviously, this does not promote demand-driven accountability mechanisms in the SDGs; local ownership and inclusivity are also undermined.

There are several potential institutional responses to the governance challenges of implementing the SDGs at the local level. It is important that MMDAs perform their functions effectively, in ways that allow mobilisation and inclusion of collective local and community expertise towards the realisation of the SDGs. The performance of the MMDAs in achieving CSOs' and citizens' involvement differs significant from the context at the national level.

CHAPTER SIX

SDGs MONITORING

6.1 Introduction

Paragraph 48 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development acknowledges that "quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind"[23]. In addition to measuring progress, data is also required for evidence-based decision-making, planning, and advocacy.

The Inter Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators has developed a global indicator framework for the SDGs, with the accompanying meta-data, which provide further details on the indicators, such as the definition of terms, method of computation, and possible levels of disaggregation. However, not all the global indicators have fully developed meta-data yet. As of 4 April 2019, 101 of the global indicators were classified as Tier I, 91 Tier II, and 34 Tier III indicators (see text box below for the definition of each Tier). In addition to these, there are 6 indicators that have multiple tiers (different components of the indicator are classified into different tiers). While the global indicators are useful for international comparison, there is scope to amend them to suit national or local contexts, and thus make the indicators more relevant for local use. Also, proxy indicators may be used to replace some global indicators where necessary.

Box 8: Tier Classification Criteria/Definitions:

Tier 1: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, and countries regularly produce data for at least 50 per cent of countries and of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant.

Tier 2: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, but countries do not regularly produce data.

Tier 3: No internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested.

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[23]https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld

GSS recognises the value that data from CSOs have in complementing government data in order to provide more holistic monitoring. GSS is in the process of developing a quality assurance protocol to assess data from non-state organisations for inclusion in the official statistics. It is useful to point out that the classification of indicators into tiers is for government, but equally meant to facilitate CSOs' monitoring of the SDGs. The CSOs Platform has made submissions on what can be added to the national monitoring framework to ensure the adequacy of the national indicators but also to ensure CSOs' qualitative data can be taken up in national monitoring efforts. This chapter presents findings on the data collection activities and practices of CSOs and assesses their gaps and challenges in monitoring the SDGs.

6.2 CSOs Involvement in SDGs Data Collection

For Ghana to benefit from CSOs' complementary role regarding data collection for monitoring progress on the achievement of SDGs, a critical mass of them must be actively engaged in data collection in a manner that follows quality standards. However, the findings show that almost 58% of CSO respondents (in this study, and by extrapolation, the majority of the members of the CSOs Platform) are not collecting data on the 6 SDGs that are the focus for the 2019 VNR.

Figure 6.1: Proportion of CSOs Involved in Data Collection for Monitoring Progress on the SDGs

Source: Field data, April 2019

6.2.1 Types of Data Collected

Thirty-seven (37) out of the 88 CSOs surveyed (or 42%) reported that they were collecting SDG-related data. The types of data they were involved in collecting is shown in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1: Common Types of Data by CSOs

	Frequency	Valid Percentage	Cummulative Percentage
Mapping Activities onto SDG Targets	3	8.1	8.1
Alignment of Metrics and Indicators with National and Global Indicators	4	10.8	18.9
Thematic Surveys at Local Level	9	24.3	43.2
Nationwide Surveys	1	2.7	45.9
Monitoring Service Delivery	5	13.5	59.5
Monitoring Participation	5	13.5	73.0
Research on the SDGs	2	5.4	78.4
Monitoring Policy Coherence	2	5.4	83.8
Budget Monitoring	4	10.8	94.6
Monitoring the Values of 'Leave no One Behind	2	5.4	100.0
Total	37	100.0	

Source: Field data, April 2019

In addition to the low number of CSOs collecting SDGs data, the information being collected is limited to a few types of data, such as thematic surveys at local levels (24.3% of 37 CSOs), monitoring of service delivery (approximately 14% of 37 CSOs), monitoring of citizens' participation in the implementation of the SDGs (14% of 37 CSOs), and monitoring policy coherence (10% of 37 CSOs).

CSOs are constrained in undertaking nationwide surveys or monitoring values of "leaving no one behind". CSOs' limitations have implications for the extent to which they can undertake evidence-based advocacy on the SDGs. Their circumstances also limit their potential to complement government's data and inhibit their ability to

account for their contributions to the implementation of the SDGs. This hampers compliance with the principles of mutual accountability.

Out of the 88 CSOs, 12 CSOs indicated that they were reporting on national review processes. Another 15 were collecting information on thematic processes, whilst 10 CSOs were engaged in reporting on regional review exercises. For the CSOs covering national review processes, their 'reports' were largely based on observations on how the government was conducting the VNR in terms of involvement and targeting of PWDs. Others admitted observing the extensiveness of the VNR in terms of geographic coverage.

6.2.2 Level of Disaggregation in CSOs Data Collection

Findings also indicated that the CSOs largely do not disaggregate data on SDGs. Table 6.2 depicts that just 9% (out of the 37 CSOs) collected comprehensively disaggregated data covering sex, status of disability, location, and age. On the one hand, only one organisation (representing 1.1% of CSOs surveyed) collected data disaggregated by region. Another 4.5% also collected information disaggregated by rural-urban dynamics. Eleven (11) CSOs collected data disaggregated by sex only.

Table 6.2: Level Disaggregation of CSOs Data

	Frequency	Percentage	Cummulative Percentage
Sex	11	12.5	12.5
Disability	5	5.7	18.2
Rural-Urban	4	4.5	22.7
Region	1	1.1	23.9
Age	7	8.0	31.8
All	8	9.1	40.9
None	52	59.1	100.0
Total	88	100.0	

Source: Field data, April 2019

6.2.3 Level of SDGs monitoring

There is a reasonable degree of spread and a good indication of specialisation and complementarity amongst the CSOs collecting SDGs-related data. CSOs are collecting data to monitor at the community, district, regional, and national levels. However, there is more work being done related to community and district level data, compared to regional and national levels. This is a positive trend as community and district level monitoring provide data that holds the potential of addressing national level data gaps, which often hide the situational and contextual realities. As can be seen from Figure 6.2 below, the number of CSOs collecting data reduces from community to national level. As much as community-level monitoring is complementary, a good mix of CSOs monitoring the SDGs and collecting data proportionately at all levels will enable civil society to holistically fulfil their mandate. The current levels are presented in the figure below.

Figure 6.2: Levels Which CSOs are Collecting Data on the SDGs

6.2.4 Integrating the SDGs in plans and programmes

Ironically, quite a sizeable number of the CSOs (2 out of every 3 responding CSOs) reported that they had integrated the SDGs into their actions plans and programs. However, the level of integration into their programs was limited. For instance, key activities excluded data collection. Though they may be involved in monitoring progress on the SDGs, there are no clear plans and strategies for collecting data to complement government's information.
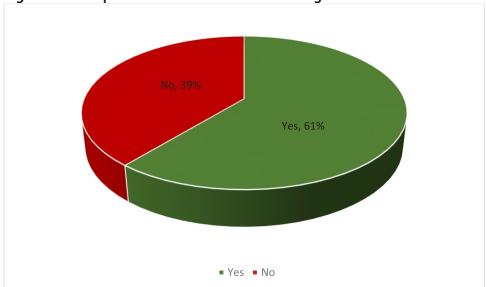
Figure 6.3: Proportion of CSOs that have integrated the SDGs in their Programs

6.3 Lessons Learnt and Opportunities for Enhancing CSOs' Reporting on the SDGs

Although their numbers were limited, the involvement of some CSOs in monitoring and collecting data on the SDGs provided reasonable opportunities for learning key lessons. These lessons also provide insights into the challenges with data collection as

well as the existing gaps in monitoring the SDGs. The lessons include the following:

a. Actual implementation of SDGs-related activities does not match the program/project design of some CSOs;
b. Systematic monitoring helps in tracking progress, documenting achievements, failures, and strategies for potential replication and scale-up;
c. Monitoring and data collection are time-consuming processes, require specialised skills and call for partnerships and collaboration among stakeholders;
d. There is inconsistency in the data being collected by stakeholders including some MDAs;
e. Compliance with data quality standards is low, which affects reliability and usability of data being collected;
f. Many CSOs collect project-specific data, which is short-term in nature and has implications for collecting long-term and independent information from civil society; and,
g. There is a significant capacity gaps in relation to data collection methodology, processes, and analysis among CSOs, especially at the sub-national level.

There are also various opportunities for enhancing CSOs' reporting on the SDGs that must be taken up. These opportunities include the following:

a. The existence of the SDGs monitoring and indicator frameworks, from which all stakeholders can derive indicators to measure impact. This makes it easier for Ghana as a country to assess how it is performing. It will also allow stakeholders to demonstrate how they have contributed to the national achievement of the SDGs;
b. The CSOs Platform is in a position to facilitate members' reporting on the SDGs;
c. The passage of the Right to Information Act provides the legal basis for citizens to demand information from public institutions. After CSOs' persistent and sustained advocacy for almost two (2) decades, the new law is set to change the face of governance in the country;
d. Government's willingness to collaborate with CSOs in relation to the SDGs provides an opportunity for CSOs to make inputs into the national monitoring framework and process;
e. Continuous engagement with government provides CSOs with the mandate to account independently and complement government's reporting on the SDGs;
f. The formation of district Sub-Platforms will facilitate CSOs' monitoring of the SDGs at the grassroots level. Particularly, the district Sub-Platforms can engage their members on setting and complying with standards for data collection and using monitoring information to hold duty bearers and themselves responsible;
g. Capacities of CSOs Platform members are being strengthened to enable them to comply with data quality standards;
h. ICT is being leveraged to create an online platform for reporting on the SDGs; and,
I. CSOs' strengths in capacity for qualitative analysis and capturing the perception of citizens could greatly complement the Government's VNR report.

CHAPTER SEVEN

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Introduction

The VNR processes provide a significant and participatory platform for reflection on the implementation of the SDGs. This Shadow Report is meant to deepen the exercise of 'stock-taking', by providing an independent assessment of progress that has been made from the perspective of citizens.

The potential for Ghana to achieve the targets of the SDGs is considerable. Good structures have been put in place for effective implementation and coordination, particularly at the national level. While there is a positive assessment on progress being made on the goals and targets, key weaknesses remain that require urgent attention. Furthermore, the potential contribution of CSOs can be enhanced if critical capacity constraints are addressed in a concerted manner, given the emerging model of partnership between stakeholders around the SDGs.

A key difference between government's VNR report and CSOs' Shadow Report is that while the former relied mainly on official statistics compiled by state institutions and coordinated by GSS, the Shadow Report drew largely on citizens' and CSOs' perspectives of the 2019 priority SDGs. In collecting the views of citizens, conscious efforts were made to include the views of women and PWDs, as well as citizens in hard-to-reach communities. The CSOs Shadow Report also examined such themes as the levels of public awareness of the SDGs, the extent of CSOs monitoring of progress and collection of data, and the contributions being made by CSOs towards the attainment of the Agenda 2030.

The CSOs Platform has proven to be a vehicle that facilitates constructive engagement between non-state actors, government, and private sector operators. These stakeholders, although critical, are not exhaustive as other potential partners, such as traditional authorities, religious bodies, and the academia, need to be engaged in a more consistent and institutionalised manner.

7.2 Conclusion

The on-going VNR process provides significant insights into the ways that national institutional arrangements have been defined. At the national level, a well-coordinated institutional mechanism is being used to implement the SDGs. For instance, the ICC is leading the SDG implementation effort by working jointly with other MDAs, private sector operators, and CSOs.

Unfortunately, this model has not been replicated at the sub-national level, since not all local stakeholder groups are represented, engaged, or involved in that level. Low involvement of key stakeholders at the local level has the potential to undermine accountability and inclusiveness as well as the intent to leave no one behind.

There is a need to ensure that the SDGs are fully integrated into the budget process at the MMDAs level. The Goals should not be an unconnected part of the process and must be addressed with the strong involvement of citizens in key SDGs-related actions. There is also the urgent need for CSOs to address critical capacity gaps hindering their involvement in monitoring progress and collection of data. Data collection appears to be a key area of weakness for CSOs' engagement in assuring the implementation processes of the SDGs.

7.3 Recommendations

Based on the main findings the following recommendations are made for consideration by government, CSOs, Development Partners and the private sector. In addition, there are general recommendations directed at both the government and the CSOs Platform to address together in the spirit of partnership.

General Recommendations

a. All stakeholders, particularly government and CSOs, should step-up awareness creation and public education campaigns across the country to promote wide ownership and support for the SDGs. While awareness creation efforts should target and prioritise citizens, conscious efforts must be made to sensitise public sector workers for them to understand and relate their work to the SDGs. By ensuring awareness of the SDGs on both the

supply and demand sides of development implementation, ownership and responsibility will be enhanced towards ensuring that the goals are attained within the stipulated implementation period.

b. Government and the CSOs Platform should take immediate steps to improve coordination and multi-partnership collaboration at the district level. The leadership of the ICC must act through the NDPC to issue guidelines on the formation of district-based ICCs. The CSOs Platform on the SDGs, on the other hand, should step up efforts on the creation of district Sub-Platforms to provide a common avenue for the inclusion of CSOs and citizens in the implementation processes.

c. The ICC and the CSOs Platform should approach regional structures, such as the regional house of chiefs and faith-based organisations, to find a niche for them to be involved in the implementation.

Recommendations to the Government

a. The SDGs Technical Steering Committee should be divided into sub-groups to make them more manageable, focused, and effective. With over 80 members, the number is too large to allow for effective functioning of the Committee. Sub-committees assigned with responsibility for providing technical support in specific thematic areas will enhance the functionality and effectiveness. This will also help to address such concerns as infrequent meetings and low attendance at these events.

b. The roles of the SDGs Advisory Unit and the ICC should be further clarified and delineated so that their functions are not duplicated. For instance, the Advisory Unit should focus on supporting the President's role as an international advocate and facilitating regional and continental

progress monitoring. The Unit should also enable engagements with peer African leaders to accelerate continental effort regarding the SDGs.

c. The government should ensure that future VNR reports go beyond national statistical averages to include reflections on implementation efforts at the sub-national level. This is important to reveal realties that are often hidden by national averages. Inclusion of detailed district-focused reflections will also enable local stakeholders to appreciate what is working well and issues that need attention in their contexts. This approach is critical for ensuring that no one is left behind in the implementation of the SDGs as well as adopting inclusive processes in accounting for, and reporting on, progress made;

d. Article 42 of the Local Government Act 936, 2016 states that a District Assembly shall facilitate the establishment of a structure for stakeholder participation in development processes initiated by the Assembly.[24] This presents a unique opportunity and the legal basis for MMDAs to replicate the ICC model. Replicating the ICC arrangement at the district level would be a means of formalising the collaborative arrangement, thereby creating a sense of ownership in the planning process and outcomes among all stakeholders.

Recommendations to CSOs

a. The CSOs Platform must work closely with GSS and other stakeholders to improve members' capacity for data collection, analysis, and reporting at national and sub-national levels. Given the relatively large number of Platform members, a "Training of Trainers" or a cascading approach may be adopted, starting with organisations with some capacity in data monitoring and collection. This group will in turn train other members with lower levels of capacity. This approach could also have multiplier effects to promote SDG data collection in Ghana.

b. The CSOs Platform can concentrate efforts on grassroots level data collection to complement national level data that often generalises trends and tends to obscure the realities on the ground.

c. CSOs should build their capacity to operationalise the key principles of the 2030 Agenda in their activities. These principles include "leaving no one behind", "balancing the three pillars of sustainable development (social, environmental and economic)", and the "integrated and indivisible nature of the goals". The principles could be the main entry points for CSOs to integrate the SDGs into their programming. The principles will also serve as the basis for monitoring progress and promoting behavioural change required for the realisation of key SDGs and holding duty bearers accountable for effective implementation of the goals.

d. The CSOs Platform should endeavour to bring more of the well-established national level CSOs into its fold in order to partner district-based members for skills and knowledge transfer on the best approaches to engaging in the global development agenda.

Recommendations to the Private Sector

a. Key umbrella organisations such as the AGI and the PEF should consider

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[24]Similarly, Regulation 2, 3, 5 of the National Development Planning (System) Regulations, 2016 (L.I. 2232) enjoin MMDAs to use consultative processes for the preparation and integration of national development plans into district plans. Regulation 9 stipulates that "a district planning authority shall collaborate and co-operate with (a) non-decentralised departments, (b) public corporations and statutory bodies, (c) the private sector, (d) civil society organisations, and (e) any other key stakeholders in the implementation of a district development plan".

a common platform to synergise their engagement on the SDGs. A common platform, such as the CSOs Platform, is useful for providing an entry point for collective engagement and shared accounting by the private sector of its SDG-related efforts.

b. Beyond reporting on efforts by individual entities, there is the need for a holistic picture on their contributions regarding such priorities as employment creation for the youth, efforts to strengthen the economy, as well as solutions to global challenges, such as migration.

c. The private sector's contributions to achieving the SDGs should also consider providing financial support to efforts to hold duty bearers accountable, including improving the capacity of CSOs for this end. This is critical in view of the dwindling funding to CSOs in Ghana. The private sector is encouraged to review approaches to CSR to include support for CSOs' monitoring of progress and advocacy on the SDGs.

d. The practice of businesses integrating SDG principles and targets in their strategies and corporate planning is gaining ground in Ghana; however, there is little systematic analysis to date about the ways in which businesses are engaging with the SDGs. There is also the need for clarity on the actual impact SDGs could have on the sustainability of their businesses and the effects of their SDG-related activities. The private sector in Ghana should be clear on the strategies required to align their business activities with the transformative agenda of the SDGs.

Recommendations to Development Partners

a. Development Partners should harmonise their support to CSOs working on the SDGs. Development Partners and ICC should prioritise support to the CSOs Platform in a more coordinated manner to ensure its sustainability and should also work with CSOs through the Platform.

b. Development Partners should identify a way to report on their contributions to the implementation of the SDGs in Ghana, be it technical or financial.

c. Ghana's Development Partners should be visibly promoting partnerships for effective development co-operation that provides a dedicated space for all stakeholders to advance the effectiveness of respective efforts. Development Partners should also drive political momentum on effective development co-operation and share evidence and lessons learned that both internal and external stakeholders can apply to their own contexts. Specifically, Development Partners should consider: 1) supporting the country's leadership in strengthening institutions and systems for effective implementation, 2) advocating for smarter and more transparent development co-operation, 3) delivering results that are predictable and aligned to Ghana's national priorities, 4) ensuring development partnerships involve a broad range of stakeholders to maximise impact, and 5) monitoring progress on the implementation of the development effectiveness principles through a process led by Ghana.

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A. Focus Group Discussion

1. Questions for Focus Group Discussion

Before we start, I would like to remind you that there are no right or wrong answers in this discussion. We are interested in knowing what each of you think, so please feel free to be frank and to share your point of view, regardless of whether you agree or disagree with what you hear. It is important that we hear all your opinions. Please treat others in the group as you want to be treated by not telling anyone about what you hear in this discussion today. By completing this discussion, you are giving consent to this information being used in the report. All information will be used anonymously. You can withdraw your consent at any time by sending email to: sfgconsult@yahoo.com . Let us start by going around the circle and having each person introduce herself. (Members of the research team should also introduce themselves and describe each of their roles.)

1. Are you aware about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? What are the SDGs? (Note: Upon answer the interviewer/moderator of the FGD should explain to participants that all their projects are related to SDGs in many and different ways. Please provide the background on the SDGs as well)
2. Are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relevant to the work you do? Explain.
3. Have Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) demonstrated ownership of the SDGs? Explain your answer.
4. What are Civil Society Organisations doing to support the implementation of the SDGs in Ghana?
5. What strategies are CSOs using for the implementation of the SDGs?
6. What are the main challenges CSOs face in contributing toward the implementation of the SDGs in Ghana?
   - Challenges associated with working with other CSOs
   - In relation to working with Private sector operators
   - Associated with working/engaging government
7. How can these challenges be addressed?
8. In your estimation, how well is Ghana doing with progress towards achieving:

a. SDG4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
b. SDG8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
c. SDG10 - Reduce inequality within and among countries.
d. SDG13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
e. SDG16 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
f. SDG17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

9. What do you make of the relationship between CSOs and government at the national level on the SDGs?
10. What do you make of the relationship between CSOs and MMDAs at the local level on the SDGs?
11. What relationships exist between you and stakeholders such as; (a) media, (b) private sector, (c) traditional authorities, and (d) academia.
12. How are CSOs engaging the above stakeholders and other partners?
13. In your opinion, how can we accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs in Ghana?
14. Let's summarise some of the key points from our discussion.
15. Is there anything else?
16. Do you have any questions?
17. In which areas would you need additional support from the CSOs Platform to improve your role in holding the government accountable? (could help to define follow-up activities after VNR)
18. Do you have examples of new/innovative tools you used for collecting data on your topic (add XYZ), e.g. citizen-generated data?
19. Where do you think are the biggest data gaps from the Government? Do you have information that helps to close these gaps? Or other ideas how to counter this challenge?
20. Any positive experiences of a small success you would like to share (regarding SDG implementation and measuring impact of your activities)?
21. Do you have a good example how looking at the SDGs and their indicators helped you in your work?

B. Household Questionnaires

Introduction:
Civil Society Organisations in Ghana are conducting a report to capture the perspectives of citizens on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs. As part of the process, we would like to seek the opinions of the general public on the SDGs and its implementation in Ghana. We envisage that this survey will be completed within 15 minutes. At any point in time, you are at liberty to stop with this interview. We also want to assure you of maximum confidentiality. By completing this survey, you are giving consent to this information being used in the report. All information will be used anonymously. You can withdraw your consent at any time by sending email to: sfgconsult@yahoo.com .Thank you for your time.

A.   Demographic Information
1.   Sex of respondent: (a) Male   (b) Female
2.   Age of respondent: (a) Below 15   (b) 15- 24   (c) 25 – 34   (d) 35 – 54
                (e) above 55
3.   Level of education: (a) Tertiary   (b) SHS   (c) JHS   (d) O' level
                (e) A 'Level   (f) Middle school   (g) No formal
                education   (h) others (please specify)………………
4.   Region:…………………………………………………..
5.   District:…………………………………………………
6.   Which of the following do you have a difficulty in performing? (a) Walking (a) Seeing (c) Hearing(d) cognition   (e) Self-care   (f) Communication   (g) Non
7.   Are you employed?   (a) Yes   (b) No
8.
9.   How much income do you earn every month?
10.   (a) No income   (b) GHs 1-100   (c) GHs 101- 500   (d) GHs 501-1000
        (e) GHs 1001-1500
11.   (f) GHs 1501-2000   (g) GHs2001+

B.   General knowledge on SDGS
12.   Have you heard of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?
        a. Yes   b. No   ***If no move question no.14***
13.   How did you hear about the SDGs?
        (a) Sensitisation by CSOs   (b) Sensitisation by MMDAs   (c) Internet
        (d) Radio/TV/Newspaper   (e) Classroom   (f) Information Service Department
        (g) Friend/relative   (h) Book/brochure/handbills   (i) Other, Please specify
14.   How many goals are there in the SDGs?
        a. 17   b. don't know
15.   When were the SDGs adopted?
        a. 2015   b. don't know
16.   Who in Ghana is responsible for achieving the SDGs in Ghana?
        a. United Nations   b. the government c. civil society organisations   d. private sector
        e. everyone
17.   Do you think Government is doing enough to achieve the SDGs?
        a. Yes   b. No   c. don't know
18.   Do you think CSOs are doing enough to achieve the SDGs?
        a. Yes   b. No   c. don't know
19.   Do you think the private sector is doing enough to achieve the SDGs?
        a. Yes,   b. No   c. don't know

C. **Evidence of progress of implementation**

2.   What are your perceptions on **access** to education and **quality** of education in Ghana?
   a.   a. Highly accessible and high quality   b. highly accessible but low quality   c. Not accessible but high quality   d. Not accessible and low quality   e. don't know
3.   What are your perceptions on Ghana's economic growth and access to decent work?
         a. Higher economic growth
         b. Higher access to decent work
         c. Higher economic growth but low access to decent work
         d. Low economic growth but higher access to decent work
         e. Lower economic growth and low access to decent work
4.   What are your perceptions on inequality in Ghana?
         a. Inequality is reducing   b. Inequality is increasing
         c. Inequality has been at the same level d. don't know
5.   What are your perceptions on tackling climate change in Ghana?
         a. A lot is being done   b. Very little is being done   c. Nothing is being done
6.   What are your perceptions on access to justice and public institutions in Ghana?
         a. highly accessible   b. moderately accessible   c. highly inaccessible
         d. inaccessible
7.   What can be done to achieve all the SDGs?
   ………
   ………
8.   Have you attended any workshop, forum or meeting by your district/municipal/ metropolitan assembly on the SDGs?
         a. Yes   b. No
9.   Are you aware of any initiative by your assembly to achieve the SDGs?
         a. Yes   b. No

Introduction: We have been contracted by the Ghana CSOs Platform on the SDGs to produce a shadow Voluntary National Review Report. The subsequent report to be produced will provide the perspectives of CSOs contribution to the attainment of the SDGs in Ghana. You have been selected because you have signed on to the CSOs platform as an organisation, which is contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. We envisage that this survey will be completed within 45 minutes. At any point in time, you are at liberty to stop with this interview. We also want to assure you of maximum confidentiality. By completing this survey, you are giving consent to this information being used in the report. All information will be used anonymously. You can withdraw your consent at any time by sending email to: sfgconsult@yahoo.com. Thank you for your time.

1.   Name of CSO:
……………………………………………………………………………………….

2.   Type of CSO
a. National CSO   B. regional CSO   c. local/community-based CSO.

3. In which of the regions do you operate? Choose as many as apply
a.   Ashanti Region
b.   Ahafo Region
c.   Bono Region
d.   Bono East Region
e.   Central Region
f.   Eastern Region
g.   Greater Accra Region
h.   Northern Region
i.   North East Region
j.   Oti Region
k.   Savannah Region
l.   Upper East Region
m.   Upper West Region
n.   Western Region
o.   West North Region
p.   Volta Region
q.   All

4. Please indicate the number of MMDAs in which you operate
a.   1-5
b.   2-6-10
c.   3-11-15
d.   4-16-20
e.   5- 20+

5. Which of the Following SDGs have you engaged in? Choose as many as apply
a.   Goal 4   Quality Education
b.   Goal 8   Decent Work Economic Growth
c.   Goal 10   Reduce Inequality
d.   Goal 13   Climate Action
e.   Goal 16   Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

f.   [Goal 17]   Promoting Partnerships for Goals
g.   None of the Above

If option (**g)** is selected end interview

Policy Context and CSOs Intervention for Attaining Goal 4- Quality Education
6.   In which way(s), have you intervened or are intervening in the education sector?
a.   Promoting local ownership of the SDGs
b.   Mobilising and facilitating citizens to influence educational policy formulation
c.   Monitoring government's implementation of education policies/programmes to ensure effectiveness in delivery of desired outcomes
d.   Initiated community, district and national dialogues to create awareness on relevant targets and indicators
e.   Initiated community, district and national dialogues to create local Sub-platforms
f.   Supporting outreaches by national government and non-state actors targeting poor and vulnerable groups
g.   Advocating comprehensive social protection to enable universal quality education for all Ghanaians
h.   Programmes facilitating access to basic educational services for all
I.   Community Empowerment projects to increase accountability in the education sector
j.   Awareness raising among poor and vulnerable groups for development accountability purposes for example older persons and people with disabilities on the need for civic responsibility
k.   Mobilisation of poor and vulnerable groups for awareness raising, advocacy and to generate citizen data.
l.   Provision of educational infrastructure
m.   Provision of teaching and learning aid
n.   Building capacity of school management committees
o.   Building capacity of teachers
p.   Promoting inclusive education
q.   Others, Please specify…………………………………………………………………..

7.   Have you achieved any results/impact?
a.   Yes
b.   Not Yet

8.   If Yes, Please provide a brief account of the results/impact achieved
………………………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Challenges, Lessons and Opportunities
9.   Please mention 3 key challenges associated with the policy environment in relation to the education
a.   ....
b.   ....
c.   ....

10.   Please mention 3 key challenges you are encountering in the interventions you are providing in the education

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a. ....

b. ....

c. ....

11. Please indicate 3 lessons you have learnt or are learning

a. ....

b. ....

c. ....

12. What do you consider to be key opportunities for speeding up progress for quality education?

....

....

....

Policy Context and CSOs Intervention for Attaining Goal 8- Decent Work and Economic Growth

13. In which way(s), have you intervened or are intervening in the provision of income security (decent work) and economic growth?

l. Promoting local ownership of the SDGs

m. Mobilising and facilitating citizens to influence policy on decent work and economic growth

n. Monitoring government's implementation of policies/programmes to ensure provision of decent work and economic growth

o. Initiated community, district and national dialogues to create awareness on relevant targets and indicators

p. Initiated community, district and national dialogues to create local Sub-platforms for decent work and economic growth

q. Supporting outreaches by national government and non-state actors targeting poor and vulnerable groups

r. Programmes/projects facilitating access to decent jobs

s. Community empowerment projects to increase accountability in job creation

t. Awareness raising among poor and vulnerable groups on rights decent jobs and economic opportunities

u. Provision of employable skill to vulnerable groups

v. Others…….....………………………………………………………………………

14. Have you achieved any results/impact?

1- Yes

2- Not Yet

15. If Yes, Please provide a brief account of the results/impact achieved

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....

....

Challenges, Lessons and Opportunities

16. Please mention 3 key challenges associated with the policy environment for decent work and economic growth

a. ....

b. ....

c. ………………………………………………………………………………………………

17. Please mention 3 key challenges you are encountering in the interventions you are providing for decent work and economic growth
a. ………………………………………………………………………………………………
b. ………………………………………………………………………………………………
c. ………………………………………………………………………………………………

18. Please indicate 3 lessons you have learnt or are learning
a. ………………………………………………………………………………………………
b. ………………………………………………………………………………………………
c. ………………………………………………………………………………………………

19. What do you consider to be key opportunities for speeding up progress to reduce inequality in Ghana?
………………………………………………………………………………………..…………………
………

Policy Context and CSOs Intervention for Attaining Goal 10- Reduced Inequality
20. In which way(s), have you intervened or are intervening in reducing inequality?
a. Promoting local ownership of the SDGs
b. Innovative, sustainable solutions to address inequality
c. Mobilising and facilitating citizens to influence social projection policies
d. Monitoring government's implementation of social protection policies/programmes to ensure effectiveness in delivery of desired outcomes
e. Initiated community, district and national dialogues to create awareness on relevant targets and indicators
f. Initiated community, district and national dialogues to create local Sub-platforms
g. Supporting outreaches by national government and non-state actors targeting poor and vulnerable groups
h. Advocating for progressive tax regime/initiatives/policies
i. Advocating comprehensive social protection service delivery
j. Programmes facilitating access to basic services for all
k. Community empowerment projects to increase accountability in service delivery
l. Awareness raising among poor and vulnerable groups for development accountability purposes for example older persons and people with disabilities
m. Provision of services to underserved communities
n. Advocating development to address spatial inequality
o. Others…………………………………………………………………………………….....
21. Have you achieved any results/impact?
   3- Yes
   4- Not Yet
22. If Yes, Please provide a brief account of the results/impact achieved

Challenges, Lessons and Opportunities
23. Please mention 3 key challenges associated with the policy environment for reducing inequality
a. ………………………………………………………………………………………………
b. ………………………………………………………………………………………………
c. ………………………………………………………………………………………………

24. Please mention 3 key challenges you are encountering in the interventions you are providing for reducing inequality
a. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………
b. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………
c. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………

25. Please indicate 3 lessons you have learnt or are learning
a. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………
b. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………
c. ………………………………………………………………………………………………………

26. What do you consider to be key opportunities for speeding up progress for reduced inequality?
………………………………………………………………………………………………………
………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Policy Context and CSOs Intervention for Attaining Goal 13- Climate Action
27. In which way(s), have you intervened or are intervening in addressing Climate Change?
a. Promoting local ownership of the SDGs
b. Mobilising and facilitating citizens to influence environmental/climate policy/ programme formulation
c. Monitoring government's implementation of climate change adaption and mitigation policies/programmes to ensure effectiveness in delivery of desired outcomes
d. Initiated community, district and national dialogues to create awareness on relevant targets and indicators
e. Initiated community, district and national dialogues to create local Sub-platforms
f. Initiated community, district and national dialogues to awareness on climate change
g. Supporting outreaches by national government and non-state actors targeting poor and vulnerable groups
h. Programmes facilitating access to services for all
I. Community empowerment projects to increase accountability in climate change finance
j. Building capacity for climate change activities
k. Disaster risk management
l. Providing Relief services
m. Others………………………………………………………………………………………......

28. Have you achieved any results/impact?
a. Yes
b. Not Yet

29. If Yes, Please provide a brief account of the results/impact achieved

Challenges, Lessons and Opportunities
30. Please mention 3 key challenges associated with the policy environment on climate change

a. ....
b. ....
c. ....

31. Please mention 3 key challenges you are encountering in the interventions you are providing to address climate change
a. ....
b. ....
c. ....

32. Please indicate 3 lessons you have learnt or are learning
a. ....
b. ....
c. ....

33. What do you consider to be key opportunities for speeding up progress in addressing climate change?
....
....
....

Policy Context and CSOs Intervention for Attaining Goal 16- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

34. In which way(s), have you intervened or are intervening in the areas of Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions?
a. Promoting local ownership of the SDGs
b. Mobilising and facilitating citizens to influence policies for promoting peace, justice and strong institutions
c. Monitoring government's implementation of policies/programmes to ensure effectiveness in delivery of desired outcomes
d. Monitoring corruption and promoting good governance practices
e. Initiated community, district and national dialogues to create awareness on relevant targets and indicators
f. Initiated community, district and national dialogues to create local Sub-platforms
g. Supporting grassroots non-state actors to combat corruption
h. Supporting outreaches by national government and non-state actors targeting poor and vulnerable groups
i. Advocating comprehensive legal reforms
j. Advocating legal and social justice
k. Programmes facilitating access to justice
l. Community empowerment projects to increase accountability in the public institutions
m. Awareness raising among poor and vulnerable groups for development and public accountability
n. Conflict mediation, resolution and prevention
o. Advocating for justice for vulnerable groups
p. Peace building activities
q. Others…………...………………………………………………………………………

35. Have you achieved any results/impact?
    5-   Yes
    6-   Not Yet
36. If Yes, Please provide a brief account of the results/impact achieved

Challenges, Lessons and Opportunities
37. Please mention 3 key challenges associated with the policy environment for peace, justice and strong institutions
a.   …………………………………………………………………………………………………
b.   …………………………………………………………………………………………………
c.   …………………………………………………………………………………………………

38. Please mention 3 key challenges you are encountering in the interventions you are providing for peace, justice and strong institutions
a.   …………………………………………………………………………………………………
b.   …………………………………………………………………………………………………
c.   …………………………………………………………………………………………………

39. Please indicate 3 lessons you have learnt or are learning
a.   …………………………………………………………………………………………………
b.   …………………………………………………………………………………………………
c.   …………………………………………………………………………………………………

40. What do you consider to be key opportunities for speeding up progress for peace, justice and strong institutions in Ghana?
………
………
………

Policy Context and CSOs Intervention for Attaining Goal 17- Promoting Partnerships for Goals
41. In which way(s), have you intervened or are intervening in ensuring partnership for the SDGs?
a. Promoting local ownership of the SDGs
b. Partnership with national level government institutions
c. Partnership with regional level governmental institutions
d. Partnerships with district level government institutions
e. Partnership with Dps
f. Partnership with private sector operators
g. Partnership with media
h. Partnership with academia
i. Partnership with international organisations
j. Partnership with other civil society organisations
k. Promoting multi-stakeholder engagement on the SDGs
l. Joint advocacy
m. Joint monitoring
n. Promoting citizen-centric, collaborative governance
o. Joint awareness creating
p. Co-founding of interventions
q. Joint coordination

r.   Joint data collection
s.   Monitoring government civil relationships
t.   Initiated community, district and national dialogues to create local Sub-platforms
u.   Supporting joint outreaches by national government and non-state actors targeting poor and vulnerable groups
v.   Promoting mutual accountability
w.   Others……………………………………………………………………………………

42.   Have you achieved any results/impact?
       a.   Yes
       b.   Not Yet

43.   If Yes, Please provide a brief account of the results/impact achieved

Challenges, Lessons and Opportunities
44.   Please mention 3 key challenges associated with the policy environment affecting partnership for the goals
a.   …………………………………………………………………………………………
b.   …………………………………………………………………………………………
c.   …………………………………………………………………………………………

45.   Please mention 3 key challenges you are encountering in building partnerships for the goals
a.   …………………………………………………………………………………………
b.   …………………………………………………………………………………………
c.   …………………………………………………………………………………………

46.   Please indicate 3 lessons you have learnt or are learning
a.   …………………………………………………………………………………………
b.   …………………………………………………………………………………………
c.   …………………………………………………………………………………………

47.   What do you consider to be key opportunities for promoting partnership for the goals?
a.   …………………………………………………………………………………………
b.   …………………………………………………………………………………………
c.   …………………………………………………………………………………………

Data for Monitoring Progress on the SDGs
48. Are you involved in data collection for monitoring the SDGs in Ghana?
a.   Yes
b.   No

49.   If yes, which of these apply?
a.   Mapping activities onto SDG targets (Integrating your activities into the SDGs)
b.   Alignment of metrics and indicators with national and global indicators (ensuring that your project indicators are linked to the national and global SDGs indicators)
c.   Thematic surveys at local level (community and district based surveys)
d.   Nationwide surveys (research/survey that covers the entire country)

e. Monitoring service delivery (looking at how your community/project beneficiary are accessing basic services)
f. Monitoring participation (looking at how citizens take part in decision-making)
g. Research
h. Monitoring policy coherence (looking at how policy serve the interest of citizens)
i. Budget monitoring (looking at how public money is being used)
j. Monitoring the values of 'leave no one behind (looking at whether interest of all citizens are catered for)
    Others………………………..

49. What is the level of disaggregation in the data collection?
     a. Sex b. disability   c. rural-urban   c. region   d. age e. All
     f. None

50. Which level are you reporting? Tick as many as apply
a. National review processes
b. Thematic review processes.
c. Regional review processes
d. Global review processes
a. Others……………………………

51. At what level are you monitoring the SDGs?
a. Community level
b. District level
c. Regional level
d. National level
e. International level
f. None

52. Have you integrated the SDGs in your plans and programmes?
     a. Yes   b. No

53. What challenges confront you in monitoring progress on the SDGs?
     ………

54. What lessons have you learnt in monitoring the SDGs?
     ………

55. What opportunities are there for enhancing CSOs reporting on the SDGs?
     ………
     ………

D. Interview Guide for Government Officials

1. Kindly tell us the background to Ghana's adoption of the SDGs
2. What is your MDA doing on the SDGs?
3. What lessons did Ghana learn from the implementation from MDGs?
4. How are the lessons being used to guide the implementation of the SDGs?
5. What approaches are you using for the implementation of the SDGs?
6. What could be improved upon regarding the implementation approach?

7. We understand that Ghana is using a multi-stakeholder approach for the implementation of the SDGs, kindly explains the inspiration behind.
8. How do you assess their value addition?
9. Is your institution on track in the implementation of the SDGs?
10. What are the challenges for implementing these goals?
11. What is your assessment regarding government's resolve to use domestic revenue to finance the SDGs?
12. How have you engaged other stakeholders (civil society, private sector, media, international NGOs? If Yes continue with 13,14 and 15
13. What could be done to optimise the contribution of stakeholders mentioned in question 12?
14. How do you envision better partnership with other stakeholders mention?
15. How is government operationalising the 'Leave No One Behind mantra?
16. Where do you see data gaps in the monitoring of SDGs?

This report is the outcome to the joint effort of CSOs coordinated by the Ghana Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Platform on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
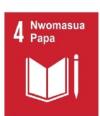
AMANSAN MPONTUO BOTAEƐ

1 Ohia nni hɔ	2 Ɛkɔm nni hɔ koraa	3 Apɔmden Papa Ne Yiedie	4 Nwomasua Papa	5 Nnipa Bɔberɛ pɛpɛɛyɔ	6 Nsupa Ne Ahonidie
7 Anyinam Ahoɔdeneɛpapa a ne Boɔ wɔ Fam	8 Adwuma a ɛho Teɛ ne Sikasɛm Mpontuo	9 Mfididwuma Mu Nsakraeɛfoforɔ ne Asetenam Nnooma pa	10 Nnipa Mu Nyiyimu So Teɛ	11 Afebɔɔ Nkuropɔn ne Atenaeɛ Ahodoɔ	12 Nnoomayɛ ne Wɔn Dwumadie Papa
13 Wiem Tebea Ho Dwumadie	14 Nsuoase Tena	15 Asaase So Tena	16 Asomdwoeɛ, Atɛntenenee ne Nnwuma a Wɔgyina Wɔn Nan So	17 Nkutahodie a ɛwɔ Hɔ Ma Botaeɛ ahodoɔ no	AMANSAN MPONTUO BOTAEƐ

2015 - 2030

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