



*TAKING ACTION ON SDGs: CITIZENS PERSPECTIVES ON THE SDGs DELIVERY MECHANISM IN
GHANA*

Civil Society Organizations' Shadow Report on the Voluntary National Review 2022

Prepared by:

The Ghana Civil Society Organisations

Platform on the Sustainable Development Goals

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CSOs	-	<i>Civil Society Organizations</i>
ECOSOC	-	<i>Economic and Social Council</i>
GoG	-	<i>Government of Ghana</i>
HLPF	-	<i>High Level Political Forum</i>
HLMC	-	<i>High-Level Ministerial Committee</i>
ICC	-	<i>Implementation Coordinating Committee</i>
MDAs	-	<i>Ministries, Departments, and Agencies</i>
MDGs	-	<i>Millennium Development Goals</i>
MMDAs	-	<i>Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies</i>
NGOs	-	<i>Non-Governmental Organization</i>
NDPC	-	<i>National Development Planning Commission</i>
NTC	-	<i>National Technical Committee</i>
NTSC	-	<i>National Technical Steering Committee</i>
PWDs	-	<i>Persons with Disability</i>
RCCs	-	<i>Regional Coordinating Councils</i>
SDGs	-	<i>Sustainable Development Goals</i>
SR	-	<i>Shadow Report</i>
UN	-	<i>United Nations</i>
VNR	-	<i>Voluntary National Review</i>

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

World leaders in 2015 adopted the Sustainable Development Goals to transform the world. The seventeen (17) goals are a call to action to end poverty and inequality, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy health, justice, and prosperity. Countries that are implementing these global goals have domesticated the goals into their development plans. Countries, volunteer to be peer-reviewed on their performance of the SDGs and this is known as the Volunteer National Review (VNR). Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) also present an alternative report, known as the Shadow report, to complement the state VNR report, challenge questionable findings and to commend the state, where need be. Ghana presented her second VNR in July 2022 and this is also the second shadow report from the CSOs platform on SDGs.

This Shadow report highlights CSOs' contribution to the implementation of the SDGs, citizens' views on the systems and structures for implementation, data collection processes as well as its management. The report also identifies the state institution responsible for the goals, level of implementation, degree of accountability and transparency as well as level of public awareness of the SDGs at district, regional and national levels.

Three pre-data collection meetings and virtual workshops (in-person and virtual) were held with CSOs and citizens across the country between February and June 2022. The entire process of data collection, analysis and report writing was coordinated by a team of technical experts from the CSOs platform on SDGs. A total of 251 citizens comprising PWDs, young people and children and 77 civil society activists took part in the exercise with the help of a score card that was adopted from the Action for Sustainable Development. The findings showed that, there are national plans, actions, and budgets on SDGs. Additionally, there are a good number of policy frameworks, but their implementation has been slow. Institutions responsible for implementing the SDGs are not financially resourced. Due to the absence of monitoring templates, there is no known evaluation or assessment report on progress of the SDGs. Implementation of the SDGs at the local level has been slow as well, even though the SDGs have been mainstreamed into the DMTDPs.

On transparency and accountability mechanisms, there exists laws and systems in place, but these have not been fully utilized. Public awareness of the SDGs is low and capacity across agencies to speak to the goals, the indicators, and the national strategy towards achieving them may also not be at appreciable or acceptable balance. Within agencies, not all may have a same understanding of their work and how it influences and impacts on the SDGs. There is great multi-stakeholder partnership with some goals but generally, this area has been well explored. There is an average participation of CSOs with various agencies across the goals.

The report recommends proper integration of sectoral plans with SDGs and a deliberate effort to engage the private sector, academia and other relevant stakeholders in the design and implementation of sectoral plans on the SDGs. There is also the need for greater awareness creation of the SDGs at both local and national levels and a conscious effort to build the capacity of CSOs and the media to contribute effectively to the implementation of the SDGs.

1.0 CHAPTER ONE

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 Organisations (CSOs), private sector entities and other development actors must work together on this agenda, with a view of leaving no one behind. The 2030 Agenda encourages member states to conduct voluntary, regular, and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels with contributions from CSOs, 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. 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 presented the findings of its second VNR in July 2022 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 Implementation Coordinating Committee (ICC), which includes a representative from the CSOs Platform. The main VNR report is 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 second VNR and present the findings, the CSOs Platform on SDGs embarked on the process to produce a CSOs Shadow Report (SR) as a CSO alternative report, to promote mutual accountability on the implementation of the SDGs. This is in keeping with the Platforms approach of producing shadow reports as part of Ghana’s VNR processes. Shadow Reporting is an accepted practice through which non-state actors 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 CSOs and citizens. They are helpful in calling attention to critical issues that governments might have failed to highlight. It is important to note that SR are not only about emphasizing the negatives of government’s performance but also commending what is being done right to

accomplish the SDGs. In 2019, the Platform and its partners produced its First Shadow Report, “Progress on the SDGs: Telling the Ghanaian Story through the Lens of Citizens¹”, which gave opportunity to civil society to account for its role and contribution to the broader SDG implementation in Ghana. This year, the Report seeks to harvest opinions of the citizenry on the implementation mechanisms being used by GoG and its stakeholders in delivering the SDGs in Ghana.

1.2 Objectives of the Report

The CSOs Platform on SDGs has prepared this SR to complement the Government of Ghana’s (GoG’s) 2022 VNR.

This SR captures CSOs’ contributions to the implementation of the SDGs in some detail, the identification of state institutions responsible for implementing the various goals, level of implementation of the SDGs at the national and sub national levels, level of accountability and transparency and the level of public awareness on the SDGs. The SR 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 SR provides recommendations for improving CSOs’ activities on the SDGs over the next four years, for strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships, for promoting ownership of the SDGs at the district level, and for changing behaviors that impede development.

¹ http://ghanacsoplatformsdg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Progress_on_SDGs_CSOs_Shadow_Report.pdf Accessed on June 2, 2022

2.0 CHAPTER TWO

METHODOLOGY

2.1 Research Approach and Process

The norm and generally accepted practice for the preparation of a shadow report is to do so under the ambit of a coalition, network, or platform. The CSOs Platform on SDGs, being a Platform of CSOs in Ghana coordinating the implementation of the SDGs among its members, followed this approach in the preparation of the SR

In terms of approach and process, a CSOs SR Technical Committee was established to oversee, support, and supervise the overall process leading to the development of the report. The Committee consisted of Institutional Membership as SEND Ghana, Ghana Integrity Initiative, Youth Advocates Ghana, African Institute of Population and Development. The Technical Committee reviewed the data collection tools and draft outline of the report. It also collated case studies, representing examples showcasing CSO efforts towards the implementation of the SDGs.

Three pre-data collection meetings and virtual workshops (in-person and virtual) were held with CSOs². These meetings were important as it provided opportunity to contextualize the data collection tools (the case study template and the scorecard), which were adapted from the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) and Action for Sustainable Development. Both tools – the case study template and the scorecard – were subjected to civil society review prior to their deployment. The meetings allowed the National Secretariat to agree on the approach, format, and focus areas of the SR with participating members.

Data collection for the preparation of the SR was conducted between February and June 2022. These were done in two main parts: first in February 2022 the CSO SDG platform members were asked to submit Case Studies highlighting innovative ways the organisations are contributing to the SDGs. The administration of the scorecard was carried out between May and June 2022.

A validation meeting was held in August 2022 to allow members of the CSO SDG Platform Steering Committee to review, make input, and validate the draft report. Post the validation meeting, the Shadow Report Committee finalized the report.

2.2 Sampling Technique and Sample Size

Data was collected through a combination of virtual and in person consultative engagements. The report adopted a qualitative research approach.

A Purposive Sampling technique was adopted. These were done with different demographic groups. The key strategy was to ensure that no one was left behind. Thus, data collection

² The CSOs Platform on SDGs has 18 National sub platforms and 16 District Platforms.

targeted the vulnerable groups across the country. Persons with Disability, young people market women, aged among others were consulted in a nationwide consultative process, that was facilitated by members of the CSO SDG Platform. The opinions of civil society activists as individual citizens were also sought. A total of 17 consultative sessions out across the country were organized using Focus Group Discussions (FGD). Table 2.1 presents the various organizational members of the CSOs Platform on SDGs who participated in the organization of the FGDs.

Table 2. 1: Citizenry Consultative Sessions

	Lead Organization	Target Group	Location	SDG In Focus	Number of Consultative Meetings	Number of Participants
1	Foundation for Security and Development in Africa	Young Women	Accra	Goal 4 & 16	2	34
2	Young Visionary Leaders	Children, Students	Amasaman	Goal 4	2	35
3	Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana	Out of School Young People	Accra, Tamale	Goal 3 & 5	4	48
4	Asiribisi Self Help Initiative	PWDs, Adolescent Young Mothers	Walewale, Nalerigu	Goal 4, 10	2	20
5	Hope for Future Generation	People Living with HIV/AIDS	Accra, Kumasi	Goal 5, 2	3	58
6	Ho District Subplatform	Youth	Ho	Goal 4	1	14
7	Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations	PWDs	Accra	Goals 4 & 8	1	20
8	Norsaac	Young Women	Tamale	Goal 5	1	12
9	Techfarm Hub	Women, Children	Koforidua	Goal 2	1	10
	TOTAL				17	251

Source: Author's Construct, 2022

In total 328 citizens, comprising of 251 citizens within the vulnerable groups of PWDs, young people and children, as well as 77 civil society activists participate in the score card.

2.3 Data Collection Methods/Instruments

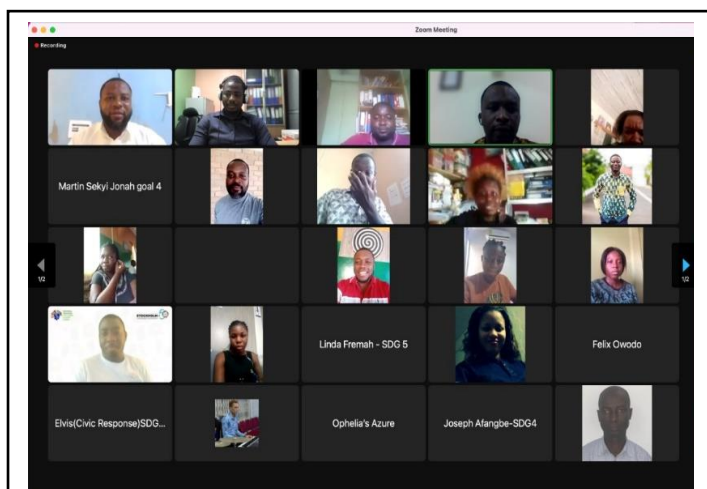
- **SDGs Case Study Template:**

A Case study template was administered in partnership with the NDPC to collect information on projects and activities implemented by CSOs with the view to contributing to achieving the SDGs. The information centered on innovative approaches, resources used for implementation, impact, challenges, and lessons learnt. See Annex for Case Study tool.

- **Citizens SDG Scorecard for Measuring Perception on SDGs Delivery Mechanism**

A citizenry scorecard developed by the Action for Sustainable Development was adapted to measure the perception of the citizenry on the delivery mechanism put in place to deliver the SDGs. The Score card focused on citizens perception of the implementation process of the SDGs on 10 specific areas, which together seek to encapsulate the concept of inclusive implementation and provide a structure for the evaluation of the implementation process for each of the 17 SDGs. – mainly from a qualitative perspective.

The scorecard had a scoring guide ranging from very significant reduction (-5) to successful implementation (+5), as clearly depicted by table 2.2 below.



Picture 2. 2: CSOs Virtual Consultation Session



Picture 2. 1: Consultation Session with students facilitated by Young Visionary Leaders Ghana

2.4 Thematic Areas of Assessment and Scorecard Guidelines³

The need to have a basis for the assessment of the perceptions and opinions of citizenry underscored the formulation of a scorecard. The scorecard provided the opportunity to rank

³ Summarized from the Scorecard tool developed by Action for Sustainable Development

aspects of the SDG implementation on a scale. The key areas the scorecard looked at can be organized around three broader areas:

Public policy parameters: These areas seek to establish the existence and measure the scope of, on the one hand, policy planning instruments at the national level (strategies, action plans), and on the other, of legal frameworks, public policies -and their respective budgets- for each of the SDGs, comprising all of the public policy instruments can provide a normative base and the budgetary capacity to support each Objective - as well as a cross-cutting approach to the agenda on interrelated issues.

- Development Strategies, Action Plans, and Budgets
- Legal and Public Policy Framework

Institutional Capacity: These elements seek to measure the scope of government capacities deployed for the implementation of the SDGs, from the perspective of the clarity and scope of the mandates of public agencies and institutions, specific institutional arrangements (for example, integrated work between agencies and public institutions), as well as measurable results. In the areas of implementation at the national and local levels, survey participants can deepen their assessment through analysis of quantitative data, considering specific indicators of progress.

- Institutional Support – Existence of specific agencies in charge of implementation, scope of their mandates, extent of their institutional capacities, as well as the level of integration in the work of public institutions at the service of each objective
- Implementation at the National Level – General perception of the implementation of public policies at the national level + evaluation of progress indicators
- Implementation at the Local Level - General perception of the implementation of public policies at the local level + evaluation of progress indicators, if data is available

Inclusive Governance: This dimension groups together the variables related to the level of institutional openness of the implementation process, both from the point of view of the monitoring process, evaluation, accountability, awareness, and participation of social actors within the implementation process. All these areas are a category in themselves, but they also act as cross-cutting enablers for each of the other areas and are at the core of the concept of inclusive implementation.

- Monitoring, evaluation, and reports: this area seeks to establish the existence and measure the perception of the level of inclusiveness of the monitoring system (establishment of indicators and data-generation for measuring progress), evaluation (the process of interpreting and analysing the data collected, as well as the assessment of related public policies). The reporting sub variable refers to the way progress on the SDG is reported within the Voluntary National Reports. In the case of an evaluation of a specific SDG, you should investigate whether said SDG has had national-level indicators established, and how inclusive that process was; whether the evaluation process for said SDG has entailed a process for assessing the quality and scope of the

public policies that underlie its fulfilment; and whether said SDG has undergone a review process under the VNR process.

- *Transparency and Accountability Mechanisms: measure the perception of the mechanisms that regulate transparency in access to public information, the degree of openness and regularity in accountability processes beyond the SDG follow-up and review process, and the prevalence of corruption.*
- *Public Awareness and Capacity Development: this area seeks to measure the perception of public awareness and capacity development efforts around the SDG issue in question.*
- *Inclusive Partnerships – Perception of the quality (in terms of the level of participation and symmetry between actors) and scope (in terms of measurable results) of multi-stakeholder partnerships established for the implementation of the SDG.*

Participation of civil society: *Seeks to measure the perception of the level of participation of social actors (CSOs, unions, grassroots communities, or individual citizens) in the prioritization and formulation of public policies, their implementation, monitoring, evaluation, or reformulation (See Table 2.2 for the Scoring Guidelines)*

2.5 Challenges and Limitations

Inability to cover all 17 Goals in the Citizenry and CSO Actors consultative sessions. Due to the limited time within which the field engagements could be done. This limited the extent to which the team could schedule favorable times with all sub platforms to assess the opinions and perceptions of stakeholders. During this period, some members were also equally involved in parallel assessments on different civil society platforms and hence, the challenges with synchronizing time schedules.

Limited Funding: The team had funding, but this was not in the proportions that could allow a much broader scale of citizenry engagement.

Table 2. 2: Scorecard Scoring Guidelines

Themes	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+ 4	+ 5
	<i>Very significant Reduction</i>	<i>Significant reduction</i>	<i>Moderate Reduction</i>	<i>Limited Reduction</i>	<i>Very limited Reduction</i>	<i>No progress</i>	<i>Policies/Plans being discussed</i>	<i>Planning Phase</i>	<i>Plans or actions Initiated</i>	<i>Implementation in progress</i>	<i>Successful Implementation</i>
<i>Strategies, Action Plans and Budgets</i>	<i>Strategies action plans have been dropped or fundamentally changed</i>	<i>The action plans of the strategies not only have not been implemented, but could be abandoned or fundamentally changed</i>	<i>Action plans and strategies have not been implemented or funded</i>	<i>Strategies, action plans and budget are available, but have only been partially implemented or funded</i>	<i>Strategies, plans, and budgets are available, but do not seem to guide policy or budget formulation</i>		<i>Strategies, action plans and budget under discussion</i>	<i>Strategies action plans and budget in the planning phase</i>	<i>Strategies, action plans and budget approved</i>	<i>Strategies, action plans and budget agreed and begin to guide public policy development</i>	<i>Successful strategies, action plans and budgets guide and provide stable funding to public policies, which are fully aligned with the SDGs</i>
<i>Public policies and legal frameworks</i>	<i>The implementation of the policy/legal framework has been abandoned or fundamentally changed</i>	<i>Not only have regulatory/ legal frameworks not been implemented, but could be abandoned or fundamentally changed</i>	<i>The legal/political framework has not yet been implemented</i>	<i>The policy/legal framework is available, but has not yet started to be implemented and/or is not aligned with the principles of the SDGs</i>	<i>Policy and legal framework not yet in place</i>		<i>Policy and legal framework is starting to be discussed/ reviewed</i>	<i>Policy and legal framework in planning phase</i>	<i>Policy and legal framework approved and beginning to be implemented</i>	<i>Policy and legal framework being implemented and having first positive results</i>	<i>Strong and successful political/legal framework that guides government programs effectively and in line with SDG principles</i>
<i>Institutional support</i>	<i>Government agencies do not provide any type of support for the implement</i>	<i>Government support has dropped dramatically</i>	<i>Government support on the ground has begun to dwindle</i>	<i>Government support is fragmented between territories and agencies</i>	<i>Statistical indicators show that progress on this SDG is starting to slip back</i>		<i>Agencies with a clear mandate</i>	<i>Agencies planning their engagement</i>	<i>Agencies support the implementation of some targets</i>	<i>Agencies support the implementation of all the targets</i>	<i>Government agencies support the implementation of the SDGs effectively and have mechanisms for cross-sectoral</i>
<i>Implementation at national level</i>	<i>Statistical indicators show that this SDG has completely receded</i>	<i>Statistical indicators show that the implementation of this SDG has eroded considerably</i>	<i>Statistical indicators show that the implementation of this SDG is beginning to erode</i>	<i>Statistical indicators show that progress on this SDG is under threat</i>	<i>Statistical indicators show that progress on this SDG is starting to slip back</i>		<i>Statistical indicators show that progress on this SDG is minimal</i>	<i>Statistical indicators show that progress on this SDG is moderate</i>	<i>Statistical indicators show that progress shows a positive trend on this SDG</i>	<i>Statistical indicators show that this SDG is on track to be achieved</i>	<i>Statistical indicators show that this SDG is being achieved</i>

<i>Implementation at sub-national level</i>	<i>No SDG localization plan in any city/region being implemented</i>	<i>SDG localization plans are abandoned, or fundamentally changed</i>	<i>The localization of the SDGs has been reduced</i>	<i>Localization plans for the SDGs have not been implemented</i>	<i>SDG localization plans weren't even discussed</i>		<i>Localization under discussion in cities/regions</i>	<i>Localization of the SDGs in the planning phase in certain cities/region</i>	<i>Localization plans start to be implemented in cities/region</i>	<i>Implementation of localization plans in full swing in cities/regions</i>	<i>Location plans successfully implemented in most cities/regions with specific plans</i>
	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5
	<i>Very significant Reduction</i>	<i>Significant reduction</i>	<i>Moderate Reduction</i>	<i>Limited Reduction</i>	<i>Very limited Reduction</i>	<i>No progress</i>	<i>Policies/Plans being discussed</i>	<i>Planning Phase</i>	<i>Plans or Actions Initiated</i>	<i>Implementation in Progress</i>	<i>Successful Implementation</i>
<i>Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting framework</i>	<i>The monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework is not in place at all</i>	<i>Monitoring evaluation and reporting have been abandoned or fundamentally changed</i>	<i>Monitoring, evaluation and reporting have been reduced</i>	<i>Monitoring, evaluation and reporting were discussed, but not built</i>	<i>Monitoring, evaluation and reporting exist but have been implemented only to a limited extent</i>		<i>Mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation and reporting are discussed</i>	<i>Monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanism agreed</i>	<i>Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting begin to be implemented</i>	<i>Ongoing monitoring, evaluation and reporting on all the on-going SDGs sporadically</i>	<i>Regular monitoring, evaluation and reporting is available and civil society can participate</i>
<i>Transparency and accountability</i>	<i>Transparency and accountability mechanisms have been abandoned</i>	<i>Transparency and accountability mechanisms are mostly abandoned and/or incomplete</i>	<i>Transparency and accountability mechanisms have been reduced</i>	<i>Transparency and accountability mechanisms have not been fully implemented</i>	<i>Transparency and accountability mechanisms were discussed, but not implemented</i>		<i>Transparency and accountability mechanisms under discussion</i>	<i>Initial planning of the transparency and accountability mechanism</i>	<i>Some transparency and accountability mechanisms available</i>	<i>Transparency and accountability mechanism being implemented</i>	<i>Solid and regular transparency and accountability mechanism</i>
<i>Public awareness and capacity building</i>	<i>Awareness raising and capacity building not included in plans</i>	<i>Awareness raising and capacity building have not fundamentally changed</i>	<i>Awareness raising and capacity building have been reduced</i>	<i>Awareness raising and capacity building have not been implemented</i>	<i>Awareness raising and capacity building have been implemented in a selective or limited way</i>		<i>Awareness raising and capacity building needs assessed and discussed</i>	<i>Planning awareness raising and capacity building needs</i>	<i>Awareness raising and capacity building available</i>	<i>Ongoing awareness raising and capacity building activities</i>	<i>Strong awareness and capacity building available</i>
<i>Multi-stakeholder partnerships</i>	<i>Multi-stakeholder partnerships have been abandoned</i>	<i>Partnerships were used in a very partial and non-participatory way</i>	<i>Partnerships have not been used consistently for this SDG</i>	<i>Partnerships are very slow in their deployment</i>	<i>Partnerships with Member States were discussed but</i>		<i>Multi-stakeholder partnerships under discussion</i>	<i>Partnerships mainly in the planning phase</i>	<i>Partnerships in the initial phase of implementation</i>	<i>Partnerships in working order and producing concrete and positive effects</i>	<i>Partnerships implemented successfully and in a</i>

					<i>not implemented</i>						<i>participatory manner</i>
<i>Participation of civil society</i>	<i>Participation is non-existent</i>	<i>Participation was very limited and ineffective</i>	<i>Participation was limited and had limited results (consultative participation at best)</i>	<i>Participation was uneven between actors and territories</i>	<i>Spaces and mechanisms for participation were discussed, but still not implemented</i>		<i>Spaces and mechanisms for participation were discussed</i>	<i>There are concrete plans for inclusive and substantive participation</i>	<i>Spaces/mechanisms for participation are set up in an open and substantial manner</i>	<i>An inclusive dialogue is underway and has yielded positive results policy-wise</i>	<i>Spaces/mechanisms for inclusive political dialogue are strong, stable, influential, with concrete and positive political results</i>

Source: Action for Sustainable Development, 2022

3.0 CHAPTER THREE

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS' CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA

3.1 Introduction

Civil Society plays a key role in the development landscape of any country. In Ghana, the Civic space has worked collaboratively to provide complementary services to that of government. Civil Society Organisations have capacitated citizens to demand for accountability and in many instances, this has resulted in the strengthening of our democratic practices and institutions. As an emerging democracy, it is important that innovative approaches that amplifies the strengths of citizenry action are documented, highlighted, and recommended for adoption in applicable situations. Particularly so in the context of the SDGs, this is necessary to ensure that, Ghana, and many other countries can afford themselves the chance to attain the agenda 2030.

This section of the report focuses on some of the actions taken by civil society to innovatively complement the actions of government towards the actualization of the SDGs in Ghana.

3.2 Innovative Projects and Actions by CSOs

This section presents examples showcasing CSO innovative contributions to the implementation of the SDGs in Ghana.

3.2.1 SDG 10/ |CSOs COVID-19 Response Fund

Period of Execution: 2020

Location: Nationwide

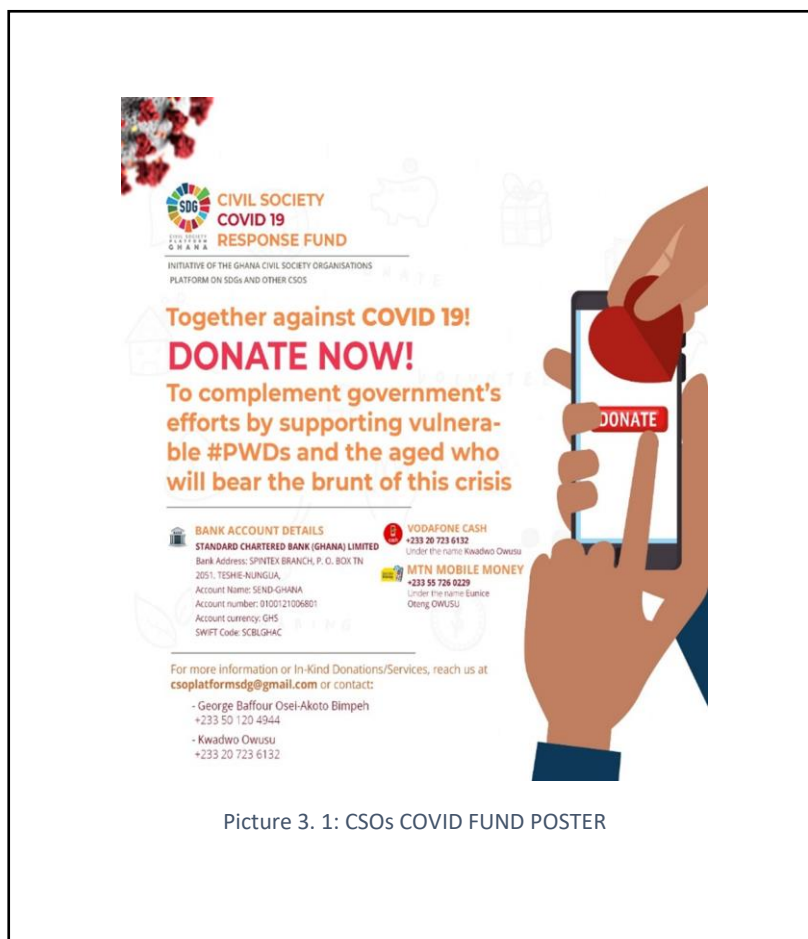
Lead Organization: Ghana CSOs Platform on SDGs

The Ghana Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Platform on (SDGs) working together with its strategic partners in the wake of the COVID-19 national emergency, established a CSO COVID 19 Response Committee to rally the civil society to respond to the epidemic. The initial decision of this Committee was to set up the CSO COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND in March 2020, with the sole purpose of raising funds from among civil society organizations to complement the relief support of the GOG.

The CSO COVID-19 Response Committee took decisions on how the funds were mobilized and utilized. To ensure transparency and accountability SEND Ghana, the host of the Ghana CSOs Platform on SDGs, was selected as the FUND Manager, with STAR Ghana, as the Fund Trustee. As the Fund Manager, SEND Ghana through the CSOs Platform National Secretariat was responsible for the receipt, and disbursement of the funds. STAR Ghana provided financial and accounting controls to ensure that books were kept properly.

A. Contributions into the Fund

The CSO COVID-19 Response Fund received a total amount of GHS 119,212.62, from March 2020 to May 2020. This came from a total of 78 contributors, comprising of 67 Institutions, 10 individuals and 1 unidentified contributor. Contributions were received through two main channels: the Bank Account of the National Secretariat and the Mobile Money (MOMO) Number assigned by the National Secretariat for that purpose.



Picture 3. 1: CSOs COVID FUND POSTER

B. Activities of the Fund

The CSOs COVID Response Fund activities were implemented in two phases:

Phase 1: Distribution of relief items to vulnerable individuals: A total number of 1,437 vulnerable individuals comprising of 519 (36%) Street children, 258 (18%) Aged/Widows, 308 (21%) Mental Health patients and 352 (25%) Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) were supported with some relief items. Details are as follows:

Four (4) categories of vulnerable groups namely PWDs, Aged, Widows, Street Children and the Mentally Challenged, within the Greater Kumasi and Accra were targeted.

The Greater Kumasi and Accra were selected because these were the two locations placed under partial lockdown as part of government's measures to containing the spread of the virus.

Items such as rice, oil, soaps, water, and vitamin C were donated to the vulnerable groups between 27th April to 1st May 2020.

Beneficiaries were selected in consultation with the Department of Social Welfare and member organizations (and some non-members) who work with these groups within the selected locations.



Picture 3. 3: A representative of the aged group, receiving Food items being presented by a Co-Chair of the CSOs Platform on SDGs



Picture 3. 2: Representatives of the CSOs Platform presents food items to selected widows in Kumasi

Phase II: Distribution of PPEs: Under the Phase II of the CSO COVID Response Fund activities, the Government policy had seen the lifting of the ban on movement. The policy direction focused on appealing to citizens to adhere to the health and safety protocols put in place. The Committee therefore directed that the Funds' activities complemented this policy direction of the Government.

In this regard, the Fund:

Procured and distributed 5000 locally made facemasks and 9000 educative posters.

Beneficiaries were selected nationwide within the same four categories of vulnerable groups - PWDs, Aged/Widows, Street Children and the Mental Challenged.

District sub platform members in consultation with appropriate stakeholders facilitated the distribution exercise under this phase.



Picture 3. 4: Presentation of Nose Masks to Inmates of Tamale Prison by Convener of the Tamale District CSOs Platform



Picture 3. 5: Presentation of IEC materials to PWDs in Ho by the Convener of the Ho District Platform

3.2.2 SDG 4 || Unlock Literacy Project

Period of Execution: 2019-2021

Location: Afram Plains South

Lead Organization: World Vision Ghana

Background

Unlock Literacy (UL) is an evidence-based literacy approach to improve children's core reading skills. The model subscribes to the early-exit bilingual literacy approach which posits that children learn to read fast and better, when they start learning to read in their Mother Language. The reading skills acquired in Mother Language help children to learn a second language faster. The use of the mother tongue has ensured a significant number of children breaking through to literacy.

Targets

The project targeted children in kindergarten 2 to Basic 3. Overall, 8,385 children (4,333 boys and 4,052 girls) were reached with the intervention. Key stakeholders who benefited through the intervention were Head teachers and Teachers; District Teacher Support Teams; Community Volunteers and Parents.

Results

With the introduction of this project, the number of children who can now read and comprehend in English has increased from a baseline of 1% to an Endline of 43.93%. There was also significant improvement of children who could read and comprehend in the two local

languages used (Akwapim Twi – 2% at baseline and 52.64 at endline; and Ewe- 1.2% at baseline and 40.55% at endline). 8,385 children (4,333 boys and 4,052 girls from the 81 schools in 7 project communities can read and comprehend which will take them up their educational ladder and have a lifetime impact on them

3.2.3 SDG 3 || Yenkasa Contact Center

Period of Execution: Ongoing- started 2020

Location: Nationwide

Lead Organization: Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana

Background

Ghana recorded an increase in Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) challenges facing young people during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. There were no specific national health policies and programmes targeting young people as health efforts were focused on preventing the spread and managing the effects of the virus.

PPAG in response, established a multichannel digital contact center (called the YENKASA CONTACT CENTER) to serve as a central hub for the delivery of quality remote SRHR information and referral for service delivery across the country. This Centre provided the needed expansion and reach needed to ensure access to and utilization of SRHR information and services through telemedicine and digital outreach.

Target & Results

The contact center has received a total of 2,203 calls from adolescents and young people between its inception in March 2021 to December 2021. About 697 of these clients had access to varying reproductive health information and services. A subset of 36 clients were supported specifically to access abortion-related information and services across the country. Also, a total of 391 clients also reached the contact Centre through text. The contact centre also deployed social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp) to reach a total of 131,064 adolescents and young people with accurate SRHR health information.

Leveraging online platforms that young people are familiar with and use presents excellent opportunities to advance reproductive health education (RHE) delivery in Ghana. It is also important to emphasize the fact that enabling young people to lead and express their innovation is critical to programme success.

The next step is to conduct full documentation of this innovation for sharing and replication among other organizations to advance SRHR programming. Efforts to ensure that young people remain in the driving seats for such innovation remains critical. Their insights, skills and ideas remain critical success factors and these must be always maintained and at all levels.



Picture 3. 6: Posters of YenkaSa Call Centre

3.2.4 SDG 5 || SHE LEADS PROGRAMME

Period of Execution: March 2021 – December 2025

Location: Ashanti Region (Kumasi Metropolis, Amansie Central, Asokore Mampong, Obuasi East and West Municipalities)

Lead Organization: Defense for Children International- Ghana

Background

The status and roles of girls and young women (GYW) in Ghanaian society have changed over the past few decades, including a slow increase in the socio-political and economic participation of Ghanaian women. Traditional norms limit GYW's access to resources and decision-making spaces. Within formal and informal institutions there are numerous bottlenecks preventing the empowerment and involvement of GYW in society. Understanding that societal change is a long-term process, it is imperative to build on a sustained effort to develop and empower GYW. In the context of She Leads, it is important to sustain efforts already made through the Girls Advocacy Consortium (GAA) in Ghana.

The She Leads consortium brings together child rights organizations, feminist/women's rights organizations, and GYW-led groups and aims to increase sustained influence of girls and young women (GYW) on decision-making and the transformation of gender norms in formal

and informal institutions. The consortium envisages to achieve this goal by working through three interrelated domains: Central to the She Leads programme is the enhancement of collective action of girls and young women in a gender-responsive civil society (civil society domain), support by increased acceptance of positive social gender norms (socio-cultural domain) and by enabling meaningful participation of girls and young women in decision-making by political institutions.

Target

- Girls and Young Women (between age 14 to 24 years). They include:
- Girls and Young Women (GYW) living in poor, remote rural and urban slums
- GYW experiencing gender-based violence (girls who have married early)
- GYW with disabilities
- Girls who are out of school (including teenage mothers)

Results

- Our achievements in 2021 include:
- Awareness raising to estimated 340,000 households,
- Capacity strengthening for 206 Girls and Young Women, 7 focal persons, 10 Community Leaders, 11 media personnel, and 8 CSOs.
- Lobbying and advocacy with 19 government officials and 6 CSOs networks and coalitions.



Picture 3. 7: Publication in Media on SheLeads Project

3.2.5 SDG 17 || AFRICAN YOUTH SDG SUMMIT

Period of Execution: Annual Event

Location: Continental

Lead Organization: Youth Advocates Ghana

The African Youth SDGs Summit is a pan-African platform that connects African Youth to learn and share ideas on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and strengthen their voice, agency, and capability to actively contribute to the implementation, monitoring and accountability of the Sustainable Development Goals. Launched by Youth Advocates Ghana in 2017, the Summit has witnessed continuous growth in numbers, diversity, and influence, largely due to commitment and buy-in from stakeholders from youth-led and youth-driven organization, state actors, bilateral and multilateral organizations, civil society organizations, private sector among other key sector partners in Africa and beyond.

The past 4 editions of the Summit have convened over 15,000 youth and key stakeholders to share the situation on various SDGs, digest critical issues from a youth perspective, and identify opportunities and challenges that the African youth can explore to achieve SDGs in their communities. In terms of programming, the summit consists of high-level expert panel discussions and plenary, and stakeholders' side events, which consist of dissemination of youth-related research findings, policy and advocacy sessions, capacity strengthen workshops, product and service exhibitions, SDG Innovation Challenge, and Excellence Awards.

The outcomes of the Summit continue to grow year on year through increased knowledge among the African youth on SDGs; increased integration of the principles among stakeholders into their personal and professional lives; increased networking among youth and stakeholders; improving intergenerational partnership among the African youth and their adult partners, and increased access to source of and information to support policy, programming, and advocacy. One of the notable recommendations of the Summit is promoting meaningful youth participation and engagement in Voluntary National Reviews of the Sustainable Development Goals. The maiden edition of the Youth SDGs Report for Ghana was launched at the High-Level Political Forum in New York in July 2022. The report titled "Ghana's Youth SDGs Report captured the Ghanaian youth innovative solutions to challenges in their communities and how these are contributing to the SDGs; situation relating to leaving the Ghanaian youth behind, and opportunities and challenges the youth can explore to build back from the COVID-19 pandemic

A key learning is that, globally, Africa has the largest number of youth population and at the same time the large number who are likely to be left behind or exposed to harm, but the provision of strong support systems at family and community levels can push the African youth to achieve their maximum potentials.



Picture 3. 8: Some participants at the African SDG Summit 2022 in Addis Ababa

3.2.6 SDG 16|| SAHEL PEACEH INITIATIVE

Period of Execution: 2019 to date (2022)

Location: West African Sub-region

Lead Organization: Catholic Relief Services

Catholic Relief Services and the regional Catholic church of West Africa jointly designed the Sahel Peace Initiative (SPI) in response to the rising levels of violent conflicts in the region. The SPI seeks to address the unprecedented levels of violence, which has resulted in the deaths of civilians, a rapid growth of internally displaced persons and refugees, increased demand for humanitarian assistance, deterioration of social cohesion in traditionally peaceful communities, and the erosion of trust in national governments. The Sahel Peace Initiative (SPI) is building peace and restoring hope in the region by scaling up the impact and visibility of Church-catalyzed peacebuilding initiatives in the Sahel. These efforts are amplifying the peaceful voice and convening power of the local Church while simultaneously responding to the acute needs of displaced and vulnerable families. Under the direction of the Catholic Church, the multi-country initiative (Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, and Niger) plays a crucial role in developing the plans for fundraising, advocacy, and communication in addition to carrying out programs for providing humanitarian aid and promoting peace.

In Ghana, the project is focused on ensuring that the extreme violence currently engulfing the Sahel Region does not spread into the country.

The project supports youth and the community in various ways:

- *by focusing on youth vocational and technical training through identifying and supporting relevant programing that the local church is already conducting.*
- *by supporting youth in developing their job readiness and with mentorship activities. This way, they are less likely to engage in potentially harmful activities inciting violence.*
- *by hosting peace games, or sports matches, peace walks, advocate for interfaith and inter-ethnic peaceful engagement and interaction.*

In Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, and Niger, the initiative with its local church has:

- *Engaged 4,000+ community members in collective community building actions such as dialogues, community service, and peaceful marches.*
- *Delivered life-saving humanitarian assistance to 27,300 individuals.*
- *Trained a network of over 700 youth as peace ambassadors.*
- *Featured in 100+ media articles.*
- *Engaged in 10 high-level advocacy meetings.*
- *Hosted 6 live advocacy events.*
- *Trained 112 regional journalists in conflict sensitive reporting.*



Picture 3. 9: Fr. Clement of CECOTAPS and Chief Imam of the Quran Mosque during an Advocacy Series with the US Government

4.0 CHAPTER FOUR

CITIZENS PERCEPTION ON THE SDGs IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

4.1 Introduction

Citizens are at the center of the work of governments and civil society. Institutions and structures of development exist to serve the needs of the citizens. The need to have citizens actively participate in this process of development has been the subject of interest for all who work within the development landscape. The leave no one behind mantra of the SDGs captures the spirit of this ideology.

This chapter seeks to understand the opinions and perceptions that citizens have about the Governments delivery mechanism put in place to attain the SDGs.

4.2 Performance of The Goals Per the Scorecard

Goal 1 End Poverty in All Its Forms Everywhere

Generally, citizens perception on SDG1 implementation mechanism is quite encouraging as the scorecard result for all the 10 indicators show a positive rating. All, except 3 indicators (Transparency & Accountability, Public Awareness & Capacity Development Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships) had a rating of more than 1 (very low progress). It is refreshing to note that institutions with clear mandate had the highest score (+5: very high progress) as far as SDG 1 is concerned.

SDGs have been localized into the Medium-Term Development Plans (DMTPs). Citizens were of the perception that there is no singular institution with a given mandate to address the targets under this goal. The targets are spread across the various government institutions in their respective activities, and this citizen groups belief, for example, present coordination challenges.

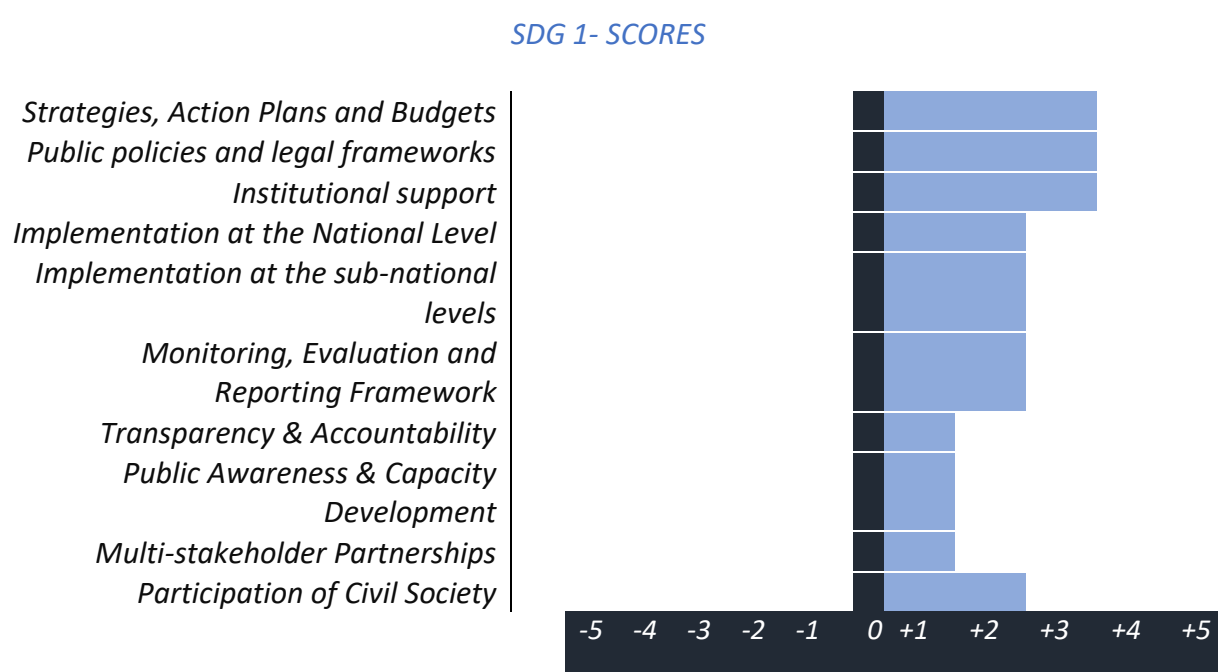
Again, pro-poor policies being implemented at the national level, such as the Ghana National Health Insurance Scheme, Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) and Free Senior High School Policy are believed not to be adequate to overcome the poverty challenges in Ghana. In additional pro-poor programmes are faced with implementing challenges particularly limited funding and delays in the release of funds. For instance, there has been series of media reports and demonstrations about delays in the payment of the LEAP cash grants to beneficiaries and allowance for school feeding programme caterers respectively. Similarly, PWDs also complain of the delays in releasing the disability fund.

“For the past seven (7) years, we have not seen any significant change. Our disability fund is only there in name. We don’t know what the Assembly and for that matter the Municipal

Office is using the money for. Our disability Centre has been abandoned and left unattended to and needs rehabilitation”. **FGD, PWD Group in Walewale**

Observations such as above fuels the perception of lack of transparency in the implementation of pro-poor policies at the subnational levels. At its extreme, it gives rise to strongly held perception that government is not committed to pro-poor programmes. Also, citizens, especially vulnerable groups bemoaned their lack of involvement in monitoring and evaluation activities.

Figure 4. 1: Citizen’s perception of SDG 1 Implementation Mechanism



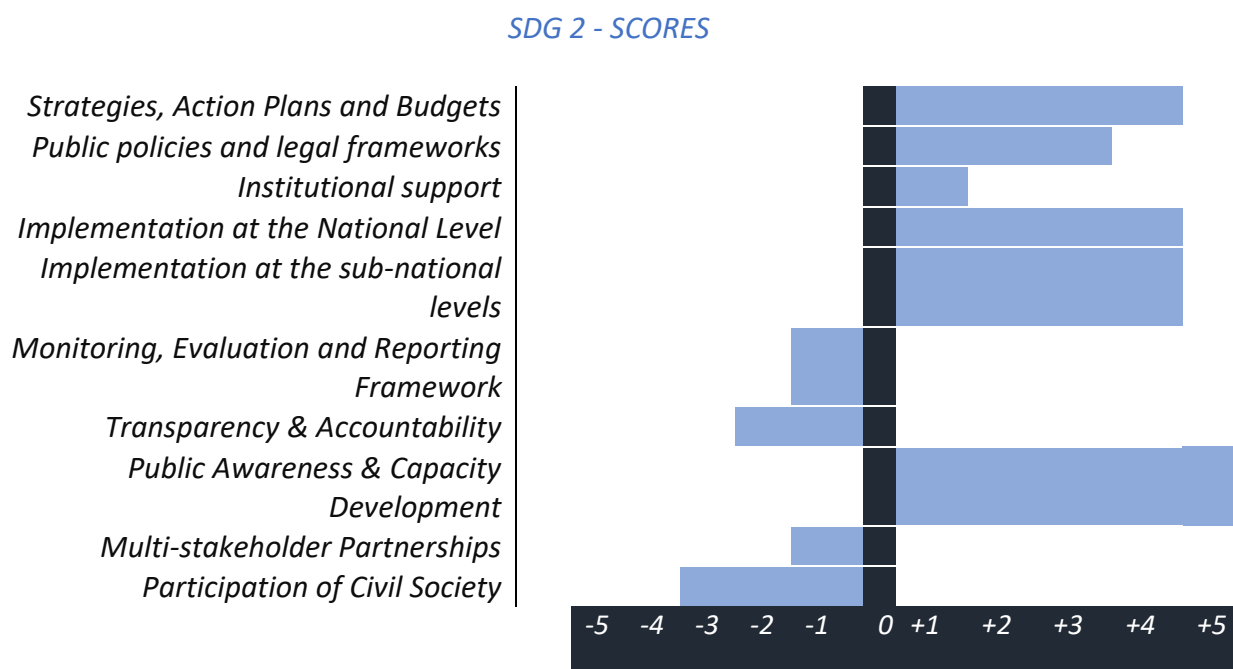
Source: Consultative Meeting, July 2022

Goal 2 End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) play key roles in linking technical planning and strategically ensuring the way forward within the agriculture sector, with the view to ensuring food and nutrition security. The National Nutrition Policy for Ghana 2013–2017 and the National Food Safety Policy 2022 are some of the policy tools guiding the operationalization of the actions within this sector. It is thus not surprising that as evident from figure 4.2, citizens rated national development plans, policy legal framework, implementation at the national and subnational level and public awareness and capacity development as high/very high progress in respect of the SDG2. However, Civil Society Participation, transparency and accountability, Multi-stakeholder Partnerships, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting were all rated negative, indicating reduction in progress.

A clear explanation in respect of the poor scoring for civil society participation is that although there is involvement of civil society in ensuring food and nutrition security and other Agric sector programmes, the collaboration between government and the NGO is not very visible. Besides, many CSOs and NGOs are not able to actively participate because of limited funds.

Figure 4. 2: Citizen's perception of SDG 2 Implementation Mechanism



Source: Consultative Meeting, July 2022

Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and Promote Well-Being for All at All Ages

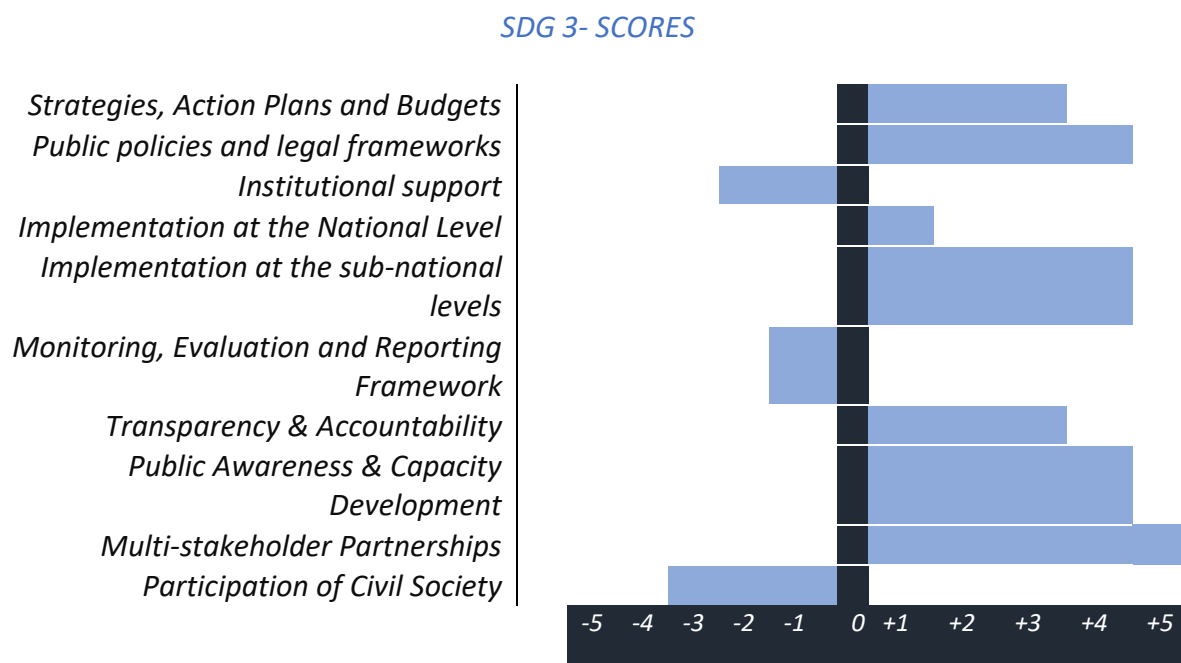
National development plans and policy framework were rated high progress (+4) and very high progress (+5) respectively as depicted in figure 4.3. There is a Health Sector Medium Term Development Plan (2014-2017) which provides guidance on the development needs of this goal. There is also the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) which provides access to health for all, including free maternal health policy and exemption below 18 years and those above 70 years.

Also, progress in relation to Public Awareness & Capacity Development as well as Multi-stakeholder Partnerships were seen to be high. This could be explained by the fact that generally, citizens are aware of state institutions as the Ministry of Health, Food and Drug Authority, Pharmacy Council among others who have the clear mandate to implement actions that relate to the targets of this goal.

Multi stakeholder partnerships in the health received very high progress rating because there is evidence as seen in publicity materials of multi-stakeholder partnerships between government agencies, multilateral agencies and CSOs for effective implementation of health-related programmes. Although there are several CSOs in the health sector, it is surprising to

note that progress in CSO participation was rated negative (-3 medium reduction in progress). Further investigation is needed since it is not clear why such a rating even though there are several CSOs in the health sector.

Figure 4. 3: Citizen's perception of SDG 3 Implementation Mechanism



Source: Consultative Meeting, July 2022

Goal 4 Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All

Generally, participants considered national development plans, policy legal framework, institutions with clear mandate and multi-stakeholder partnerships in the education sector to be of low to medium progress (see figure 4.4). The Education goal has in place several policies including the Education Strategic Plan (2018-2030), the Inclusive Education Policy, The Ghana Free Education Policy, Early Childhood Education Policy Framework, Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) as well as the MTDPs of the MMDA. Awareness creation on education goals is on-going. There is strong partnership between government, multilateral agencies and CSOs which has resulted in several programmes and projects. But there are challenges and concerns with their implementation.

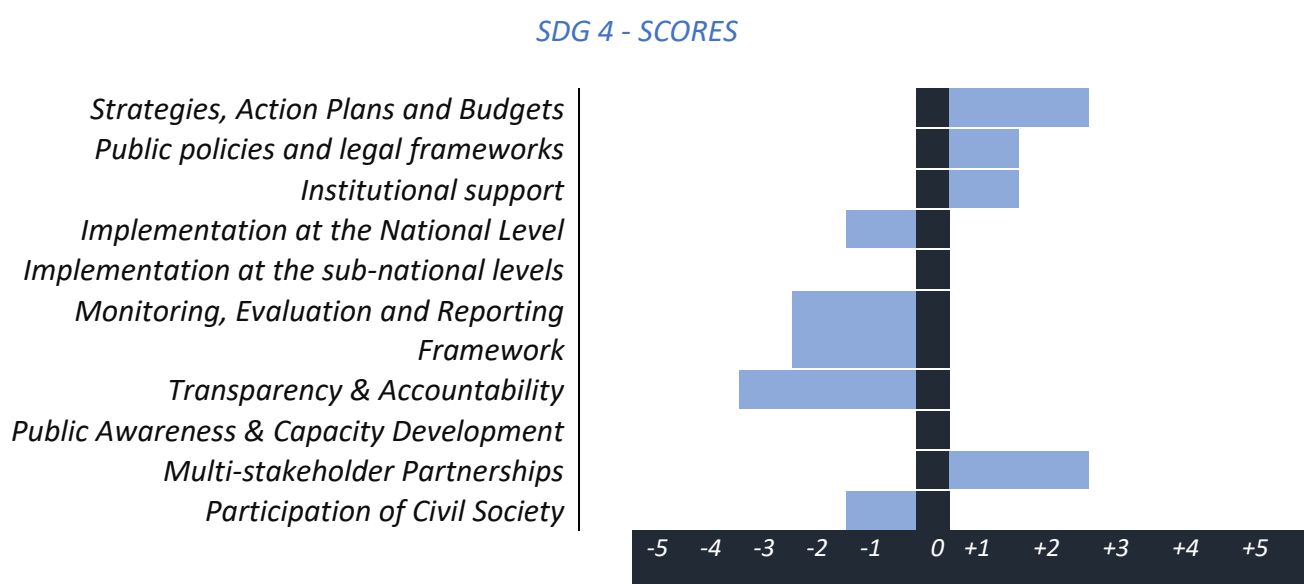
“Mostly, quality of education at the local level isn’t effectively implemented in the sense that local governments in the country aren’t actively engaged in the 2030 Agenda. Looking at the placement of students in senior high schools all done at the national level. When you have challenges, it is mostly the national agencies or secretariats that handle things, and this makes accessibility stressful. Influence at district levels is slow and relaxed.” **Young Focus Group, facilitated by FOSDA**

“Ghana is not investing as much as is expected into its education sector and this could affect the quality of human resources the country churns out” **Participant, Ho District Platform Consultative Group**

“Ghana is not investing as much as is expected into its education sector and this could affect the quality of human resources the country churns out.” **Participant, Ho District Platform Consultative Group**

Monitoring, evaluative and reporting mechanisms are operational yet irregular, and Transparency and accountability mechanisms have not been fully implemented. Thus, the poor rating (reduction in progress) as far as transparency and accountability as well as monitoring and evaluation of SDG 4 is concerned.

Figure 4. 4: Citizen’s perception of SDG 4 Implementation Mechanism



Source: Consultative Meeting, July 2022

Goal 5 Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection is the main state institution mandated to achieve SDG goal 5. This ministry has several agencies and departments responsible for the focus areas under this goal. Citizens perceived that the absence of the substantive Minister for over a year has rendered the Ministry inactive, and this has also affected the implementation of the Ministry’s programmes and plans at the sub national levels.

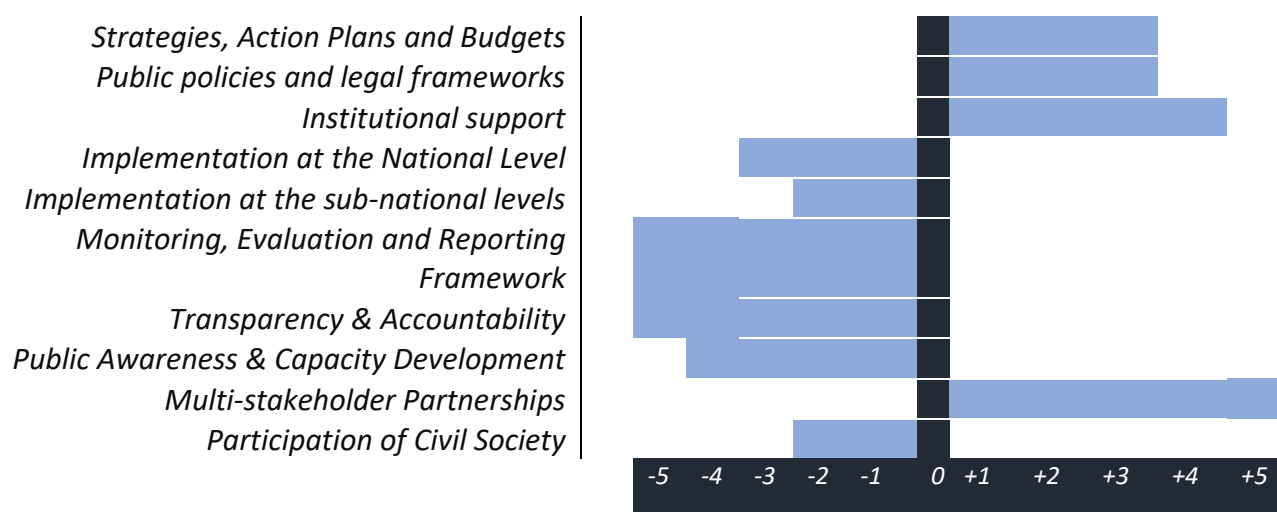
“The Gender Ministry though had made some significant inputs by initiating programs that we thought would go a long way to improve issues of gender inequities, but the Ministry has been dormant and inactive quite recently. There has not been any significant communication from the Ministry on issues of gender inequities amidst the situation the country finds itself now.” **Participant, CSO Consultative Session.**

Citizens expressed concern about monitoring and evaluation mechanism in place particularly on initiatives that address issues of young girls. To citizen groups consulted as part of the research, institutional transparency is minimal, and this tends to erode the confidence that they have in the work of mandated institutions.

“The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) is not transparent enough. There has not been any accountability on the budget allocations to the Ministry. CSOs write to them for assistance and nothing positive comes from them” **Participant, CS Participant on Goal 5**

On the positive side, a good number of citizens are aware of strong partnership between multilateral donors and government (see figure 4.5).

Figure 4. 5: Citizen’s perception of SDG 5 Implementation Mechanism
SDG 5 - SCORES



Source: Consultative Meeting, July 2022

Goal 6 Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All

The Water Sector Strategic Development Plan (2012-2025) has been prepared and has largely guided the actions of Government within the period of its existence. The Rural Sanitation Model and Strategy, when finalized will also provide strategic direction for the attainment of the indicators under this goal. It is therefore not surprising that citizens scored the policy legal framework around SDG6 very high progress as clearly depicted in figure 5.6. It is interesting to note however that in terms of national development plans the score was not encouraging (-3; reduced progress).

The Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources and Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development are the two ministries whose work affect this goal. Many agencies and institutions handle different aspects of water and sanitation, in terms of actions and policies. Citizens however are of the opinion that, the multiplicity of sector agencies presents a

coordination challenge among these ministries and institutions. Thus, the negative score (-2; small reduction in progress) for institutions with clear mandate.

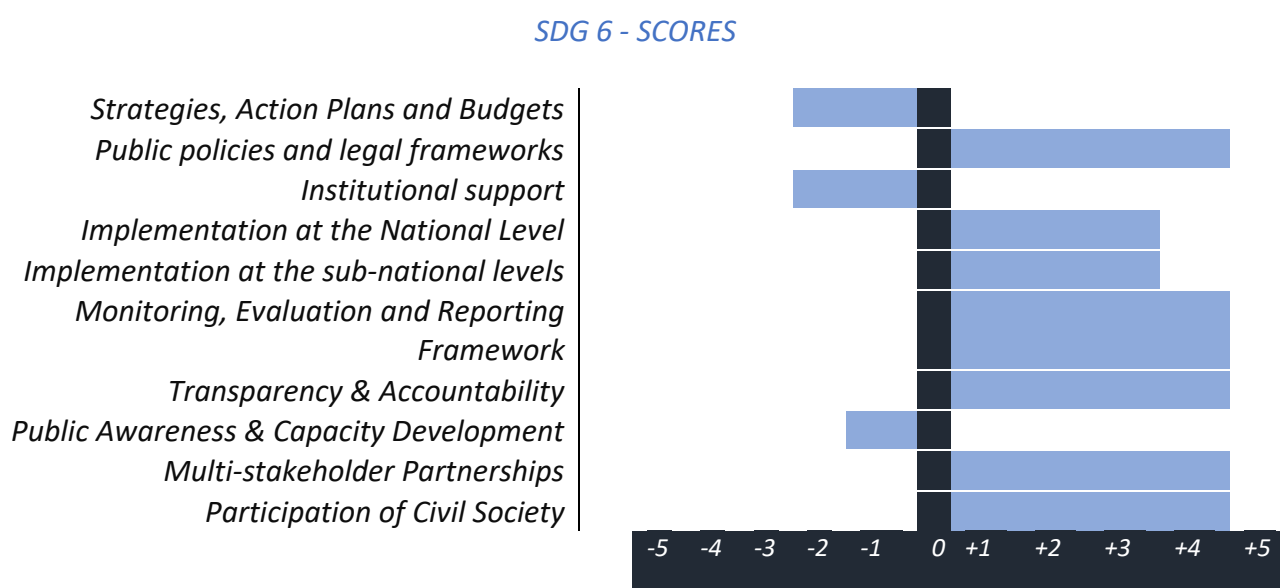
“On sanitation, many agencies handle different aspects of sanitation, in terms of actions and policies. This is coupled with the old age problem of poor interagency coordination.”

Participant, CS Participant on Goal 6

Government spending on WASH increased during 2020 because of COVID-19. However, there is a perception that progress on the sanitation infrastructures has been slow as compared to that of water. In this way, citizens acknowledge the contributions of private individuals and organizations assisting communities in addressing this gap.

There is the District Information Management Systems (DIMS), which collects data on WASH in Health Facilities and the Education Management Information System, which does the same in WASH facilities in Schools. This plausibly is the reason for citizens scoring very high progress for Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting, as well as Transparency & Accountability. In terms of information sharing on cost items for implemented projects, citizens think there is unwillingness to release such information by sector agencies. Hence, the negative score (-2; small reduction in progress) for Public Awareness & Capacity Development. Materials for communication are not available in disability friendly formats and in local languages, citizens have perceived.

Figure 4. 6: Citizen’s perception of SDG 6 Implementation Mechanism



Source: Consultative Meeting, July 2022

Goal 7 Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, And Modern Energy for All

This goal has in place, key policies such as the Renewable Energy ACT, 2011, Act 832, Ghana Sustainable Energy for All Action plan (June 2012), the Ghana Updated Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement (2020 - 2030), and the Renewable Energy Masterplan.

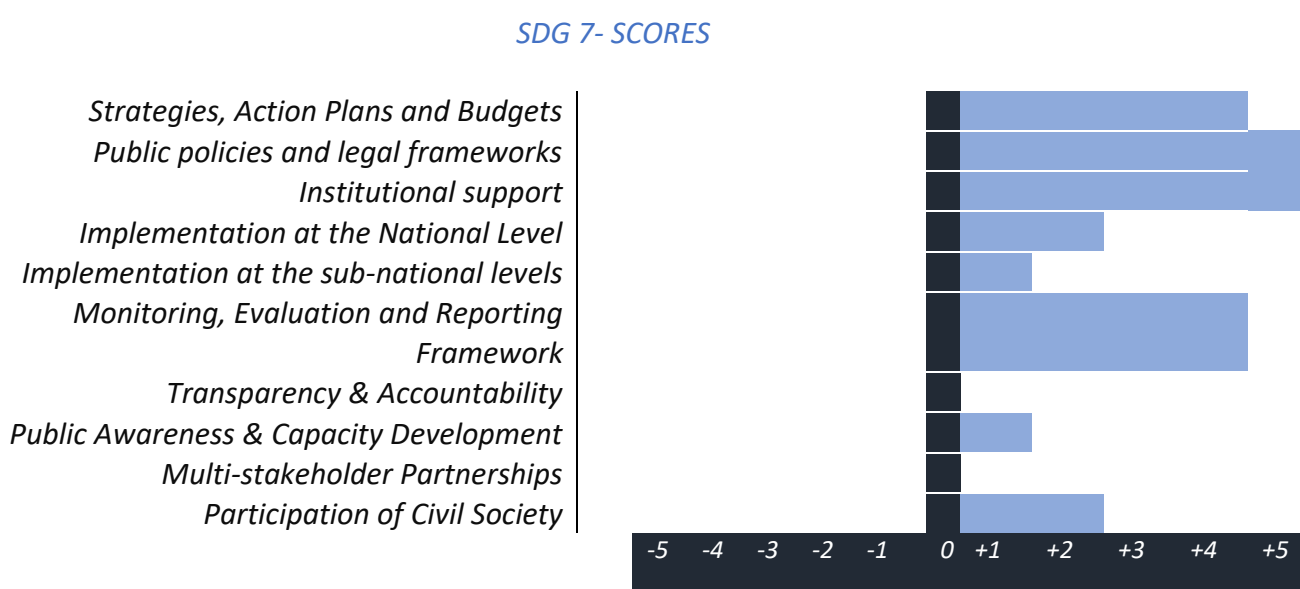
The Ministry of Energy, the Energy Commission, Ghana Atomic Energy Commission are state institutions with clear mandates to help achieve this goal.

Issues of access to clean energy has been incorporated in our national development plans and there are some budgetary allocations. The problem is that these budget allocations are normally not disbursed. At the sub-regional level, very little has been done in decentralizing our energy systems. **CSO Participant, Consultative Meeting with Sub platform 7.**

Ghana has not achieved its target of 10% renewable energy penetration by 2020 as thermal power still account for at least 65.5% of power generation as of April 2022⁴. The push for atomic energy is making great progress with the country completing phase one of International Atomic⁵ Energy Agency's (IAEA's) Milestones for the development of nuclear infrastructure. This covers pre-feasibility study, assessment of infrastructure, financing, technology to be deployed, safety, security, and siting.

It is refreshing to note that as far as SDG 7 ins concerned, citizens did not score any of the indicators negative. The government has effective monitoring and evaluation and reporting mechanisms on energy and energy efficiency. However, citizens perceive some shortfalls in monitoring, informed particularly by what they describe as lack of proper metering systems, street lighting among others. It is perceived that the sector has not been transparent on contract agreements signed on power generation, the petroleum sub-sector and clean energy. An example is the PDS/ECG contract. With regards to this goal, there has been some level of public awareness and consultations, and these primarily have been championed by CSO.

Figure 4. 7: Citizen's perception of SDG 7 Implementation Mechanism



Source: Consultative Meeting, July 2022

⁴ Ministry of Energy. (2021). Energy Sector Recovery Program Implementation Progress Report May 2019 -Dec. 2021. Accra

⁵ <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/iaea-reviews-progress-of-ghanas-nuclear-infrastructure-development>

Goal 8 Promote sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive Employment and Decent work for all

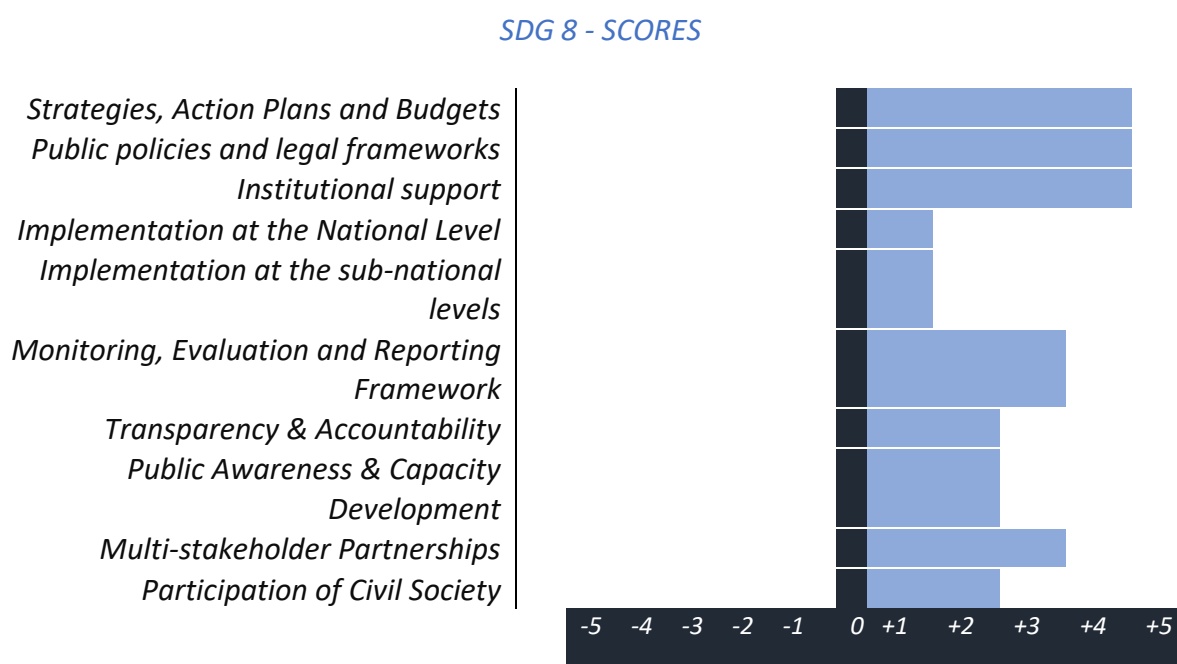
Generally, it is evident in figure 4.8 that citizens perceive progress in SDG8. Whereas they score implementation at both national and sub-national level as low, development plans and policy legal framework were rated as very high progress. The YOUTSTART programme of the Government seeks to encourage the entrepreneurial drive among the young population as an alternative and a solution to the creation of decent jobs. The Nation Builders Corp is also one such Government policy that seeks to give industry experience to newly graduated young people struggling to get into the job market. Refocusing the National Board for Small-Scale Industries (NBSSI) to the Ghana Enterprise Agency is a policy initiative that speaks to the government's intention towards the SME sector, a sector that employs a huge section of Ghanaians within the informal sector.

Citizens perceive that the implementation of these policies has been poor due to irregular release of funds. Again, there is perceived corruption, and this is due to lack of accountability and probity within this sector.

National Youth Authority have not received any money for programme implementation since the beginning of the year up to now. **CSO Participant, Consultative Meeting with Sub platform 8**

Issues around the rights of workers to a decent work environment are perceived to be on the low. Persons with Disability laments the lack of accessibility to many offices which translates into the unwillingness of employers to give them a fair chance at work. PWDs also recount a lack of public awareness on Government's initiatives under this goal as communication has not been inclusive and in disability friendly formats. Citizens perceive that, due to the low level of consultations and collaborations, most policies and programmes have not been sustainable.

Figure 4. 8: Citizen's perception of SDG 8 Implementation Mechanism



Source: Consultative Meeting, July 2022

Goal 10 Reduce Inequality within and among countries

The Ghana National Social Protection Policy (December 2015) prioritizes five flagship programmes (Labor Intensive Public Works (LIPW); School Feeding; National Health Insurance (NHI Exemptions) and Basic Education Capitation Grants. The Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP), a cash transfer programme, targets poor households with orphans or vulnerable children, elderly people, people with extreme disabilities, pregnant women, and children under one. The Draft Social Protection Bill sponsored by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection is currently going through review process pending cabinet approval. Citizens thus perceive SDG 10 related development plans and policy legal framework as low progress.

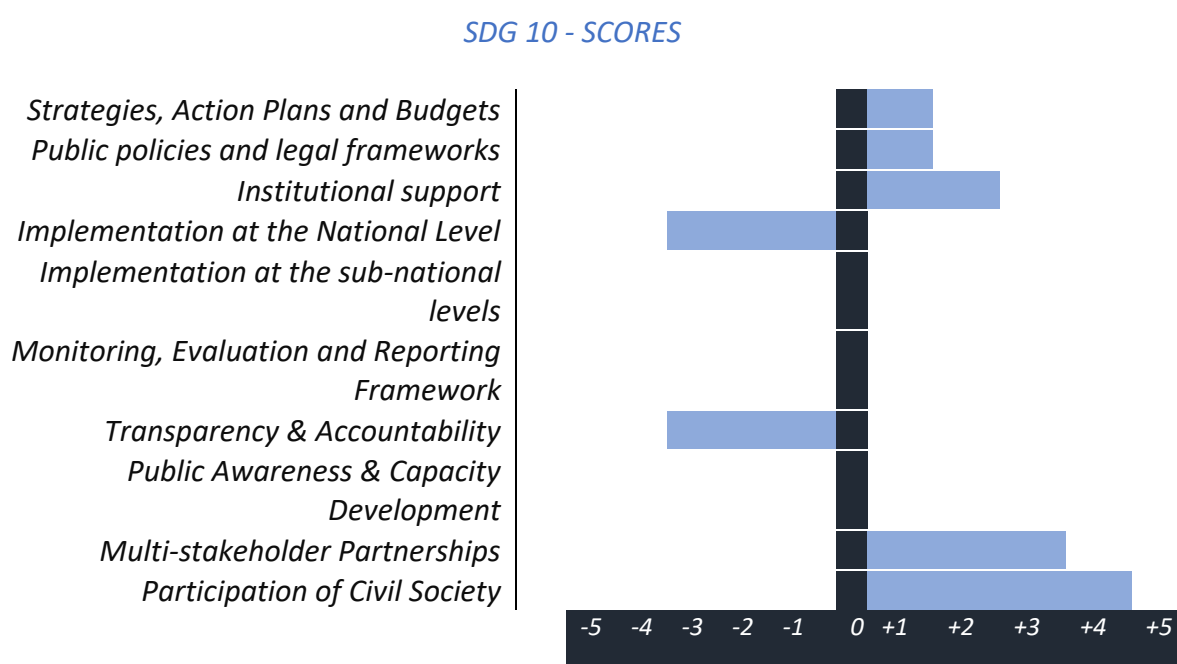
Issues of inequality gained prominence during the period of COVID-19 in Ghana. The government's interventions such as the Free Electricity for Lifeline users of Electricity, Free Water, Free Food for targeted groups were geared towards alleviating the plight of vulnerable groups in Ghana. The perception of citizens and stakeholders is however that government expenditure on social protection is low and that, there has been politicization in the distribution of free food supplies. Citizens perceive acts of corruption in the award of supply contracts and are of the belief that governments commitment to social protection could be improved. This explains the negative rating/score for transparency and accountability as depicted in figure 4.9

The various interventions around social protection are widely popular. Citizens are aware of their existence and operations. Citizens perceive acts of corruption in the administration of these programmes particularly in selecting their beneficiaries. At the national level, citizens

perceive that coordination is currently ineffective as most agencies and ministries work in silos duplicating efforts and not helping the country achieve value for money.

Civil society participation and multistakeholder partnerships is perceived to be of high progress as far as SDG 10 is concerned. CSOs working through various coalitions provide a relevant front to engage with the Government on all related issues of inequality and social protection. CSOs through the implementation of pro poor programmes, continue to strengthen and complement government's efforts towards promoting the wellbeing of the poor and vulnerable in the society.

Figure 4. 9: Citizen's perception of SDG 10 Implementation Mechanism



Source: Consultative Meeting, July 2022

Goal 13: Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and Its Impacts

Citizens scored SDG13 medium progress in respect of development plans, policy legal framework and implementation at the national level (see figure 4.10). Several institutions are responsible for climate action in Ghana. These include the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), and the Ministry of Energy (MoE). Over the years the government of Ghana through its Ministries and agencies has developed various climate change policies and strategies to guide the implementation of Climate Action in Ghana. Some of these policies and actions are Ghana National Climate Change Policy, National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, and Ghana National Determinacy Contribution. Renewable Energy Master Plan, Low Carbon Development Strategy

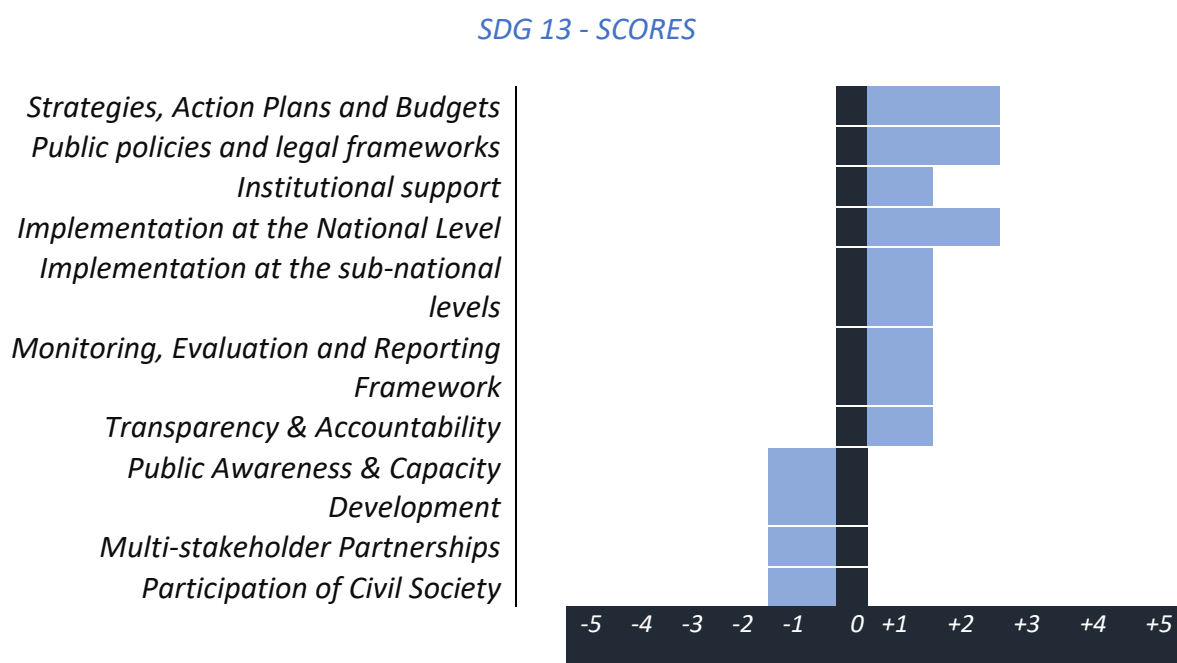
(LCDs), Integrating adaptation and mitigation into MMDAs Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP).

Some of the key challenges are low awareness of the strategy and the various actions being undertaken by the key ministries to combat the effect of climate change, poor and inadequate infrastructure, weak sub-regional network (coordination), low budgetary allocations, and lack of transparency as it pertains to information sharing.

Ghana has very good Climate Action policies and strategies but is very poor in its implementation. **CSO participant, Consultative Session with Sub platform 13**

It is not surprising that citizens are not happy with public awareness, multi stakeholder partnerships and civil society participation and therefore gave a negative score to these indicators as shown by figure 4.10. There is the perception that there is low public awareness of this goal, and this is a result of inadequate climate information centers, poor information delivery services, weak operational and well-resourced research development systems, and inadequate climate change education in the schools. CSOs continue to have representation on some government committees under this goal however, there is little coordination and collaboration between CSOs and the various sector agencies on national issues.

Figure 4. 10: Citizen's perception of SDG 13 Implementation Mechanism



Source: Consultative Meeting, July 2022

Goal 15 Protect, Restore and Promote Sustainable Use of Terrestrial Ecosystems, Sustainably Manage Forests, Combat Desertification, And Halt and Reverse Land Degradation and Halt Biodiversity Loss

Overall, as far as SDG 15 is concerned, citizens scores were positive, with medium to very high progress in almost all the indicators, except transparency and accountability which had

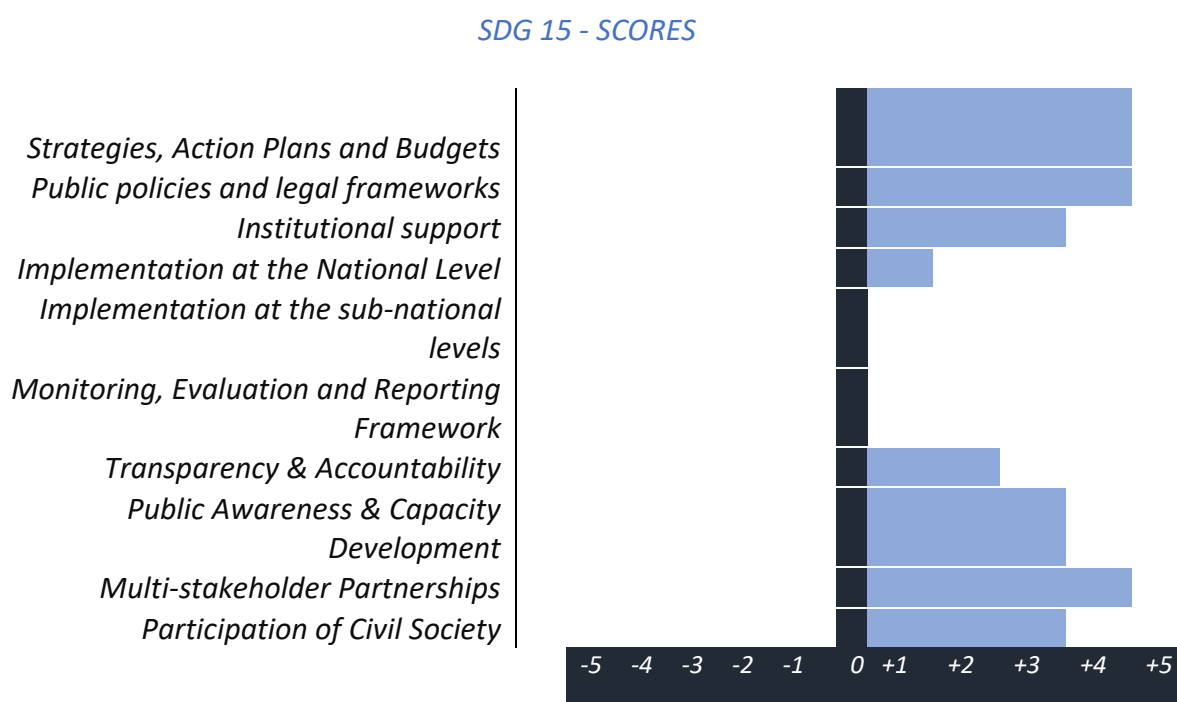
low progress score. The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Forestry Commission, and Lands Commission are the main agencies tasked to achieve this goal. In the last two years (2020-2022) under the Green Ghana project, the Ministry and its agencies have facilitated the planting of about 25 million trees across the country. The Ministry has tabled the bill in parliament to regulate the management of wildlife areas in Ghana which when approved by Parliament would reduce biodiversity loss. The Ministry as part of the measures to ensure sustainable forest management in Ghana passed the Timber Resources Management and Legality Licensing Regulation 2017 (L.I. 2254) to streamline the issuance of a permit for timber harvesting. FC has also developed and published Ghana Forest Plantation Strategy (2015-2040) to serve as a policy guide for forest restoration and protection in Ghana.

“LI 2254⁶ has provision on access to information, transparency guidelines in the District Assembly usage of royalties. CSOs seeking for information from Forestry Commission, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources about the process of degazetting Achimota forest but the information has not been given.” **CSO participant, Consultative Session with Subplatform 15**

The popularity of the unending struggle to address the issue of illegal mining (galamsey) re-enforces the citizenry perception that, some corrupt actions are being done. The goal faces challenges such as illegal mining (galamsey) both in forest reserves and outside Forest reserves, Illegal logging, and Ramsar sites being given out for private use/building. There is also the perception that there are prospects to mine bauxite in Tano Offine and Atewa Offine Forest reserve which is a Global Significant Biodiversity Area (GSBA). Some of the key challenges include poor and inadequate infrastructure, weak sub-regional network (coordination), low budgetary allocations, and lack of transparency as it pertains to information sharing. This presumably is the reason why transparency and accountability were rated low progress.

⁶ LI 2254 is the Timber Resource Management and Legality Licensing Regulations, 2017

Figure 4. 11: Citizen's perception of SDG 15 Implementation Mechanism



Source: Consultative Meeting, July 2022

Goal 16 Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for All and Build Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions At All Levels

It is evident from figure 4.12 that citizens are very happy about progress almost all the indicators were scored very high. Under this goal, there are several legal frameworks and policies in place to promote peaceful and inclusive societies. Some of the key policies include Cyber Security Act, Securities, and Intelligence Agency 2020 (Act 1030), Criminal Offences 1960 (Act 29), Criminal Offences and Other Procedures 1960 (Act 30), Criminal Offences Amendment Act 2012 (Act 849), Whistle Blowers 2006 (Act 720).

State agencies include National Security Ministry, Ministry of Interior, National Security Council, Office of Attorney General and Ministry of Justice, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Office of the Special Prosecutor, Economic and Organized Crime Office (EOCO), the Financial Intelligence Centre, Auditor General Department, Narcotic Control Commission, Ghana Police Council, Ghana Armed Forces, Ghana Immigration Service, Judiciary and Judicial Service of Ghana and the Parliament House of Ghana. A key framework for the anti-corruption movement is the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP). There exists a national security strategy, a strategy to counter violent extremism as well as efforts to finalize a national plan for violent extremism.

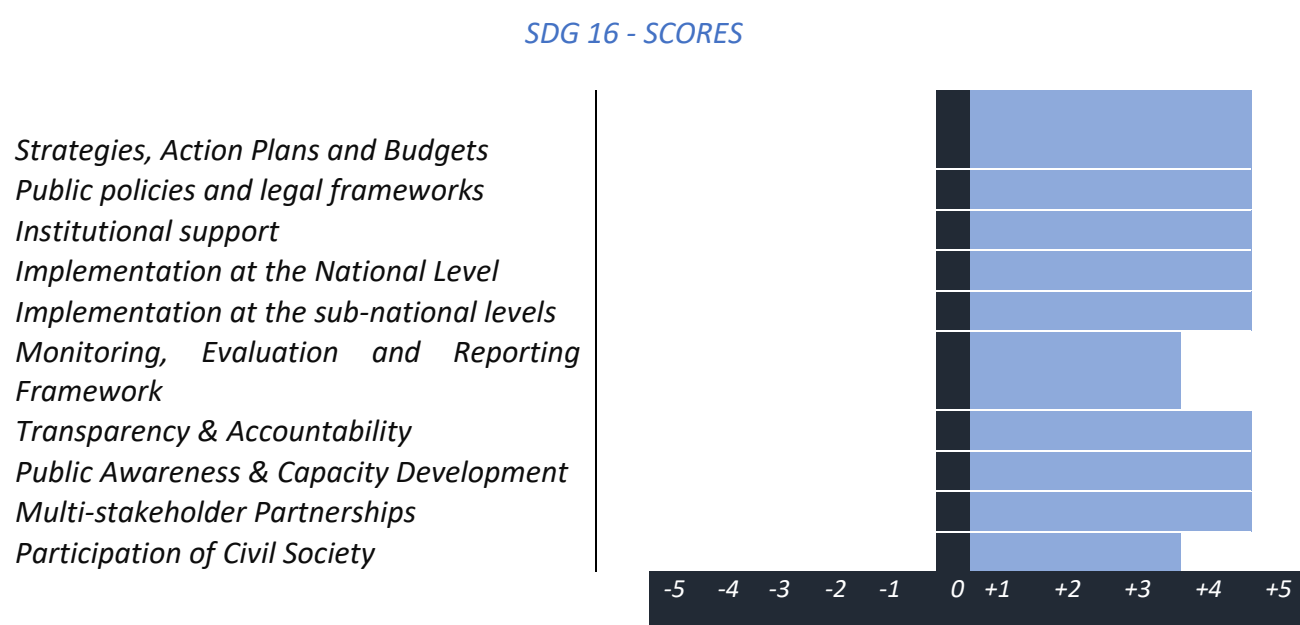
There is evidence to show that communities and citizens are not fully involved in these processes. There is also inadequate capacity of security agencies and CSOs in areas such as border management and efforts should be made at addressing pockets of communal violence

and structural challenges and vulnerabilities such as youth unemployment, provision of social amenities etc. This explains why monitoring, evaluation and reporting was perceived by citizens as having medium progress (see figure 4.12).

Ghana has made some progress in the fight against corruption with the recent enactment of the Right to Information 2019 (Act 989) and the setting of the Office of the Special Prosecutor 2017 (Act 959). Another progress marker is the setting up of an accountability institution coordinating platform that brings together all the accountability players to share experience, improve coordination and prevent duplication of efforts.

Although transparency and accountability were score high progress, it is worth noting that, citizens are of the perception that the government is not allocating and releasing the needed funds for Anti-Corruption interventions. This gives basis to the perception that there is the lack of political will to fight corruption. This is despite the existence of the state institutions and legal framework. The judiciary system is perceived to be slow, further compounding the low confidence of the public in the fight against corruption. It is disappointing that the bill on the conduct of public officers is yet to be passed and issues around asset declaration have not been taken seriously.

Figure 4. 12: Citizen's perception of SDG 16 Implementation Mechanism



Source: Consultative Meeting, July 2022

5.0 CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The SDGs, like all development paradigms seek to offer a sense of direction and drive to overcome the many development challenges facing the world. In themselves, the goals are only not as effective as the arrangements put in place by nations to ensure they become actionable and implementable. Given that the development context will vary in countries, it is important to always appreciate local level actions within their own right and to understand that slow or fast paced progress as far as the goals are concerned, may be an offshoot of many factors.

Ghana has chosen a path of integrating the SDGs into its local government development framework, a strategy that has the SDGs mainstreamed into the national planning processes, reflective in the Medium-Term Development Plans. The lessons and conclusions in this chapter are not a judgment on the effectiveness or otherwise of the approach, but they are suggestive of ways in which we can better improve in our next steps in the years ahead.

5.2 Conclusion

5.2.1 Average performance of Themes

Providing a good basis for reflection is the average rating of the thematic areas under which citizens' opinions and perceptions were sampled. Table 5.1 below presents the average scores/rating per each of the indicators. It is evident that on average, citizens perceive progress on the SDGs to range between low progress to medium progress.

Table 5. 1: Average rating of the thematic areas

Thematic	Average Rating	Interpretation
<i>Development Strategies, Action Plans, and Budgets</i>	<i>+3</i>	<i>Strategies, action plans and budget approved</i>
<i>Legal and Public Policy Framework</i>	<i>+3</i>	<i>Policy and legal framework approved and beginning to be Implemented</i>
<i>Institutional Capacity</i>	<i>+2</i>	<i>Agencies planning their engagement</i>
<i>Implementation at the National Level</i>	<i>+1</i>	<i>Statistical indicators show that progress on this SDG is minimal</i>
<i>Implementation at the Local Level</i>	<i>+1</i>	<i>Localization under discussion in cities/regions</i>
<i>Monitoring, evaluation, and reports</i>	<i>+1</i>	<i>Mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, and reporting are discussed</i>
<i>Transparency and Accountability Mechanisms</i>	<i>+1</i>	<i>Transparency and accountability mechanisms under discussion</i>
<i>Public Awareness and Capacity Development</i>	<i>+1</i>	<i>Awareness raising and capacity building needs assessed and discussed</i>
<i>Multi-stakeholder Partnership</i>	<i>+3</i>	<i>Partnerships in the initial phase of implementation</i>
<i>Participation of civil society</i>	<i>+2</i>	<i>There are concrete plans for inclusive and substantive participation</i>

- **Development Strategies, Action Plans, and Budgets (Average Rating +3):** Across the various goals, citizens were of the view that, plans, actions, and budgets have been approved. This per interpretation is good as it means that development actions towards the SDGs are being done within some country-level plans. This however, on the average, does not mean that, the plans are guiding the actions of the various stakeholders and state institutions, nor are they being followed in implementation.
- **Legal and Public Policy Framework (Average Rating +3):** Interestingly, there are a good number of policy frameworks being formulated. This is a testament to the evolving nature of the development landscape where emerging issues pop up every now and then that require either new policies or amendments to old policies. There have been instances where policies have been formulated but their implementation has not gone the way the stakeholders had anticipated. Progress even where minimal is worthy of applause.
- **Institutional Capacity (Average Rating +2):** This rating exemplifies the situation where most Ministries that are responsible for policy formulation are involved in the process but require financial support to implement most of such initiatives. This could be a good indicator of the situation where budgets are not followed during implementation, creating the impression that institutions are always planning but minimally implementing.

- **Implementation at the National Level (Average Rating +1):** This rating is interesting because, there is no known evaluation or assessment report of how much progress we have been made on each of the SDGs. There are reports such as the VNRs, the SDG Budget Reports and the Annual SDG Reports that speak to actions taken and progress achieved thus far. However, these are not widely popular among the citizenry and could be the reason for this rating. We are not communicating results as much as we should.
- **Implementation at the Local Level (Average Rating +1):** At the local level, SDGs are mainstreamed into the DMTDPs and as such get subsumed into the conversation as goals, objectives, and activities of the MMDAs. It is therefore possible that, respondents in the consultative processes are not reflecting the viewpoint that is indicative of two things: firstly, that the localization process of Government has been successful so much that, citizens are not even aware DMTDPs are aligned with the SDGs; and secondly, it could reflect how we have not intentionally engaged the subnational actors.
- **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reports (Average Rating +1):** Government budgeting is aligned with the SDGs goals. It is known that the annual budgets can be tracked in terms of how each government activity relates to the SDGs. However, in the public absence of this information, it comes to many actors as if this is being discussed. This rating therefore may be an indication that, each implementing stakeholders need to publish a lot more data on its monitoring processes as far as the SDGs are concerned. It will also be important to conduct national evaluation actions and studies to take stock of where we are in terms of the goals and indicators. Evaluative information and the analysis it generates will enable the SDG stakeholders to prepare meaningful national action plans in the years ahead.
- **Transparency and Accountability Mechanisms (Average Rating +1):** To say transparency and accountability measures are under discussion in the context of our national development processes suggests a lot of work is being done or needs to be done. Averagely, in terms of policy and law, avenues are available to address issues of transparency and accountability. The challenge has been that, although these mechanism in principle exist, they have not been fully utilized and implemented.
- **Public Awareness and Capacity Development (Average Rating +1):** Public or citizenry awareness on the SDGs is not at a high level. This could primarily be associated with localization approach chosen to deliver the SDGs. Capacity across agencies to speak to the goals, the indicators, and the national strategy towards achieving them may also not be at appreciable or acceptable balance. Within agencies, not all may have a same understanding of their work and how it influences and impacts on the SDGs.
- **Multi-stakeholder Partnership (Average +3):** Multi-stakeholder partnerships have been identified as the way to go if the nation is to have a chance at attaining the goals. This is particularly so in terms of mobilizing funds and leveraging on the collective technical resources available within private sector, civil society, and public/government sector. With some goals, a good level of progress has been made. This does not cut across all.

- **Participation of civil society (Average +2):** This average rating speaks to the active engagements of civil society have had with various government agencies across the goals. With almost every goal, there are CSOs coalitions collaborating with government agencies to address identified needs and gaps.

5.3 Recommendations

To address the key gaps identified by the findings and analysis of citizen's perceptions of the implementation of the SDG, we end with the following recommendations:

5.3.1 Civil Society Organization

- **Awareness Creation on SDGS at the Grassroots:** All stakeholders, particularly government and CSOs, should step up awareness creation and public education campaigns across the country to promote wider and strong citizen ownership and support for the SDGs. While awareness creation efforts should target and prioritize citizens, conscious efforts must be made to sensitize public sector workers for them to understand and relate their work to the SDGs.
- **Capacity Building for CSOs:** CSOs should build their capacity to operationalize 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 behavioral change required for the realization of key SDGs and holding duty bearers accountable for effective implementation of the goals.
- **Proper Integration of Sectoral Plans with the SDGs:** A learning has been that key sectoral plans do not necessarily guide the discussions within the sector as funding and monitoring assessments seem to be minimal. It is therefore important to ensure that sectoral plans are fully operationalized and that each action by every stakeholder fit into those plans, which in turn feeds into the national agenda for attaining the SDGs by 2030.

5.3.2 Private Sector Organisations

- **Finding An Entry Point for Private Sector Participation:** Key umbrella organisations such as the AGI and the PEF should consider a common platform to synergize their engagement on the SDGs. Avenues such the SDGs Investment Fairs organised by the Ministry of Finance and the SDs Investor Platform could be looked at as rallying and entry points for the Private Sector.
- **Capacity to Integrate SDGs into Private Sector Engagements:** 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.

5.3.3 Academia

- *Documenting SDGs Impact through Research: There is the need to have academic institutions through their research faculties research on how we can through research, document evidence of gains made under the SDGs. The academic community can also put forward recommendations that will help streamline our localization agenda. Ultimately contextualized learnings from the body of academic literature that will help us to harmonize the work of all stakeholders: CSOs, Government, Private to guide future implementation process of such global goals.*

5.3.4 Government of Ghana

Developing Robust SDGs Monitoring and Evaluation Systems: *As we have entered in the Decade of Action, it is important to design and implement robust Monitoring and Evaluation systems that will help us on an annual basis assess the gains our gains and to informs reformative actions and decisions where needed.*

Youth Inclusion: *The current arrangements for the implantation of the SDGs does not intentionally factor the participation of young people in the process. It is important for Government to take strategic steps to ensure young people are proactively being engaged and that both at the institutional and personnel level, young voices and actions are informing local and national actions as far as the SDGs are concerned.*

ANNEX

Annex 1: List of CSO Participants in the National Virtual Consultative Meeting

	NAME	ORGANISATION
1	Abigail Tagoe	Girls vision foundation
2	Adam Abdul Wahab	Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations-GFD
3	Afena-Atta Rudolf	RAISED Initiatives
4	Albert Gharbin	McGharbins Network
5	Annor Douglas	Offinso sub-platform
6	Archibald Nii Sarbah Adams	African Institute for Population and Development
7	AYISHETU ABDUL-KADIRI	FOMWAG
8	Bismark Adongo Ayorogo	Northern Patriots in Research and Advocacy (NORPRA)
9	Bright Kwadwo Sowu	Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC)
10	Comfort Quarshie	Eden Spring of Hope
11	David Edem Komlagah	PPAG
12	Dawud Suleiman	Resource Link Foundation
13	Desmond Kitsi	Genius IT Foundation
14	Elvis Oppong-Mensah	Civic Response
15	Emmanuella Ansere Konadu	Women In Livelihood Development
16	Felicia Nana Akua Afunyabea	Strategic Youth Network For Development
17	Felix Owodo	YVLGhana
18	Florence Agyemang	Community and Family Aid Foundation (CAFAF)
19	Freda A Pigru GCRN	Ghana Community Radio Network
20	Gamed Eugenia	Ho CSOs platform
21	George Asamoah Agyekum	Juliana holistic health care services
22	Isaac Kwabena Kakpeibe	Tim Africa Aid Ghana

23	<i>John Baidoo</i>	<i>SUDEF GHANA</i>
24	<i>Joseph Tettey Afangbe</i>	<i>Young Visionary Leaders Ghana</i>
25	<i>Joshua Ayayi</i>	<i>from PLO Lumumba Foundation Ghana.</i>
26	<i>Keh Perpetual Afefa</i>	<i>Ho Municipal Youth network</i>
27	<i>Kojo Pieterston</i>	<i>Adolescents, Youth and Health International</i>
28	<i>Kwame Ofori</i>	<i>kwame ofori-Ako Foundation</i>
29	<i>Labram Musah</i>	<i>VALD Ghana/GhNCDA</i>
30	<i>Linda Fremah</i>	<i>Ashanti Regional Youth Network</i>
31	<i>Louis Acheampong</i>	<i>Louis Acheampong, Social Support Foundation SSF Ghana</i>
32	<i>Martin Sekyi Jonah</i>	<i>Youth In Governance (YIG)</i>
33	<i>Maxwell Babilo Banu</i>	<i>TEERE</i>
34	<i>Nana Kwasi Ackah</i>	<i>SEND Ghana</i>
35	<i>Oracca-Tetteh</i>	<i>Network For Health and Relief Foundation NHRF</i>
36	<i>Osei Bonsu Aning</i>	<i>RU - CARE FOUNDATION,</i>
37	<i>Owuraku Boafo Justice</i>	<i>vision For Action Foundation</i>
38	<i>Patrice Robertson</i>	<i>Eclectic Love</i>
39	<i>Princess Lovia Tetteh</i>	<i>LoveAid Foundation</i>
40	<i>Richard Kasu</i>	<i>CFF GHANA</i>
41	<i>Richard Matey</i>	<i>Alliance for Empowering Rural Communities (AERC)</i>
42	<i>Rita Musah</i>	<i>Socio-Economic and Entrepreneurial Development Consult,</i>
43	<i>Robert Abana</i>	<i>Sincere Aid Foundation</i>
44	<i>Saaka james</i>	<i>Kcodec</i>
45	<i>Samuel Gariba</i>	<i>Youth Without Borders Ghana</i>
46	<i>Samuel Quaye</i>	<i>Curious Minds Ghana</i>
47	<i>Samuel Yao Atidzah</i>	<i>GOSANET Foundation</i>
48	<i>Theodora Williams</i>	<i>Foundation for Security and Dev't in Africa,</i>

49	Timothy Nsoh	Integrated Youth Needs and Welfare- INTYON

1.3 Annex 2: CSO COVID-19 Response Committee

1	George Osei-Bimpeh	SEND-Ghana
2	Beauty Emefa Narteh	Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC)
3	Joyce Larnyoh	International Child Development Programme, Ghana
4	Kwadwo Oteng Owusu	The Ghana CSOs Platform Secretariat on the SDGs
5	Kofi Owusu-Amankwah	The Ghana CSOs Platform Secretariat on the SDGs
6	Ugonna Ukaigwe	The Ghana CSOs Platform Secretariat on the SDGs
7	Andrews Tagoe	General Agricultural Workers' Union (GAWU)
8	Teiko Sabah	STAR-Ghana Foundation
9	Mike Owusu	Light for Children
10	Emmanuel Clifford Gyetuah	Youth Advocacy Ghana (YAG)
11	Archibald Adams	Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG)
12	Cecilia Senoo	Hope For Future Generations (HFFG)
13	Levlyn Asiedu	Hope For Future Generations (HFFG)
14	Nana Asantewaa Afadzinu	West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI)
15	John Frinjuah	West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI)
16	Chamrid Kpadonou	West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI)
17	Dede Bedu-Addo	Ghana Monitoring & Evaluation Forum (GMEF)

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APPENDIX: DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

Appendix 1: Case Study Tool

<i>Case Study Profile</i>	
<i>Name of Organisation</i>	
<i>Contact information (Focal person, department, email, phone number)</i>	
<i>Title of Initiative</i>	
<i>Related SDG target(s)</i>	
<i>Implementation period</i>	
<i>Region and area of operation (Location)</i>	
<i>Case Study Description</i>	
<i>General description of the situation in the locality and further description of the interventions, its intended purpose and relevance. A brief description of the issue before and what/how the intervention sought to address the issue.</i>	
<i>Who are the target groups of the initiative?</i>	
<i>What other groups are benefitting from the initiative?</i>	
<i>Inputs</i>	
<i>What resources/inputs (i.e. budget, in-kind resources etc.) were needed for the initiative?</i>	
<i>Description of results</i>	
<i>What impact has the initiative had? Is it social, environmental, economic, institutional, etc.?</i>	
<i>Please provide relevant statistics and state data source where possible.</i>	
<i>Please include photos and other supporting evidence. Examples could include social media posts, links, posters or other graphics related to the project. Include captions where necessary.</i>	
<i>Conclusions and recommendations</i>	
<i>A summary of how and why the practice outlined here has been effective.</i>	
<i>What are the major challenges?</i>	
<i>Please add related materials or content e.g. a lesson learnt or a set of data etc. where applicable</i>	
<i>Outstanding issues (if any)</i>	

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Appendix 2: Scorecard Template

Areas	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5		Assessment Comments	/
<i>Governance Framework</i>														
<i>National Development Plans, Strategies & Budget</i>														
<i>Institutions with clear mandate</i>														
<i>Implementation at the National Level</i>														
<i>Implementation at the sub-national levels</i>														
<i>Public Awareness & Capacity Development</i>														
<i>Monitoring Mechanisms</i>														
<i>Transparency & Accountability</i>														
<i>Multi-stakeholder Partnerships</i>														
<i>Civil Society Participation</i>														
<i>Additional cross-cutting areas</i>														
<i>11. Progress since last VNR (if applicable)</i>														

12. <i>Leave No One Behind</i>													
13. <i>Planetary Boundaries</i>													
14. <i>Delivery by CSOs</i>													
<i>Total</i>													

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Other languages are available online on our website.

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