



GHANA

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



MAKING HEADWAY
Consolidating Gains And Bridging Gaps



2021 Annual Report

MAKING HEADWAY

*Consolidating Gains
And Bridging Gaps*

2021 COUNTRY OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT

This report was developed by the Ghana Country Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to capture progress made in the 2021 programming year.

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FOREWORD



Mr. Barnabas Yisa,
Country Representative a.i.

The COVID-19 pandemic set in at the tail end of 2019 and spiked the following year in 2020; bringing with it many reasons for countries and organizations around the world to adapt social systems to contain and be resilient to the adverse effects of the public health scourge.

In developed nations/states, it was obvious that their existing structures allowed them to easily absorb the shocks and build back better as against developing nations.

As the United Nations Sexual & Reproductive Health Agency, UNFPA stood up to assist various Governments in their efforts to build

back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Ghana, the UNFPA Country Office continued to prioritize the interests of women and girls, as well as young people through the provision of critical information and services in the areas of maternal health, family planning, support for victims of Sexual & Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practices, among others.

The COVID-19 pandemic taught us the need to work more innovatively by using digital technology to reach more of our partners, stakeholders and most importantly, beneficiaries of our interventions.

In this report, we will give you information about our work for the year 2021 and also offer you a good view of the results achieved as we aim for the 3 zeros:

0 Preventable Maternal Deaths

0 Unmet Need for Family Planning

0 Sexual & Gender-Based Violence & Harmful Practices

Let me use this opportunity to thank our stakeholders: the Government of Ghana, our Implementing Partners, Civil Society Organisations, Youth Groups, celebrities and influencers as well as staff and personnel of UNFPA Ghana, particularly, the outgoing Country Representative and Deputy Representative, Mr. Niyi Ojuolape and Dr. Agnes Kayitankore, as well as Ms. Daisy Gaye, the outgoing International Operations Manager.

Ayekoo!

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AADPD Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development

ADHD Adolescent Health Development

ANC Antenatal Care

ARHR Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights

ASRH Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health

AYFH Adolescent Youth Friendly Health

CHPS Community Health Planning and Services

CICs Community Information Centres

CM Child Marriage

CSE Comprehensive Sexuality Education

CSOs Civil Society Organizations

CSPGs Cross Sectoral Planning Group

CoPASH Coalition of People against SGBV and Harmful Practices

DHIMS District Health Information Management System

DODMAS DOVVSU Online Data Management System

DOVVSU Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit

DV Domestic Violence

DoG Department of Gender

FBOs Faith-Based Organizations

FP Family Planning

GAP Gender Action Plan

GAWW Ghanaian Association for Women's Welfare

GBV Gender-Based Violence

GCU Guidance and Counselling Unit

GDHS Ghana Demographic and Health Survey

GDP Gross Domestic Product

GES Ghana Education Service

GEU Girls Education Unit

GHS Ghana Health Service

GIFTS Girls Iron-Folate Tablets Supplementation

GoG Government of Ghana

GPHC Ghana Population and Housing Census

GSS Ghana Statistical Service

HPV Human Papillomavirus

HPs Harmful Practices

ICPD International Conference on Population and Development

IEC Information, Education & Communication

LIST OF ACRONYMS

IFA Iron and Folic Acid

IGP Inspector General of Police

ISSOP Inter-Sectoral Standard Operating Procedure for child protection and family welfare

IVR Interactive Voice Response

JHS Junior High School

JPSC Joint Program Steering Committee

KEEA Komenda Edina Eguafio Abirem

KOICA Korea International Cooperation Agency

LEAP Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty

LI Legislative Instrument

LMIS Logistic Management Information System

M&E Monitoring & Evaluation

MCAN Media, Communications and Advocacy Network

MESP Mental Emotional State or Process

MHM Menstrual Hygiene Management

MICS Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey

MMDAs Metropolitan Municipal and District Assemblies

MP Member of Parliament

MSI Marie Stopes International

MTNDPF Medium-Term National Development and Policy Framework

MYFF Multi-Year Funding Framework

MoE Ministry of Education

MoGCSP Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection

MoH Ministry of Health

MoLGRD Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development

NCCE National Commission for Civic Education

NCSC National Census Steering Committee

NDO National Data Observatory

NDPC National Development and Planning Commission

NGOs Non-Governmental Organizations

NPC National Population Council

NPCS National Population Council Secretariat

NYP National Youth Policy

NaCCA National Council for Curriculum Assessment

OSC Orange Support Centre

PASS Promoting Adolescent Safe Spaces

LIST OF ACRONYMS

PATH Programme for Appropriate Technology for Health

PAYDP Purim African Youth Development Platform

PCC Parent Child Communication

PHC Population and Housing Census

PHC Primary Health Care

PPAG Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana

PTA Parent Teacher Association

RHC Reproductive Health Commodity

RHE Reproductive Health Education

RHESY Reproductive Health Education and Services for Youth

RMNCHAN Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child Adolescent Health and Nutrition

SBCC Social and Behavioral Change Communication

SDGs Sustainable Development Goals

SGBV Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

SHEP School Health Education Programme

SMC School Management Committee

SMS Short Message Service

SN Safety Net

SRHR Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights

SSRP Safe Schools Resource Pack

STIs Sexually Transmitted Infections

SpED Special Education Division

TWG Technical Working Group

ToT Training of Trainers

UN United Nations

UNAIDS Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

UNHCR United Nations High Commission for Refugees

UNIC United Nations Information Centre

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

WASH Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

WHO World Health Organization

WILDAF Women in Law and Development in Africa

YFS Youth Friendly Services

YMK You Must Know

CHAPTER ONE

ENDING UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING

1

Background

Globally, an estimated 214 million women including adolescents want to avoid a pregnancy but are not using an effective family planning method (WHO, 2017), contributing to many unintended pregnancies. Unmet need for family planning in Ghana remains high (30%) among married women and higher (51%) for adolescents 15-19 years. Disparities in use of contraceptive remains worrying with use of modern contraceptive among married women ranging from a low of 17% in Northern region to a high of 32% in Upper East region. A functioning health system is widely acknowledged as the clear and critical determinant of countries to deliver quality contraceptive services.

During the year, UNFPA Ghana supported government and partners to provide quality contraceptive services through strengthening key blocks of the health system including—human resources/health work force, service delivery, information, and medical products.





Participants in a capacity building session.



Training of healthcare service providers.

Human Resources

UNFPA supported government to build capacity of health care providers on the DMPA SC self-inject contraceptive method. The capacity building covered the use of rights-based approach to deliver services, calculation of re-injection dates, management of side effects, safe storage, disposal and counseling Clients on self-inject. The capacity building contributed to ensure that Ghana health workforce remain responsive to emerging family planning technologies and innovations in order to deliver efficient services.



Results

- **700 providers trained** to administer DMPA SC self inject contraceptive method.
- **350 health facilities equipped** with trained health providers with the requisite competencies to provide DMPA SC and Self Injection services.
- **Increased number of health providers** across Ghana equipped to provide a wide range of DMPA SC.
- **Improved access** to DMPA SC in Ghana.



A section of participants in the training.



Participants listening to a presentation at the training.

Trainer of Trainers in SRHR, GBV and Disability – ‘WE DECIDE’ Programme

During the year, UNFPA supported capacity building of government, civil society actors and UNFPA staff from Liberia and Sierra Leone, through a WCARO programme dubbed “*WE DECIDE – A Programme for Equal Opportunities and a Life Free of Violence*” initiative.

Results

30 participants (Civil Society and Government) equipped as trainer of trainers in issues of integrated SRHR, GBV and Disability.



Mr. Idrissa Ouedraogo, Gender Technical Adviser, UNFPA WCARO, delivering remarks during the training.



Group photo of participants who took part in the training.

Improved Reproductive Health Commodity Security in Ghana

During the year under review, UNFPA supported capacity building of Government and the family planning community to respond to strategic shifts under the UNFPA Supplies Program.

Results

- Three transformative action applications developed by the local growth team were successful.
- The Government of Ghana provided support for the Country Compact.

Service Delivery

In the year under review, UNFPA Supported government to improve service delivery to Clients to deliver effective, cost-effective, safe, quality and personal family planning interventions at the door step of Clients.

During the month long commemoration of the World Contraception Day (WCD), UNFPA partnered government and social marketing organisations to raise awareness and visibility of Family planning in Ghana via media outlets, social media, street events, and also to improve family planning uptake through door-to-door community outreaches.

Results

- FP uptake within the period improved especially for adolescents during the 2021 WCD commemoration

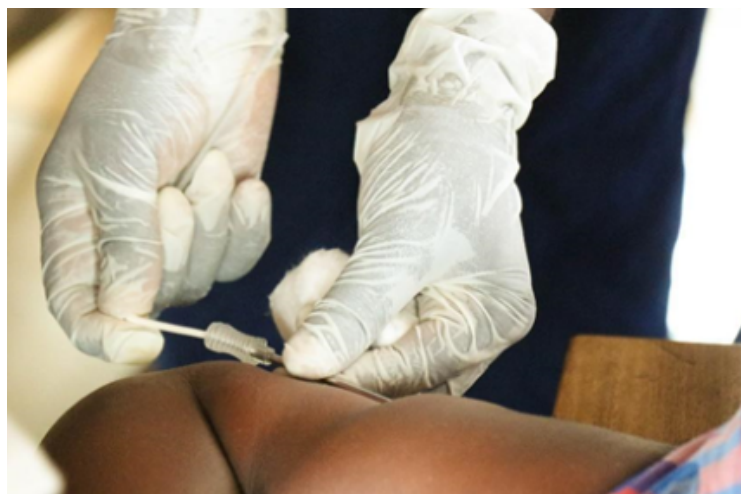
Commodities	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35 above	Total
Male condom	0	20	33	83	42	62	240
Jadelle	0	6	5	8	3	8	30
Implanon	0	2	1	1	2	1	7
Microgynon	0	1	4	3	1	1	10
Sayana Press	0	3	6	3	2	6	20
	0	12	16	15	8	16	67

Results

- Myths and misconceptions surrounding the usage of contraceptives were addressed.
- **About 200 dignity kits** consisting of items such as toothbrushes, paste, sanitary pads etc were distributed to vulnerable adolescents girls and women.
- **Increased knowledge of existing innovations**, WAWABA and the demand and access to it among adolescents and young persons.
- **200 young people and adults were screened for HIV and STIs**. Referrals were made to those detected with medical conditions.
- **5000 male and 250 female condoms were distributed** to vulnerable adolescents and young people.
- The activity contributed to increased visibility of UNFPA's work in family planning.



Provision of Family Planning information and services to a patient.



Administration of an implant to a patient.

Reaching the Family planning needs, and amplifying the voices of Persons with Disabilities through the 'Ability Fair':

Persons with disabilities have the same Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) needs as other people. However, they often face various barriers in accessing information and services. Negative provider attitude, stigma and discrimination account for most of these barriers.

UNFPA in its continuous effort in ensuring that vulnerable groups are empowered to make informed decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health, provided technical and financial support

to the Henry Djaba Memorial Foundation, The Ghana Health Service, CSOs and other partners to highlight the challenges and unique talents of PWDs through the first-ever 'Ability Fair':

Results

- **Launch of the maiden national Ability Fair** in Ghana for Persons With Disabilities.
- **1,200 participants, including YPLWDs** were reached with SGBV & SRHR information and services.
- **Network of businesses engaged PWDs** to market products of PWD – soap, hair products, shoes, in Ghana and abroad.
- **Partnered with NGOs to meet the special needs of different populations** and bring family planning services to new audiences.

Health Information

A well-functioning health information system ensures the production, analysis, dissemination and use of reliable and timely information on health determinants, health system performance and health status of populations. UNFPA partnered USAID and supported the Government to roll out the electronic logistics management information system (GhiLMIS) across the various levels of the country.

Results

- Visibility of logistics data improved;
- Availability of complete, accurate and near real-time logistics data that is reviewed routinely and acted upon;
- Quicker decision-making on commodity security and availability.

Medical Products



Health systems cannot function without equitable access to essential medical products including contraceptives. UNFPA procured an estimated 35% of national contraceptive requirements to support public sector contraceptive health care delivery.

Results

- **1,290,816** Couple Years Protection (CYP) from UNFPA imported contraceptives.
- No nation-wide stock out of contraceptives.

CHAPTER TWO

IMPROVING MATERNAL HEALTH

2

Background

The Country Office continued its support to the Government of Ghana (the Ministry of Health and the Ghana Health Service) in the four MHTF-funded areas of interest, namely, EmONC, MPDSR, Obstetric fistula, and Midwifery; as well as in the UNFPA Supplies/Reproductive Health Commodities Securities/Family planning.

Following the EMONC Assessment, the GHS/MOH aims to establish the Networks of Practice with the consideration of selected EMONC facilities as model health centres in its bid to achieve UHC by 2030. UNFPA has been supporting the preparatory processes, including the development of a concept document.



A midwife attending to a nursing mother with her newborn child.

Investing in Midwifery Education

Equipping Skills Labs of Midwifery Schools

Strengthening the quality of nursing and midwifery education and training is essential to improving the knowledge, skills, and competencies of midwives. A major component of pre-service training of nurses and midwives is practical sessions including Skills lab sessions. This provides student midwives an opportunity for hands-on practice with anatomical models before applying skills in real-life situations.

UNFPA through the MHTF procured and supported 2 universities; the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Garden City University College and Presbyterian University College, Ghana with equipment including anatomical models and stimulators to strengthen the capacity of their skills lab to provide practical sessions for students. This was done based on the needs of each school.



Donation of Midwifery Equipment to Garden City University College

Results

Pre-service trainees in the supported universities have increased access to practical sessions due to the availability of equipment at the skills lab preparing them for better practice within the health workforce.

Preceptorship Training

A needs assessment conducted in 2016, as well as the review of the implementation of the 5-year strategic plan for nursing and midwifery

funded by UNFPA pointed out a very huge gap between preservice training and practice after student nurses and midwives graduated.

This situation has affected the quality of nurses which necessitated the development of coaching, mentorship, and preceptorship of student nurses and midwives in Ghana. Furthermore, the framework for strengthening quality midwifery education for Universal Health Coverage prescribes preparation of educational institutions, practice settings and clinical mentors as part of the seven-step action.

Based on the above findings and recommendations the Ministry of Health has put in place a preceptorship system to ensure a structured, streamlined, and standard system to enhance clinical experiences and skills of students. The Ministry of Health also developed a preceptorship reference training manual as well as a facilitator's guide. The document was tested and found to be helpful.

UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health to build the capacity of nurses and midwives from 14 nursing and midwifery institutions and 9 health facilities where students conduct clinical practicum to bridge the gaps identified.



At the preceptorship training.

Results

The capacity of clinical preceptors and clinical educators as well as key players in the preceptorship system built on preceptors to bridge the gap between pre-service training and practice.

Partnerships and Commemorative Days

- Collaboration with Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF), led to the development of an animation on Obstetric Fistula, which was used extensively during the week to commemorate the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula in May.



Scan QR Code/click the image to watch the video.

- Partnership with the Women's Health Organization International (WHOI) led to additional resources of CAD 10,000, aimed at supporting a skills and entrepreneurship training opportunity for selected fistula survivors, slated for 2022.
- Collaboration with development partners, such as Jhpiego, USAID-Accelerator Project, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Bank, was crucial in advocating for the integration of EmONC in the Ghana Health

Service/Ministry of Health Networks of Practice. This paved the way for the development of guidelines for the Networks of Practice.

- Partnership with the Naa Adole Foundation, for ASRH advocacy among adolescent girls and the prevention of obstetric Fistula through girl education and empowerment.
- UNFPA supported two midwifery training facilities and two Fistula Centres to enhance the provision of quality health care services, including EmONC and Fistula repairs.

International Day of the Midwife

To enhance midwifery work environment as included in the national workforce policy, the International Day of the Midwife was commemorated, with twenty-one midwives being recognized for their exemplary work and commitment to saving lives. The IDM also offered networking opportunities for midwives and served as an avenue to advocate for key issues pertaining to their work force to be addressed.



Midwives on a health walk during the 2021 International Day of the Midwife.



Demonstration of the pivotal role of Midwives during the 2021 IDM.



Awarding one of the twenty-one (21) midwives during 2021 IDM.

International Day to End Obstetric Fistula

To foster and enhance national leadership, ownership, and accountability on ending fistula and other obstetric morbidities, UNFPA supported the commemoration of the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula, with several activities including sensitization and advocacy exercises, which resulted in over forty new cases being identified for surgical repairs. MHTF contributed to **seventy-nine (79) obstetric fistula repairs, including some of those identified during the IDEOF advocacy campaigns.**

Community engagements and awareness creation on obstetric Fistula in churches, mosques, on the street (street activism), via social media and outreaches. **Over 2000 people** were sensitized on obstetric Fistula.



Awareness creation on IDEOF during a community outreach at St. Cecilia Anglican Church.



Engagement with Muslim women outside a mosque (IDEOF 2021).



Engagement with Muslim men inside a mosque (IDEOF 2021).



Street activism during IDEOF 2021.



Street activism during IDEOF 2021.

Adolescent engagement in programmes pertaining to maternal health, ASRH, FP, SGBV, Child Marriage and other harmful practices has been catalytic. Young people were engaged in activities such as FP/IDEOF/community outreaches and advocacy campaigns, conversations with faith-based leaders/Community leaders such as Queen Mothers, Parliamentarians, social media storms, the development of innovative technologies such as the Autism Aid App, which provides information on SRH, maternal health, SGBV, Family Planning etc. to persons with autism. Additionally, young people

aged 15 –24 years were invited to submit essays on the topic ‘Motherhood in Distress: Engineering Ghana to end Obstetric Fistula’. Sixteen essays were submitted within a period of one month. Three essayists were awarded for their contribution to the discourse.

Challenges

Ghana, along with the world, still had to grapple with the impact of COVID-19. Hybrid meetings and interventions were resorted to (virtual alongside in-person activities with restricted number of participants). A number of interventions had to be postponed to the next year due to the pandemic. Late receipt of some funding tranches also impacted the implementation of selected activities.



An Adolescent Girl in an engagement session on GBV, SRH, including Obstetric Fistula.

Lessons Learned

Strengthening relationships/partnerships

We learn that, collaboration with IPs and other bodies ensured that UNFPA could negotiate its agenda being incorporated in novel programmes and strategies such as the Networks of Practice. Additionally, fostering partnerships with Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF) and the Women’s Health Organization International (WHOI) led to the mobilisation of additional resources (in-kind and financial).

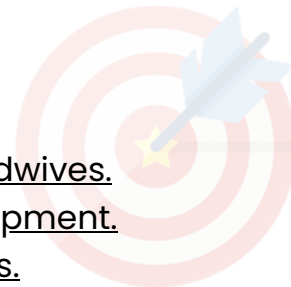
Leveraging of resources

Enhanced effort to drawing linkages with other CO programmes (Family planning, Child Marriage, Adolescent Health Programme) has enhanced our implementation of interventions in the light of limited resources.

Achievements at a glance

UNFPA supported:

- The mobilization and repair of **79** obstetric fistula cases.
- The successful commemoration of the 2021 IDM by awarding **21** midwives.
- Two (**2**) Midwifery Training Institutions with requisite midwifery equipment.
- The upgrade of **2** OF repair facilities towards quality surgical repairs.
- Forty-seven (**47**) midwives with training in Life-saving skills (LSS).
- Thirty (**30**) midwifery Preceptors had their capacities built.



CHAPTER THREE

ELIMINATING SGBV & HARMFUL PRACTICES

3

Background and Context

Gender equality is a human right. Women are entitled to live with dignity and with freedom from want and from fear. This is the principle that has guided UNFPA's work for more than 30 years. Gender-based violence and harmful practices is one of the three transformative results that UNFPA relies on to contribute to the 2030 agenda. GBV undermines the health, dignity, security and autonomy of its victims, yet it remains shrouded in a culture of silence. It is for the above reasons that UNFPA Ghana takes a pragmatic approach in a coordinated response to GEWE as well as GBV programming.



A Youth activist displaying a placard in advocacy to end SGBV.

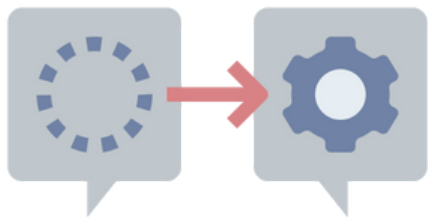
Results

In 2021, UNFPA continued to programme to prevent and respond to harmful practices especially child marriage. Strategic interventions were implemented at both the national and decentralised levels to review,

update and advocate for gender equitable policies and frameworks, build the capacity of relevant stakeholders and enhance knowledge management and coordination. Additionally, various cohorts of community members were

engaged using several approaches and tools to sensitize and empower them on their role in ending child marriage and all forms of SGBV.

With the national mandate to ensure gender equality and promote women and girls' empowerment, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection through its Department of Gender and the Domestic Violence Secretariat played pivotal roles in the 2021 achievements chalked by UNFPA.



Capacity Building and Knowledge Management

Notable among the 2021 achievements was the national roll out of the Essential Services Package for Women and Girls subject to Violence. The national Training of Trainers (ToT) for 70 stakeholders including Regional Directors of the Ghana Health Service, Judicial Services, Department of Gender, Department of Social Welfare, MoGCSP and relevant CSOS supported in facilitating a common understanding of the functions of the multi-sectoral response required by survivors of SGBV. It also assisted participants to identify areas of multi-sectoral collaboration that will enhance coordination of service provision at regional/sub-national level for victims/survivors of SGBV.



Advocates making pledges during the observation of the 16 Days of Activism Against SGBV.

To deepen its coordinating role for the effective implementation of gender-responsive frameworks to attain set targets, UNFPA supported MoGCSP to organise two bi-annual stakeholders meeting to track the implementation of the Adolescent Pregnancy Strategy. The meeting highlighted the areas where progress had been made, the gaps and challenges as well as the areas that require increased attention and focus due to emerging trends arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting also provided a platform for stakeholders to exchange ideas on approaches that are achieving results for replication.

Still on the level of coordination for enhanced multi-sectoral implementation, data capturing, tracking, and reporting, the Child Marriage

Information Portal was launched in partnership with MoGCSP. The launch was preceded by the constitution of an 8-member Editorial Team which has supported the review of portal content to ensure conformity with global standards. With the launch, the portal is now available as the national repository for child marriage information/reporting at **www.cm.mogcsp.gov.gh**

A Handbook for Market Paralegals was also produced in the course of the year. The user-friendly manual is aimed at providing the paralegals with a specific guide and a set of commonly agreed principles and rules to ensure that their activities are conducted in a manner consistent with institutional values and best practices.



A young male posting a bill to inform his community members about the Orange Support Centre.

Policy Review and Advocacy

Furthermore, UNFPA provided both technical and financial support to MoGCSP to initiate the review and update of the National Gender Policy as one of the UN's lead agencies working to further gender equality and women's empowerment. The national consultative process supported about 90 stakeholders from 20 institutions across the country to outline the major areas of the policy that informed national development and the new and relevant issues that must be included in the updated policy such as online gender related violence, etc. The meeting also indicated the need for further consultation at the decentralised level to ensure national ownership and effective roll out of the revised policy.

Again, UNFPA supported the Non-Formal Education Division/Complementary Education Agency of the Ministry of Education to review and update the national manuals/curriculum known as 'Readers'. The updated Readers which used to



Engaging men and boys on the need to be allies in the fight against Sexual & Gender-Based Violence.

offer functional literacy to mainly out of school youth now reflect emerging SRH and SGBV issues relevant for marginalised groups such as apprentice hairdressers, tailors and non-formal associations in the various national, regional and local communities. It is hoped that the dissemination of the Readers with the SRH and SGBV modules will deepen the understanding of identified learners on ASRH and SGBV, and promote their agency, voice, and ability to make informed choices on issues affecting them.

Community Engagement, Mentorship and Safe Spaces

The use of the Safe Space approaches to empower adolescent girls at risk or affected by child marriage continued throughout 2021. Under the SISTAs clubs and PASS supported by PPAG and INGH respectively, about 3,644 adolescent girls between the ages of 10-19 were engaged and empowered with enhanced access to health and socio-economic building assets. Similarly, PAYDP engaged about 3,251 marginalised girls composed mainly of the Kayayei and Adolescent Mothers with integrated approaches through the Orange Girls Networks. The 3rd Kayayei Business and Leadership Fair was also attended by about 709 marginalised girls who showcased various products from their livelihood activities at the Enterprise Development Centres for patrons who included the new female mayor of Accra. The annual experience sharing and follow-up Mentorship session for Mentees of the CJ Mentorship Programme was also attended by 40 beneficiaries.

To reach a wider audience with education on issues of adolescent girls' wellbeing and bust negative gender stereotypes, 13 episodes of Season 3 of the Girlz Girlz Power Talk Show were aired on two TV stations to an estimated viewership of about 7.8 million.

A major innovative strategy to track the progress of the adolescent girls from the various safe spaces was the use of the Exchange Learning and ADOLEF platforms which facilitated the sharing of ideas between 350 girls and some facilitators from all the Safe Spaces. As part of the innovative approaches, the national Gender Equality Clinic was held for 70 girls and 30 boys to re-engineer them on the concept of gender, gender roles, equality, and stereotypes, ASRH and Career Guidance. Additionally, a Gender Equality Clinic Facilitators' Manual and Workbook has been developed to standardise and enhance the annual clinics.

Various identifiable stakeholders who have a role to prevent or respond to child marriages especially within the communities were also engaged using the Child Marriage Advocacy Toolkit. The targeted advocacy sessions facilitated the engagement of about 1,500 community members including traditional and religious leaders, parents' groups and networks, women's associations, etc. And to build positive masculinities as part of creating an enabling environment for gender equality, about 2, 060 Men and Boys have been engaged as advocates against CM and SGBV in 2021.

Finally, two major initiatives aimed at sensitizing

communities and advocating for an end to child marriage and adolescent pregnancy were originated. These were the roll-out of the Child Marriage-Free Community Alert Initiative and the Art for Advocacy to End Child Marriage campaign. With the former, community leaders and members are engaged to support adolescent girls and prevent any marriage or union before the age of 18 by hoisting a flag at a vantage point in the community. The moment there is any indication of a case of child marriage or co-habitation, the flag is lowered at half-mast and all relevant stakeholders are alerted to intervene. The flag only flies fully again after the successful rescue of the adolescent girl/ the union has been aborted. Currently, the flag has been hoisted in 30 communities in 6 districts. With the flag been a visible item, the initiative has attracted and aroused the interest of community members to be all responsible for the wellbeing of the youth especially adolescent girls.

Challenges



Challenges during the implementation year still centred around the effects of COVID-19. For instance, due to the pandemic which necessitates the use of PPEs and adherence to the protocols, IPs continue to reduce the numbers for face-to-face interactions and sometimes also hold programmes in batches which all have cost implications and eventually affect numbers reached through programmes that require practical sessions.

Lessons Learned

- The use of mix methods to reach adolescent girls and other relevant stakeholders including the use of digital platforms and face to face meetings continues to facilitate the reach of many beneficiaries. Additionally, innovative platforms such as the Gender Equality Clinic and Adolescent Learning Forum provide opportunities for adolescents to exchange ideas, learn from their peers and roll out step down approaches to enhance reach.
- Finally, supporting mandated institutions to enhance coordination using packages such as the Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence and other platforms such as the Child Marriage Information Portal enhances service provision and response to SGBV and HPs.



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Support Centre

CHAPTER FOUR

EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE & ADOLESCENTS

4

Introduction

The youth are energetic and hold the potential as future leaders and therefore possess power. It is also worth noting that, today's youth are a vital resource of every nation which calls on the need to welcome young people's views, initiatives and a platform to advocate on issues affecting the youth.

It is against this background, the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1999, in its resolution 54/120, endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, August 8-10, 1998) that August 12 be declared International Youth Day (IYD). Annually on August 12, the International Youth Day is celebrated to bring youth issues to the attention of the international community and to celebrate the potential of youth as active partners in the local, regional and global society. The Focal Point on Youth selects a theme for the day often with inputs from youth organisations and members of the UN Inter-Agency Network in Youth development.



The Minister of Youth & Sports, Hon. Mustapha Ussif making a point at IYD 2021.

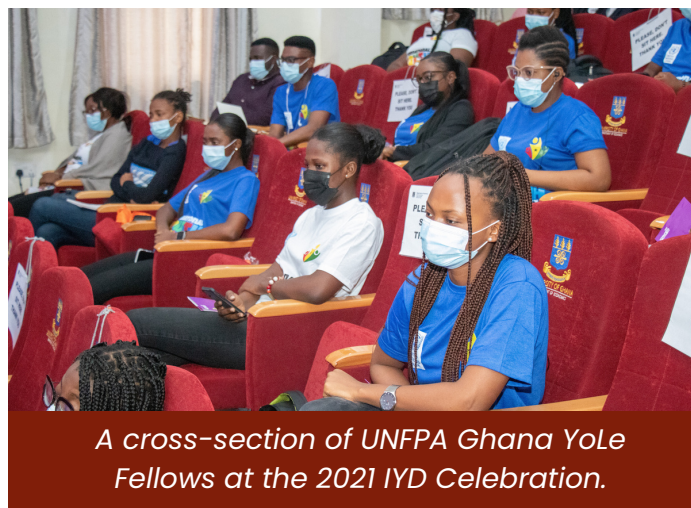
Like other partners that support youth development, the Government of the Republic of Ghana acknowledges that the youth are leaders of today, tomorrow and the future and joins the international community annually in celebrating International Youth Day. With the mandate above, Ghana's National Youth Authority (NYA) with support from United Nations Ghana and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Ghana, organised a Youth Summit to commemorate the International Youth Day 2021 to transforming food systems.



The summit was a remarkable event held under the theme, “Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health”, and highlighted that the success of such a global effort will not be achieved without the meaningful participation of young people.

The summit was graced by some distinguished personalities, including: the United Nations Resident Coordinator to Ghana, Mr. Charles Abani, the Minister of Youth and Sports, Hon. Mustapha Ussif, the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Hon. Hawa Koomson and the Director of the National Youth Authority, Mr. Nelson Owusu Ansah, who delivered a welcome address to initiate the discussions on improving food systems in Ghana as well as helping to amplify the voice, talents and inclusion of young people to create a more sustainable and equitable future for all in the country.

There were diverse youth groups at the summit, including the UNFPA Ghana Youth Leaders (YoLe) Fellows.



Highlights

- Launch of the Youth Agri-Enterprise Support Project. Some exhibition booths were mounted by young entrepreneurs who showcased their businesses in the form of well-packaged processed food products.
- Presentation by Jean-Philip Lawson on behalf of UNFPA Ghana which highlighted the need to prioritise the SRHR of young people in line with the ICPD & SDGs. UNFPA also had an exhibition booth which displayed Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials for providing information to young people.





A young PPAG volunteer expressing her excitement while taking part in the 'Condomize' activity.

PPAG-YAM Condomize Night

Valentine's Day (also known as Chocolate day in Ghana) is usually marked by worldwide celebration with various expressions of love. Among young people, this day is marked by giving of gifts and spending time with loved ones with a high possibility for sexual activity that can result in unwanted pregnancies and the spread of sexually transmitted infections like Gonorrhea, HIV etc.

To help reduce unfortunate outcomes from Valentine's Day, the Accra Young & Wise center of PPAG in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Accra family health clinic organized the Condomize Night to reach out to the general public, especially sexually active young people, with various Sexual & Reproductive Health information, condom distribution and linkage to health services through referral.

Results

The team was able to reach out to over **960** people of which **476** were young people.

Key Highlights

- This activity (Condomize night) involved two full days of active engagement on selected streets and market areas in Accra including Kaneshie market, Abbosey Okai Spare parts, Takoradi Station, Kwame Nkrumah Circle, circle main station, the Maame Dokono station, the Vienna City, the VIP station and the Tiptoe lane.
- These locations were carefully selected because their busy streets of high business activity on daily basis and high number of people, including female sex workers.



A group photograph of the PPAG volunteer team that undertook the outreach activity.

- Volunteers from the Youth Action Movement (Accra and Legon branch) were joined by staff of PPAG to undertake this event. The team was divided into groups of 3 persons with boxes of condoms, data collection sheets and IEC material, and tasked to target individuals above age 18. Beneficiaries were engaged in discussions.

on various topics and allowed to ask questions for clarification. The team spent 4 to 5 hours during each day's event. Every member of the team was clothed in the Condomize branded t-shirt, making it easy for people to identify, relate with and get close to for interaction. The activity was done with strict adherence to the COVID-19 protocols.



A young PPAG volunteer expressing her excitement while taking part in the 'Condomize' activity.

- In the end, the team and beneficiaries expressed their excitement to be part of or benefit from such an insightful and educative activity. According to them, the intent and approach were very helpful and they wished the activity would replicate more often.



The young volunteers reaching out to some members of the public during the outreach.



Some young volunteers undertaking the outreach activity at a bus station.

Success Stories

- The team successfully reached out to the female sex workers at the Kwame Nkrumah circle with important information and distributed condoms to help reduce STIs transmission.
- A total of 20 people were referred for Family Planning and STIs services and 30 for various screening.

Youth Connekt Africa Summit 2021

Ghana won the bid to host the 2021 edition of Youth Connekt Africa Summit (YCA), a platform aimed at connecting youth from across Africa for continental transformation. The Summit has over the years provided opportunities to generate result-based dialogues and create strategic alliances and partnerships to enhance proactive multilateral cooperation, to support the African youth.

The 2021 Summit was organized by the Government of Ghana through the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS), and the National Youth Authority (NYA) with support from



Group photograph of the panelists, including UNFPA Ghana Representative and Deputy Representative, Mr. Niyi Ojulape and Dr. Agnes Kayitankore as well as colleagues from UNFPA ESARO, Renata Tallarico and Sydney Hushie.

the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the theme "Africa Beyond Aid: Positioning the Youth for the Post COVID Economy and AfCFTA Opportunities".

The 3-day event which took place at the Accra International Conference Center was held in a hybrid form with virtual and physical participation. About 2,000 people from across Africa and beyond were in attendance at the venue whereas about 10,000 people participated virtually also from across the world. The Summit engaged participants through plenaries, breakout sessions and exhibitions.

Session Panel Discussion

Topic: *Prioritizing Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH): A Critical Element for Positioning the Youth for the Post Covid Economy.*

The session was moderated by Sydney Hushie, Innovation Specialist, East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO). The speakers on the panel included: the prevalence of teenage pregnancies, there should be an investment in the education of the girl child.

Honourable Emma Inamutilla Theofelus, Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Namibia gave a keynote address where she stressed on the importance of including SRH in our daily activities. She reiterated the importance of education, technology and specific knowledge base for economic empowerment. Exclusive economic empowerment programmes should be connected with SRH education. She highlighted areas that should not be left out of SRH which included rape (a pandemic in the southern part of Africa inflicted on people in vulnerable communities) and Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) which she suggested should be taught in schools to help young people gain knowledge and make the right and informed decisions about their sexual health.

Renata Tallarico, Youth Team Lead, UNFPA ESARO presented on the inclusion of young people in programmes and projects targeted towards them. She highlighted specific principles for integrated ASRH and Youth Economic Empowerment Programme, Theory of Change; issues of monitoring, evaluating and learning framework and the reflections on post Covid-19 changes for the programme. She added that young people should be given practical opportunities to enable them develop skills needed to take up leadership roles.

CHAPTER FIVE

UTILIZING DATA TO INFORM DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

5

Background

Data and statistics are central to the development of Ghana. Without accurate and detailed data on the size, distribution and composition of the population, it is difficult to plan and implement activities, measure the achievement of socio-economic development and conduct scientific research.

Demographic, Fertility and Mortality Status of Ghana

Ghana has a youthful population. According to the Ghana Statistical Service, the population of Ghana has increased at an annual growth rate of 2.1 percent from 2010 to 2021 (GSS, 2021). The population of Ghana in 2021 is 30.8 million with males representing 49.3 percent and females recording 50.7 percent. Also, the population of young people is 31.2 percent (males 31.7% and females 30.8%). The national HIV prevalence in 2017 was 2.1 percent, 1.7 in 2018 and 1.6 percent in both 2019 and 2020 (GAC, 2019).

Table 1 Socio-Demographic Data on the Population

INDICATORS	2010	2021	INDICATORS	2014	2017
Population (Millions)	24.7	30.8	Total Fertility Rate	4.2	3.9
0-14 (%)	38.3	35.3	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CM-MM) (%)	22.2	25.0
15-64 (%)	57.0	60.4	Unmet Need (%)	35.0	29.9
65+ (%)	4.7	4.3	Childbearing (%)	14.2	14.4
10-24 (%)	31.8	31.2	Sexual and Domestic Violence (%)	27.7	22.2
Life Expectancy (Yrs)	61.8	64.8	Maternal Mortality Rate (deaths/100,000)	580	310

Source: GSS, 2012 & 2021; Source: GSS et al, 2015; 2018

2021 Population and Housing Census (PHC)

The 6th round of 2021 PHC was conducted in 2021. The Census was initially scheduled to be conducted in 2020, but due to Covid 19, it was postponed to 2021. UNFPA CO has been involved technically and financially from the inception of the 2021 Census to post-census activities which are currently ongoing. The Census has been conducted and 13 general reports on age and sex, regions and districts, economic activity, difficulty and literacy etc. have been disseminated. As part of the quality assessment, CO conducted independent monitoring of the census, involving 37 Monitors with 17 from various African countries such as Niger, Kenya, Côte D'Ivoire, Togo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Mauritania among others.

The Independent Monitoring (IM) won the UNFPA Innovation Award in 2021. Premised on the background of extensive use of new methodologies and technologies for the first fully digital census exercise in Africa, the IM exercise was imperative to ensure and assure the quality of results. The IM was innovatively implemented in a win-win south-south cooperation format, utilising the skills, expertise and experience of professionals across Africa. While enabling independent international validation of the Census' credibility, the IM also facilitated peer review and practical, value-adding, lesson-learning, and capacity-building opportunities for participants to replicate in their countries. IM facilitated knowledge gathering and experience sharing, thereby supporting both host and participating countries to strengthen capacities towards successful implementation of their respective PHCs. The IM added to the quality assurance of the 2021 Census, utilising experts with proven experience in large-scale data collection operations.



An independent monitor of the 2021 census interacting with an enumerator.



Independent monitors interviewing the DCO and his team on the census exercise.



An enumerator gathering data from a household in the Ashanti Region.

Harnessing the Demographic Dividend



The Country (CO) continued to support the Government of Ghana through the National Development and Planning Commission (NDPC) in undertaking actions to harness the Demographic Dividend (DD) by developing the Ghana Country Population Profile on National Transfer Accounts for Demographic Dividend Programming in 2020 and the National Youth Development Index, 2020 to provide evidence-based data for programming in Ghana. The final draft documents are used as reference materials for evidence-based data and designing interventions for the people of Ghana, especially young people to harness the demographic dividend. Both documents are being processed for printing.

Development of Medium-Term National Development and Policy Framework (MTNDPF) 2022-2025



CO/P&D Unit participated in sector group meetings on the development of the Medium-Term National Development and Policy Framework (MTNDPF) 2022-2025 such as Population and Development and Migration. The purpose of the meeting is to solicit inputs from Development Partners to inform the development of the framework, which guides the national agenda. The framework guided the development of the CO 8th Country Programme Document (CPD). This is to ensure that the Country Programme is aligned with national priorities. The Framework is currently operational.

Country Programme Evaluation 2018–2022



The CO in August 2021 commenced the 7th Country Programme Evaluation (CPE which was coordinated by the P&D Unit and the Evaluation Manager). The goal of the CPE was to demonstrate accountability to stakeholders for the results achieved, to support evidence-based decision-making, to contribute important lessons learned to the organisation's knowledge base, and to provide independent inputs to the next UNFPA country programme cycle and the strategic direction of the organisation's continued role. The UNFPA Country Office (CO), Regional Office, UNFPA Headquarters, and the Executive Board, as well as key government agencies, national partners, and development partners, including funders and UN agencies in the country, were the audience for this CPE.

The P&D Unit supported and facilitated the engagement with CO and partners and the review and revision of the report. The 7th CPE reports informed the development of the 8th CPD by identifying gaps to be addressed and enabling CO to re-strategise existing interventions for effective implementations of the 8th CPD. UNFPA West and Central Africa Regional Office has approved CO Management Response to the 7th CPE recommendations and has been forwarded to HQ.

Country Programme Document



The CO in 2021 commenced the development of the 8th CPD. The P&D Unit was instrumental in the development of the report. The Unit led the provision of data and evidence for the CPD, the development of the Results and Resources Framework, the Costed Evaluation Plan and the summary of the 6th Country Programme. Further, the 8th CPD will guide the implementation of CO programmes from 2023–2027 and ensure that the implementation of programmes is aligned to the UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022–2025 and the Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework, 2022–2025. Also, the Results and Resources Framework will be used to measure the progress of the output indicators by CO. The P&D Unit continues to provide technical inputs and address comments from the Regional Office and Headquarters.

2022 Review/2021 Planning and Consultative Meeting on 8th Country Programme Document



The UNFPA CO held an annual review, planning and consultative meeting in November 2021. The purpose of the meeting was to review planned activities with IPs for 2020, including, achievements, challenges and way forward. Also, the meeting was to review and finalise the 2022 proposed work plans of the IPs. A consultative meeting on the 8th CPD was held with implementing partners and other national partners to solicit inputs for the next CPD (8th CPD). The review and planning meeting enabled CO to identify the issues in the implementation of the programmes and plan effectively for 2022. They also resulted in resolving challenges and

barriers identified during implementation. Finalised workplans were submitted and approved for implementation.

Research



Child Marriage–Pre-testing–Child Marriage Data Monitoring Tools

The CO led by the P&D Unit undertook a pre-testing exercise on the Child Marriage tools in the Volta and Central Regions in October 2021. The objective of the exercise was to pre-test the Child Marriage data monitoring tools to inform the development of guidelines in monitoring data collection by Implementing Partners on Child Marriage Programme. For the outcomes, Data Monitoring Tools were pre-tested on 50 adolescent boys and girls, 5 community members (traditional and religious leaders, opinion leaders and parents) and 2-3 key institutions in selected communities (2) in the Volta and Central Regions. The findings have been disseminated and used to inform the development of the Child Marriage Toolkit

Development of Child Marriage Data Monitoring Toolkit

The P&D Unit in collaboration with the Gender Unit and Partners developed a Child Marriage Toolkit. The purpose of the toolkit is to present an overview of the Global Programme on Ending Child Marriage; guide performance-based funding; information on building strong M&E systems; and provide guidelines for selecting, measuring and reporting standard indicators. Further, this toolkit is important for Child Marriage Programme monitoring as it gives detailed information on how to collect monitoring data on the programme. This toolkit provides valuable information such as where Implementing Partners should focus in relation to the Child Marriage Programme in Ghana, ie. identify target groups, interventions, and needs of beneficiaries. The toolkit is being finalised for printing and dissemination.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The P&D Unit collaborated with other CO units to undertake monitoring and evaluation activities. For instance, the Unit participated in monitoring the training of enumerators on field data collection and the data collection on a 10-Month Cohort Study of Adolescent Beneficiaries of the UN Joint Programme on empowering adolescent girls. The survey was done in the Central, Volta and Northern regions. The data has been analysed and shared with the CO. The Unit coordinates the development of Implementing Partners workplans and monitors the progress of IPs through the focal persons and the Strategic Information System (SIS).

Review of concepts notes and fieldwork instrument and monitoring tools for the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection ***“Adherence to Standards of Operations Policies and Strategies”***; Ministry of Health ***“Nursing and Midwifery Clinical Training Sites for Preceptorship”***; and the National Youth Authority ***“Evaluation Criteria of UNFPA/NYA Activities of Youth Group Leaders in the Upper East Region”***.

In all these activities indicated above, the quality of data and information gathered through monitoring and evaluation is assured and the data and information generated are specific and reliable to inform programming. Monitoring and Evaluation by the Unit has boosted the confidence of CO staff and Management in results from projects/programmes as they can assess if progress is being made in achieving expected results, to bottlenecks in implementation and highlight whether there are any unintended effects (positive or negative) plan, programme or project.

Partnership

Analysis and Dissemination Planning Workshop

The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), in collaboration with key partners, conducted its 6th post-independence PH) in June 2021. The 2021 PHC is the first fully digital census to be conducted in Ghana, using modern mapping and data collection, analysis and dissemination methods. The Census used interactive maps for enumeration areas identification, tablets and innovative methods of questions and answers for data collection and online interactive media for dissemination of results. Before the Census, GSS developed a comprehensive data analysis, publication and dissemination plan outlining the key products to be released for review and revision, while new products will be developed, in readiness for the main PHC data. Given the following, CO provided technical assistance to GSS during the analysis and dissemination planning workshop. The draft 2021 PHC data analysis, publication and dissemination plan were developed to produce high-quality, policy-relevant and timely products. The publication and dissemination plan was used for disseminating the 2021 Census products.

Challenges

Inadequate funding for Population and Development Unit activities such as monitoring of programmes and activities and post-2021 census activities.

Lessons Learned

- **2021 Census:** Mobilization of technical and financial support for the census was made easier through South-South cooperation. The digital approach to collecting Census data has facilitated the timely release of census products and dissemination. The design of census products has been made friendly, available and accessible to all.
- **Funding:** The Government of Ghana relies more on UNFPA to provide technical, financial and logistic support for the Census. This support has however been minimal due to inadequate resources and challenges in mobilizing resources. GSS has been advocating DPs, MDAs and CSOs for additional support.

Conclusion

Despite the challenges encountered during the implementation of activities and interventions, UNFPA CO overachieved its targets set from 2018 to 2021. However, there is the need to provide continued support to the Government of Ghana (GoG) and re-strategize the implementation of some of the programmes to reach out to the furthest behind to yield more gains towards the national agenda and meet the targets on related indicators.

CHAPTER SIX

HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS

6

Introduction

Ghana, like the global community, still had to deal with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Along with the pandemic were perennial floods, which affected communities in the northern zone and the Volta/Oti Regions of the country. UNFPA supported the country in various capacities, including in the area of SGBV through the Orange Support Centre. UNFPA also collaborated with the UNCT, IAWGE, Psychosocial Working Group, Youth, Communications and Gender Teams, to support the Government and people of Ghana, particularly in fulfilling its mandate areas.

In preparedness, the CO updated its Minimum Preparedness Actions Plan and prepositioned Dignity Kits and other relief items. It is also supported in conducting relevant needs assessments and monitoring exercises. The CO was flexible to offer working remotely/flexible working hours for staff who needed it, with critical staff keeping the office running as was necessary. The use of virtual platforms for meetings and the implementation of a number of activities, helped the CO to achieve more amidst the pandemic.



A UNFPA staff assisting in the offloading of some relief items for distribution to beneficiaries.

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Additionally, in August 2021, the Upper West regional Office of the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) made an appeal for support for relief items following a flash flood as a result of 3-days of continuous downpour. Extensive damage was caused to roads, bridges, farmlands, school buildings and health facilities. Over 4,500 persons were displaced including women and children.

The Inter-Agency Working Group on Emergencies was activated and joint assessment missions were conducted to assess the extent of damage and the immediate life-saving needs. The assessment revealed the extent of damage as follows:

260 communities were affected in 4 districts with a total population of 4,852 recorded. The

number of displaced persons were 1,932, but these have re-integrated with neighbors, family, and friends within the communities. Also, about 1,494 houses/rooms had collapsed, 5,681 acres of farmlands washed away, 12 dams broken, 217 livestock lost, 9 household/community latrines collapsed, 196 boreholes and 31 wells flooded/submerged. A total of 48 health facilities are affected with an estimated population of over 16,000 people currently unable to access health services.

A number of UN Agencies including UNFPA together with other CSO partners donated items to assist and support displaced persons and the repair of affected infrastructure. UNFPA Ghana CO donated 150 carton of dignity kits and 500 plastic buckets. The IAWG also [provided technical support for the review of the Terms of Reference and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to guide the work of the IAWG.



The IAWG Field Assessment Mission Team.



A collapsed house in Daffiama following days of heavy rains.



Some beneficiaries with relief items from UNFPA Ghana.



These female head porters, otherwise referred to as 'kayayei' were beneficiaries of relief items from UNFPA, including dignity kits which help them maintain proper menstrual hygiene.

Challenges



- Limited funding and budgetary cuts limited to an extent planned support to flood victims. Fostering partnerships and mobilizing resources (proposal writing etc.) helped in overcoming some of the challenges experienced.
- COVID-19 protocols still had to be adhered to therefore increasing cost (procurement of PPEs, hand sanitisers etc.) while having to reduce the number of people per activity/intervention. Utilising hybrid or virtual platforms presented an opportunity for the CO to fully operated and achieve results.

Lessons Learned

Fostering strategic partnerships and being creative in resource mobilization was pivotal in achieving more with less. The updating of Minimum Preparedness Action Plans and Contingency Plans were germane in ensuring that the CO was prepared and ready for any eventualities such as another wave of lockdown with the upsurge of COVID-19 cases during the year.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEOS

**Mitigating the Effects
of the Kayayei
Phenomenon in
Ghana**



**Commemoration of
World Contraception
Day/Family Planning
Week 2021 in Tamale**





SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEOS

**1st Celebration of the
International Day for
People of African
Descent in Costa Rica**



**Celebration of the
International Day of
the Girl Child at
Akwamufie, E/R.**





PHOTO GALLERY





PHOTO GALLERY





PHOTO GALLERY





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