

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

PUSHING FORWARD

To safeguard rights and choices





Ghana Country Office

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2022 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 2022, which ended the implementation of the 7th Country Programme.

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FOREWORD

Allow me to begin by bringing warm greetings to the lovely people of Ghana who have stood by their strong reputation as a warm and accommodating people since my arrival in the last quarter of 2022 to resume duty as the Country Representative of the UNFPA Ghana Country Office.



Dr. Wilfred David Ochan
Country Representative

I assumed duty at a time when the Country Office was in its last year of the 7th Country Programme of cooperation with the Government and people of the Republic of Ghana to a close and to begin work for the roll-out of the 8th Country Programme.

In the year under review, UNFPA continued to prioritize gender equality and positive change in social norms as critical areas of intervention. The UNFPA Ghana Country Office also made efforts to address the unmet need of family planning for the people of Ghana as well as working with health institutions and practitioners (nurses and midwives) to ensure the prevention of maternal deaths.

Our interventions were guided by the principle of 'leaving no one behind', building resilience, and the promotion of sustainable development. We are pleased to report that our efforts in these areas have yielded results but with a lot more remaining to be done as far as achieving the 3 zeroes are concerned:

Zero *unmet need for family planning*

Zero *preventable maternal death*

Zero *gender-based violence*

This report will give you a fresh perspective into our joint work within the UN system in Ghana to realize the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, with barely 7 years to go. We find ourselves in the decade of action and will need to accelerate efforts for the global goals.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to our staff and partners, civil society organisations, and other UN entities for their continuous support.

CHAPTER ONE



ENDING UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING

In 2022, UNFPA in collaboration with the Government and key partners deployed several measures to improve family planning uptake among vulnerable populations, reduce inequities and improve client satisfaction, as well as strengthen health systems guided by the World Bank Flagship health policy conceptual framework.

CHAPTER ONE

ENDING UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING



Overview

The current modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (mCPR) among married women is 25 per cent and among married adolescents aged 15–19 is 23.8% (Maternal Health Survey, 2017). The unmet need for family planning is 30 per cent at national level and amongst adolescents (15–19) is 51 per cent.

Family Planning Policy Environment

Ghana has made major strides in Family Planning (FP) in terms of supportive policy frameworks. Clinical methods of FP have been included into the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). Currently, strategies, costed plans and protocols to guide service delivery including the Universal Health Coverage Roadmap, the Reproductive Maternal New-born Child Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAHN) Strategic Plan (2020–2025) and the Family Planning protocol exist. These provide a conducive environment for family planning programme sustainability.



A section of UNFPA Ghana Youth Leaders (YoLe) Fellows and other youth activists at the launch of the 2022 World Contraception Day in Accra. Photo: Jean-Philip Lawson



Results

300

CSO leaders were equipped with budget tracking and advocacy skills and competencies.



UNFPA Supplies Compact with the Government of Ghana has been signed with Budget Advocacy Framework is in place.



50

Private Sector entities engaged on sustainable financing for FP procurement.

Procurement of Family Planning commodities to meet national Requirements

To advance UNFPA commitment towards the achievement of its three transformative results which are driven by universal and equitable access to Family Planning information and services, the organization procured 35% of the annual public sector contraceptive requirements for the country.



Results

The procurement led to:



9,361,844

GBP as direct healthcare costs saved

237,465



unintended pregnancies averted

933,206

Couple-Years of Protection (CYP) secured

504

maternal deaths prevented

Building capacity of health human resources in supply chain (logistics management, best warehousing practices /standards and eLMIS)

The UNFPA Country Office also provided technical and financial support to GHS and the MoH to build the capacity of and onboarded 216 Community Health Planning and Services (CHPS) in the three (3) new regions of Northern Ghana on Integrated Logistics Management Information System (GHILMIS).



Results

All commodities donated by UNFPA to Government and partners were traced from the Central Medical stores to the Service Delivery Points.



There was no significant risk of fraud in the management of UNFPA donated commodities.

All health facilities complied with inventory controls and accounting standards.



Improved partnership and integration of mechanisms (the Last Mile Assurance and Last Mile Distribution) to improve commodity availability and access.



Results

16

regions of Ghana with supply chain managers equipped with best warehousing practices and tools. This has improved data capture, turnaround time for commodities with no stock out recorded.



150

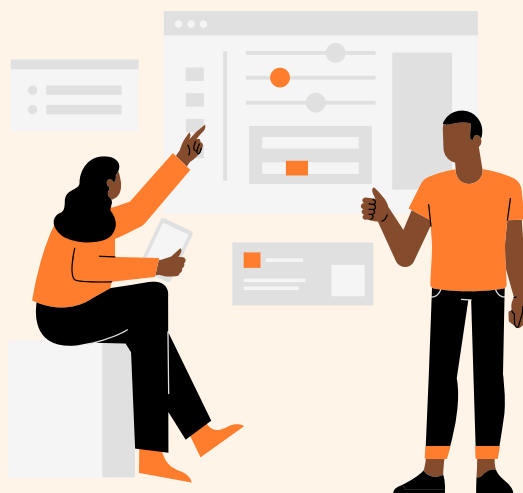
logistics officers, public health practitioners and health information officers equipped with best warehousing and logistics managements skill and competencies.

216

CHPS in Northeast, Northern, and Savanna regions onboarded onto GHILMIS. This has improved data capture; reduced delays in request; and receipt of commodities and commodity availability.

Strengthening Data Generation systems

Drawing linkages between the UNFPA Strategy for FP 2022–2030 and the vision of Ghana’s Supply Chain Master Plan 2021–25 of using data and evidence to expand access to FP, UNFPA provided technical and financial support to government to conduct the RHCS. The survey provided evidence on the capacity of the health system including availability of the right cadre of staff to deliver people-centred and quality FP services in a view to inform policy, programming and improve maternal/RH indicators in Ghana.



Reducing Inequities and Improving Client Satisfaction

Orientation of Providers in rights-based approach to FP (HRBA)

The capacity of ToTs were built in supportive culture & community; enabling legal & policy environment; quality information & services; and empowered & satisfied client as pertained to human rights-related principles and standards to contraceptive information and services, while promoting gender equality. The ToTs reached lower cadre of providers at national and sub-national levels.



Results at a glance

30

ToTs (policy makers, senior management, Resource Persons) equipped with skills and knowledge to deliver rights-based approach to FP delivery.



240

health providers have capacity to delivery rights-based approach to FP at national and sub-national levels.



15,000

young people, women and girls including street hawkers, truck pushers, mechanics, bus /taxi drivers, were reached with family planning information.

1,000

young people ages 10-24 were screened for STIs including HIV and those who needed further medical care and support were referred.



10,000

male (7000) and female (3000) condoms were distributed to vulnerable populations including bus drivers, kenkey sellers, bus conductors, hawkers, etc.

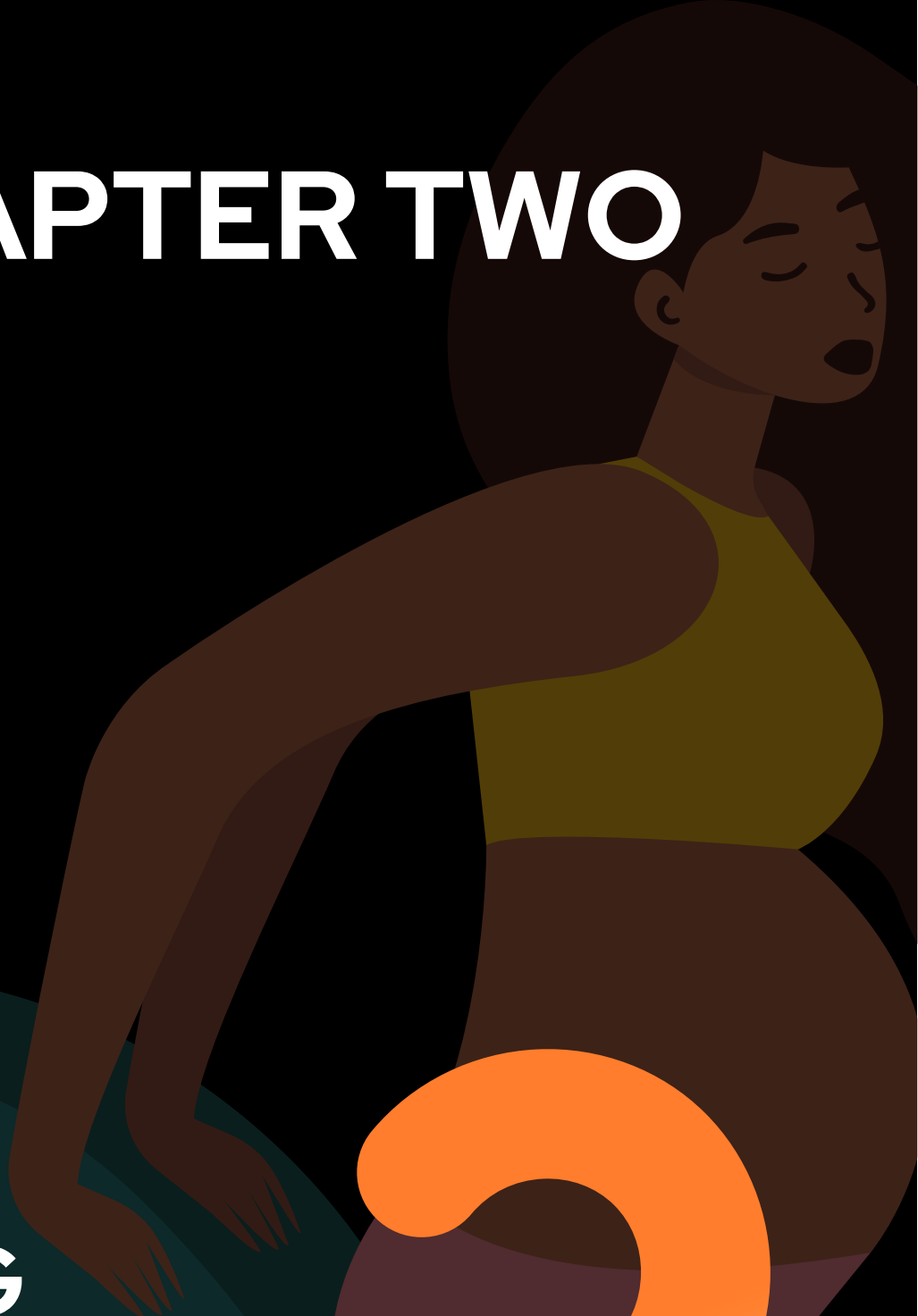


CHAPTER TWO



ENDING PREVENTABLE MATERNAL DEATHS

2



CHAPTER TWO

ENDING PREVENTABLE MATERNAL DEATHS

Overview

The current Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) for Ghana is 310 per 100,000 live births. Skilled birth attendance is 74 per cent and institutional Maternal Mortality rate is 119.5 deaths per 100,000 live births.

UNFPA continued its support to the Government of Ghana through MoH and GHS in: Midwifery, Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (EmONC), Obstetric Fistula, and Maternal Death Surveillance and Response (MDSR). Through collaboration with the Government, development partners and other stakeholders, UNFPA was able to contribute to the national maternal health outcomes.



Strengthening Midwifery Education

Preceptorship Training

To develop and improve the clinical competencies, skills, and knowledge of student midwives, UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health to build the capacity of 84 clinical preceptors and clinical coordinators drawn from 66 nursing and midwifery training colleges and health facilities. These institutions have a combined total of over 15,000 students who will benefit from improved preceptorship, and many others in the future.



66

Institutions (40 nursing and midwifery training colleges and 26 hospitals) have the full complement of nursing and midwifery preceptors up from 14 in 2021.

Life-Saving Skills Training for Midwives

Midwives save lives and can avert two-thirds of maternal deaths. To improve the capacities of midwives towards ending preventable maternal deaths in the context of midwifery-led care, UNFPA supported the training of 48 midwives in Life-Saving Skills under the Joint UNFPA-UNICEF Adolescent Girls Program, funded by Global Affairs Canada.

UNFPA also provided training to midwives in gender mainstreaming and provision of survivor-centered GBV response services.



RESULTS

38

Health facilities with improved access to EmONC services and the capacity to implement Life-Saving Skills to other health facilities.

121

Health facilities with overall capacity to implement Life Saving Skills against the target of 92 over the 5-year period of CP7.

32

Midwives in all regions of Ghana had increased knowledge about GBV & harmful practices, including referral pathway mechanisms and the ability to cascade training to other midwives.



A section of midwives at the training on Gender-Based Violence in Kumasi.

Creating an Enabling Environment for Midwives

The Ministry of Health (MoH), with technical and financial support from UNFPA, developed and launched the Mentorship Guidelines to ensure that the culture of mentorship was embraced and used as a vehicle to effectively provide professional, personal, and interpersonal growth of midwives, whilst promoting the integration of theory into practice, and the development of leadership skills amongst the next generation of midwives.



1 National Policy Guideline for Nursing and Midwifery Professional Mentorship Programme was developed and is currently being used.

| High-level commitment by Ghana to eliminate Obstetric Fistula

In recognition of its contribution, Ghana was invited to a High-level event at the margins of the United Nations General Assembly organized by UNFPA and the Governments of Burkina-Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia and Togo in New York, USA on 23rd September 2022. Ghana made several commitments, inter alia, the following:

- ①** Creating a robust database for fistula programming.
- ②** Strengthening the health system and building the capacity for a holistic and integrated approach to fistula care, including routine fistula repairs.
- ③** Strengthening partnerships and making greater investments in fistula programming and Reproductive Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH), including quality emergency obstetric and newborn care.

| Advocacy and actions towards the elimination of Obstetric Fistula

UNFPA, The Ghana Health Service (GHS), the youth and partners such as Her Majesty Nana Dr. Ama Amissah III, the Queen Mother of Mankessim, advocated for the elimination of Obstetric Fistula in Ghana. The awareness creation and advocacy contributed to the identification, mobilization, and repairs of 60 fistula clients, out of which 31 were supported by the Maternal Health Thematic Fund.



Results

17,016

People, including young people were reached through advocacy and community engagement using social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram & Twitter.

60

Women and girls with Obstetric Fistula had their dignities restored through surgical repairs conducted at the national level.

Strengthening Systems towards routine fistula repairs

With funding from the Maternal Health Thematic Fund, the CO supported the Mankessim Fistula Centre in the Mercy Women's Hospital with equipment and lifesaving supplies to enhance the centre's capacity to routinely conduct Obstetric Fistula surgical repairs.



The Mankessim Fistula Centre was provided with lifesaving supplies towards strengthening its capacity to routinely repair obstetric fistula cases.



UNFPA donates Equipment to Mercy Women's Catholic Hospital, Mankessim



Scan the QR Code to watch the video →



Skills training/reintegration of women & girls with Obstetric Fistula

'No girl deserves to go through this horror. It is tragic!'

– Bernice, a 27-year old fistula and FGM survivor.



A section of participants at the training on entrepreneurship.

In partnership with the Women's Health Organization International (WHOI), UNFPA (with funding from MHTF) supported the skills training of 16 women and girls with obstetric fistula in soap-making and entrepreneurship.

They also were sensitized about UNFPA-mandate areas such as Gender-based violence and other harmful practices such as FGM.



A fistula survivor her liquid soap after taking part in the session.

RESULTS

16 Women and girls with Obstetric Fistula acquired skills in soap-making and entrepreneurship.



Survivors of Obstetric Fistula who part in the skills training displaying the soaps they made following the practical session.

South-South Cooperation in Fistula Management and Care

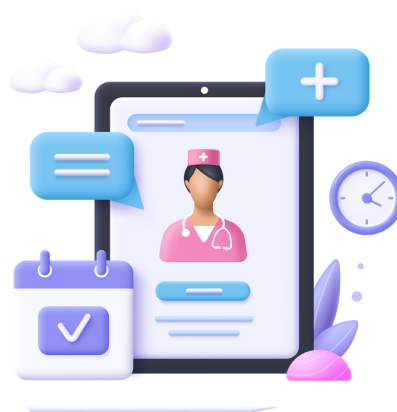
UNFPA Ivory Coast, in collaboration with the 1st Lady of Ivory Coast, Her Excellency Dominique Ouattara organized a sub-regional surgical mission and conference under the theme: “Strengthened and Expanded Partnership: Essential lever for the Elimination of Obstetric Fistula”. UNFPA, GHS and the National Obstetric Fistula Task Force, supported the successful conference and surgical mission with the following results:

- 1 One hundred and eighty (180) obstetric fistula surgeries were conducted in Ivory Coast during the surgical mission. Dr. Ganyaglo from Ghana was part of the team.
- 2 Sharing of Ghana’s experience in the implementation of its Obstetric Fistula Programme through knowledge sharing (abstracts, panel discussions etc.) and conduct of surgical repairs (by a Fistula Surgeon from Ghana).
- 3 Joint commitment by West African countries, including Ghana and Ivory Coast to end obstetric fistula by 2030.

Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care

Networks of Practice

GHS developed the Networks of Practice (NoP) Initiative to establish networks among sub-district health facilities and to upgrade health centers to ‘Model Health Centres’, as a strategy that would provide comprehensive, patient-centered networks which deliver equitably distributed, high-quality RMNCAHN care.



RESULTS

The development and dissemination of NoP Guidelines towards the strengthening of health systems for quality RMNCAHN service delivery.

Maternal Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response

To improve maternal health services and avert preventable maternal deaths, UNFPA supported GHS to conduct independent inquiries into maternal deaths as a quality of care and accountability measure, towards reducing maternal mortality in Ghana. In 2022, 887 maternal deaths were notified and audited, a slight improvement from 875 in 2021.

RESULTS

This contributed to strengthened national capacity to conduct maternal death audits.

Humanitarian Interventions



A portion of the ruined buildings which displaced people following the explosion of the gas tanker.

Humanitarian Support and Responses

In January 2022, mining explosives detonated in Appiatse/Bogoso in the Western Region of Ghana, affecting over 500 households. UNFPA, in collaboration with NADMO, the IAWGE and other partners, conducted a rapid needs assessment and provided technical assistance and relief items, including 1500 Dignity Kits, buckets, Bhuttas, t-shirts and other supplies to support those impacted, with funding from the UNFPA Emergency Fund (HQ).

Furthermore, UNFPA worked with the IAWGE to draw attention to the Sahel crisis, specifically the influx of over 1,200 Burkinabes into Ghanaian communities including Lambuissi and Sissala West, due to Jihadist attacks in the neighbouring country; as well providing vigilance on the incidence of earth tremors experienced in Ghana in December, 2022.



UNFPA participated in field work with UN Inter-Agency Working Group on Emergencies (IAWGE) and NADMO to respond to the explosion.

CHAPTER THREE



ENDING GBV & HARMFUL PRACTICES

In 2022, UNFPA's programming continued to improve gender equality; women and girl's empowerment. It focused on the prevention of GBV and harmful practices, including child marriage and FGM. Strategic interventions were implemented at national and decentralized levels to advance gender equality in the country.

CHAPTER THREE

ENDING GBV & HARMFUL PRACTICES

Overview

Strategic interventions were implemented at both the national and decentralized levels including the review and update of key gender equitable policies and frameworks to advance gender equality in the country.

Ending Child Marriage in Ghana

end
child
marriage

A voice. A chance. A future.

Child marriage has declined over the last several decades in Ghana from about 40 per cent in the 1980s to 19.3 per cent in 2017/2018. The level of child marriage in Ghana is among the lowest in West and Central Africa. The prevalence of young women married or in union before the age of 15 has stalled at 5 per cent over the last 10

years, without any visible improvement. Overall, child marriage is more common among those who reside in rural areas, live in poor households and have little or no education.

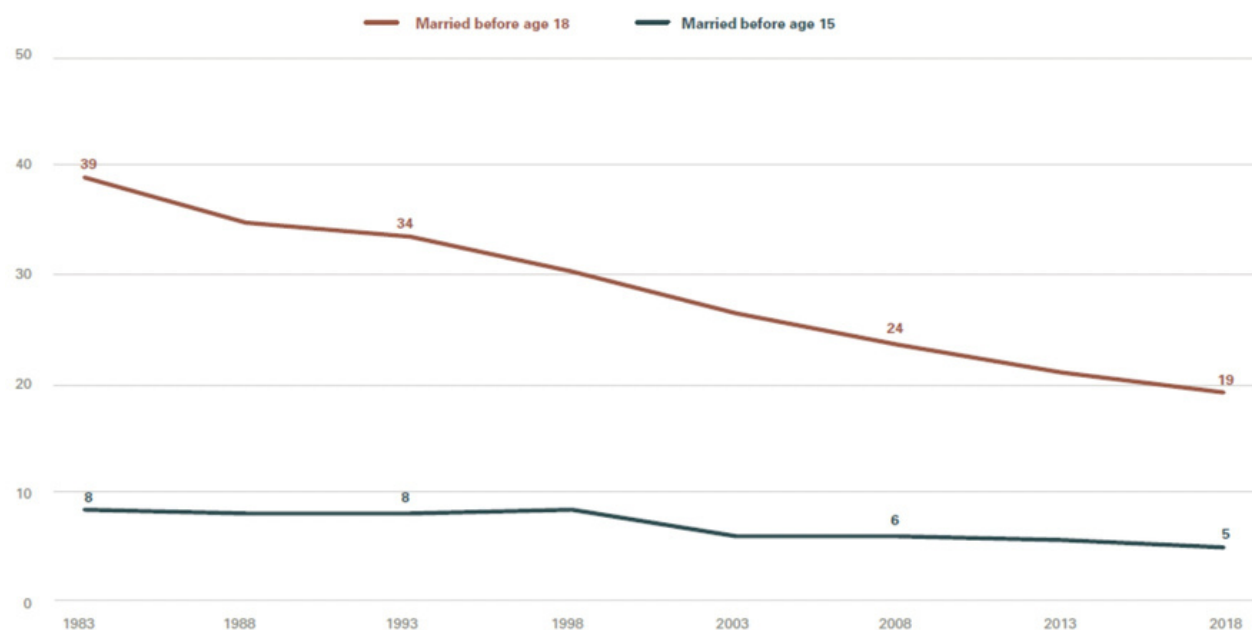
In 2022, as part of efforts by UNFPA to end child marriage in Ghana, the Country Office supported the DVS under the MoGCSP to coordinate the development of the National Operational M&E Plan 2023-2024 with the aim of supporting monitoring and tracking of the progress of the implementation of the National Strategic Framework for Ending Child Marriage 2017-2026.

The CO also engaged traditional and religious leaders in promoting a supportive and gender equal environment. Over 327 religious and traditional leaders were engaged in dialogues and training at national and regional levels to increase their knowledge and promote positive attitudes and practices for ending child marriage.



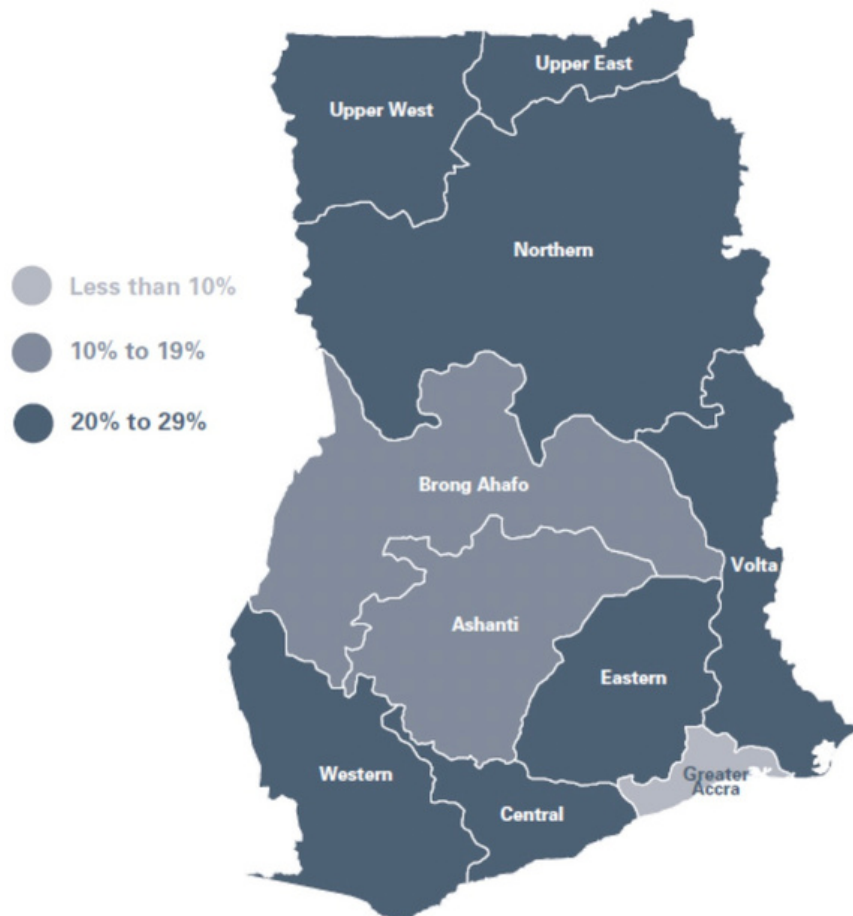
Generational Trends related to child marriage in Ghana

FIG. 16 Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before ages 15 and 18



Regional Differences

FIG. 2 Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18





Major Achievements in efforts to end Child Marriage in Ghana

Intensive support for adolescent girls

23,024

adolescent girls reached with the girls' empowerment programmes through safe spaces (e.g. PASS and SISTAS) to enhance their knowledge, education, life skills and attitudes on matters, such as their rights, relationships and sexual and reproductive health.

Family and community environment

290,987+

people reached with messages related to the protection of children, including child marriage, through mass media and social media campaign; and engaged in interpersonal and community dialogues with the Updated CM Advocacy Toolkits in 35 districts.

8,441+

men and boys reached with the targeted intervention to enhance their capacity to become champions and advocates against child marriage with the Child Marriage Community Advocacy Toolkits.

Systems Strengthening

81

empowered Adolescent Girls supported to enroll in formal and non-formal Institutions/Trainings, including bursary support.

SCAN ME



To learn more about efforts to
end child marriage in Ghana.

■ **Advocating for an end to Female Genital Mutilation**

The UNFPA Ghana Country Office in 2022 also partnered with local NGOs and community leaders to advocate against the harmful practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) that frequently took place as a cross-border activity in mainly remote areas of the northernmost parts of Ghana bordered by Burkina Faso and Togo.

In the process, over 9,900 community members/groups were engaged using several approaches to empower them to create environment that was intolerant to gender-based violence and harmful practices like FGM.

■ **Improving the response to Gender-Based Violence**

To bolster the response to incidences of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and prioritising the needs of survivors of GBV, UNFPA continued to provide technical and logistical support for the operation and management of the Orange Support Centre (OSC), designed to provide integrated support services; legal, psychological, psychosocial, medical needs, among others, of GBV survivors.

By way of that, thirty-two (32) staff and the volunteers at the OSC have received additional training in case management, data analysis and reporting. They were also trained on how to manage the impact of the cases on the individual providing services and how to support GBV survivors better.

In 2022, the OSC received about 27,410 calls, reached 757 people with GBV services, and had a total of 592 GBV cases with 301 successfully closed. The cases were mainly on issues of defilement, child custody and maintenance, domestic violence, human trafficking, partner violence as well as all other forms of abuse, including physical, emotional, and sexual abuse with the victims being women, men, adolescent boys and girls.



Some staff and volunteers at the Orange Support Centre responding to calls and requests by victims and survivors of gender-based violence.

Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

To empower women and work towards achieving gender equality in Ghana, UNFPA continued its partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP), the national body with the mandate to ensure gender equality and promote women and girls' empowerment, particularly through the Department of Gender and the Domestic Violence Secretariat.

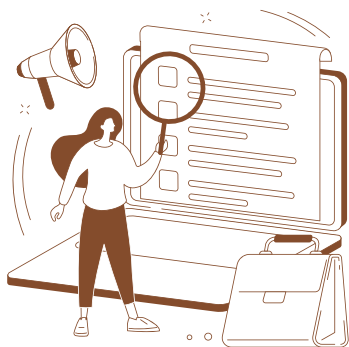
To leave no one behind in bridging the gender gap, UNFPA and PRADA implemented the *Fashion Expressions* project, which targeted marginalised adolescent girls and young women in hard-to-reach communities. The programme provided 30 girls with skills in fashion design and knowledge on SRHR and GBV.

The beneficiaries were taken through six-months of intensive training in fashion designing and millinery and accessories. Fifteen of the beneficiaries trained at the Centre for Empowerment and Enterprise Development (CEED) were presented with sewing machines and they have also successfully completed their NVTI proficiency one examination.



Some beneficiaries of the UNFPA-PRADA "Fashion Expressions: The Stories She Wears" Project in the Volta region of Ghana.

Policy Review & Advocacy



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. In 2022, a national stakeholders meeting was held to validate the policy. The national consultative process engaged 60 stakeholders drawn from various institutions across the country to outline the major areas of review.



Key Achievements

- 1 UNFPA supported MoGCSP to hold a national stakeholders' meeting to validate and launch the National Policy & Plan of Action (NPPoA) for the DV Act. The NPPoA was developed to reduce incidences of DV in Ghana; ensure safety for victim/survivors' while enhancing access to quality services.
- 2 UNFPA provided support to MoGCSP to observe the 16 Days of Activism. This was done together with support from the UN agencies and development partners. Key events for the commemoration were coordinated by MoGCSP and UNFPA as the Chair of the UNGT and the co-chair of the Gender Equality Sector Team of Development Partners (GEST-DP). For the first time, UNFPA introduced awards for 16 champions of change covering each of Ghana's 16 regions.
- 3 UNFPA supported the DV Secretariat of the MoGCSP to coordinate the development of the National Operational M&E Plan 2023-2024 with the aim of supporting monitoring and tracking of the progress of the implementation of the National Strategic Framework for Ending Child Marriage 2017-2026.



The Honourable Minister of the MoGCSP, Madam Lariba Zuweira Abudu making a point during the launch of the 16 Days of Activism campaign.



The 2022 Adolescent Learning Forum (ADOLEF) and Delegates and Legislators Conference

The 2022 Adolescent Learning Forum (ADOLEF) and Delegates and Legislators conference was held for experience-sharing and mentorship between 80 girls and 15 boys from Safe Spaces in various districts. It was a dialogue between the adolescents (the delegates) and legislators (MPs) which resulted in the MPs pledging present the removal of tax on menstrual hygiene products in 2023.



Parliamentarians in a session with Adolescent girls at the Parliament House.

Advocacy in Parliament of Ghana calling for the scrapping of luxury tax on Sanitary Pads



Member of Parliament for the Okaikwei North Constituency, Hon. Theresa Lardi Awuni making a presentation with a participant at the conference.

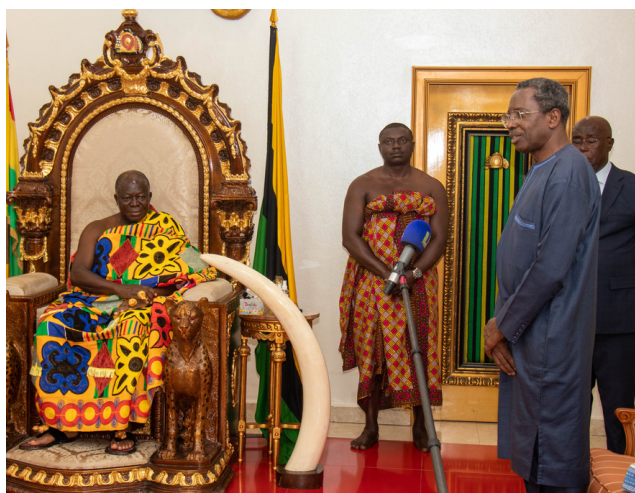
Engaging Traditional Leaders on advocacy to end Gender-Based Violence, Child Marriage, Teenage Pregnancy and other harmful practices



Group photograph with the Asantehene, His Royal Majesty (HRM) Otumfuo Osei Tutu II at the Manhyia Palace in Kumasi.

UNFPA engaged some notable traditional rulers on ending CM and adolescent pregnancy. These include the Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II and the Akwamumanhene, Odeneho Kwafo Akoto III.

These engagements resulted in getting buy-in and commitment from these leaders to provide support to promoting women & girls' rights and ending GBV including teenage pregnancy and child marriage in their areas of jurisdiction.



Engaging with the Asantehene, HRM Otumfuo Osei Tutu II.



UNFPA engaged the Akwamuhene HRM Odeneho Kwafo Akoto III.



UNFPA Representative, Dr. Wilfred Ochan exchanging pleasantries with Nana Afrakoma II, Queen Mother of the Akwamu Traditional Area in the Eastern Region.

RESULTS

25

Adolescent girls including teen mothers and school dropouts of the Nana Afrakoma Vocational Institute in Akwamufie in the Eastern Region were provided with 25 student mattresses and 15 industrial sewing machines. This was based on a request made to the Executive Director when she visited Ghana for the Return Mission in April 2022.



UNFPA Representative, Dr. Wilfred Ochan presenting the mattresses and industrial sewing machines to the Nana Afrakoma II Vocational Training Institute.

Leaving No One Behind

UNFPA supported the Enhancing Youth through Education and Health (EYEH) Soup Kitchen, an NGO, with **500 nutrition and dignity products for street youth** along the routes of Efua Sutherland Children's Park, 37 Military Hospital through Opeibea to Airport City. This was as a conduit to provide them with SRHR and SGBV information and services. The EYEH group also provides capacity building, vocational skills training, sports, and athletic talent grooming and also serves as a support group for GBV survivors and drug addicts.



Some beneficiaries of the donation by EYEH Soup Kitchen and UNFPA.

RESULTS

80

Kayayei were provided with food supplies, dignity kits, RH commodities, access to basic healthcare services, personal development training, mentoring among other things to improve their lives and standards of living. UNFPA did this with support from **Prudential Life Insurance, Ghana.**



UNFPA supported the Ghana Federation of Persons with Disabilities to hold the National Forum on Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Girls with Disabilities as part of the 2022 16 Days of activism. This was under the theme: **"Building a stronger voice to end Violence against Women and Girls with Disabilities in Ghana."** The forum had in attendance 150 PWDs from across the country.



UNFPA supported the Ghana Federation of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) to hold the National Forum on Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Girls with Disabilities as part of the 2022 16 Days of activism under the theme: **Building a stronger voice to end Violence against Women and Girls with Disabilities in Ghana.** The forum had in attendance 150 PWDs from across the country.

CHAPTER FOUR



EMPOWERING ADOLESCENTS & YOUTH

In 2022, the CO continued efforts to improve the wellbeing and agency of adolescents and youth in Ghana. The CO remained resilient and committed to ensuring that the full potential of young people were fulfilled.

CHAPTER FOUR

EMPOWERING ADOLESCENTS & YOUNG PEOPLE

Empowering Adolescent Girls

To empower adolescent girls, the implementation of the Global Affairs Canada-funded UNFPA and UNICEF joint Adolescent Girls Programme (AGP) continued earnestly. Since its inception in 2018, the AGP has developed capacities of over 414,276 adolescents especially, girls on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) including Family Planning (FP) in preventing teenage pregnancies and STIs.



Some beneficiaries of the AGP in a choreographic performance during a field visit by the Steering Committee in the Upper East Region.



Adolescents in a joyous mood following an outreach to their school by UNFPA.

Through the programme principles on inclusion and leaving no-one behind, young people from diverse backgrounds including 72,953 teen mothers, 2,300 *Kayayei* girls (female head porters) and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), were reached and served with SRHR services, information and education. Also, through the approach of gender equality, the programme initiated an innovation to integrate SRHR information on an interactive Mobile App for persons living with autism.

■ Out-Of-School Reproductive Health Education Programme

In partnership with the Ghana Prisons Authority, National AIDS Control Programme and Hope for Future Generations (HFFG), the CO initiated the implementation of the NORAD supported Out-Of-School CSE programme to deliver critical sexual and reproductive health education and services to young people, with special focus on young people in detention, young people living with HIV and other marginalized groups, to enhance their health and well-being.

Through this specialized programme, the capacities of young people living with HIV and their families/parents have been built leading to breaking of stigma and discrimination barriers to improve disclosure, access to and adherence to treatment and the acquisition of livelihood skills. On the other hand, Young People in Detention (YPiD), have also been reached in their restricted and confined communities with Reproductive Health Education (RHE), empowering them to make better and informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health.

■ HIV Prevention



UNFPA continued to play its role as a technical member of JUTA; a collaborative platform of UN agencies that provide technical support to the country's national HIV response. As part of the 2022 World AIDS Day celebration, UNFPA through JUTA provided technical support to the Ghana AIDS Commission to celebrate the 2022 WAD as well as launch a national Condom Activation campaign to promote the use of condoms amongst sexually active persons, especially young people in Ghana. UNFPA, on the back of the launch of the 2022 WAD re-introduced its "CONDOMIZE" and "Do U WIFI" campaign to promote the use of condoms to prevent the spread of HIV.

The unit also engaged and supported IPs to conduct outreaches on HIV prevention at markets and community spaces in parts of Accra (Kaneshie market, Prampram and Madina market) during which 350 HIV tests were conducted and counseling services were provided. Over 7200 condoms were also distributed to community members including young people. The Unit provided support to the Ghana AIDS Commission and the National AIDS Control Programme during the commemoration of World AIDS Day to host an HIV prevention webinar that had over 150 young people attending the virtual event where they were educated on basic facts about HIV.

International Youth Day 2022



The 2022 IYD celebration certainly was exceptional as it marked the beginning of a new era for youth development in Ghana. UNFPA provided technical support to the National Youth Authority (NYA) development of the revised National Youth Policy which was launched by the President of Ghana the maiden national youth conference on the theme: ***“Benefit for youth involves youth; together for a prosperous future”***. In the capacity of the UN Youth Group Chair, UNFPA facilitated the mobilization of other UN agencies that contributed to and participated in the celebration.



Some UNFPA YoLe Fellows and students from some Senior High Schools (SHSs) at the exhibition booth during the 2022 IYD Celebration in Mampong.

The Government as part of efforts to elevate engagements with the youth, also launched the National Youth Conference which is intended to be held every year as part of the commemoration of the international youth day, with young people from across the country converging to discuss matters of national development, peace, security, economic and social engagements of the youth and other subjects.

The event was graced by some distinguished personalities like the UN Resident Coordinator, Ministers of State and diverse youth groups including the UNFPA Ghana YoLe Fellows.

Youth Leaders (YoLe) Fellowship Programme



The 27 Fellows inducted into the 4th Cohort of the YoLe Fellowship Program.

As part of its commitment to delivering for young people, the CO continued and strengthened the YoLe Fellowship Programme. The programme, which was launched in 2018, is a strategic tool that is empowering young people and aiding in the realization of their full potential. The Fellowship graduated 25 young people in 2022 out of which 22 have successfully secured decent Jobs, 11 of which are within the UN. Participants of the 4th cohort of the Fellowship Programme, 27 in total were also successfully recruited through a rigorous process.

The 27 have completed their mandatory training sessions on professional and career development, intended to hone their skills in leadership and development.

As part of the Fellowship programme, the Fellows were supported to organize outreaches in different communities reaching out to over 3,500 men, women, boys, and girls, PWDs amongst others. The Fellows were also supported to formulate strategies on partnership and resource mobilization which they will be pursuing to mobilize resources to support the sustainability initiative of the programme.



The YoLe Fellows in a group photograph with reps from the Lufthansa Group.

Involvement in Community Outreaches

The Fellows organized and participated in several high-level events including those organized by the Country Office and other UN agencies such as the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, WFP, UNESCO etc. These events included: an outreach on to 'Break the myths and misconceptions around family planning', 'Breast for Rest' to create Breast Cancer Awareness and 'Menaware'; a mental health and suicide prevention awareness program.



At the 'Menaware' outreach by YoLe Fellows at the Laboma Beach Hotel.

The Fellows also joined UNIC and the UNRCO for the 77th UN Day celebration in Ghana. The fellows also actively participated in and organized events to mark the International Human Rights Day, the celebration of the **#8BillionStrong** day and report etc. Ultimately, the Fellowship has become an important platform for building the leadership and participatory capacities of young and transforming their potentials into resourceful use to Ghana.

■ Visit of the AU Youth Envoy for the 60-Day Listening Tour Campaign

Premised on the aspirations of Agenda 2063 and inspired by the need for inclusive sustainable development and youth-focused multi-stakeholder collaboration in Africa, the 60 days Listening Tour Campaign served as platform to advance an enabling environment for Africa to harness the invaluable human capital and entrepreneurial spirit embodied in its bulging youthful population. Young Africans (within Africa and in the diaspora) formed a critical team of drivers and primary beneficiaries of this multi-faceted and highly interactive Listening Tour which took place both online and in-person. While in Ghana, the Youth Envoy held a town hall consultative meeting with Ghanaian youth leaders where they discussed critical youth and continental development policy issues which included thematic issues such as: Youth Livelihood, Public Health, Climate Change, Digital Inclusion, Inclusion and education for development.



The AU Youth Envoy, Ms. Chido Mpemba listening to Mr. Pius Hadzide, CEO of the National Youth Authority.



The AU Youth Envoy, Ms. Chido Mpemba interacted with a section of Ghanaian youth at a Townhall to identify youth priorities.





Key Results

Over

98,689

Adolescents & youth reached with RHE including **242** adolescents with disabilities through the training, retraining, and deployment of **123** peer educators, and support to **277** in and out-of-school adolescent health clubs in project districts.

Others were reached through HIV information on World AIDS Day 2022 through a campaign that in collaboration with Ghana AIDS Commission, National AIDS Control Program and other CSO partners.



Some advocates displaying messages during the commemoration of World AIDS Day for the eradication of the disease in Ghana.

14,590

Adolescent girls between the ages of 10–19 engaged and empowered with enhanced access to health & socio-economic building assets under the SISTAs clubs & PASS supported by PPAG & INGH respectively.

115

Young people in detention were reached with RHE and information to enhance their health and well-being through the NORAD supported Out-of-school CSE programme.

CHAPTER FIVE



UTILIZING DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING



To further improve the access and utilization of the census data, the CO supported Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) to produce four draft thematic reports on Disability, Adolescent and Youth, Fertility and Gender Dimensions. These reports will provide useful information for planning, policy advocacy, monitoring, and the implementation of programme interventions.

CHAPTER FIVE

PRODUCTION OF DATA

■ Support to Ghana Statistical Service (GSS)

UNFPA supported GSS in the preparation for the data collection for the 2022 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS) by supporting the translation of the questionnaire into local languages, training of field officers for the data collection. GDHS reports on key health indicators for the population are critical for UNFPA programmes. The office also supported the training of the data processing team to ensure speedy processing of the data. The support led to the timely completion of the data collection process of the survey and commencement of the analysis.

■ Census Policy Dialogue

The Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) with support from UNFPA and in collaboration with GSS, NPC, NDPC and MoLGRD organized national census policy dialogue in Accra under the theme ***“Census Data for Effective Policy Decision Making and Sustainable Development”***. The programme aimed to showcase the depth of data generated from the 2021 Population and Housing Census and highlight the data’s relevance for policy and planning at the national and sub-national levels. The Ghana Statistical Service demonstrated the uniqueness of the census data and its relevance for national development, the available data from the 2021 census and how they can be assessed. The dialogue brought out how the data can be used to inform policy, and some policy implications based on the available data. Stakeholders were sensitized on data availability, access, and utilization for policy formulation.

■ Dissemination of User-Friendly Data

The CO supported GSS to participate in two (2) training workshops aimed at strengthening their capacity in the development and dissemination of census products. As a result, GSS has been able to develop a number of census products: including. Preliminary report, residential proximity to essential service facilities report, population of regions and Districts, Age and Sex profiles Difficulty in performing activity report, Information and Communication Technology Report, Fertility and Mortality report among others.

The National Development Planning Commission as part of processes of harnessing the Demographic Dividend prepared the Youth Development Index and the National Profile based on the National Transfer Accounts methodology. These reports are however yet to be launched.

Voluntary National Review (VNR)



UNFPA and sister UN agencies through the UNCT, provided support to the Government of Ghana to develop its 2nd VNR report. The review built on previous review processes and further provided an update on the status of SDGs implementation in Ghana through innovative, evidence-based and inclusive approaches. UNFPA played a technical role in ensuring quality data and appropriate selection of indicators through GSS. The report focused on the indicators that measured the progress made on the 3 transformational results. According to the report, maternal deaths have declined from 580 per 100,000 live births in 2007 to 301 per 100,000 live births in 2021.

Capacity Building for Media Houses on reportage of population Issues

To further strengthen the accurate reportage on population issues in Ghana, UNFPA collaborated with NPC and RIPS to strengthen the capacity of media houses on reporting and coverage on population issues to the attention of the policy makers. This training enhanced the capacity of the media to report accurately on population data and advocate for the implementation of population policies in the country.

World Population Day 2022



UNFPA supported the National Population Council (NPC) to commemorate the 2022 world population day. The commemoration enhanced the advocacy for the uptake of FP services among stakeholders including government officials, CSOs partners, the academia, and young people in Ghana.

The effects of teenage pregnancies on the life of adolescent girls and their impact on national development were emphasized, particularly on harnessing the demographic dividend.

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Day of 8 Billion

The CO further collaborated with National Population Council, GSS, National Development Planning Commission, and RIPS to launch the global commemorative day of the 8th billionth child in Ghana. The commemoration attracted key stakeholders in Government, the parliamentarian caucus on population, Development Partners, Sister UN Agencies Agencies, the private sector, CSOs, and academia. They engaged on how best to harness the opportunities that the global population landmark presents for Ghana into economic productivity and particularly the demographic dividend. Deliberate investments in young people formed the consensus as the best way to harness their opportunities.



The midwives and mother of the '8th billionth' baby at the Greater Accra Regional Hospital in Accra. Photo: Henry Alagbua



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**Visit of Canadian
Delegation to the
UNFPA Ghana
Country Office**



**Executive Board
Approves UNFPA's 8th
Country Programme
with the Gov't of Ghana**



**International Day for
People of African
Descent: The Return
Mission to Ghana**



PHOTO GALLERY



LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADHD Adolescent Health Development	MTNDPF Medium-Term National Development and Policy Framework
ANC Antenatal Care	MYFF Multi-Year Funding Framework
ARHR Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights	MoGCSP Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection
ASRH Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health	NCCE National Commission for Civic Education
AYFH Adolescent Youth Friendly Health	NDPC National Development and Planning Commission
CHPS Community Health Planning and Services	NGOs Non-Governmental Organizations
CM Child Marriage	NPC National Population Council
CoPASH Coalition of Persons Against SGBV and Harmful Practices	NPCS National Population Council Secretariat
CSOs Civil Society Organizations	NYP National Youth Policy
CSPGs Cross Sectoral Planning Group	NaCCA National Council for Curriculum Assessment
CYP Couple-Years of Protection	NoP Networks of Practice
DoG Department of Gender	PASS Promoting Adolescent Safe Spaces
DOVVSU Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit	PATH Programme for Appropriate Technology for Health
DV Domestic Violence	PAYDP Purim African Youth Development Platform
FBOs Faith-Based Organizations	PCC Parent Child Communication
FP Family Planning	PHC Population and Housing Census
GAP Gender Action Plan	PHC Primary Health Care
GAWW Ghanaian Association for Women's Welfare	PPAG Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana
GBV Gender-Based Violence	PMTCT Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
GDHS Ghana Demographic and Health Survey	PTA Parent Teacher Association
GDP Gross Domestic Product	RHCS Reproductive Health Security Survey
GES Ghana Education Service	RHE Reproductive Health Education
GEU Girls Education Unit	RHESY Reproductive Health Education and Services for Youth
GHS Ghana Health Service	RMNCHAN Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child Adolescent Health and Nutrition
GIFTS Girls Iron-Folate Tablets Supplementation	SBCC Social and Behavioral Change Communication
GoG Government of Ghana	SGBV Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
GSS Ghana Statistical Service	SHEP School Health Education Programme
HPs Harmful Practices	SHS Senior High School
HPV Human Papillomavirus	SMC School Management Committee
ICPD International Conference on Population and Development	SRHR Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
IEC Information, Education & Communication	SSRP Safe Schools Resource Pack
IGP Inspector General of Police	STIs Sexually Transmitted Infections
JHS Junior High School	SpED Special Education Division
JPSC Joint Program Steering Committee	TWG Technical Working Group
KEEA Komenda Edina Eguafio Abirem	ToT Training of Trainers
KOICA Korea International Cooperation Agency	UNAIDS Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
LEAP Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty	UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
LI Legislative Instrument	UNIC United Nations Information Centre
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	
mCPR Modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate	
MICS Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey	
MMDAs Metropolitan Municipal and District Assemblies	
MSI Marie Stopes International	

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