

UNDP – Ghana	Mission Report Summary (*)
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Sensitization Programme on the Ghana’s National Action Plan on UN Security Resolution 1325 (GHANAP 2)	UNDP Ghana
Mission Dates: 28 November – 1 December 2022	
<p>Background</p> <p>United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 is the first formal and legal UNSC document to address the plight of women and girls in conflict situation. Focusing on women’s leadership and participation as well as the adoption of gender perspective in all conflict and post-conflict processes, UNSCR 1325 is a political framework that provides a set of operational mandates with implications for policymakers, decision-makers, programmers, and funding components.</p> <p>With the adoption of UNSCR 1325, Ghana as a member state of the United Nations is obliged to prepare a country-specific national action plan for the implementation of the Resolution. Although internationally recognized as a relatively peaceful country, Ghana has had pockets of recurrent conflicts which have led to violent clashes. These conflicts, which have revolved around chieftaincy, ethnic, land, party politicking, as well as crimes such as armed robbery, have had adverse impact on the peace and security of women in the country over the years. In recognition of the facts above, Ghana developed her National Action Plan (NAP) to encompass the UNSCR 1325 and best practices derived from indigenous initiatives relating to women, peace and security which Ghana has undertaken in the past. The NAP known as GHANAP 1325 was launched in Accra in 2012 for the period of 2012-2014. After the expiration of GHANAP 1325 in 2015, the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection reviewed and developed a new action plan dubbed GHANAP II in March 2020 to be implemented until 2025.</p> <p>Ghana’s National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 is meant to articulate the vision and ambition of Ghana to advance the protection, participation and empowerment of women and girls in conflict-affected contexts. In 2021, a Technical Working Group was launched to ensure that stakeholders who are responsible for the implementation of GHANAP II are on board to strategize effective implementation and monitoring of the document. In view of this, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection through the Department of Gender with support from UNDP organized a Technical Working Group meeting in 2022 as a follow-up to review the progress of the works in their institutional work plans as far as the implementation of GHANAP II is concerned as well as to train them on the Continental Results Framework (CRF) for reporting on UN Resolution 1325.</p> <p>Outcomes:</p> <p>The key outcomes of the mission are captured as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track the implementation status of GHANAP II • Train members of the Technical Working Group on the Continental Results Framework (CRF) on Women, Peace, and Security to aid the reporting process • Develop institutional action plans for the implementation of GHANAP II in 2023 • Set up modalities for monitoring the implementation of GHANAP II 	

Travel Itinerary

The itinerary for the mission was as follows:

- 28 November 2022 – Travel from Accra to Koforidua
- 29 – 30 November 2022 – Training days
- 1 December 2022 – Travel back to Accra

Summary of Key Activities

Opening Session

The opening session on 28 November was attended by the Chief Director and the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection, and the representative from UNDP. During the welcome addresses, the Chief Director of the Ministry of Gender set forth the purpose of the meeting, which is to establish the right tool for the comprehensive implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of GHANAP 2. Following the welcome addresses, the UNDP programme analyst shared the statement from the UNDP resident representative. Sharing the context and the necessity to implement GHANAP 2, she emphasized the importance of integrating and promoting gender sensitivity in every facet of work to achieve the action plan and discover lasting solutions. Furthermore, the reason behind UNDP's support for sensitization, which is to raise the awareness of stakeholders for efficient implementation of GHANAP 2, was communicated to the participants. Finally, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry addressed the need to enhance women's leadership in decision-making processes to foster sustainable peace and urged the participants to utilize this opportunity to strengthen their network and to learn from the good practices of the other stakeholders.

Day 1

On the first day of the sensitization programme, the participants were introduced to the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda and GHANAP 2 through the presentation by the consultant. The topics discussed during the two sessions included: the objectives of the WPS Agenda; Strategies for women's involvement; Key gaps in GHANAP 1; the cross-cutting implementation strategy of GHANAP 2; and the M&E framework of GHANAP 2. Throughout the sessions, active engagement of the stakeholders was present as a series of Q&A with the consultant as well as group discussions were organized to ensure their active participation.

After the training sessions, the participants were grouped into three sub-groups (security institutions, public institutions, and civil society organizations) according to their occupational category. Here, the group members worked together to devise institutional action plans for every four pillars of GHANAP 2 to facilitate the successful implementation of the action plan. Each group's presentation was ensued by a brief Q&A and comment session to facilitate knowledge exchange and ensure the active engagement of the participants.

Security Institutions

Pillars	Activity
Pillar 1	Train 100 women per district per year for 3 years (training to be carried out on the second quarter of the year)

Pillar 2	Organize community sensitization on laws to protect girls/victims of SGBV
Pillar 3	Enforce existing rules in the community at large to reduce conflict-related violence against women and girls
Pillar 4	Develop own response/rehabilitation plan for IDPs in line with the UNSCR 1525 Train counselling officers to effectively handle the survivors of such conflicts

Public Institutions

Pillars	Activity	Output indicator	Baseline, Lead
Prevention	Sensitization on SGBV	Increased awareness on SGBV for 300 participants (150 male, 150 female) per quarter Reduced indicators on SGBV	• Baseline: GHANAP 1 • Lead: Department of Gender with relevant stakeholders including NCCE, media etc.
Participation	Mentorship program established and launched	Increased number of young women, peace activates taking up various leadership roles	• Baseline: 2015 • Lead: Department of Gender with stakeholders
Protection	Training on gender and non-violence for youth in conflict-prone communities	High awareness of gender and non-violence among youth	• Baseline: 2015 • Lead: Department of Gender with stakeholders

Some of the feedbacks shared by the other stakeholders related to the action plans shared by the group included the following:

- The mentorship program should be more specific towards GHANAP 2, as the Ministry of Gender already organizes various mentorship programs on SGBV and governance
- Baseline should be 2020, rather than 2015 to track the progress after the completion of GHANAP 1
- There is a need to incorporate WPS Agenda into the already existing mentorship programs of the Ministry

CSOs

Pillars	Activity
Participation	• Formation of peace club: pilot at a district level, quarter 1 & 2 • Advocacy for subsidies in courses related to peace studies • ToT on various regions (2 district each) to increase the participation of women on decision-making
Protection	Awareness creation on SGBV for more than 500+ people

During the closing remarks, Ms. Melody Azinim, Peace and Governance Analyst at UNDP highlighted the need to be more conscious about GHANAP 2 so that the projects that are already contributing towards the action plan can be rightfully reported and captured as progress. Furthermore, a participant from a civil society organization dubbed CDA Ghana thanked the UNDP and Ministry for organizing the program as she found it timely and expressed her

willingness to incorporate the aspect of GHANAP 2 into the training courses for the upcoming programs of the organization that will be carried out in the upper west region starting next week.

Day 2

The second day of the programme started with the brief recap of the first day. Some of the lessons learned the participants shared included the following:

- WPS is a cross-cutting issue in which all institutions, communities, and aspects of life are concerned.
- There is a need to promote the inclusion of women in the decision-making process so that the issues that particularly affect women are brought into the frontline.
- Based on the key gaps in GHANAP I, there is a need for more sensitization and advocacy of GHANAP 2 to ensure successful implementation
- There is a need to engage with CSOs to draw their attention to the WPS agenda
- There is a need to carefully analyze the already existing works of various stakeholders relevant to GHANAP 2 to adequately report the progress of GHANAP 2.

On the second day of the programme, the participants were introduced to the Continental Results Framework (CRF), including the objectives and development as well as the specific indicators of the CRF. Active participation of the stakeholders took place when discussing the integration of WPS into the emerging security threats. The participants outlined the COVID-19 pandemic and the increase in domestic violence and SGBV as well as the issue of galamsey, violent extremism, and cybercrime as emerging security threats. Furthermore, one participant noted that the issue of minority, stereotyping, and marginalization, especially the Fulani, was one of the major issues she encountered in the field. Emphasizing the issue of Fulani as a potentially significant security threat, she mentioned that the Fulani in border communities are especially prone to threats or negotiation with violent extremist groups, as they are constantly marginalized from society without legal identity and equal treatment.

After the training sessions, the participants were grouped into three sub-groups to work on the implementation of GHANAP 2 utilizing the CRF. Here, the group members worked together to report the annual work of their institutions adopting CRF. Specifically, group members referred to the Section 2: Pillar level information listed on the CRF Reporting Guide for AU Member States (2021). Captured below are some of the key activities that the institutions reported utilizing the CRF.

CSOs

- a. Prevention Pillar (Question 1)
 - Awareness creation on security and peacebuilding: training held for 120 women from various communities (4 districts, 30 selected participants from each district)
 - Community policing: maintain cordial relationship with the police officers, help with reporting/investigation
- b. Participation Pillar
 - Case study: In a community where there was a long-standing conflict between farmers and Fulani, one fulbe women, after attending the women empowerment and capacity building training, went back to her community and utilized the lessons she learned from the training to resolve the conflict. Rather than resorting to personal vengeance, she proposed the method of compensation where the victim would quantify the amount of damage caused by the cattle herders and the fulbe man would compensate accordingly.
 - Integration of the people from witch camps: re-integration of 7 women into their own families and communities, improved access to social amenities at witch camps ex. Portable water

Security Institutions

a. Prevention Pillar (Question 1)

- Establishment of women-centered bodies within security services to handle women's issues in these institutions ex. IMMILAC and POLAC
- Establishment of internal bodies to ensure internal discipline and issues relating to the breach of code of ethics ex. IPSE and PIPSB
- Establishment of the regional early-warning response advocacy groups by the peace council to ensure peaceful co-existence pre-elections

b. Participation Pillar (Question 4)

- Women have been encouraged to join the security services by relaxing some of the recruitment requirements including heights. GNFS has a percentage of about 47% for females enlisted during recruitment into the service. Furthermore, almost 30% of the officers in the GIS are women.
- Women have been promoted into the higher levels of decision-making bodies in the security services

c. Protection Pillar (Question 1 & 2)

- Establishment of DOVVSU within the police service, one-stop shop to handle matters relating to WPS
- Establishment of safe-haven by NADMO for victims
- Training of 2 female officers at all stations nation-wide to handle issues relevant to women (GIS)

d. Integration of WPS in emerging security threats (Question 2)

- Other security threats emerged in the country: Galamesey, women/child trafficking and proxy schemes, increased domestic violence triggered by the economic pressure of lockdown, teenage pregnancy due to closure of schools
- activity: establishment of migration management bureau under the GIS to control the menace of trafficking
- establishment of galamsey stop and the support from the army, GIS, and the policy
- alternative livelihood support for women in the Galamsey-prone areas

The second day of the training ended with participants sharing their lessons learnt. Some of the lessons learnt shared by the participants included the following:

- Although conflicts impact both men and women, they affect both genders in different ways. Thus, women's inclusion or participation is key in discussions related to peace and security to ensure sustaining peace
- As WPS agenda is the deliberate agenda trying to address the different dimensions that exists within the gender, we should pay more attention to how women and girls are treated during perceived peace as well as active conflict times

Conclusions

The training was very successful in fostering awareness as well as enhancing the capacity of participants in implementing GHANAP 2. Specifically, through the program, the capacity of the members of the Technical Working Group was enhanced on the Continental Results Framework as a reporting tool and the progress of the implementation of GHANAP 2 was reviewed to support the national reporting. Furthermore, the training contributed to establishing a

network among key stakeholders, who would contribute to Ghana's progress in the UNSCR 1325. The effective partnership and engagement of the key stakeholders would ensure the sustainability and replicability of the program.

1. 32 participants attended 25 females and 7 male from CSO, media, security agencies and government agencies at regional and district levels

<https://www.modernghana.com/news/1199001/ghana-must-preserve-its-peace-and-security-initiat.html>