



National Strategies Supporting the Implementation of Agenda 2030 – Ghana Nelson Godfried Agyemang-Consultant

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Technical and Logistical Assistance to the Policy

Forum on Development

Realised by

PFD Research



This project is financed by the EU



This project is implemented by GIZ International Services

Introduction: Relevance of the Post-2015 Agenda for the country and main country priorities (SDGs and targets)

- **The Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA II (2014-2017)) has been analysed to see the extent to which it attempts to address the SDGs. About 70% of the SDGs targets are reflected in GSGDA II.**
- **Ghana has taken a long prospective view towards the development of a 40-year development Plan. Interestingly the implementation of the SDGs and the preparations of the 40-year Development Plan (from when to when) fairly coincide, making this report both timely and premature. This is timely because the assessment of the status of SDG implementation stands a better chance of being taken into consideration for the development of the 40 year development plan. Premature because not much has been done in terms of SDGs specific policies, plans, programmes and projects implementation, as the SDGs were adopted only late last year coming into force January, 2016.**

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- Within the framework of achieving all the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets, Ghana initiated a prioritization process based on the country specific needs. Hence the UN Country Team in Ghana, the Government of Ghana and Civil Society Organizations through broad-based debates and consultations generated ideas on the initial priorities that should constitute phase 1 of the series of 4-year plans of Ghana's Post-2015 development agenda. The following priorities emanated from the process:
- **Employment:** Despite consistent economic growth, employment remains a critical development issue especially for the educated youth
- **Youth Development:** Development of National youth policies; dedication of sufficient budgetary allocation to youth development actions. Organization of skills development programs for youth

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- **Education:** There is urgent need to make education relevant to the needs in industry and practical and vocational oriented for especially those who enter the job market, including technical and vocational graduates, tertiary and university graduates.
- **Poverty:** A multidimensional perspective to poverty reduction is required for poverty reduction
- **Health:** Teeming health challenges need to be comprehensively addressed
- **Food Security:** Food security needs to be addressed through sustainable agricultural and food policies and programmes that focus on the key drivers of progress.

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- **Social Protection for Vulnerable Groups:** The vulnerable groups such as women, children, disabled, migrants, minorities and displaced persons need special attention and targeted interventions which address their fundamental needs and provide capacity to be self-reliant.
- **Urbanization:** Negative effects of urbanization need to be addressed and forestalled through proper planning and provision of vital amenities and infrastructure and expansion of the urban economy to meet growing needs of populations.
- **The environment and climate change:** Increasing drought and perennial flooding especially in the food-producing centres of the three regions of northern Ghana in addition to a massive over exploitation of environmental resources in all sectors (forestry, fisheries, mining, etc.) are pressing challenges that must receive priority policy attention in the national quest for a truly sustainable development and poverty reduction.

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- **In view of the fact that in the MDGs implementation, slow progress was made in some areas such as: full and productive employment (MDG 1B), equal share of women in non-agriculture wage employment, and women's involvement in governance (MDG 3), reducing under-5 and child mortality (MDG 4), reducing maternal mortality (MDG 5), reversing environmental resource loss and improving sanitation (MDG 7), the above set of identified priorities will help the country to focus much attention in making positive impact in these areas during the implementation of SDGs (Ghana 2015 MDGs Report).**
- **National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), state agency responsible for the SDGs was in charge of the preparation of the document that has become the main official document on SDGs in Ghana**

Which initiatives (policies, legal frameworks, programmes, other mechanisms) to address the SDGs in the country are already in place?

- **The Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA II (2014-2017))**
- **Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and the Metropolitan Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) directed and being trained to align with SDGs.**
- **The Developing 40-Year Development Plan and its 4-year Medium Term Plans starting Implementation in 2018**

Which initiatives (policies, legal frameworks, programmes, other mechanisms) to address the SDGs in the country are already in place?

- The first 13 years of the Ghana's 40 Year Development Plan coincides with the implementation of the SDGs. Therefore, the SDGs have been adopted and aligned with the overall objective of the 40 Year Development Plan.
- 4 year Medium Term Development Plan emanating from the 40 year Development Plan
- MDA Plans
- MMDA Plans
- Multi-stakeholder coalitions recommended to be promoted by NDPC
- Sectoral coalitions feeding into multi-stakeholder coalition concept

Which initiatives (policies, legal frameworks, programmes, other mechanisms) to address the SDGs in the country are already in place?

- Developing mechanisms for aligning Ghana's SDGs implementation with agenda 2063 of the AU, other regional and global commitments of Ghana
- The World Bank support to SDGs implementation data improvement
- EU Commission Delegation in Accra also reports of the changing **Aid Architecture**

What is the role of CSOs and LAs in the planning and design of the 2030 Agenda?

CSOs Identified:

- Local Weak CSOs,
- Local Strong CSOs,
- Think-Tanks
- International CSOs and
- Cooperatives and Trade Unions

LAs Identified:

- National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana (NALAG) set up as an NGO run by and for bringing all Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) together. NALAG is member of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) West Africa Branch
- Ghana Local Government Service (GLGS), a statutory service which recruits and places personnel in service of Local Government System in Ghana
- Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS), an education, training and research institution for Local Government and
- Local Government Workers Union, a labour union associated to Ghana's Labour Movement, TUC.

Is there a territorial approach to favour the localisation of SDGs? Are CSOs and LAs an active part of that approach?

The study identified four territorial zones which could be adopted during the SDGs' implementation to meet zonal specific needs.

These zones are:

- **SADA Zonal Approach**
- **Forest Zonal Approach**
- **Marine-Coastal Approach and**
- **Cities Territorial Approach**

Is there a territorial approach to favour the localisation of SDGs? Are CSOs and LAs an active part of that approach?

Apart for stumbling on information that NALAG is undertaking a profiling of CSOs working at Local levels in all 4 eco-development Zones, both the CSO and LAs sectors have not specifically taken advantage of the opportunities that Territorial approaches offer for engaging with Implementation of the SDGs

Are there multi-stakeholder coalitions active to support the 2030 Agenda?

- Several Sectoral Coalitions exist on thematic and sectoral lines
- NDPC has Coalition Frameworks for the purposes of its on previous and current planning and policy design mandate
- But No Multistakeholder Coalitions exist per se for the purposes of SDGs implementation though it is recognized as necessary
- This is an area that the PFD members in Ghana, and CSOs, LAs, Private Sector and Knowledge Institutions can take advantage of

Lessons Learned

– Key Challenges

The successful implementation and monitoring of the SDGs in Ghana depends on whether the following real and potential challenges are addressed:

- Ghana lives up to its lower middle Income status by stimulating the productive sectors of the economy to generate the required revenues, by taking on robust and ambitious growth and development strategies which shall attract the expected foreign direct investments (FDIs), and does not slack mid-way and abandon its blue prints nor shelve them as have happened before in the past.
- Government shows leadership and commitment to the SDGs implementation by playing its roles, including coordination of the implementation and makes available needed financial resources for effective implementation of activities that will lead to achievement of SDGs
- Multi-stakeholder coalitions involving all inclusively coordinated sectoral coalitions are in place and functioning in continuous consultations, implementation and monitoring
- Sectors coordinate their front in order to effectively participate and contribute in their respective niches in a complementary and reinforcing manner instead of at cross purposes.
- Private sector takes its rightful role as the engine of economic growth and development and in social inclusion and environmental management.
- SDGs broadened scope of economic development, Social Inclusion and Environmental management are put on equal and equitable scale and given the needed financial resources to achieve them.
- More robust monitoring, evaluation and reporting system is in place with accurate data and statistics management which is well resourced in a modern way with relevant expertise, systems, and logistics.

Lessons Learned

– Added Value of SDGs

CSOs and LAs felt that the SDGs add value to their work:

- **The broadened scope of SDGs enable CSOs and LAs complement their work with those elements which previously were not their core mandate but are relevant to it.**
- **It also enables more interaction with multi-stakeholders, encouraging cross-fertilization of ideas**
- **It has also opened up the Government machinery to more consultation than it was without the SDGs.**
- **It puts Ghana's national and local actions in the regional, continental and global perspectives with the SDGs, Agenda 2063 and the Paris Climate Protocols.**
- **Sectors also have opportunity to showcase their work more, and to receive feedback from others on areas for improvement and best practice.**
- **The consultative and negotiation skills of the CSOs and the LAs are improving**

Conclusions

- Ghana has begun implementation of SDGs albeit slowly taking momentum with a long way to go, 9 months down the road of implementation
- Some mechanisms, policies, laws exist and are being developed for SDGs implementation, but the impetus has to increase
- There are spaces for CSOs and LAs to be actively engaged and they need to coordinate their act and bring on board Private Sector and Knowledge Institutions and others.
- There is urgent need to look at the role of private sector and Knowledge Institutions and other actors in SDGs

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