



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Accra Office

**UNESCO**  
ACCRA

# Annual Report

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# UNESCO

## e d i t o r i a l

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a specialized agency of the United Nations was set up in 1945 to promote peace through international collaboration in education, the sciences, culture, communication and information. UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals defined in Agenda 2030, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015. UNESCO is currently implementing its Medium-Term Strategy (37 C/4) 2014- 2021. UNESCO has two global priorities: Africa and Gender Equality.

Ghana is part of the Abuja Multi-sectoral Regional Office, based in Abuja, Nigeria. Its activities are coordinated by the country office which works with the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO in a complementary manner in the advancement of UNESCO's objectives and in the implementation of its programme. UNESCO works with the UN Country Team to effectively support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the various processes and platforms, frameworks such as the United Nation Strategic Development Partnership UNSDP 2018-2022 and working groups.



DG with the President of the Republic of Ghana

2019 was characterised by a strengthening of cooperation between Ghana and UNESCO. A number of significant events hosted by our office, and we were notably honoured to receive our Director-General, Ms Audrey Azoulay. She held bilateral discussions with the President of Ghana, Nana Addo Danquah Akuffo-Addo, on the strengthening of the bonds of cooperation between Ghana and UNESCO, as well as holding working meetings with Ministers in the Organization's areas of operation to discuss projects, vision and reinforced collaboration. She also took part in the regional launch of the O3 programme « Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future ». The end of the year culminated with the election of Ghana for a 4 year term at the Executive Board of UNESCO and in two intergovernmental committees namely IFAP (Information for All programme) and MAB (Man and Biosphere).

UNESCO Accra Office collaborated with relevant Ministries, Agencies and not-for profit organizations in Ghana in the implementation of various programs. I wish to avail this opportunity to thank all of them for their availability, support and cooperation. On behalf of my staff and in my own name, I have the pleasure to present this report, which reflects the various initiatives taken and activities implemented to support Government's development agenda within the Co-ordinated Program of Economic and Social Development Policies 2017-2024.

Abdourahamane Diallo  
Head of Office and Representative



Director General with Ghana's Ministers responsible for UNESCO's areas of Competence



Director General with UNESCO Accra Staff



Director General with UNESCO Accra Staff



## **SDG 4.5 Target**

eliminating gender disparities in education and ensuring equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations

**by 2030**





Contributing to the implementation of SDG4

## **EDUCATION** S E C T O R

In line with UNESCO Strategic Objective 1: Supporting Member States to develop education systems to foster high quality and inclusive lifelong learning for all and Global Priority Africa Flagship 2: Strengthening education systems for sustainable development in Africa: improving equity, quality and relevance, the UNESCO Accra Office collaborated with relevant Ministries, Agencies and not-for profit organizations in Ghana in contributing to SDG 4.

**a) Health Education:** The UNESCO Education for Health and Well-Being programme seeks to ensure that children and young people have access to safe, inclusive, health-promoting learning environments. Additionally, it ensures that all children and young people benefit from good quality, reproductive health education that includes HIV education. It is in the light of these potential benefits of Health Education that the Government of Sweden supported the development of Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future (O3) Programme, which was launched in Accra on 31 January 2019, to support Ghana and other beneficiary countries (Eswatini, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) to enhance the capacity of their young people. The O3 Programme has since been supporting the Ministry of Education and some civil society organizations to capacitate young people with the skills,

knowledge, attitudes, and competencies required for preventing HIV, reducing early and unintended pregnancies, and eliminating gender-based violence.

**b) Gender in Education:** Since 2016, the UNESCO Office in Accra and its partners (including the Ministry of Education and Ghana National Commission for UNESCO) have been implementing a project under the UNESCO-HNA Partnership for Girls' and Women's Education, funded by the HNA Group and Hainan Cihang Foundation. The focus of the project was twofold. Firstly, it seeks to enhance the capacity of the Girls' Education Unit of the Ghana Education Service to effectively deliver on its mandate, and secondly, to increase girls' participation in science-related subjects at the secondary school level.



A Student of Accra Girls Senior High School asking question during the O3 Launch

*All the under listed activities implemented in the first half of 2019 are part of this project;*

i) Ghana marks the International Day of Women and Girls in Science: As part of activities to mark the UN International Day of Women and Girls in Science day 2019, UNESCO Accra collaborated with the Ghana Education Service (GES) and the College of Basic and Applied Sciences of the University of Ghana to organize a forum. The event, which originally falls on February 11, was commemorated on 12 February in Ghana, under the theme 'Investment in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth.' The event was attended by approximately 250 people including the Deputy Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), Heads of Science and Engineering departments from the University of Ghana, UNESCO Accra, Ghana National Commission for UNESCO and prominent female luminaries in the STEM fraternity in Ghana.

There was also representation from private sector organisations, and students from Senior Secondary Schools and tertiary institutions. Speaking at the event, the UNESCO Representative to Ghana, Mr. Abdourahamane Diallo, disclosed that UNESCO was working with the Ghana Education Service to organize STEM Clinics in three regions, and has trained over 1200 young girls in rural areas through hands-on STEM demonstrations, provided STEM career guiding, and female role model mentoring. He also indicated that UNESCO through the International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA), Ethiopia, has been providing capacity building for three Colleges of Education and Curriculum Specialists, since 2017, on STEM, gender sensitization and gender mainstreaming to improve female participation in STEM fields.



Hon. Patricia Appiagyei, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI) shares a moment with Mr. Abdourahamane Diallo, UNESCO Representative to Ghana during the workshop



ii) **Capacity Building for Girls Education Officers:** UNESCO Accra organized two separate five-day workshops on project development and report writing for 48 newly appointed District Girls Education Officers. The first workshop was held in Kumasi (Ashanti Region) from 11 to 15 March while the second was at Larteh (Eastern Region) from 29 April to 03 May.

The workshops were very participatory and activity based and facilitated by Dr Robert Asomadu - Kyereme (Development Consultant), Prosper Nyavor Education Specialist and Gifty Nordzi (Girls Education Officer, Ajumako District). The participants included good mix of GEU staff from the HQ, regional and district levels. The training covered resource mobilisation (programme development), coordination and report writing.

In all, the participants developed eight projects, which will be fine-tuned for resource mobilization and implementation in their various districts. Learning was experiential, and real-life examples were shared to guide the process. Each training session lasted for a period of 5 days. The Facilitators supported the sessions with innovative icebreaker activities that maintained a lively and engaging atmosphere. The inclusion of Gifty Nordzi is part of the exit and sustainability strategy to sharpen the facilitations skills of the District Girls Educations Officers to enable them cascade the training to their colleagues who did not have the privilege to participate in the UNESCO supported training programmes. Gifty participated in the training programme in 2018, and has since designed and implemented a couple of activities through local resource mobilisation efforts.



Girls Education Officers undertaking Problem Tree Analysis

c) **National Launch of 2019 GEM Report:** UNESCO Accra collaborated with the Centre for Migration Studies of the University of Ghana to launch the 2019 edition of the UNESCO Global Education Monitoring (GEM) report at campus of the University of Ghana under the theme “ Migration, displacement and education: Building bridges, not walls”. The participants and various speakers call on the Government of Ghana to implement the country’s migration policy. Key policymakers and change agents in the area of migration and education participated in the launch event. The participants include Sheila Naah-Boamah (Executive Secretary, National Board for Professional and Technician Examinations-NABPTEX), Sylvia Lopez-Ekra (Acting UN Resident Coordinator and IOM Chief of Mission), Country Representative of UNIDO, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM, faculty members and students of the University of Ghana especially, the Centre for Migration Studies, representatives of International NGOs (Right to Play, Oxfam, Plan International, Action Aid), Teachers Unions and Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition (GNECC). Speaking at the event, Mr Abdourahamane Diallo (UNESCO Representative to Ghana) stressed that the launch of the GEM Report provides another “unique opportunity for the UN and its Agencies to reflect on their programming approaches, delivery and support for Member States to collectively achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”



Mr Abdourahamane Diallo (UNESCO Representative to Ghana)

a) **SDG 4 Target 5 Workshop in Accra:** The UNESCO Internal Oversight Service (IOS) Evaluation Office in conjunction with UNESCO Accra organized a day's workshop in Accra to review and validate a synthesis report on Ghana's progress in the achieving SDG 4.5. The initiative '**Making evaluation work for SDG 4 Target 5**' is a response to the absence of a broadly accepted evaluation framework that informs the Member States why they stand where they stand and how they can accelerate or consolidate their progress towards the SDGs, including SDG 4.5. This SDG target calls upon Member States to: By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations.

This target is selected for this initiative because of its central place within SDG 4, in general, and the 2030 Agenda overall, of which the central theme is: 'No-one left behind.' As part of this project, UNESCO supported governments to organize national workshops in five pilot countries in four UNESCO world regions (Latin America and the Caribbean, sub-Saharan Africa, Arab States and Asia and the Pacific). The national workshop Accra on 10 June 2019 led to a refinement of the national adaptation report, which a country representative presented in the 2019 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) panel in New York in July 2019.

\*This project has undertaken in co-operation with the UNICEF Evaluation Office, the Norwegian Co-operation (NORAD) Evaluation Department and the World Bank Internal Evaluation Group, among others.



Mr. Abdourahamane Diallo, UNESCO Representative to Ghana delivering his welcome address during the workshop

**b) STEM Workshop for Teacher Educators:** The Addis Ababa based UNESCO-International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA), in collaboration with the UNESCO National Office in Accra, organized a five-day training workshop on Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Pedagogies for selected teacher educators from 6-10, May 2019, in Accra, Ghana. The workshop was attended by about 22 participants that included teacher educators of Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics subjects from 3 Teacher Training Institutions, and Regional Coordinators and representatives from the Science Education Unit of the Ghana Education Service. At the workshop, the Facilitators introduced the participants to current STEM pedagogies and curriculum ideas for better preparing STEM teachers in Ghana and Ethiopia attract, and support girls in the field of studies. They also introduced them to technology-based opportunities for course development and delivery through eBooks and coding practices for increased gender equity

The participants developed a communiqué at the end of the workshop on how they intend to deepen the study of STEM in the country. The communiqué is to be shared with the Ministry of Education.



Biology group demonstrate their working lung model using plastic bottle



Group picture of the participants and UNESCO Education Specialist after the opening session

**c) Training programme for Science, Technology, Mathematics and Innovations Education (STMIE) Coordinators :** As part of deepening the impact of the UNESCO-HNA Partnership for Girls and Women's Education, UNESCO Accra supported the Greater Accra Regional Education Directorate to organized a 5-day Gender Responsive training workshop for Science, Technology, Mathematics and Innovations Education (STMIE) Coordinators in the Greater Accra Region. At the training programme, the District STEMIE Coordinators were introduce current STEM pedagogies and curriculum ideas to support girls in the fields of STEM; technology-based opportunities for gender responsive course development and delivery, and the new Basic school curriculum and equip them with 21st century leadership skills. In all, 20 participants (6 women/14 men) were equipped with of new pedagogical skills to enable them to their work better.

At the opening session, Mr. Prosper Nyavor (Education Specialist of UNESCO Accra Office) gave a brief overview of UNESCO's involvement of girls in STEM. He asked the participants to utilise their newly acquired skills and knowledge to promote girls participation in STEM at all levels of the education system.

**d) Development of National Teacher Policy:** Under the Norwegian Teacher Initiate (NTI) project entitled "Strengthening Multi-Partner Cooperation to Support Teacher Policy and Improve learning", UNESCO and its international partners (UNICEF, the World Bank, Education International, ILO and UNHCR) have supported the government through the Ghana Teacher Task Force to develop a draft National Teacher Policy. The Policy seeks to provide a framework for addressing the myriad of challenges facing the teaching profession in the country.



Vice President Dr Mahamudu Bawumia

**e) The 2019 World Teachers Day Celebration:** Known in Ghana as the Ghana Teacher Prize, the World Teachers Day celebration event is used by the Government to recognize and celebrate the outstanding role of teachers in promoting education across the country. The event is aligned with the Africa and the Global Teacher Prize thereby making the winners to automatically qualify for the Africa and Global Teacher competition. UNESCO provided financial and technical support to the Government to celebrate the 2019 edition.

The event under the theme- “the young teacher: the future of the profession” was with a two-day symposium (funded by the Norwegian Teacher Initiative/Ghana Teacher Task Force) on 3rd & 4th October in Kumasi. The grand durbar was graced by the Vice President of the Republic and some senior government officials. In his speech, the Vice President Dr Mahamudu Bawumia praised the Norwegian Teacher Initiative (NTI) for supporting the government through the Ghana Teacher Task Force to develop a comprehensive National Teacher Policy.



Winners with Vice President and senior government officials

He concluded his address on this issue saying that this policy once finalized will be approved before kicking into implementation. He concluded that his government will use the appropriate policy consultation processes to review and approve the final draft

**f) teacher policy**



Mr. Abdourahamane Diallo awarding some winners

**g) Capacity of UNESCO staff enhanced in Gender Concepts:**

The staff of UNESCO Accra have participated in a capacity-strengthening workshop on 08 March 2019 as part of activities marking the 2019 International Women's Day. Dubbed "UNESCO and Gender Equality", the Gender Focal Point of the Office (Mr Prosper Nyavor) facilitated a process, which saw an active participation of both programme and administration in a lively discussion on gender. The presentation was anchored on the 2015 Participatory Gender Audit Report, which was carried out on eleven UN Agencies in Ghana (including UNESCO). The Report shows that majority of UNESCO Accra staff lacked basic knowledge and appreciation for gender.

Using images and practical examples from the Ghanaian and global context, he facilitated a discussion on the basic gender concepts such as the difference between gender and sex, gender roles, gender equity and gender equality. The participants asked many questions and made insightful remarks intermittently throughout the workshop. It is obvious that their participation in the workshop has enhanced their understanding and knowledge base in basic gender concepts as well as the importance of gender in development programming. The staff were encouraged to undertake the online course "I Know Gender" to deepen their knowledge and appreciation for gender.

# Science, Technology & Innovation

In July 2019, Ghana was selected as one of the five countries for the pilot phase of the UN Interagency Task Team (UN-IATT) Global Pilot Programme on Science, Technology and Innovation for SDGs Roadmaps.

The UN-IATT group has agreed that UNESCO is the focal point agency to provide technical guidance to

Ghana on this initiative, to which the WB and UNCTAD are expected to contribute.







Contributing to a Sustainable Future

# SCIENCE

## S E C T O R

In line with Strategic Objectives 4 and 5 of the 37/C5 and flagships 3 and 4 of the Global Priority Africa, the UNESCO Accra Office collaborated with relevant Ministries, Agencies and not-for profit organizations in Ghana in the implementation of various programmes and activities geared towards promoting Science, Technology and Innovation policies. Apart from aiming to generate and apply sound scientific knowledge for the management of the country's rich natural resources, some of these programmes were designed to positively impact the female gender group.

## International Day of Light



Mr. Abdourahamane Diallo, UNESCO Representative to Ghana making a statement at the event

The UNESCO Accra Office participated in the celebration of the International Day of Light on 16 May 2019 at the Museum of Science and Technology, Adabraka, Accra-Ghana. The Ghana National Commission for UNESCO organized the event in collaboration with the Ghana Museums and Monument Board (GMMB). The international theme for the year was 'Stimulating young people and women, especially in developing countries, to study science and engineering'.

Ghana adopted the theme "Stimulating young minds in Ghana, particularly women, to study Science and Engineering through the light Sciences".

As part of the celebration, the Igniting Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (iSTEM) group organized a Science Picnic in one of the gallery spaces of the Museum for more than 180 pupils from some selected basic schools in Accra. iSTEM provided the various science toolkits for the practical session for the day's programme. The Ghana National Commission for UNESCO gave additional toolkits.



Prof. Buah-Bassuah, explaining some of the light-based technologies exhibits at the Museum to Mr. Diallo



Prof. Buah-Bassuah, the lead founder of the Laser and Fibre Optics Center at the University of Cape Coast, interacting with some pupils

## **Strengthening Cooperation with Ghana's National Man and Biosphere (MAB) Committee**



From L-R: Ms. Melody Boateng, UNESCO; Mrs. Jewel Kudjawu, EPA; Mr. Diallo Abdourahamane, UNESCO; Mr. John Pwamang, EPA; Mr. Ebenezer Sampong, EPA; Mrs. Sheila Ashong, EPA

EPA is a major partner of UNESCO. Apart from collaborating with UNESCO on some environmental issues, it is the hosting agency for Ghana's MAB National Committee. In addition, it has also been an implementing partner for some of MAB's flagship projects such as the Green Economy in Biosphere Reserves project, which was implemented from 2013 to 2017. To further strengthen the existing working relationship between the MAB Committee and the UNESCO Accra Office, Mr. Abdourahamane Diallo and the National Programme Officer for the Natural Science sector went on a working visit to the EPA Head Office in Accra on 2 July 2019. Mr. Diallo met with Mr. John Pwamang, the Executive Director a.i, of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Chair of the Ghana National MAB Committee and some members of his team. Mr. Diallo informed Mr. Pwamang about the Green Economy Project being implemented in the Fazao Malfakassa National Park.

He added that the design of the Togo project was similar to the Green Economy Project which had been implemented in Ghana's Bia Biosphere Reserve. The EPA team in turn briefed Mr. Diallo on Ghana's process of preparing the nomination files for a prospective biosphere reserve, the Kyabobo National Park. The team from EPA added that the Kyabobo National Park shared a boundary with the Fazao Malfakassa National Park in Togo, therefore the MAB Committee of Togo and Ghana had begun discussions to pursue a transboundary biosphere reserve nomination.

Mr. Diallo had extensive discussions on the issue of resource mobilization to enable the MAB Committee implement activities outlined in the Ghana Action Plan (2018-2025). The UNESCO team and the EPA team discussed and agreed on timelines for the preparation of a project proposal on a concept to support women and youth in the Songor Biosphere Reserve to recycle plastic and glass waste into handicrafts. This proposal was prepared and submitted for possible funding opportunities.

***Awarding a Ghanaian's  
Excellence in Science  
Ms. Zita Naangmenyele wins  
UNESCO-Keizo Obuchi  
Fellowship Award***

Ms. Zita Naangmenyele, a Ghanaian and a staff of the Water Research Institute of the Center for Scientific and Industrial Research (WRI-CSIR) has won the 2018 UNESCO-Keizo Obuchi Fellowship award. Ms. Naangmenyele is one of 10 winners selected from around the world and one of five winners under the Environmental Science field of study. The Ghana National Commission for UNESCO in collaboration with UNESCO Office in Accra organized a ceremony on 25 July 2019 at the Conference Hall of the Water Research Institute at which the fellowship award was presented to Ms. Naangmenyele. The award will support her studies entitled, Risk assessment of organochlorines and organophosphates pesticides residue in the Golinga irrigation scheme in the Tolon District in Northern Region, Ghana.



The fellowship was instituted in 2001 in honour of a former Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi and each year, the Government of Japan has generously funded ten fellowships under this UNESCO Co-Sponsored Programme. This partnership between UNESCO and Japan has offered several opportunities to young researchers from developing countries to study abroad and to bring back to their countries a benefit of knowledge and skills in the field of scientific research.



Ms. Zita Naangmenyele giving a PowerPoint presentation on her research proposal

The aim of the fellowships is to support innovative and imaginative postgraduate research in the areas of development to which former Prime Minister Obuchi was committed and which coincide with areas of particular interest to UNESCO, namely: **Environment, Intercultural Dialogue, Information and Communication Technologies and Peaceful Conflict Resolution.**

## **Improving Water Quality Assessment in Ghana**

UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme supported the Water Resources Commission of Ghana and Ghana's Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation to organize a 2-Day consultative workshop from 25 to 27 September 2019 in Ho, Volta Region of Ghana. Participants of the workshop included representatives of the following entities: Water Research Institute (WRI); Ghana Standards Authority (GSA); Public Utility and Regulatory Commission (PURC); Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC); Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA); Food and Drugs Authority (FDA); University of Mines and Technology (UMAT); World Vision and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The main objective of this workshop is to establish a partnership between the various stakeholders in Ghana who have a stake in monitoring the quality of the water resources in Ghana. Participants at the workshop reviewed the water quality monitoring programmes as was presented by each entity. The aim was to identify capacity gaps within the existing monitoring programmes and to harmonize them in order to avoid duplication. This workshop is part of a consultative process to assist in the overall improvement of the water quality assessment programme in Ghana.



Photograph of participants: Second from the right is Mr. Ben Ampomah (Executive Secretary, WRC)

## **UNESCO Side Event -Water and Climate Change: Climate Chance Summit– Africa 2019**

As part of the Climate Chance Summit –Africa, UNESCO organized a side event on the theme “Strengthening Coordinated Water and Climate action in Africa” on Wednesday 16th October, 2019, at the Accra International Conference Center. The event was organized by UNESCO - WWAP, UNESCO Office in Accra, UNECA, and the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa. Speakers and participants were from African Member States of ECA, key private sector organizations, local actors and civil society organizations attending the Climate Chance Summit -Africa 2019.



Mr. Patrick Boamah, Ghana's Deputy Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation, giving his opening remarks at the side-event. Looking on is Director of CSIR-Water Research Institute, Dr. Mike Yaw Osei-Atweneboana.

The side event brought together more than 60 stakeholders from the Water and Climate communities to discuss and showcase how water contributes to the implementation of the Paris Agreement– looking at adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage. There were reflections on the different targets under SDG13 and presentations of examples of countries that are integrating climate change measures into water policies, strategies and planning (target 13.2).

The event also facilitated discussion on challenges, lessons learned, and recommendations of how partnerships across these topics could be strengthened. The event focussed on the positive aspects and possibilities of managing climate and water in more coordinated and sustainable manners and identified key messages for disseminating at strategic international events of both sectors, namely: CoP 25 and World Water Forum. The overall objective of the Side Event was to present the key findings and recommendations of the Africa Regional Policy Paper section on water and climate to participants of the Climate Change Summit and facilitate interactive exchange to share work in progress in different countries in the region, with emphasis on local actors and actions.

### ***UNESCO Mobilizes Support for Ghana's Earthquake Disaster Risk Reduction Efforts***

UNESCO, in collaboration with Challenge Company Limited, a Japan-based company into the development and manufacture of innovative products for security and disaster prevention, such as Earthquake Early Warning System, has provided support to Ghana's preparedness towards earthquake and disaster risk reduction. The founder and President of Challenge co. Mr. Kazuo Sasaki, joined a UNESCO Disaster Risk Reduction mission to Ghana in August 2019. The mission was to gather relevant information to enable the Organization provide support to Ghana in its quest to better prepare for any earthquake incidence.

After a number of consultations with various institutions including the Ghana Geological Survey Authority (GGSA) and the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO), some needs and challenges were identified. For instance, there was limited awareness and education on earthquakes and their associated risks by the public; Ghana's seismic network is not extensive and most of the seismic monitoring equipment at eight stations installed in 2012 are currently not working. During the final meetings with the relevant agencies, Mr. Sasaki announced his intention to donate equipment EQ guards to GGSA and NADMO. True to his words, Mr. Sasaki returned to Ghana in November this year to present the equipment to the GGSA and to guide GGSA technicians through their installation processes.

The EQ guards function both as a seismic monitoring network and as an earthquake early warning system. Valued at USD24,000.00, the equipment has been installed at the NADMO office, the GGSA Seismological Observatory and the Head Office of the GGSA. One of the equipment was also installed at the office of the Weija-Gbawe Municipal Assembly as communities in this area falls within Ghana's earthquake prone zones. The Peduase Lodge and Ghana's House of Parliament are the other places where GGSA and NADMO have proposed for the equipment to be installed. By way of creating awareness on earthquakes, a forum was recently organized by GGSA and UNESCO in collaboration with the Gbawe-Weija Municipal Assembly. The Deputy Director-General of NADMO, Mr. Seji Saji Amedonu thanked UNESCO and Mr. Sasaki for supporting the



Mr. Sasaki presenting one of the EQ guards to Dr. Daniel Boamah, Ag. Director-General, Ghana Geological Survey Authority

### **UNESCO supporting STI for SDGs Roadmap Development in Ghana**

In July 2019, Ghana was selected as one of the five countries for the pilot phase of the UN Interagency Task Team (UN-IATT) Global Pilot Programme on Science, Technology and Innovation for SDGs Roadmaps. The UN-IATT group has agreed that UNESCO is the focal point agency to provide technical guidance to Ghana on this initiative, to which the WB and UNCTAD are expected to contribute. The other pilot countries are Ethiopia, India, Kenya and Serbia. The initiative seeks to accelerate the process of developing new or adapting existing solutions to meet the SDGs using STI. A number of capacity building activities including training workshops and stakeholder consultation will be designed and implemented to support Ghana in the development of the STI for SDGs roadmap.

In relation to this, the UNESCO Accra Office in collaboration with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research - Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (CSRI-STEPRI) and the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), organized a stakeholder consultation workshop on 19 December 2019 to discuss the preparation of a workplan towards the development of a roadmap for the STI for SDG's initiative. The workshop provided the opportunity for all the relevant stakeholders to contribute to the various tasks under the work plan and timelines. Participants also identified the SDGs that Ghana could prioritize for the initiative and an outline for the roadmap.



Group photograph of the workshop participants

## Our Heritage

UNESCO Office-Accra in partnership with the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB) and the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO organized a three-day training workshop on the implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention for site managers and stakeholders in Ghana.







## Protecting Ghana's Heritage and Fostering Ghanaians Creativity

# CULTURE S E C T O R

In line with UNESCO Strategic Objective 7: Protecting, promoting and transmitting heritage and Global Priority Africa Flagship 5, Harnessing the power of culture for sustainable development and peace in a context of regional integration, enjoyment of cultural goods and services implemented; Human and institutional capacities of culture professionals strengthened, the UNESCO Accra Office collaborated with relevant Ministries, Agencies and not-for profit organizations in Ghana in the implementation of various programmes and activities geared towards promoting creativity, protecting and safeguarding heritage.

**Supporting Ghana in the implementation of 1972 convention Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage**

**Advisory mission**

Ghana invited a joint WHC-ICCROM-ICOMOS Advisory Mission to review and assess a tourism development project in the vicinity of the Elmina Castle and Fort Saint George in Elmina and the development and restoration projects at Fort Amsterdam in Abandze, two components of the World Heritage property.



Planning meeting on September 20 2019 at the UNESCO Office to look at the implementation

Pre-mission, there was a meeting of the Advisory Team with the NATCOM, UNESCO Office, GMMB and Ghana's Permanent delegate to UNESCO. During the mission, there were meetings with diverse stakeholders including Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, GMMB, Traditional Authorities of Elmina and the local community. Discussions centred around WH properties, the OUVs and adaptive re-uses of these properties as well as discussions on sustainable tourism. The 1972 Convention that gives birth to the protection of such heritage was discussed including its operational guidelines that ensure the OUVs are not destroyed.

The Cape Coast Castle, Fort St. Jago in Elmina, Fort Amsterdam in Abandze, James and Ussher Forts in Old Accra and then the Christiansburg Castle in Osu which are also World Heritage property were visited. All these properties were found at various levels of Conservation. In some cases, some emergency assistance would be required to keep them safe for human use.

Additionally the issue of Buffer Zones to prevent encroachment needed to be on the discussion table since their enlisting did not require that then but is needed now. Some recommendations could look at:

- Regular checks and inspections of the World Heritage Property in Ghana are essential.
- Partners need to understand the 1972 Convention and its operational guidelines that protect such heritage
- The State of Conservation Reports should be validated on site to ensure that documentation is accurate.
- GMMB needs support to build capacity to manage the properties and sites.
- Buffer Zones need to be considered now as part of the management of these sites to prevent encroachment.



St. George's Castle in the background

## ***The rehabilitation of Ussher Fort Slave Museum and Documentary***

CentreUssher Fort, formerly called Fort Crevecoeur, was built by the Dutch in 1649 and is located in Accra, the capital of Ghana. It has a rich history of having been a trade post, slave dungeon, a police post and a prison. It was used also for military detention and served as a court Marshall unit, a refugee camp for both Liberians and South Sudanese at some period in time. Nowadays, it houses a Museum of slavery in need of urgent repair, but has been closed in 2014.

The fort is a component of the serial World Heritage property "Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions" inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1979. It is also on the Mutual Heritage List established jointly by the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board and the Netherlands Department of Conservation.

In 2000, the Government of Ghana approved the "Old Accra Integrated Urban Development and Conservation Framework" as a National Project and asked the support of UNESCO in implementing this major undertaking. Since then, with financial support of the European Union, UNESCO has been working in close co-operation with the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB), Ga Mashie Development Agency, the community of Old Accra.

The rehabilitation works have been funded by the Netherlands and expected to be completed by the second quarter of 2020. The completed project will capacitate staff of GMMB and other actors for conservation and management, but also for strengthening heritage interpretation and communication.



It will also contribute to the Preparation of a management plan for the Forts and Castles of Ghana, which will be funded by an International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund (approved in 2018)



Planning meeting on September 20 2019 at the UNESCO Office to look at the implementation

<sup>2</sup> <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/34/>; The property counts a total of 28 components, i.e. three castles, 15 forts, four Forts partially in ruins, four ruins with visible structures and two sites with traces of former fortifications.

## **WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1972 WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION, October 2-4 2019**

UNESCO Office-Accra in partnership with the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB) and the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO organized a three-day training workshop on the implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention for site managers and stakeholders in Ghana. The workshop attended by 25 participants was facilitated by the consultant appointed by UNESCO Accra Office, Dr Pascall Tarvinga (Zimbabwe). The workshop made recommendations towards improving the implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention in Ghana with an emphasis on the following areas:

- implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 Advisory Mission to Ghana,
- development of management plans for all World Heritage sites in Ghana,
- stakeholder engagement and involvement,
- establishing a national world heritage committee for Ghana,
- future capacity building areas,
- partnerships with local universities,
- domestication of the Convention and establishment of National Committee of ICOMOS.

Other recommendations made related to establishing an effective and conducive environment for managing heritage in Ghana and these included the need to undertake organisational review supported by change management approach, developing a Masterplan for Heritage Management, developing a Resource Mobilisation strategy and related Implementation Plan and prioritising Documentation and Records Management as a decision-making tool. In the overall, the workshop recommended continued capacity building for Ghana in the implementation of the Convention given the young generation of practitioners being brought on board by GMMB.



Participants at the workshop – seated in the Middle are the Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture and the UNESCO Representative

## ***UN General Assembly President visit***

H.E. Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces, President of the 73rd UNGA visited Ghana and as part of her itinerary, she was to visit some of the Forts and Castles in the Central Region.

A team made up of Deputy Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, UN Resident Coordinator ai, UNESCO Representative, UNDSS, National Security and GMMB accompanied H.E. Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces to visit the Cape Coast Castle. However, Fort Amsterdam was identified on the way as the convoy drove past.

She was given a tour of the Cape Coast Castle. At the end she indicated that Slavery in all forms should end. She stressed that the Slave Trade is a stain on humanity and that there was the need for humankind to live in peace. She stressed the need for dialogue, understanding and appreciating diversity and human rights.

- The Forts and Castles listed on the World Heritage List are important to humanity looking at their Outstanding Universal value (OUV) and therefore everyone should be able to visit and understand what happened and resolve not to let slavery take root again, especially the modern forms it is taking.

## ***Participation in First Regional Congress on Women Empowerment in the tourism sector-Focus on Africa Accra (Ghana), 25-27 November 2019***

UNESCO Representative joined a panel session and shared information on UNESCO work on Gender equality as an important priority for UNESCO's work on heritage, creativity and cultural diversity. The equal participation, access and contribution to cultural life of women and men are human rights as well as cultural rights, and an important dimension for guaranteeing freedom of expression for all. He indicated that Tourism was one of the world's fastest growing industries and is a major source of income for many countries. Being a people-oriented industry, tourism also provides many jobs which have helped revitalize local economies.

However, like other forms of development, tourism can also cause its share of problems, such as social dislocation, loss of cultural heritage, economic dependence and ecological degradation. Learning about the impacts of tourism has led many people to seek more responsible holidays. These include various forms of alternative or sustainable tourism such as: 'nature-based tourism', 'ecotourism' and 'cultural tourism'.



H.E. Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa in a dungeon at the Cape Coast Castle with the Ag. GMMB Director, Deputy Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, UNESCO Representative and UN Resident Coordinator

Sustainable tourism is becoming so popular that some say that what we presently call 'alternative' will be the 'mainstream' in a decade.

The information shared indicated that all tourism activities of whatever motivation – holidays, business travel, conferences, adventure travel and ecotourism – need to be sustainable. Sustainable tourism is defined as "tourism that respects both local people and the traveller, cultural heritage and the environment". It seeks to provide people with an exciting and educational holiday that is also of benefit to the people of the host country.

Eight key areas of action emerged from the discussions engaging experts from across Africa and around the world on how to further tourism's empowering potential for women: Policies to enable gender equality, Entrepreneurship, Employment, Financing, Education and training, Technology, Leadership and Community and civil society.

### ***Supporting Ghana in the implementation of the 2003, Convention***

### ***Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage***

### ***UNESCO Supports E-Ananse Project***

UNESCO supported the opening of an e-Ananse library to promote literacy and equip the young generation with IT skills that hopefully will expose them to global opportunities. The E-Ananse libraries are new concept of public libraries where students are given access to a wide collection of books from various African cultures as well as an environment that exposes them to more knowledge..

"UNESCO objective is to ensure that, all forms of aspects in human life are helpful for growth and development. UNESCO recognizes the importance of libraries, e-Ananse initiative is coming to compliment the effort of government and stakeholders in contributing to Ghana's development in reading and use of libraries. UNESCO pledged its utmost support towards this project" indicated Mr. Diallo, the UNESCO Representative. The library project is to help cultivate a culture of reading in the younger generation.



UNESCO Representative with other dignitaries officially opening the library

The launch also stressed the importance of Ghanaian story-telling in all its forms, from the oral to the written. Many dignitaries including Mr Kofi Asante, CEO of GIFEC, Dr Yaw Osei Adutwum, deputy Minister of Education were at the launch. One of the up and coming creative and cultural groups Kwan Pa Music Band provided traditional Ghanaian folk and highlife music.



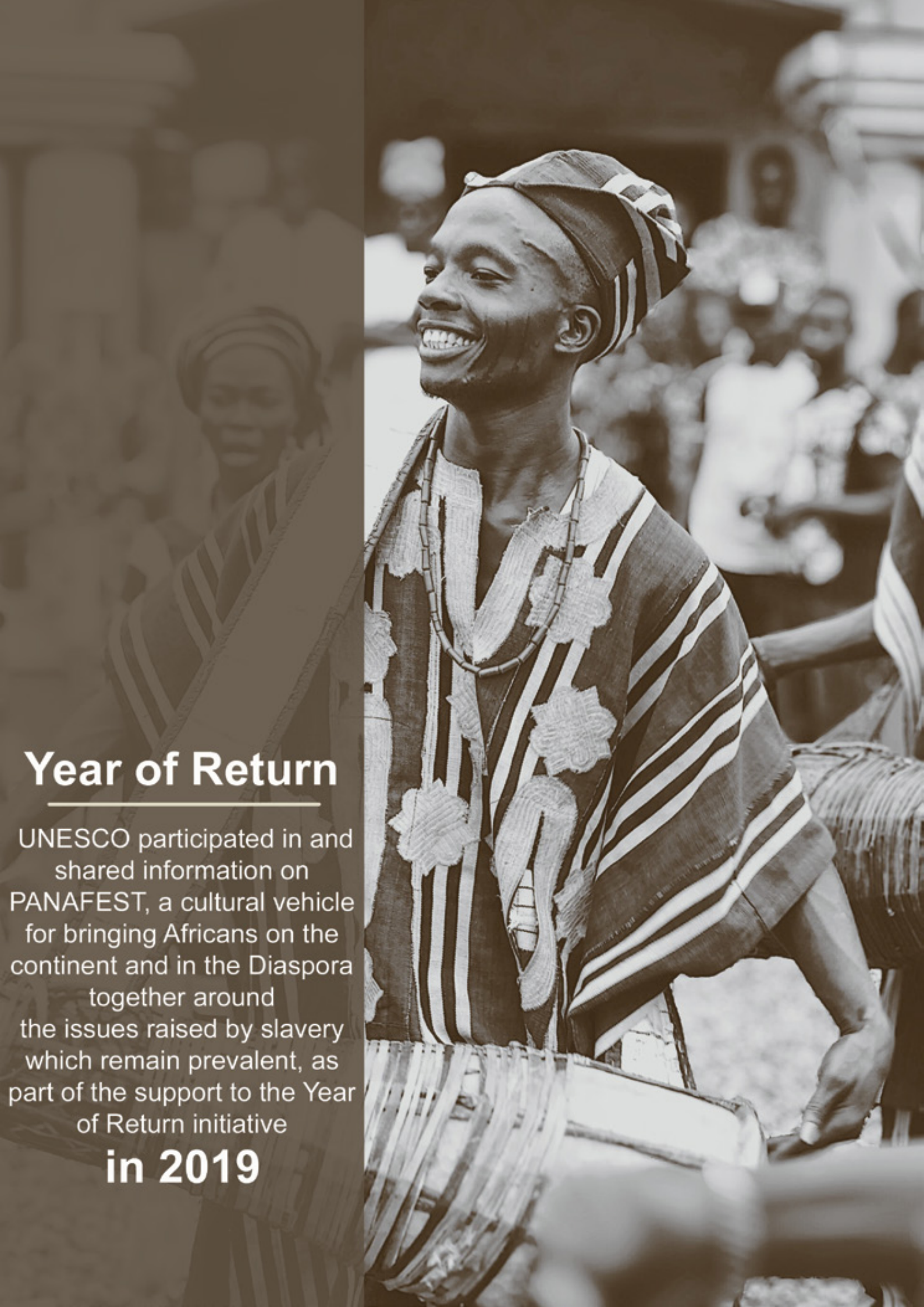
Panel discussion during the opening of the library

***Supporting Ghana in the implementation of the 2005 Convention  
Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions***

Ghana initiated steps to review its cultural policy for which UNESCO is committed to support. The last policy dates back to 2004. The review of the policy is expected to let it reflect current realities while referencing global frameworks such as 'Re:Shaping Cultural Policies'.



UNESCO Representative presents copies of the global framework to the leadership of the policy review team which includes the Deputy Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Dr. Ziblim



## **Year of Return**

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UNESCO participated in and shared information on PANAFEST, a cultural vehicle for bringing Africans on the continent and in the Diaspora together around the issues raised by slavery which remain prevalent, as part of the support to the Year of Return initiative

**in 2019**





Supporting inclusive social development, fostering intercultural dialogue, promoting ethical principles

## **SOCIAL & HUMAN SCIENCE** S E C T O R

In line with UNESCO Strategic Objective 6, Supporting inclusive social development, fostering intercultural dialogue for the rapprochement of cultures and promoting ethical principles, and Global Priority Africa Flagship 1, Promoting a culture of peace and non-violence including knowledge of Africa's history and the contribution of its diaspora to contemporary societies enhanced, the UNESCO Accra Office collaborated with relevant Ministries, Agencies, not-for profit organizations and Youth Groups in Ghana in the implementation of various programmes and activities geared towards inclusivity, dialogue and a culture of peace.

## ***Supporting the initiative, the “Year of Return” 2019***

On August 26 2019 the event “Ethical Challenges for Preserving and Promoting Sites of Memory related to the Slave Trade and Slavery” took place at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), Accra. It was a UNESCO endeavour in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture of Ghana as part of the activities for the “Year of Return” Initiative. Four experts in the persons of Prof. Akosua Perbi (Ghana), Mr. Milton Guran (Brazil), member of the International Scientific Committee (ISC), Ms. Michelle Johnson (Jamaica/Canada), member of the ISC, Ms. Izmira Violet Aitch, Senior Legislative Assistant, Congressional Black Caucus (USA) joined the round table debate. Mr. Ali Moussa Iye, Coordinator of the Slave Route Project was the moderator.

2019 marked 400 years of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. It also celebrated 40 years of Ghana’s shared heritage with the world in the form of the Forts and Castles listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, which were integral links in the Slave Trade. The event presented the work done by the UNESCO Slave Route project on its 25th Anniversary in the preservation and promotion of sites and places of memory related to the slave trade and slavery and debated the ethical implications raised by the management of memorial heritage. Speaking at the event, Abdourahamane Diallo, the Representative of UNESCO to Ghana, indicated that heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations, which makes the Year of Return and connected activities important and timely.

“This is important as many countries have acted to identify, document, preserve, enhance and link emblematic sites and monuments of the slave trade and slavery with a view to creating memory routes.” He said. The new publication “Legacies of Slavery: A Resource Book for Managers of Sites and Itineraries of memory” published by UNESCO was launched and presented at the event. The Resource Book developed by the Slave Route Project according to the Deputy Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture would be useful in building and enhancing the capacity of site managers in Ghana. During the round table on “Ethics and Memory Tourism”, the experts discussed good practices in reconciling ethical questions raised by the memory of the slave trade and the economic requirements of memorial Tourism. There were active discussions around the history of the Slave Trade, General History of Africa and related issues during the Q&A session.

In addition, the UNESCO documentary “Soul of Resistance” produced by UNESCO Slave Route Project and a video message from Marcus Miller the UNESCO Artist for Peace and Spokes Person for the Slave Route Project were shared with participants. The event brought together Dr. Ziblim the Deputy Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture and staff of the Ministry including the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board. Participating also were; the Chief Director of the Ministry of Education, traditional authorities such as HRM King Tackie Tsuru II, HRM Nana Asaa Safoa II, the Secretary general of the National Commission for UNESCO, international community/diplomatic representatives of Canada, Ethiopia, Cuba, Mexico, Columbia and Brazil.

Also represented were UN agencies including Anne-Claire Dufay the UN Resident Coordinator a.i., NGOs, academia/scholars, young people / students, the African diaspora, heritage and cultural professionals, decision makers, community leaders and media.



L-R, Prof. Akosua Perbi (Ghana), Ms. Izmira Violet Aitch (USA), Mr. Ali Moussa Iye Mr. Milton Guran (Brazil) and Ms. Michelle Johnson (Jamaica/Canada)

L-R, Ali Moussa Iye, HRM Nana Asaa Safoa II, Anne-Claire Dufay, Dr. Ziblim and Abdourahamane Diallo launched the publication



As part of the support to the Year of Return initiative, UNESCO participated in and shared information on PANAFEST, a cultural vehicle for bringing Africans on the continent and in the Diaspora together around the issues raised by slavery which remain prevalent. UNESCO participated in the opening of the Bisa Aberwa Museum which was created to be one of the largest sculptural representations in clay, wood, cement, paintings and photographs of personalities whose sacrifices have shaped African history, both within the continent and the diaspora and HACSA which highlights the importance of heritage and culture for sustainable

socioeconomic development and poverty alleviation in Africa.

UNESCO also participated in the Ghana International Book Fair which is a platform where both local and international book industry players come together to trade books and negotiate deals. The public gets the opportunity to have access to a variety of good books and buy them at highly discounted prices. UNESCO also provided in kind support for Black Star International Film Festival that creates connections through film and bridging the gap between African cinema and the world.



Mr. Diallo, UNESCO Representative with Kow Ansah one of the respected African film makers and the owner of Bisa Aberwa Museum

***Regional Conference on the Theme: “Governance of Diversity: Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Development and Peaceful Coexistence in Africa”  
10 – 11 October 2019  
Accra, Ghana***

From 10th-11th October 2019, UNESCO West Africa and its partners held a regional conference in Accra on the theme Governance of Diversity: Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Development and Peaceful Coexistence in Africa. More than 60 participants specialised in various fields from the

continent and beyond gathered to deliberate on issues ranging from conceptualization, governance and mechanisms of cultural diversity in Africa; rights and inclusiveness of indigenous and minority peoples and the role of media in reporting these issues.

It opened in the morning with speeches from UNESCO, Accra and Abuja offices, a traditional leader, government officials and partners. This was followed by a keynote address which stressed on instruments for effective governance of cultural diversity and the need for the conference to reflect on traditional mechanisms of its governance as well.

This was followed by 6 thematic technical sessions on conceptualization, governance and mechanisms of cultural diversity in Africa; rights and inclusiveness of indigenous and minority peoples and the role of old and new media in contributing positively or negatively to cultural diversity.

Each session had a chair and groups of presenters and discussants whose insightful contributions were complemented by riveting discussions from the larger group of participants.

**Key recommendations made, with target responsible agency, were as follows:**

### **African Union**

- Formulate an African cultural philosophy around Ubuntuism to foster collective, communal attitudes in Africa to promote peace and unity.
- Institutionalize the 'Joking Relationship' that exist in some African countries such as Niger as a continental mechanism to forge interethnic alliances and alternative conflict resolution to promote cohesion between peoples.

### **Governments**

- Necessarily adopt local languages as media of instruction for schools especially at the basic level.
- Identify African indigenous cultural institutions and values to adopt them as foundations for policy and programmes towards transformation including identifying new forms of democratic governance and education at basic levels.
- Together with Industry, post young civil servants away from their comfort areas to discover and imbibe new cultures as a way to promoting unity.
- Promote Festivals, where they exist, as a means for unity and healthy expression of culture.
- Transform itself through consultations, from state centrism to effective decentralization that locate some amount of power to ethnic regions (political and cultural federalism).

- Legislate freedom of information to combat misinformation and deception on various media.
- Legislate the formal recognition of diversity of cultures in policies and programmes, where all peoples have voices in and rights to benefit from national resources.

### **UNESCO**

- Report findings of this conference to national cultural commissions in African states, and publish conference proceedings.
- Invest in oral history and oral traditions as ways to promoting diversities of cultures and cultural heritages.
- Translate policies on cultural diversity across different languages in each African country.
- Popularize the Commemorative Days on Cultural Diversity as a means for promoting inclusivity and justice for everyone.
- Endeavor to invite indigenous peoples and traditional authorities to be heard meaningfully in discussions at conferences like this current one.
- Together with other UN agencies, lead and work with governments, academia, and civil society groups and communities to preserve cultural heritages.

- Take inventory of existing Centres in Africa dedicated to the issue of diversity and renaissance.
- Follow up with experiences from this conference to explore new projects, for instance, creating research centers in Universities dedicated to research and advocacy work on cultural diversity and renaissance.
- Call biennial conferences, of this current size or bigger, to evaluate initiatives taken before.
- Work with individual African governments to create a new or transform an existing structure into a special research unit in any African country to work on key issues such as heritage, memory, renaissance etc. This research unit should have international reputation.

### ***Civil society and Academia***

- Conduct research and advocate for integration of cultural (legal) pluralism in national legal frameworks as an approach for sustainable nation building.
- Research Centres, Universities, and Civil society groups in Africa should apply and join the UNESCO/AU network of Research Centres and Foundations dedicated to peace within diversity.



Panel during the Opening Ceremony

### ***Conference participants***

- Form alliances to continue the work on harnessing cultural diversity for development
- Form, with help UNESCO, form an Accra 2019 Working Group to plan for a global technical meeting for May 2020, in Abidjan to discuss way forward from what has been achieved from here.



Cultural display during the Opening

## **CIVIC – CARE PROJECT**

In 2012, an operational youth strategy was developed by the UNESCO due to its longstanding commitment to youth. Subsequently, a Youth Civic Engagement Cooperation was designed to engage young men and women, youth-led organizations. Through this cooperation in 2018, the UNESCO Regional Office in Abuja launched the maiden edition of the Youth Civic Engagement initiative.

The initiative aimed at promoting youth-led production of knowledge, design and implementation of innovative solutions to instill youth active participation in decision making at the local, national and regional levels, for inclusive and peace societies.

As a sequel to the call for applications from youth-led organizations operating in any of the Anglophone West Africa countries under the Abuja office, Ulti-Leaf Foundation submitted a proposal and was selected to participate in this novelty youth program. This was followed by training of trainers' workshop that was organized by the UNESCO and held in Abuja on 16th -20th October, 2018, for all selected youth-led organizations including Ulti-Leaf.

After the workshop, participating youth-led organizations received technical and financial support from the UNESCO to undertake a youth-led action research in their respective 7.

Ulti-Leaf Foundation carried-out a baseline study on the topic- "Youth Civic Engagement in Ghana: Issues, Needs and Opportunities with Use of Mobile phone and Social Media".

Findings from this action-research informed the design and implementation of the "Civic-Care Project. And in October, 2019, the current project emerged as the best proposal from the call/contest for the Anglophone West Africa countries. UNESCO therefore provided financial support to implement the project from November, 2019 to April, 2020 in Ghana.



Hands-on Civic-Skills Engagement with students and community youth



Official Artistic Banner on the Civic-Care made by Project Team



## SDG 16.10.2

UNESCO Accra office collaborated with the Coalition on the Right for Information, Ghana (CRTIG) to organize a consultative workshop on the implementation of SDG 16.10.2 ( Access to information) in Ghana on 22nd August, 2019. The workshop was attended by 65 participants





Contributing to fostering freedom of expression, media development, and access to information and knowledge in Ghana

## COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION S E C T O R

In line with UNESCO Strategic Objective 9, Promoting access to information and knowledge and Promoting access to information and knowledge and Global Priority Africa Flagship 6 Improvements in the enabling environment for press freedom and free flow of information for development while ensuring the safety of journalists; Reinforcement of the capacities of media, including community media, institutions and professionals in Africa, the UNESCO Accra Office collaborated with relevant Ministries, Agencies and notfor profit organizations in Ghana in the implementation of various programmes and activities geared towards promoting of freedom of expression, media development and access to information and knowledge

## ***World Radio Day 2019 Marked in Ghana***

Every year World Radio Day is held on the 13th day of February as a tribute to the establishment of the United Nations Radio in 1946. The day wishes to celebrate how radio has and continues to shape our lives. The invention provides a perfect medium to establish a necessary counter to ignorance and violence by providing debate and dialogue regarding a wide array of topics.

The platform allows a large population to understand the issues, which their community, country, and world faces every day. Additionally, the diversity in voices and points of view that an individual can hear through the radio aids in providing a well-rounded idea of how they may tackle these issues.

UNESCO celebrated the 8th edition of World Radio Day on February 13th, 2019. This year's edition, took place at GNAT Hall in Tamale, in the Northern Region of Ghana. The theme was, "Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace." Farm Radio International (FRI) a Canadian NGO that focuses on agricultural practices and related activities through the medium of radio and ICT, was the lead organization in the implementation of World Radio Day.

FRI believes there is a strong correlation between food security and peace. Furthermore, it views peace and its sustainability can be achieved through an increased availability of radio and ICT dialogue. On February 13th, FRI, in collaboration with UNESCO, FRI brought together media partners, academics, NGOs and the general public to discuss, learn and share experiences on Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace.

## ***World Press Freedom Day 2019 Marked in Ghana***

In 1993, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly declared May 3 as World Press Freedom Day (WPF) to underline the importance of press freedom and urge governments to respect and uphold same. The Day is also commemorated to honour the memory of journalists who are killed in the line of duty during the year under review. The declaration of WPF followed a Recommendation adopted by the 26th Session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) General Conference held in Windhoek, Namibia, in 1991. Since 1993, UNESCO has been organizing the global commemoration of WPF in a selected country every year with a theme that addresses critical concerns on press freedom.

This year, the global celebration of WPF was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the theme: Media for democracy: Journalism and Election in times of disinformation. In line with the global celebration of WPF and its theme, the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA) organized a forum and flag-raising ceremony at the Ghana International Press Centre in Accra to mark the Day, with the support of UNESCO Ghana. It was attended by journalists, other media practitioners, academics, government officials, senior police officials and media partners. The GJA President, Mr Affail Monney, condemned attacks against journalists in Ghana and called on the government to deal with the situation. Other speakers included the Chairman of the National Media Commission, Mr Yaw Boadu-Ayebofoh and the UNESCO Country Representative, Mr Abdourahamane Diallo. After the forum, there was a flag-raising ceremony to mark WPF.

## ***A Coordinating Mechanism on the safety of Journalist***

The Ministry of Information (Moi) of Ghana supported by UNESCO Accra Office have brought together over 30 stakeholders from Ghana Journalists Associations, Media Owners, Media Regulators, Civil Society Groups working in Press Freedom, Security Forces, UN agencies, the Canadian High Commissioner and representatives of British High Commission and the American Embassy to deliberate on establishing a national coordinating mechanism for the safety of journalists.

The workshop “National Coordinating Mechanism on Safety Mechanism” was held in Accra on July 19, 2019.

This comes at the back of increasing cases of assaults of journalists in the country including the murder of investigative journalist, Ahmed Hussien Suale, shot by some unknown persons in January, this year. This incident has affected the country negatively, media reports indicating that there were as many as seventeen (17) assaults against journalists within fifteen (15) months from 2017. The framework, which will be ready by November 2019, will provide a well-coordinated and sufficient support to Ghanaian journalists, verify and validate allegations of assaults against journalists and complement efforts with an aim of increasing the impact of safety of journalists in Ghana by applying the three Ps; Prevention, Protection and Prosecution.

Speaking at the stakeholder’s engagement workshop, representative of UNESCO to Ghana, Mr. Abdourahmane DIALLO urged Ghana as a UNESCO member state, to inform UNESCO on the status of the investigation of the killing of Ahmed Suale, an investigative journalist.

He called on Ghana to protect its journalists against attacks while applauding it for making giant strides in its democratic credentials and upholding human rights.

On his part, Minister of Information, Mr. Kojo Opong Nkrumah, expressed the hope that with the establishment of the framework attacks on journalists can be validation, accusations could be verified to protect media practitioners and the country’s image. Some of the decisions taken by stakeholders included the agreement of the coordinating body for the mechanism to be co-chaired by the chairman of the independent media regulator, National Media Commission (NMC), amendments of the draft mechanism expunging phrases of responsible journalism and replacing it with professionalism, a national and regional dialogue on the mechanism with the media to commence in September and a road map leading to the investiture of a national coordinating committee in November.

## ***Conclusion***

The stakeholder engagement being the first of a series of meetings to be held towards the development of a National Coordinating Mechanism on the Safety of Journalists. After the engagement between the stakeholders, it became clear that activities of all players identified during the discussions play a major role in securing a conducive environment for the practise of safe and responsible journalism. The meeting ended with an appreciation from the moderator on behalf of government to the various stakeholders who made it an urgent appointment to be part of the discussions that began the journey towards drafting a National Coordinating Mechanism on the Safety of Journalists.



The Minister of Information  
Mr. Kojo Opong Nkrumah  
addressing the  
opening ceremony

### ***Celebration of International Access To Information-Leaving No One Behind!***

On October 4th 2019, UNESCO Accra in collaboration with the Ministry of Communications, Ghana with support from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany organized the celebration of International Day for Universal Access to Information at the Swiss Spirit Hotel in Accra.

The 2019 celebration which brought together key Government players, Civil Society Groups, private sector players as well as members of the general public to build efforts and share knowledge in addressing Universal Access to Information was under the theme "Access to Information: leaving no one behind!"

The celebrations took the form of OPENTalks and saw a little above 150 participants from across various fields.

Mr. Abdourahamane Diallo, Representative and Head of Office UNESCO Accra reaffirmed UNESCO's commitment in assisting the government through the Ministry of Communication to strengthen the oversight bodies which according to a recent UNESCO research revealed needed to improve tracking and processing information.

He further congratulated the government for the successful passing of the Right to Information Bill after decades of limbo and recognized the efforts of all Civil Society Organizations and well-meaning Ghanaians for taking up the fight to see the Bill passed.



The Hon. Minister of Communications urged participants to become adequately informed, access telephony systems and internet to help promote transparency and democratic governance. Ghana through the Ministry of Communications since 2016 has been observing the day because of the ministry's role in realizing the tenets of Access to Information. Since 2016, following the adoption of the resolution (38 C/70) declaring 28 September of every year as International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI), UNESCO marks 28 September as International Day for Universal Access to Information.

The IDUAI has particular relevance with Agenda 2030 with specific reference to SDG 2 on investment in rural infrastructure and technology development, SDG 11 on positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas and SDG 16 on initiatives to adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information.

### ***Africa Code Week 2019: DREAMOVAL Trained 150,000 Students in Ghana***

Africa Code Week has been accepted by teachers and pupils in Ghana as an annual digital learning experience to introduce the youth and students throughout Ghana to basic coding using the scratch language.

Africa Code Week is a large-scale digital literacy initiative organized for the African child. The program is designed to support and improve local capacity building and introduce children to Digital Literacy.

Additionally, Africa Code Week equips teachers with key coding skills and teaching materials to support the advancement of 21st-century skills and work to achieve the ambitions of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Africa Code Week has been accepted by teachers and pupils in Ghana as an annual digital learning experience to introduce the youth and students throughout Ghana to basic coding using the scratch language.

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Africa Code Week has been running in Ghana for three (3) years. It is being organized by DreamOval Foundation, in collaboration with UNESCO, Google, the Ministry of Education and The Ghana Education Africa Code Week has been running in Ghana for three (3) years. It is being organized by DreamOval Foundation, in collaboration with UNESCO, Google, the Ministry of Education and The Ghana Education



[StephanieHorsu/techvoiceafrica.com](http://StephanieHorsu/techvoiceafrica.com)

## UNESCO ACCRA OFFICE HOLDS CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP TO IMPLEMENT SDG 16.10.2

UNESCO Accra office collaborated with the Coalition on the Right for Information, Ghana (CRTIG) to organize a consultative workshop on the implementation of SDG 16.10.2 ( Access to information) in Ghana on 22nd August, 2019. The workshop was attended by sixty (65) participants comprising of the media, selected member organizations of the RTI Coalition, CSOs platform on SDGs, the Media Coalition on RTI and some development partners including the UNESCO. Ms. Mina Mensah, Vice Chair of the RTI Coalition, observed that some of the challenges towards the

Abdul Hamid Yakub, Programme Officer (Communication and Information), of UNESCO Office in Accra, who spoke on behalf of Mr Abdourahamane Diallo, Head of UNESCO Office in Accra observed that it was gratifying that the RTI Bill has been passed into law after many years of arduous advocacy for its passage. He said the passage is not enough and that there is more work to be done for the country to benefit from the law. He continued that improving public access to information helps build trust and co-operation between governments and citizens, allowing the latter to exercise and claim their rights, hold duty-bearers accountable, reduce corruption and make more informed



attainment of goal 16.10.2 are citizen's limited understanding of the international standards on access to information and the inability to demand for adherence to those standards. She continued that the poor culture of public institutions fulfilling their obligation of providing citizens with adequate information proactively or upon request that will enable the citizens to contribute meaningfully in governance is another challenge.

choices that affect their daily lives. He continued by saying that the SDG target 16.10 enjoins states and other stakeholders to "Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements".



## ***Empowering Young People In Africa Through Media And Communication***

**BACKGROUND:** The media play an essential role in ensuring awareness is raised regarding risks related to migration. The “Empowering Young People in Africa through Media and Communication” project seeks to strengthen access to information to raise awareness and to achieve better knowledge and understanding on migration risks in selected African countries, Ghana inclusive. It is also aimed at sensitizing African public opinion on migration-related risks (and their root causes) through access to information through specially tailored media content by responding to SDG 16 (target 10). The three-year project is funded by the Italian Agency for Development Corporation backed by Fondo Africa, a fund set up in 2016 by the Government of Italy to foster corporation between Italy and African countries to strengthen access to information of the population in West Africa in particular the youth on migration, including irregular migration to Europe. The project is currently running in seven other African countries including Senegal, Mali, Guinea Conakry, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Niger.

## ***Training of Journalists***

### ***UNESCO Accra Trains Over 40 Ghanaian Journalists on Irregular Migration***

Journalists in Ghana need to churn out thought provoking stories on migration to curb the menace of irregular migration facing the country. According to the Programmes Officer (Communication and Information) of UNESCO, Accra Office, Mr Abdul Hamid Yakub, stories on migration were told from the perspective of the foreign media which makes the issue alien to the youth in the country.

“We mostly see stories being told from the foreign media but we rarely see stories on migration from the local perspective”, he emphasized.

Mr. Yakub reiterated this concern at a two-day training workshops on migration organized by UNESCO Ghana for journalists from the Northern and Southern sectors of Ghana respectively.

The training is one of the key activities under the “empowering young people in Africa through media and communication” project under the objectives of building the capacities of independent media including online media to produce rigorous, high-quality information on migratory risks in West Africa (and the root causes of irregular migration).

The first training which took place in the Eastern Region saw over 20 media practitioners participate in the training while the second phase which also took place in the Ashanti region had almost 20 participants.

In all, over 40 journalists were trained consisting of news reporters, editors, social media bloggers, producers, and media managers drawn from some media associations including; the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA), Ghana Independent Broadcasters Association (GIBA) and Ghana Community Radio Network ( GCRN).

UNESCO believes that independent media’s role was key in creating awareness on migration, and in helping to ensure youth and women were empowered to make mindful choices of livelihoods. Dr Daniel Nkrumah, a journalism lecturer at the Pentecost University called on the media to help curb irregular migration by giving it more focus.

He said although irregular migration was a threatening disaster, stories on them got “buried” in foreign news segments, and that there was the pressing need for media managers and editors to reconsider policies, highlight the topic, and give related stories prominence on news programmes.

Participants are expected to pitch investigative stories on migration which will earn them a call up to join other journalists in Senegal for the regional workshop which is expected to happen in October this year.





## **UNESCO trains over 60 editors under the 'Empowering Young People in Africa through Media and Communication' project**



The first forum facilitated by the Ghana Independent Broadcasters Association (GIBA) was held in Accra and brought together over 20 editors from the broadcast, print and online media which represented editors from the Greater Accra, Eastern Region and Volta regional zones respectively.

Editors in Ghana have been challenged to explore more on migration related issues to be able to curb the canker of irregular migration in the country. Speaking at the third series of editors' forum organized by UNESCO Accra office in Kumasi, the Chief Executive of the Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly, Mr Osei Assibey Antwi urged these editors to own stories of migration rather than rely on the international media to report these issues.

UNESCO Accra office has so far trained over sixty editors under its series of editors' forum across the country to build capacities of newsroom editors and create awareness of irregular migration under the 'Empowering Young People in Africa through Media and Communication' project.



The second workshop was held in Takoradi which represented editors from the Central and Western Regions. The 3rd will be organized in Kumasi representing editors for Ashanti and Brong Ahafo Regions. The final workshop will be held in Tamale representing editors from the Upper East, upper West and the Northern Regions.

In all, about 100 editors across the country are expected to be trained on how to report on migration stories which contributes to the achievement of sensitizing African public opinion on migration-related risks (and their root causes) through access to information through specially tailored media content by responding to SDG 16 (target 10) objective. The Project which is sponsored by the Italian government is concurrently being implemented in seven African countries including Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.



## ***UNESCO Accra Office Trains Eight Community Radio Stations On Producing Contents On Migration***

UNESCO Accra office has collaborated with the Ghana Community Radio Network (GCRN) to organize a knowledge sharing and design workshop for eight community radio stations in Ghana.

This move is part of the activities under 'Empowering young people in Africa through media and communication' project.

The activity 'Workshop to support the production and dissemination of radio magazine programme in local language targeting prone areas of irregular migration and migration will see community radio stations produce and disseminate radio magazine programmes in the Ghanaian local languages.

At the end of this design workshop, these radio stations will develop 2 Broadcast InfoJingles on Irregular Migration in seven Ghanaian local languages.



**We appreciate the support the partners below have provided us.**

