

Activity Report submitted on the 14th of May 2023 for SDG 1: No Poverty, within the IAU HESD Cluster
Lead: University of Ghana

Activities of University of Ghana towards the achievement of the SDGs 2022-2023

We report on university -wide activities towards selected SDGs especially **SDG 1** and its targets

SDG 1

Target 1.1: Eradicate extreme poverty

University of Ghana situated in Accra, an urban city, continues to implement activities to lift up the urban poor. One such activity has been the training and implementation of controlled environment agriculture using greenhouses. The University of Ghana through a grant award has established a greenhouse training centre in the heart of Accra where urban gardeners are trained on the use of marginal lands in urban spaces to grow safer and healthy vegetables

- *Vice-Chancellor Embarks on Maiden Visit to the Dawhenya Greenhouse Training Centre | Institute of Applied Science and Technology (ug.edu.gh) – (<https://www.ug.edu.gh/iast/news-information/vice-chancellor-embarks-maiden-visit-dawhenya-greenhouse-training-centre>)*
- *<https://www.ug.edu.gh/iast/news-information/commissioning-university-ghana-centre-innovation-and-entrepreneurship>*
- *<https://www.ug.edu.gh/iast/gtr>*

Target 1.3: Implement social protection systems

The Centre for Social Policy Studies at University of Ghana recently engaged members of the University community in a seminar on the "Topic: Tight Tax Net, Loose Safety Net: Taxation and Social Protection in Accra's Informal Economy Thursday, 23rd March 2023. The team from Centre for Social Policy Studies of University of Ghana discussed their published findings about taxation and social protection in relation to the informal economy which was said to be widespread, but had little empirical evidence to support its existence. They used new and representative data on informal workers in Accra, Ghana, to elucidate a policy brief which sought to provide empirical answers to two key questions namely: extent of benefits to informal workers in Accra from social protection schemes and COVID-19 relief programmes AND extent of tax burdens on informal workers in Accra, to make additional contributions through taxes or payments into social protection schemes? The Centre for Social Policy Studies team contributed novel evidence to begin to answer these questions, shedding light on the equity, redistributive, and gendered impacts of informal workers' fiscal burdens and access to social protection and COVID-19 relief programmes.

Tight Tax Net, Loose Safety Net: Taxation and Social Protection in Accra's Informal Sector – ICTD

(<https://www.ictd.ac/publication/tight-tax-net-loose-safety-net-taxation-social-protection-accras-informal-sector/>)

Target 1.2: Reduce poverty by at least 50%

Some examples from the accelerated initiatives of University of Ghana to reduce poverty include

1. Use of greenhouses to attract the youth into vegetable production
2. Creating jobs using recycling of plastic waste into fuels, and agricultural waste into biochar or manure

3) Planting trees as a greenery impact on climate stewardship and seedling production as an economic venture

4) Training students on innovation and entrepreneurship which has led to the UGIEP. University of Ghana students are engaged in experiential learning whilst in school. This enhances their employability. The Institute of Applied Science and Technology at University of Ghana engaged the student union to improve access to experiential learning with the UG SRC skill-up for job initiative. This project brings industry to campus to offer students practical experiences through bootcamps

<https://ugsrcskillupforjobs.com/>

Target 1.5: Build resilience to environmental, economic and social disasters

The University of Ghana is a forest in a desert. The University campus sprawling one kilometre square consists of white walls and red roofs of 18th century British architecture. It is a listed ecological campus that houses several birds, mammals and other fauna. The campus is host to several flora species including baobab, mahogany, teak, acacia, neem, mango, cashew, coconut and 100 year old timber tree species. Waste management is deliberately practiced and perhaps the best site in urban Ghana that withstands natural hazards such as floods in Accra. Solid waste is separated and reused, recycled by students and faculty into usable materials such as manure, fuels. The drainage system is underground and has a central sewage system. Environmental pollution is reduced by defining routes for commercial vehicles and tolling on campus entrances/exits. As a 70, 000 people community we strive to use nature-based solutions, to mimic natural process to enhance sanitation, reduce flood risk and improve air quality.

Target 1.4: Equal rights to ownership, basic services, technology and economic resources

The Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research (ISSER) at the University of Ghana is undertaking research initiative, The Retail Finance Distribution (ReFinD) Research Initiative. The initiative focuses on deepening digital financial inclusion, and how to improve women's access to financial services in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The initiative aims to demonstrate both: how to effectively expand the reach of agent networks through public policy and commercial solutions that can plausibly be scaled up, and how to advance public knowledge about the structural constraints limiting agent networks globally.

ReFinD aim to deepen digital financial inclusion among the vulnerable and excluded: i.e., Women, poor households, SMEs and other retail businesses.

<https://refind-isser.ug.edu.gh/>

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The University of Ghana has a dedicated centre, Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy (CEGENSA). Its overarching goal is ensuring that gender equity is enshrined in various aspects of the institutional culture of the University of Ghana, the Ghanaian society and Africa, through quality research, teaching and learning, mentoring, advocacy and extension work. One of its consistent activities includes the compilation of gender-related articles published in the Ghanaian print media and availing it to the University community for gender-related research, teaching, and writing.

<https://www.cegensa.ug.edu.gh/>

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Dialogue and Partnerships with peer Universities. The Cluster network of collaborating institutions on the SDGs to share experiences. The University of Ghana is the cluster lead on SDG 1-NO POVERTY. The cluster members are; McMaster, Canada: University of Campinas, Brazil, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, Japan: Qatar University: University of Ghana- (cluster lead). Makerere University will be joining the cluster soon. During the 2022-2023 reporting period, there were individual activities by each university. Member Universities have had a change of management and we are making efforts to reconnect. The cluster lead, University of Ghana had its Vice Chancellor and focal person retiring in 2021. New officers have taken up the IAU-HESD activities at University of Ghana and we will step up our partnerships with members in this cluster going forward