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LIST OF ACRONYMS

BoG	Bank of Ghana
CPI	Consumer Price Index
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNI	Gross National Income
GSS	Ghana Statistical Services
HIPC	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
HDI	Human Development Index
IGF	Internally Generated Funds
IMF, ECF	International Monetary Fund's External Credit Facility
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MICs	Middle Income Countries
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoE	Ministry of Education
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MMDAs	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NCDs	Non-Communicable Diseases
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme
OPD	Outpatient Department
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
WDI	World Development Indicators
WEO	World Economic Outlook
1D1F	One District One Factory
DMSB	Dirección Municipal de Saneamiento Básico

SECTION ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background

The 2021 Population and Housing Census estimates Ghana's population as 31 million people with a total land area coverage of 238,535 km². Ghana's economy is the second largest economy in West Africa after Nigeria and ranks twelfth in Africa. Since 7th January, 1993, the country has been under a democratic system with an Executive President, a Parliamentary Legislature and a Judiciary.

Ghana attained lower-middle-income status in 2010 when it recorded a gross national income (GNI) per capita of \$1,230. According to the 2020 classification by the World Bank, middle-income countries (MICs) were classified as lower-middle-income economies with GNI per capita between \$1,035 and \$4,045 and upper-middle-income economies with GNI per capita between \$4,046 and \$12,535. Ghana therefore, remains a lower-middle-income country as its GNI per capita as of 2020 was \$2,230.

1.1 Purpose

The National Development Monitor was intended to be a quarterly publication on national development issues by the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC). However, the second edition, which

analyses the impact of COVID-19 on Ghana's economy and the Government's response was delayed due to the pandemic. It further compares Ghana's performance within the COVID-19 period against that of comparator countries – Rwanda, Côte d'Ivoire, Bolivia and Vietnam—using selected development indicators under four dimensions. The dimensions are Economic Development; Social Development; Environment, Infrastructure and Human Settlement; and Governance, Corruption and Public Accountability.

1.2 Structure

The second edition of the National Development Monitor has four sections. Section One provides the introduction. Section Two presents the impacts and responses to COVID-19 in Ghana while Section Three compares Ghana's performance to that of comparator countries based on selected indicators. Section Four provides key areas of improvements and concerns as well as policy recommendations on areas that require attention moving forward.

SECTION TWO

REVIEW OF THE IMPACTS AND RECOVERY RESPONSES TO COVID-19 IN GHANA

2.0 Introduction

The impacts of the corona virus have been devastating; affecting economies, lives and livelihoods globally. Ghana is one of the countries in Africa that has not been spared from the COVID-19 pandemic; recording 669 active cases out of 130,920 total confirmed cases and 1,209 deaths as of 27th November, 2021¹. Since 12th March, 2020 when the first two cases were detected at the Kotoka International Airport, the government has initiated several policy measures and interventions to curb the spread of the virus and reduce the impact of COVID-19 related restrictions on the economy to propel recovery.

This section analysis the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Ghana's economy and the recovery responses along four development dimensions – economic; social; environment, infrastructure and human settlements; and governance, corruption and public accountability.

2.1 Economic Development Dimension

The pandemic, though a health shock, has caused economic hardships in diverse ways. The government's partial lockdown in major cities, restrictions on social gathering, shift-operation of markets, and closure of borders have

had adverse impacts on businesses, workers and the macroeconomic conditions of the country.

An immediate impact of the pandemic was increased inflation, primarily due to a sharp rise in food inflation. Global and national restrictions adversely impacted the value chain, resulting in an excess demand for some commodities. The country also reported pockets of production and post-harvest losses. These contributed to a sharp rise in the monthly food inflation from 8.4 percent in March 2020 to 13.7 percent in July 2020 but declined to 11.2 percent in September 2020 as a result of government instituting some measures including the setting-up of the National Food Security Committee to ensure food security and providing special financing incentives for rice millers and poultry farmers to ensure continuous production. However, end-year food inflation reached 14.1 percent in 2020.

The economic shock imposed by the pandemic forced the government to review targets of selected macroeconomic indicators. Overall real GDP growth projection of 6.8 percent was revised to 0.9 percent while non-oil real GDP growth was revised from 6.7 percent to 1.6 percent. The end-of-year inflation target was

¹ <https://www.ghs.gov.gh/covid19/dashboardm.php>

also revised from 8.0 percent to 11.0 percent. Similarly, the overall fiscal deficit was revised from 4.7 percent to 11.4 percent of GDP while the primary balance was reviewed from a surplus of 0.7 percent to a deficit of 4.6 percent of GDP. The government's total revenues and grants were revised downwards while total expenditures were revised upwards to accommodate COVID-19 related expenditures. The unprecedented impact also led to the suspension of the set of fiscal responsibility rules for the 2020 financial year in accordance with section 3 (1) of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2018 (Act 982).

The disruptive impact of the pandemic on workers and businesses cannot be underrated. A cross-section of workers experienced reductions in wages and working hours while many others, particularly workers in non-essential service, were laid off. These, coupled with a general increase in inflation, reduced the earnings and real incomes of workers. The pandemic also had a disruptive impact on oil prices, trade volumes, foreign direct investments and general economic activities with some businesses shutting down.

In response, the government has developed a three-and-a-half-year GHS100 billion Ghana CARES "Obaatanpa" comprehensive programme to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is intended to return the country to a sustained path of robust growth and create a stronger, more resilient and transformed economy.

These notwithstanding, the textile and pharmaceutical subsectors

experienced some boom through the production of personal protective equipment, hand sanitizers and face masks, among others. Consequently, retail activities increased in the process, largely in the informal sector. Also, the pandemic undoubtedly increased ICT-related activities including e-commerce and online meetings. Additionally, remittances recorded an increase from 5.1 percent in 2019 to 5.2 percent in 2020².

2.2 Social Development Dimension

This section highlights the impacts and responses to COVID-19 in the health, education, nutrition, business and employment sectors.

2.2.1 Health Delivery

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in increased stress on the health system including a rise in occupancy rate due to hospitalisation and demand for oxygen masks. The pandemic also caused challenges including inadequate quarantine and isolation facilities; irregular laboratory supplies and other materials; and lack of legislation in dealing with public health emergencies. It has also brought to the fore, the importance of preventive health care, the importance of adopting hygienic practices, the need for innovation in health service delivery, the seminal importance of nutrition, and attention to Non-Communicable Diseases which compromises the immunity of affected persons. Also, this phenomenon impacted negatively on the internally generated funds (IGF) of the health facilities and a possible loss of incomes, especially to the private sector operators. It also uncovered

² 2021 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana

years of under-investment and uneven distribution of health infrastructure and logistics across the country.

In providing solutions to these healthcare issues, government developed and implemented the COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP); employed more health workers; including 38,000 nurses, provided tax exemptions of GHS36.8 million to frontline staff, expanded testing, tracing and treatment; distributed 10,000 hospital beds across health facilities in each of the 275 constituencies; and in partnership with the private sector, built a 100-bed hospital – the Ghana Infectious Disease Centre (GIDC). These significantly increased hospital admission capacity across the country. Additionally, 20 out of 26 clinics with a residence for medical officers were completed in 2020.

More so, the capacities of laboratories have increased to provide for COVID-19 testing. There has also been the expansion of COVID-19 testing facilities from 2 to 16 across the country. Further, isolation centres have been established in all regions and districts. Medical drones were also deployed to deliver COVID-19 testing samples which eased the stress of the turnaround time for test results. Under the COVID-19 Private Sector Fund, 10,000 test kits were donated to the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research; and 468,770 PPEs supplied to various National COVID-19 Treatment Centres. The Fund also supported the training of 55 doctors, nurses, and biomedical scientists. Also, according to our World in Data, about 2.33 million Ghanaians have been fully vaccinated

while 3.44 million have been partially vaccinated as at the end of 2021.

Government is committed to reducing the health infrastructure gap by introducing Agenda 111 to build 100-bed district hospitals in the medium-to-long term.

2.2.2 Education

The impact of the pandemic on children's access and quality of education was severely felt with the closure of schools that affected some 12.9 million learners between pre-primary and secondary education levels. The closures also disproportionately affected the vulnerable and disadvantaged students who did not have the resources to fully access the televised and online options. Private schools that rely on tuition to meet operational expenses were affected by the closure leading to loss of jobs and pay-cuts for teaching and non-teaching staff.

The government recognising the severe impact on teaching and learning activated e-learning platforms to ensure continuity in academic activities. In addition, televised (Ghana Learning TV) and online (I-campus) programmes, along with radio reading programmes were provided to students for continuous learning during the period. Government also made provisions for Final year Senior High School (SHS) and Junior High School (JHS) students to return to school. In a bid to ease the burden on parents, the government absolved the examination fees for students participating in the Basic Education Certificate Exams (BECE) and West Africa Senior School Certification Examination (WASSCE). Second-

year JHS and SHS students returned to school in August to complete the remainder of the 2019/2020 curriculum. In addition, government provided 11 million staff and students with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and provided cooked meals to all JHS final year students.

The universities were less challenged because they leveraged e-learning platforms that had been explored greatly with distance learning students. However, migrating the large number of students to the platform was a major challenge coupled with internet connectivity.

2.2.3 Businesses and Households

The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant negative impacts on businesses and households. The restriction of movement under the Imposition of Restrictions Act, 2020 (Act 1012) to contain the spread exerted a significant adverse impact on job security, earnings and employment opportunities. The imposition impacted adversely on especially for the informal sector which remains the major employer, accounting for about 71.3 percent of total employment³. These actions also slowed down activities in the formal sector, contributing to some lay-offs and closure of businesses, with the private sector being the hardest hit.

Data from the Ghana COVID-19 Business Tracker Wave I report indicated that during Ghana's partial lockdown, 35.7 percent of business establishments and 24.3 percent of household firms closed down. Firms in the partial lockdown

areas recorded the highest levels of closures during that period, with 51.5 percent of firms in Greater Accra and 55.4 percent of firms in the Ashanti region being closed. The sectors with the highest levels of closures during the partial lockdown were education (65.4%), financial services (47.0%), transport and storage (46.4%) and manufacturing (39.8%). Even after the lifting of the lockdown measures, 16.2 percent of business establishments and 14.6 percent of household firms were still closed at the time of the survey. The sectors with the highest rates of closures were education (63.0%), transport (34.0%) and accommodation and food services (24.0%).

The decline in sales had implications for employment and the operating model of businesses. The COVID-19 shocks forced many businesses to reduce costs by cutting staff hours and wages, and in some cases laying off workers. However, some businesses adjusted their business models by relying more on digital solutions, such as mobile money and the internet for sales. Additionally, employers adopted a combination of strategies to mitigate the effects of the pandemic including working from home or on shift and reduced working hours and pay-cut to avoid potential collapse of businesses as an alternative to evoking the redundancy clause in its relationship with employees. Others had no choice but to lay off workers.

As much as 46.1 percent of businesses reduced wages for 25.7 percent of the total workforce, translating into wage reduction for estimated 770,124

³ Based on data from the 2016/17 Ghana Living Standards Survey

workers. Additionally, 35.9 percent of businesses reduced the hours worked for 23.2 percent of the total workforce, an estimated 695,209 workers (see Table 1).

Table 1: Impact of COVID-19 on businesses and employment, 2020

Areas of impact	Laid-off workers		Granted leave of absence		Reduced hours worked		Reduced wages	
	Firms (%)	Workers (%)	Firms (%)	Workers (%)	Firms (%)	Workers (%)	Firms (%)	Workers (%)
Business establishments*	4.0	1.4	19.1	15.9	35.9	23.2	46.1	25.7
Household firms	3.3	1.6	17.4	8.5	27.1	11.6	40.0	22.8
Young SMEs**	0.0	0.0	30.5	26.9	28.8	23.0	35.6	23.0
Sector								
Manufacturing	4.3	1.0	23.0	10.0	37.4	20.7	54.5	14.8
Agric & Other Industries	5.7	1.0	29.5	12.2	30.6	9.3	39.7	11.7
Trade	2.3	1.2	13.1	15.2	30.2	26.7	40.5	28.0
Accommodation / Food	6.7	5.0	22.6	19.5	23.1	23.2	33.8	30.5
Other Services	4.4	1.3	19.2	20.6	42.5	29.2	50.1	36.3
Size								
Micro (1-5)	2.3	1.4	13.3	10.9	34.6	27.7	46.3	35.0
Small (6-30)	8.9	2.4	31.5	17.7	37.7	23.8	44.8	25.5
Medium (31-100)	2.8	0.5	44.9	30.5	50.6	31.0	58.1	42.5
Large (100+)	3.6	0.4	26.8	4.8	29.3	11.0	11.5	2.5
Age of firms								
Young (0-4)	10.2	2.9	23.1	44.1	37.3	42.4	48.6	45.4
Maturing (5-14)	3.8	1.7	17.1	14.5	36.3	19.0	44.8	23.2
Established (15+)	2.8	0.9	20.8	13.8	35.0	24.3	47.1	25.4
Other groups								
Informal	2.9	1.7	16.8	20.1	38.0	27.7	45.5	30.3
Exporter	2.8	0.3	14.1	3.7	17.9	3.8	66.4	5.4

Source: GSS, 2020

* Based on the 2013 IBES sample. ** Based on SMEs from NBSSI client lists founded after 2013.

Government cognisant of the direct and immediate effect of restrictions and business close-down and workers lay-off provided 1,827,581 and 917,142 cooked food packs to vulnerable and underprivileged persons within Accra and Kumasi respectively⁴. Also, in partnership with Faith-Based Organizations, dry food packages were distributed to about 470,000 families during the period of the partial lockdown. Government also absorbed the cost of water supplied for six months to all residents; and absorbed the electricity bill for three months for all residents, and later

⁴2021 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government of Ghana.

extended for customers on the lifeline tariff for additional 6 months.

In addressing the impact on businesses, government launched and operationalised the GHS750 million Coronavirus Alleviation Programme - Business Support Scheme (CAP-BuSS) for several Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs). In addition, the government through the Bank of Ghana reduced policy rate, capital adequacy ratio and primary reserve ratio to allow banks to cushion businesses and customers severely impacted by the pandemic through loan restructuring and repayment moratoriums. Furthermore, the banks provided about GHS7 billion worth of support to borrowers between March and June 2020. The government also locally procured personal protective equipment (PPE) from the pharmaceutical and garment and textile industries to help boost their production and lower potential job losses and business closures.

The civil and public service sectors innovatively responded to the challenge through flexible working hours, including working from home and shift systems. A similar strategy was adopted by some private businesses. Further, government action of maintaining essential services (including health, food, finance, and security) during the pandemic has lowered potential job losses and business closures. There is now a rising employment opportunity in the pharmaceutical and garment and textile industries in providing medical products. The government's initiative of supporting businesses through the Coronavirus Alleviation Programme of GHS1

billion contributed to minimising the potential crisis of the labour market.

2.3 Environment, Infrastructure and Human Settlement Dimension

This section highlights the impact and responses to COVID-19 on the environment, information communication technology, and transportation.

2.3.1 Environment

The impact of the COVID-19 on the environment and ecosystem was both positive and negative. On the positive side, the impact of the COVID-19 has been that the lockdowns throughout the world slowed down human activities and led to the reduction of pollution on the environment. However, the negative effects have been the generation of plastic waste from the use of hand sanitizers, improper disposal of used masks, among others.

2.3.2 Information Communication Technology

The impact of COVID-19 on the sector was generally positive as key indicators recorded improvements. The lock-down and subsequent working from home arrangements as well as online educational platforms that were introduced for children increased internet usage. This is evident in the rise in access and usage of the internet, with the ratio of mobile data subscribers to population and the number of internet service providers rising by 14.8 percent and 28.9 percent respectively. Also, the total broadband capacity in use for development increased from 417.69 Gigabytes to 759.29 Gigabytes in 2020. The government in response reduced

the Communications Service Tax (CST) from 9 percent to 5 percent to promote remote work and online services.

2.3.3 Transport

The impact of COVID-19 on the transport sector was both positive and negative. The number of air freight and passengers, and maritime cargo traffic reduced by 12.9 percent, 59.8 percent and 4.7 percent respectively. The maritime container traffic, transit cargo traffic and transit container traffic on the other hand increased by 22.8 percent, 9.7 percent and 24.6 percent respectively. Rail passenger traffic throughput declined by 49.6 percent. This is attributable to the effects of COVID-19 including the suspension of all passenger train services on the Accra-Tema, Accra-Nsawam, Takoradi-Tarkwa and Takoradi-Sekondi via Kojokrom.

Port activities and customs-oriented procedures were severely affected as a result of the pandemic. There was a significant reduction in physical interactions between port operators at the ports creating a delay in shipment clearance, inspection of containers and breakdown in exchange of customs information. In response, government provided some financial and tax incentives to producers and manufacturers, businesses and firms in the country under the CARES programme which is expected to sustain and continually make them more competitive in international trade.

The restriction of movements and subsequent easing and social distancing measures affected the ability of drivers in the informal sector

to generate the needed sales and also caused the increase in fares further compounding the burden of the poor and vulnerable. Formal operators also suffered serious financial constraints. The government provided operations and payroll support to Metro Mass Transit and Intercity STC between March to December 2020 amounting to about GHS 20.3 million.

The pandemic also had a huge effect on the aviation sector with the closure of the borders causing a decline in passenger and aircraft movement by 59.8 percent and 46.4 percent respectively. In addition, the reduction in flights and passengers caused a reduction in revenue from airplane landing fees, fees for using Ghana's airspace, and other charges such as the passenger safety charge.

The government provided support of about GHS 47.1 million for the operations of Ghana Civil Aviation Authority, PSC Tema Shipyard and Dry-Dock, Ghana Airports Company Limited, and Ghana Post Company Limited in 2020. As part of the measures to minimize the spread of the virus and its adverse impact, the government instituted measures where passenger arrivals at Kotoka International Airport go through a mandatory testing procedure with some traced or quarantined where necessary.

2.3.4 Energy

The pandemic caused the rescheduling of the completion of certain vital projects including the Self-Help Electrification Project (SHEP). In addition, with the closure of businesses, there was lower electricity

demand by business customers resulting in reduced revenues. The disruption of social and economic activities led to some business customers defaulting in the payment of their bills, posing a significant risk to cash flows required for operations and debt servicing. In addition, due to the prioritization of programmes earmarked to alleviate the spread of the COVID-19, it was difficult for players in the sector to seek financial assistance from the government.

The unpredictable economic downturn meant that several investment decisions were deferred as in the case of the exploration sub-sector. Also, the planned second open oil licensing round scheduled for 2020 was postponed. In addition, construction activities in the power subsector were severely disrupted. Some private sector contractors served forced majeure notices citing the inability to supply equipment and personnel partly due to the trade restrictions on movement of persons and goods across the world.

To cushion citizens from the impact of the COVID-19, the government instituted the electricity subsidy programme, providing full coverage for over one million lifeline customers and subsidised 50 percent of the consumption of all other customers for the period.

2.4 Governance, Corruption, and Public Accountability

2.4.1 Metropolitan, Municipal and District revenue generation

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the reduction in revenue especially

Internally Generated Funds (IGF) and Central Government transfers to the Assemblies. The shortfall was a result of the fact that most businesses experienced low sales and could not pay their statutory fees, rates and rents. Another factor was that revenue collectors could not work at the peak of the pandemic because of the associated risks of coming into contact with people. In addition, the closure of the borders meant that the volume of goods and services transiting through the border drastically decreased affecting revenues accrued from the border.

The government had to adjust its financial year budget to keep workers in the public sector on the payroll, whilst at the same time rolling out social interventions to minimise the adverse social effect on the citizens through rebates on utility (mainly water and electricity). Indeed, the government instituted one billion-stimulus package during the peak of the pandemic to support the vulnerable.

2.4.2 Security

COVID-19 also posed security concerns to the nation especially along the border towns. A major security challenge that COVID-19 created along Ghana's border towns was the increase in illegal entries (i.e., illegal migration) into the country through unapproved routes. As of the end of July, 2020, the number of unapproved routes along the southern section of the Ghana-Togo border increased from 23 to 120. There was also an upsurge in crime, unlawful entry, stealing, and defilement cases. This led to congestion in prison cells in the municipality of border towns and

increased expenditure of the security agencies in the area of feeding and testing of suspected criminals and convicted prisoners alike. The closure of the borders made a lot of people who wished to do business or attend social events in Ghana resort to using many unapproved routes. This posed a security challenge to the country at large, especially with reports of terrorist attacks in neighbouring countries. Health authorities were unable to keep track of these illegal entrants to test them for their COVID-19 status. This increased the tendency of spreading the COVID-19 virus if these illegal entrants were positive.

Accordingly, the government through the security services deployed the police, immigration and armed forces to border towns to patrol and prevent entry into the country through unapproved routes. In addition, the government expanded its contact tracing programme to ensure that more persons were tested at epicentres.

2.4.3 Public Service Delivery

Public institutions provide administrative, legislative and development services to the people at the national and subnational levels. These functions are performed by mobilising both financial and human resources and allocating them effectively and efficiently using governance structures. The performance of these functions partly grounded to a halt due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All government institutions had to run a shift system for their staff to ensure social distance in their offices. Important meetings, workshops, and field activities were suspended

all due to COVID-19 restrictions.

At the subnational level, some district assemblies could not hold the first and second quarters ordinary meetings to deliberate and pass resolutions for the administration and development of their district. Also, associated restrictions to curb and contain the spread have caused a social and economic downturn at the subnational level. As a result, many assemblies could not tax businesses to generate revenue for development. In addition, the limited IGF and transfers from the central government and donor support had to be diverted to provide relief packages for the people, particularly the vulnerable.

These have had serious repercussions on the effective and efficient public service delivery at the districts. Moreover, the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) who supported the local governance system in providing services suffered dwindling funds for development, halt in project implementation, job losses and other financial supports (loans) by staff. These have brought untold hardships and reversed the clock of development as many depended on these NGOs and CSOs for their livelihoods.

The government in a bid to ensure continued public service delivery instituted the Smart Workplace (virtual workplace platform) which provided for document management, correspondent management, email services, and remote working capabilities. In addition, the government enhanced its digitisation agenda including the deployment of the Centralised Digital

Payment Platform (CDPP) dubbed Ghana.Gov Platform, on a pilot basis. The platform facilitated payments due Government from tax and non-tax revenue sources, and for services rendered by government agencies including, utility service providers and other public sector agencies to the general public.

SECTION THREE

COMPARISON OF COVID-19 IMPACTS AND RECOVERY RESPONSES BETWEEN GHANA AND SELECTED PEERS

3.0 INTRODUCTION

The novel coronavirus has caused devastating effects to lives, livelihoods and the performance of national economies. Although COVID-19 is a global pandemic affecting all countries, its effects have varied across countries mainly due to the different policy responses and strategies either to prevent the spread of the virus or mitigate its impact.

This section provides an overview of the COVID-19 impacts, policy responses and interventions that were initiated by the Government of Ghana as compared to those by the governments of Bolivia, Côte d'Ivoire, Vietnam, and Rwanda. It covers four development dimensions – Economic; Social; Environment, Infrastructure, and Human Settlement; and Governance, Corruption, and Public Accountability.

3.1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This section provides a comparative assessment of performance for key economic development indicators such as GDP growth; structure of the economy; foreign direct investment; domestic credit to the private sector; trade balance; debt-to GDP; lending rate; and inflation.

3.1.1 GDP growth rate

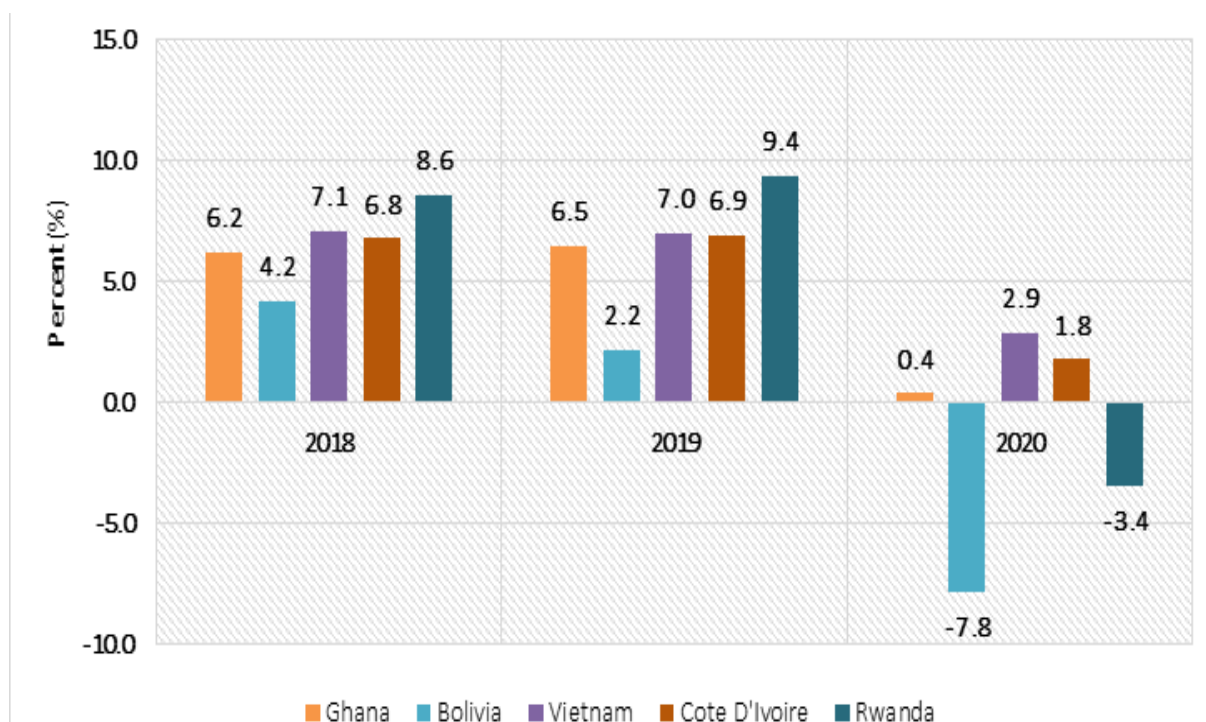
GDP growth in Ghana declined significantly to one of its lowest in modern history from 6.5 percent in 2019 to 0.4 percent in 2020. The low growth was a result of the impact of COVID-19. This was however better than Bolivia (-7.8%) and Rwanda (-3.4%).

Rwanda in 2019 recorded the highest GDP growth but declined to a negative growth of 3.4 percent with Bolivia also recording a low rate (-7.8%) from 2.2 percent in 2019. Vietnam and Côte d'Ivoire recorded growths of 2.9 percent and 1.8 percent respectively in 2020, higher than Ghana, Rwanda, and Bolivia (see Figure 1).

The Government of Ghana initiated about US\$17.9 billion (GHS100 billion) Ghana CARES “Obaatanpa” programme to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, return the country to a sustained path of robust economic growth, and create a stronger, more resilient and transformed economy. In Bolivia, the Central Bank injected about US\$500 million (3.5 billion Bolivianos) into the financial system in the form of bonds to shore-up the banking sector liquidity. The Government of Rwanda also introduced the Economic Recovery Plan (ERP) for the period May 2020 to December 2021 to mitigate the economic and social impacts of the pandemic. In Vietnam,

the government pursued dual goals of health security and growth with stimulus packages worth 3.5 percent of GDP. These included tax concessions, business fee reductions, electricity tariff cuts and cash transfers. In the case of Côte d'Ivoire, the government initiated the Economic, Social and Humanitarian Support Plan which was valued at US\$2.95 million (1,700 billion CFAF). The economic component of the Plan focused on numerous tax incentives, and support funds and packages for the private sector including the informal economy.

Figure 1: Annual GDP Growth Rate, 2018 -2020 (%)



Source: WDI, 2021

3.1.2 Structure of the economy

Ghana's economy, just like its comparator countries have been largely dominated by the services sector, recording a share of 47.9 percent in 2020. The industry sector has been the second major contributor to the economies of Bolivia, Ghana, Vietnam, and Cote d'Ivoire from 2018 to 2020. For Rwanda, agriculture has been the second major contributor to its economy (see Table 2).

In 2020, similar to Rwanda, the services sector in Ghana deteriorated by 0.3 percentage points from 2019

performance. Ghana recorded the highest share (47.9%) relative to Rwanda (46.4%) and Vietnam (41.6%) in 2020. Ghana's agriculture sector share of the economy increased to 20.5 percent in 2020 from 18.5 percent in 2019. Ghana outperformed Vietnam (14.9%) but recorded a lower share compared to Rwanda (26.3%) in 2020. The contribution of the industry sector in Ghana in 2020 was also high compared to Rwanda (19.3%) but lower than that of Vietnam (33.7%).

The services sector of Ghana was heavily affected by COVID-19 and its

related restrictions, resulting in a fall in its share of GDP in favour of agriculture and industry. Government initiatives such as Planting for Food and Jobs; Rearing for Food and Jobs; financing incentives for rice millers and poultry farmers; and the establishment of the National Food Security Committee provide some plausible reasons for the improved share for agriculture. The increase in agriculture share for Rwanda was largely due to the government's financial support initiatives including the economic recovery fund pool which made significant investments in the sector to ensure sustained food security and export.

Table 2: Agriculture, Industry and service values added (% of GDP)

Agriculture (including forestry, and fishing), value added (% of GDP)			
Country	2018	2019	2020
Ghana	19.5	18.5	20.5
Bolivia*	11.5	12.2	n/a
Vietnam	14.7	14.0	14.9
Côte d'Ivoire*	20.5	20.7	n/a
Rwanda	24.6	23.5	26.3
Industry (including construction), value added (% of GDP)			
Ghana	33.5	33.2	31.6
Bolivia*	26.2	25.2	n/a
Vietnam	34.2	34.5	33.7
Côte d'Ivoire*	21.0	21.2	n/a
Rwanda	17.3	18.9	19.3
Services, value added (% of GDP)			
Ghana	47.0	48.2	47.9
Bolivia*	49.1	50.7	n/a
Vietnam	41.1	41.6	41.6
Côte d'Ivoire*	43.3	43.1	n/a
Rwanda	49.7	49.1	46.4

Source: GSS/WDI, 2021

* Data is not available for Bolivia, and Cote D'Ivoire in 2020.

3.1.3 Foreign Direct Investment (% of GDP)

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Ghana increased from 4.4 percent of GDP in 2018 to 4.8 percent in 2019. There was however a sharp decline to 1.9 percent in 2020 partly due to the impact of COVID-19. As part of measures to increase and sustain investment, the Ghana Stock Exchange, Ghana Investment

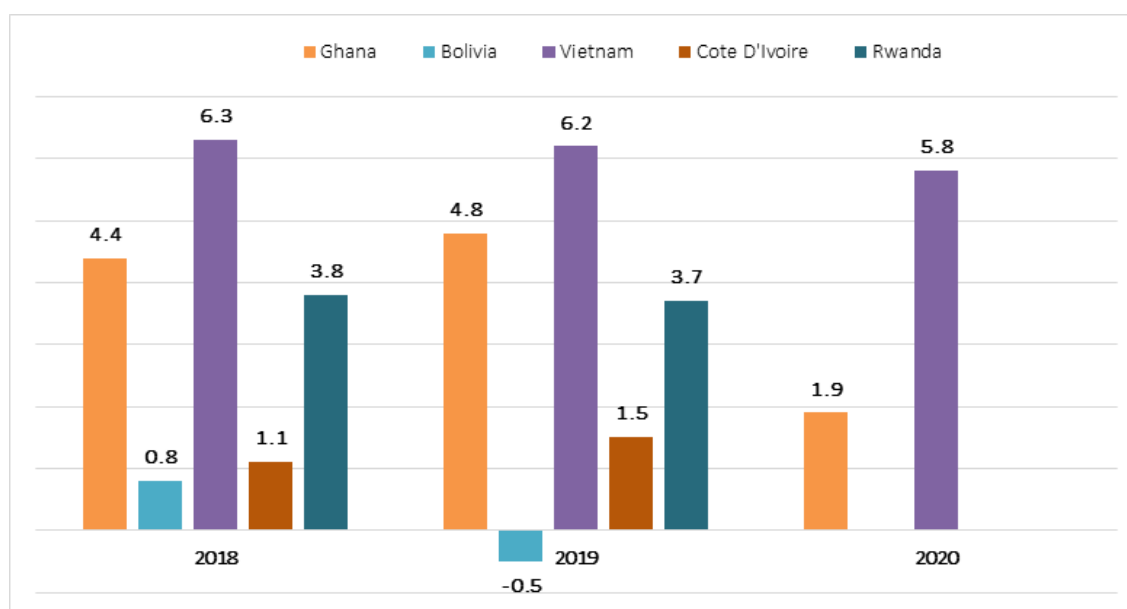
Promotion Centre and other agencies responsible for investment promotion developed a digital platform to provide market intelligence on investment opportunities.

Vietnam recorded the highest FDI of 6.2 percent of GDP in 2019, followed by Ghana (4.9%), Rwanda (3.7%), Cote d'Ivoire (1.5%), and

Bolivia (-0.5%). However, Vietnam experienced a decline in FDI in 2020 to 5.8 percent of GDP (see Figure 2). The continuous spread of COVID-19 and the associated restrictions including border closure and frequent partial lockdowns across the globe posed a high risk of attracting and sustaining foreign investment. Also, many foreign business promotion events were cancelled not only in Ghana, but the rest of the comparator countries. The government initiated the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) amendment Bill to provide a framework for a significant increase in FDI; passed the Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Act, 2020 (Act 1039) to increase PPP investments; and finally, institutional reforms and capacity strengthening in GIPC and Ghana Free Zones Authority. The reductions in policy and interest rates, and introduction of various tax incentives contributed to minimising the extent of a potential fall in FDI for Ghana and its peers.

Figure 2: Foreign Direct Investment (% of GDP)

Source: Ceicdata/WDI, 2021



* Data is not available for Bolivia, Cote D'Ivoire and Rwanda in 2020.

3.1.4 Domestic Credit to the Private Sector (% of GDP)

Domestic credit to the private sector as a percentage of GDP in Ghana increased from 11.7 percent in 2018 to 12.5 percent in 2019 but declined to 10.9 percent in 2020 (see Figure 3). Several initiatives impacted domestic credit to the private sector. Domestic credit to the private sector declined in 2020 despite the implementation of some interventions to stabilise the sector. These included: the recapitalisation exercise and banking sector clean-up by the Bank of Ghana; implementation of measures to clear outstanding payments with businesses and ensure prompt payment of current obligations; and initiation of the US\$133.9 million (GHS750 million) Coronavirus Alleviation Programme -

Business Support Scheme (CAP-BuSS) to support and mitigate the impact of the pandemic on Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs).

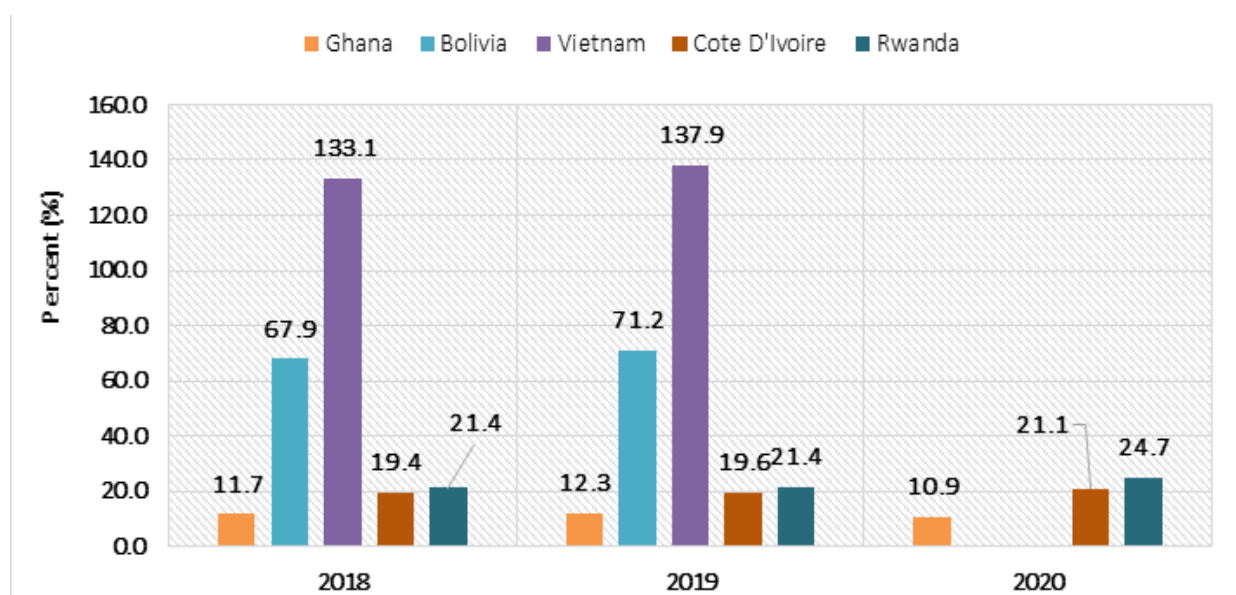
Despite these efforts, Ghana's domestic credit to the private sector as a percentage of GDP remained relatively low compared to its comparator countries, mainly due to high interest rates in the country and an increase in sales of government treasury bills. On annual basis, domestic credit to the private sector declined to 10.9 percent in 2020 from 12.7 percent in 2019 compared to Côte d'Ivoire (21.1%) and Rwanda (24.7%) in 2020 (see Figure 3). Over the period, Vietnam recorded the highest average growth of 114.6 percent followed by Bolivia (54.4%), Rwanda (19.3%), and Cote d' Ivoire (19.1%).

The Bolivian government postponed the payment of some taxes (corporate income tax, VAT, and transaction

tax) with the possibility to pay them in tranches. Payment of corporate income tax was deferred and independent workers could claim tax deductions against their expenses on health, schooling, food, and related expenditures. The government created a US\$ 219 million fund to support the operations of micro, small and medium businesses. The interventions contributed to an increased deficit. The government of Côte d'Ivoire adopted an emergency health response plan of US\$166.6 million (96 billion CFAF or 0.3% of GDP). Additionally, US\$173.5 million (100 billion CFAF or 0.3% of GDP) was provided for the informal sector; US\$260.3 million (150 billion CFAF or 0.4% of GDP) for small and medium enterprises; supported large companies with US\$173.5 million (100 billion CFAF or 0.3% of GDP); and provided the agriculture sector with US\$520.6 million (300 billion CFAF or 0.8% of GDP).

Figure 3: Domestic credit to the private sector (% of GDP)

Source: WDI, 2021



* Data is not available for Bolivia and Vietnam in 2020.

3.1.5 Trade Balance

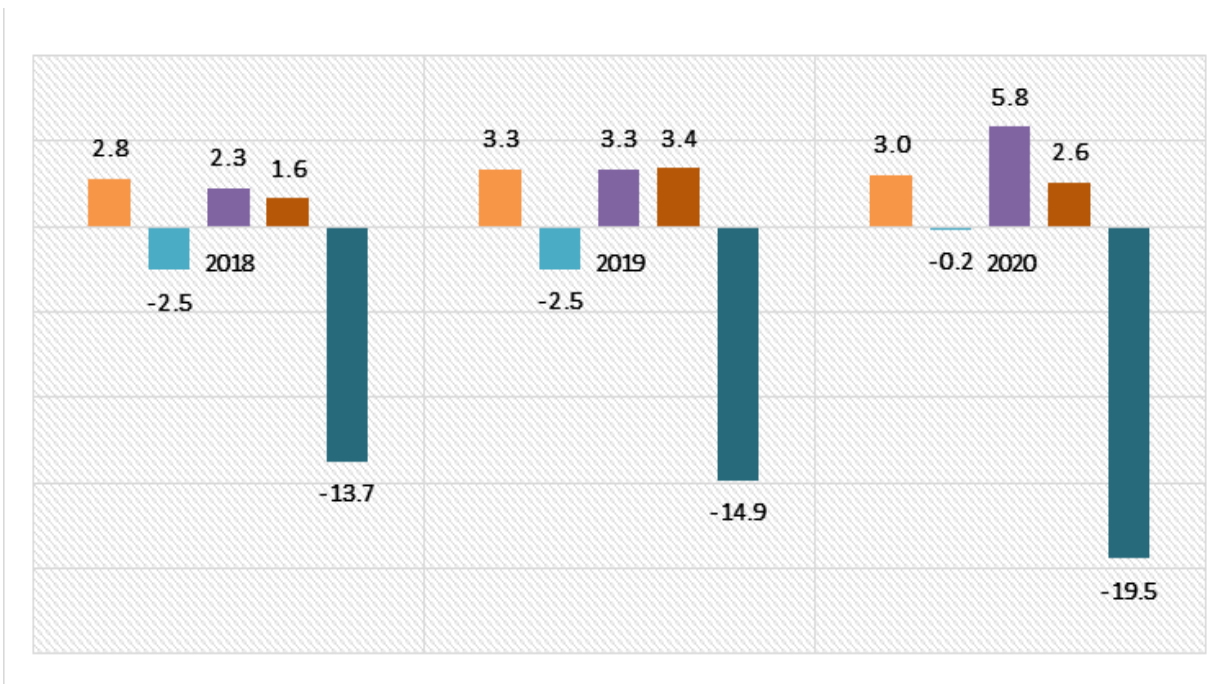
Trade balance for Ghana improved slightly from 2.8 percent in 2018 to 3.3 percent in 2019, but declined in 2020 to 3.0 percent (see Figure 4). The decline could be attributed to COVID-19. In comparison to Vietnam (5.8%), Ghana’s performance was outpaced but was significantly better than Cote d’Ivoire (2.6%), Bolivia (-0.2%) and Rwanda (-19.5%).

The government provided several responses to increase export and further sustain the trade surplus recorded since 2017. These included: the support for domestic banks to provide about US\$1.25 billion (GHS7 billion) of support to borrowers (between March and June 2020), through loan restructuring, interest

rate reduction, and granting of new facilities; and continued implementation of flagship projects such as planting for food and jobs and rearing for food and jobs.

The Economic Recovery Plan by Rwanda; the stimulus packages with the dual goal of health security and growth by Vietnam; the financial injection by Bolivia; and the Economic, Social and Humanitarian Support Plan by Côte d’Ivoire provided support for businesses within these economies. Vietnam is among few countries where local producers capitalised on significant exportation of PPEs in the early period of the pandemic, particularly to nations like the United States and France.

Figure 4: Trade balance (% of GDP)



Source: countryeconomy.com, GSS, 2021

3.1.6 Debt-to-GDP

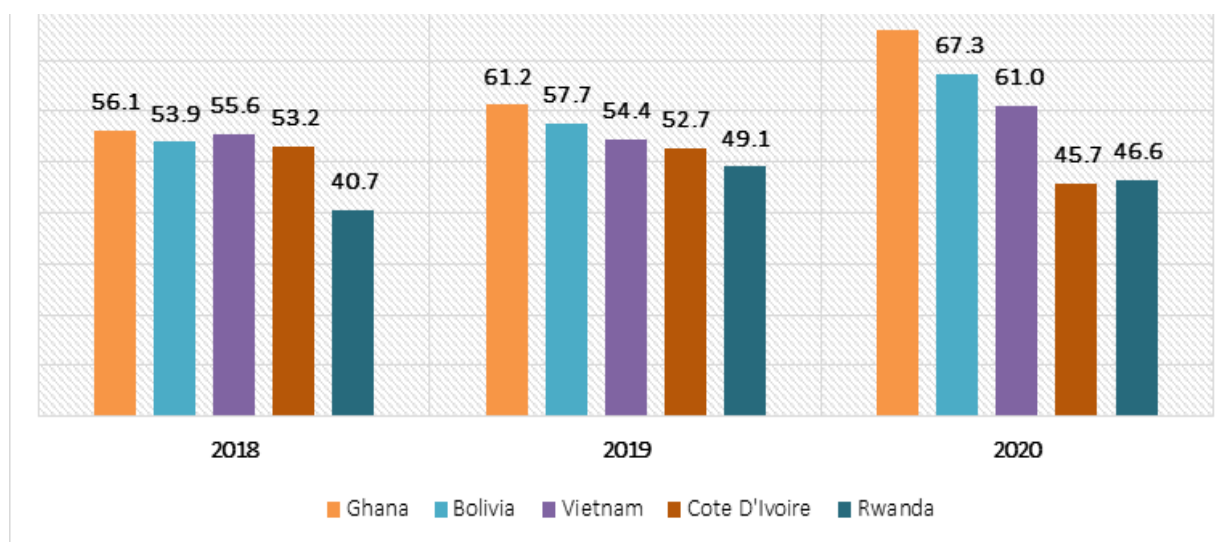
As of the end of 2020, Ghana's debt-to-GDP ratio had increased to 76.1 percent from 61.2 percent in 2019. This is extremely high compared to Rwanda (46.6%), Côte d'Ivoire (45.7%), Bolivia (67.3%), and Vietnam (61.0%); see Figure 5. In Ghana, the high debt-to-GDP ratio was due to accumulated contingent liabilities from 2018 to 2020 and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the financial sector clean-up accounted for 4.6 percent of GDP, and the materialization of contingent liabilities in the energy sector of about 1.8 percent of GDP in 2018 and 2019 brought off-balance sheet liabilities onto the debt stock.

Ghana's overall budget deficit as a percentage of GDP stood at 11.7 percent in December 2020 as against a revised budget target of 11.4 percent compared to 4.8 percent in December 2019. This was a result of a downward

revision of total revenues and grants to reflect the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Other factors contributing to the debt increase included the government's issuance of Eurobond in February 2020; initiatives to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic effect; and the financial and energy sector bailouts.

Bolivia recorded a budget deficit of -9.7 percent of GDP in 2020, Rwanda (-5.2%), Côte d'Ivoire (-5.5%), and Vietnam (-5.6%). Vietnam's high fiscal deficit is due to lower-than-expected state budget revenue and an increase in regular spending caused by severe COVID-19 impacts. Similarly, Bolivia's deficit is attributed to high health-related expenditure coupled with low tax revenue. Governments in these economies financed their deficits largely through COVID-19 budget support loans, donations and grants from cooperating partners.

Figure 5: Gross Debt (% of GDP), 2018-2020



Source: MoF, WDI, 2021

3.1.7 Lending rate

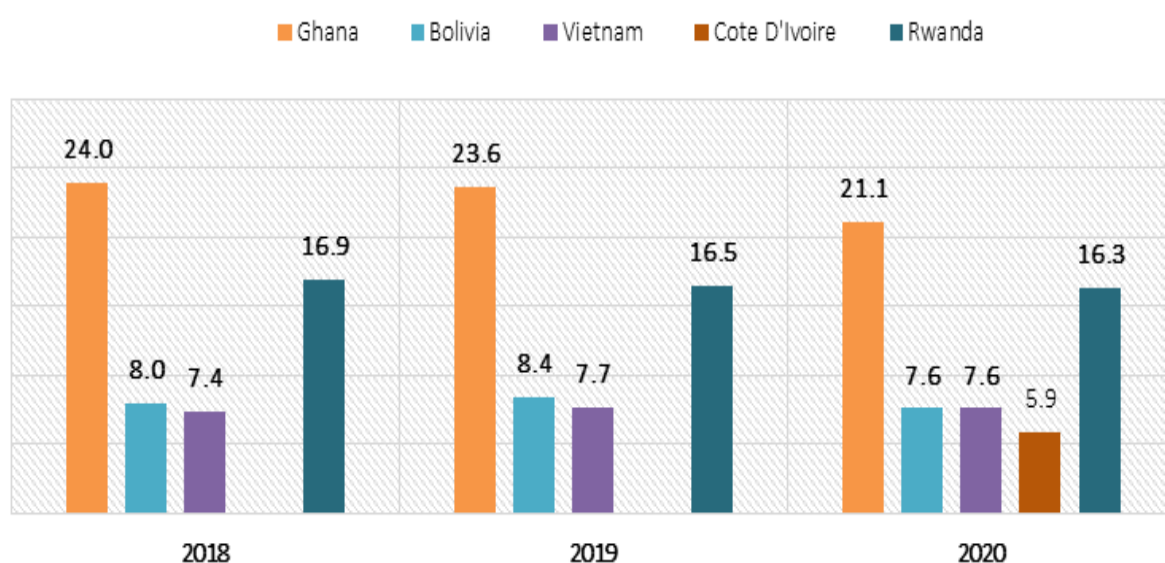
The lending rates of banks in Ghana declined from 23.6 percent in 2019 to 21.1 percent in 2020. This compares unfavourably to Bolivia and Vietnam (7.6% each), Côte d'Ivoire (5.9%), and Rwanda (16.3%) in 2020 (see Figure 6). The Ghana Reference Rate, which serves as the base rate for the commercial banks, steadily declined from 16.1 percent in December 2019 to 14.7 percent in December 2020. Despite the fall in rate, Ghana's

lending rate remains higher than its peers making it more expensive for the private sector to borrow.

The government through the Bank of Ghana lowered the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) by 150 basis points to 14.5 percent in March 2020 and remained the same throughout the year, in an attempt to ease the burden on businesses and their operation cost. Rwandan government reduced the policy

rate by 50 basis points to 4.5 percent and extended the lending facility by 0.5 percent of GDP. Similarly, several commercial banks in Vietnam have lowered interest rates for businesses affected by COVID-19. The Central Bank of Vietnam reduced the policy rate by 0.25 percentage points to 1 percent.

Figure 6: Lending rate, 2018-2020 (%)



Source: WDI, 2021

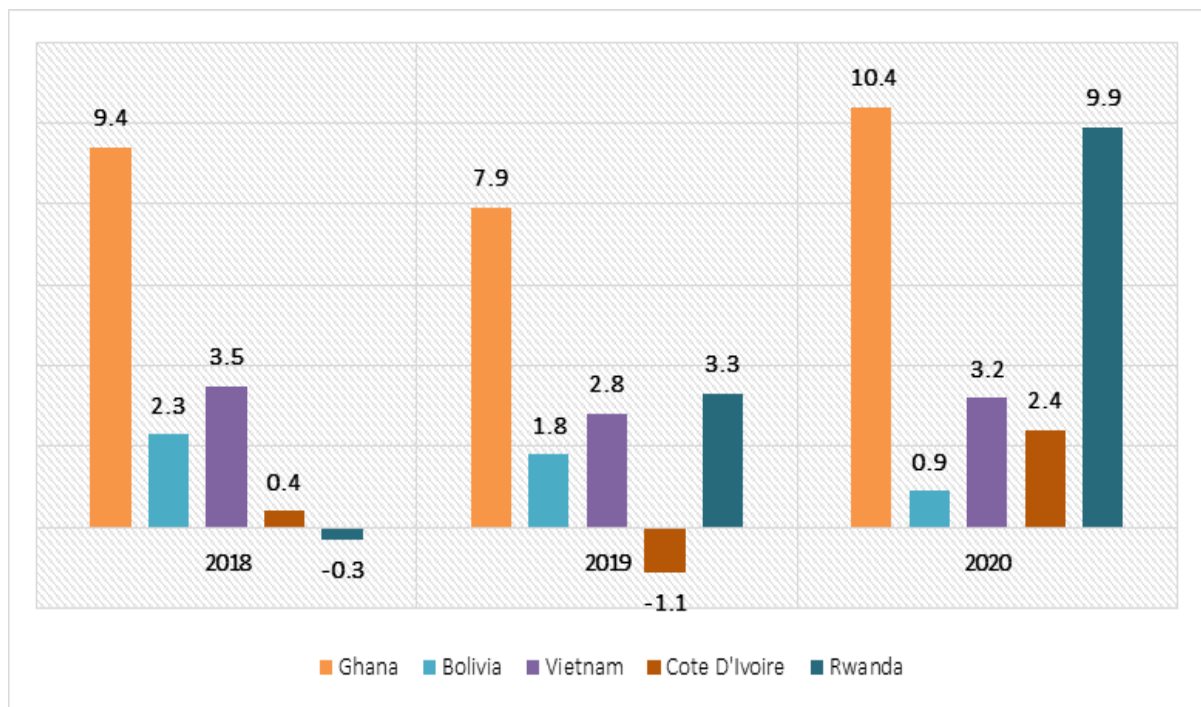
* Data is not available for Côte d'Ivoire in 2018 and 2019.

3.1.8 Inflation (Annual %)

Ghana's inflation declined from 9.4 percent in 2018 to 7.9 percent in 2019 but increased by 2.5 percentage points to a double-digit figure of 10.4 percent in 2020 (see Figure 7). This was a better performance compared to the revised

target of 11.0 percent. End of period inflation for Ghana in 2020 was higher compared to Rwanda (9.9%), Vietnam (3.2%), Côte d'Ivoire (2.4%) and Bolivia (0.9%). The increase was largely due to food inflation, which worsened during the COVID-19 partial lockdown associated with the closure of borders and the depreciation of the Cedi. The government of Ghana strengthened its initiative on planting

for food and jobs to minimise the extent of food shortage. A National Food Security Committee was also set up to ensure food security. In addition, special financing incentives for rice millers and poultry farmers were provided to ensure continuous production. These initiatives contributed to minimising a potentially high rise in food inflation during the pandemic period, particularly in the last quarter of 2020. Also, as an inflation targeting economy, the reduction in policy rate indirectly minimised the extent of an unexpected increase in inflation for Ghana. The response of lowering the policy rate was also adopted by its peers.



Source: GSS, WDI, 2021

3.1.9 Summary

Table 3 presents a summary of Ghana's performance compared to the best and worst comparator countries based on a three-year average score for all selected economic indicators.

Table 3: Summary of achievements under the Economic Dimension – Average for the period

S/N	Development Indicators	Ghana	Best Country	Worst Country
	GDP growth rate (annual %), 2018-2020	4.4	Vietnam 5.7	Bolivia -0.5
	Foreign Direct Investment (Net) (% of GDP), 2018-2020	3.7	Vietnam 6.1	Bolivia 0.2
	Domestic credit to private sector (% of GDP), 2018-2020	11.6	Vietnam 135.5	Ghana 11.6
	Trade balance (% of GDP), 2018-2020	3.0	Vietnam 3.8	Rwanda -16.0
	Gross Debt (% of GDP), 2018-2020	64.5	Rwanda 45.5	Ghana 64.5
	Lending rate (%), 2018-2020	22.9	Côte d'Ivoire* 5.4	Ghana 22.9
	Inflation rate (Annual %), 2018-2020	9.2	Côte d'Ivoire 0.6	Ghana 9.2

*Current Lending rate for Côte d'Ivoire is 5.9 percent in 2020 but reported missing data for 2018 and 2019. Prior to this, the rate has been hovering between 5.0 and 5.3 from 2010 to 2017. So, a simple average of 5.0, 5.3 and 5.9 gives approximately 5.4 percent. Even if the highest value of 5.9 percent is chosen, it is still the least rate among its comparators.

3.2 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

This section provides a comparative assessment of performance for key social development indicators such as health expenditure, population with access to basic drinking water services, adjusted savings: education expenditure(%ofGNI),unemployment, paid employment, females in paid employment, domestic violence, population growth (annual %), and fertility rate, total (births per woman).

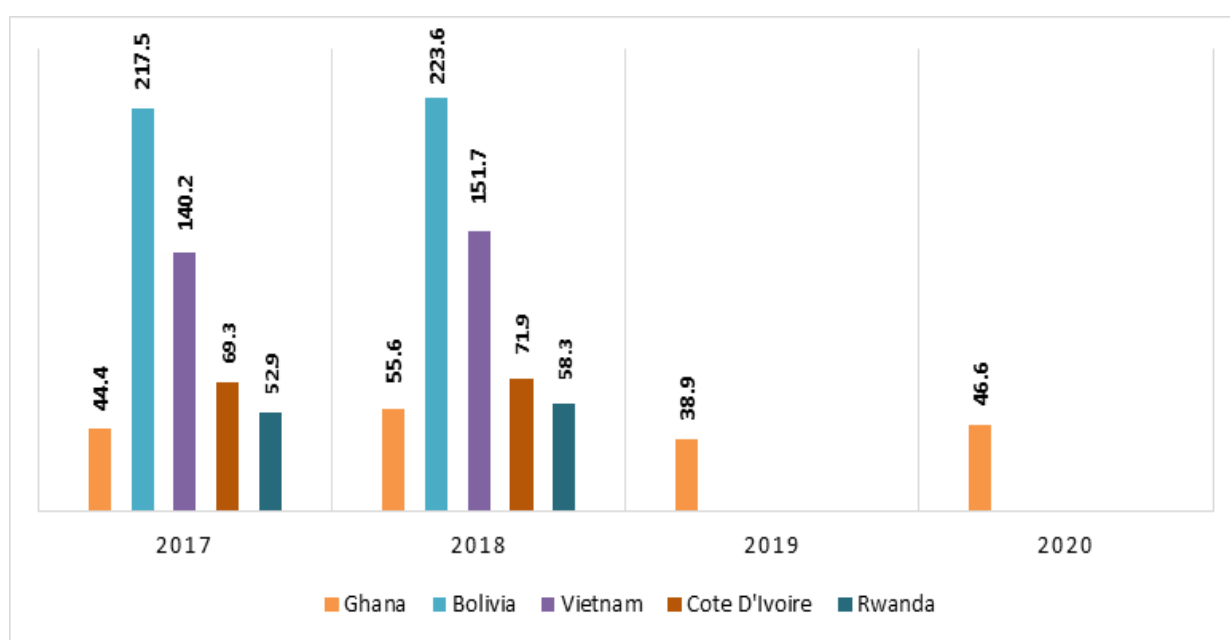
3.2.1 Health Expenditure

Ghana's health expenditure per capita witnessed an improvement from US\$44.4 in 2017 to US\$55.6 in 2018 but dipped to US\$38.9 in 2019. The expenditure per capita however rose to US\$46.6 in 2020 (see Figure 8). The increase can partly be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. Though the performance in 2020 was an improvement it fell short of the 2018 status and remains low to those of Bolivia (US\$223.6), Vietnam (US\$151.7), Cote d'Ivoire (US\$71.9) and Rwanda (US\$58.3) as of 2018.

The Government of Ghana developed and implemented the COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP). This included the upgrading and building of hospitals; expansion of testing, tracing and treatment; and expanding capacity of laboratories to provide for COVID-19 testing. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire adopted

an emergency health response plan of US\$166.6 million (96 billion CFAF or 0.3% of GDP). The Government of Vietnam set up a COVID-19 Vaccine Fund run by the government to raise foreign and domestic donations and other financing sources for purchasing vaccines, doing research and producing vaccines.

Figure 8: Health expenditure per capita (US\$), 2017 -2020



Source: MOH/WDI, 2021

3.2.2 Population with access to basic drinking water services

Access to basic drinking water services⁵ in Ghana has been on the rise between 2018 and 2020. In 2020, access to basic drinking water increased to 85.8 percent from 84.7 percent in 2019. The performance was accounted for by investments in water infrastructure to increase supply, institutional reform of the sector by government and civil society organisations and the implementation of the Water for All programme by government. Among comparator countries, Ghana performed better compared to Cote d'Ivoire (70.9%) and Rwanda (60.4) in 2020 (see Figure 9). Vietnam had the best performance with 96.9 percent of their population having access to

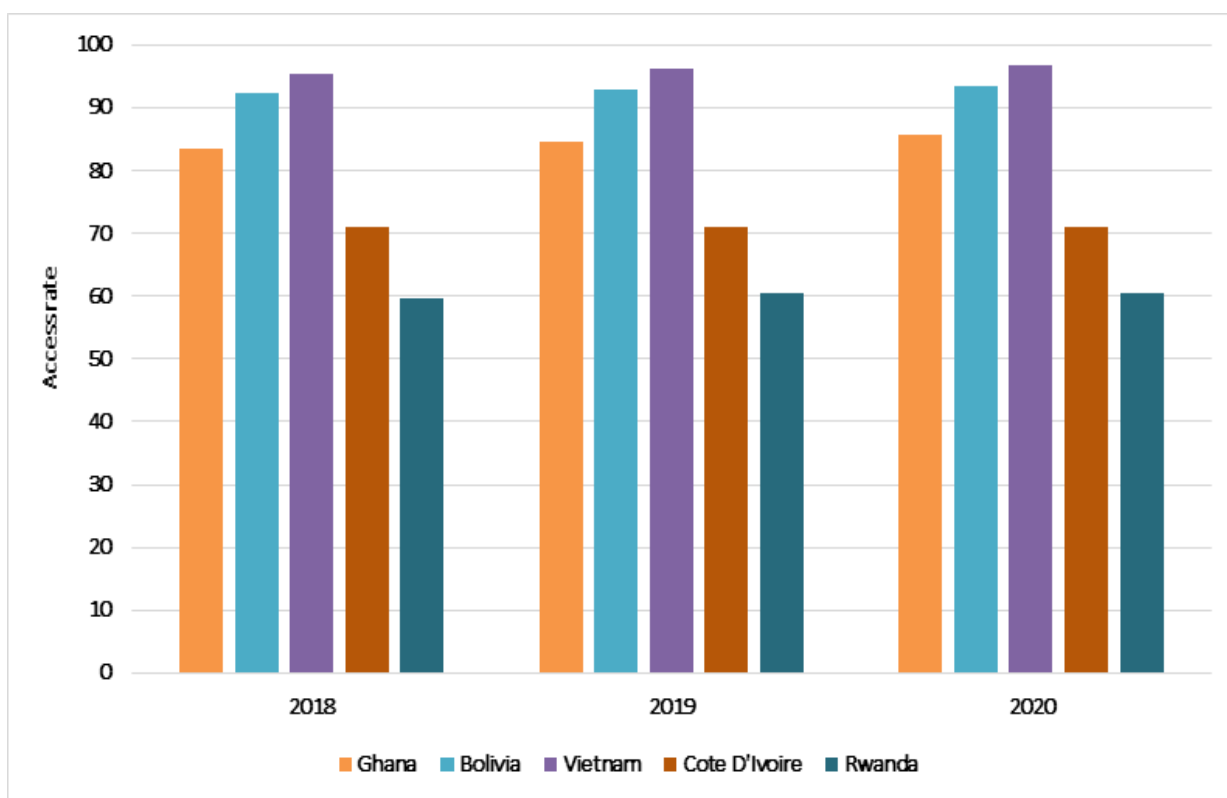
⁵Basic drinking water services refer to an improved drinking water source, provided collection time is not more than 30 minutes for a roundtrip including queuing.

basic drinking water service, followed by Bolivia (93.4%). Ghana instituted and extended the provision of free water and electricity supplies to consumers. The relief package was instituted by the government in response to the economic and social challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Vietnamese government provided direct relief payments of about US\$73 per child to households with children in public schools, a measure to provide benefits to poorer households. In addition, the government instituted a programme (Canasta Familiar) to make direct payments for food to 1.5 million families (US\$58 per family); paid the electric bills for three months for consumers with lower consumption; and paid 50 percent of the potable water and gas for all households.

The government provided US\$73 to citizens who did not receive any other benefits or draw a salary from the public or private sector. The Vietnamese government continued the implementation of the National Target Programme on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation, a programme designed to increase water coverage.

Bolivia's performance was due to continuous implementation of the Water for People project. Under the project, districts in the country created water and sanitation offices (called DMSBs) that supported communities with operation and maintenance and oversight of water services.

Figure 9: Population with access to basic drinking water services (% of population), 2018 -2020



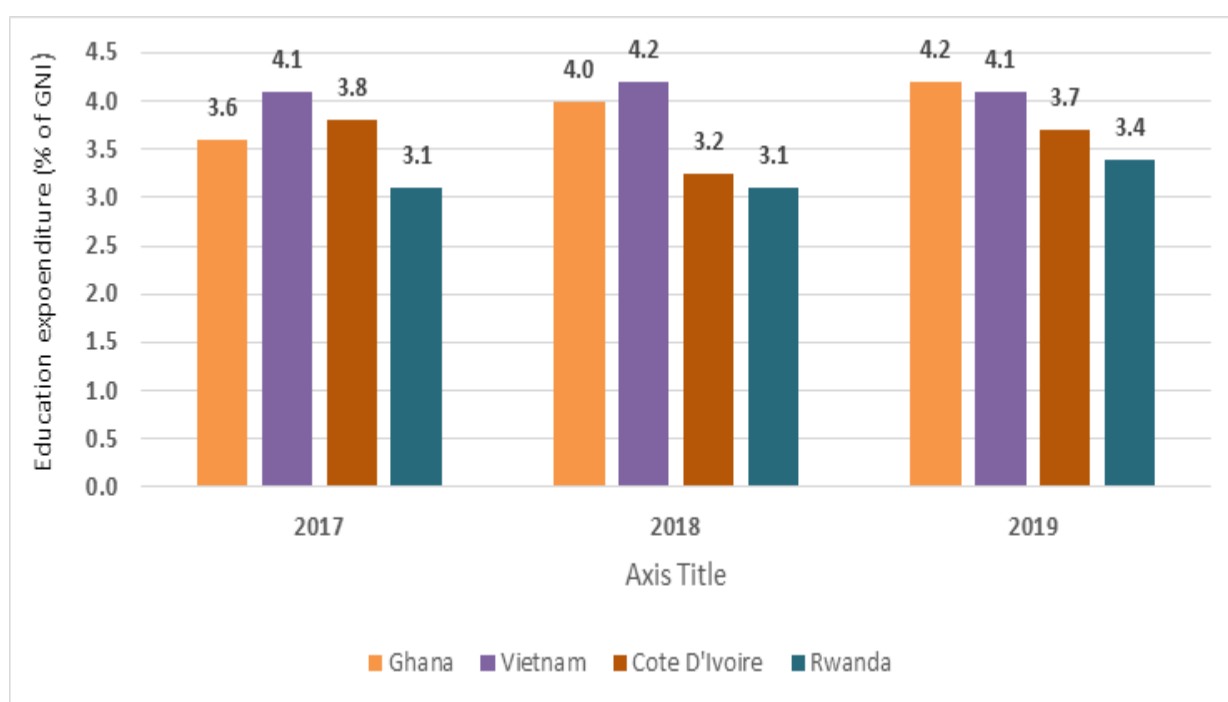
3.2.3 Government expenditure on education, total (% of GDP)

The government's expenditure on education as a share of GDP in Ghana recorded continuous increases between 2017 to 2019. The share rose from 3.6 percent in 2017 to 4.0 percent in 2018 and further to 4.2 percent in 2019. The increases in expenditure can be attributed to the implementation of Free Senior High School ("Free SHS") programme, absorption of Basic Education Certificate Examination ("BECE") registration fees for registered candidates from public Junior High schools, granted relief from corporate income tax paid by privately-owned and managed universities and the alignment of public Technical and Vocational Education

and Training ("TVET") institutions.

Among comparator countries, Vietnam (4.2%) had the highest share of expenditure in 2018, however in 2019, Ghana performed better compared to Vietnam (4.1%), Cote d'Ivoire (3.7%) and Rwanda (3.4%) in 2019 (see Figure 10). The Government of Côte d'Ivoire improved investment in the education sector including building schools, recruiting teachers and making school compulsory for children aged 6 to 16 years. In Vietnam, the government has invested heavily in infrastructure, transformed the education policy and trained professional teachers to ensure quality education is provided to all.

Figure 10: Education Expenditure (% of GNI), 2017 -2019



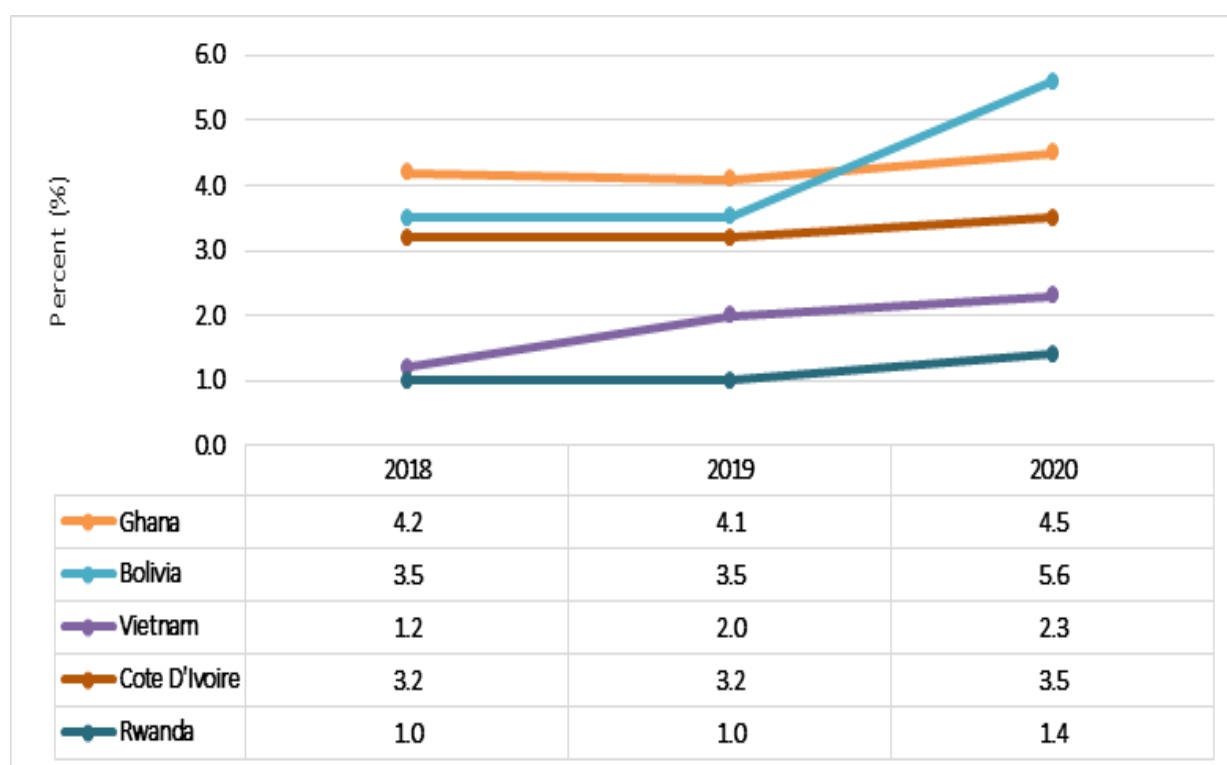
Source: WDI, 2021

3.2.4 Unemployment

Ghana's unemployment rate since 2013, has remained relatively higher than all its counterparts, averaging around 6.7 percent. This high incidence of unemployment in Ghana has called for a stronger partnership between government and the private sector and the need to align the formal education programs and skills development initiatives. Nevertheless, unemployment has been relatively stable in recent times in Ghana, partly due to the government's flagship programmes such as the Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ), Planting for Export and Rural Development (PERD), Rearing for Food and Jobs (RFJ), Nation Builders Corps (NABCO), National Entrepreneurship

& Innovation Programme (NEIP), youth in afforestation, among others. In 2020, unemployment remained relatively higher for Ghana (4.5%) compared to Rwanda (1.4%), Vietnam (2.4%), and Côte d'Ivoire (3.5%). Bolivia, however, recorded the highest unemployment rate among the comparator countries. (see Figure 3.9). The Rwandan government has since 2014/2015 kick started the National Employment Programme to create more job opportunities. It also strengthened the crafts production centres (Udukiri) and the Business Development Fund to encourage more youth to start and grow businesses and thus reduce unemployment in the country.

Figure 11: Unemployment, 2018-2020 (%)



Source: WDI, 2021

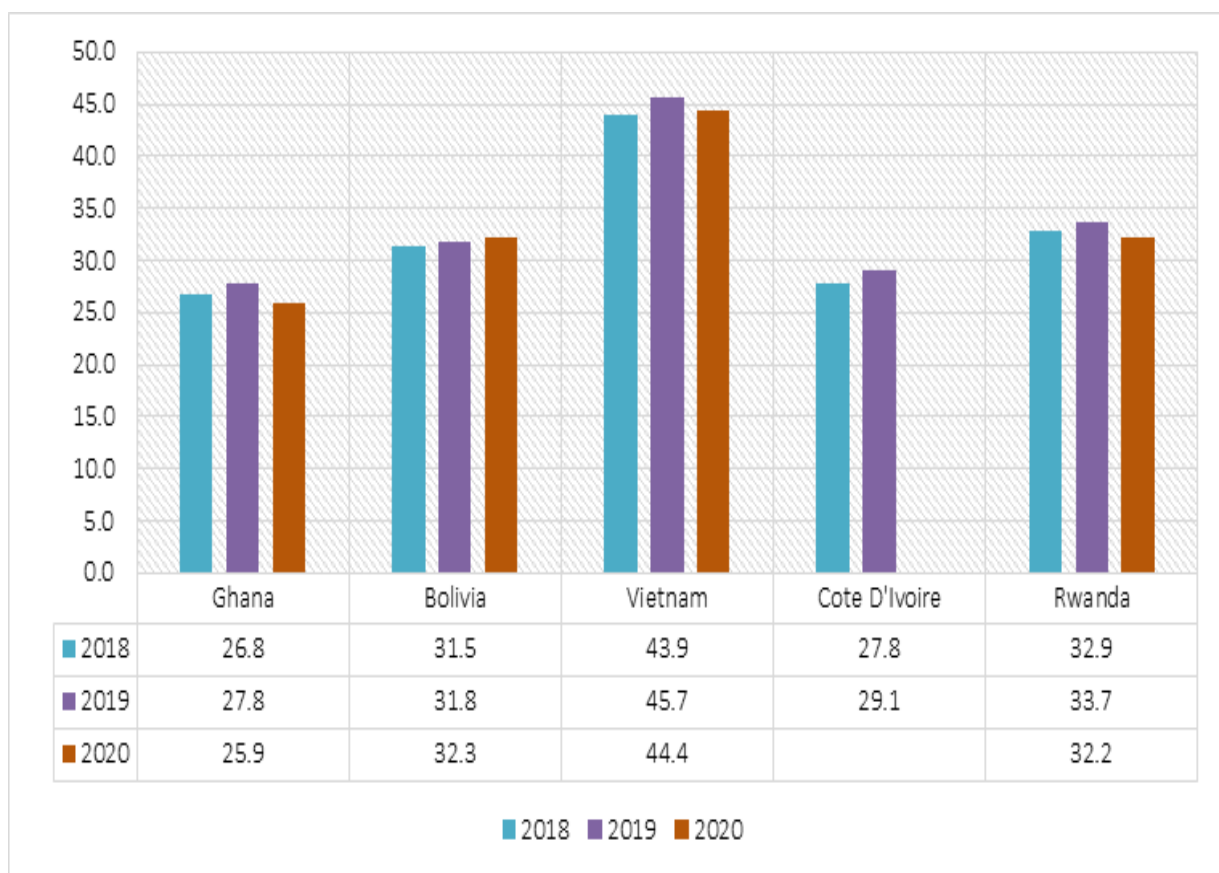
3.2.5 Paid Employment

Ghana's economy, just like its comparator countries recorded increases in paid employment between 2018 and 2019. However, in 2020, except Bolivia, all other countries recorded declines in proportion of workers with wage and salaried employment.

In Ghana, the proportion of workers in wage and salaried employment declined from 27.8 percent in 2019 to 25.9 percent in 2020. This compares unfavourably to Vietnam (44.4%), Bolivia (32.3%), and Rwanda

(32.2%). Vietnam has since 2018 been characterized by a higher proportion of its population being employed in wage and salaried employment than its comparators. Over the same period, Rwanda emerged as the second country with a higher fraction of its workers in wage and salaried employment followed by Bolivia (see Figure 12). On average, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire reported the least workers in wage and salaried employment of 26.8 percent and 28.5 percent respectively between 2018-2020.

Figure 12: Paid Employment, 2018 -2020 (%)



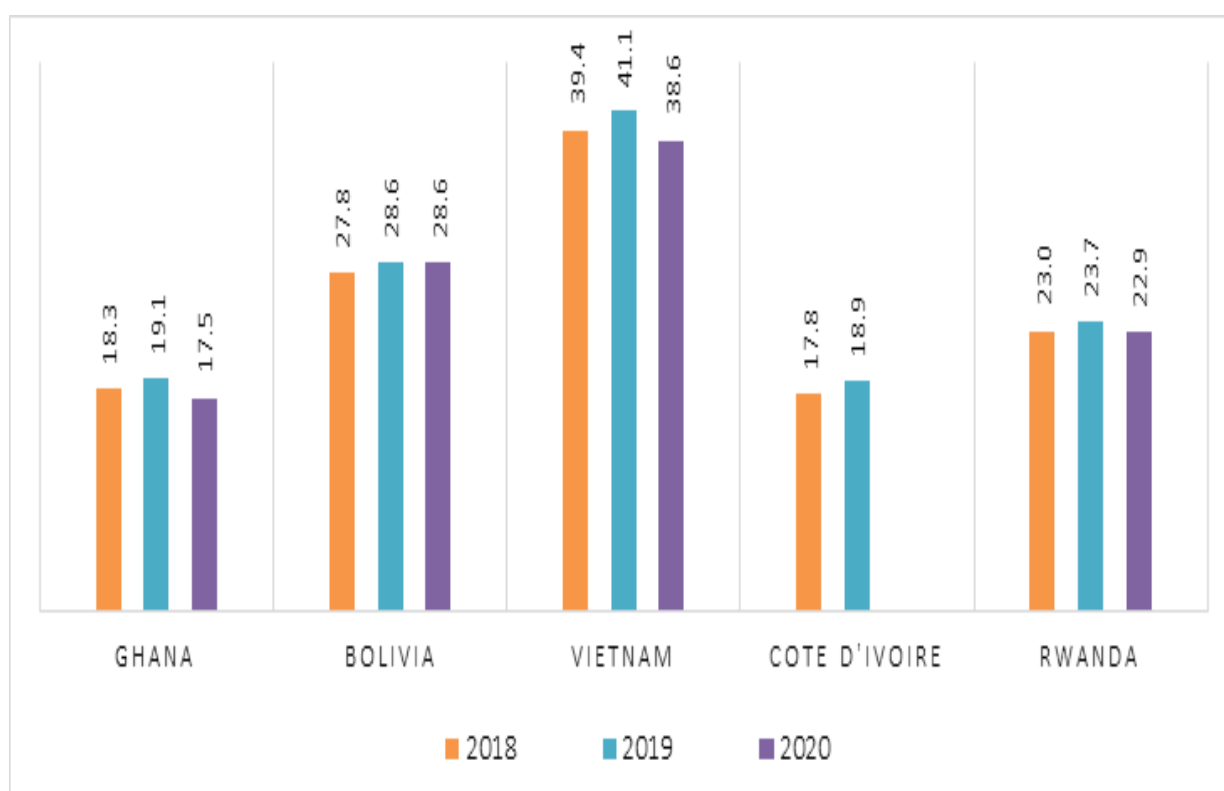
Source: WDI, tradingeconomics.com, 2021

3.2.6 Females in Paid Employment

The proportion of females in paid employment improved between 2018 and 2019 for all countries. The situation however declined in 2020 for all countries except Bolivia. Among the population of women employed in Ghana, 17.5 percent

were wage and salaried workers in 2020. This was lower in comparison to the comparator countries. Vietnam had the highest with 38.6 percent of its employed female population being wage and salaried workers, followed by Bolivia (28.6%) and Rwanda (22.9%); see Figure 13.

Figure 13: Females in Paid Employment (annual %) 2018-2020



Source: WDI, tradingeconomics.com, 2021

3.2.7 Population Growth Rate

The population growth rate of Ghana declined from 2.2 percent in 2019 to 2.1 percent in 2020 but remained higher than the national target of 1.5 percent. In comparison, Ghana's growth rate is higher than Vietnam (0.9%) and Bolivia (1.4%) but lower

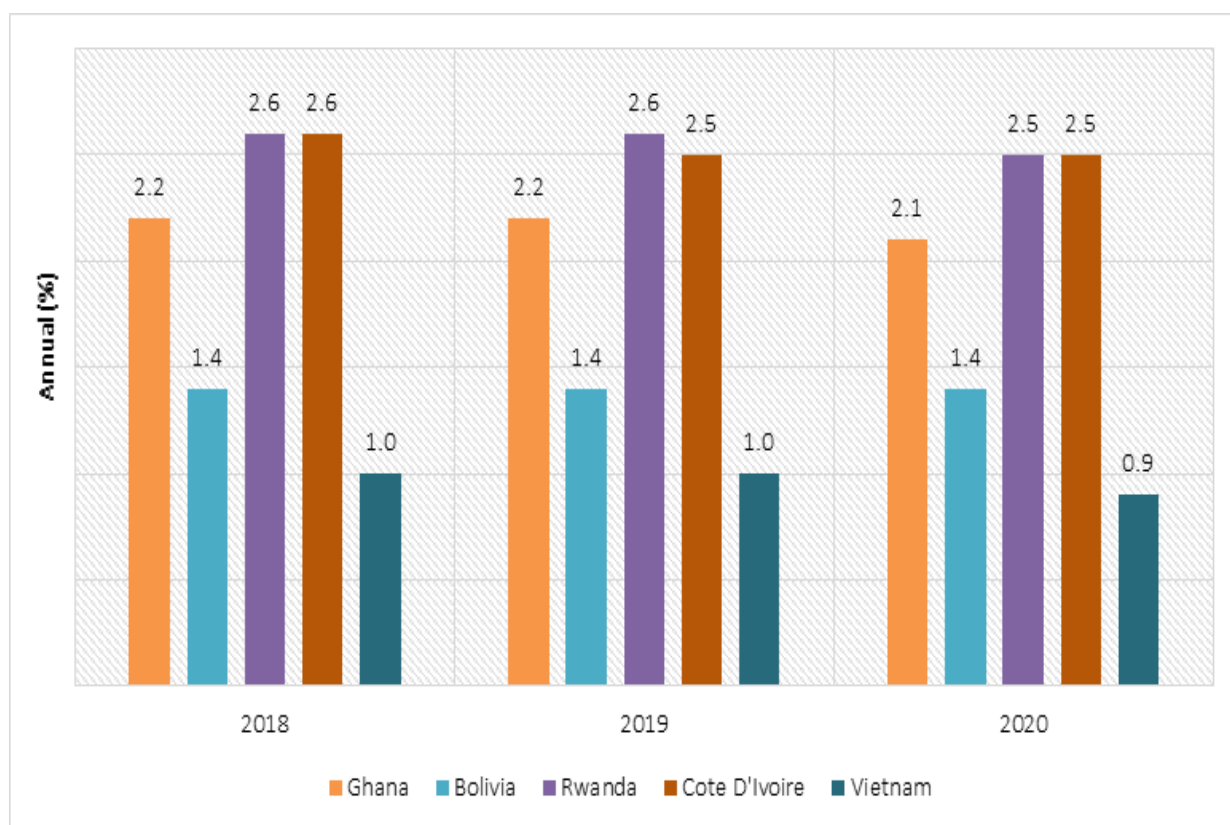
than that of Côte D'Ivoire and Rwanda (2.5% each) in 2020 (see Figure 14).

Ghana's performance is partly attributed to weak enforcement and implementation of Ghana's population policies over the years. Similarly, Côte d'Ivoire's high

population growth is a result of limited access to contraceptives and the presence of immigrants from neighboring countries; at present 1/3 of the population is foreign-born. The case of Rwanda is not very different from other countries with high population growth. In response, the government seeks to intensify and integrate family life education into the educational system at all

levels, sensitise the public about family planning and improved quality services; and integrate population policies into development plans in Rwanda. Vietnam has the lowest and best population growth rate among its comparators due to the rapidly growing desire of many couples to limit their family size to two children.

Figure 14: Population growth rate (annual %) 2018-2020



Source: WDI, 2021

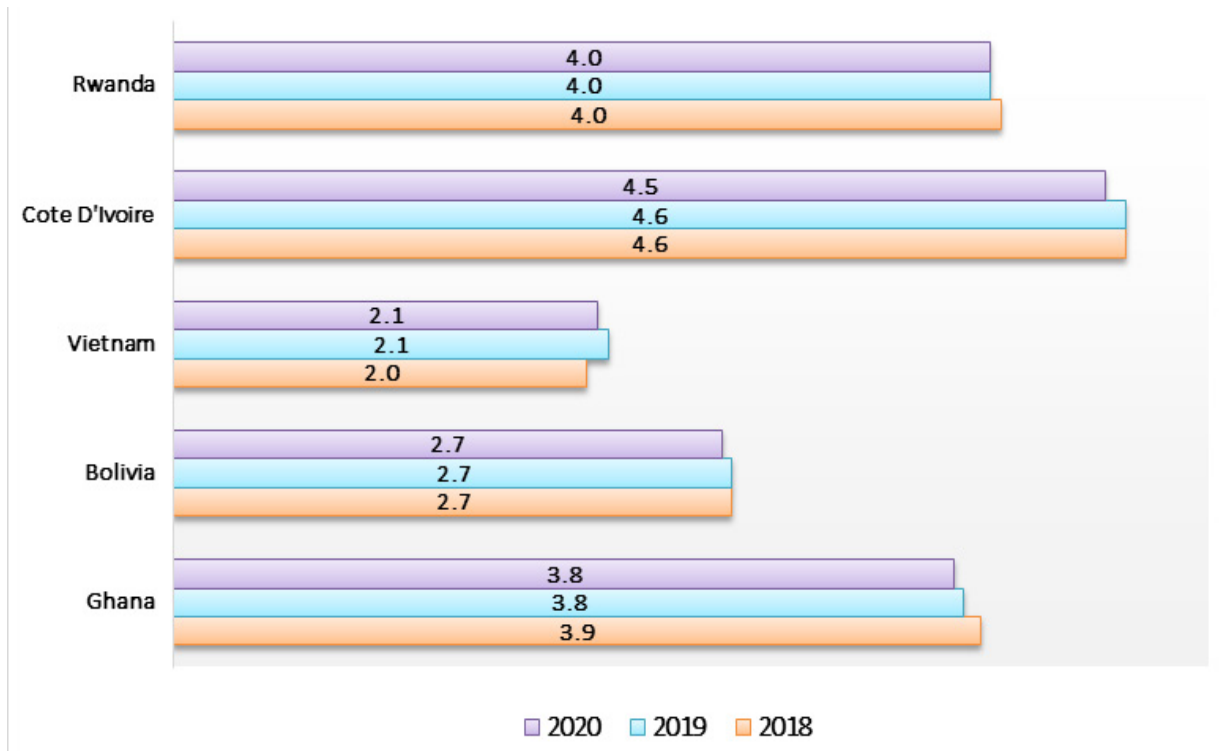
3.2.8 Fertility rate

Ghana's fertility rate remains high over two decades despite being the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to become a signatory to the World Leaders' Declaration on Population and enacting the national population policy in 1969. Ghana's fertility rate

declined from 3.9 percent in 2018 to 3.8 percent in 2019 and remained the same in 2020. This however remains high in comparison with Bolivia (2.7%) and Vietnam (2.1%) but lower in comparison with Cote d'Ivoire (4.5%) and Rwanda (4.0%); see Figure 15.

Although knowledge of contraceptive methods is almost universal (98 percent of all women know of a modern method) in Ghana, the low use of contraception has resulted in a high unmet need for contraception.

Figure 15: Fertility rate, total (births per woman), 2018-202



Source: WDI, knoema.com, 2021

3.2.9 Summary

Table 4 presents a summary of Ghana's performance compared to the best and worst comparator countries based on a three-year average score for all selected social indicators.

Table 4: Summary of achievements under the Social Dimension – Average for the period

S/N	Development Indicators	Ghana	Best Country	Worst Country
	Health expenditure per capita (US\$), 2017 -2020	46.4	Bolivia 220.5	Ghana 46.4
	Population with access to basic drinking water services (% of population), 2018-2020	84.7	Vietnam 96.2	Rwanda 60.1
	Government expenditure on education (% of GDP), 2017-2019	4.1	Vietnam 4.2	Rwanda 3.3
	Unemployment (% of total labour force), 2018-2020	4.3	Rwanda 1.1	Ghana 4.3
	Paid Employment (% of total employment), 2018-2020	26.8	Vietnam 44.7	Ghana 26.8
	Females in Paid Employment (% of female employment), 2018-2020	18.3	Vietnam 39.7	Ghana 18.3
	Population growth rate (annual %), 2018-2020	2.2	Vietnam 1.0	Rwanda 2.6
	Fertility rate, total (births per woman), 2018-2020	3.8	Vietnam 2.1	Cote d'Ivoire 4.6

3.3 Environment, Infrastructure, and Human Settlements

This section provides a comparative assessment of performance for key environment, infrastructure and human settlements development indicators such as access to electricity, mobile cellular subscriptions, individuals using the internet (% of the population), air transport (passengers carried), and urban population (% of the total population).

3.3.1 Access to electricity (% of population)

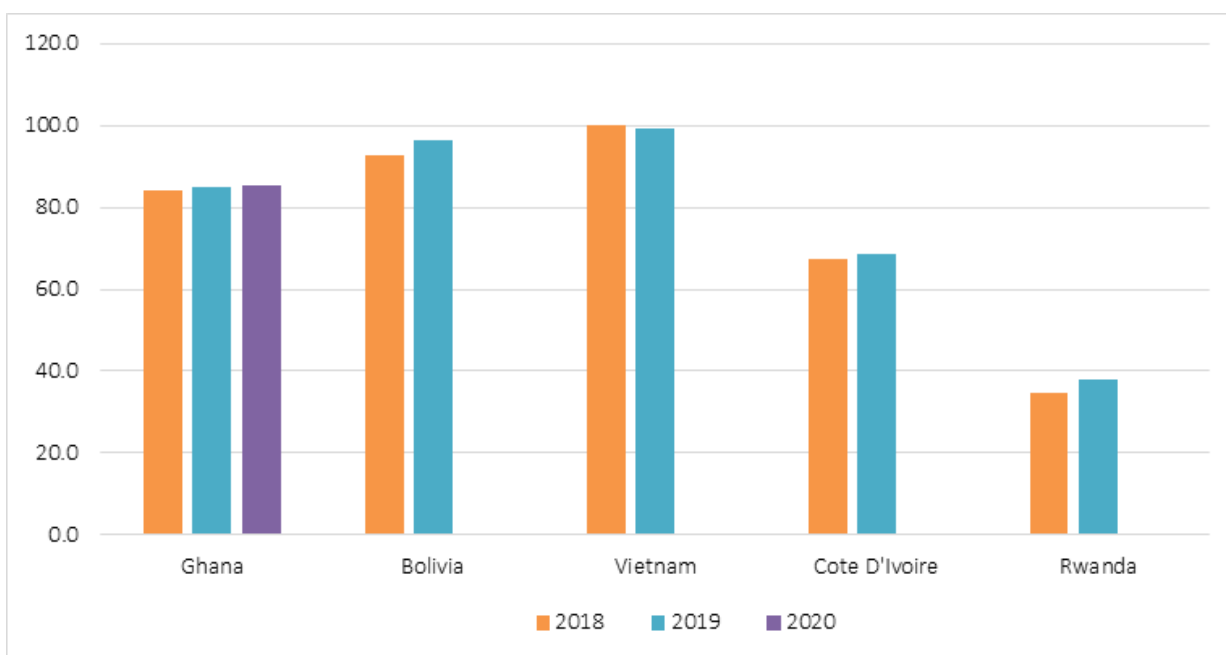
Access to electricity for the population in Ghana increased between 2018 to 2020, from 84.3 percent in 2018 to 85.0 percent in 2019 to 85.3 percent in 2020 (see Figure 16). The performance in 2020 though an improvement remains low to

those of Vietnam (99.4%) and Bolivia (96.3%) as of 2019. On average, Ghana (84.9%) performed better than Cote d'Ivoire (67.9%) and Rwanda (36.3%).

Policy responses with regards to access to electricity was similar between Ghana, Bolivia, Cote d'Ivoire, and Vietnam. The Government

of Ghana absorbed 50 -100 percent of the electricity bills of households at the peak of the pandemic. The Bolivian Government also absorbed the full cost of electricity for households with a monthly bill of up to US\$17 and between 20 – 50 percent for households with higher bills for 3 months⁶. The Vietnamese Government also provided a 20 percent discount on electricity prices between April 2020 and December 2020 for categories of households and businesses. COVID-19 quarantine centres however received a 100 percent discount on electricity prices⁷. The Ivorian Government also absorbed the electricity bills of poor households and postponed the deadline for the payment of electricity bills for all other households⁸.

Figure 16: Access to electricity (% of Population)



Source: WDI, 2020

3.3.2 Internet Usage

There has been high demand for internet usage since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many countries shifted to teleworking mode and e-commerce. The use of the internet has become one of the key channels to communicate policy directives on COVID-19 for most countries. Ghana's internet user rate increased from 37.8 in 2019 to 46.5 in 2020 (see Figure 17). Ghana's performance in 2020 was below that of Vietnam (77.4%) and Bolivia (74.5%) but higher than that of Cote D'Ivoire (45.3%) and Rwanda (45.1%). Compared to other comparator countries, Vietnam recorded the highest rate (77.4%) of population using the internet in 2020.

⁶Borges, Fabian. (2021). Bolivia's Social Policy Response to COVID-19: Hindered by Political and Economic Crises.

⁷<https://thediplomat.com/2020/04/the-secret-to-vietnams-COVID-19-response-success/>

⁸<https://thevaultzmag.com/index.php/vaultz-daily-brief/cote-d-ivoire-offers-electricity-payment-relief-amid-COVID-19-crisis>

As part of policy interventions to improve the use of internet for communication and work, the government of Bolivia placed a ban on cutsoninternet services since majority of the people could not afford the cost of the internet. The government of Vietnam was able to communicate policy directives to the citizens through alert notifications, websites, and social media. The adoption of the use of the internet by the Vietnamese Government contributed significantly to the suppression of the virus. In Côte d'Ivoire and Rwanda however, there were no direct policy directives on internet usage to respond to the pandemic. The Ghanaian context saw an increase in demand for internet

services for educational as well as remote working purposes. Among other interventions, the government provided free access to critical websites and portals that provided COVID-19 awareness and safety protocols to enable citizens to access information for free. The government also reduced the Communications Service Tax (CST) from 9 percent to 5 percent to promote remote work and online services. The government also provided network related data to facilitate contact tracing assistance and infection monitoring led by the COVID-19 taskforce and Ghana Health Service teams.

Figure 17: Internet Usage



Source: internetworldstats.com

3.3.3 Mobile Cellular Subscription (Per 100 people)

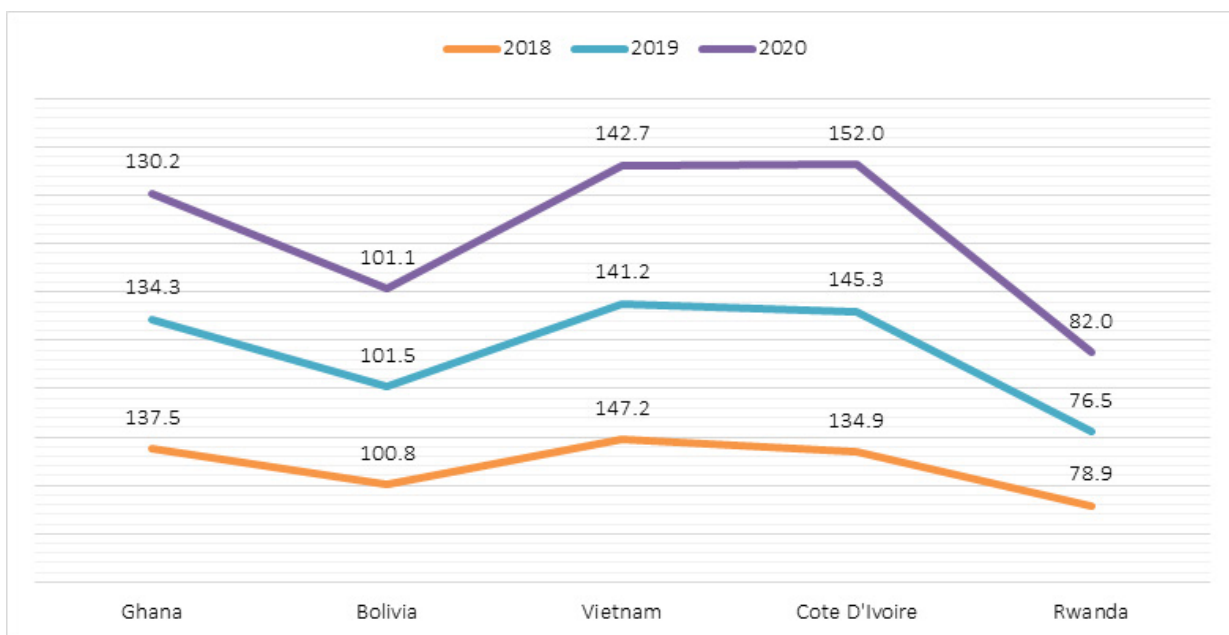
Mobile subscription per 100 people recorded improvements between 2018 and 2019 but declined in 2020 to 130.2 from 134.3 in 2019 (see Figure 18). The high level of subscriptions provided an opportunity for government in

collaboration with Ghana Health Service to employ the use of social media, Ring Back Tones, and SMS among others to broadcast COVID-19 safety tips to the Ghanaian populace.

Ghana's subscription was lower than that of Cote d'Ivoire (152.0) and Vietnam (142.7) but higher than Bolivia (101.1) and Rwanda (82.0) in 2020. The Bolivian government made deliberate interventions to ensure lower tariffs through the State-Owned Communication Service Provider, ENTEL Bolivia. The Vietnamese government used the

high subscription status to deliver timely relevant COVID-19 information to citizens. Further, calls to the National COVID-19 response number (112) as well as other emergency service numbers were made at zero-rate for citizens.

Figure 18: Mobile Cellular Subscription (per 100 people), 2018-2020



Source: WDI, 2021

3.3.4 Air traffic (passengers carried)

In a bid to curtail the spread of the virus within countries, and to stop the influx of new cases from foreign countries, most governments placed restrictions on international travels, but only allowing for the return of their citizens from other countries. Borders were however, opened to essential humanitarian products as well as food supplies. Ghana's air traffic by passengers declined from 2.8 million in 2019 to 1.1 million in 2020 (see Table

5) representing a 60 percent decline. On average, Ghana's performance (2.1 million) was below that of Vietnam (50.1 million) and Bolivia (4.1 million) but higher than that of Rwanda (1.5 million) and Cote D'Ivoire (786,899).

The Government of Ghana provided support for the operations of the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority and Ghana Airports Company Limited. In addition, the Government of Ghana rolled-out the 'Operation Return

Home' Programme to bring back Ghanaians stranded abroad due to the travel and movement restrictions. The Government of Vietnam reduced the environmental protection tax on jet fuel by 30 percent and cut about 30 various types of fees and charges by 10-50 percent (mostly in the field of transportation and infrastructure development such as road use fees,

aviation service fees, construction project appraisal fees, etc). The Côte d'Ivoire government supported the national airline with 14 billion CFAF to keep it afloat as flights were halted.

Table 5: Air transport, passengers carried, 2018-2020

Country	2018	2019	2020
Ghana	2,390,961	2,800,907	1,126,369
Bolivia	4,122,113	4,066,959	n/a
Vietnam	47,049,671	53,227,026	n/a
Cote d'Ivoire	825,257	748,540	n/a
Rwanda	1,502,478	1,561,562	n/a

3.3.5 Urban population (% of total population).

Ghana's urban population marginally increased to 57.3 percent in 2020 from 56.7 percent in 2019. Similar trends were observed in the comparator countries (see Figure 19). However, the increase was minimal for Rwanda with a rise from 17.3 percent in 2019 to 17.4 percent in 2020. The urban population growth rate remained fairly the same for all countries between 2019 and 2020 except for Vietnam and Cote d'Ivoire which recorded decreases in growth rate from 2.9 percent to 2.8 percent and 3.5 percent to 3.4 percent respectively.

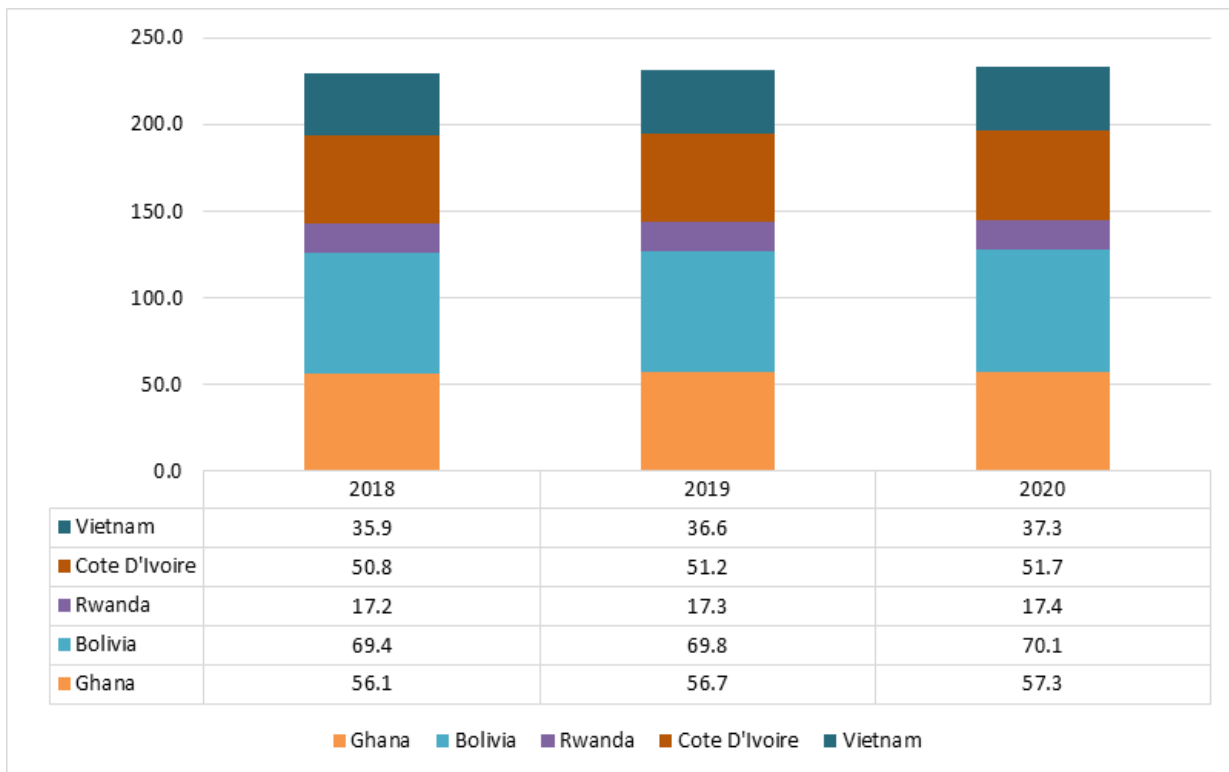
One of the key modes of spread of COVID-19 has been through congestion resulting from a large gathering of people. With most of these gatherings likely to occur in urban towns, the Government of

Ghana and all the four comparator countries adopted similar policy measures by enforcing lockdowns ranging from partial to total. Although the implementation of the lockdowns differed from country to country, the overall objective was to restrict the movement of people, and prevent or manage the spread of the virus locally.

For instance, in Ghana, the government enforced a three-week partial lockdown in the epicentres, which comprised the Greater Accra and Greater Kumasi Metropolitan Areas. The Government of Bolivia, on the other hand, placed restrictions throughout the country with emphasis on urban areas. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire also placed movement restrictions in Abidjan and other adjoining cities such as Dabou, Azaguie, Bingerville, Grand-Bassam, Bonoua, and Assinie.

The Rwandan Government imposed restrictions on movement across cities and towns except for essential movements. Similarly, in Vietnam, the Government imposed restrictions on public gatherings in major cities⁹, issued bans on crowded meetings, and suspended business and entertainment activities for a limited period during the peak period of the pandemic.

Figure 19: Urban population (% of total population)



Source: WDI, 2021

9 <https://thediplomat.com/2020/04/the-secret-to-vietnams-COVID-19-response-success/>

3.3.6 Summary

Table 6 presents a summary of Ghana's performance compared to the best and worst comparator countries based on a three-year average score for all selected environment, infrastructure and human settlements indicators.

Table 6: Summary of achievements under the Environment, Infrastructure and Human Settlements – Average for the period

S/N	Development Indicators	Ghana	Best Country	Worst Country
	Access to electricity (% of population), 2018-2020	84.9	Vietnam 99.7	Rwanda 36.3
	Individuals using the Internet (% of population), 2018-2020	42.2	Vietnam 72.7	Ghana 42.2
	Mobile Cellular Subscription (per 100 people), 2018-2020	134.0	Cote d'Ivoire 144.1	Rwanda 79.1
	Air transport (passengers carried), 2018-2020	2,106,079	50,138,349	786,899
	Urban population (% of total population), 2018-2020	56.7	Rwanda 17.3	Bolivia 69.8

3.4 GOVERNANCE, CORRUPTION, AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

This section provides a comparative assessment of the performance of key governance, corruption and public accountability development indicators such as corruption perception index, government effectiveness index, and voice and accountability index.

3.4.1 Corruption Perception Index

Ghana's score on the corruption perception index¹⁰ improved from 41 in 2019 to 43 in 2020. This resulted in the ranking from 80 to 75. The score was however below that of Rwanda (54) but above that of Bolivia (31), Vietnam (36), and Cote d'Ivoire (36) in 2020 (see Table 7). Rwanda was perceived to be the least corrupt in 2020 while Bolivia was perceived to be the most corrupt among comparator countries. Ghana and Rwanda recorded improvements

in the perception of corruption between 2019 and 2020 while Vietnam and Cote d'Ivoire recorded a worsened perception. The perception of corruption in Bolivia remained the same between 2019 and 2020. Although Ghana performed better than its peers except for Rwanda, the country needs to strengthen its good governance mechanisms to curb corruption tendencies.

¹⁰The CPI is ranked on a scale of zero to 100, where zero is very corrupt and 100 is highly clean; thus, a higher score on the index trickles down to a higher rank and vice versa.

Table 7: Corruption Perception Index, 2018-2020

Country	score/rank	2018	2019	2020
Ghana	Score	41	41	43
	Rank	78	80	75
Bolivia	Score	29	31	31
	Rank	134	123	124
Vietnam	Score	33	37	36
	Rank	117	96	104
Cote d'Ivoire	Score	35	35	36
	Rank	105	106	104
Rwanda	Score	56	53	54
	Rank	48	51	49

Source: Transparency International

3.4.2 Government Effectiveness Index (GEI)

Ghana's performance on the Government Effectiveness Index (GEI)¹¹ improved from negative 0.21 to negative 0.15 (see Table 8). This performance was however, lower than those of Rwanda (0.34) and Vietnam (0.2) but better than those of Bolivia (-0.56) and Cote d'Ivoire (-0.48). Between 2019 and 2020, Vietnam and Rwanda recorded the most change in estimates, however in terms of change in rank Bolivia and Vietnam recorded the biggest changes. Cote d'Ivoire nevertheless maintained its estimate and rank between 2019 and 2020.

Table 8: Government Effectiveness Index

Country	estimate/rank	2018	2019	2020
Ghana	Estimate	-0.21	-0.21	-0.15
	Rank	46	41	47
Bolivia	Estimate	-0.32	-0.7	-0.56
	Rank	40	25	31
Vietnam	Estimate	0.00	0.04	0.2
	Rank	53	53	62
Cote d'Ivoire	Estimate	-0.57	-0.48	-0.48
	Rank	32	35	35
Rwanda	Estimate	0.21	0.18	0.34
	Rank	62	61	64

Source: Worldwide Governance Indicators

¹¹ assesses the perceptions of people on the quality of public services, the quality of the civil service and the degree of its independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government's commitment to such policies

3.4.3 Voice and Accountability Index

The performance on the Voice and Accountability Index¹² for Ghana improved from 0.56 in 2019 to 0.58 in 2020 (see Table 9). The performance exceeded those of all comparator countries. Although this performance is an indication of improvement, there is the need to continue enhancing fundamental freedoms and access to information in line with national and international legislations.

Table 9: Voice and Accountability Index

Country	estimate/rank	2017	2018	2019
Ghana	Estimate	0.55	0.56	0.58
	Rank	67	65	65
Bolivia	Estimate	-0.06	-0.11	-0.07
	Rank	43	42	43
Vietnam	Estimate	-1.48	-1.41	-1.38
	Rank	8	12	12
Cote d'Ivoire	Estimate	-0.26	-0.25	-0.48
	Rank	37	37	34
Rwanda	Estimate	-1.15	-1.1	-1.1
	Rank	16	18	18

Source: Worldwide Governance Indicators

3.4.4 Summary

Table 10 presents a summary of the performance of Ghana compared to the best and worst comparator countries based on a three-year average score for all selected governance, corruption and public accountability indicators.

Table 10: Summary of achievements under the Governance, Corruption and Public Accountability – Average for the period

S/N	Development Indicators	Ghana	Best Country	Worst Country
	Corruption Perception Index, 2020	41.7	Rwanda 54.3	Bolivia 30.3
	Government effectiveness index, 2019	-0.2	Rwanda 0.2	Bolivia -0.5
	Voice and Accountability Index, 2019	0.6	Ghana 0.6	Vietnam -1.4

¹²mimics perceptions of the extent to which a country's citizens are able to participate in selecting their government, as well as freedom of expression, freedom of association, and a free media.

SECTION FOUR

CONCLUSION AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

4.0 INTRODUCTION

This section provides a conclusion that highlights the key areas of improvements and concerns in Ghana as well as policy recommendations on areas that require attention in the future.

4.1 CONCLUSION

The report reviewed Ghana's performance with emphasis on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on selected key development indicators. Ghana's performance was compared to the same four lower-middle-income countries as in the first edition of the National Development Monitor; namely Rwanda, Côte d'Ivoire, Vietnam and Bolivia. Data and information were sourced from the tracker surveys by the Ghana Statistical Service, National Budget, Sector Response plans, and Ghana CARES programme for Ghana. Comparable data was largely obtained from the World Development Index (WDI) and the respective governments' response to COVID-19 pandemic, among others. The analysis revealed mixed performance for Ghana and its Comparators. Compared to previous years, these countries largely deteriorated in the performance for a significant number of development indicators in 2020. The dip in performance was primarily due to the adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, in Ghana,

the overall growth of 0.4 percent in 2020 has been the least so far since 1984. Ghana's low performance was nevertheless better than that of Bolivia and Rwanda. Vietnam topped its peers with a growth of 2.9 percent for the same period. On a 3-year average score from 2018 to 2020, Ghana's best economic performance was observed in foreign direct investment relative to its peers. However, the country was the worst performer in domestic credit to the private sector, gross debt, lending rate and inflation. While the nation's trade balance has been in surplus since 2017, Vietnam remained the top average best performer with Rwanda as the worst.

Under social development, Ghana performed worst on a number of indicators over the same 3-year period, particularly for unemployment rate, paid employment and females in paid employment. Vietnam emerged as the best performer in most social indicators. Rwanda performed best on unemployment rate, recording the least average rate of 1.1 percent with Ghana as the worst performer at an average rate of 4.3 percent.

Regarding infrastructure, Vietnam and Cote d'Ivoire performed best in access to electricity and mobile cellular subscription respectively over the same 3-year period with Rwanda performing worst. For governance, Ghana was the best

average performer in the voice and accountability index. Rwanda emerged as the best performer in both corruption perception and government effectiveness index.

The analysis revealed that Ghana was behind its peers in some development indicators. This suggests that the government needs to strengthen its efforts to both catch-up and sustain gains made so far. This is particularly important as governments across the globe are accelerating their efforts towards achieving the UN 2030 Agenda and other commitments. The disruptive health and socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is enormous. The Government of Ghana needs to apply innovative and sustainable approaches to harness the opportunities that COVID-19 presents while minimising its negative consequences. Much effort is required towards achieving the country's National Agenda, the UN 2030 Agenda and AU Agenda 2063 while harnessing the opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement.

4.2 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Strengthen measures to address the spread of COVID-19 pandemic

Government through the Ministry of Health should expedite processes to acquire more COVID-19 vaccines to vaccinate at least 60 percent of the country's population to attain herd immunity. Additionally, real-time surveillance of reported COVID-19 infections which has been key to the pandemic response should be intensified.

Ensure sustainable and innovative health financing

The Ministry of Health should prioritise the revamping and strengthening of the Health Sector, including infrastructure, human resources, information management systems, disease surveillance and communication systems using new, traditional and geo-spatial technologies. Progress towards achieving Universal Health Coverage should be accelerated and backed by a sustainable financing mechanism for the NHIS, as well as a modernised and effective health delivery service. Sustained investments in research and development must be made to foster partnerships with universities, research scientists, pharmaceutical companies, and the private sector in developing new drugs and vaccines to combat the pandemic.

Improve provision of health services including emergency services

The National Development Planning Commission should create a platform to engage with stakeholders to develop a clear road map for risk management. The country's medium- and long-term plans should incorporate future health crises and other potential threats.

Promote innovative and affordable e-learning system

Government through the Ministry of Education should promote Public Private Partnerships to provide standardized infrastructure and enhanced digitized educational platforms across the country. Also, Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies should be strengthened to increase the provision of educational infrastructure. This will improve access

and quality of education and promote access to lifelong learning for all.

Promote local food production and food security

Government through the Ministry of Food and Agriculture should enhance measures aimed at increasing domestic production to address any potential food supply gap in emergencies. This could be achieved by providing alternative farm machinery and equipment for farm operations including land preparation, planting, weeding, harvesting and storage as a stop-gap measure for potential labour shortage. In addition, efforts should be made to expand the already existing programmes such as Planting for Food and Jobs, Planting for Export and Rural Development, One Village One Dam and One Constituency One Warehouse.

Continue to pursue single digit inflation targeting

Inflation has spiked to double digits because of food price pressures. Government should consider providing appropriate incentives to importers of food and agricultural inputs through tax reliefs including port charges, tariffs and VAT; supply of critical foreign exchange, and the provision of subsidized credit. Since the increase in prices of goods and services are partly import-led, the government should maintain import levels for selected agricultural commodities while promoting mass local production and manufacturing.

Promote ICT usage and e-commerce

The Ministry of Communication and Digitisation should partner with the private sector to investment in the

sector to provide easy internet access in times of crisis. Crisis response should be factored into the day-to-day policy processes so that emergency measures, like community Wi-Fi access points, can be activated when needed. Efforts should also be made to enhance local knowledge and capacity to rapidly deploy and maintain networks. Stay-at-home and social distancing orders have proved challenging for deploying new networks or repairing existing ones over the past several months.

Sustain and strengthen support for vulnerable businesses-MSMEs SMEs have already been considered for the provision of incentives by the government. To quicken the pace of recovery and make it more equitable, the focus of the development agenda to “create jobs” must be sustained. The Government through the Ministry of Trade and Industry must invest in strategic industries, and provide forward and backward linkages to serve as triggers for the development of other enterprises along the value chain. Priority areas include production of basic items which should easily be manufactured in the country; establishment of a foundry for tools; machine parts; pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, salt and integrated aluminum industries.

Strengthen implementation of recovery plans and strategies

The National Disaster Management Organization should leverage existing national institutional structures as well as collaborate and partner with the private sector and development partners to implement national and subnational recovery plans based on the principle of inclusivity.

Annex I: Templates for COVID-19 Impact and Recovery Response for Ghana

Economic Impacts and Recovery Response of COVID-19

Indicator	2018	2019	2020	Impact	Response
GDP growth (%)	6.3	6.5	0.4	Sharp fall in GDP growth (0.4 % in 2020)	Government initiated the GHS100 billion Ghana CARES “Obaatanpa” Programme This is a three-and-a-half-year comprehensive programme that seeks to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, return the country to a sustained path of robust growth and create a stronger, more resilient and transformed economy. The programme has 2-phases: Stabilize the Economy (July - December 2020) and revitalize and Transform the Economy (2021 - 2023).
Structure of the economy (% of GDP)					
Agriculture	20	19	23	Fall in the share of services to GDP in favour of agriculture	Government initiatives such as planting for food and job; rearing for food and jobs; financing incentives for rice millers; and poultry farmers and the establishment of National Food Security Committee provide some plausible reasons for the improved share for agriculture.
Services	46	47	42		
Industry	34	34	35		
Debt-to-GDP ratio	57.6	62.4	76.1	Worsened debt-to-GDP ratio (76.1 % in 2020)	Key factors contributing to the debt increase include government's issuance of Eurobond in February 2020; initiative to mitigate COVID-19 pandemic effect; and financial and energy sector bailouts
Foreign Direct Investments (% of GDP)	4.4	4.9	2.0	Fall in FDI (2.0 per cent of GDP 2020). The continuous spread of COVID-19 and the associated restrictions including border closure and frequent partial lockdowns across the globe posed a high risk of attracting and sustaining foreign investment.	Government initiated Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) Bill to provide a framework for significant increase in FDI Public Private Partnerships (PPP) Bill was also initiated (and currently passed) to increase PPP investments Government initiated institutional reforms and capacity strengthening in the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) and Free-Zones Board.

Indicator	2018	2019	2020	Impact	Response
Trade balance (% of GDP)	2.8	3.4 (surplus)	3.0 (surplus)	Trade surplus reduced by 0.4 percentage point to 3.0 per cent of GDP (US\$2.0 billion) in 2020. The closure of the national and international borders, among others, impacted adversely on export than imports.	A number of government initiatives contributed to maintaining Ghana's trade surplus, though showed some reduction. These included Coronavirus Alleviation Programme - Business Support Scheme (CAP-BuSS); Continued flagship projects of planting for food and job; rearing for food and jobs; recapitalisation exercise and banking sector clean up; and reduced Monetary Policy Rate (MPC); mass production of PPEs by local businesses
Domestic credit to the private sector (% of GDP)	11.7	12.3	10.9	Fall in domestic credit to private sector in 2020	A number of initiatives impacted credit to the private sector. Though domestic credit to the private sector reduced in 2020, the situation would have been worse without these interventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recapitalisation exercise and banking sector clean up undertaken by the Bank of Ghana. Government implemented measures to clear outstanding payments with businesses and ensure prompt payment of current obligations Government initiated a Guarantee Fund of GHS 2 billion to assist large businesses to borrow from banks at lower interest rates and longer tenor Domestic banks provided about GHS 7 billion of support to borrowers (between March and June 2020), through loan restructurings, interest rate reductions, and granting of new facilities Government initiated the GHS750 million Coronavirus Alleviation Programme - Business Support Scheme (CAP-BuSS) to support and mitigate the impact of the pandemic on Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) Under the CAP-BuSS, about GHS412.88 million was disbursed to support 277,511 businesses as of the end of December 2020. About 69% of these beneficiaries were female-owned businesses.
Average lending rate	23.9	23.6	21.1	The average lending rates of banks reduced by 2.5 percentage points to 21.1 per cent in 2020	In an attempt to ease the burden on businesses and their operation cost, the government through the Bank of Ghana lowered the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) by 150 basis points to 14.50 per cent in March 2020 which remained the same throughout the year.

Indicator	2018	2019	2020	Impact	Response
Inflation	9.4	7.9	10.4	Inflation increased by 2.5 percentage points to a two-digit figure of 10.4 per cent in 2020	<p>As part of the stabilisation component (Phase 1) of the Ghana CARES “Obaatanpa” programme, government strengthened its initiative on planting for food and jobs to minimise the extent of food shortage. A National Food Security Committee was also set up to ensure food security.</p> <p>Similarly, the government provided special financing incentives for rice millers and poultry farmers to ensure continuous production. These initiatives contributed to minimising a potentially high rise in food inflation during the pandemic period, particularly in the last quarter of 2020.</p>

Social Impacts and Recovery Response of COVID-19

Indicator	2018	2019	2020	Government response
Social Dimension				
Health Expenditure	<p>Per capita expenditure on health US\$55.6</p> <p>3.5%(WDI) of GDP was used for health expenditure in the year 2018</p>	US\$38.9	US\$46.6	<p>The Ghana Infectious Disease Centre (GIDC) was built during the pandemic by Ghana COVID-19 Private Sector Fund in collaboration with the Ghana Armed Forces at the Ga East Municipal Hospital in Accra to improve the medical diagnostic and research capacity of Ghana with regards to infectious diseases.</p> <p>About 24,000 health professionals were recruited between March and June 2020, to help fight the pandemic.</p> <p>An amount of GHS3.6 million was provided to purchase reusable face masks; 50,000 medical scrubs; 90,000 hospital gowns; and head cover to health facilities as of June 2020.</p> <p>Government provided 50% of basic salary as allowances for frontline health workers. Income tax waiver on 50% allowances was paid to frontline health workers.</p> <p>The government has established medical waste treatment facilities across the country for the safe disposal of medical waste in collaboration with the private sector.</p> <p>An amount of €890 million has been approved for thirty-three major health projects. Government provided and distributed 10,000 hospital beds across health facilities in each of the 275 constituencies.</p> <p>There was an expansion in the capacities of laboratories to increase COVID-19 testing and established isolation centres in all regions and districts.</p>

Indicator	2018	2019	2020	Government response
Population with access to basic drinking water services	61.3 percent of Ghanaians had access to safe drinking water.	61.8 percent of Ghanaians had access to safe drinking water.	69.0 percent of Ghanaians had access to safe drinking water.	<p>An amount of USD 205 million was allocated in funds to pay, among other expenses, water bills from April 2020 to March 2021.</p> <p>GWCL engaged the services of tanker operators to serve disadvantaged communities – those not on the distribution grid and those without standpipes.</p> <p>Households that relied on CWSA-managed, pre-paid public standpipes were given tokens that would allow them to have daily access to up to 40 litres of water per person.</p> <p>Alternative sources supplying water from wells also provided free water under this directive and were to be reimbursed through their respective local government authorities.</p>
Government expenditure on Education	The government of Ghana spent 4.2%(WDI) of GDP as expenditure on education	n/a	n/a	<p>Government initiated GhS100 billion Coronavirus Alleviation and Revitalisation of Enterprises Support CARES “Obaatampa” programme to do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fumigate of pre-tertiary schools, provision of hand washing facilities in all basic and secondary schools, provision of PPEs to both teaching and non-teaching staff. • Ministry of Education (MoE) through the Ghana Education Service (GES) developed online classes for students, through different platforms such as; virtual learning, televised (Ghana LearningTV) and online (l-campus) programs, along with radio reading programs for students. • The government received a grant of \$15million from the World Bank for continued learning, recovery and resilience for education for the years 2020-2021.

Infrastructure and Human Settlements Impacts and Recovery Response of COVID-19

Indicator	Impact	Response
Access to Electricity	As frequent washing of hands under running water became a norm with most families at home, utility bills especially water and electricity, which are a necessity were expected to increase. Providing electricity at cheaper tariffs were some major policy responses that Government undertook in 2020.	The Government announced an electricity subsidy programme, providing free electricity for three months to “lifeline consumers”, who consumed less than 50 kWh in March. Households that consumed more than the lifeline amount were granted a 50 percent reduction in the cost of electricity over the same period. An extension of this relief programme was provided under the Coronavirus Alleviation and Revitalisation of Enterprises Support (CARES) ‘Obaatanpa’ Programme. This programme retained the free electricity for all lifeline consumers for the rest of the year but removed the 50 percent absorption of electricity tariffs for the non-lifeline consumers.
Urbanization rate	<p>The Greater Accra region and the Greater Kumasi recorded the highest COVID-19 cases in 2020 and these were the epicentres in the country. These epicentres were locked down, restricting movements as part of government measures to contain the spread of the virus. However, the ease of movement restrictions as part of efforts to revitalize the economy led to a sharp increase in cross-district movements in Greater Accra and Greater Kumasi. In the Greater Accra region, the number of trips between any two districts significantly increased compared to the lockdown period. Even though there was a continuous increase in movements, it remained below the comparable period of September 2019 to February 2020.</p> <p>In the Ashanti region, the number of trips between any two districts increased immediately by 20 percent, relative to the lockdown period, after lockdown measures were lifted but remained 30 percent below the baseline level. This continued to increase up to the beginning of August, stabilising at 20 per cent below the baseline level through July-September, before gradually increasing to the end of the year, but remaining 21-25 percent lower than the previous year.</p>	The government also implemented a three-week lockdown of major cities, the Greater Accra Region where the capital city is located and Kumasi, its second largest commercial city.
Internet Usage	The ratio of internet subscription to population increased from 19.3 per cent in 2015 to 37.8 per cent in 2019, while mobile broadband grew from 75.5 per cent to about 92.1 percent in the third quarter of 2020. The number of internet service providers which saw a decline in recent years, witnessed an increase from 48 in 2018 to 140 in 2020 plausibly due to increases in demand for broadband by many people who began working virtually due to COVID-19. The increase could also be attributed to students who began studying virtually on online education platforms to support teaching and learning.	In response, government provided free access to critical websites and Government portals that provide COVID-19 awareness and safety protocols to enable citizens to access information for free. There is also an on-going collaboration with National Information Technology Authority (NITA) to zero-rate Government of Ghana Smart Workplace Portal to enable government workers work from home. Government also provided network related data to facilitate contact tracing assistance and infection monitoring led by the COVID-19 taskforce and GHS teams. And finally, Zero-rate calls to the National COVID-19 response number 112.

Indicator	Impact	Response
Mobile subscription cellular		<p>Free calls to the National COVID-19 response number (112) as well as other emergency service numbers.</p> <p>In consultation with the Ghana Health Service, there would be infrastructure to broadcast emergency communications to educate over 30 million customers on COVID-19, daily safety tips using Ring Back Tones, SMS, and social media etc.</p>
Cargo Traffic	<p>The need to contain the COVID-19 in Ghana led to restrictions on entry and exit of major transport corridors through land, sea and air as well as restricted or controlled movement</p> <p>Although COVID-19 has weighed down on shipping demand and port traffic, shipping continued to play a key role in the global supply chain, transporting all goods, including essential goods, quarantine supplies, daily necessities and industrial products. This was crucial in the situations where land logistics were not functioning properly due to land border closures and containment and quarantine procedures. As many countries introduced restrictions to land transport and border crossings, keeping maritime transport and ports operational become crucial to preserving the well-functioning of international supply chain.</p> <p>Available figures indicate that transit trade volumes for much of the last decade accounted for about six percent of the country's cargo throughput. A study by the Ghana Shippers Authority shows that an estimated total revenue of US\$24 million is accrued to the Ghanaian economy from some quantifiable services provided by various operators involved in the delivery of transit services to neighbouring landlocked countries such as Burkina Faso and Mali annually.</p>	<p>The Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA) waived all rent and related charges for transit cargo – goods bound for another country but discharged in Ghana – that overstayed at various transit yards due to challenges of the COVID-19 lockdown to ease operations at the ports.</p> <p>Also, several trucks with transit cargo that overstayed at GPHA yards, who were fined, now have the opportunity to go and file for refunds. The move, which was initiated by the Ghana Shippers Authority, is part of efforts to reduce the burden transit truck operators faced during the lockdown as a result of efforts to fight the outbreak of COVID-19.</p>

Annex II: Template for COVID-19 impact and recovery response for comparator countries

Indicators/Country	Bolivia	Côte d'Ivoire	Rwanda	Vietnam
Environment, Infrastructure, and Human Settlements-				
Access to electricity	<p>96.3% (WDI 2019)</p> <p>As a result of the economic hardship brought about by COVID-19, the Government of Bolivia instituted a 50% reduction in electricity, water, and gas tariffs for three months. The government assumed the full cost of electricity bills up to BOB 120 (USD 17) and between 20-50% of larger bills, 50% of household water and gas were covered. 2.6 million households benefited from BOB 490 million (US\$ 71.1 million)¹³</p>	<p>68.6% (WDI 2019)</p> <p>During the COVID-19 peak period, the government absorbed the electricity bills of poor households and postponed the deadline for the payment of electricity bills for all other households in the country.</p>	<p>37.8% (WDI 2019)</p> <p>The Rwandan Government did not introduce any direct policy intervention on access to electricity during the COVID-19¹⁴.</p>	<p>99.4% (WDI 2019)</p> <p>Vietnam is one of the countries with the widest coverage of electricity. The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on Vietnam's electricity system. Within the first 6 months of 2020, demand for administration and residential electricity grew by 6.44%¹⁵ largely because citizens were under lockdown and working from home. In recognition of the impact of COVID-19, government provided a 20% discount on electricity prices between April 2020 and December 2020 for categories of households and businesses. COVID-19 quarantine centres however received a 100% discount on electricity prices. Although the relief cost the government US\$470 million, this reduced the burden of the pandemic on poor households and businesses.</p>

¹³Borges, Fabian. (2021). Bolivia's Social Policy Response to COVID-19: Hindered by Political and Economic Crises.

¹⁴ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7338023/>

Indicators/Country	Bolivia	Côte d'Ivoire	Rwanda	Vietnam
Urban population	<p>70.1% (WDI 2020)</p> <p>The government of Bolivia placed movement restrictions throughout the country with particular emphasis on urban areas.</p>	<p>51.7% (WDI 2020)</p> <p>The Government of the Ivory Coast placed movement restrictions in urban areas to manage the spread among people in densely populated areas. Abidjan and other adjoining cities such as Dabou, Azaguie, Bingerville, Grand-Bassam, Bonoua, Assinie were all affected by this movement restrictions.</p>	<p>17.4% (WDI 2020)</p> <p>The Rwandan Government was the first to impose a lockdown in Africa. Movements across cities and towns were prohibited except for essential movements.</p>	<p>37.3% (WDI 2020)</p> <p>One of Vietnam's earliest policy responses to the COVID-19 was the restrictions on public gatherings in major cities¹⁶ issuing bans on crowded meetings and suspending business and entertainment activities for a limited period during the peak period of the pandemic.</p>
Internet Usage	<p>74.5% (Internetstats 2020)</p> <p>As the COVID 19 continued to wreak havoc, the internet became one of the key channels to communicate policy directives. However, as the majority of the people could not afford the expensive cost of the internet¹⁷, the government placed a ban on cuts on internet services.</p>	<p>45.3% (Internetstats 2020)</p> <p>The government of Ivory Coast did not introduce any policy directive on internet usage during the COVID 19 peak period. However, the restriction measures by the government resulted in an increase in internet usage especially in areas of e-commerce¹⁸</p>	<p>45.1% (Internetstats 2020)</p> <p>The Rwandan government did not introduce any COVID 19 policy directive on internet usage.</p>	<p>77.4% (Internetstats 2020)</p> <p>Vietnam did not consciously introduce any new internet policy to respond to the COVID 19. However, between 2020 and 2021 there was an increase in internet users by 551 thousand raising the total figure by more than 69 million users¹⁹ due to the country's high internet usage rate. The Government was able to communicate policy directives to the citizens through alert notifications, text messages, websites, and social media²⁰. The adoption of the use of the internet by the Vietnam Government contributed significantly to the suppression of the virus.</p>

¹⁶ <https://thediplomat.com/2020/04/the-secret-to-vietnams-COVID-19-response-success/>

¹⁷ Borges, Fabian. (2021). Bolivia's Social Policy Response to COVID-19: Hindered by Political and Economic Crises.

¹⁸ <https://newsroom.mastercard.com/mea/press-releases/68-of-ivorian-consumers-are-shopping-more-online-since-the-start-of-pandemic-reveals-mastercard-study/>

¹⁹ <https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2021-vietnam>

²⁰ <https://blogs.worldbank.org/eastasiapacific/can-COVID-19-catalyze-vietnams-digital-transformation>

Indicators/Country	Bolivia	Côte d'Ivoire	Rwanda	Vietnam
Mobile Cellular Subscription (Per 100 people)	101.1 (WDI 2020) The 2019 total mobile cellular subscription in Bolivia stood at 11.9 million. Due to the restrictions on movement, the use of mobile phones for communicating became a priority among Bolivians. As the majority of the people could not afford the higher tariffs, the government through the state-owned communication service provider ENTEL Bolivia started offering low tariffs to users.	152.0 (WDI 2020) There was no COVID 19 policy response related to mobile cellular subscriptions.	82.0 (WDI 2020) Rwanda's mobile cellular subscriptions as of 2019 stand at 9.66 million of the population. The Government did not introduce any policy response to COVID concerning mobile-cellular subscription.	142.7 (WDI 2020) A key factor that supported the Vietnam Government to fight the COVID 19 was the rate of Mobile cellular subscription. Currently, the mobile cellular subscription in Vietnam stands at 150% ²¹ . This provided the Vietnam Government an effortless and timely citizen outreach on COVID 19.
Governance, Corruption, and Public Accountability-				
Government effectiveness index	Government effectiveness index stood at -0.56	Government effectiveness index stood at -0.48	Government effectiveness index stood at 0.34	Government effectiveness index stood at 0.2
Voice and Accountability Index	Voice and Accountability Index stood at -0.07 in 2020	Voice and Accountability Index stood at -0.48	Voice and Accountability Index stood at -1.1	Voice and Accountability Index stood at -1.38
Corruption Perception Index	Corruption and Perception Index score stood at 31 in 2020	Corruption and Perception Index score stood at 36 in 2020	Corruption and Perception Index score stood at 54 in 2020	Corruption and Perception Index score stood at 36 in 2020

²¹<https://blogs.worldbank.org/eastasiapacific/can-COVID-19-catalyze-vietnams-digital-transformation>

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