



Republic of Ghana

Technical Report

SDGs Transformation And Commitments





Technical Report

SDGs Transformation And Commitments

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ACRONYMS

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
GALOP	Ghana Accountability for Learnings Outcomes Project
GEDAP	Ghana Energy Development and Access Project
GIFMIS	Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information System
GSFP	Ghana School Feeding Programme
GTLE	Ghana Teacher Licensure Examination
IRECoP	Integrated Recycling and Composting Plant
MJ	Megajoule
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
PFM	Public Financial Management
PPPs	Public-Private Partnerships
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEN	Special Education Needs
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
TLMs	Teaching and Learning Materials
UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UN	United Nations
WDI	World Development Indicators
YIAP	Youth in Agriculture Programme



STATEMENT FROM NDPC



The world finds itself midway through the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), yet it remains far from the midpoint of achieving the set targets. This has been attributed largely to the lingering effects of COVID-19, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and the exacerbating impact of climate change, which have further compounded the challenges faced by countries, particularly those in Africa.

Since Ghana adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and mainstreamed it into national frameworks and plans, significant strides have been made towards achieving the SDGs. The preparation of various reports is a testament of Ghana's commitment and efforts to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

The United Nations has announced selected initiatives as part of collective action to address six critical transitions, a cross-cutting topic, and five enablers that will play a pivotal role in advancing progress towards the SDGs

as the world races against time to achieve these goals. These high- impact initiatives encompass Energy Compacts; Biodiversity & Nature; Transforming Education; Social Protection & Jobs; Food Systems; and Digital Public Infrastructure. Remarkably, Ghana's priority targets (Targets 16.6 , 8.5, 4.1, 6.2, and 7.3) directly align with four of the six transitions outlined by the UN. Consequently, it is envisioned that by focusing on these priority areas, Ghana can generate synergistic effects that would turbocharge the implementation towards attaining the SDGs as directed by the United Nations.

It is imperative for the private sector to recognize the SDGs as an opportunity for investment. Additionally, the United Nations development system plays a pivotal role as a critical partner in the pursuit of SDGs attainment. As we enter the second half of the SDGs implementation journey, it is a clarion call to action, and all stakeholders must rally behind the government to deliver on these global goals in Ghana.

Professor George Gyan-Baffour
Chairman, NDPC

Kodjo Esseim Mensah-Abrampa, PhD
Director-General, NDPC



STATEMENT FROM MINISTRY OF FINANCE

The Ghana Sustainable Development Goals Technical Report marks a critical juncture in our journey towards realising the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly in an era besieged by multifaceted global crises. This document is crafted amidst an unparalleled convergence of challenges – the pervasive impacts of climate change, escalating conflicts, intricate supply chain disruptions, and the growing concerns over energy and food security. As we navigate these turbulent times, this report is not just a reflection of our progress and hurdles but a testament to Ghana's resilience and adaptability in the face of these daunting global challenges.

In recent years, Ghana has charted a path of remarkable progress, fundamentally anchored in our unwavering commitment to sustainable development. This journey, marked by economic fortitude and reform, has recently been significantly influenced by our engagement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The IMF programme is pivotal, serving as a catalyst in stabilising our economy and fostering a milieu where sustainable economic growth can flourish. It is instrumental in instilling fiscal discipline and financial stability, all vital for directing resources towards critical sectors - healthcare, education, industry, infrastructure, and environmental protection. These sectors are not just the pillars of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); they are the bedrock of our nation's future, influencing the quality of life of our citizens and the health of our planet.

Our commitment to the SDGs transcends moral obligation; it is a strategic foresight for a sustainable future. The complex tapestry of

development requires us to embrace long-term planning and sustainable financing. Ghana's multifaceted approach towards SDG financing involves bolstering domestic resource mobilisation through tax reforms, enhancing revenue collection, and curbing financial leakages. Equally, we have cultivated partnerships with private entities, both local and international, harnessing their expertise and resources for sustainable development ventures. These public-private collaborations are central to our strategy, providing the necessary funding and innovation to actualise the SDGs.



As we step into the next phase of our developmental odyssey, our resolve to achieve the SDGs remains unshaken. We acknowledge the impending challenges but remain unyielding in our quest for a prosperous, equitable, and sustainable Ghana. This report delineates Ghana's strides across various sectors, spotlighting triumphs, challenges, and areas necessitating amplified focus. It is an invaluable tool for policymakers, stakeholders, and citizens, shedding light on our nation's pursuit of a sustainable and affluent future.

I extend heartfelt gratitude to all contributors of this report and urge all stakeholders to utilise its insights as a framework for collective action. In unity, we can actualise the Sustainable Development Goals for Ghana, ensuring no one is left behind. Together, we stand resilient against the tides of global crises, forging a path towards a sustainable future.


Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta
Minister for Finance



STATEMENT BY UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED NATIONS COUNTRYTEAM

The year 2023 marks half-way point to the deadline for achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Substantial efforts have been invested towards achieving the Goals, yet progress has been mixed, amidst new challenges and a rapidly changing global, regional, sub-regional and national context. Development efforts have encountered challenges and global threats including the effects of COVID-19 as well as the impacts of climate disasters, persisting and lingering conflict, and economic and political instabilities, particularly in Africa in recent times. In order to re-energize and focus on accelerated progress, it is important to reflect and identify key drivers and priority transformative tracks to get back on track. This is a moment to reimagine and recommit to the promise made by world leaders in 2015 to secure the rights and well-being of everyone on a healthy, safe and thriving planet. Transformative progress is possible to end poverty and inequality, save our planet and build lasting peace and justice.

Ghana's participation in the 2023 SDG Summit is an important signal of its political commitment and reaffirmation of government's unwavering desire to achieve the SDGs, leaving no one behind. Working towards Ghana beyond aid, the country has taken bold and significant steps by establishing strong institutional mechanisms, identified pathways to accelerate SDGs and is implementing

high impact initiatives. Ghana has also embarked on accelerator actions and innovative financing approaches contributing to the objectives of this milestone event and reflection moment.



Ghana's stock take builds on a deep commitment and experience – having conducted Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) in 2019 and 2022 and aligned its budgeting processes to the SDGs since 2018, through a series of consultations with a diverse set of key stakeholders, targeted rapid assessments and surveys, and with a focus on leaving no one behind. These together with the ongoing statistical modernization efforts and the 2021 Population and Housing Census, the UNDP SDG Insights Report and other analyses, helped to identify important trends, challenges, and lessons leading to catalytic and transformative priorities and ways forward to accelerate attainment of the SDGs in Ghana. At midpoint now, this work has fed into further work and consultation to identify priority drivers for Ghana.

Ghana has chosen the path to prioritize five SDG targets (focusing on effective,



accountable and transparent institutions; productive employment and decent work; equitable and quality primary and secondary education; adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene; and improvement in energy efficiency) where further investments are needed to bring progress that can lead to transformative progress across board. These align well with all the transformative tracks identified and the insights report.

The UN Country Team in Ghana will continue supporting Ghana's ambitious efforts through the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023-25). We will work in close collaboration with all stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, to support the government's development priorities through our three priority areas - (i) Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth and Transformation, (ii) Accessible, Inclusive,

Sustainable Quality Basic Social Services, (iii) Durable Peace and Security in Ghana and the Subregion. Our approach has a cross-cutting focus on leaving no one behind, embracing a human rights-based perspective, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, building resilience and sustainability, and enhancing accountability as well as supporting Ghana on critical issues such as climate transformation, digitalization and urbanization.

The UN urges all stakeholders to unite their efforts to ensure that the SDG Summit becomes a pivotal moment, driving a transformative breakthrough for the people of Ghana. Together, we can drive positive change, leaving behind a legacy of prosperity, equality, and environmental stewardship for generations to come.

Charles Abani,

His Excellency the United Nations
Resident Coordinator in Ghana



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The National Development Planning Commission is grateful to all governmental and non-governmental stakeholders for their immense support towards the preparation of the Technical Report on SDGs Transformation and Commitments. The Commission benefited from the technical direction and inputs Dr. Kodjo Mensah-Abrampa, Director-General, NDPC and selected head of institutions, namely, Ministry of Finance, Ghana Statistical Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, SDG Advisory Unit and UN Resident Coordinator's Office.

The Commission is indebted to its Development Partners under the coordination of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office for their technical and financial support. A special appreciation also goes to Conrad Hilton Foundation for providing some financial support for the report.

The Commission is grateful to the SDG ICC, MDAs and MMDAs for participating in the review and validation processes to enrich the content of the report.

Finally, the Commission wishes to appreciate all task team members from the NDPC and SDG ICC (please see list in annex II) for drafting and reviewing of the report.

1. Introduction





1. Introduction

At midpoint of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the report of the Secretary-General on progress shows that just 12 percent of the assessable targets are on track and close to half, though showing progress, are moderately or severely off track while others have regressed below the 2015 baseline. The world crises in recent years, including the COVID-19 pandemic, conflict, and escalating climate issues accounted for these results. These crises have further pushed millions into poverty, exacerbated inequalities, and threatened gender equality and climate action.

The UN Secretary-General has therefore urged world leaders to unite around a 'Rescue Plan for People and Planet' including by announcing national and global commitments that will help drive SDG transformation for inclusion and sustainability in the years ahead. The plan must thus encompass three critical fronts as forward-looking national commitments

to SDG transformation which include (i) priority transitions and areas for investment that will help maximize progress across the SDGs; (ii) a national benchmark for reducing poverty and inequality by 2027; and (iii) steps towards strengthened national planning and institutional frameworks to support progress in these areas. There is urgent need for renewed commitment, solidarity, and transformative actions to achieve the SDGs, which are aimed to create prosperity for all, eliminate poverty, reduce inequality, and protect the environment.

The report showcases Ghana's dedication to the SDGs within the context of the challenges and action areas outlined by the Secretary-General. It subscribes to the spirit of transformation embedded in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which remains possible and essential as the world has unprecedented access to knowledge, technologies, and resources.

2. The Process: Preparation of Technical Report





2. The Process: Preparation of Technical Report

In response to the call to SDG transformation and commitments, Ghana adopted a “whole-government and whole-society” approach in the preparation of this technical report. This multifaceted approach is to ensure inclusion, ownership and legitimacy of the entire process across all stakeholders. It leveraged on existing architecture used by the country in the preparation of SDGs related reports.

The process began with a high-level meeting among heads of government and non-government institutions to brainstorm on the call to action as enshrined in the Rescue Plan for People and Planet and expectation of nations at the 2023 Summit. Following this was the formation of task team with technical

expertise from different sectors to develop a technical report on the call for Ghana. The primary objective was to scientifically arrive at a minimal number of targets for prioritisation, make projections for poverty and inequality based on observed data trends and expert views, and as well highlight critical areas of strategic initiatives and investment opportunities to drive the achievement of the SDGs.

The Team began by gathering and reviewing relevant national frameworks and policies to assess the progress and pattern of budget allocation/ expenditure across the targets. A review guide was developed for the exercise.





National documents reviewed:

Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework (2022-2025), Ghana@100, Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies (2017-2024; 2021-2025), SDGs Budget Reports, National Budgets, 2022 Voluntary National Review Report of the SDGs, National Annual Progress Reports (2021 and 2022), Guidelines: Voluntary Local Review Preparation for Ghana, Ghana COVID-19 Alleviation and Revitalisation of Enterprises Support (Ghana CARES), and Post-COVID-19 Programme for Economic Growth (PC-PEG). Others included sector specific policies and reports.

The initial review emerged with 22 targets to be considered for the next stage. The Team in the process adopted the UNDP SDGs Push Diagnostic tool to establish the synergies and trade-offs associated with the targets. This further trimmed down to 9 targets. In order to arrive at fewer topmost priorities, an in-house weight-based assessment tool was developed to establish the degree and direction of interconnectedness across the targets.

This resulted to 5 top priority targets-16.6, 8.5, 4.1, 6.2 and 7.3.

As part of the process for prioritisation, the Team was tasked to make informed projections towards a considerable reduction in poverty and inequality. This projection was based on data trends, government current initiatives and policies as well as potential investment opportunities which could trigger a significant achievement of the top priority targets.

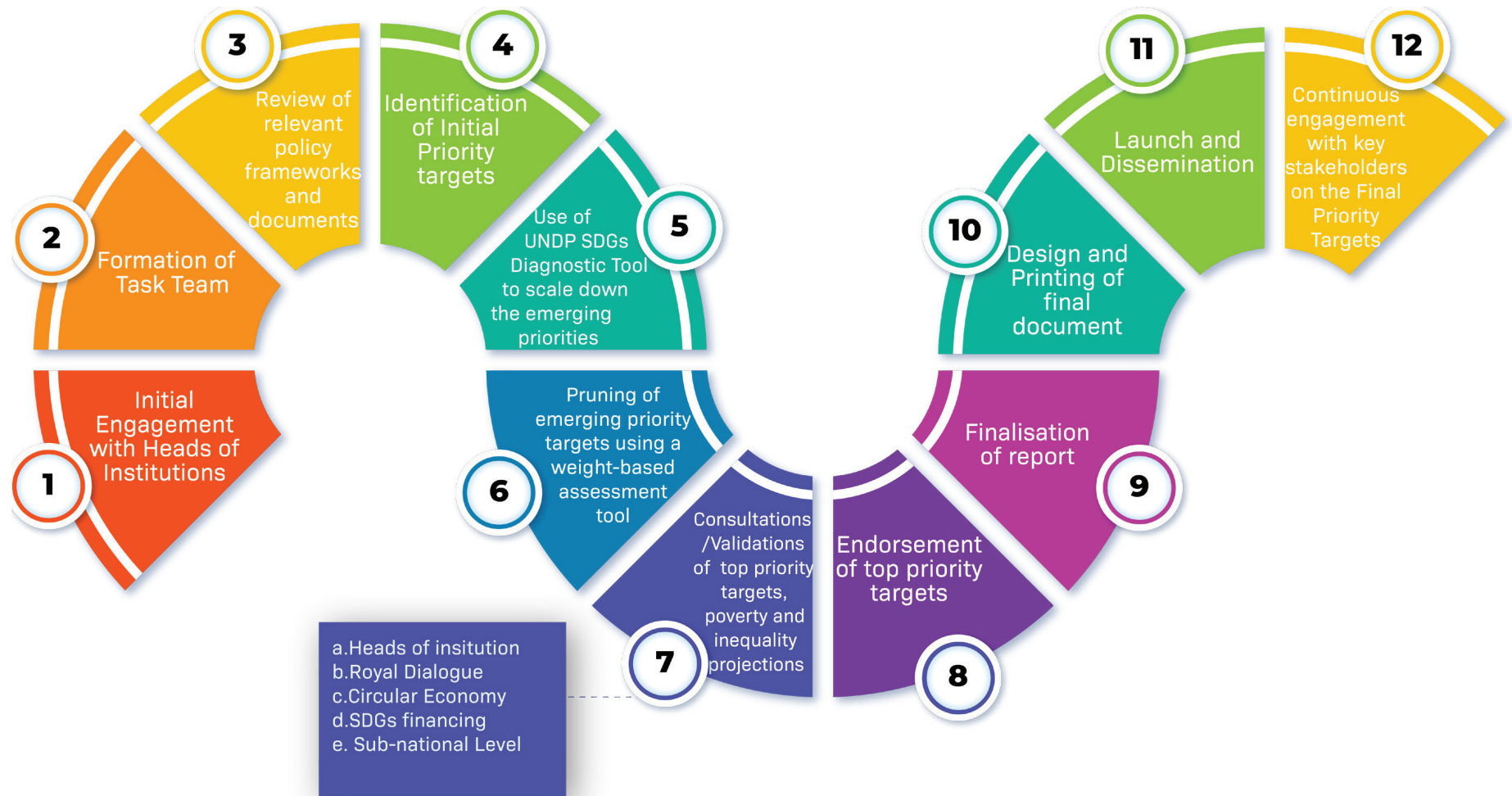
The next stage of the process was consultation and validation of findings from the report. The

Implementation Coordination Committee (ICC) through the National Development Planning Commission conducted key consultations including meeting with the royals (central regional house of chiefs) with a particular focus on land and sustainable development. Additional dialogues were held on circular economy and financing gaps of the SDGs with participation from government officials and representatives from academia, private sector, development partners and civil society organisation, among others. Further consultation was held with stakeholders at the sub-national level. The report received inputs from the Commissioners of NDPC, selected top government officials, key industry players and political leaders to ensure endorsement of the priority areas and projections for poverty and inequality. Following this stage was the design, editing and finalisation of the report. The report is to receive a national launch and dissemination across regions and sub-national levels. A road map is being developed to ensure continuous engagement beyond the dissemination.

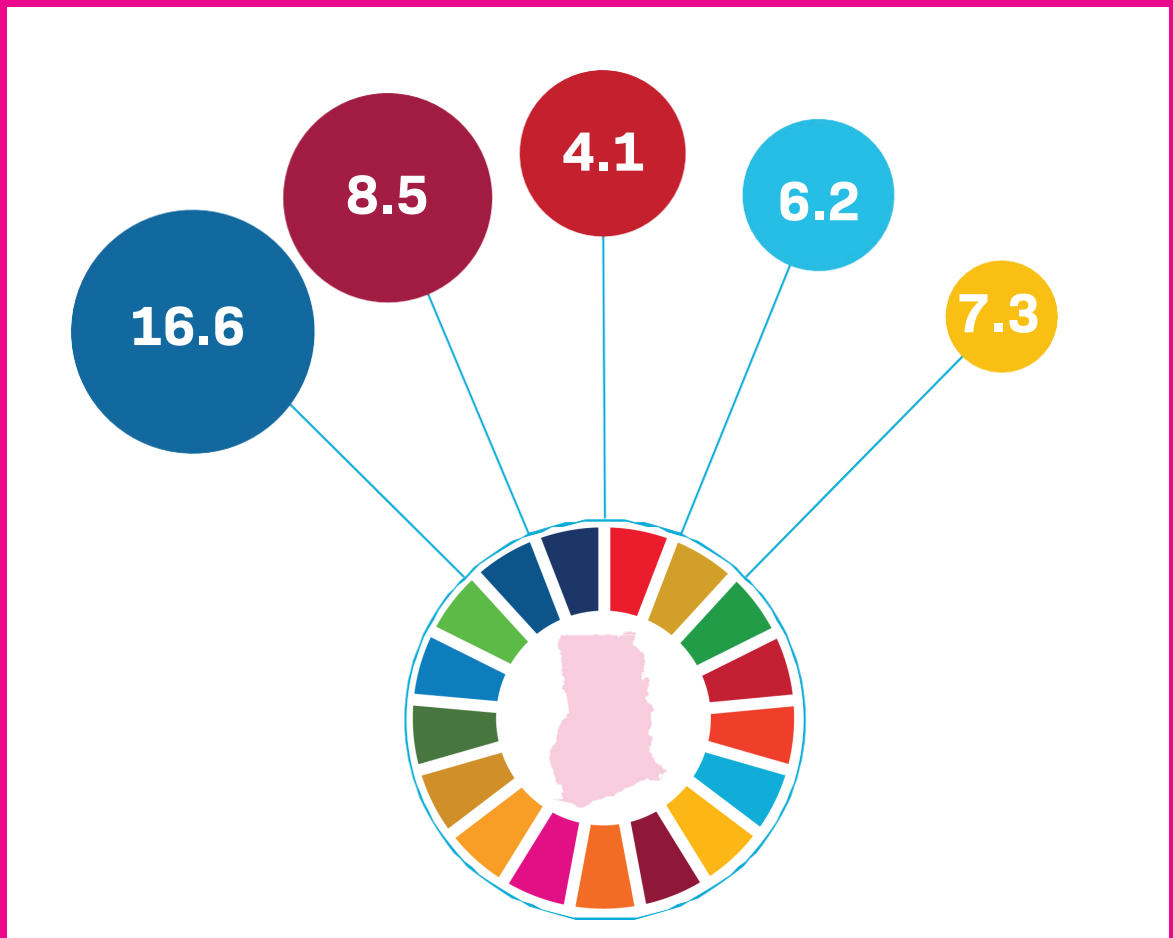




Figure 1: The Process



3. Priority Areas and Interlinkages



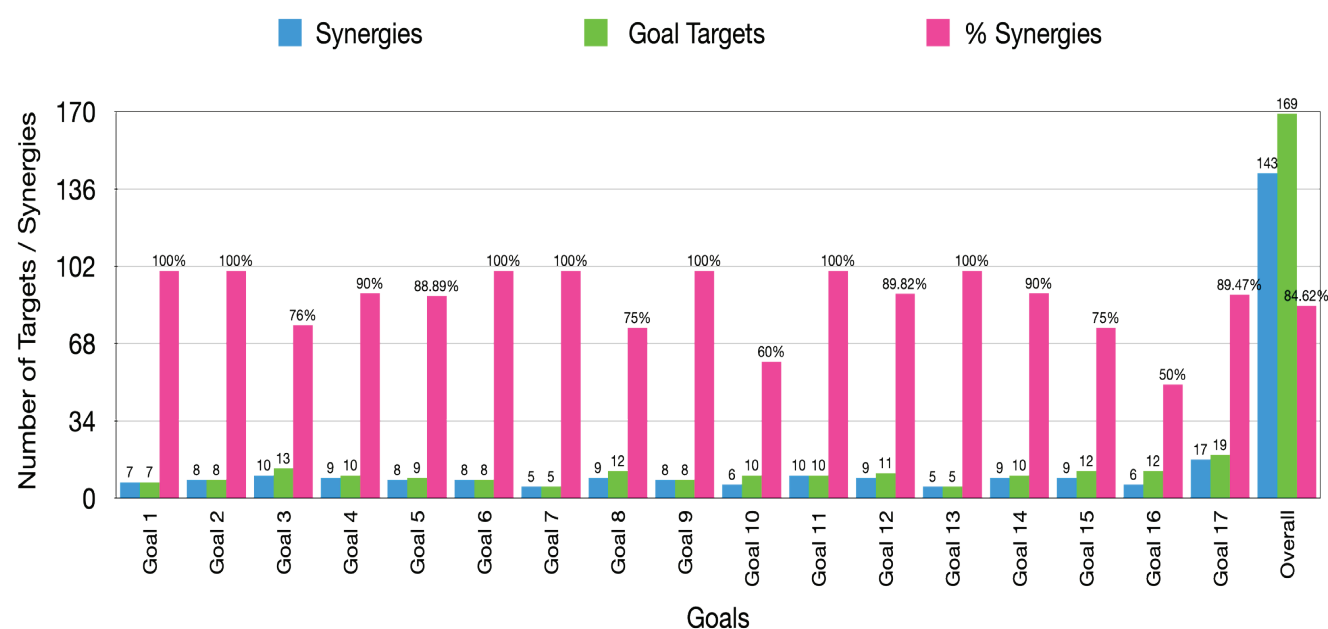


3. Priority Areas and Inter-linkages

3.1. Introduction

There are clear inter-linkages among the SDG targets. The combined synergies from the 5 top priority targets for Ghana account for 84.62 percent (143) of all SDG targets (169). They show strong positive inter-linkages with all the 17 goals with some variations. In particular, they exhibit a 100 percent synergetic effect with seven Goals: 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 11, and 13, and at least 75 percent across 8 other goals

Figure 2: Combined Synergies of the 5 Top Priority Targets by Goal





Target 16.6

3.2. SDG Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

In Ghana, Target 16.6 has emerged as a priority in the continuous efforts to bolster governance frameworks and elevate transparency and accountability within the public sector. Remarkably, the government has since 2017 consistently demonstrated its responsibility by adhering to the originally approved budgetary allocations until 2021. Even the unforeseen and unavoidable expenses incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 did not significantly deter this commitment, with the government maintaining an impressive 98.3 percent expenditure share of the approved budget during that challenging period. However, perception of corruption and inefficiencies in the public sector remains generally high¹.

3.2.1. Synergies

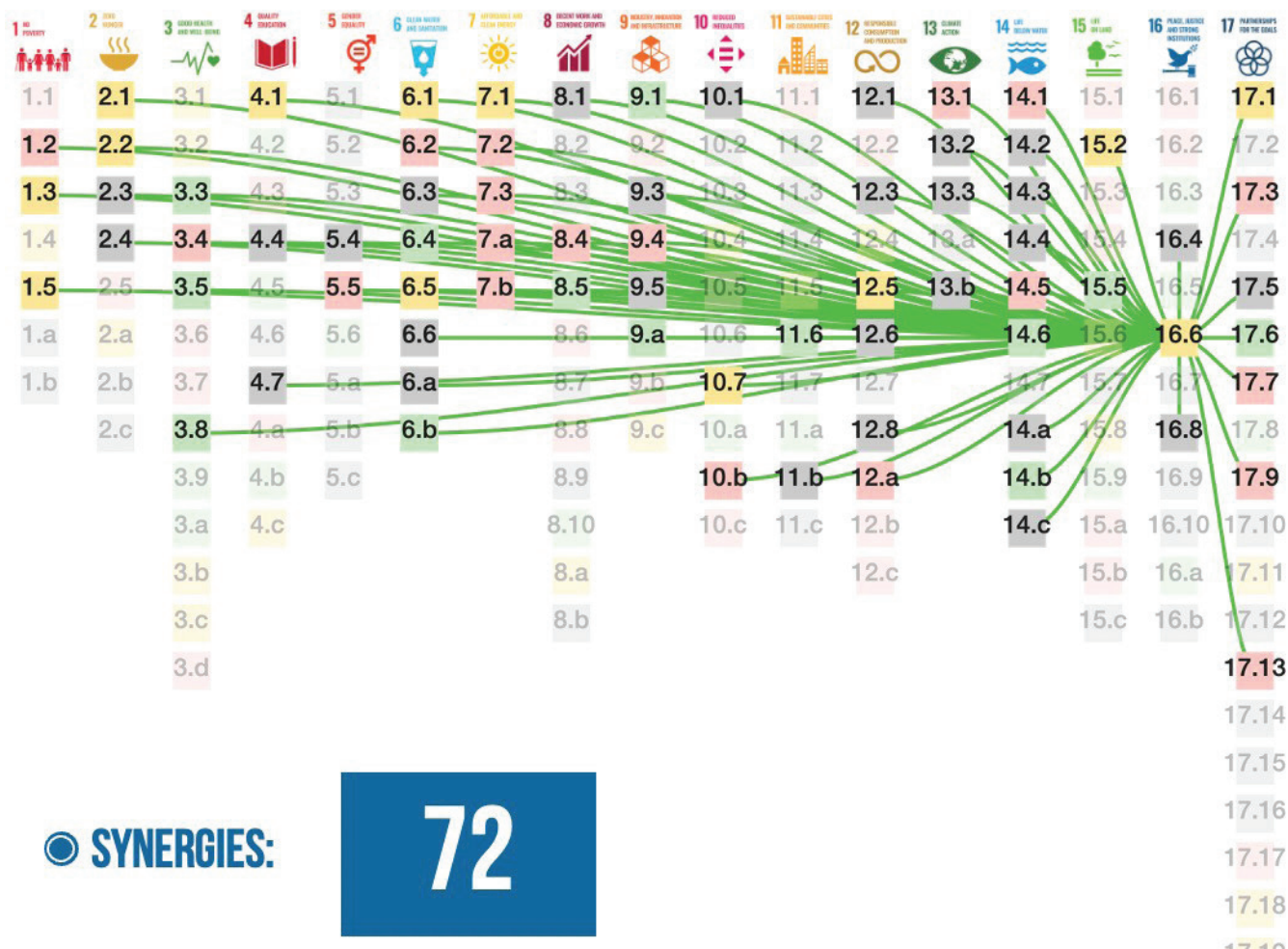
SDG Target 16.6 has been identified with 72 synergies, representing 42.60 percent of all the SDG targets. These synergies underscore the interconnected nature of effective institutions and sustainable development, emphasising how improvements in governance and accountability can positively influence the achievement of broader goals and targets.

Improved transparency and effective governance will help facilitate the design, execution, and monitoring of social protection programmes (Target 1.3), ensuring they efficiently reach those in need (women,

children, PWDs, among others) as well as enhance foreign direct investments (Target 17.3). This can further help accelerate the progress in ending open defecation (Target 6.2), illegal mining and deforestation (Target 15.2). Also, transparent and accountable institutions are crucial in effectively targeting beneficiaries, thereby reducing poverty (Target 1.1 and 1.2), inequality (Target 10.2), empowering women and children (Target 5.5) and enhancing social well-being. This can come in the form of setting standards, enforcing by-laws, rules and regulations, at all levels.

¹ Corruption in Ghana: People's Experiences and Views: https://chraj.gov.gh/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/GHANA_Corruption_Survey_Report-20.07.2022.pdf





3.2.2. Strategic Initiatives And Investment Opportunities

3.2.2.1. Strategic Initiatives

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): Ghana has enacted the Public-Private Partnership Act, 2020 (Act 1039). Investors can explore opportunities for PPPs in sectors that directly impact governance and accountability, such as infrastructure development, healthcare, and education. These partnerships can help leverage private sector expertise and resources to improve public service delivery, ensuring transparency and accountability.

concrete step toward countering corruption. This independent body was established to investigate specific cases of alleged or suspected corruption and corruption-related offences involving public officers and politically exposed persons in the performance of their functions as well as persons in the private sector involved in the commission of alleged or suspected corruption and corruption-related offences.

Strengthening Anti-Corruption Measures: Ghana's establishment of the Office of the Special Prosecutor in 2018 showcases a

Enhancing E-Governance: Ghana's "e-Services Portal" offers online platforms for citizens to access government services



and information. This initiative minimises corruption opportunities by digitising services and promoting accountable and efficient service delivery.

Open Budget Platforms: The Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS) aims to promote transparency in budgetary processes.

Public Financial Management(PFM)

Reforms: Ghana's PFM reforms aim to improve fiscal transparency, budget credibility, and public resource management.

Promoting Public Participation:

Mechanisms like Town Hall Meetings and Community durbars empower marginalised communities and women to participate in decision-making.

3.2.2.2. Investment Opportunities

Technological Infrastructure: Building and upgrading technological infrastructure is essential for promoting transparent and efficient institutions. Investment opportunities exist in providing the necessary technology and IT systems to support government operations and enhance data security. The investment opportunity includes establishing data centres, providing cybersecurity solutions, business process outsourcing and digital communication networks.



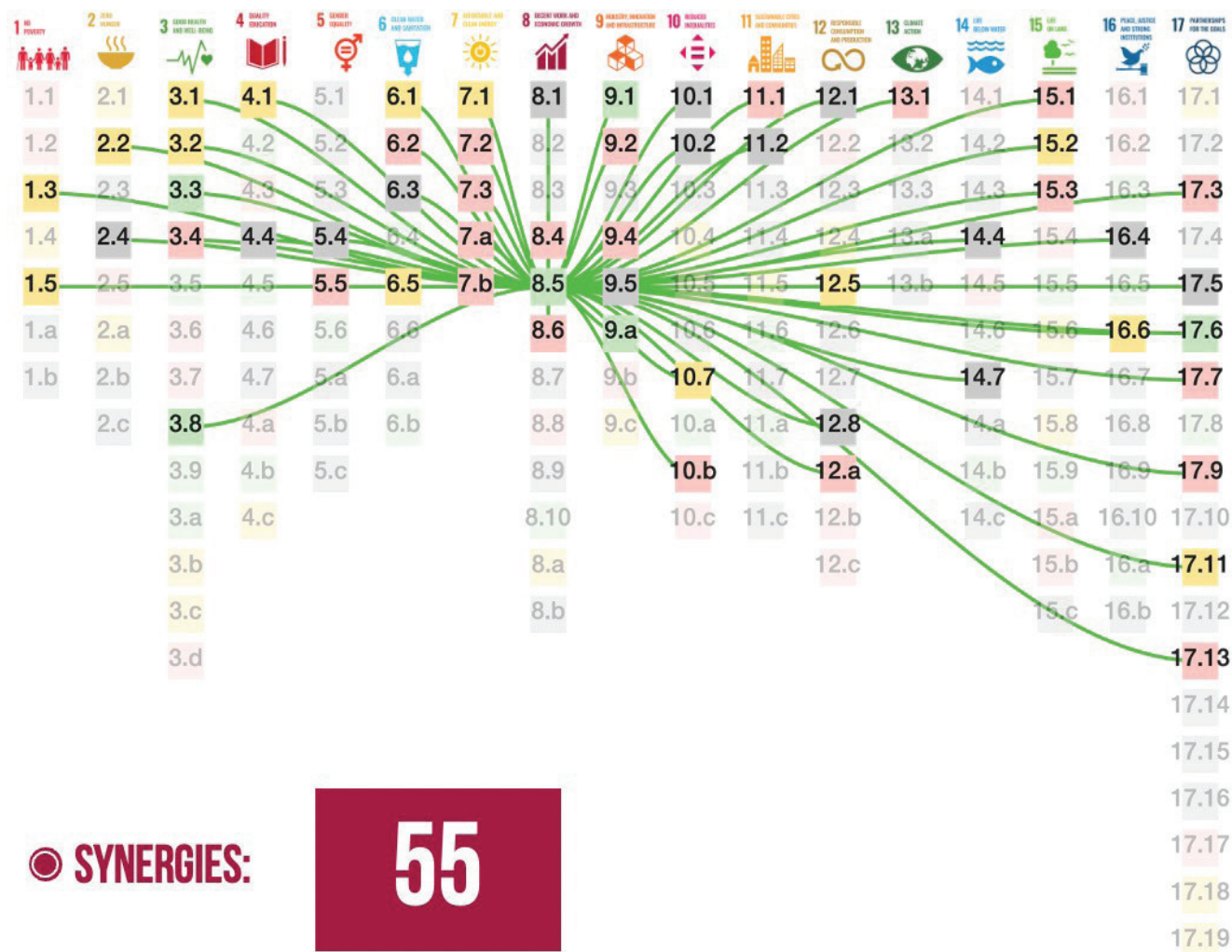
3.3. SDG Target 8.5: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

There is wide disparity in the labour market across gender and occupations, with an increased gender pay gap in favour of male workers. Unemployment rate among the population 15 years and older is 13.4 percent and it is higher for females (15.5%) than males (11.6%) in 2021. The rate is even much higher for young adults 15- 24 years (32.8%). It is more noticeable among the urban population and persons with disabilities (PWDs).



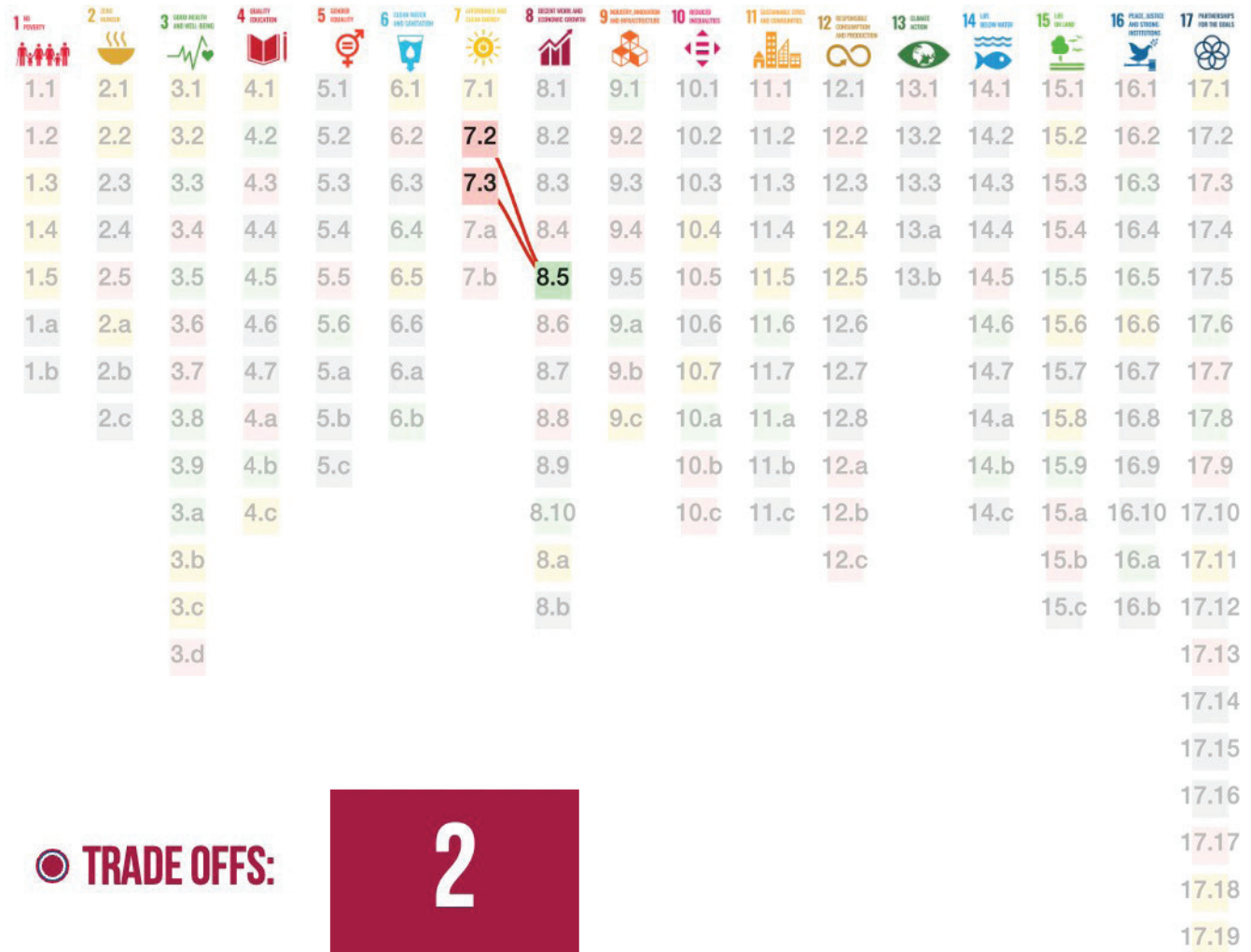
3.3.1. Synergies

Investments aimed at implementing target 8.5 would have 55 synergies with various targets of the SDGs representing 39 percent of overall targets. A deliberate effort geared towards addressing unemployment such as the government’s industrialisation agenda (1D1F) (Targets 9.2) would economically empower the working population and thus contribute to reducing poverty (Target 1.1 and 1.2). Similarly, achieving it can influence sustainable income growth thereby addressing inequalities (Target 10.1).



3.3.2. Trade-offs

Despite the wider positive net effect of this target across all the 17 goals, there may be likely negative impact on targets 7.2 and 7.3. Initiatives to rapidly create employment by developing the industrial power of the country could lead to higher greenhouse gas emissions.



● TRADE OFFS:

2

3.3.3. Strategic initiatives and investment opportunities

3.3.3.1. Strategic initiatives

YouStart Programme: A vehicle through which Government provides funding and technical support to youth and youth-led businesses to enable them grow their businesses.

Youth in Afforestation Programme: This programme creates jobs for unemployed

youth by engaging them in reforestation, rehabilitation and protection of degraded forest.

Youth in Agriculture Programme (YIAP): A Government of Ghana initiative to motivate the youth to accept and appreciate farming/food production as a commercial venture, and taking up farming as a life time vocation.



3.3.3.2. Investment Opportunities

Agriculture and agro-processing:

Ghana’s agricultural sector is characterised by low level of mechanisation, thus limiting the number of commercial farms. Government is looking to increase agricultural productivity to feed the envisage agro- processing industry which is at the heart of Ghana’s development agenda. This provides investment opportunities in commercial farming, supply of farm inputs, storage facilities, haulage, distribution and marketing, and other farm services.

Pharmaceuticals: This sector is highly labour-intensive and has struggled to live up to its fullest potential due to a

range of challenges including inadequate investments. The few firms in the industry have the potential to produce more by taking advantage of the large continental free trade market and to employ more people. Investment opportunities include research, establishment of bioequivalence laboratories to produce pharmaceutical products, haulage and distribution of pharmaceutical products.

Tourism: Ghana’s tourism sector is underdeveloped but has enormous potential for revenue generation. The sector’s 25-year strategic plan outlines investment opportunities in developing tourist sites, among others.



Target 4.1

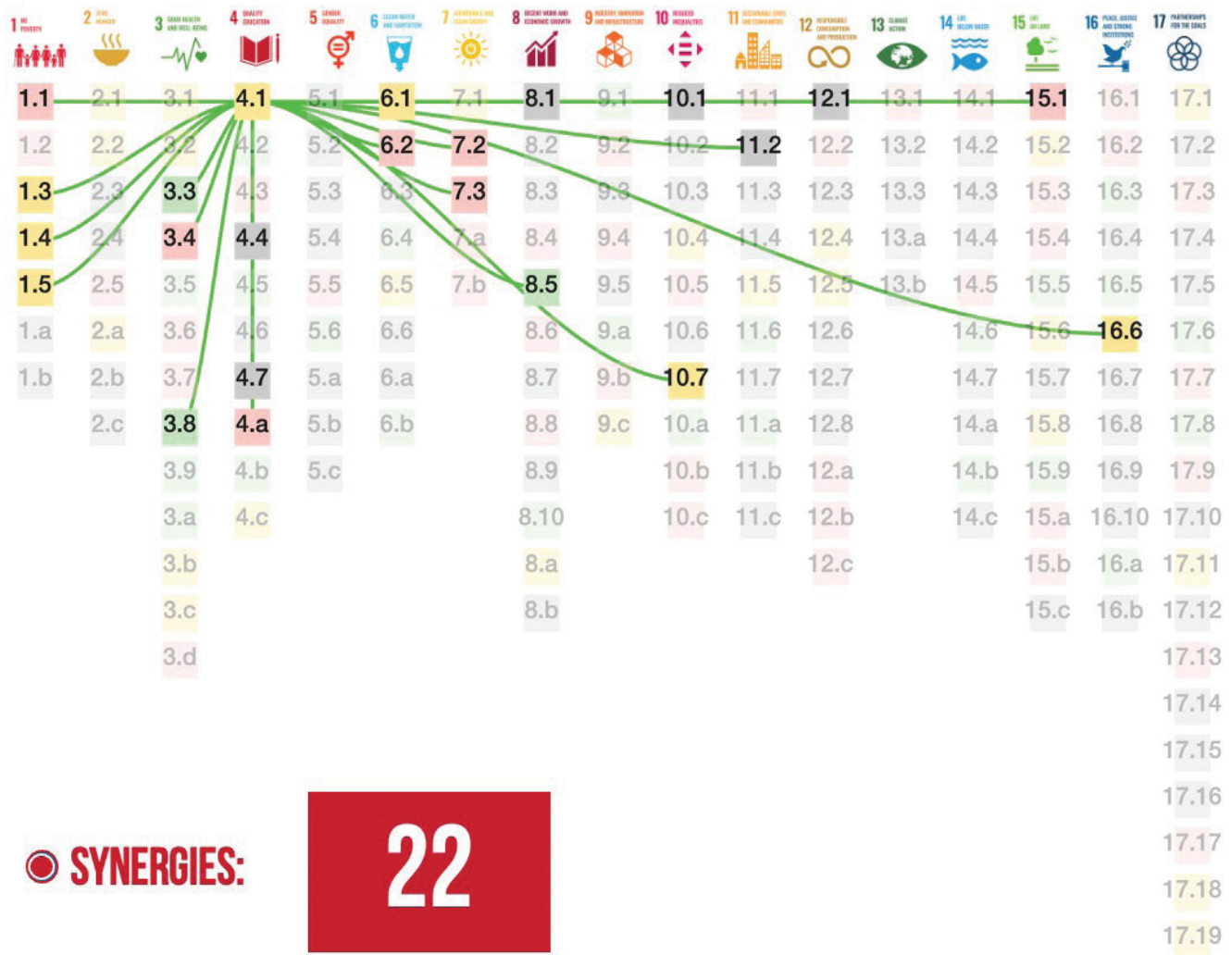
3.4. SDG Target 4.1: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.

Ghana has made significant improvements in ensuring that all children complete free quality education. Gender parity has been achieved at kindergarten, primary, and junior high school levels; however, completion rates at junior high school level remain a challenge. Also, there is low level of proficiency in English and Mathematics among Primary 4 and Primary 6 pupils with urban areas performing better than rural.

3.4.1. Synergies

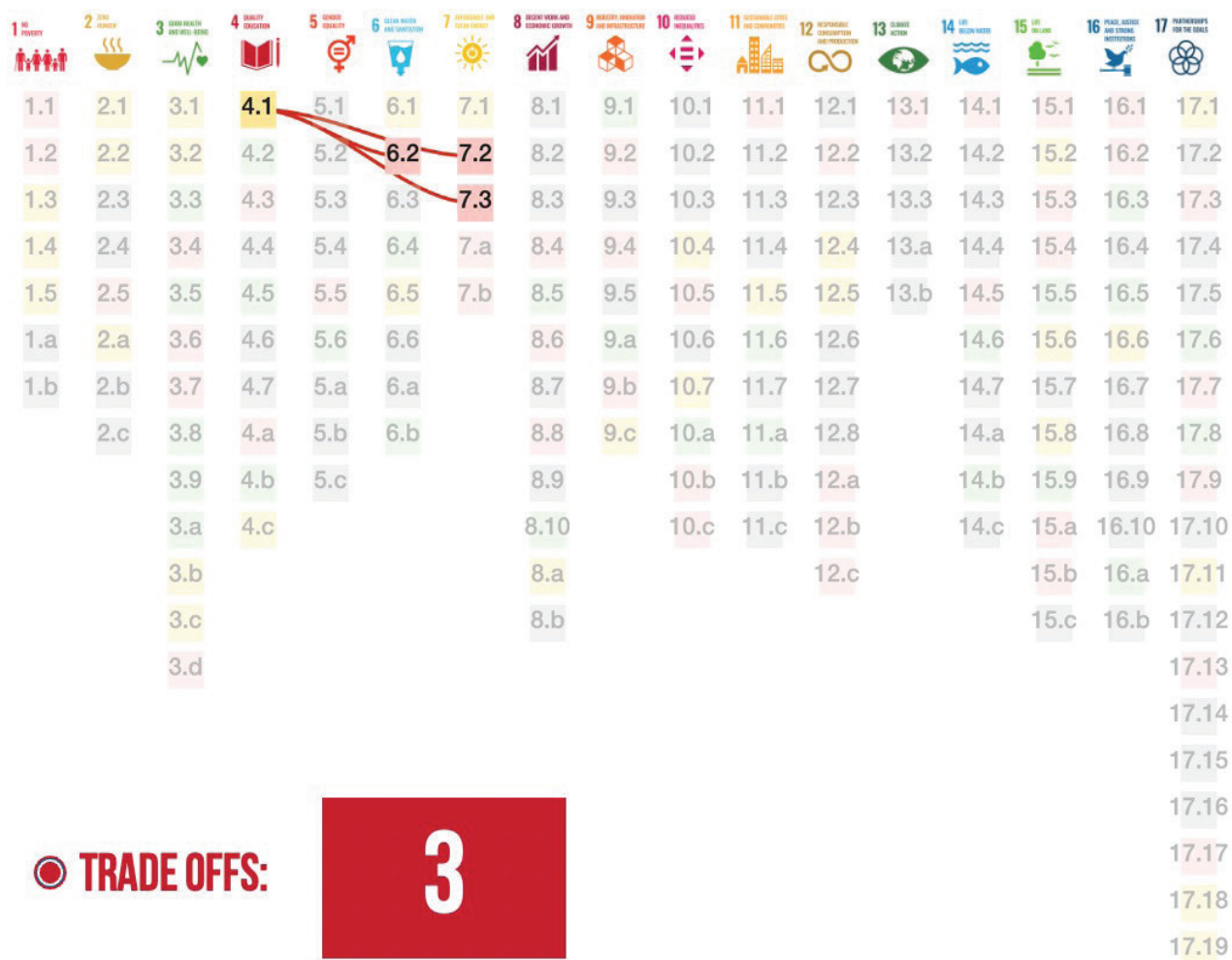
Target 4.1 has synergies with 22 SDG targets representing 13 percent of all the SDG targets. Efforts geared towards Target 4.1 will help build the adequate human capital and enhance employability skills (Target 8.2) that will support Ghana’s industrialisation drive (Target 9.2) and potentially lead to reduction in poverty (Target 1.1 and 1.2) and inequality

gaps (Target 10.2). Additionally, increasing investment in this target will contribute to creating an educated and empowered populace that can better engage with and contribute to effective and transparent institutions (Target 16.6), leading to more sustainable and just societies.



3.4.2. Trade-offs

Implementation of Target 4.1 has potential negative effects on three targets (Targets 6.2, 7.2 and 7.3). In the bid to increase access to education amongst boys and girls, there could be potentially an increased pressure on already existing limited sanitation infrastructure (Target 6.2) in schools. Further, an increased investment in this target could potentially limit government’s ability to invest in other areas including fully implementing the National Energy Transition Framework (Targets 7.2 and 7.3).



● TRADE OFFS:



3.4.3. Strategic Initiatives And Investment Opportunities

3.4.3.1. Strategic Initiatives

Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP):

This is a programme to address child nutrition, educational enrolment, retention, and hygiene.

Free Senior High School and Technical and Vocational Education:

This is to create an inclusive society where everyone has access to education.

Ghana Teacher Licensure Examination (GTLE):

This is to improve teachers professional standing and status, and to license and

register teachers.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM):

This is to promote the study of STEM right from primary school.

The Ghana Accountability for Learning Outcomes Project (GALOP):

This is to improve the quality of education in low- performing basic education schools and strengthen education sector equity and accountability.



3.4.3.2. Investment opportunities

Infrastructure for Early Childhood Development: Government's policy direction for the early childhood development is the construction of schools in all communities and provision of essential Teaching and Learning Materials (TLMs). Given the fiscal space, investors can partner government to achieve this objective.

Disability-Friendly School Infrastructure: Government seeks to ensure that all new school infrastructure designs and constructions are accessible to learners with Special Education Needs (SEN) and are built based on the principles of universal design. It further seeks to modify the design of existing schools to provide opportunities for learners with SEN². Given the fiscal space, investors can partner with government to achieve these objectives.



Target 6.2

3.5. SDG Target 6.2: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

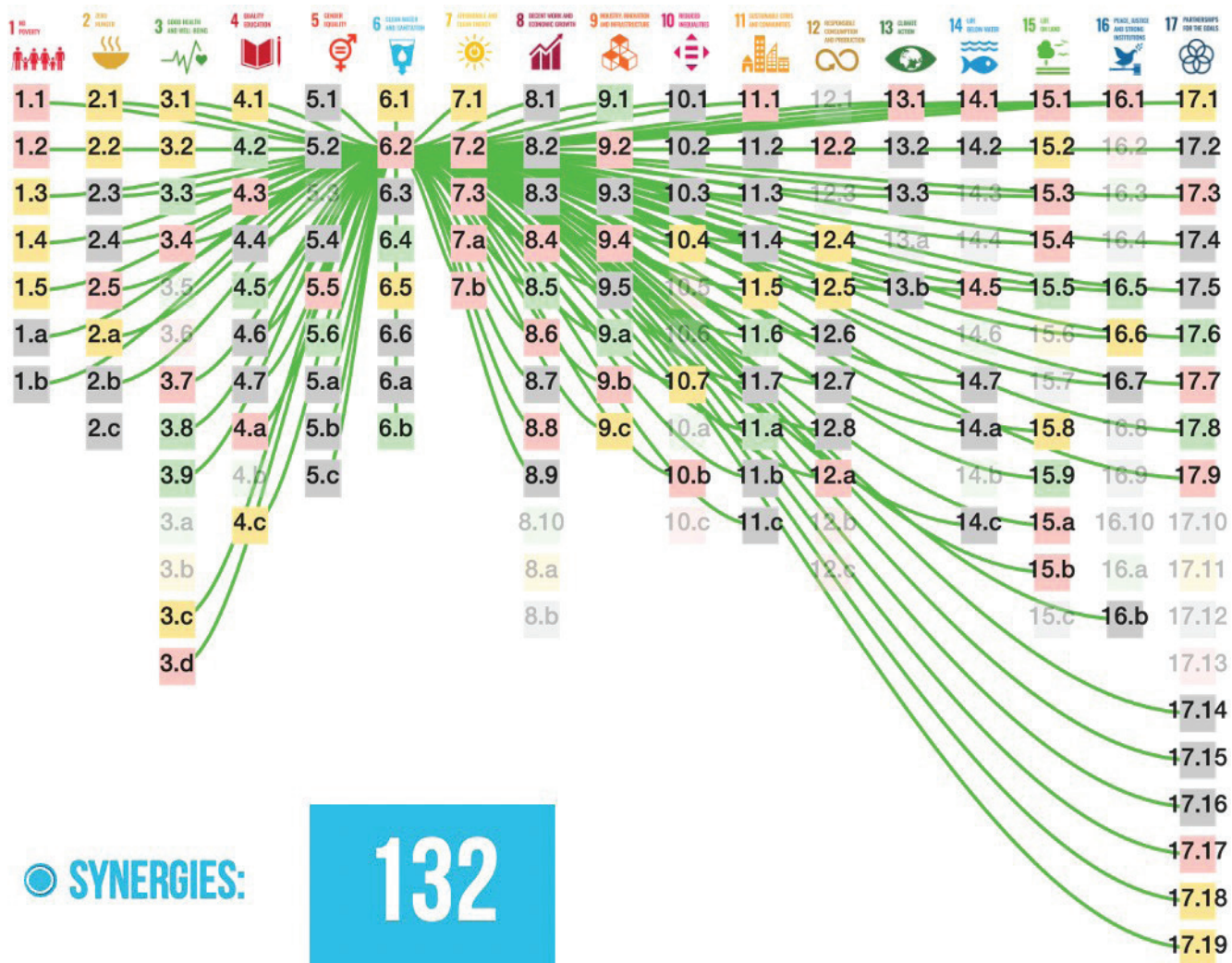
Access to basic and safely managed sanitation services is estimated at 41 percent and 13 percent respectively with urban areas performing better than rural. The proportion of population practicing open defecation has dropped from 20 percent in 2018 to 17.7 percent in 2021. Lack of access to sanitation services is the highest contributor to multidimensional poverty among children.

3.5.1. Synergies

Target 6.2 has synergies with more than 70 percent (132) of the total SDG targets (169). Improved access to sanitation services supports better health by reducing water related diseases (Target 3.3), enhances education through improved school environments (Target 4.7), and boosts economic growth by raising productivity and lessening health-related costs (Target 8.4) and

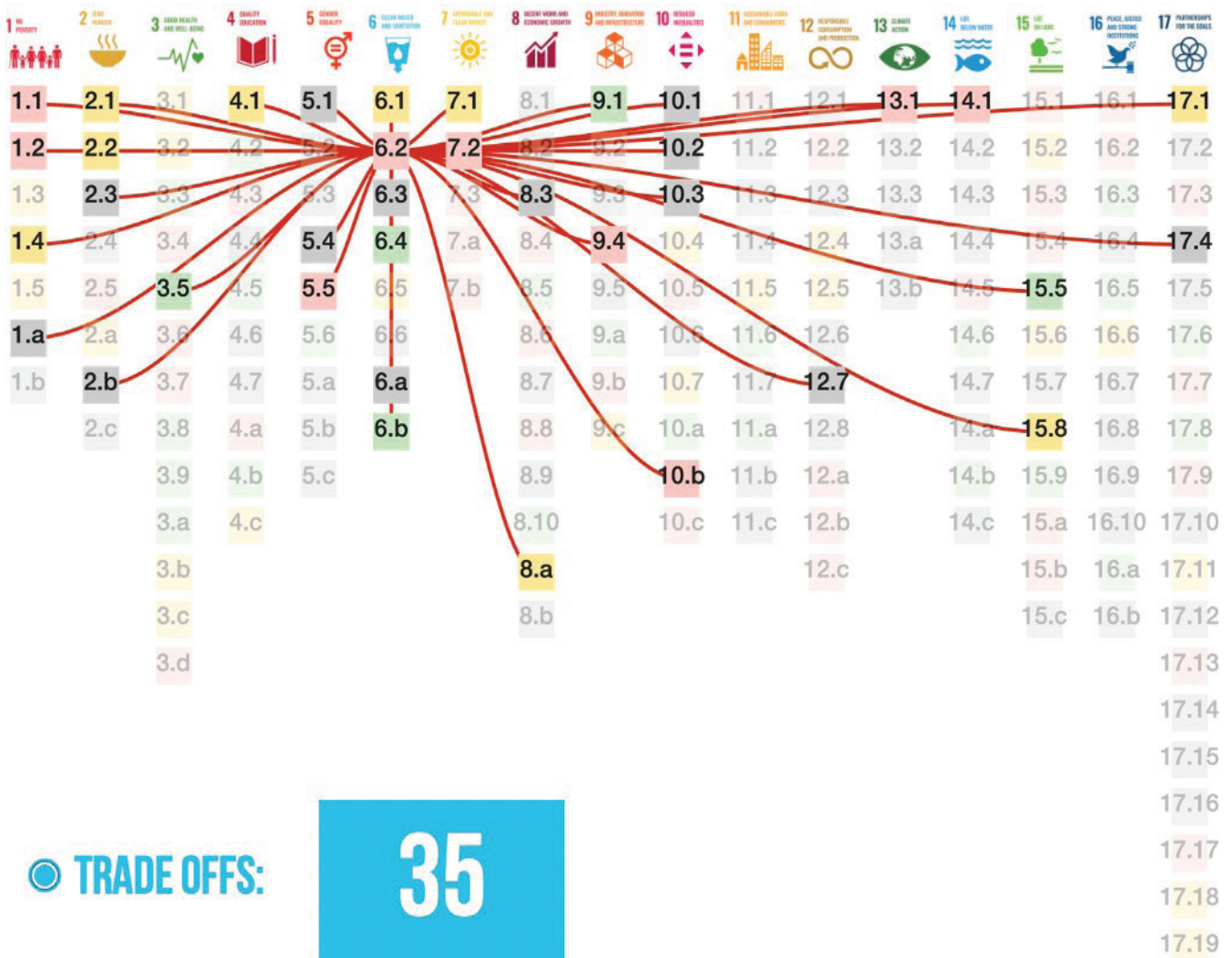
reduce the pollution of coastal and marines through the reduction in plastic waste (Target 14.1). Harnessing the opportunities in the sanitation value chain could have a catalytic effect on Ghana's recycling rate (Target 12.5) and industrialisation drive (Target 9.2) with residual benefits through job creation (Target 8.5) and poverty reduction (Target 1.1 and 1.2).





3.5.2. Trade-offs

The target trades off with about 35 SDG targets. Improving access to sanitation services without adequate mitigation measures could result in pollution of surface and ground water sources (Target 6.1 and 6.3), increase the incidence of water-borne diseases (Target 3.3), damage essential ecosystems (Target 15.1), and reduce tourism potentials (Target 8.9).



3.5.3. Strategic Initiatives And Investment Opportunities

3.5.3.1. Strategic Initiative

Implementation of Circular Economy Action Plan: The country has secured 2.4 billion dollars to guide its transition to a circular economy over the next ten years through a road map and an action plan. Investing in the priority actions in the action plan (i.e. waste water, plastics, agriculture, textiles, etc.) would create multiplier effects in its value chain. As part of the circular economy action plan, a National Plastics Management Policy has been developed to manage plastic waste.

National Environmental Sanitation Policy and Investment Plan: This seeks to ensure sustainable environmental sanitation management.

Integrated Recycling and Composting Plant (IRECoP): This is a Public Private Partnership initiative to improve waste recycling.

Greater Accra and Greater Kumasi Metropolitan Area Sanitation and Water Projects: This is to increase access to improved sanitation and water supply in low-income communities.



3.5.3.2. Investment Opportunities

SMART WASH Facilities: Government is implementing a toilet-for-all initiative to ensure universal access to sanitation. This initiative seeks to leverage on technological and innovative solutions, including smart toilets, sanitation apps, waterless toilets, sensors, and eco- friendly sanitary products. Government is open to partnerships to achieve

this objective.

Waste-to-energy Investment: A large proportion of waste generated ends up at dumpsites with limited recycling. This provides enormous potential for investment in waste-to-energy technology and infrastructure.



Target 7.3

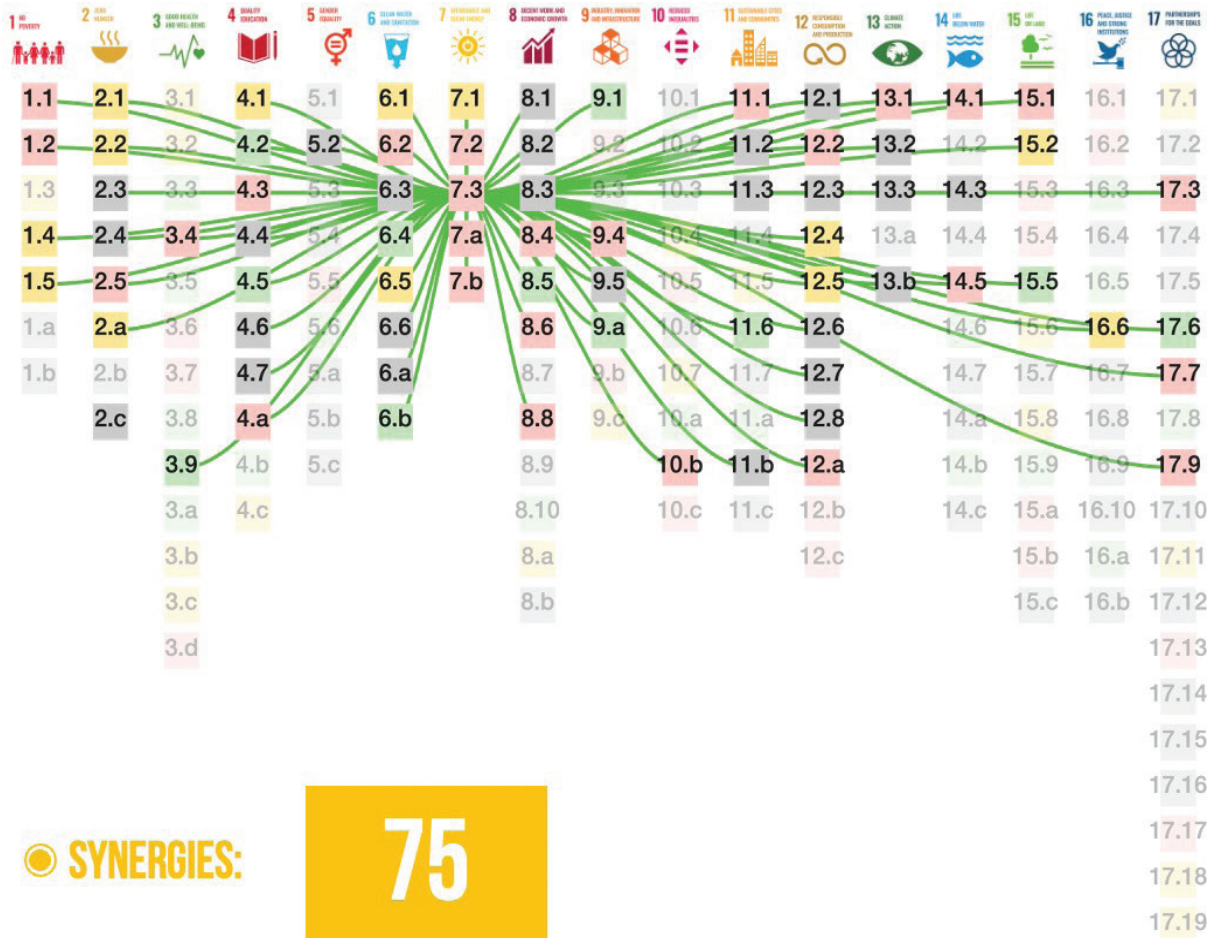
3.6. SDG Target 7.3: By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

Approximately 88.5 percent of Ghana’s population has electricity access, primarily sourced from thermal (65.3%), hydro (34.1%), and renewables (0.6%). Ghana’s energy intensity has improved over the period from 3.33 MJ in 2010 to 2.97 MJ in 2020. This is better than the Sub-Saharan Africa average of 6 MJ (WDI, 2023).

3.6.1. Synergies

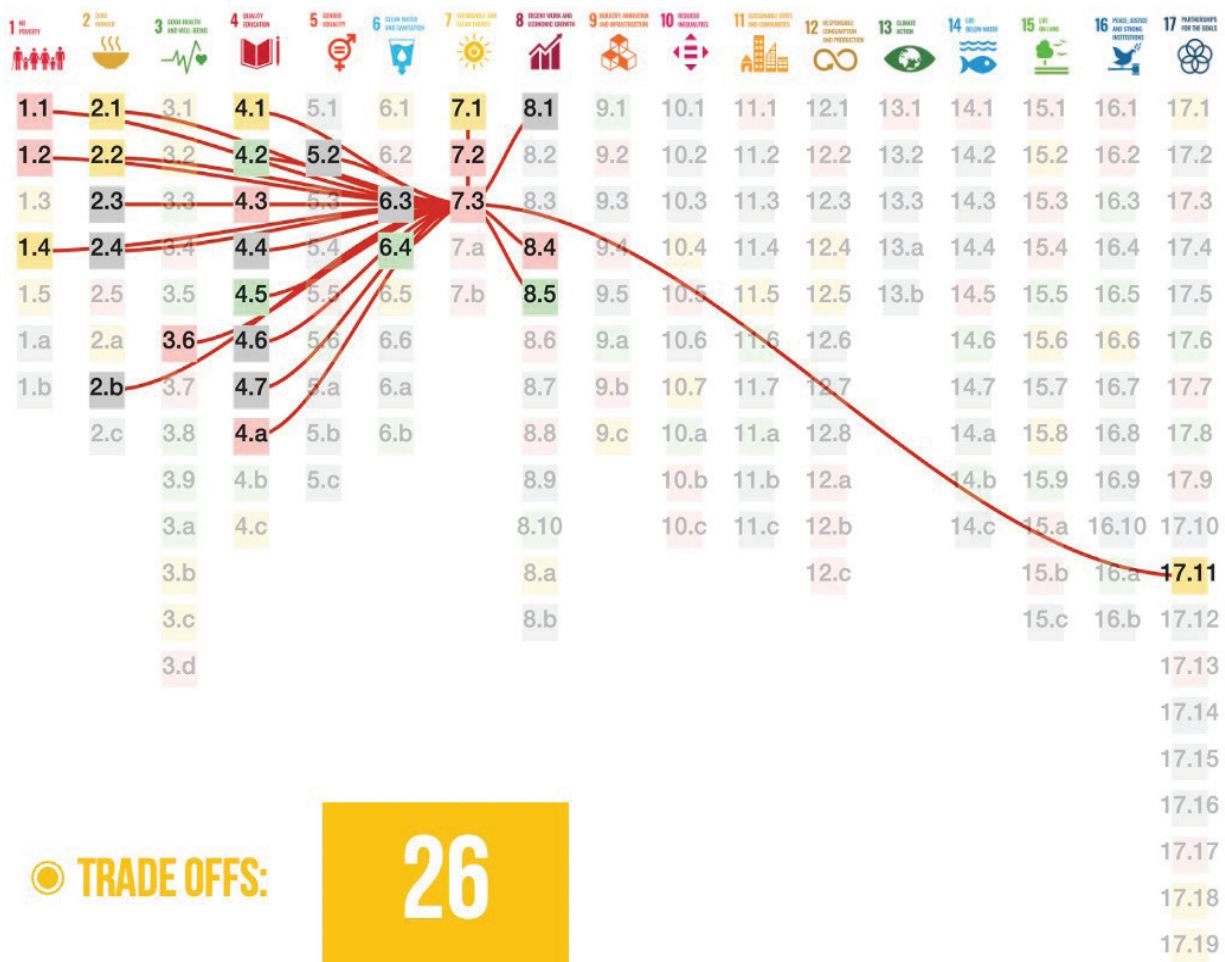
The implementation of actions geared toward the attainment of target 7.3 has a great influence on the achievement of all the goals of the SDGs and 44.4 percent of all targets. Essentially, all the targets for Goal 6 (ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all) could be boosted. Improved energy efficiency is linked to climate

change through a shift to renewables, which ultimately limits the emission footprints (Target 13.2 and Target 11.6) thereby creating opportunities for more green industries (Target 9.2). This has implication for creating new and green jobs (Target 8.5) and reducing poverty (Target 1.1 and 1.2).



3.6.2. Trade-offs

Twenty-six (26) trade-offs have been identified for target 7.3 across nine Goals (1-8 and 17) with major trade-offs under Goal 4 (8 targets) and Goal 2 (5 targets). There is an observed trade-off with priority targets 4.1 and 8.5. Essentially, efforts to facilitate the transition from fossil fuel to renewable energy could potentially increase cost of production, which might have a negative implication on employment. Further, investment in renewables to increase its share in the energy mix would require major resource diversion across many targets.



● TRADE OFFS: **26**

3.6.3. Strategic Initiatives And Investment Opportunities

3.6.3.1. Strategic Initiatives

Energy Efficiency and Demand-Side Management Initiatives: These initiatives promote energy efficiency.

Renewable and Alternative Energy Development Programme: This programme is to enhance Ghana’s renewable energy sector.

Ghana Energy Development and Access Project [GEDAP]: This project is to improve the operational efficiency of the electricity distribution system, increase population access to electricity, and transition Ghana to a low carbon economy through reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



3.6.3.2. Investment Opportunities

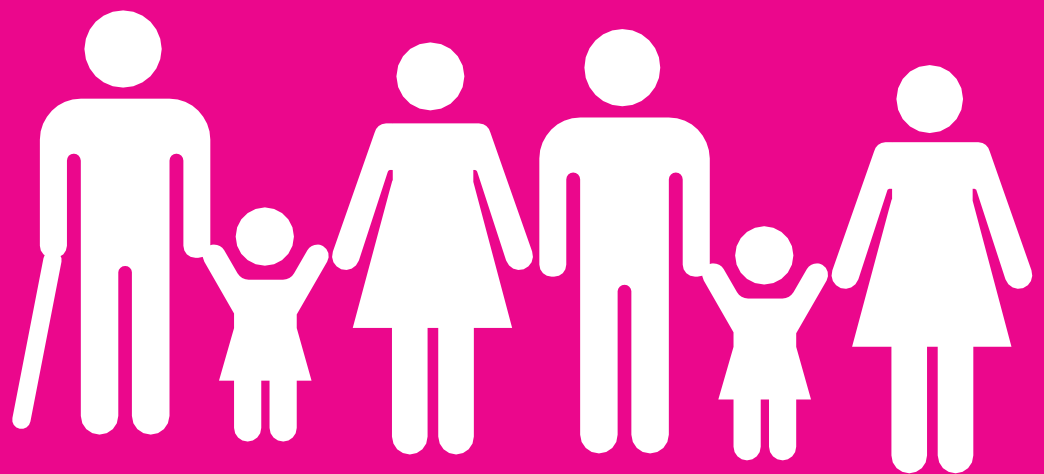
PPP opportunities for transition infrastructure: Ghana has an established framework (policy and legislation) for engaging the private sector and development partners in infrastructure development. The Government is interested in establishing Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to co-finance the construction, development and deployment of transition infrastructure.

Development of critical green minerals: There exists new critical green minerals Ghana is looking to develop to enhance its economic development. These include lithium and graphite. This is expected to be used to create green mineral industries³.

African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement: Ghana hosts the AfCFTA secretariat. Ghana's membership provides opportunity for investors to a single Africa-wide market, reduced tariffs, trade facilitation and free flow of goods and services.

3 N. Dowuona & Co. Ghana's National Energy Transition Framework and What it Means for Business and Investors

4. Projections For Poverty And Inequality





4. PROJECTIONS FOR POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

In 2020, the proportion of people living in poverty in Ghana increased following a consistent decline since 1990 due largely to the effects of COVID-19. The level of income inequality based on the Gini index also went up in 2020. These trends have put a dent on Ghana's poverty and inequality reduction performance and making the task of achieving these SDG targets more onerous. With less than seven years left to the 2030 target year, it has become necessary to re-access our national poverty and inequality targets taking into consideration the renewed vigor among stakeholders in response to the President of the Republic's strong advocacy on the

relevance of the SDGs in building-back-better from current global crisis. This message also resonates strongly with the UN Secretary-General's call to "rescue the Sustainable Development Goals – and stay true to our promise of a world of peace, dignity and prosperity on a healthy planet".

Ghana's revised projections for poverty and inequality targets for 2030 were based on performance of the indicators prior to COVID-19 and plausible future situations. Three scenarios were considered as follows (see the box below):

Scenario 1 is based on the trend in performance of the poverty and inequality indicators prior to the on-set of COVID-19.

Scenario 2 reflects the expected effects of recent government initiatives in response to the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, disruptions in global supply chains and the constraints associated with extended credit facility with the IMF.

Scenario 3 takes into consideration the potential effects of a full implementation of the five priority SDG Targets outlined in the previous section.

Poverty Level Based on the International Poverty Line

Before the pandemic, Ghana had made good progress in poverty reduction efforts with the proportion of the population living below the international poverty line of \$1.90 declining consistently from 13.6 percent in 2013 to 11.9 percent in 2017. Poverty level shot up to 12.0 percent in 2020, which was attributed to the adverse effect of COVID-19.

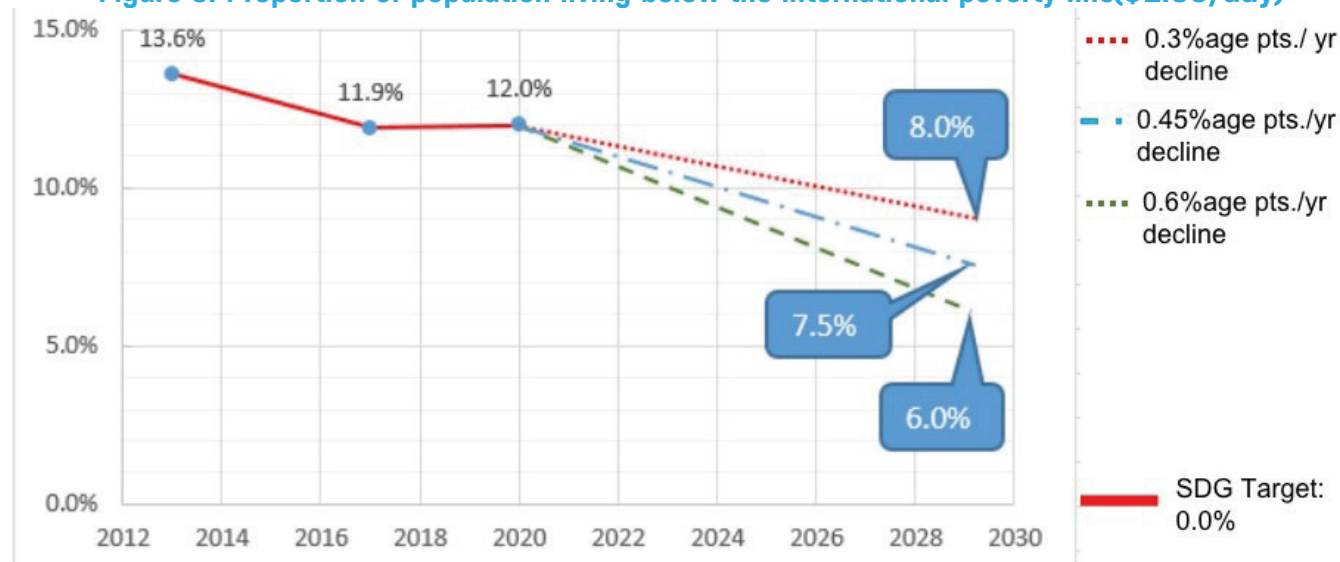
Under scenario 1, the proportion of the population living below the international poverty line of \$1.90 is projected to decline at an average rate of 0.3 percentage points per annum from 12.0 percent in 2020 to 8 percent in 2030. The rate of decline in the level of poverty is estimated to increase to an average annual rate of 0.45 percentage points to reach 7.5 percent in 2030 under scenario 2.



With the full implementation of the five priority targets (scenario 3), the poverty level based on the international poverty line is projected to decline at twice the pre-COVID-19 rate

(0.6 percentage points/year) to 6.0 percent in 2030, which still falls short of the original SDGs target of zero percent. See figure 3 for a diagrammatic representation.

Figure 3: Proportion of population living below the international poverty line(\$1.90/day)



Data sources: UNDP SDGs Push Diagnostic Tool

Poverty Level Based on the National Poverty Line

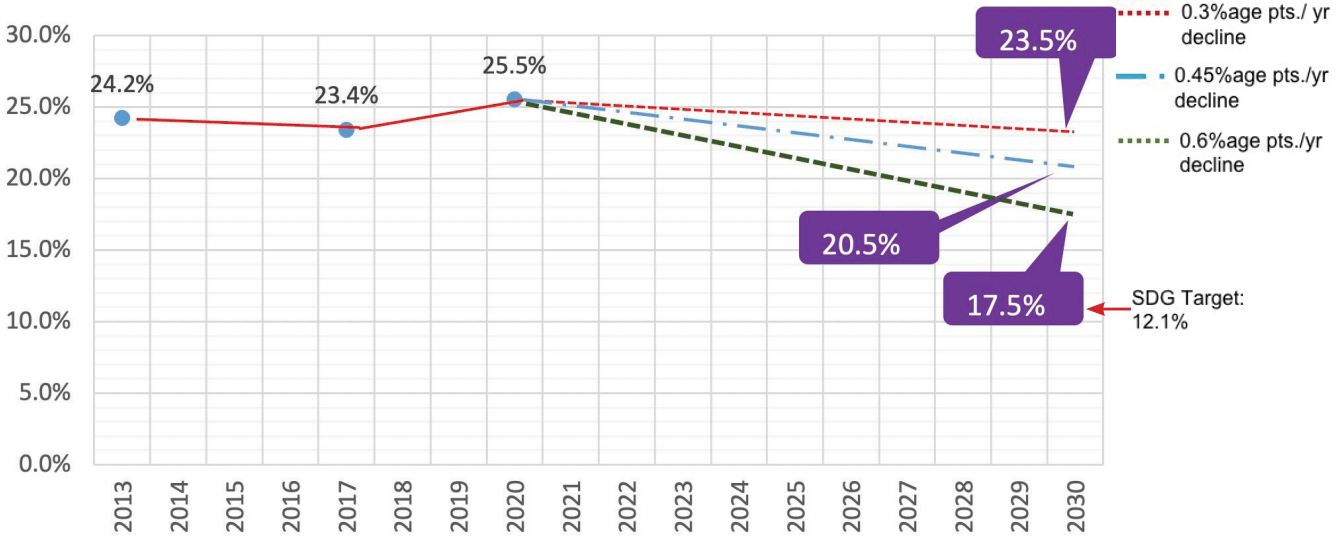
Poverty levels based on the National Poverty Line followed a similar trend with the International Poverty Line, rising to 25.5 percent in 2020, following several years of continuous decline.

Under scenario 1, poverty level is projected to drop to 23.5 percent in 2030 at an average annual rate of decline of 0.3 percentage points

between 2020 and 2023. Based on an average rate of decline of 0.45 percentage points per year, over the same period, the poverty level is estimated to drop to 20.5 percent in 2030 under scenario 2. Under scenario 3, if the five priority targets are fully achieved, poverty level is projected to drop to 17.5 percent, which is above the original SDG target of 12.1 percent. See figure 4.



Figure 4: Proportion of population living below the national poverty line



National poverty level is defined as total annual household consumption expenditure of less than GH1,314

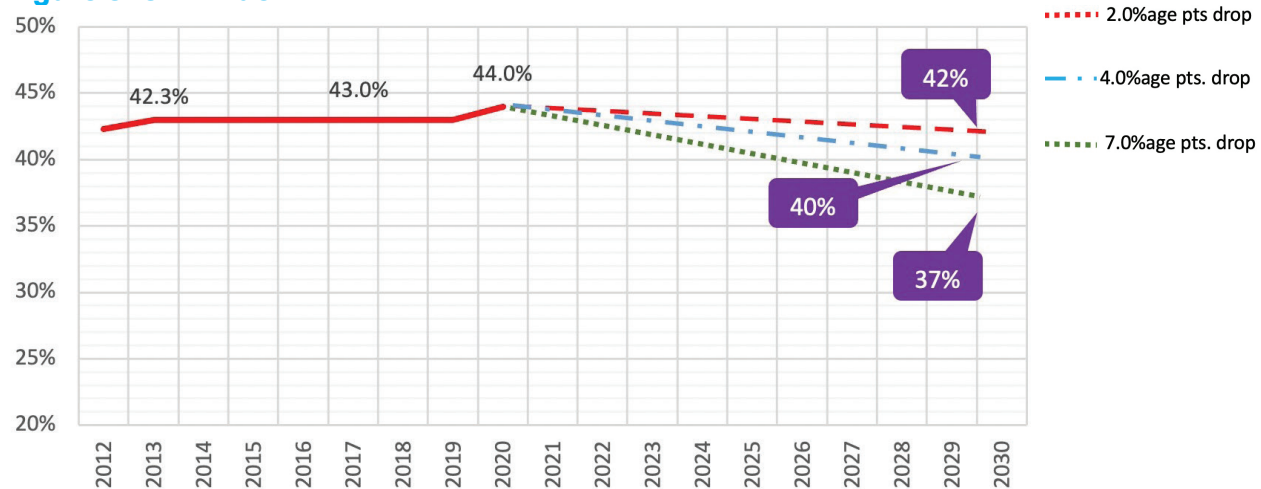
Data sources: GSS and World Bank

*Projected figure from World Bank

Income Inequality

The level of income inequality among the population, as measured by the Gini Coefficient, has been worsening over the past two decades, reaching 44.0 percent in 2020. By imposing the assumption underlying the three scenarios described previously, the level of inequality is projected to reduce to 42 percent, 40 percent and 37 percent by 2030 for scenarios 1, 2 and 3 respectively as indicated in figure 5

Figure 5: GINI Index.



Data sources: GSS and World Bank



RECOMMENDATION AND THE WAY FORWARD

Enhance coordination within and across sectors

Ghana has in place a conducive policy and regulatory environment, as well as strong political support for the implementation of the SDGs. To make up for the lost ground and accelerate progress towards the global goals, vertical and horizontal coherence in actions, within and across sectors, and at all levels must be enhanced to harness the benefits of the inter-linkages among the SDGs and facilitate high-impact decisions and transformative actions. It is imperative to strengthen the coordination of development efforts among government, businesses, CSOs, academia and traditional leaders, among other stakeholders to improve the effectiveness of development efforts, ensure the efficient use of resources and importantly impact positively on sectors, communities and the planet. Strong multi-stakeholder partnerships will also give true meaning to the principle of “Leaving no one behind” by addressing the needs of vulnerable population groups and those in hard-to-reach places.

Mobilise financing and investment at scale

Ghana’s progress towards the SDGs will be severely hampered if investments are not mobilised at the scale and speed required to fill the financing gap of about USD 43 billion per annum.

Financial institutions must urgently join hands with public sector agencies and other stakeholders to prepare a pipeline of bankable SDG investment projects for both venture capital and social investment markets. There are enormous opportunities in the agro-processing, pharmaceutical, infrastructure, tourism, and energy sectors that can be packaged and marketed as credible investment propositions to the private sector. Both state and non-state actors will also need to enhance their capacity to tap into the emerging green and blue carbon markets, as well as accessing the various multilateral support funds such as GCF, GEF, ProBlue, among others, to support the implementation of the SDGs.

Step-up the uptake and use of science, technology and innovation

The transformative power of science, technology and innovation (STI) will be essential in finding smart and transformational solutions to accelerate progress towards the SDGs. The success of Government’s ongoing Digitalisation Agenda makes a good case for strategic investments in the innovative use of new technologies to address critical issues such as inclusion, food security, education, climate change, decent jobs, energy and infrastructure. Government and business need to forge innovative south-south and north-south cooperation arrangements to speed up training, knowledge sharing, and technology transfer and promote the sound deployment of STI in all sectors and at all levels.



Strengthen data management and monitoring systems

Access to timely, and high-quality, disaggregated data is essential for monitoring progress on the SDGs, informing policy options and decision making and promoting transparency. There is therefore a need to strengthen the capacity for data management and use at all levels, and also promote increased use of non-traditional methods such as satellite imagery, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Call Data Records (CDR) and citizens'- generated data. Establishing a one-stop information database portal that would connect to all existing databases to provide a centralised point for all information related to the SDGs is recommended.

Mobilise citizens' participation

The recent geo-political challenges and COVID-19 has taken the shine off the SDG as governments, businesses and citizens re-assess their priorities and adopt various coping strategies. In spite of these challenges, the SDGs remain relevant in addressing these challenges and putting Ghana on a Sustainable Development pathway. Awareness creation and advocacy must be stepped-up to mobilise a critical mass of support for the SDGs, while providing genuine avenues for citizens' participation in their implementation. Active participation of citizens will be critical in sustaining tenets of the SDGs, demanding action from duty bearers and ensuring a prosperous, peaceful society on a healthy planet for current and future generations.



CONCLUSION

Ghana remains steadfast in its commitment to realising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This commitment symbolises hope and determination, illuminating our path toward a future characterised by enhanced equity, sustainability, and prosperity.

Ghana is ready to implement transformative measures to address pressing global challenges, including climate change, conflicts and disruptive impact of COVID-19 persistent inequalities. The nation recognises the importance of equitable and innovative financing mechanisms, investment opportunities and global solidarity to surmount these hurdles. The government's dedication extends to creating an enabling environment, mainstreaming gender equality within development plans, and actively engaging diverse stakeholders in the SDG and related agendas.

As we find ourselves at this critical juncture on the journey to 2030, Ghana's participation in the SDG Summit is a testament to its commitment to transition from apprehension to decisive action. As a country, our resolute dedication does not only benefit the populace but also serves as an inspiring model for the international community. Through its exemplary leadership and commitment, our nation envisions the realisation of the transformative aspirations embedded in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The top 5 priority targets and their synergistic interlinkages with other targets provide opportunities for government and private investments and initiatives to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.



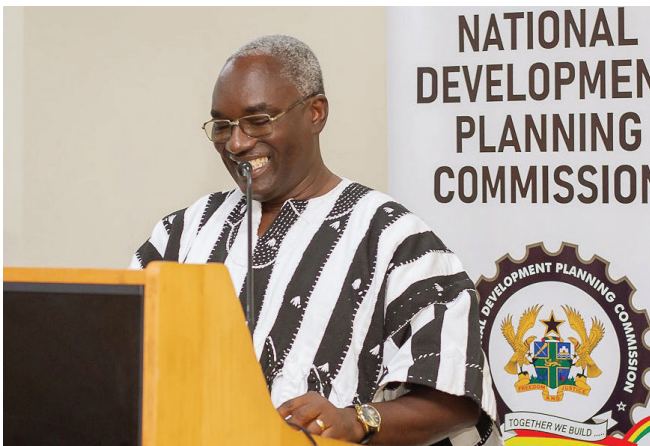
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ANNEX 1: CONSULTATIONS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS







ANNEX 2: LIST OF TASK TEAM MEMBERS

SDG Technical Report Task Team:

Dr. Richard Bofah	National Development Planning Commission (SDGs National Coordinator)
Dr. Felix Addo-Yobo	SDG Advisory Unit, Office of the President
Charles Kofi Konglo	National Development Planning Commission
Patience Ampomah	National Development Planning Commission
Joshua Addae	National Development Planning Commission
Daniel Amofa	National Development Planning Commission
Wilfred Ebo Sam-Awortwi	National Development Planning Commission
Eric Agyei	National Development Planning Commission
Michael Kissi-Boateng	National Development Planning Commission
Vera Baffoe	National Development Planning Commission
Stephen Ampem-Darko	National Development Planning Commission
Ibrahim Musah	National Development Planning Commission
Collins Kabuga	Ministry of Finance
Nana Yaw Yankah	Ministry of Finance
Vitus Bobrnuo	Ghana Statistical Service
Victor Apaapa	Ghana Statistical Service
Ashraf Muhsin Barko	National Development Planning Commission
Anthony Nii Oku Nelson	National Development Planning Commission

