

HO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS PLATFORM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL ANNUAL REPORT-2021



BACKGROUND

The Ho Civil Society Organizations District platform on Sustainable Development Goals was established, December 2018 in the Ho Municipality in Ghana by the National Secretariat in partnership with GIZ- Agenda 2030-Support for Decentralization Reforms as part of localizing and visualizing the Sustainable development goals and coordinating activities of civil society organizations in the district following the United Nations declaration of the adoption of the Sustainable development goals in 2015. The Platform now has a total membership of 40 organizations.



PURPOSE

The Purpose of the Platform is to coordinate and strengthen the efforts of civil society organization in localizing and visualizing the Sustainable Development Goals in the district.

VISION

Serve as a coordinating Platform and medium for civil society organizations to promote and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the district.

MISSION

Create a strong civil society across the district to foster joint efforts, partnerships with key stakeholders and effective advocacy for promoting and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

CORE VALUES

- Information sharing and communication
- Transparency in data sharing and coordination
- Non- partisanship and non- sectarianism
- Collaborative approach to engagement with stakeholders in promoting and achieving the SDGs
- Accountability

GENERAL ACTIVITIES/OBJECTIVES OF THE PLATFORM

- Share best practices in terms of SDGs advocacy, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Report on the progress of implementing the SDGs in Ghana.
- Public awareness creation and engagement of the media around the SDGs.
- Constructively collaborate with state actors and non-state actors at all levels to ensure effective and successful implementation of the SDGs.
- Embark on joint advocacy around the SDGs to complement the work of state actors, non -state actors and intergovernmental organizations.
- Ensure regular monitoring of SDG implementation processes and evaluate results.
- Create an information hub for sharing CSOs SDG Data building on existing structures.
- Submit a Two Year Work plan of activities to the secretariat
- Maintain a database of members with names of the individuals representing each member organization, email and phone number and regional/district.
- Jointly mobilize resources for the implementation of activities under Goals which the platform represents.
- In the event where an individual representing a member organization on the platform leaves that organization, the platform shall request for replacement from the organization

ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR 2021

The 2021 year, like that of 2020 was fraught with news about new variants of the COVID-19, slowing down in person activities. Nevertheless, the platform participated in activities organized by some of its member organizations, Donor partners and other partner organizations at the regional and local levels.

ACTIVITY 1: In January 2021 (28th and 29th), GIZ Agenda 2030 with support from the CSOs platform organized a training to platform members on a web-based monitoring and evaluation platform (DDDP) that provides data on districts at once click which was developed by the Ministry of Local Government And Rural Development (MLGRD) in partnership with NDPC and supported by GIZ. The training aimed at building the capacities of CSOs to have access to the data (using the public portal of DDDP) when needed and to use the data in enhancing our role as watchdogs while improving the lives of the communities we serve.



ACTIVITY 2: In March 2021, the platform participated in a Virtual workshop organized by the Ghana Monitoring and Evaluation Forum who trained platform members on new ways of monitoring and evaluating activities, especially as physical interaction was limited. It also discussed challenges facing organizations in the sector and possible ways of mitigating them.

ACTIVITY 3: Members of the platform met and interacted with officers from the ministry of finance during a dissemination meeting on the Green Climate Fund and the Nationally Determined Contributions. The discussion was centered on recommendations and processes for sustainable partnerships in acquiring grants from the fund in order to find sustainable solutions to Ghana's rising climate woes and the Global community at large.



ACTIVITY 4: During the Africa Union Day, the platform partnered with Love Aid Foundation to celebrate the African child at the Ho Kpodzi E.P. Basic “B” school. The program's objective was to shed more light on the partnership between the New Horizon Foundation of the Blind, The E.P. Church of Ghana and the E.P. Education unit in providing a child and disability friendly environment for children with disabilities to promote Inclusive, Equitable and Quality Education.

A call for action was made to all duty bearers and the citizenry in harnessing efforts to achieve Goal 4 of the SDGs.





ACTIVITY 4: Youth and Peace focused members of the platform also participated in an NCCE organized workshop on; National Integration & Cohesion- Peaceful coexistence on Goal 16 of the SDGs at the Ho Municipal Assembly Hall. The meeting went on to elaborate on the harmful effects on extremism, radicalization & tribalism and the need to eradicate them.



ACTIVITY 5

Finally, on the 12th November, 2021, the Platform with contributions from some member organizations held its Annual General Meeting at the Tarso Hotel. An overview and review of the Platform's activities was done where discussions and submissions outlined the need for partnerships with organizations and how the platform can facilitate that. It also discussed potential projects and its implementation for the New Year.





CHALLENGES

- Payment of platform dues
- COVID-19 affected our fund raising objectives
- Reduced collaboration amongst member organizations is leading to uncoordinated efforts with very little impact in localizing and visualizing the SDGs
- Some organizations do not engage in platform activities unless there are remunerations involved.
- Inadequate resources to run platform activities and programs.
- Some co-conveners no longer participate in platform activities and conveners meetings

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are deemed necessary to keep the platform focused on achieving its objectives.

- That regular reminders for monthly contributions be intensified
- That collaboration among member organizations be increased through the sharing of annual activity plans.
- Take out organizations that have never engaged in platform activities/programs.
- That the secretariat intensifies capacity building efforts for platform members in fundraising, proposal writing and other relevant themes in the civil society space.
- That Ho district platform becomes the regional coordinating body for other districts//municipal platform in the region.
- The Secretariat should support district platforms with resources to run its activities

CONCLUSION

The platform serves as critical actor in ensuring the SDGs is implemented and achieved hence the need for more coordinated efforts and partnerships to drive the needed results. We are open to more sustainable innovations, initiatives and resources to localize and visualize the SDGs.