

Country Report - Ghana

Capacity Building Activities under the European Commission funded project on Enhancing capacity for measuring progress towards the Environmental Dimension of the SDGs, 2020-2023



Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	1
2. SDG material flow indicators: in-country technical assistance mission (17-21 July and 25-26 July 2023).....	1
3. SDG waste indicators: in-country technical assistance mission (24 July 2023)	2
4. SDG policy coherence indicator: in-country technical assistance mission (27-28 July 2023).....	3
5. Additional Resources	4

1. Introduction

The project Enhancing Capacity for Measuring Progress towards the Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), funded by the European Commission, was instituted to strengthen national capacity for monitoring and reporting on the environmental dimension of the SDGs, including SDG indicators 8.4.1/12.2.1 on material footprint, 8.4.2/12.2.2 on domestic material consumption, 12.3.1b on food waste, 12.4.2 on hazardous waste generated and treated, 12.5.1 on national recycling rate and 17.14.1 on policy coherence.

Three tools were newly developed to assist in the compilation of the data necessary to calculate the values for SDG indicators 8.4.2/12.2.2, 12.4.2 and 12.5.1. These tools are formed of (i) Excel spreadsheets containing detailed variables that are calculated together to generate the value of SDG indicators, and (ii) step-by-step documents to guide government officials on filling the Excel spreadsheets.

National activities were implemented in different formats in beneficiary countries in Africa and Asia. The aims of the national activities were to deepen government officials' understanding of the adopted methodologies for SDG indicators, to equip them with the necessary statistical capacity to report on these indicators and as these indicators require data from multiple national stakeholders, engage all stakeholders together for future collaborations.

The following national activities were implemented in Accra, Ghana between 17 July and 28 July 2023:

- In-country technical assistance mission on material flow indicators (SDG indicators 8.4.1/12.2.1 and 8.4.2/12.2.2);
- In-country technical assistance mission on waste indicators (SDG indicators 12.4.2 and 12.5.1); and
- In-country technical assistance mission on policy coherence indicator (SDG indicator 17.14.1).

2. SDG material flow indicators: in-country technical assistance mission (17-21 July and 25-26 July 2023)

Key Observations

- The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) collates and reports on the SDGs (<https://sdgs-ghana.github.io/>). The Agriculture & Environment Statistics unit is the lead for reporting on indicators SDG 8.4.1/12.2.1 and 8.4.2/12.2.2.
- A total of seven days were devoted to compiling material flow accounts (MFA).
- The focus of the workshop was on filling out the MFA compiler with data for 2021. The values are considerably lower than those found in the Global Materials Flow Database. The reasons for these discrepancies need to be elucidated. These could include missing data, underestimated quantities such as for domestic extraction of minerals, or inaccurate import/export quantities. GSS will organise a data validation exercise involving the relevant national agencies, subject to the availability of resources.

Conclusions

GSS is well positioned to complete its MFA and current processes can be adapted to complete these on a regular basis (annual/biennial). A review of the work done to confirm the accuracy of the estimates made will be needed and the MFA revised as necessary.

Recommendations

- UNEP, through the International Resource Panel, to assist Ghana in finalizing its MFA and releasing the results; and
- Once the MFA for 2021 has been completed and national processes are established, for UNEP to work with Ghana to create a time series by completing the MFA for previous years.

Way forward

- A representative from GSS was selected to organize a data validation exercise for the MFA for 2021.

3. SDG waste indicators: in-country technical assistance mission (24 July 2023)

Key Observations

- The GSS collates and reports on the SDGs (<https://sdgs-ghana.github.io/>). The Agriculture & Environment Statistics unit is the lead for reporting on indicators 12.4.2 and 12.5.1.
- One day was devoted to indicators 12.4.2 and 12.5.1.
- The national greenhouse inventory reports on total municipal waste generated. Some data on exports and imports are reported to the Basel Convention. No other data are available. Because there was limited data it was not possible to meaningfully input data into the worksheets and derive the values for the indicator 12.4.2 and 12.5.1.
- The Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act, 2016 (Act 917) is the legal framework for the management of hazardous waste including e-waste. The private sector is involved in recycling and Ghana has the capacity to treat several hazardous waste streams. However, there are currently no reporting requirements on quantities of waste generated, recycled and disposed of.
- GSS could add additional questions on waste in the survey sent as part of the update of its Environmental Economic Accounting. This could allow Ghana to collate and submit information related to indicators 12.4.2 and 12.5.1 in the future.

Conclusions

As part of the greenhouse gas inventory, there are estimates available on quantities of solid waste managed. Ghana could build on this to obtain more comprehensive data on wastes and their management in the country.

Recommendations

- UNEP to explore ways in which it can support Ghana in establishing the systems needed to collect data on hazardous, non-hazardous, municipal, and industrial wastes generated and their management.

Way forward

- A representative from GSS was selected to work with the Environmental Protection Agency to include additional questions on waste as part of the Environmental Economic Accounting survey.

4. SDG policy coherence indicator: in-country technical assistance mission (27-28 July 2023)

Key Observations

- Around 20 people attended the two training days in Ghana. The participants represented a broad range of institutions.
- The discussions were very lively throughout the two days, with very good communication amongst and with the participants. The participants were well informed and provided valuable insights and examples from different perspectives.
- Based on the discussions during the training and the 8 dimensions of SDG Indicator 17.14.1, the participants were able to auto-evaluate their country's progress towards policy coherence. The score remains unofficial and is pending the validation of the data by the country and Ghana's official response to data collection for SDG indicator 17.14.1.

Recommendations

A set of recommendations were developed with the participants to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development in Ghana:

- Recommendation 1: Strengthen Inter-Ministerial Collaboration: Encourage greater collaboration and coordination among various ministries and government agencies to ensure that policies across sectors are aligned with the SDGs. This will help avoid conflicting objectives and foster a more holistic and integrated approach to sustainable development.
- Recommendation 2: Enhance Data Collection and Monitoring: Invest in improving data collection and monitoring mechanisms to measure progress towards the SDGs. Reliable data will enable policymakers to assess the effectiveness of existing policies and identify gaps that need to be addressed.
- Recommendation 3: Involve more civil society organizations, private sector actors, and other stakeholders in the policymaking process. This inclusive approach can foster diverse perspectives and help to design more effective and sustainable policies.
- Recommendation 4: Identify and address barriers to policy implementation that may hinder progress towards the SDGs. This may involve capacity building, addressing institutional weaknesses, and ensuring adequate resource allocation.
- Recommendation 5: Ensure that economic incentives are aligned with sustainable development objectives. This may include promoting green investments, offering tax incentives for sustainable practices, and discouraging environmentally harmful activities.
- Recommendation 6: The global urgency of climate change encourages for the prioritization of policies that address environmental protection, climate resilience, and emissions reduction that will contribute significantly to achieving multiple SDGs.

Way forward

- A representative from GSS will:
 - o Organize the validation of data resulting from the training; and
 - o Oversee organization support (financial) for data validation purposes (including but not exclusively SDG indicator 17.14.1).

5. Additional Resources

Technical materials

All relevant technical materials are available on the [project website](#) under 'Output I'.

List of participants

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Agenda - Material flow and waste indicators (17-26 July 2023)

Date	Time	Session	Lead/Presenter	
17 July 2023	9:30	Opening	Ghana Statistical Office	
	9:45	Introductions	All	
	10:00	Objectives of the workshop	Consultant - UNEP	
	10:15	National Context	Ghana Statistical Office	
	10:30	Overview of the selected indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12.2.1 on material footprint • 12.2.2 on domestic material consumption • 12.4.2 on hazardous waste generated • 12.5.1 on national recycling rate 	Consultant - UNEP	
	11:00	Break		
		Part A: Economy-Wide Material Flow Accounts		
	11:30	Introduction Economy-Wide Material Flow Accounts	Consultant - UNEP	
	12:00	Overview of data needed for the economy-wide material flow accounts and their potential sources	Consultant – UNEP	
	12:30	Overview of data available in Ghana		
	13:00	Break		
	14:00	Introduction to the compiler <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic extraction (DE) • Imports and export of materials • Material outflows • Balancing items • Headline indicators 		
	16:00	End of day		
18 July 2023	9:30	The compiler, step-by-step Domestic extraction (DE) - Table_A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.1 Biomass, • A.2 Metal ores, • A.3 Non-metallic minerals, and • A.4 Fossil fuels 	Consultant – UNEP	
	11:00	Break		
	11:30	Domestic extraction (DE) - Table_A <i>continued</i>		
	13:00	Break		
	14:00	Domestic extraction (DE) - Table_A <i>continued</i>		

Date	Time	Session	Lead/Presenter
	16:00	End of day	
19 July 2023	9:30	Imports and export of materials – Table_B, Table_C	Consultant – UNEP
	11:00	Break	
	11:30	Material outflows – Table_D	Consultant – UNEP
		Balancing items – Table_E	Consultant – UNEP
		Headline indicators – Table_F	Consultant – UNEP
	12:30	Questions on the compiler	Consultant – UNEP
	13:00	Break	
	14:00	Using the compiler - Hands-on	Consultant – UNEP
16:00	End of day		
20 July 2023	9:30	Using the compiler - Hands-on <i>continued</i>	Consultant – UNEP
	11:00	Break	
	11:30	Using the compiler - Hands-on <i>continued</i>	
	13:00	Break	
	14:00	Using the compiler - Hands-on <i>continued</i>	
	16:00	End of day	
21 July 2023	9:30	Using the compiler - Hands-on <i>continued</i>	
	11:00	Break	
	11:30	Using the compiler - Hands-on <i>continued</i>	
	13:00	Break	
	14:00	Using the compiler - Hands-on <i>continued</i> And any additional questions	
	15:30	Next steps and closing	Ghana Statistical Office
	4:00	End of Part A	
Date	Time	Session	Lead/Presenter
Part B: Hazardous waste and recycling			
24 July 2023	9:30	Opening (if necessary)	Ghana Statistical Office/ Ministry of Environment, Science Technology and Innovation
	9:45	Introductions (if necessary)	All
	10:00	Objectives of the workshop	Consultant - UNEP
	10:15	National Context	Ghana Statistical Office/MESTI
	10:30	Introduction to Indicator 12.4.2 on hazardous waste generated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hazardous waste generated (in tonnes, per km sq. of land area and per capita) 	Consultant - UNEP

Date	Time	Session	Lead/Presenter
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hazardous waste generated by type, including e-waste</i> • <i>Proportion of hazardous waste treated</i> • <i>Environmentally sound treatment of own generated hazardous waste</i> • <i>Hazardous waste intensity of production</i> 	
	11:00	Break	
	11:30	Indicator 12.4.2 on hazardous waste generated <i>continued</i>	Consultant - UNEP
	13:00	Break	
	14:00	Indicator 12.4.2 on hazardous waste generated <i>continued</i>	Consultant - UNEP
	16:00	End of day	
25 July 2023	9:30	Introduction to Indicator 12.5.1 on national recycling rate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>National recycling rate</i> • <i>Total Waste Generated (excluding construction, mining and agriculture) by type, including e-waste</i> • <i>National recycling rate by type of waste, including e-waste (other possible disaggregation include, metals and packaging waste)</i> • <i>Waste intensity</i> 	Consultant - UNEP
	11:00	Break	
	11:30	Indicator 12.5.1 on national recycling rate - <i>continued</i>	Consultant - UNEP
	13:00	Break	
	14:00	Indicator 12.5.1 on national recycling rate - <i>continued</i>	Consultant - UNEP
	16:00	End of day	
26 July 2023 *	9:00	Using the worksheets - Hands-on	Consultant - UNEP
	10:00	Break	
	10:20	Using the worksheets - Hands-on - <i>continued</i>	Consultant - UNEP
	13:00	Break	
	14:00	Using the worksheets- Hands-on - <i>continued</i>	Consultant - UNEP
	16:00	End of day	
27 July 2023 *	9:00	Using the worksheets- Hands-on - <i>continued</i>	Consultant - UNEP
	10:00	Break	
	10:20	Using the worksheets- Hands-on - <i>continued</i>	Consultant - UNEP
	13:00	Break	
	14:00	Using the worksheets- Hands-on - <i>continued</i>	Consultant - UNEP
	16:00	End of day	

Date	Time	Session	Lead/Presenter
28 July 2023 *	9:00	Using the worksheets- Hands-on - <i>continued</i>	Consultant - UNEP
	10:00	Break	Consultant - UNEP
	10:20	Using the worksheets- Hands-on - <i>continued</i>	Consultant – UNEP
	13:00	Break	
	14:00	Using the worksheets- Hands-on – <i>continued</i> And any additional questions	Consultant – UNEP
	15:30	Next steps and closing	Ghana Statistical Office/MESTI
	16:00	End of Part B	

* This practice time can be used for the compiler as well as the worksheets for Indicators 12.4.2 and 12.5.1.

Agenda - Policy coherence (27-28 July 2023)

Date	Time	Session	Presenter
27 July 2023	10.00 – 10.20	Opening	Ghana Statistical Service UNEP
	10.20-10.30	Introduction on policy coherence	
	10.30-11.00	Domain 1: Institutionalized political commitment	UNEP
	11.00-11.30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
	11.30-12.00	Domain 1: Institutionalized political commitment - <i>continued</i>	UNEP
	12.00-13.00	Domain 2: Long-term considerations	UNEP
	13.00-14.00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
	14.00-15.00	Domain 3: Inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral coordination	UNEP
15.00-16.00	Domain 4: Participatory processes Wrap up of day 1		
28 July 2023	10.00-11.00	Domain 5: Integration of the three dimensions of Sustainable Development	UNEP
	11.00-11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
	11.30-12.30	Domain 6: Consultation and coordination across government levels	UNEP
	12.30-13.00	Domain 7: Monitoring and reporting for policy coherence	UNEP
	13.00-14.00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
	14.00-14.30	Domain 7: Monitoring and reporting for policy coherence - <i>continued</i>	UNEP
	14.30-15.30	Domain 8: Financial resources and tools	UNEP
	15.30-16.00	Reporting requirements and next steps	UNEP