



Additional background on the 2030 Agenda and human rights

With the adoption of the transformative and universally applicable 2030 Agenda, Member States challenged themselves to ensure that the SDGs are implemented in accordance with international law (para. 18), through an integrated and universal approach (para. 5). They further committed to “leave no one behind” and to “reach the furthest behind first” (para. 4).

Moreover, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets out a vision for sustainable development grounded in international human rights standards (paras. 10, 18, 19, 67, 74), putting equality and non-discrimination at the centre of its efforts (paras. 3, 4, 48, 74) and encompassing not only economic and social rights but also civil, political, and cultural rights, as well as the right to development (paras. 13, 18, 55, 74).



Section A: Background

A1. Name of institution responding to the survey

Youth Advocates Ghana



A2. Name of the respondent and contact email address of the respondent

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Section B: Integrated approaches to promote and protect human rights and implement the 2030 Agenda

B1. In your view, have we made progress in ensuring that national level SDG action is guided by human rights norms and standards including with regard to fighting discrimination and inequality and leaving no one behind? Please explain and share promising practices, lessons learned and remaining challenges.

Despite the gains made in the first five years into the SDG implementation, the Covid-19 pandemic has reversed the gains and shifted focus towards ending the pandemic. Human rights violations continue to rise, many children especially girls are out of school with increasing teenage pregnancy cases in Ghana. This phenomenon leaves many girls behind denying them their basic rights to education.

B2. Faced with the COVID-19 pandemic, countries have adopted economic and financial policies and measures to limit human rights setbacks and to bring countries back on track to achieve the SDGs? Can you share examples of promising practices where COVID-19 responses and recovery plans aimed at resuming SDG progress have been linked with human rights? What are key challenges and lessons learnt?

In Ghana, the Ghana Education Service has adopted the Back to School Policy to ensure that adolescent girls who got pregnant while in school can go back to school after delivery. This policy is innovative in ensuring the right to education for adolescent girls is achieved. The challenge however is that this requires more awareness creation to ensure that the intended results are achieved.

B3. In your view, is progress being made to secure more meaningful and active participation of civil society and other stakeholders in SDG national level action (design, implementation and reporting)? Please share examples of promising practices as well as lessons learned and remaining challenges.

Ghana has witnessed improved participation of CSOs in the implementation of the SDGs. Through the CSOs Platform on SDGs, different CSOs are engaging and contributing to the national process. For instance, the ongoing voluntary national review of Ghana has CSOs on the national committee and have contributed to the national process including youth. One best practice is that there is a Youth SDG Report being developed which is led by Youth Advocates Ghana which is a local Youth CSO with active support from the national development planning commission and from the UN Country Team.



B4. Is there any other information on integrated approaches to achieve the SDGs and the protection and promotion of human rights that you would like to share with us? Have you issued any recent publications on the issue that you would like to draw our attention to?

Thank.

Thank you for your contribution!