



Workshop Report

Capacity Building on Ghana's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determining Contributions (Gh-NDCs) Processes

Report written by Evelyn Addor (Admin, SYND)

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Background:

The government of Ghana continues to pursue actions in tackling the increasing impact of climate change. Currently, Ghana's Nationally Determined Contributions (Gh-NDCs), is being reviewed or updated for submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) based on provisions in the Paris Climate Agreement that gives Parties opportunity to review their respective NDCs every 5 years. Ghana developed her Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) in 2015, which became the Gh-NDCs in 2016 after Parliament's ratification. The first review process thus was from 2016 – 2020.

Similarly, government through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has kicked off a process to develop a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) through a Readiness support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Part of the project deliverables include conducting a gender analysis with sex-disaggregated data on climate vulnerabilities as well as setting a quota of 25% target for women's participation in all policy-level meetings and workshops. The NAP process was launched on 30th June, 2020.

In all of these processes, the role of young people is silent, which raises concerns on the “equitability” of the project intervention. As climate impacts affect men, women, boys and girls differently, it is essential that provision for active youth inclusion is catered for in climate change discourse to wit, from legislation, policy, programming and projects at all levels of the decision making process. However, it is important to note that the NAP project has consciously made space for youth representation in all the five Cross Sectorial Policy Groups (CSPGs) that is, the technical working groups that are required to support the development of the NAP.

Relevant state and non-state actors working on climate change are encouraged to create adequate space and good representation of young people in their respective interventions while admitting that the capacity of young people ought to be built to enable participate meaningfully when such opportunities are made available.

Through the support of the French Embassy in Ghana, a capacity building workshop has been held to empower members of the Youth in Natural Resources and Environmental Governance (Youth-NREG) Platform on the NAP and Gh-NDCs processes. This is to help inform our advocacy campaign as well as holding government accountable to deliver on its climate obligations.

In total, 31 young people participated in the 2-day workshop made up of 14 males and 17 females. The workshop is one of the activities of the project.

DAY ONE



Solomon Yamoah, the workshop Moderator commenced the day's session by welcoming all participants after which he conducted an exercise requesting participants to write their individual purpose for attending the workshop as well as their expectations from the workshop.

Message from Dr. Marion Chapon, the Cooperation Attache to the French Embassy:

Dr. Chapon, shared the French Embassy's commitment to supporting the mobilisation of young people for climate action in the country. She reiterated that, "Climate and the implementation of the Paris agreement are of prime importance for French diplomacy and, since COP 21, France has been fully involved in the fight against climate Change".



She also stressed on the importance of lifting our ambitions in response to the challenge of global warming. "As the Secretary General of the United Nations and French President Macron recalled at the last Climate Summit held in September 2019, this must occur in all sectors so that greenhouse gas emission trajectories become compatible with the objectives of the Paris agreement to keep temperature increases below 1.5-2°C". She mentioned the commitment of France through the French Agency for Development, to help the most vulnerable countries implement their climate policies and fulfill their commitments. Concluding that France supports various initiatives organised by international alliances and coalitions in promoting the development of renewable energies, she announced that the next "One Planet Summit, which aims to accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement will be held in France, Marseille in 2021.

She applauded the Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND) for their efforts in mobilizing the youth and taking concrete actions and initiatives to contribute to Ghana's NDCs and NAP processes. She finally stated that, "it is only together with government, development partners, the youth from the civil society and the private sector, that we will achieve a successful implementation of the Paris agreement and a concrete ecological transition".

Project Overview and Welcome Address by Chibeze Ezekiel, Executive Coordinator of SYND:



Taking participants through a presentation, Chibeze indicated that the project is meant to build the capacity of participants on the Gh-NDCs and NAP processes as key actors in climate action. He added that, the project is a 3-

month initiative supported by the French Embassy in Ghana.

Understanding the Concept of Climate Change by Mathias Edetor, Programme Coordinator , Agorvie Youth for Sustainable Development:

Mathias stated that, the aim of his presentation was to “*deepen the understanding of participants on the issues and concept of climate change, its terminologies and why young people need to get involved in climate action*”. Mathias explained some key concepts as well as the causes, effects and solutions to climate change including climate change mitigation and adaptation mechanisms. He defined climate change as “*the change of climate that is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and that is in addition to natural climate variations observed over a comparably time period*”.



He emphasized that young people must get involved in the demand for climate action because it presents an opportunity to create the sustainable future they desire. He also iterated that climate change is real, and there is the need for young people to secure the earth’s capacity to sustain life.

His presentation was interactive with some questions and answers time with participants. Notable among the questions was why despite the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic and the reduction of human activities, yet 2020 has been recorded as the hottest year so far. Answering this question, Mathias explained that the build up of human activities over the years is the major reason behind the high temperature records of 2020.

Overview of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (Gh-NDCs) by Chibeze Ezekiel:



Chibeze reiterated the objective of deepening the understanding of participants on concepts and issues of the NAP and NDCs processes in Ghana. His presentation focused on youth inclusion in the processes and how young people can take advantage of the window of opportunities in engaging policy makers and embarking on effective advocacy. He mentioned that, in the NAP process opportunity has been given to young people to be part of the five Cross Sectoral Policy Groups (CSPGs) that is, the technical working groups. He also shared with participants the seven priority areas

of the NDCs of which he encouraged participants to find an area of interest to engage. A participant enquired on “how Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) monitor work done by government towards mitigating and implementing climate action”. In response, Chibeze stated that, “it is important to sometimes consider leading the

process or providing constructive ideas rather than always waiting to react to government”. Another participant contributed to the discourse by stating that young people can increase the number of audience reached by taken their climate awareness campaign to the streets.

Approach to Developing Advocacy Materials by Patience Agyekum (Policy Team Lead):

Patience made a presentation on the approach her team has adopted in developing advocacy materials for the project. She stated that the team is developing advocacy materials such as fliers on climate change adaptation and mitigation and multimedia content on the role of the youth. The presentation also outlined plans to develop fact sheets, case studies, position papers and policy briefs on the NAP and Gh-NDCs. She also shared the activity plan for the policy team over the project timeline.



Additionally, she informed the various sub-groups of the policy team of their specific assignments around research, development of educational materials for awareness raising among Ghanaians on the NAP and Gh-NDCs in Ghana.

Communication Strategy for Youth Mobilization by Gifty Agbenyefia (Media Team Lead):



The presentation centered on the communication strategy that will help achieve the project’s deliverables. She outlined that, the tools adopted include development of videos (short videos in English and local languages), personal messages, infographics among others. She noted that, social media will be used as the primary channel for reaching our target audience which include young people, policy-makers, CSOs, development partners and private sector. Additionally, she displayed some of the work done by the team in on-going projects and the level of SYND’s Social Media Presence.

A participant was of the view that, children knowledgeable in climate change should become Ambassadors for the Children for Climate (C4C) Initiative. Another participant indicated that developing a climate change board game is a good strategy for engaging children. She suggested that SYND can organise debates, essay competitions and quizzes as means of educate young people on climate related issues. Other contributions include the development of educational materials for the disabled, empowering deprived communities with climate change information and use of indigenous media and knowledge targeting community groups will be beneficial.

DAY TWO

Solomon began the second day with a recap session on what participants learnt the previous day. He then took participants through the programme outline for the second day.

Presentations on Youth Responsive NAP/NDCs Strategy by Evelyn Addor, Admin at SYND:



Evelyn presented a draft Youth Engagement Strategy on Climate Action with the intention of soliciting ideas or inputs from participants to enrich the process. The aim is to develop a framework that will ensure effective inclusion of youth at all levels in Ghana's climate action interventions.

She stated that, it has become very important to develop a youth engagement strategy because the "limited involvement of young people on environment and climate

change has contributed to the low awareness with the demographic". She also cited examples from various policies such as the National Youth Policy and the National Climate Change Policy, which makes mention of youth participation in decision making processes.

She proposed that the youth engagement strategy should focus on key areas such as awareness creation, capacity building and empowerment, advocacy, decision-making & adaptation and action. For the entry points for the youth, she emphasized on the need to include young people throughout a programme/project life cycle from inception, planning, implementation and monitoring. In her conclusion, she stated that, "Youth are key stakeholders in climate action and future decision-makers. Engaging them in climate change adaptation is not only a matter of inter-generational justice and equity, but also brings great benefits stemming from their skills, perspectives, and innovations that will drive and shape adaptation action in the decades to come".

Group Discussion session:

Participants were divided into four groups (2 groups to discuss same issue) to brainstorm and make proposals based on Youth Engagement Strategy presentation, the media plan for the project and development of educational material materials.



GROUP PRESENTATIONS

Communication Strategy:

Target group; rural youth, pre tertiary students & tertiary students

Implementation Strategy:

1. Social media (campaigns, stickers, gifs, memes shared on official WhatsApp page, local language focus, animated poems and videos).
2. Traditional media (TVs, radios, campus stations, information centers, local language focus, radio jingles, ads, animated videos)
3. Green Hubs (Hackathons, training workshops, seminars, public forums) + other existing hubs as partners. (Kumasi Hire, Ho Nude, Tamale Hub)
4. Regional Climate Champions Initiative (essay competition, JHS, SHS & Universities)
5. Theme song competition (ambassador program)
6. Target companies with CSR focused on environmental issues (provide cash prizes, internships.
7. Outreach programs in schools, markets & stations.
8. Be at their meetings to talk to them.
9. Monitoring & evaluation of our implementation strategy

Feedback; comments, likes, retweets, shares.

Development of Educational/Advocacy Materials

Objectives: To educate the youth on the NAP/NDCs and build their capacity to effectively engage stakeholders and advocate for climate action, NAP, NDCs procedures.

TARGET GROUPS

1. Junior High School
2. Secondary education students
3. Tertiary/ vocational/technical students
4. Working class citizen
5. Non-schooling citizens
6. Clubs/ Associations.

Implementation strategies

- Develop educational materials base on their level of education. E.g. flyers, posters in the classroom and audio-visuals in local languages.
- Training of students to be ambassadors in their various schools
- Drama on climate actions (NAPs and Gh-NDCs)
- Feature on SRC program of institutions.

Implementation – Using Social Media

- NREG members will distribute information on its various social media accounts
- Organise Twitter Storm
- Upload of developed documents on SYND's Website.
- Sharing documents Via Email.

- Zoom meeting to launch the advocacy materials.



Next Steps

1. The French Embassy intends to extend its support for the project, which will include a virtual launch of the Youth Strategy on December 12th, which also marks the 5th Anniversary of the Paris Climate Agreement.
2. All participants were encouraged to harness their abilities and talents to start looking at any of the seven priority areas in the NDCs.
3. Take advantage of relevant groups and programmes in tertiary institutions and basic schools to reach more young people.