# Table of Contents

## Contents

**PROFILE** ............................................................................................................................................ 3  
**PROGRAMME DELIVERY** .................................................................................................................. 11  
1. **NATURAL SCIENCES** ......................................................................................................................... 11  
   a. **MAINSTREAMING BIOSPHERE RESERVE CONCEPT IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN GHANA** ......................................................................................................................... 11  
   b. **OBSERVATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIGHT 2019** ................................................................. 11  
   c. **Monitoring Bia National Park and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve** .................................................. 13  
   d. **Establishment of Transboundary Biosphere Reserve** ................................................................. 14  
2. **EDUCATION** ...................................................................................................................................... 15  
   a. **Commemoration of the International Day of Women and Girls In Science** .................................... 15  
   b. **National Launch Of The Global Education Monitoring (Gem) Report** ........................................... 16  
   c. **Launch of O³ Programme** .................................................................................................................. 16  
   d. **#Solve4ghana Design Challenge** .................................................................................................. 18  
   e. **2019 Global Education and Skills Forum (GESF)** ....................................................................... 19  
   f. **Training of Newly Appointed District Girls Education Officers** ................................................. 19  
   g. **Regional Forum on Strengthening Social & Policy Dialogue in the Education Sector in Africa** .......................................................................................................................................................... 20  
   h. **International Conference On Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Education** ........................................ 21  
   i. **Regional Symposium to Review the Right to Education & Inclusion in Education Policies & Practices in Africa** .................................................................................................................................................................. 22  
   j. **2nd Regional Sharing Workshop On Improving Quality Management In TVET Systems For The Successful Training-To-Employment Transition Of Africa’s Youth** .......................................................................................... 22  
   k. **UNESCO-Talent Regional Capacity-Building Workshop On Classroom-Based Assessment** ........................................................................................................................................................................... 23  
   l. **High-Level Forum On Neuroscience & The Future Of Education & Learning** ................................. 23  
      a. **Meeting Of The Communication And Information Specialized Committee** ................................ 23  
      b. **Commemoration of International Mother Language Day** .............................................................. 24  
      c. **Knowledge Societies for Sustainable Development in Africa Forum** ........................................ 25  
         a. **Joint World Heritage Center/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory Mission to the Forts and Castles in Ghana** .................................................................................................................................................. 26  
         b. **Natcom-Students Session at The 16th Bi-Annual Colloquium of The West African Archaeological Association** ................................................................................................................................................ 27  
      a. **2nd African Regional Congress on Martial Arts** ........................................................................ 28  
      b. **Observation of 2019 International Youth Day** .......................................................................... 29  
         a. **206TH UNESCO Executive Board Session** ............................................................................. 30  
         b. **207TH Session of the UNESCO Executive Board** .................................................................. 31  
         c. **40TH Session of the General Conference of UNESCO** ............................................................ 31  
            a. **39/3 Meeting Of The Ghana National Commission for UNESCO** .................................. 32  
            b. **40/1 Meeting of The Ghana National Commission for UNESCO** .................................. 32  
8. **UNESCO CO-SPONSORED FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMME FOR 2019** ........................................... 33
a. UNESCO/POLAND CO-SPONSORED FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMME IN ENGINEERING CYCLE 2019 A ........................................................................................................................................ 33
b. UNESCO/KEIZO OBUCHI RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP ................................................................. 34
c. UNESCO/ISEDC (RUSSIAN FEDERATION) CO-SPONSORED FELLOWSHIP ........ 34
d. L’ORÉAL-UNESCO FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE PROGRAMME ........................................ 34
e. UNESCO/PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (THE GREAT WALL) CO-SPONSORED FELLOWSHIP .................................................................................................................... 34
9. The Participation Programme of UNESCO .................................................................................. 35
a. Implementation of Projects ........................................................................................................... 35
10. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE ......................................................................................................... 37
a. Government of Ghana Funds ......................................................................................................... 37
b. GETFUND ALLOCATION ................................................................................................................ 39
CHALLENGES ................................................................................................................................... 40
PROJECTIONS/OUTLOOK FOR 2020 ................................................................................................. 41
CONCLUSION ...................................................................................................................................... 42
PROFILE

Establishment
The Ghana National Commission for UNESCO started as a Committee for UNESCO Affairs in 1953. In 1958 when Ghana attained full membership of UNESCO, Cabinet approved the reconstitution of the National Committee under the new title Ghana National Commission for UNESCO.

Mission
To promote UNESCO’s objectives and ideals in Ghana as a contribution to global peace, poverty alleviation, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through Education, the Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information.

Vision
To be a highly progressive National Commission that improves access and participation in programmes and activities within UNESCO’s fields of competence in Ghana.

Functions
The National Commission for UNESCO is a subvented agency under the Ministry of Education, serving as a link between UNESCO and Ghana. In furtherance of its primary objectives, the Commission performs the following functions:

- Acts as an advisory body to the government in determining policy with regard to UNESCO and its programmes.
- Serves as a liaison agency involving Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in UNESCO activities for the advancement of Education, the Sciences, Culture and Communication, with the aim of advancing mutual knowledge and understanding of UNESCO’s work towards the common welfare of human-kind.
- Disseminates information from and to UNESCO.
- Exchanges information and experiences with its counterparts in Member States of the Organization.
- Fosters close co-operation between state agencies and services, professionals and other associations, universities as well as other centres of research and education in the promotion of UNESCO’s objectives and ideals.
- Co-operates with Government delegations to UNESCO General Conferences and other intergovernmental meetings convened by UNESCO, in the preparation of Ghana’s position papers by preparing the contribution of Government to the work of these meetings.
• Participates in the search for candidates for vacant UNESCO posts financed under the regular programme or from extra-budgetary resources, and in the placement of UNESCO Fellowship holders.

• Participates in the planning and execution of activities entrusted to UNESCO which are undertaken with the assistance of the other sister agencies of the United Nations in Ghana.

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION

The Ghana National Commission for UNESCO has 35 members drawn from relevant Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Institutions as well as non-governmental organizations in Ghana.

The Commission meets in plenary session twice a year, preferably March/April and September/October. However, in a General Conference year, the Commission meets more than twice.

The members of the Commission serve in honorary capacity and receive no salary except sitting allowances for the sessions. Below is the current list of members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
<th>POSITION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Dr Matthew Opoku Prempeh</td>
<td>Minister for Education</td>
<td>Chairman and Ghana’s Representative to the Executive Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Mr Benjamin Kofi Gyasi</td>
<td>Chief Director, Ministry of Education</td>
<td>Vice Chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 HE Anna Bossman</td>
<td>Ambassador to France</td>
<td>Permanent Delegate of Ghana to UNESCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Mrs Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh</td>
<td>Secretary-General, Ghana National Commission for UNESCO</td>
<td>Secretary to Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Ms. Audrey Naana Abayena</td>
<td>Head, Legal and Consular Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration</td>
<td>Chairman, Legal and Administrative Specialized Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Mr William Boateng</td>
<td>Head, Bureau of Ghana Languages</td>
<td>Chairman, Specialized Committee</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Prof. Yaw Afari Ankomah</td>
<td>IEPA</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Dr Kweku Rockson</td>
<td>Lecturer, University of Professional Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Prof. Alfred Oteng Yeboah</td>
<td>University of Ghana</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Dr Edward Salifu</td>
<td>University for Development Studies</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Dr Ben Ampomah</td>
<td>Head, Water Resources Commission</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Mr John Pwamang</td>
<td>Head, Environmental Protection Agency</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Dr Mike Atweneboana</td>
<td>Head, Water Research Institute</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Mr Abraham Kofi Asante</td>
<td>Head, Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Ms. Mavis Kusorgbor</td>
<td>Director Multilateral, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Mrs. Dede Bedu-Addo</td>
<td>Ministry of Gender, Women and Social Protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Ms Stella Badu</td>
<td>Ministry of Justice and Attorney General’s Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Name</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Mr Edmund Nkansah</td>
<td>Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Dr George Essegbey</td>
<td>Head, STEPRI, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology &amp; Innovation</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Mr. Harrison K. Sasu</td>
<td>Director, Ministry of Youth and Sports</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Ms Mamle Andrews</td>
<td>Chief Director, Ministry of Information</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Prof. Isabela Quakyi</td>
<td>Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Dr Emmanuel Newman</td>
<td>National Council for Tertiary Education</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Ms, Jane Edna Nyame</td>
<td>National Commission on Culture</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Mr. Hayford Siaw</td>
<td>Ghana Library Authority</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Dr Solomon Anum</td>
<td>Ghana Geological Survey Authority</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Hon. William Agyapong Quaitto</td>
<td>Parliamentary Select Committee on Education</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Mr Kingsley Ofosu Ntiamoah</td>
<td>Ghana Museums and Monuments Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Mrs. Audrey Abayena</td>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Ms. Angela Mercy Dannson</td>
<td>Ministry of Food and Agriculture</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Mr. Gabriel Tandoh</td>
<td>Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Mr. Thomas Musah</td>
<td>Ghana National Association of Teachers</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Ms Magdalene Appenteng</td>
<td>Ministry of Communication</td>
</tr>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Mr George Sarpong</td>
<td>National Media Commission</td>
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</table>
**Permanent Delegation**
The Permanent Delegation is the official Government representation to UNESCO in Paris. Ghana’s Ambassador to France is the country’s Permanent Delegate to UNESCO. The Permanent Delegation has its offices in the UNESCO Miollis building, Paris.

**Specialized Committees**
There are six (6) Specialized Committees which reflect the main fields of competence of UNESCO in Ghana, namely Education, Natural Science, Social & Human Science, Culture, Communication & Information and Legal & Administration. The members of each of the specialized committee are selected from government and Non-governmental organizations.

The Committees, comprising nine (9) members each, provide expert advice relating to their sectors and help the Secretariat to prepare draft briefs for the Ghana delegation to the UNESCO General Conference.

The Specialized Committees meet as and when necessary.

**National Committees**
The National Committees are the Commission’s resource of experts drawn from various governmental and non-governmental agencies. They are involved in all projects implemented by the Commission either as implementers or advisors. They are responsible for advising Government on UNESCO technical issues.

These are the:

i. Man and Biosphere Committee (MAB) - Environmental Issues
ii. Intergovernmental Oceanographic Committee (IOC) - Marine Water Issues
iii. International Hydrological Programme (IHP) - Fresh Water Issues
iv. National Bioethics Committee (NBC) - Issues on bioethics
v. Information for All Programme (IFAP) - Issues on Communication
vi. Committee on Management of social Transformation (MOST) - Social Issues

**The Executive Committee**
The Executive Committee of the Commission coordinates the activities of the Secretariat and the Committees. It takes decisions for the effective and efficient operation of the National Commission. It consists of the following members:
• The Chairman of the Commission
• The Vice Chairman of the Commission
• The Chairmen of the 6 Specialized Committees
• The Secretary-General
• Ghana’s Representative on the Executive Board of UNESCO

The Secretariat of the Commission
The Secretariat serves as the main channel of communication between the Government of Ghana and UNESCO. It operates under the supervision of the Chairman of the Commission.

With a staff quota of fourteen (14), the Secretariat administratively operates under the supervision of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Commission. The breakdown is as follows:

1. The Secretary-General
2. 4 Programme Officers
3. 1 Accountant
4. 1 Administrative Officer
5. 1 Library Assistant
6. 3 Stenographer Secretary/Typist
7. 2 Drivers

Currently, the Secretariat has ten (10) members of staff as follows:

1. A Secretary-General
2. 5 Programme Officers
3. 1 Accountant
4. 1 Administrative Officer
5. 2 Drivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male: Female ratio</th>
<th>2:1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Senior : Junior</td>
<td>2:1</td>
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</table>

The Secretariat also worked with three (3) National Service Persons who served as Support to the Staff and three (3) interns on industrial attachment.

The German Kulturweit Voluntary Service Programme is an arrangement between the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO and the German National Commission for UNESCO, which
opens up opportunities, bi-annually, to young Germans for intercultural learning and skills development the Commission. It further affords the sharing of educational experiences as well as promoting international cooperation.

Under the Programme, the Secretariat was privileged to host Ms. Imke Caroline Ockenga, for six (6) months, from March - August, 2019.

The Secretariat is further privileged to host the current volunteer, Mr. Jago Wagner as part of its support staff for six (6) months, September 2019 to March, 2020.

Under the German Naturweit Programme, the Secretariat was privileged to receive six (6) volunteers to assist in the three (3) Biosphere Reserves in Ghana.

The Secretariat is also glad to have the support of a local intern, Miss Abigail Gyawu in the accounting office.
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Ministry of Education (Host Ministry)

The Office of the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO

Secretariat of the Commission

Education Committee
Natural Science Committee
Social & Human Sciences Committee
Culture Committee
Communication/Information Committee
Legal/Administrative Committee

Stakeholders working in the Ministries and relevant fields of UNESCO’s competence
PROGRAMME DELIVERY

Our Mandate is delivered, in collaboration with allied Agencies and Ministries, across UNESCO’s areas of competence. Below are highlights of programmes delivered.

1. NATURAL SCIENCES

   a. MAINSTREAMING BIOSPHERE RESERVE CONCEPT IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN GHANA

A National Man and the Biosphere (MAB) workgroup (comprising the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Wildlife Society, Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission, University of Cape Coast and the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO), which was tasked to ensure the mainstreaming of the UNESCO MAB Concept into national development planning, reviewed medium-term plans for ten (10) districts in Ghana. This was to ensure that livelihood activities in the plan were geared towards the sustainable exploitation of ecosystem services in the districts. This is aimed at improving the livelihoods of the people in the transition areas of Biosphere Reserves and protected areas.

The workgroup further organized from 7th to 9th January, 2019, an orientation for the Planning Officers, Biosphere Reserve (BR) Managers and some CREMA members to arm them technically to revise their district plans by mainstreaming the BR Concept in their plans. This training was organized for participants in the 6 districts having the 3 Biosphere reserves as well as 4 other districts with potential Biosphere Reserves.

This was done in line with the operationalization of the Ghana Plan of Action for BRs, the Lima Strategy for BRs, SDGs 6, 13 and 15.

   b. OBSERVATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIGHT 2019

The Ghana National Commission for UNESCO and the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board observed the second celebration of the International Day of Light, on Thursday, 16th May 2019 at the Museum of Science and Technology, Adabraka.

The theme for the celebration was “Stimulating Young Minds in Ghana, particularly women, to study Science and Engineering through the Light Sciences”.

This year’s celebration was in a form of a Science Picnic which afforded students the opportunity to undertake several hands-on activities on light science.
The Science Picnic aimed at providing a focal point for the continued appreciation of light and the role it plays in science, culture, art, education, sustainable development and in fields as diverse as medicine, communications and energy.

The participants were as follows:

i. Nii Amugi Avenue School - 44 pupils
ii. Gray Memorial Basic School - 31 pupils
iii. Calvary Methodist 1 Basic School - 30 pupils
iv. Calvary Methodist 2 Basic School - 30 pupils
v. Rev. Lartey Adotey Memorial School - 30 pupils
vi. St. John’s Preparatory and JHS School - 36 pupils

Each pupil had the opportunity to undertake a project in the following areas:

a. Microscopy
b. Periscope
c. Lava Lamp Effect
d. Glowing Water
e. Solar House
f. Kaleidoscopy
g. Stereoscopy
h. Dark room viewing
c. Monitoring Bia National Park and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

The Bia work group of the UNESCO MAB National Committee undertook a monitoring visit to the Bia National Park and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve from 21st to 23rd May, 2019.

The main objective of the visit was to follow up on the progress of livelihood enterprises established by the Green Economy in Biosphere Reserve (GEBR) project.

The team interacted with some beneficiaries and also inspected the palm oil processing plants and mushroom centre built during project.

It was observed that honey producers and the palm oil production group have made good progress to realise the goal of the project while the mushroom and snail farmers have lagged.

It was generally concluded the UNESCO MAB Secretariat will have to regularly monitor the livelihood activities and also provide support for the activation of livelihood associations established by the project.

This was done in line with operationalization of the Ghana Plan of Action for BRs, the Lima Strategy for BRs, SDG 15.

The team inspecting a snail farm
The team inspecting the palm nut processing unit
d. Establishment of Transboundary Biosphere Reserve

The Transboundary Biosphere Reserves Work Group undertook a recognizance visit to the Gbele Resource Reserve from 9th to 13th April 2018 in line with the work plan of the UNESCO National MAB Secretariat.

The Work Group was tasked to make recommendations to the MAB National Committee on the suitability of Gbele Resource Reserve as an alternative site for a Transboundary Biosphere reserve.

The work group called on community leaders as well as management of the three districts that envelope the Gbele reserve (Sissala East, Sissala West and Diffiama Bussie Issa District Assemblies). The team was assisted by the EPA office in Tumu Area Office and the Wildlife office in Tumu.

All stakeholders consulted were receptive to the idea of Gbele Resource Reserve being nominated as a UNESCO transboundary biosphere reserve.

When the recommendations of the recce are endorsed by the MAB National Committee, the work group will hold further stakeholder consultations and also seek funds to conduct research and implement other initiatives for a successful nomination.

This was done in line with the operationalization of the Ghana Plan of Action for BRs, the Lima Strategy for BRs, SDGs 13 and 15.
2. EDUCATION

a. Commemoration of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science

With support from the UNESCO Accra office, the Ghana Education Service (GES) Greater Accra Regional Science, Technology, Mathematics and Innovation Education (STMIE) Unit, in collaboration with the National Society of Black Engineers Ghana (NSBE GH), the Ghana Women in Science & Engineering (WISE) Committee, the College of Basic and Applied Sciences of the University of Ghana, Legon, and the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO organized a one-day workshop in commemoration of the UN International Day of Women and Girls in Science on the theme “Investment in Women & Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth” on 12th February, 2019 at the University of Ghana.

The event was attended by about 250 participants including the Deputy Minister for Education responsible for TVET, the Head of Department of Engineering, University of Ghana, the Provost of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, University of Ghana, the Head of Office, UNESCO Accra, the Secretary-General of the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO (NATCOM), and other prominent female luminaries in the STEM fraternity in Ghana. There were also representations from 15 Senior High Schools, 4 universities, CSOs, and private sector organizations.

The 2019 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) report was launched in Accra on 16th April, 2019, with a call on governments to address the educational needs of migrants and displaced populations with the same attention given to their citizens.

The report said the requirements of birth certificates of migrants before access to education was a discriminatory barrier, and should be prohibited in all national laws. It stressed on the need for governments to protect migrants and refugees’ right to education irrespective of their identification documents or residence and apply favorable laws without exception.

This year’s report, which assessed the world’s progress towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, was on the theme: ‘Migration, displacements and education – building bridges not walls’.

The report requested governments and planning authorities to ensure that public schools were within the reach of informal settlements and slums. It stressed on the need for development partners to support governments of developing countries to mobilize funds to design and implement programmes to meet the educational needs of displaced populations and migrants.

c. Launch of O³ Programme

Led and coordinated by the UNESCO Office for Southern Africa, the O³ (Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future) Programme commenced in 2018 and supports delivery of good quality Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) that empowers adolescents and young people and
builds agency, while developing the skills, knowledge, attitudes and competencies required for preventing HIV, reducing early and unintended pregnancies and eliminating gender-based violence.

With additional support from the Government of Sweden, six countries (Eswatini, Ghana, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe), are undergoing a programme acceleration (2018 – 2022), which will allow them to deepen the scope of existing activities to attain an almost full-scale implementation of CSE. These countries are referred to as the Programme Accelerated Countries (PAC).

UNESCO in collaboration with the Government of Ghana, on 30th January, 2019, launched the CSE programme with the corresponding initiative, ‘O3’.

The Director-General of UNESCO co-launched the programme with the Minister for Education.

The event was designed to:
- Officially launch the Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future (O3) regional programme and the new PAC approach;
- Raise awareness on and bring attention to the need for scaling up comprehensive sexuality education and youth-friendly SRHR service for adolescents and young people;
- Raise awareness on the early and unintended pregnancies (EUP) Campaign.

This activity was targeted at SDG 4.
d. #Solve4ghana Design Challenge

Science comes alive when its application to everyday life is evident. It is with such intent that the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO and the Exploratory, a Ghana-based NGO focused on making science, technology, mathematics and engineering (STEM) relevant and collaborative through school-based clubs. During the activity, young participants from various locations come together under one umbrella to put to use their problem solving skills through a problem challenge.

The concept of the Design Challenge has been to ignite in basic school students the passion of addressing community challenges through the practical application of the combined scientific and technological techniques learnt in the classroom. Over 100 lovers of STEM, including 80 students of selected basic schools in Greater Accra and Eastern region converged at the National Museum of Science and Technology on Friday, the 2nd of August, 2019 to participate in the 3rd edition of The Exploratory’s flagship event, dubbed the #Solve4Ghana Design Challenge.

The aim of this year’s edition was to provide sustainable and actionable solutions to the problems of excessive waste water and water pollution.

Eight teams that qualified for the finals were selected from preliminary challenges the previous week, which involved over 60 teams and 600 students, representing 17 public basic schools from four locations where The Exploratory operates. Two teams comprising of both Primary and Junior High contingents represented the Accra, Berekuso, Nsawam and Pokuase locations. Enthused teachers from partner schools and mentors from National Society of Black Engineers, Ashesi University, GhanaThink Foundation played significant roles leading to the success of the event.
e. 2019 Global Education and Skills Forum (GESF)

Organized by UNESCO and the Varkey Foundation, the Global Education and Skills Forum (GESF) aims at inspiring new ideas, solutions and partnerships for achieving education, equity and employment for all, bringing together world leaders from the public, private and social sectors. The theme for this year’s event is “Who is changing the World?”

The Forum took place from 22nd – 24th March, 2019 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Ghana was represented by the Hon. Minister for Education and supported by the Chief Director and the Secretary-General of the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO.

f. Training of Newly Appointed District Girls Education Officers

The UNESCO Accra Office organized a 5-day training programme for newly appointed District Girls Education Officers (DCEO) from eight regions of Ghana from 29th April – 3rd May, 2019 in Larteh Akuapem.

The workshop was to build the capacity of DGEOS to enable them perform their roles as expected in their Districts.
The training programme covered:
- the work of a Girls Education Officer (GEO)
- developing project proposals for fund mobilization for activities
- writing of credible reports on programmes or activities implemented

**g. Regional Forum on Strengthening Social & Policy Dialogue in the Education Sector in Africa**


The forum aimed at building a common understanding of social and policy dialogue mechanisms; providing an opportunity for sharing and reflecting on current practices; and deciding on concrete steps to improve social dialogue and teacher policies in 4 participating countries: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Malawi and Uganda.

The National Commission’s Secretariat was represented by Mr. Riche-Mike Wellington, Programme Officer for Legal & Administrative Matters and Mr. Kofi Takyi Kwakye, Assistant Programme Officer for Education.

The workshop concluded with the adoption and signing of the Accra Declaration. The declaration recognizes the benefits of improved social dialogue in the education sector for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 4; recalls the ILO/UNESCO 1966 and 1997 Recommendations on the Status of Teachers and higher education personnel; and underlines the importance of structured social dialogue based on autonomy and good faith. The
workshop committed participants to push for enhanced social and policy dialogue with their governments and to take all steps within their power to ensure that the roadmap of actions for strengthened social and policy dialogue defined within the forum are carried out.

h. International Conference On Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Education

UNESCO and the Government of the People's Republic of China with support from the Wei Dong Group and the TAL Education Group of China organized the above conference which convened Ministers of Education and high-level ministry officials from across all regions, leaders from the AI industry, senior representatives of the United Nations agencies and international organizations as well as eminent researchers and practitioners. The conference took place from 16th – 20th May, 2019.

The Conference aimed to create a platform to facilitate the global policy debate and exchange new ideas regarding interactions between AI and education: namely, how AI could be harnessed to transform education and learning towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 4 for Education 2030, and how education can prepare individuals and societies to live and work with AI effectively for sustainable development.

Ghana’s delegation to the Conference was led by Hon. Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum, Deputy Minister in charge of General Education at the Ministry of Education together with Hon. Patricia Appiagyei, Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation. They were supported by Mr. Paul K. K. Ofori, Ag. Deputy Director-General of the National Information Technology Agency and Mr. Oliver Tommy Boachie, Special Advisor to the Hon. Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation.
i. **Regional Symposium to Review the Right to Education & Inclusion in Education Policies & Practices in Africa**

The main objective of the symposium was to bring together all key actors to build a common understanding and a renewed commitment to the reinforcement of inclusion with a rights-based approach to education for all.

The symposium was held from 22nd to 24th May, 2019.

Prior to the symposium, a ministerial roundtable was organized on the first day.

The recommendations drawn were further adopted as Africa’s contribution to the Global Conference on inclusive education, which is expected to be organized by UNESCO in September 2019 in Colombia.

Ghana was represented at the symposium by a delegation led by Prof. Kwesi Yankah. The delegation comprised representatives from the Ghana Education Service and the Secretary-General of the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO.

j. **2nd Regional Sharing Workshop On Improving Quality Management in TVET Systems for The Successful Training-To-Employment Transition of Africa’s Youth**

The Pôle de Dakar of the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP-Pôle de Dakar, African-based office) in collaboration with the Luxembourg Agency for Development Cooperation (LuxDev) and the Institut de la Francophonie pour l'éducation et la formation (IFEF) organized the above-mentioned workshop in Nairobi, Kenya from 18th – 20th June, 2019.

This 2nd regional workshop aims to bring together about a hundred representatives of 33 African countries from all regions as well as specialized networks and the main partners of vocational training in Africa.

Ghana was represented by the Deputy Minister for Education in charge of TVET, Madam Gifty Twum Ampofo and supported by the Executive Secretary of National Board for Professional and Technical Examination (NABPTEX) and a representative from the National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI).
k. UNESCO-Talent Regional Capacity-Building Workshop On Classroom-Based Assessment

UNESCO, as Secretariat of the Teaching and Learning Educators’ Network for Transformation (TALENT), organized the third in a series of capacity-building workshops supported by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) in Addis Ababa from 2nd – 4th July, 2019.

The workshop is aimed to strengthen national learning assessment systems in Sub-Saharan Africa and focused on classroom-based formative assessment.

Representatives from the Ghana Education Service and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment represented Ghana at the workshop.

l. High-Level Forum On Neuroscience & The Future of Education & Learning

The UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE-UNESCO) and the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) organized a high-level forum on Neuroscience and the future of Education and Learning in Daegu, South Korea, on September 23, 2019.

The Forum was held within the 10th World Congress of the IBRO on Neuroscience, which was co-hosted with IBE-UNESCO and other partners from 21st – 25th September, 2019.

This global High-level Forum sought to close the gap between scientific knowledge on learning and its application in education policies and practice. It was driven by the conviction that a robust analytic and scientific knowledge base and a deeper understanding of learning from the sciences of learning, as well as the application of that understanding can strengthen the facilitation of learning and improve learning outcomes.

The Secretary-General, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh and the Director-General of the Ghana Education Service, Prof. Kwasi Opoku-Amankwa represented Ghana.

3. COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

a. Meeting Of The Communication And Information Specialized Committee

The Specialized Committee on Communication and Information (CI) of the Commission had their first meeting on 15th of May 2019.
The Committee discussed the work plan of the CI Sector and also international days to be celebrated within the CI Sector.

Four sub-committees were constituted to help achieve the mandate of the Committee: the SDGs sub-committee, Multilingualism sub-committee, Media sub-committee and IT sub-committee.

Under the CI Sector, the National Committee for the Information for All Programme Committee was reconstituted by the Hon. Minister and Chairman of the Commission in March this year, under the Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC) – an agency under the Ministry of Communications.

**b. Formation of IFAP Committee**


**c. Commemoration of International Mother Language Day**

The International Mother Language day, observed on February 21 of every year, is targeted at promoting linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.

It was proclaimed by UNESCO to promote the dissemination of mother tongues as well as promote a fuller awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions throughout the world and to further inspire solidarity based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue.

It was in light of this that the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO and the Bureau of Ghana Languages, under the auspices of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, commemorated the 2019 edition with a programme dubbed ‘Sanegbaa’ – a conversation between our elders/societal icons, children and the youth. Activities included storytelling, puppetry, riddles, music and poetry in Ghanaian languages.

It created a platform to learn from legends and brainstorm in the quest to preserve and promote Ghanaian languages.
d. Knowledge Societies for Sustainable Development in Africa Forum

The Information for All Programme (IFAP) African Forum on Knowledge Societies for Sustainable Development took place from 14 - 15 March 2019 in Harare, Zimbabwe. Participants from 18 countries convened at the regional forum to map out regional priorities for IFAP committees across Africa.

The conference was attended by the Secretary-General of the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO, Mrs. Ama Serwah Nerquaye-Tetteh and the Chairman of the National IFAP Committee, Mr. Kofi Asante.

The delegates highlighted their important role of being active contributors to the IFAP governance structures in order to harness knowledge societies for the sustainable socio-economic development of Africa through the six IFAP priority areas (information for development, information literacy, information preservation, information ethics, information accessibility and multilingualism in cyberspace).
4. CULTURE

a. Joint World Heritage Center/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory Mission to the Forts and Castles in Ghana

Late last year, the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO (NATCOM) and Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB) requested the World Heritage Centre to dispatch an advisory mission team to examine the state of conservation of Ghana’s forts and castles and the impact of the proposed Elmina Bay Project on the Outstanding Universal Value of the Buildings.

The advisory mission team which was composed of experts from the World Heritage Centre (WHC), International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) arrived in Ghana on 29th of April and began the mission from 30th of April to 3rd May.

With the support of NATCOM and the GMMB, the advisory mission team visited the Elmina Castles, Osu Castle, Cape Coast Castles, Fort Saint Jago, Fort Amsterdam, Ussher Fort and James Fort to examine their state of conservation.
b. Natcom-Standards Session

On the 12th of July 2019, the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO (NATCOM) organized a side event with the students of archaeology and heritage from the West African Sub-region during the 16th Biennial Colloquium of the West African Archaeological Association which was held at the University of Ghana, from 9 – 13 July.

The side event inter alia discussed the vision, mission and functions of NATCOM as well as the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines. This was intended to make participants of the Colloquium understand the mandate of NATCOM and encourage research in the area of the UNESCO Cultural Conventions particularly the World Heritage Convention.
5. SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES

a. 2nd African Regional Congress on Martial Arts


The 2nd African Regional Martial Arts Congress, which was on the theme ‘Cultural Unity in African Self-Defense Traditions’, convened over 60 Martial Arts practitioners, experts as well as non-practitioners across the African continent.

The Congress presented a platform to dialogue on current issues for safeguarding and promoting martial arts in West Africa as well as empowering the youth, especially young women in martial arts, to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 4 & 5.
b. Observation of 2019 International Youth Day

As part of the Global Celebration of International Youth Day for 2019, the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO celebrated the day with student leaders from Accra Girls Senior High School. The day was marked with a sensitization program on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Leadership Skills and Communication Skills on 12th August.

The event took on board 80 students from the Accra Girls Senior High School. It was all fun and an opportunity to learn from the students and a platform to brainstorm in a quest to promote Sustainable Development Goals.
6. MEETINGS AT UNESCO HQ

   a. 206TH UNESCO Executive Board Session

Ghana participated in the 206th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board which took place from 3rd – 17th April, 2019 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France.

The 206th Session of the Executive Board finalized the Organization’s draft Programme and Budget (40 C/5) for the next biennium. The Session further considered the provisional agenda for the 40th Session of the General Conference as well as discussed pertinent issues concerning the Organization’s Strategic Transformation process. Ghana is currently serving on 3 standing committees – Programme & External Relations (PX); Finance and Administration (FA); and Non-Governmental Partners (NGP).

Ghana’s representative on the Board, the Hon. Minister for Education and Chairman of the Commission, Hon. Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, was supported by a delegation of nine (9) members from the National Commission as well as Ghana’s Permanent Delegation to UNESCO and the Ministry of Education.
b. 207th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board

The 207th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board convened from 9th – 23rd October, 2019.

The 207th Session was used to launch Ghana’s re-election bid onto the board as well as her bid to contest for election onto the coordinating councils of the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB), and the Information for All Programme (IFAP).

The Board also passed, without debate, the Upgrading of the Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (UCC), as a UNESCO Category II Centre of Excellence for the sub-region.

c. 40th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO

The 40th session of the General Conference of the UNESCO open at the Organization’s Headquarters in Paris on Tuesday, 12 November 2019 at 10.00 a.m.

The Hon. Minister for Education, Chairman of the Natcom as well as Ghana’s Representative on the UNESCO Executive Board, Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh (MP), led a 33-member delegation to the 40th Session of the General Conference.

The delegation was made up of experts from the Sectors of Education, Culture, Communication and Information, Science as well as General Programme Matters.
Ghana chalked success in the elections when it was re-elected to serve another four-term tenure on the Executive Board, the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB-ICC) as well as the Intergovernmental Council of the Information for All Programme (IFAP).

The Session also witnessed the designation of the Institute for Educational Planning and Administration (IEPA) as a UNESCO Category II Centre of Excellence.

7. NATIONAL COMMISSION MEETINGS

a. 39/3 Meeting of the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO

The Ghana National Commission for UNESCO held its 39/3 meeting on Wednesday, 29th May, 2019 at the Conference Hall of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The meeting discussed Ghana's re-election unto the UNESCO Executive Board and other Intergovernmental Bodies of UNESCO. The meeting also considered reports on Ghana's participation in the 206th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board, activities of the Secretariat undertaken in the first half of the year as well as roadmap to Ghana's participation in the upcoming 40th Session of the UNESCO General Conference.

b. 40/1 Meeting of the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO

The Ghana National Commission for UNESCO is expected to hold its 40/1 meeting on Wednesday, 11th December, 2019 at the Conference Hall of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences.
8. UNESCO CO-SPONSORED FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMME FOR 2019

a. UNESCO/POLAND CO-SPONSORED FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMME IN ENGINEERING CYCLE 2019 A

The beneficiary for the 2018 UNESCO/Poland Co-Sponsored Fellowship, Miss Winnie Ampomaa Owusu, has successfully completed her fellowship programme in engineering research with 36 other participants from various countries and continents.

Miss Owusu undertook her main research in drilling and hydraulic fracturing, which afforded her the opportunity to participate in conferences such as Green energy, Artificial intelligence, UNESCO World Heritage and Engineer of the future.

Miss Owusu’s research was selected among a few that won special award for scientific achievement in drilling and hydraulic fracturing.

Under the same Fellowship, in April 2019, the dossier of two applicants for the 2019/2020 fellowship cycle was presented to UNESCO for consideration. The applicants and their areas of study are:

i. Ms. Anthoniette Nketsiaba Baidoo - Earth Science and the Environment
ii. Ms. Mary Atta-Panyi Agbenyeku - Biomedical Engineering

Miss Agbenyeku was awarded the fellowship.
b. UNESCO/KEIZO OBUCHI RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Under this Fellowship, the completed application forms for the under-mentioned applicants were vetted and submitted to UNESCO in November 2018:

i. Ms. Zita Naangmenyele - Research Scientist, Water Research Institute
ii. Mr. Godfred Bempah - Conservationist, Bui National Park

Upon consideration of applications, Ms. Zita Naangmenyele was awarded the fellowship by UNESCO. She began her research work at the Department of Chemistry of the University of South Africa in August, 2019 on "Risk assessment of organochlorines and organophosphates pesticides residue in the Golinga Irrigation Scheme in the Tolon District in Northern Region, Ghana".

c. UNESCO/ISEDC (RUSSIAN FEDERATION) CO-SPONSORED FELLOWSHIP

The Dossier of the only applicant from Ghana, Mr. Patrick Attuahene, was submitted to UNESCO for consideration in the field of Ecological Management of Energy Resources.

Mr. Attuahene was awarded the fellowship and he is currently studying in the Russian Federation.

d. L'ORÉAL-UNESCO FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE PROGRAMME

This highly competitive award, which was previously advertised by the National Commission, is currently being managed online, which does not afford the National Commission the opportunity to vet the dossier of applicants before they are transmitted to UNESCO.

The 2019 edition has been advertised for suitable qualified applicants to apply online.

For the 2018 edition, which was awarded this year, Dr. Priscilla Kolibea Mante, a lecturer at the Department of Pharmacology at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) received the award for the L'Oréal-UNESCO Women in Science International Rising Talent.

She was the only African among 15 recipients of the award and the second Ghanaian to win the award since it was launched 20 years ago by UNESCO.

e. UNESCO/PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (THE GREAT WALL) CO-SPONSORED FELLOWSHIP

This fellowship was duly advertised but none of the three applicants did not meet the minimum qualification to apply.
9. The Participation Programme of UNESCO
For the biennium 2018 - 2019, UNESCO approved the underlisted projects for implementation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIORITY NO.</th>
<th>TITLE OF PROJECT</th>
<th>IMPLEMENTING INSTITUTION</th>
<th>ESTIMATED COST IN US$</th>
<th>APPROVED AMOUNT (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Formation of National Heritage Committee</td>
<td>Ghana Natcom</td>
<td>25,800.00</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Waste to livelihoods – creating value for cultural preservation and economic empowerment of rural women in the Songhor Biosphere Reserve</td>
<td>National MAB Committee, E.P.A</td>
<td>26,000.00</td>
<td>18,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Science, Technology, Innovation and knowledge for sustainable socio-economic development in Ghana: harnessing the youth for effective utilization of technology for socio-economic transformation</td>
<td>CSIR-STEPRI</td>
<td>25,975.00</td>
<td>18,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>ICT skills for entrepreneurial and women empowerment</td>
<td>Ghana Investment Fund For Electronic Communications (GIFEC)</td>
<td>25,148.31</td>
<td>18,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. Implementation of Projects

i. Waste to livelihoods
The waste to wealth (W2W) project, initiated by the Ghana National UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) Committee with the participation of UNESCO, through the UNESCO Participation Programme comes as a remedy to help reduce the volumes of glass waste
disposed by the introduction of sorting out waste, with the intention of reusing and recycling the sorted glass waste into beads.

The concept was initiated by a cooperation between Ghana and Principe. Through this cooperation, a bead factory has been established on Principe Island and is already producing jewelry for hotels on the island.

ii. Harnessing the youth for effective utilization of technology for socio-economic transformation

The study was conducted by the CSIR-STEPRI as part of a UNESCO Participation Programme project to determine policy actions that will help to reduce youth unemployment.

The study recommended a deliberate policy intervention to commercialize selected technologies and innovations that have the potential to create jobs for Ghanaian youth. Some selected youth were introduced to selected technological innovations by the CSIR institutes in the areas of ICT, aquaculture, apiculture and Greenhouse agriculture, that the youth can take advantage of, to create employment.

Over 100 youths benefited from the programme.

iii. ICT skills for entrepreneurial and women empowerment

About 400 artisanal women and girls, selected from some four rural communities in Ghana namely Asankragwa, Asumura, Berekum and Goaso were trained in basic Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to enhance and promote their businesses.

The project, being implemented by the Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC) through the UNESCO Participation Programme aimed at leveraging on the power of ICT to create smart communities where people would have easy access to healthcare, education, water and food security.

iv. Formation of National Heritage Committee

This project is yet to be implemented. UNESCO has authorized an extension of the implementation of this project to 30th March, 2020 as a result of a request sent by the National Commission for extension of implementation dateline.
10. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

a. Government of Ghana Funds

2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Approved</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compensation</td>
<td>318,069.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goods &amp; Services</td>
<td>2,312,567.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capex</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,630,636.22</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2019 (As at November, 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Approved</th>
<th>Releases</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compensation</td>
<td>298,284.00</td>
<td>341,038.04</td>
<td>341,038.04</td>
<td>The variance (42,754.04) is attributed to the payment of salary arrears from 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goods &amp; Services</td>
<td>1,935,074.00</td>
<td>1,907,277.00</td>
<td>1,895,698.10</td>
<td>Variance of 27,797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,233,358.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,248,315.04</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,236,736.14</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Approved</th>
<th>Releases</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compensation</td>
<td>364,228.00</td>
<td>141,505.38</td>
<td>141,505.38</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goods &amp; Services</td>
<td>4,007,286.00</td>
<td>2,989,630.37</td>
<td>2,989,630.37</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,371,514.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,131,135.75</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,131,135.75</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Details of Goods & Services Expenditure As at November, 2019

**Ghana National Commission for UNESCO**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Goods and Services</th>
<th>Budget Allocation</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Variance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2210101</td>
<td>Printed Materials &amp; Stationery</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
<td>1,905.00</td>
<td>3,095.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2210102</td>
<td>Office Facilities, Supplies &amp; Accessories</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>- 5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2210103</td>
<td>Refreshment Items</td>
<td>20,001.00</td>
<td>22,325.25</td>
<td>2,324.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2210203</td>
<td>Telecommunication</td>
<td>7,000.00</td>
<td>16,088.63</td>
<td>9,088.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2210204</td>
<td>Postal Charges</td>
<td>2,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>- 2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2210502</td>
<td>Maintenance &amp; Repairs - Official Vehicles</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
<td>5,594.60</td>
<td>14,405.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2210503</td>
<td>Fuel &amp; Lubricants - Official Vehicles</td>
<td>65,000.00</td>
<td>77,000.00</td>
<td>- 12,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2210603</td>
<td>Repairs of Office Buildings</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>- 5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2210605</td>
<td>Maintenance of Machinery &amp; Plant</td>
<td>35,074.00</td>
<td>25,847.62</td>
<td>9,226.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2210709</td>
<td>Seminars/Conferences/Workshops-Domestic</td>
<td>200,926.00</td>
<td>210,927.00</td>
<td>- 10,001.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2210710</td>
<td>Staff Development</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
<td>21,010.00</td>
<td>- 1,010.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2731103</td>
<td>Refund of Medical</td>
<td>14,999.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>- 14,999.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2821010</td>
<td>Contribution</td>
<td>1,535,074.00</td>
<td>1,515,000.00</td>
<td>20,074.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1,935,074.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,895,698.10</strong></td>
<td><strong>39,375.90</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summary**

- Total Allocation for 2019: 1,935,074.00
- Total Releases: 1,907,277.00
- Total Expenditure: 1,895,698.10
- Variance (being processed in GIFMIS): **11,578.90**
b. GETFUND ALLOCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative and Operational Activities</td>
<td>300,00.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOREIGN TRAVEL AND MEETINGS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>206th Executive Board Session</td>
<td>305,394.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>207th Executive Board Session</td>
<td>368,628.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40th General Conference</td>
<td>828,692.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,802,715.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11. CHALLENGES

❖ Inadequate Human Resources

With the increasing scope of UNESCO’s work, the current human resources capacity - 10 out of 14 is inadequate, which is taking a toll on the staff of the Secretariat. Our accounts office in particular requires two full time staff and we have absolutely no support staff, making our work more difficult to carry out. Attempts to secure technical and financial clearance to even utilize in all our 14 established posts have been unsuccessful.

❖ No Establishing Act

Our draft bill has been with the Attorney-General Department for the past year and despite assurances that it is being worked on, we still have not made progress. Our Scheme of Service, Conditions of Service and Establishment all hinge on our legal status.

❖ Funding for Operational Activities

As our priority intervention funding is high, we are often only given a limited amount of money for Good and Services which limits our local service delivery.

❖ Office Space

There is pressure on the Ministry’s office spaces and we are gradually outliving our welcome. We are currently working on securing permanent office spaces within the Education village. Our allotted land is shared with the Student Loan Trust Fund with whom we have entered an agreement for them to build the office complex so that we reimburse when funding becomes available. Building is scheduled to start in 2020.
12. PROJECTIONS/OUTLOOK FOR 2020

To promote activities within the delivery of quality education, peace-building, sustainable development, strengthening of the National Commission and its Secretariat and enhancing international relations.

Activities

- Drawing up a Strategic Plan to aid our work at the Executive Board and in Ghana;
- Promotion of the 2030 SDG Agenda;
- ASPnet/Club Activities: intensify the promotion of quality education through education for Peace and sustainable development as well as intercultural learning;
- Participate in the 209th and 210th Sessions of the Executive Board of UNESCO;
- Global launch of the UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report;
- Capacity-building for staff of the Secretariat on the requisite skills to improve productivity;
- Promote activities within the delivery of quality education, peace-building, sustainable development;
- Strengthening of the National Commission and its Secretariat, Specialized Committees, National Intergovernmental Committees and enhancing international relations;
- Observation of International Days;
- Establishment of a National Heritage Committee.
13. CONCLUSION

We wish to express our appreciation the Hon. Minister and Chairman of the Commission, Hon. Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, for his sustained support to the Commission.

We are also grateful to the Chief Director & Vice Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Benjamin Gyasi and the entire Ministry of Education for their support.

We are grateful for the support received from our cooperating Ministries and Agencies.

We further express our thanks to all members of the Commission for their assistance during the year 2019.

Our profound gratitude goes to members of the Specialized Committees for their expert advice and input in shaping Ghana’s position in international debates.

We further extend a hand of appreciation to our partners who contributed in diverse ways in ensuring a fruitful year.

To all staff, accept the highest recognition of the Commission.