



National Development Planning Commission

Professionalism, Integrity and Excellence



THE GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING 2026-2029 MEDIUM-TERM DEVELOPMENT PLANS (MTDP) - FOR MDAs, RCCs & MMDAs

WORKSHOP ON ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SDG LOCALISATION IN GHANA

@Planters by Eagles, Takoradi

January 27, 2026

Presented by: **Pln. Wilfred Ebo Sam-Awortwi [PMP, MGIP]**
Planning Analyst, NDPC



OUTLINE

1 INTRODUCTION – THE GHANAIAIAN CONTEXT

2 LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR PLANNING

3 INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE FOR PLANNING

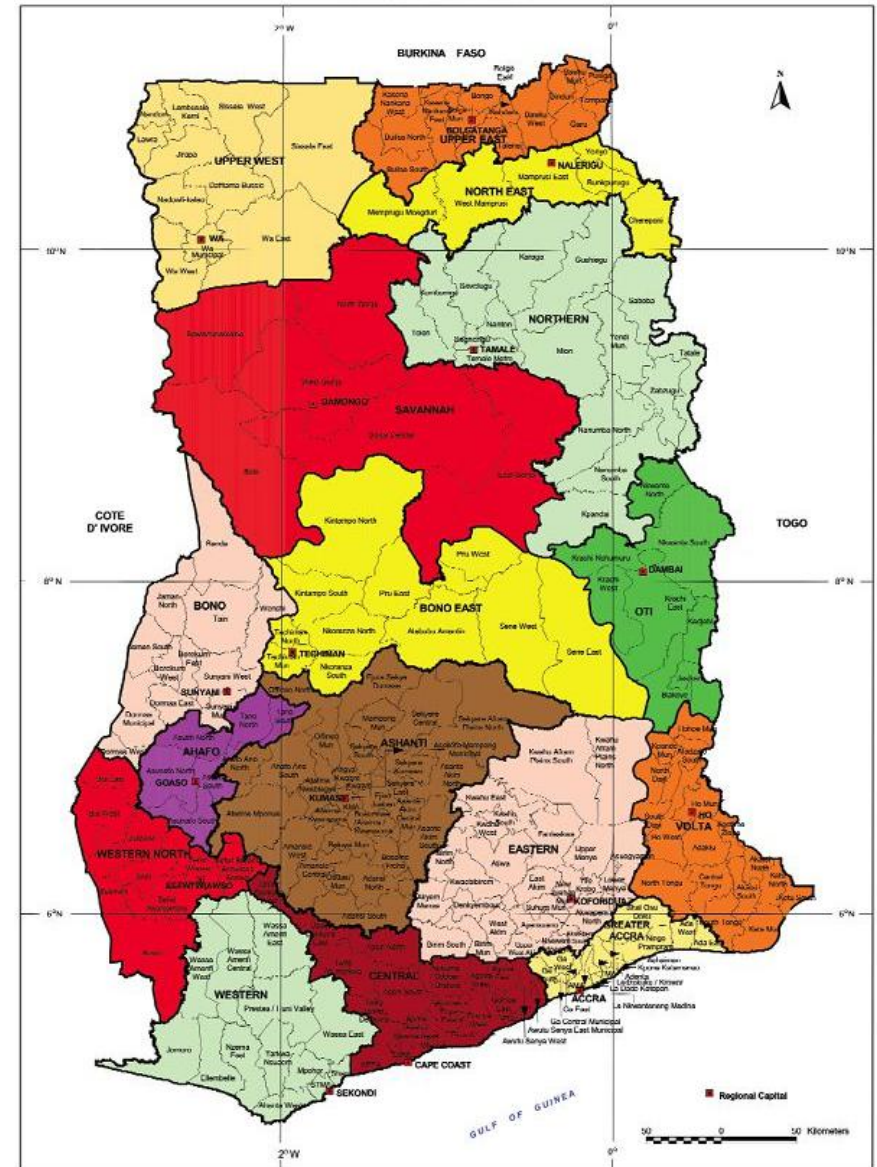
4 PLANNING AND PLAN PREPARATION PROCESSES

5 CONCLUSION



INTRODUCTION – THE GHANAIAAN CONTEXT

- Ghana operates a decentralised planning system, where planning responsibilities are shared across national, regional, and local government levels.
- Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs) are the primary planning authorities, responsible for preparing and implementing plans at the local level.
- Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs) provide oversight and ensure coordination across districts within each region.



Source: <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/new-ghana-map-with-16-regional-capitals.html>



INTRODUCTION – THE GHANAIAIAN CONTEXT

National Development Planning Commission

Apex planning body coordinating the planning system

Ministries, Departments, Agencies

Government bodies formulating and implementing policies

Regional Coordinating Councils

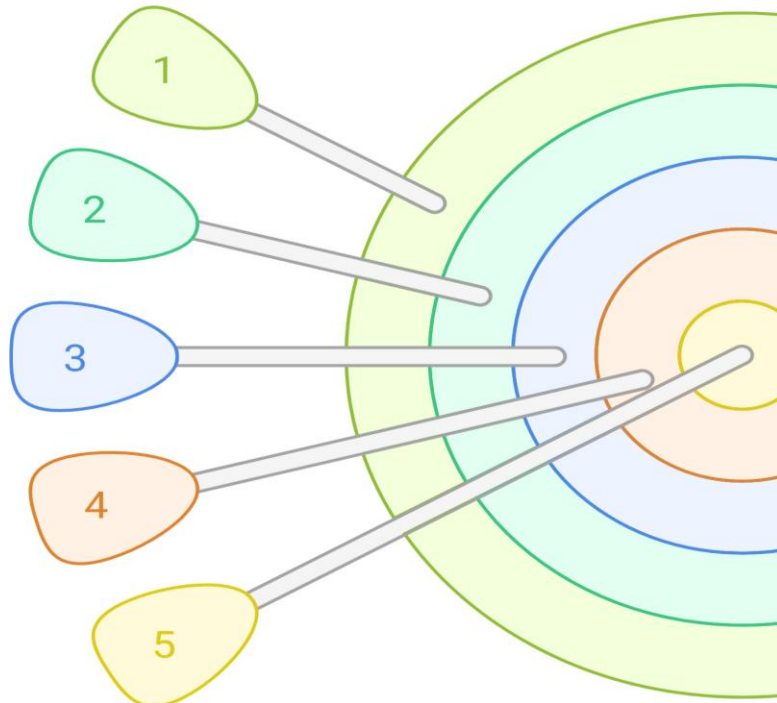
Regional bodies overseeing development within regional jurisdiction

Metropolitan, Municipal, District Assemblies

Local bodies planning and executing initiatives

Communities

Beneficiaries of development efforts



- At the national level, the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) provides policy direction, issues planning guidelines, and ensures alignment of all plans with the national vision.
 - Also, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA) operating at the national level prepare sector plans and policies in line with national frameworks.



LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR PLANNING

- **Article 86 and 87 of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana** establishes the NDPC and outlines its functions;
 - ... including advising the President on development planning policy and strategy
 - ... make proposals for even development....
- **National Development Planning (Systems), Act 1994, Act 480** describes the system as decentralized: national, regional and district; and defines the functions of Planning Authorities at all levels.
- **National Development Planning (Systems), Regulation 2016, L.I 2232** provides for the regulation of planning processes – format for development plans, consultative processes including public hearings, submission dates, among others.



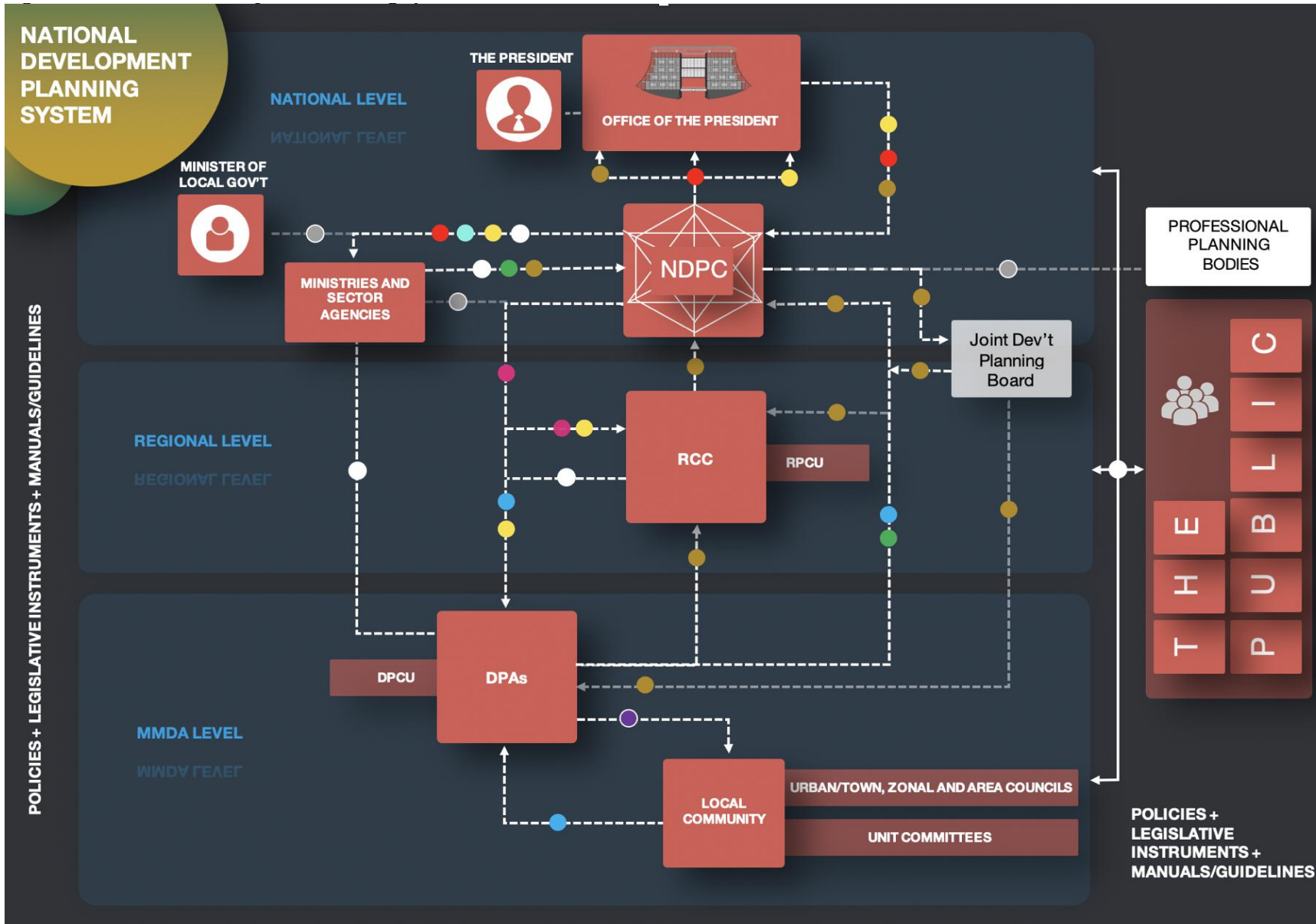
LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR PLANNING

OTHER LEGAL INSTRUMENTS



Law/ Regulation	Local Governance Act, 2016 (Act 936)	Land Use and Spatial Planning Act, 2016 (Act 925)	Land Use and Spatial Planning Regulations, 2019 (L.I. 2384)	Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921)	Public Financial Management Regulations, 2019 (L.I. 2378)
Purpose	Empowers local authorities	Mandate LUSPA to perform spatial planning functions of the NDPC	Provides procedures and technical requirements for Act 925	Links budgets to development plans	Provides operational guidelines for Act 921
Key Functions	Prepare and implement development plans, coordinate local development, manage resources within jurisdictions	Prepare national, regional and district spatial development frameworks and land use plans	Covers plan preparation, approval, review, and monitoring of spatial and land use planning	Budgets based on approved plans	Financial planning, monitoring, and reporting mechanisms to ensure budgets align with development plans

INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE FOR PLANNING



Key

-----	Information/data flow
●	Advice/Recommendations
●	Development Plan
●	Development Policies + Strategies
○	Consultation
●	Guidelines for Sector/District Development
●	Planning Functions
●	Monitoring Report (Q/APR)
○	Authorisation for SD/Local Action Plan Preparation
●	Local Action Plan
○	Information/data
↔	System Interface with the Public
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
RCC	Regional Coordinating Council
RPCU	Regional Planning Coordinating Unit
DPAs	District Planning Authorities
DPCU	District Planning Coordinating Unit



PLANNING AND PLAN PREPARATION PROCESSES

Context for MTDP Preparation

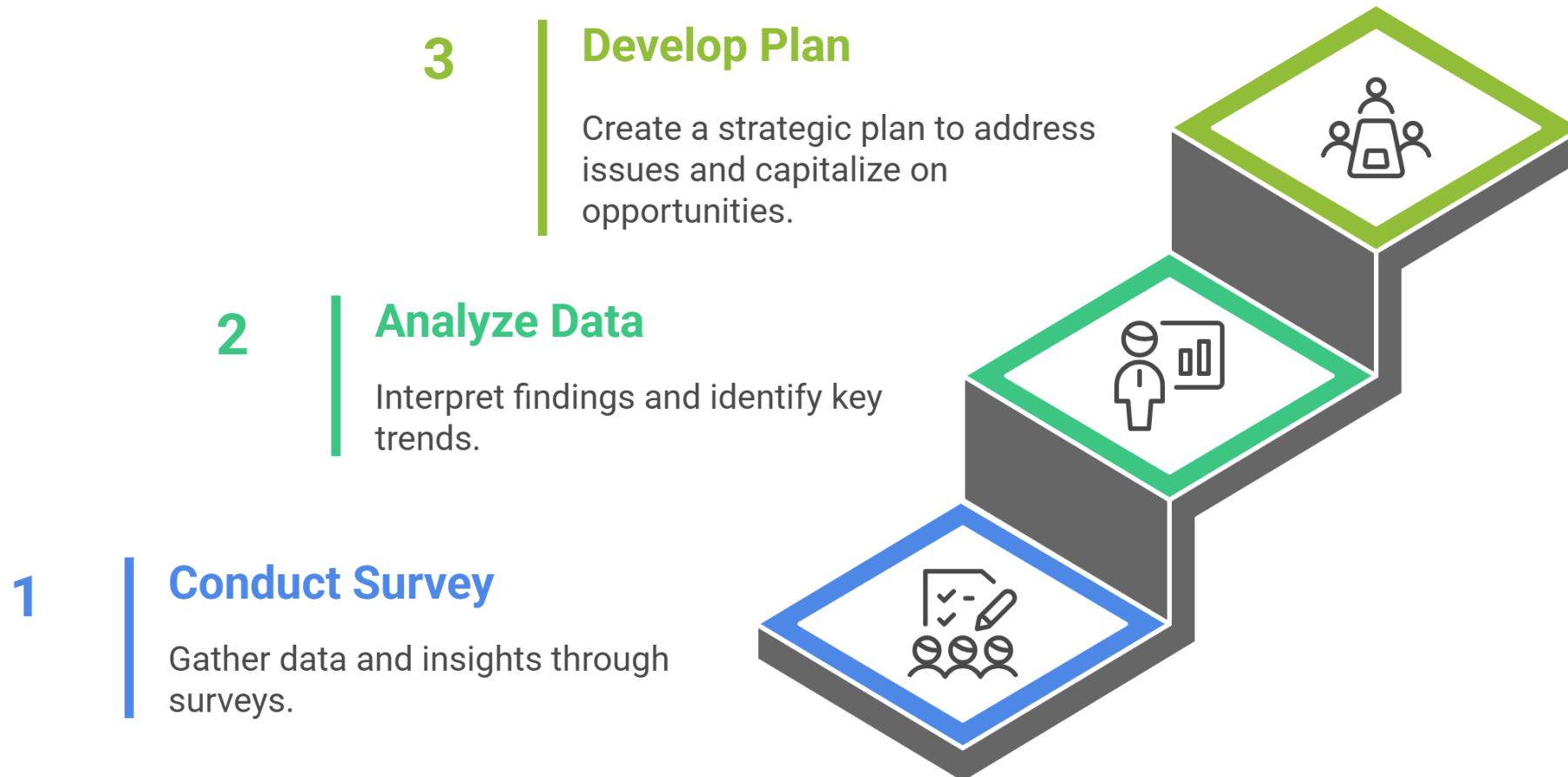


- Ghana operates a four-year planning cycle (2022-2025; 2026-2029; 2030-2033; 2034-2037; ...)
- The plans are to be prepared within the purview of the legal requirements, policy framework, and the guidelines



PLANNING AND PLAN PREPARATION PROCESSES

The "Basic" Planning Process



PLANNING AND PLAN PREPARATION PROCESSES



Sequence for MTDP Preparation

Cross cutting and emerging development themes to be reflected throughout

... Air Quality, Blue Economy, Climate Change, Digitalisation, Disability Inclusion, Gender, WASH, among others



Step One: Situational Analysis

- This initial stage involves a comprehensive analysis of the current situation to understand past performance and present realities.



Performance Review

Reviewing the progress of performance using indicators to identify gaps and achievements in current development efforts.



Data Collection & Analysis

- Collecting and analysing current situations to identify trends and patterns, and assessment of needs.
- Conducting a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis to identify internal and external factors affecting development.



PLANNING AND PLAN PREPARATION PROCESSES

Step Two : Prioritisation

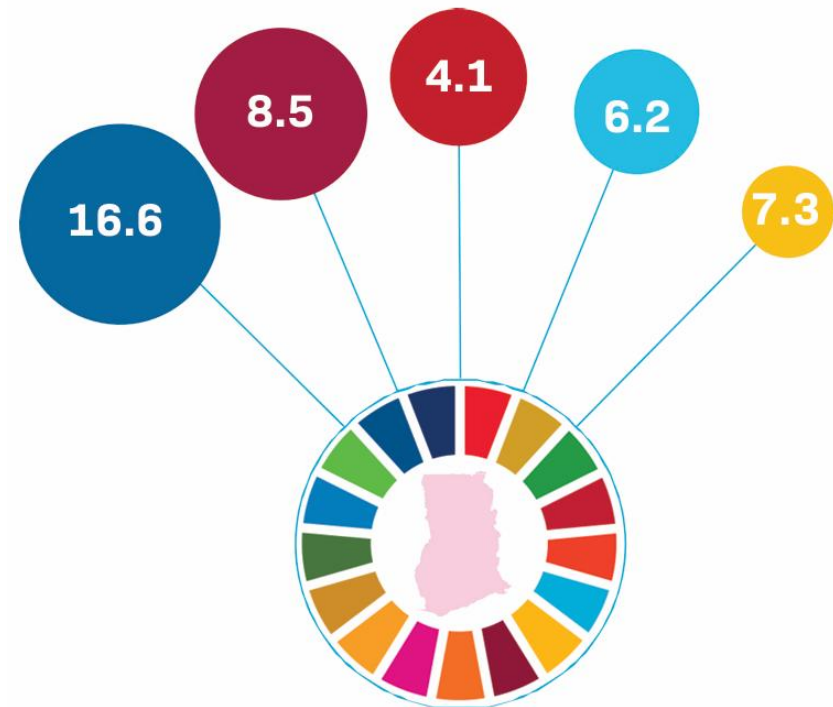
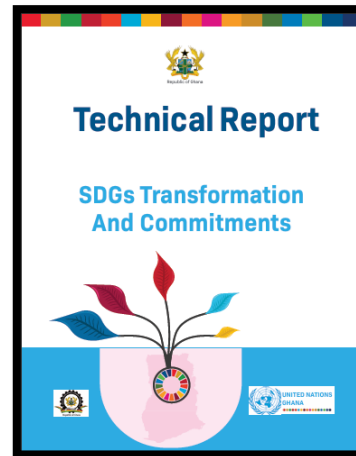
- Development issues emanating from the situational analysis are to be prioritised based on a desired criteria.



Prioritisation Criteria



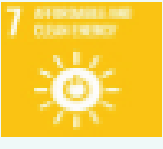
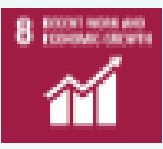

- Urgency – how quickly action is needed
- Potential Impact – likely effectiveness and reach
- Strategic Alignment – alignment with national vision

Other Prioritisation for Consideration – SDGs & targets



PLANNING AND PLAN PREPARATION PROCESSES

The Five National Prioritised SDGs and Targets

Goal	Target
 <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	4.1: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable, and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.
 <p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	6.2: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
 <p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	7.3: By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency
 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	8.5: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.
 <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels



Step Three: Formulation of Goals, Objectives and Strategies

- Formulate goals aimed at addressing the identified prioritised development issues.
 - Goal Setting to provide strategic direction.
- “SMART” Objectives to ensure clarity and enhance accountability
- Define Strategies to identify most appropriate approaches for achieving the set goals and objectives



Steps Four & Five: Programming and Action Planning

- Formulate development programmes based on defined strategies; should be broad to encompass multiple strategies over the four-year period.
- The socio-economic context of the development issues being faced should be taken into consideration in formulating programmes.
- Programmes should be costed; with an indicative financial strategy developed. In instances where resource deficits are detected, strategies should be put in place to bring in additional resources.
- Breakdown programmes into related projects with indicative costs; to be implemented annually over the four-year planning period.



Step Six : Monitoring & Evaluation Arrangements



Step Seven: Communication Strategy



In Essence...

The plan preparation process provides a structured pathway for translating development priorities into actionable interventions. By moving systematically from situational analysis to implementation, monitoring, and review, Planning Authorities are better able to make informed decisions, allocate resources efficiently, and achieve sustainable outcomes. This approach also facilitates practical alignment with the SDGs and supports the preparation of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) by enabling local actions and results to be tracked and reported in a consistent manner.



CONCLUSION

Effective plan preparation is central to advancing SDG localisation, ensuring that national priorities and global commitments are translated into coherent, context-specific actions at the local level.

A strengthened planning process also supports the preparation of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) by enabling consistent tracking, monitoring, and reporting of SDG-aligned interventions.





Connect with us



National Development
Planning Commission
13 Switchback Road
P. O. Box CT-633
Accra – Ghana



GL-061-8046



www.ndpc.gov.gh



info@ndpc.gov.gh



+233302773011-3



NDPC Ghana



NDPC GH