SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Child Labour Factsheet
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CEWEFIA:  http://cewefia.weebly.com/
Daasgift:  https://www.facebook.com/pages/Daasgift-Quality-Foundation-FNGO/135372649846101
Friends of the Nation:  http://www.fonghana.org
Hen Mpoano:  http://www.henmpoano.org
SNV:  http://www.snvworld.org/en/countries/ghana
SSG Advisors:  http://ssg-advisors.com/
Spatial Solutions:  http://www.spatialssolutions.co/id1.html
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CHILD LABOUR AND TRAFFICKING

CHILD LABOUR
Work that impairs children's well-being, interferes with their education or is performed at too early an age and in unsuitable weather conditions is referred to as CHILD LABOUR. According to ILO, child labour impacts on a child's physical, social, mental, psychological, or spiritual development. However, helping parents around the home or assisting in a family business during school holidays are generally regarded as something positive because they do not affect children's health and personal development or interfere with their schooling. These works are socially necessary and they give the child some basic skills and sense of responsibility.

CHILD TRAFFICKING
Closely associated with child labour is migration and Child Trafficking which involves movement of children and exploitation. Child Trafficking involves taking children out of their protective environment and preying on their vulnerability for the purposes of exploitation.

But the reality today is that:

- Ghana’s open access to fisheries is increasing the use of illegal fishing practices and leading to over-exploitation of the fish stocks.
- There are well known case of children being used as cheap labour and traded as commodities for monetary benefits.
- Children as trafficked through middlemen from coast to coast, and as far as Yeji (Volta Lake).
- Children are used as slaves and made to work at night on the sea and on the Volta Lake.
- Children are exposed to rain storms, very cold weather, and the risk of drowning.
- Children are held in debt bondage and some are sexually exploited.
- Children miss out the rights to be treated with respect and dignity.
- Children suffer daily beatings from their employers.
- These children also miss out on school and their right to live with their families.
The five-year USAID funded Sustainable Fishery Management Project (SFMP) (October 2014-October 2019) is to rebuild marine fisheries stocks and catches through the adoption of responsible fishing practices. The Child Labour component of the SFMP seeks to help to reduce child labour and trafficking through behavior change communications. SFMP has already conducted household surveys to document some of the worst forms of child labour and child trafficking to guide the design of a communications strategy for reducing the trend in selected fishing communities (Moree, Elmina, Moree & Winneba) in the Central Region where the problem persists. SFMP is working with the Ministries of Fisheries, Social Welfare Department, fisherfolks, etc. the project is using a participatory approach which focuses on the broad based sensitization and behavior change communication campaign to ensure the protection of the rights of children.

**CASE STUDY**

Kojo was recruited by an ‘Uncle’ when he was aged 13 after convincing him, his Mother, and neighbor that Kofi was going to Abidjan to work in fishing and ‘earn’ money. ‘Uncle’ had already taken away a few boys from the community including the neighbor’s son. Kojo later found himself in Liberia where he worked in a boat on the high seas. He suffered several physical beating from his uncle for being too slow to learn the trade. Kojo also survived several life threatening incidents on the high seas including swimming to shore when their boat was smashed on the seas by a big vessel. Denial from food and wages by his ‘Uncle’ were routine occurrences. Kojo was also once thrown out of the boat on the sea when he returned to work after a few days illness. His ‘Uncle’ said Kojo ‘faked the illness and was not allowed to return onto the boat. Kojo managed to swim himself to another fishing village and was later supported by a stranger with fares to go back to his parents in Elmina. Households such as Kojo’s will benefit from SFMP’s behavior change communications campaign, sustainable, and diversified livelihood alternatives to enable them to build social resilience.