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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Planning meeting on the
implementation of the national plan
of action on the elimination of
human trafficking



MAY, 2018

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF OCEANOGRAPHY



SNV SMART
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Cover photo: Participants in planning meeting. Credit – Edem Semordzi (SNV)

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Resonance Global: <https://resonanceglobal.com/>
SNV: <http://www.snvworld.org/en/countries/ghana>

ACRONYMS

AHTU	Anti-Human Trafficking Unit
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
CEDECOM	Central Region Development Commission
CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CLaT	Child Labor and Trafficking
CR	Central Region
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DAs	District Assemblies
DAA	Development Action Association
DCPCs	District Child Protection Committees
DOVVSU	Domestic Violence Support Unit
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
FoN	Friends of the Nation
FtF	Feed the Future
GAWU	General Agriculture Workers Union
GES	Ghana Education Service
GIS	Ghana Immigration Service
GPS	Ghana Police Service
GPRTU	Ghana Private Road Transport Union
MCPCs	Metropolitan/Municipal Child Protection Committee
MoGCSP	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NPA	National Plan of Action Against Child Trafficking
RCC	Regional Coordinating Council
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
URI	University of Rhode Island
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	iv
TABLE OF FIGURES	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	v
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
BACKGROUND	7
Objectives	7
Expected Outcomes	7
1. Detailed session	8
1.1 Opening.....	8
1.2 Welcome Statement and Purpose of Gathering	8
1.3 Brief Statement From SNV	8
2. REPORTING ON THE ACTION PLANS AND TIP REPORTS.....	9
3. PLENARY DISCUSSION.....	10
4. THE WAY FORWARD	11
5. CONCLUSION.....	12
ANNEX 1: CONCEPT NOTE.....	13
ANNEX 2: PROGRAM.....	14

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Abena Asare taking participants through the trafficking reporting template	9
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SNV appreciates the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) for organizing this quarterly planning meeting with the 'Prevention Working Group' of the National Plan of Action (NPA) against child trafficking and the partner organization representatives who made themselves available for the meeting.

We are also grateful to all the stakeholders within the Prevention Working group of the NPA for permitting and resourcing their staff to participate effectively in this meeting.

Finally, I will like to appreciate the presence of Victoria Natsu (Head of Anti Human Trafficking Unit of MoGCSP) and Abena Asare who organized this meeting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHT) of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) is focused on reaching a consensus on the immediate priorities of the strategies under the National Plan of action (NPA) and identify and implement priorities that will to generate immediate results in 2017/2018.

As part of the various stakeholder's commitment to implement the action plans, SNV (Netherlands Development Organisation), an implementing partner of the USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project USAID/SFMP was tasked to support the Ministry to coordinate the activities of the Prevention Working Group (PWG) under the 4Ps: partnering, prevention, protection, and prosecution. This will enable stakeholders engaged in human trafficking prevention activities on the progress made for implementing the NPA in 2018 to the human trafficking secretariat.

The NPA on the elimination of trafficked children in Ghana, was validated in March 2017 with input from the SFMP in a stakeholder consultation organised by the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection. The NPA will be implemented by partner NGOs through their various donor funded projects with general coordination and supervision from the Anti-Human Trafficking Secretariat of the MoGCSP.

Whilst the PWG worked to identify and implement the priority strategies to achieve results, it was agreed by the stakeholders led by the anti-Human Trafficking Secretariat that the activities of preventive working group under the NPA is coordinated by the SFMP/SNV. This was in line with SFMP's objective to upscale communications and media advocacy on anti-Child Labor and Trafficking (CLaT) in Years 4 and 5 of the project, while also effectively coordinating the activities of all the stakeholders.

BACKGROUND

As part of the SFMPs support to the Government of Ghana (GoG) towards implementation of the National Plan of Action (NPA) to combat human trafficking in Ghana, the CLaT lead of SNV under the USAID/SFMP, attended a strategic stakeholder meeting on the implementation of the NPA on Wednesday, 19th July, 2017 at Sun Lodge Hotel, Accra.

The meeting was organised by the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHT) of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) with focus on reaching a consensus on the immediate priorities of the strategies under the NPA and how the identified priorities will be implemented to achieve immediate results in 2017-2018.

The NPA on the elimination of trafficked children in Ghana, was validated in March 2017 with input from the SFMP at a stakeholder consultation organised by the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection. Its implementation would be mainly carried out by partner NGOs various donor funded projects with a general coordination and supervision from the Anti-Human Trafficking Secretariat of the MoGCSP.

Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHT) of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) with focus on reaching a consensus on the immediate priorities of the strategies under the National Plan of action (NPA) and the identified priorities will be implemented to achieve immediate results in 2017-2018.

As part of the various stakeholder's commitment in implementing the action plans under the thematic areas, SNV (Netherlands Development Organisation), an implementing partner of the USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (USAID/SFMP) was tasked to support the Ministry to coordinate the activities of Prevention working Group under the 4Ps: partnering, prevention, protection, and prosecution. This will enable stakeholders engaging in prevention activities report to the human trafficking secretariat to know the progress made for 2018 in implementing the NPA.

Objectives

- To share activities undertaken by stakeholders.
- To review the work done by the stakeholders for future engagements.
- To network and foster cooperation which is lacking in the implementation of the NPA.

Expected Outcomes

Expected outcomes of the workshop included:

- To know the success of the NPA by stakeholders.
- Sharing of various actions on NPA by stakeholders.
- Network and foster Cooperation among key stakeholders.

1. DETAILED SESSION

1.1 Opening

The first stakeholder meeting was organized at MOGCSP Conference room on 31st May, 2018. The meeting started at 9: 30 am with an opening prayer from Pasita Antwi. The meeting was moderated by Ms. Abena Annobea Asare, Deputy Director at the Human Trafficking Secretariat. Participants introduced themselves to broaden collaboration and networking

1.2 Welcome Statement and Purpose of Gathering

Ms. Victoria Natsu, the Head of the Human Trafficking Secretariat welcomed all participants for coming to this important meeting. Ms. Natsu expressed the Ministry's appreciation to the Netherland Organization – SNV for still supporting the implementation of the NPA almost a year on after the dissemination meeting at the Sun Lodge Hotel, in 2017.

She explained that fighting human trafficking is a team-work, and it will take the concerted effort of all partners to reduce human trafficking to the lowest minimum.

Ms Natsu welcomed all to the day's meeting and said the purpose was to reflect on what has been done so far, identify gaps if any and chart the way forward.

1.3 Brief Statement From SNV

Mr. Edem Semordzi, in his statement on behalf of SNV expressed his sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Gender and the Human Trafficking Secretariat for their support and for hosting the meeting. He gave an overview of the objectives of SFMP to support the Government of Ghana through the rebuilding of fish stock and catches through the adoption of responsible fishing practices. According to him, although the SFMP ends in March 2019, all the stakeholders will still have to implement the medium to long term plans to curb human trafficking and child trafficking in Ghana. Therefore the meeting for the prevention group is very essential to identify the common goal to tackle the issues.

He explained that there is a strong link between child labor and child trafficking, hence stakeholders will have to agree on reporting procedures to ensure the appropriate information is put out there during prevention activities even as family members remain the major culprits.

He concluded by expressing his appreciation to all the stakeholders present and wished them a fruitful deliberation

Ms Asare after the statement expressed the gratitude of the MoGCSP to the USAID Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) and acknowledged the role played by the Netherlands Development Organization – Ghana (SNV) for providing the financial and technical support to the development of the NPA.

2. REPORTING ON THE ACTION PLANS AND TIP REPORTS

The Human Trafficking Secretariat took participants through six key objectives under the Prevention theme. This was to help stakeholders report accurately and also disaggregate the data collected by gender. Stakeholders were informed to tackle each objective under the specific thematic areas such as training, awareness raising, producing IE and C materials and others. Stakeholders were prompted to take issues of sex, the total number of participant, venue and dates seriously.

Participants were also taken through the various action plans to so that those who were not present at the previous meeting can still develop their institutional plan of actions for implementation.

The Human Trafficking Secretariat also gave guidelines on reporting for the TIP report to help Ghana get off the tier 2 watch list and maintain a better tier. Stakeholders were advised to send all their activities to be reported together with government activities.

They were also taken through reporting for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This was necessary as issues of child trafficking and migration is a major feature under the SDGs.

They were requested to pay attention to facts and figures as there are a whole lot of verification and monitoring tools to track activities.



Figure 1. Abena Asare taking participants through the trafficking reporting template

3. PLENARY DISCUSSION

After the presentation, participants were given the opportunity to ask questions and give their comments. to further identify the way forward and prevention activities that were upcoming.

The following issues were discussed:

- A participant said trafficked victims who are extremely poor should be given priority on enrolment on the LEAP. He suggested that the LEAP funds should be disbursed by NGOs so that beneficiaries can directly benefit and that the only shelter that was placed on LEAP removed.
- Ms. Victoria Natsu explained that, the LEAP household registry is digitized and you should be extremely poor to be enrolled. The HT Secretariat has also not been able to enrol their shelters, which is very worrying.
- Another participant added that to make the National Plan of Action useful, key issues discussed should be put into action. This led to stakeholders' suggestion that, there should be some documentaries, IE & C materials that could be used. NGOs and stakeholders were requested to bring all these awareness creation materials for use.
- The celebration of the World Day Against human trafficking – Blue Day was discussed and members were encouraged to find activities under the NPA to commemorate the day.
- Stakeholders were advised to work and not use the absence of resources as an excuse. Some suggested that, in the next meeting, stakeholders should share their experiences on working without resources. Some actually shared their experiences in embarking on advocacy programs without any resources at all.
- There debrief by a participant on a book launch at West Hills about the everyday life and stories of Ghanaian children supported by Challenging Heights.
- The Department of Social Welfare was tasked to be proactive in their dealings on issues of human trafficking. They were also requested to know the stakeholders they work with to enable them build networks.
- The secretariat and the meeting was informed that, issues of human trafficking was part of the upper primary curricular. However, teachers do not teach on them as they have little or no knowledge on them.

4. THE WAY FORWARD

- Members suggested that, each institution will report quarterly to enable the secretariat collate their reports.
- The protection and prosecution group will also have their meetings to enable them identify and understand any patterns from the reports.
- Members agreed to join the media campaign against human trafficking and child labor in the country.
- There will be more stakeholder mapping to cover the whole country in reporting on human trafficking
- The human trafficking secretariat will follow up with GES on the contents of trafficking issues in teaching materials. This will inform any training for GES teachers.
- Train the Girl child unit and the SHEP officers to enable them train and identify issues of trafficking during their monitoring periods
- SNV to provide information materials they have produced in their awareness raising campaigns to support training.
- SNV will continue their support with awareness raising campaigns in the media

5. CONCLUSION

The meeting ended at 3:00pm with a closing prayer from Mr. Kyei from SEWA foundation.

ANNEX 1: CONCEPT NOTE

4.5.3 COORDINATE THE “PREVENTION WORKING GROUP” WITH THE ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING SECRETARIAT OF MOGCSP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Concept note

Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHT) of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) with focus on reaching a consensus on the immediate priorities of the strategies under the National Plan of action (NPA) and how the identified priorities will be implemented to achieve immediate results in 2017-2018.

As part of the various stakeholder’s commitment in implementing the action plans under the thematic areas, SNV (Netherlands Development Organisation), an implementing partner of the USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (USAID/SFMP) was tasked to support the Ministry to coordinate the Prevention working Group carrying out anti-human trafficking activities under the 4Ps. This will enable stakeholders engaging in prevention activities report to the human trafficking secretariat to know the progress made for 2018 in implementing the NPA.

The NPA on the elimination of trafficked children in Ghana, was validated in March 2017 with input from the SFMP in a stakeholder consultation organised by the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection. Its implementation would be mainly carried out by NGOs through the activities being carried out under the various donor funded projects with a general coordination and supervision from the Anti-Human Trafficking Secretariat of the MoGCSP.

Whilst the preventive group worked to identify the priority strategies and how they can be implemented by the preventive group to achieve results, it was agreed by the group led by the anti-Human Trafficking Secretariat that the preventive working group under the NPA is coordinated by the SFMP/SNV based on the objectives of the project and its plans of upscaling communications and media advocacy in years 4 and 5 of the project. With lack of partnership and collaborations identified as the main challenges of anti-CLaT stakeholders, coordination of the prevention activities by the SFMP would help in the Organisation of the different elements of the preventive activities under the NPA so as to enable them to work together effectively.

Thus the objective of this training workshop is:

- To share activities undertake by stakeholders.
- To review the work of stakeholders for future engagements
- To Network and foster Cooperation which is lacking in the implementation of the NPA

Outcome

- To know the success of the NPA by stakeholders
- Sharing of various actions on NPA by stakeholders
- Network and foster Cooperation among key stakeholders

ANNEX 2: PROGRAM

**USAID/GHANA SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT/
MINISTRY OF GENDER AND SOCIAL PROTECTION (MOGCSP)
STAKEHOLDERS MEETING ON THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR
COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN GHANA
PREVENTION GROUP**

VENUE: Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP), Conference Room

DATE: 31st May, 2018

Agenda

Time	Activity	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
09.00	Welcome and registration	MoGCSP
09.10	Opening Prayer	Participant
09.15	Self-Introduction	Participants
09.25	Welcome Statement and Purpose of Gathering	Victoria Natsu
09.50	Brief Statement by SNV	Edem
10.00	Sharing of various Action Plans on the NPA by stakeholders	HT. Sec. Abena
10.30	Reporting of stakeholders actions based on the prevention objectives	
11.00	Snack	Participants
11.20	Reporting Procedures to the HTS	HT Sec, Abena
12.30	Networking and cooperation	Stakeholders
13.00	Discussions on TIP Reporting	HT Sec.
14.30	Way forward towards attaining SDGs – focusing on our key goals	HT Sec
15.30	Closing Prayer	Participants
15.40	Lunch and Departure	Participants