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# SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

## Community communication durbars and drama Performances on CLaT in C/R



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THE  
UNIVERSITY  
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Friends of the Nation

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**Cover photo:** Community member in Anomansa (via Senya-Beraku) addressing community gathering (Credit: Gregory Essieh, FoN).

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## **ACRONYMS**

CLaT	Child Labour and Trafficking
CPC	Child Protection Committee
CEDECOM	Central Region Development Commission
CR	Central Region
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DA	District Authorities
DSWCD	Department of Social Welfare and Community Development
FoN	Friends of Nation
GHS	Ghana Health Service
GES	Ghana Education Service
GIFA	Ghana Inshore Fisheries Association
GOG	Government of Ghana
GPS	Ghana Police Service
LEAP	Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty
MASLOC	Microfinance and Small Loans Centre
MMA	Mfantseman Municipal Assembly
NAFPTA	National Fish Processors and Traders Association
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
TIP	Trafficking in Persons
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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## **SECTION 1: FORWARD**

Child Labor and Trafficking (CLaT) issues are one of the blotched areas of Ghana's fisheries, contributing to Ghana spiraling down to Tier 2 of the US State Department Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Watch-list in June 2016 after two consecutive years.

According to the US State Department Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report (June 2016), Ghana as a country is not doing enough to combat Human Trafficking and risk slipping from Tier 2 to Tier 3 (to be published in June 2017).

Slipping down the rung implies losing hundreds of millions in dollars of development aid. This will have dire consequences for the nation and therefore the need for stakeholders to up their act to address the issues for national development and human rights improvement. The issue of cheap labor in fisheries in the form of CLaT has big legal consequences as well as bilateral implications for Ghana as the country has been listed for two continuous years on the US Tier Two for Trafficking in Persons (TIP).

The history and magnitude of CLaT in fisheries within the coastal-fishing communities in the Central Region were determined through community interactions and studies conducted by Friends of the Nation (FoN). The studies indicated that children from the coastal fishing communities are relatively better swimmers compared to children from other areas of the country. These are communities that are steeped deep into fishing and everything revolved around fisheries. Therefore, taking children from poor families because they are good swimmers or conversant with fish processing, or both to go do same in other geographical areas for perceived rewards has been matter of course. Poverty and deprivation are the main drivers. Declining fish harvest has seriously deepened poverty in the fishing communities where there are hardly any other viable forms of livelihood activities. However, the fact that some police posts are stationed just besides embarking points in communities is disturbing. It is evident that law enforcement agencies are not adequately resourced to deal with the situation despite recent gains in the fight against human trafficking. Families are also desperately poor (partly due to dwindling fish stocks and a mal-functioning enforcement regime). Insufficiency in resources and ignorance however are no excuses; and complicity is a crime.

There is therefore the need to bridge the gaping disconnect between communities, duty-bearers and stakeholder-agencies in anti-Child Labor and Trafficking (CLaT) issues. The issue of efficiency and the ability to deliver upon their mandate as service providers and law enforcement officials (e.g. District Assemblies' Child Protection Panels (CPC's) and other relevant state agencies) is bedeviled with gaps in delivering expectations.

## 1.1 OBJECTIVE

The goal of the five-year USAID-Ghana SFMP is to rebuild targeted marine fisheries stocks through the adoption of sustainable fishing practices and exploitation levels. With a focus on small pelagic fisheries management along the entire coastal stretch of Ghana, the SFMP seeks to rebuild a fishery, which is near collapse. More than 100,000 metric tons of high quality low-cost animal protein that was traditionally available to poor and vulnerable coastal and inland households has been lost. SFMP is contributing to the Government of Ghana's (GOG) agriculture and fisheries development goals, and the USAID's Feed the Future (ftf) development objectives to reduce poverty and hunger.

Though the SFMP is about contributing to resuscitating Ghana's fisheries, managing the fisheries is actually about managing people efforts. Therefore, Friends of the Nation (FoN) and other SFMP partners are also working together to implement actions that will contribute to sustainable fisheries management free of CLaT practices.

In line with this, FoN carried out a series of community communication durbars and drama performances on CLaT in 13 communities in the Central Region aimed at:

- **Sensitizing the communities on the implications of the illegality on individuals, families, communities and the nation;**
- **Sharing information on enforcement agencies (roles and activities)**
- **Sharing information on Districts authorities' (child-centered programs, social intervention initiatives that can help in mitigating CLaT); Child Protection Committees/Panels (CPCs) in order to support them where relevant with capacity strengthening activities, and also to assist with resource-raising activities in order to function efficiently.**

## **Key Output**

The Community Communication Durbars and Drama Performances on CLaT were successfully organized in the Central Region in the month of February, 2017.

**In all, thirteen (13) communities in Central Region were engaged with a total of 2,992 adults (1269 males and 1723 females).**

Key messages on Anti-Child labor and trafficking were communicated to key stakeholders including; Community leaders, fisherfolk, Traditional leaders, Police, immigration, Social welfare, Child Protection Panels (CPCs), District Assemblies, media, CSOs, Ghana Health Service, etc. In addition, the durbars targeted women and children with clear messages on the adverse effect of CLaT.

The facilitators used oral presentations, community drama performances and film show, and banner exhibitions to convey key messages to the audience during the durbars. The community meetings provided the platform to raise awareness about the negative effects of CLaT on children and the need to halt the practices and make them socially unacceptable. The meetings were also used to inform stakeholders about the implication of Ghana on the Tier Two of the US State Department Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Watch-list, and reiterated the need for stakeholders to collaborate with government.

It was also used to highlight the key role of the stakeholders in address CLaT issues. The stakeholders concluded that there was need to address institutional weaknesses in order to establish efficient enforcement, support programs and structures. They recommended that the gaps in law enforcement should be plugged to contribute to reducing the expenses made in rescuing and rehabilitating victims. The need to improve vulnerable people's access to relevant social interventions was also strongly recommended.



## **SECTION 2: COMMUNITY SENSITIZATION ON CLAT**

### **2.1 Introduction to the communities' sensitization program.**

The communities covered during the community communication durbars and drama performances on CLaT in the Central Region were:

- **Moree (Abura-Asebu-Kwamankese District Assembly);**
- **Bakano (Cape-Coast Metropolitan Assembly);**
- **Nyinii (Mfantseman Municipal Assembly);**
- **Ankaful (Mfantseman Municipal Assembly);**
- **Koromantse (Mfantseman Municipal Assembly);**
- **Apam (Gomoa-West District Assembly)**
- **Sankor (Efutu Municipal Assembly)**
- **Woarabeba (Efutu Municipal Assembly)**
- **Nsuekyir (Efutu Municipal Assembly)**
- **Yepemso-Winneba (Efutu Municipal Assembly)**
- **Anomansa (Awutu-Senya District Assembly)**
- **Senya-Beraku (Awutu-Senya District Assembly)**
- **Egyaa (Mfantseman Municipal Assembly)**

### **2.2 OVERVIEW SESSION OF THE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS.**

In each of the communities engaged, the following regular pattern for dissemination of information and eliciting community participation was adopted.

- **Welcome address by Traditional leader (Community chief )**
- **Overview of SFMP and purpose of durbar by Mr. Kwesi Johnson, FoN.**
- **Statements by stakeholder Institutions and Agencies**
- **Drama display by Nsemkafo Cultural Troupe.**
- **Presentation of SFMP ClaT Intervention, findings of ClaT survey and recommendations**
- **Open forum: Questions, contributions and clarifications from locals.**
- **Reccomendations from SFMP Partners, anti-CLaT advocates, District Authorities, Deptment of Social Welfare, Police, etc.**

## **SECTION 3: SUMMARY DETAILED SESSIONS OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS.**

### **3.1 OVERVIEW OF SFMP**

During each of the community gathering, the audience were informed that the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (USAID-SFMP) which is by the kind generosity of the American people, is a five-year (2014-2019) project with the objective of rebuilding targeted marine fish stocks that have seen major declines in landings for the past decade. The target stocks are mainly the small pelagic fisheries that are essential for food security and the mainstay of the small-scale fishing sector. The University of Rhode Island Coastal Resource Centre (URI-CRC) leads a consortium of partners tasked with an integrated suite of activities including:

- **Improved legal enabling conditions for implementing co-management use rights, capacity and effort-reduction strategies.**
- **Improved information systems and science-informed decision making**
- **Increased constituencies that provides the political will and public support necessary to make the hard choices and changed behavior needed to rebuild Ghana's marine fisheries sector, feeding into applied management initiatives for targeted fisheries ecosystems.**

### **3.2 OBJECTIVE OF SFMP CLAT INTERVENTION**

The principal objective of the five-year SFMP CLaT intervention is to contribute to the prevention of CLaT practices in communities in the C/R through an evidence-based information collation and the implementation of behavior change communication and livelihood interventions that deals with adult care-givers (parents, guardians, etc.) who are the key actors within CLaT.

### **3.3 SFMP FOCUS ON CLAT**

The SFMP focus on CLaT for the five-year period is to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the problem in the Central Region of Ghana by pinpointing communities and households that are most exposed to such practices, this includes family heads and the adult population involved in Child Labor and Trafficking. The key assignment is to identify the root causes of the problem, such as why adults are used as child labor; or why adults (parents, caretakers, guardians) allow children under their care to be trafficked.



**Figure 1: pictures of Kwesi Johnson of FoN giving overview of SFMP in Nyinii and Cape-Coast respectively**

### **3.4 DRAMA BY NSEMKAFO CULTURAL TROUPE AND FILM SHOW**

In addition to the drama that was staged in all communities, there were film shows on ClaT in six of the communities. These focused on the dangers victims faced, and the consequences perpetrators will face when the arm of the law grab them. It was both entertaining and learning for the audiences with many of them laughing and at other points crying openingly.

The drama performance displayed the maltreatment of victims at the hands of traffickers (e.g. rapes, deformation of the body, and even death). The drama was used to explain to the audience the need for birth spacing (family planning), so as to take good care of their wards. It highlighted on the need for both parents to be actively involved in the upbringing of their children to avoid single-parenting which contributes to children being given out to strangers. The drama further concluded on the note that all stakeholder had a big role to play to make ClaT practices socially unacceptable.



**Figure 2: Nsemkafo Cultural Troupe educates audiences through drama.**

## **SECTION 4: SPECIFIC COMMUNITY DURBARS**

### **4.1 MOREE:-\_Community Level Discussions and Concerns**

The assembly man of Moree implored the community to learn a moral lesson from the drama and advised parents not to engage their wards in too much work just as those trafficked to other places.

“Children who are indulged in too much work end up sleeping in class”, he added.

He also made reference to the fact that most of the children present at the gathering were not cladded in clothes and those cladded in clothes were found to be dirty or shabby. He further advised parents to take good care of their children to give them a good future.

He advised parents to be proactive in engaging school authorities when they face challenges in paying their wards financial commitments (e.g. fees) instead of withdrawing them from school.

- **“Is there any prescribed punishment in place for men who abandon their partners, leaving all the responsibilities of their children on the woman?” a participant asked.**
- 
- **“If a child is forced to sell or do any hard work when he/she is sick, is it child labor?” queried one Mr. Kingsford.**
- 
- **“As a parent, if I allow my child to run an errand for me, or ask her to sell items to serve as a source of income to sustain the family, is it child labor?”, a participant questioned.**

#### **4.1.2 COMMENTS**

An elder named Nana Kwesi Abakah urged members of the community to be each other’s keeper and care for the welfare of all children even if it isn’t one’s own. He also admonished parents to be vigilant in the upbringing of their children to reduce teenage pregnancy in the community, since it’s been oberseved to be a contributing factor to child trafficking.

“We should not wait for someone to come from outside to inform us before we do what is needed but should learn from this drama and hopefully some years to come our community will be a better place to live for both children and adults” he concluded.

### **4.2 CAPE COAST (Bakaano) :- Community Level Discussions and Concerns**

There was a debate between the male and female leadership in the gathering about which group is more irresponsible for the welfare of children and families. This showed the deep divisions in family structures which are contributing to neglect of children and trafficking issues.

#### **4.2.1 COMMENTS**

Mrs. Vida Abena Anastin from the Department of Social Welfare encouraged the gathering not to hesitate to bring their issues to the department when the need arises. “We are there to cater for your social issues and do not try to solve issues above your control at home rather seek for help from our offices”, she concluded.

Madam Beatrice Awuku from the Metropolitan office of the Ghana Education Service (GES) pleaded with parents to take good care of their children to become responsible in their families, community and the nation. She further talked about the rising level of teenage pregnancy in the metropolis, which she pinpointed to be as a result of single parenting and children staying with other relatives.

She concluded that “teachers are doing their best to educate the children so parents should also play their part very well”, she said.



**Figure 3: Metro GES officers addressing the gathering and offering closing prayers respectively.**

Mr. Amoah-Baafi shared with the gathering, the view that education makes every aspect of life relatively easier. He therefore advised that “**all things being equal, an educated fisher or farmer fares better in his vocation than his uneducated one**”. Further entreated every parent to send their wards to school and also attend P.T.A meeting because the lives of their children may be discussed and that affects both the children and parents’ future.

In conclusion, he said “‘two heads are better than one’ hence the parents together with the teachers can help build the future of the children” rather than trafficking them.

#### **4.3 NYINII: -Community Level Discussions and Concerns**

Mr. Kwesi Wilson (Deputy Coordinating Director of the Mfantseman Municipal Assembly and member of the Municipal Child Protection Committee) representing the local government office, informed community members, that a law to address the issue children of school-going age who loiter around during school hours has been proposed and will be enforced soon.

Mr. Wilson said some families erroneously believe that they are not created to access formal education; citing a story of a woman in the area who refused her daughter to enjoy the right to education because her both her mother and grandmother did not attend school. He advised parents in the gathering against such acts and encouraged them to enroll their children in school to secure their future.

He highlighted on collaboration with enforcement agencies to apprehend children of school-going age who loiter around. Their parents or guardians will be traced and prosecuted as well. This law is set to be enforced from April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. The police and community vigilantes will comprise the Assembly Task Forces to embark on such exercises.

SFMP-FoN officials thanked the elders of *Nyinii* for their warm reception before giving an overview of the project (as part of formal exchange of greetings and community entry).





**Figure 4: Deputy Municipal Coordinating Director addresses the gathering after the performance.**

#### **4.3.1 COMMENTS**

Upon the question of “why parents cannot make children work, which is part of culture of training children”, Mr. Johnson seized the chance to differentiate between Child labor and Child work. He gave the moral lessons from the cultural display, entreating parents to send their children to school so that they will not be exposed to social vices in the near future.



**Figure 5: Hon. Hagan and Mr. Gyesie respectively, espousing formal education to the audience**

Egya Attah (linguist) advised his community to take lessons from the drama and should use it as a starting point to stop giving their children out but instead invest their time and resources in them for their own good as they age.

Mr. John Gyesie (teacher, Nyinii Primary School and member of the Municipal Child Protection Panel) elaborated on the point Mr. Kwesi Wilson raised and asked the chief of the

community to deliberate on such point because children in that community who are schooling are fewer than those not schooling.

In concluding, he assured community members that he will advocate to the educational authorities in the municipality for the community school to accept all children who have attained the school-going age.

Nana Segu II (chief of Nyinii) expressed his appreciation to the organizers for their effort and also thanked Mr. Kwesi Wilson for the law they have passed. Nana concluded his speech by pleading on behalf of his community to the Municipal Assembly to raise more school buildings so that the children can get the chance to be enrolled in school comfortably.

#### 4.4 ANKAFUL:- Community Level Discussions and Concerns



Figure 6: The chief of Ankaful and a parent addressing the gathering during the event.

##### 4.4.1 COMMUNITY-LEVEL CONCERNS

Mr. Kwesi Wilson implored the parents at *Ankaful* to try very hard to take their wards to school so that they can have a better foundation rather than ending up in social vices which might not only affect their community but Ghana at large. He also remarked that, taking your ward to school does not mean they might not cater for you in the near future but will be equipped with different skills which might help improve their fishing activities.

He hinted on the new law to enforce education for children. He wrapped up by informing the community about the formation of the CPC and pleaded with the chief to bring stalwart volunteers to help form the local committee to cater for child welfare issues.

One female community member (name uncaptured) thanked the organizers of the program and urged every parent and grandparent to send their children and grandchildren to school. She entreated parents to stop the **'I do not have money'** attitude but rather work hard to cater for their young ones. "If you even have two children you can push one to school so that as you struggle with the second one, one day the former will help cater for the latter", she concluded.

#### **4.4.1 COMMENTS**

Mr. Joseph Mensah (fisherman and storekeeper) thanked the organizers for their visit and further used the platform to encourage parents to take the family planning very serious.

He entreated the women in the community to live responsible live in order to take care of themselves and future homes. With the mothers not having money and dwindling fish catches deepening poverty, children become susceptible to trafficking and deprived education.

Mr. Mensah further gave an instance where the introduction of technology has brought about ships on the sea controlled by well-educated captains and hence advised the youth not to trivialize education but should rather consider it very important.

He ended by entreating every woman to thoroughly plan her means of marriage.

Nana Kwame Abusumpim (chief of Ankaful) expressed his gratitude for the meeting and gave an assurance of his commitment to address CLaT. “I will choose a volunteer task force to help apprehend children who are seen roaming about during school going hours”, he added.

He used the platform to inform the community members that communal labor is compulsory, and contribute to a clean environment for a healthy living. A clean environment makes learning easy for the children. “A time may come when you do not have a certificate you cannot indulge in any activity including fishing”, he concluded.

- **APAM: -Community Level Discussions and Concerns**

It was interesting to note the adults in the Apam evening gathering putting the blame for reasons driving CLaT on children themselves. Some however positively hit the nail right on the head.

“Children in this community do not take schooling very serious and rather prefer watching telenovelas and other television programs to doing their homework. They often watch television till late. This results in some of them sleeping during school hours”; was one of the first outbursts.

“Some parents use their money to buy expensive clothing and others actively indulge in gambling instead of investing in their children’s education. They refuse to give their children money to go to school every morning”.

“Poverty is one of the root drivers why some parents give their children out to be catered for by others. Single-parenting as a result of divorce also poses a hefty burden on the mothers which renders them incapable of catering for their children”.

#### **COMMENTS**

According to Madam (Hon.) Cecilia Awotwe-Prat (assemblywoman) “children are a blessing from God so everyone has to appreciate their child as a precious gift”, she said. She advised her community members not to sell their children out for a pittance but rather take good care of them and educate them so that they will grow and exact the care showed to them.



“Schools from the public sectors are now free and hence parents have no excuse to not give their children the right to education”, she added. She urged parents to frequently talk to school authorities to help better the performance of their wards.

Ms. Sarah Boliyilmah (Social Welfare Officer) made community members aware of the law that has been passed to check parents and guardians who abuse their children and trafficked them to other communities and countries. “The law is set to arrest perpetrators and imprison them for some years”, she added. In conclusion, she implored parents to stop buying expensive clothes for funerals and other occasions but rather invest in the welfare of their children.

- **SANKUR**  
**COMMUNITY-LEVEL CONCERNS**

According to Ransford who is a community member, “lack of job opportunities is one of the root causes why children in their community are sold out.



**Figure 7 - Mr. Ransford and Mrs. Prempeh respectively making points at the gathering**

Because of lack of job opportunities, fathers push their children to their mothers to be catered for. But since they cannot bear that responsibility alone, they end up taking their children to *Yeji* and other places to work as displayed in the drama” he said. “We have an exact experience as shown in the drama and this practice is common here in my locality”, he concluded.

Other community members shared the aforementioned thoughts on the lack of jobs and its contribution to CLaT in the areas.

Mr. Samuel Afedzi (community member) advocated for job opportunities in their locality since there are no jobs around to serve as a source of income to cater for the needs of their children.

## **COMMENTS**

Mr. Kwesi Johnson thanked the gathering for their wonderful participation. He also thanked all those who bravely aired their concerns. He urged the natives of *Sankur* to enroll their wards in school to build their future, adding that no serious investor will employ people just because they come from the community. Rather, every investor will look for people who have acquired some requisite level of education or training or both. “Can we honestly say that we are qualified to do anything apart from fishing related activities by way of employment”? This they accepted as a good advice.

He again used the platform to advise children to stay away from television programs that consume much of their time but rather study their books so that their parents’ effort will not be a waste, and also brighten their own future prospects.

Mr. Blankson (member of the *Nsemkafo* Cultural Troupe) identified broken homes to be among the leading factors that results in children living a miserable life. “When couples divorce, children do not usually get the full resources to cater for their educational needs” he added. He pleaded to parents to consider their marriages very well because when issues arise in relationships, the children suffer a lot and lack some basic necessities in life. Pressured, mothers then give the children away.

He concluded by informing the audience about the law that is being considered for passing in the Mfantseman Municipal Assembly.

- **WOARABEBA\_Community Level Discussions and Concerns**



**Figure 8: Community audience with the chiefs and elders raptly watching drama**

Mr. Prosper wanted to know what has been put in place to stop children under the age of eighteen from visiting the shore since all efforts ensured to stop them from such act by their parents has not been successful.

## COMMENTS

Some youth in the community erroneously thought there “was no schooling” in the Bible so education is not important. This was answered with examples of scholars cited in the Bible.

Nana Kojo Akutey (chief of *Woarabeba*) thanked the organizers for their visit. “It is very sad to see parents giving their children out for money” he said. He promised SFMP-FoN that they will deliberate on the scenes in the drama and put measures in place to solve such issues. He concluded by advising parents to desist from abusing their children.

- **NSUEKYIR: - Community Level Discussions and Concerns**



**Figure 9: Mr. Asmah (an elder former assemblyman) and Mrs. Botwe respectively on the floor.**

Mrs. Rosina Botwe urged children in the society to attend school to attain a better future. She entreated parents to learn some lessons from the drama so that it could serve as a guide to shape the lives of their children but not rather infringing on their rights.

“I want you to advice the children because sometimes when you dress them to go to school them end up lodging somewhere. Sometimes we bath the children and take them to school but the moment we leave, they run from school and go to the beach”. The beach therefore serves as training grounds for potential victims of CLaT because sometimes parents get fed up with the children.

## COMMENTS

Papa Kakraba Manuel (Traditional Leader) added that the reason why school is not interesting for some children is due to the English language that is used as a prior means of teaching and learning in school. They therefore are not academically good. “In the olden days the children were first taught in the local dialect before the English language was introduced to them later” he said. He ended his speech by pleading with the GES to re-consider such method so that the children understand what they are taught in school.

Anona Abusua Abatan Ekomapaku II (chief of *Nsuekyir*) elaborated on husband-wife relations. “Most wives here do not respect their husbands and they usually exchange words with them which is not right”, he said. Nana said having experienced and witnessed such issues on myriad occasions, advised his community folks to put a stop to that because it leads

to broken homes which greatly affect the children; noting that most trafficked children come from broken homes.



**Figure 10: Chiefs and elders and project staff respectively at the event.**

### **YEPMSU (via Winneba); Community Level Discussions and Concerns**

The gathering was very adamant about what they perceive as a “society where each one is an island unto himself”. They commented that everyone seems to mind his or her own business because of social and economic pressures. Family structures and bonds are no longer strong. No law enforcement officer ever comes around to see how children are loitering on the beaches or the video centers at night. The community members themselves would not allow them to reprimand anyone because they say “the government is not the one who feeds me”.

It was observed that many young children and adolescents fending for themselves are virtually independent. These are very susceptible to exploitation by unscrupulous adults and child traffickers. Everyone should be each other’s keeper so that such a menace can be abolished. If you come across someone trying to traffic any child, you should inform the nearest help point so that immediate actions can be taken to rescue the child. Do not refuse to rescue someone who is not a relative or an acquaintance because his or her future may be beneficial to you in future.

### **COMMENTS**

Mr. Bondzie (community member) said “though it all looks gloom and points to doom, children in the community can be educated and become prominent or useful personalities in the future. “Females in this community can be like Charlotte Osei and Hannah Tetteh if they take their studies serious and attain greater heights in education” the gathering was admonished.

Mrs. Esi Ekum (community member) urged the government and other organizations to employ security personnel to be combing through the coastal areas and apprehend children (who have attained the school-going age) but have refused to be in school; and instead be at the shore. Parents of such children can be quizzed whether they have put in much effort to

send their wards to school. There should be a law that will give policemen the power to “arrest” children to deter others.

The Ghana Health Service (directorate in Winneba-Efutu Municipal Assembly) representatives at the program commented that children that are mostly trafficked ends up being prostitutes wherever they may find themselves not because they wish to but are forced by their owners. Some who are fortunate to find their way back home comes with pregnancies or sometimes sexually transmitted diseases.

The health directorate in the country makes sure the lives of every individual is in a good shape by providing health care for everyone but when your children find themselves in a different country, they may not have access to good health care and some might even die. Children also have the right to refuse to travel with strangers when their parents ask them to do so.



- **ANOMANSA: Community Level Discussions and Concerns**



**Figure 11: Drama display and Mrs. Nkensen sharing her social woes with the gathering.**

After the drama performance, Auntie Mansah (community member) remarked, “I have six children and I used to be a fish smoker but I currently do not get some of the fish to sell to cater for my wards”, she lamented. “How do I get my problem solved”, she queried.

Elizabeth Nkensen (Community member) lamented that her grandchildren have been abandoned by their father due to some family disputes. “I have decided to take some of my grandchildren to the orphanage and some still live with me at home but I have no work to do to cater for them. So what do I do”, she asked.

### **COMMENTS**

Madam Afua Gladys (Community member) entreated parents to see to their children’s welfare when going to school so that it prevents them going to the seashore to work for money themselves.

Honorable Agyare Barnes (Assemblyman for Anomansa) admonished that the drama display resonates better to the community than videos and should be the preferred method of educating the communities. He concluded by using the platform to urge parents that the drama should be a sufficient in goading them to cater for their own children and rather should not give them out into slavery.



**Figure 12: Madam Gladys admonishes parents, and Hon. Barnes addressing the gathering.**

- **SENYA-BERAKU: Community Level Discussions and Concerns**

Broken homes and weak relationships were cited as big issues in the community making fathers abandon families at will. This contributes a great deal to child trafficking as single-mothers find it hard to take care of the children all alone.

Suspicion of female infidelity in conjugal relationships also causes many men not to accept pregnancies of their partners. Many pregnancies are attributed by regular male partners as belonging to migrant fishermen from the Ga-Ningo-Prampram area but not their's.

The community also has a long history of people migrating to Liberia and La Cote d'Ivoire to indulge in fishing. It is therefore not difficult to give children off to others, some total strangers though this is because of poverty.



**Figure 13: FoN official briefing the gathering on SFMP and community female making a point**



**Figure 14: Drama display at Senya-Beraku and a community member making a point.**



**Figure 15: Community members stating their views respectively**

**COMMENTS**

“Let us respect our husbands so that there will be unity among parents which will help cater for the children because when we give our children a better future, they will one day grow to become future leaders and also replace we the weaker ones”, he said.

“I want to advise the women in this community because most of them do not respect their husbands”, she said. She further urged the women to be submissive to their men likewise the men.

Hon Samuel Anderson (assemblyman) urged parents to send their children to school rather than buying them expensive things. “Educating your children will help secure their future and they will not lack anything when their parents are no longer able to perform their responsibilities”, he added.

Honorable Agyare Barnes from Anomansa informed community members about the law that has being passed by the *Mfantseman* Municipal Assembly which is set to apprehend children (who have attained the school going age) but who are seen roaming or selling items during school going hours. This law he says would be recommended to the Awutu-Senya District Assembly to adopt.



### **3.12 EGYAA: - Community Level Discussions and Concerns**

It came out after the drama that many women in the community unfortunately are not in stable conjugal relationships and offer themselves to fishers from other places who come there temporary to beach their catches. The “sex for fish” phenomenon prevails in this community just like many other coastal-fishing communities throughout the world.

The above “practice” has brought about a lot of “fatherless” children in the community. These are the most susceptible to trafficking and not attending school. Females in the fatherless category are also the most susceptible to teenage pregnancy thereby perpetuating the poverty cycle in families which is a recipe for CLaT in the community.

Mr. Ebo Bentil (community member) asked “some of us have children living with other people and these people maltreat them. So how do we get such children back?”.

Kwadwo Eduful (community member) also chipped in that “my own child closes from school and I decide to send him on numerous occasions to buy me items knowing very well that he is tired. Is it child labor?” he questioned.

Madam Ama Bentum (an inhabitant of the community) said “I have children but do not have money to cater for them. I get no support from anywhere. My fish processing business is seasonal and when it is over, there is the temptation to even actively look for “an angel” to come to seek for children’s hand for work outside the community. Now my eyes are opened that it is not only a mistake, but criminal. What do I do now?” she queried.

## **COMMENTS**

The chief fisherman of Egyaa (nana Yaw Kwame Ababio) answered Mr. Bentil by saying it will be appropriate to know exactly where one's children are taken to. And also, if we have the means, go and visit to see what is happening to them as was portrayed in the drama.

Everyone who knows that his or her children are being maltreated by another and keeps quiet is an accomplice to the abuse of that child. So the best thing in this instance is to go and report it to the police and the DSW office for assistance in bringing the children back”.

Kwesi Johnson of FoN in answering Kwadwo Eduful explained the difference between child work and child labor. It is prudent to let children whose future are still in the developmental stage to take a break from stressful activity to refresh and continue later.

Adults should not forget that the good future of the child augurs well for them too.

Madam Ama Bentum (and those who fall into her category) was admonished to get in touch with the local government authorities who will assess them to check their eligibility for social protection programs, and also economic activities support initiatives like Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Program (LEAP) and Microfinance and Small Loans Centre (MASLOC) respectively.

#### **4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Comments from various stakeholder groupings (e.g. community members, traditional leaders, religious leaders, local organizations and state institutions) invariably pointed to the fact that there is a great need for sensitization programs in form of community engagements to continue. Based on unconfirmed estimation, awareness is increasing on the criminality and harm of CLaT over the past two years because of constant presence and education by NGOs. Such programs must therefore continue as a way of entertainment, and more seriously, learning for the communities.

Communities' got the feel of the role of state institutions like the Police, Health, Education, Social Welfare sectors. They also got to learn of what to do when under the pressures that pre-dispose families to send off their children. Institutions and initiatives like the LEAP and MASLOC were dilated upon and it is strongly recommended that such institutions are made to visit the communities to also provide information to the grassroots on the services that they offer. This initiative has the chance of promoting establishment of some cottage industries as the potential for economic activities in the communities to facilitate poverty reduction is great.

The role of education in lifting families out of deprivation was also hammered on during the programs and the role of the Ghana Education Service (GES) in being an agent of anti-Child Labor and Trafficking should not be underplayed under any circumstance. School especially should be made interesting and attractive for children than to roam the town or loiter the beaches during school hours. Education must also continue for parents and guardians to see that, investing in their children's welfare will also make their own future secure. Trafficking children is like "eating off the seeds for planting rather than cultivating it to reap more yields".

Another critical state agency in the anti-CLaT advocacy is the Ghana Health Service (GHS) as birth-spacing (family planning) services are yet to take a firm grasp in the grassroots level. Children are regarded as "a gift of God" and a perception that "it is God that takes care of people but not one's own efforts". These misconceptions has to be worked on through more inter-agency and stakeholder partnerships (e.g. NGOs and the religious bodies); and GHS staff attitude in dealing with their frustrations vi-a-vis non-appreciative clientele so that increase in their services would be achieved to aid the anti-CLaT advocacy.

There is a strong demand for informative and friendly programs for females and their male partners to access the birth-spacing services if teenagers cannot keep away from sex; and adults to have protection that prevents unplanned pregnancies.

Some community members who opened up to speak publicly clearly demonstrated their ignorance of state institutions like LEAP and MASLOC. This should be an initiative of the District Assemblies and the sector ministries to whip up grassroots interests in the program to enroll more of the "productive poor" and the vulnerable. The state institutions (e.g. DSW) during the community programs advised the gatherings not to hesitate to bring their issues to the department when the need arises. There should be more community outreach programs in liaison with the religious bodies to educate the communities on the availabilities of such opportunities and services; and also the addresses where it could be located and accessed. Chiefs, queen mothers and elders (traditional councils) also have a role to play as depicted by

the participation of some chiefs and their pronouncements during the engagements. This calls for collaboration between the state and non-state institutions to collaborate to bring back moral and social order into the communities.

Community members urged the government and other organizations to be firm in enforcing laws and apprehend children (who have attained the school-going age) but have refused to be in school; and instead be at the shore.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

Inter-agency and stakeholder collaboration is the most undoubted way to combat the menace of CLaT in Ghana. The issues of human trafficking and for that matter Child Trafficking has put Ghana on the unenviable US State Department Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Watch list for two consecutive years ending December 2015. For the second year in a row, Ghana is classified as a Tier 2 Watch List country. This means that the government does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons, and failed to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in the past year. Any country ranked on the Tier 2 Watch List for two consecutive years must be downgraded to Tier 3 in the third year unless it shows sufficient progress to warrant a Tier 2 or Tier 1 ranking.

As Ghana awaits its fate to be published in June 2017 for the 2016 assessment, the nation cannot but increase its efforts at clamping down upon CLaT. With the level of increase in efforts by government and state institutions to pursue and prosecute cases, key factors in Ghana's Tier 2 Watch List ranking such as "no demonstrable increase in prosecution efforts or assistance to victims; zero trafficking convictions in 2015; a decrease in the number of victims identified in the past year; inadequate funding and training for law enforcement and prosecutors; inadequate funding for victim protection and support services; insufficiently stringent penalties for trafficking; and reports of increased corruption and bribery in the judicial system, which hindered anti-trafficking measures", as stated by the TIP Report in June 2016 will improve. The increased presence and awareness in many communities, newspaper reports and similar initiatives by many civil society organizations (e.g. the Millennium Development Authority - MiDA) will help Ghana and 188 other countries listed in the TIP report (2016) improve their status.

## APPENDICES

### BRIEFS ON IDENTIFIED STATE ANTI-CLAT ADVOCACY AGENCIES

#### APPENDIX 1

Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ)

The CHRAJ is a quasi-governmental (yet independent) body for the safeguarding of human rights in Ghana. It was established in 1993 by a Parliamentary act (ACT 456) as directed by Article 216 of the 1992 Republican Constitution of Ghana.

It mainly serves as an ombudsman in dealing with issues (complaints) of proper functioning of public institutions and to provide redress. It can however do same for private institution by virtue of the wording of the Constitution (Article 218).

The CHRAJ is of the administrative disposition that Child Labor and Trafficking (CLaT) is a man-made problem and therefore surmountable. Since 2009, the CHRAJ has handled complaints of CLaT and has spread it work to cover child prostitution.

The Commission also monitors child labor and its worst forms (WFCL) across Ghana and works closely with stakeholders to eliminate the menace which according to it “is destroying the future of thousands of children”.

#### APPENDIX 2

Ghana Education Service

The Ghana Education Service (GES) operates under the ambit of the Ministry of Education. The Ministry itself is a multi-portfolio agency (established under the Civil Service Law 327 - PNDC Law 1993 to provide oversight administration and policy direction for educational issues within the country to provide relevant education for Ghanaians.

The GES Council in accordance with section 4(1) of the Ghana Education Service Act 1995 (Act 506) is the governing body of the GES. Its mission is to ensure that the GES is adequately resourced to deliver quality education to all children of school-going age. The Council serves as an advisory body to the Minister.

In 2015, the GES (according to news sources) made modest gains in combatting Worst Forms of Child Labor –WFCL). The GES teams up with NGOs to create awareness in communities on the relevance of schooling, and the initiatives that exist for brilliant but needy pupils.

Despite its “modest gains”, working in trafficking-endemic communities along the coastal-fishing belt of the Central Region of Ghana exposes great vulnerability of children who are ever pre-disposed to be victims. FoN and community anti-CLaT advocates will implore the GES to be innovative in making school attractive for children during school hours instead of the beaches as the case is.

The role of GES in child welfare issues include

- Curriculum to reflect child protection issues.
- Promote universal, free quality basic education (FCUBE) to children.
- Put measures in place to identify, prevent and address child protection issues in all educational institutions.

- Responsible for all formal and non-formal education, including Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) for children.
- Free Compulsory Basic Education (fCUBE), Capitation Grant and the School Feeding Programs
- Education is an important tool for development and the GoG recognises its role in providing free access to education. The 1992 constitution incorporated the Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (fCUBE) with the view of encouraging school attendance and ensures that children from the age of six years enjoy fee-free formal education.
- Over the years, several reforms have been made aimed at making education more accessible and affordable. However, the substantial difficulties faced by children along the Volta Lake (including walking long distances to school, studying in dilapidated school blocks, few teachers – sometimes none, remoteness of schools and lack of school amenities, inadequate school supplies – textbooks, copybooks, pens etc.) are just enough to render the fCUBE unattainable. Also in some schools, the payment of PTA dues, payment of development fees (to cover examinations, water, electricity, sports, maintenance, equipment, extra curriculum activities) equally affects the purpose and achievement of the fCUBE.
- The Capitation Grant proposed by the Educational Strategic Plan was meant to boost the attainment of universal basic education. It was introduced and initially piloted in 40 districts with World Bank funding during 2004/2005 academic year and by the beginning of the 2005/2006 academic year, the grant was extended to all basic schools countrywide with Government funding. The Grant is a fee-free policy which covers culture, sports and school’s internal development fees. In the first term of the 2010/2011 academic year, government released GHC8.398 million as Capitation Grant based on the previous year’s academic year enrolment of 5,598,133 pupils.
- The Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP) was informed by the fact that children going out of the school compound or home to eat during break results in many not returning to school for the rest of the day. To increase school enrolment and make children go back and remain in school, especially at basic schools, the SFP was introduced and there have been tremendous improvements as their full concentration and participation led to better studies and performance.

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## **APPENDIX 3**

Ghana Health Service

The Ghana Health Service (GHS) was established under Act 525 of 1996 under the 1992 Republican Constitution of Ghana as an executive autonomous agency responsible for implementation of national policies under the control of the Minister for Health through its governing Council. It however continues to receive public funding and therefore remain within the public sector (with some critical sectoral changes on-going).

The GHS has the mandate to provide and prudently manage comprehensive and accessible health delivery services with emphasis on primary health care (PHC) at the regional; district and sub-district levels (birth spacing/reproductive health inclusive).

The role of the GHS in community outreach programs

- Educate community on healthy mode of living and good health habits.
- Perform functions relevant to the promotion, protection and restoration of health in a particular community.
- Focus on community health issues.
- Increase access to good quality health services.

The presence of teenage pregnancy, large family sizes, single-parenthood (due to unwanted/unexpected pregnancies) are issues quite common in the coastal-fishing communities of the Central Region. These have in no small way contributed to poverty and deprivation in the areas. Access to reliable and “friendly” birth control programs and initiatives by all stakeholders is critical to reducing incidences of stark poverty and hunger in families which is one of the drivers of CLaT.

## **APPENDIX 4**

Ghana Immigration Service

The Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) was established as the state agency that ensures and advises on the effective implementation of laws pertaining to immigration and related issues concerning the country. The GIS is mandated to regulate and monitor the entry, residence, employment and exit of all foreigners. The movement of Ghanaians too in and out of the country is equally monitored.

As part of its activities to clamp down on anti-human trafficking activities in the country, the Winneba office of the GIS implemented a 3-year program dubbed “Combatting Trafficking of Children for Labor Exploitation in the Efutu Municipality” aimed reducing CLaT in the area by 70% by December 2016.

Noting that Winneba and surrounding areas (and indeed the whole coastal stretch of the Central Region) being a hotbed for illegal emigration (trafficking) of children, the GIS is very critical in the anti-CLaT advocacy and enforcement activity.

The role of GIS in combatting child labor and human trafficking in Ghana

- The Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) deals with cross border trafficking.

- GIS has a task force responsible for patrolling the borders and ports to expose crime related to human trafficking.
- GIS has set up an Anti-Human Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons Unit (AHSTIP) to intensify the operational areas of trafficking.
- GIS embark on information campaigns to sensitize people within the communities on the dangers of human trafficking.
- GIS in partnership with some other organizations have put up a center in Sunyani known as Migration Information Centre (MIC) whereby would be travelers or migrants in Brong Ahafo Region and its environs are able to source for information before they embark on their journeys so as to minimize the risk involved in dangers of irregular migration (the B/A is a hub of trans-Saharan human trafficking activity that traffics people to Europe via North Africa).
- GIS for instance scrutinizes exit letters submitted by the chief labour officer to the controller general of GIS or his authorized officer before allowing travelers to embark on a trip.
- AHSTIP work hand-in-hand with the Migration Information Bureau (MIB) to solidify the preventive, investigative and prosecution approach towards the trafficking menace.

GIS works in collaboration with the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of the Ghana Police Service, Ministry of Employment and Labour Relation, the Labour Department and others to combat organized crime in human trafficking.

In February 2017, FoN facilitated the GIS to assist in training of Child Protection Committees (CPCs) of five coastal district assemblies in the Central Region. The service will also participate in the training of the remaining five coastal district CPCs in March/April 2017.

The CPCs are district assembly structure mandated to ensure children's welfare at the district level.

## **APPENDIX 5**

### **The Ghana Police Service**

The Ghana Police Service is the main law enforcement agency in the country and operates under the Ministry of Interior. It operates in twelve (12) divisions covering the ten (10) administrative regions of Ghana with one division assigned specifically to the sea port of Tema in the Greater-Accra Region.

The Ghana Police Service in combatting child labor and trafficking has a specific unit for the purpose. This is the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU). Its roles include

Educate and sensitize people on the dangers of child labor and human trafficking

Through the Criminal Investigation Department uses an intelligence led approach to detect and prevent human trafficking and child labor in the country.



- AHTU takes part actively in Inter-agency collaboration and cooperation to combat such and other organized crimes.
- Police officers respond to request by any person for assistance on trafficking issues and offer protection in case of any alleged trafficking even when the person reporting the case is not the victim of the trafficking.
- The Police administration is partnering both the public and the private sectors in offering Large Scale Capacity building of its personnel to improve their knowledge and skills and in dealing with Human Trafficking and Child Labor offences.
- The AHTU and Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) have been tasked by the Police force to embark on various sensitization programs periodically to educate members of the general public on the dangers associated with human trafficking and child labor.

In February 2017, FoN facilitated the Police Service to assist in training of Child Protection Committees (CPCs) of five coastal district assemblies in the Central Region. The service will also participate in the training of the remaining five coastal district CPCs in March/April 2017.

## **APPENDIX 6**

### **Livelihoods Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP) Program**

The Livelihoods Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP) Program is a Ghana government social protection program for the identified vulnerable. It is implemented by the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection. It

- gives financial assistance to the “extremely poor”;
- increases enrollment in basic education among children of poor households;
- reduces infant mortality rate
- improve child nutrition, and
- grow local economies

There are three (3) main categories of eligible groups which are

- Orphaned and vulnerable children
- Persons with severe disability without any productive capacity; and
- Elderly people who are 65 years and above (presumably without support from family).

The above are basically the aim of the LEAP program and it is of the view of non-state actors that if resources and disbursement are adequately and appropriately channeled and given out the intended target populations, it will enhance poverty reduction at the grassroots, and ameliorate conditions of poverty amongst beneficiary households.

Poverty, though not an excuse, is the prime driver of CLaT in the communities. When this is improved, it will contribute in no small way in addressing the issue.

## APPENDIX 7

### Microfinance and Small Loans Centre (MASLOC)

The Small/Individual Loans The individual loan scheme allows an individual to access a minimum of GH¢1,000 (US\$ 312.50) and a maximum of GH¢10,000 (US\$ 3,125.00). Individual borrowers are personally responsible for the full and timely repayment of loans received. In line with this, MASLOC requires that, the loan beneficiary provides an acceptable security, have sound knowledge and considerable experience in a viable on-going business/venture/project capable of generating employment. In addition, beneficiaries must have personal guarantor who must be in a position to redeem the loan in case of default.

MASLOC serves its target beneficiaries through the on-lending method. MASLOC grants loans to Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA), Rural Banks and MFIs for on-lending to small and micro businesses. These institutions are required to be recognized registered entities under the laws of Ghana, committed to poverty reduction. The implication is that MASLOC capitalizes institutions to extend credit facilities to borrowers to expand their business.

Assessment or the eligibility criteria for MASLOC Loans (areas of - supports economic)

<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. food crop cultivation,</li><li>2. agro-processing,</li><li>3. agro-marketing,</li><li>4. poultry,</li><li>5. livestock</li><li>6. fishing and aquaculture,</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>7. fish mongering,</li><li>8. petty trading,</li><li>9. farm inputs,</li><li>10. vocations,</li><li>11. handicrafts and</li><li>12. alternative livelihoods.</li></ol>
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Generally, MASLOC loans are for a period not exceeding 12 months. Thus crops whose gestation periods exceed one year are not supported. Additionally, only groups/cooperative societies with a membership of between five and 25 qualify for the micro-credit/group loans.

Other requirements for the group loan include existence of internal rules and regulations, group leadership comprising chairman, secretary, and the treasurer.

Requirements for the individual and the wholesale lending schemes are as indicated in the preceding sections. MASLOC does not support individuals whose businesses fall within the medium and large scale categories.

MASLOC does not require tangible securities like buildings, cars, land, and others owing to its poor friendliness. Personal guarantors of good financial standing, who can redeem the loan in case of default, are all that is required.

On reasonable terms, MASLOC goes by the type of security proposed/offered for the loan and the type of title to the business land and whether it is encumbered or not. The scheme has thus attempted to address MSEs' limited access to credit by relaxing the stringent requirements about collateral security where tangibles such as land, housing and cars among others are often required. Such render MASLOC pro-poor, and provides micro entrepreneurs great opportunity to increase capital in support of business growth.

## APPENDIX 8

### Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations

The Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations (MELR) is mandated to

- formulate policies on labor,
- develop sector plans,
- promote harmonious labor relations and
- workplace safety.

With anti-Child Labor and Trafficking (CLaT) advocacy concerned with promoting ethical work, the Ministry as a sector regulator is a natural ally in the cause.

The Ministry implemented an anti-CLaT program in 2016 concentrating action on the cocoa and the artisanal gold mining sectors.

The Child Labour Unit of the Labour Department of the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations MELR regulates issues of CLaT in the Ministry.

Whiles the sector remains unregulated, the Children's Act mandates the Social Services sub-committee of the DAs and the Social Welfare department to monitor and act accordingly towards prevention of the use of children. In practice, the DAs fall short of the implementation of this mandate allowing the sector to continually engage children.

Child labour issues remain one of the key agenda of the GoG and thus its commitment to eliminate the canker is high. The MELR has been the lead Ministry and to give it the needed impetus, the Child Labour Unit (CLU) was established as the focal point of the National Child Labour Elimination Programme with the mandate to coordinate the child labour issues of MDAs, Employers and Workers Organizations, International agencies (IOM, ILO, UNICEF etc.), CSOs etc. in the area of policy and legislative formulation.

The Unit also spearheaded the development of the National Plan of Action for the Elimination of the WFCL in Ghana by 2015 and it is coordinating its implementation. It also led the development of the of comprehensive hazardous child labour activities framework for Ghana. In all these child labour occupies a critical position and the Unit has been deeply involved in the design, planning and implementation of programs and projects towards its elimination.

#### - National Plan of Action for Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour in Ghana

The National Plan of Action is developed as a coordinated framework in the fight against child labour. As Ghana needs to fulfil several international conventions, constitutional obligations and legislative instruments, the NPA provides the guidelines for implementing and achieving the government's commitment to eliminating child labour, child trafficking and other slavery-like practices. The goal of the NPA is to reduce the WFCL to the barest minimum by 2015 and build a platform for dealing critically with all forms child labour in the long run.

The Plan was endorsed in October, 2010 by Cabinet and launched by the Chairman of Council of State on 13th June, 2011 as the National Child Labour Policy.

## **APPENDIX 9**

Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (Fisheries Commission)

The Fisheries Commission is the implementation agency of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development. It is responsible for the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Evaluation and Compliance functions in all areas of fisheries development and management in Ghana. These include

- fish health
- post-harvest activities, and
- quality assurance

The work of the Commission is guided by Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD's) policies and regulations to inform policies.

Child Labor and Trafficking (CLaT) has gained prominence in the annals of anti-human and child rights advocacy since fisheries became an economic activity.

Indeed, in a recent FoN Central Region anti-CLaT 2017 Programs' in the Central Region launch event, the sector Minister Madam (Dr.) Elizabeth Afoley Odotei said the government will do its maximum best to ensure ethical fisheries and the non-utilization of forced labor be it from children or adults.

The issue of CLaT in fisheries on the Volta Lake in Ghana and neighboring countries with the source of supply being mainly the coastal-fishing communities of the Central Region stems from poverty in families driven by dwindling fishing stocks over the last three (3) decades. The Ministry has a desk responsible for combating CLaT in fisheries and also educating fishers. Fishing is challenging for even adults so therefore, "hazardous" for children.

It will be prudent for the authorities to shift up the gears for enforcement, arrests, prosecution and penalizing for recalcitrant perpetrators to be brought to a halt. Adequate initiatives should also be appropriately targeted at the communities in form of education for children from poor homes, and also economic support for vulnerable but productive households to invest into their petty livelihoods.

## **APPENDIX 10**

Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP)

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection is mandated to coordinate, ensure and provide oversight administration and policy direction on issues of Gender, Children and the socially vulnerable issues within the country.

With regards to Child Labor and Trafficking (CLaT); certain legislative issues that readily come into mind are

- The Children's Act, 1998 (ACT 560) and Child Rights Regulation (LI)

This is the key policy document that governs children's welfare. Article 87 of the Act specifies that (1) No person shall engage a child in exploitative labour and (2) Labour is exploitative of a child if it deprives the child of its health, education or development.

The Human Trafficking Act, 2005 (ACT 694)

- The Human Trafficking Act of 2005 (ACT 694) was promulgated as an “Act for the prevention, reduction and punishment of human trafficking, for the rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficked persons and for related matters”.
- The law defines trafficking as “recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, trading or receipt of persons within and across national borders by (a) use of threats, force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, (b) giving or receiving payments and benefits to achieve consent. The law is emphatic on trafficking of children and prescribes specific punitive sanctions on perpetrators. In recent times, the Human Trafficking Act has been applied in prosecuting cases of trafficking in persons including children who were being trafficked into various economic sectors including fishing, cocoa, commercial sex and for ritual purposes.
- The Domestic Violence Act, 2006 (ACT 732)
  - The Domestic Violence Act, 2006 (ACT 732) was promulgated in response to the increasing reports of domestic violence over the past decade. It seeks to provide opportunities for addressing violence in the home and family arena and also defines in clear terms the range of violence to cover the following: assault (of marriages and within families), deprivation (of food, clothing, health, education, shelter etc.) and abuse (physical, emotional and financial). The broad scope of the Act is the protection of the vulnerable of which women and children are the major victims. This particular tenet put children as part of the key groups that the Act seeks to protect in Ghana.

- **The National Steering Committee on Child Labour**

Given that high level consultations is required in efforts to deal with child labour, a National Steering Committee on Child Labour was established in 2000 as a coordinating body for child labour elimination programs in Ghana. The Committee is composed of the following institutions: MDAs, Employers and Organizations, Research Institutions and CSOs which provide broad policy advice.

## APPENDIX 11

### Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development

The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development exist to promote the establishment and development of a vibrant well-resourced decentralized system of local government for the people of Ghana and good governance for a balanced rural-based development.

It has the oversight administrative mandate over the District Assemblies under which the Child Protection Committees (CPCs) or Child Panels operate.

According to PART II; QUASI-JUDICIAL AND JUDICIAL CHILD ADJUDICATION  
Sub-Part I. of the Children's Act, Child Panels

Section 27 (Establishment of Child Panels). These shall be established in each district such number of Child Panels as the District Assembly may consider necessary. –

Section 28 (Functions of Child Panels). A Child Panel shall have non-judicial functions to mediate in criminal and civil matters which concern a child prescribed under this Act.

Section 29. (Composition of Child Panel).

(1) A Child Panel shall consist of the following persons in the relevant district:

the Chairman of the Social Services Sub-Committee of a District Assembly who shall be the chairman;

(b) a member of a women's organization;

(c) a representative of the Traditional Council;

(d) the district social worker, who shall be the secretary;

(e) a member of the Justice and Security Sub-Committee of the District Assembly; and

(f) two other citizens from the community of high moral character and proven integrity one of whom shall be an educationalist.

(2) The members of a Child Panel shall be appointed by the **Minister**.

(3) The tenure of office of a Child Panel shall be the same as that of the District Assembly.

Per the above, the Child Panel is clearly operative under the auspices of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (in close collaboration with the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection which has oversight administrative responsibility over the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development.