



# SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

## World Day Against Child Labor Commemoration Report



JUNE, 2018

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**Cover photo:** School Children Participating in the World day Against Child Labor Float in Cape Coast (Credit: Brand Reflect Media)

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## ACRONYMS

AAKKDA	Abura Asebu Kwaman Kesse District Assembly
CSEC	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CLaT	Child Labor and Trafficking
CLU	Child Labor Unit
DAA	Development Action Association
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
FC	Fisheries Commission
FoN	Friends of the Nation
GES	Ghana Education Service
GHS	Ghana Health Service
GNCRC	Ghana National Coalition of NGOs on the Right of a Child
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MELR	Ministry of Employment and Labor Relation
MoFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
MoGCSP	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
NAFPTA	National Association of Fish Processors Association
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSCCL	National Steering Committee on CLAT
RCC	Regional Coordinating Council
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
SNV	Netherlands Development Organisation
SW	Social Welfare
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WDAFL	World Day against Child Labor

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We express our gratitude to the USAID representatives James Lykos and Ellis Ekekpi, who graced the celebration with their presence and funding support.

We also appreciate Mad. Elizabeth Akanbobire (CLU), the Chief Directors and divisional directors of the Cape Coast Regional Coordinating Council. We also extend our gratitude to the various schools who participated in the quiz and the placard walk as well as all stakeholders involved in this year's commemoration of the World Day against Child Labor in Cape Coast.

Finally we appreciate the full support and collaboration of the organising team made up of SFMP partner organisations implementing the CLaT program (CEWEFIA, DAA, FON, SFMP and SNV)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**GLOBAL THEME:** “Generation Safe and Healthy”.

**NATIONAL THEME:** “Resist Child Labor! Improve the Safety and Health of Young Workers towards achieving SDG Goal 8”

Child labor is an affront to the fundamental human rights of children and a threat to their wellbeing. It is a serious international issue attracting the attention of international and national governments including the United Nations (UN), Employers and Workers’ Organizations, Civil Society Organizations and local communities and other relevant development partners. The recent Ghana Labor Force Standards Survey (GLSS 6) released in August, 2014 showed that across the world, about 218 million children between 5 and 17 years are in employment. Among them, 152 million are victims of child labor; almost half of them, 73 million, work in hazardous child labor and all forms of physical, psychological and emotional abuse. In absolute terms, almost half of child labor (72.1 million) is to be found in Africa.

A key platform for global advocacy against child labor is the marking of the World Day against Child Labor (WDACL). **The International Labor Organization (ILO) launched the first World Day against Child Labor in 2002** as a way to highlight the plight of these children. The day, which is observed on June 12th, is intended to provide an opportunity to gain awareness and action to tackle Child Labor. The annual celebration also affords assessment of progress and a strategic global focus on a particular aspect of child labor. By protecting children it helps to give all of them an equal opportunity to fulfill their potential and live healthy, happy and productive lives.

The Sustainable Fisheries Management Project has since its inception in September 2014, commemorated the day mostly in the Central Region and within the fisheries sector because research has identified the region as a source area for recruiting children. This year SFMP collaborated with the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations and the National Steering Committee on CLaT (NSCCL) to commemorate the celebration at Cape Coast.

The celebration started with a quiz competition amongst 5 JHS schools within the region and a sensitisation and CLaT booklet distribution for two fishing community schools in Cape Coast. The main durbar was preceded with a placard walk in the principal streets of Cape Coast, by school children, educating residents on CLaT issues. The durbar was graced by government officials, political figures, traditional leaders, development partners, schools, fishers and community members.



## 1. BACKGROUND

WDACL in Ghana, represents an opportunity for stakeholders to take stock of their activities and their corresponding potential impacts on the children and to faction out possible solutions toward addressing them for future generations to be safe. As part of continuous effort to help achieve this goal, the USAID through its Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) is supporting stakeholders in the fisheries sector in Ghana to observe the day. The aim is to discuss key issues and to advance efforts toward protecting the children who are involved in any form of child labor or have been trafficked to be engaged in worst forms of labor.

The 2018 World Day against Child Labor was celebrated in Ghana under the theme; ***‘RESIST CHILD LABOR!! IMPROVE THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF YOUNG WORKERS TOWARDS ACHIEVING SDG GOAL 8’***. Three main activities were earmarked for the celebration which were; quiz competition among selected schools in the coastal communities, education, sensitization and distributions of CLaT materials to two selected schools in Cape Coast (Wesley Methodist Girls School and Philip Quacoo Boys School) and the National Durbar in Cape Coast a typical fishing community. These activities were selected upon wider consultation by the partners of SFMP and the social mobilization and child labor monitoring sub-committee of the NSCCL. This team formed the planning committee.

### 1.1 Objectives

This joint campaign aimed at accelerating action to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 8.8 of safe and secure working environments for all workers by 2030 and SDG target 8.7 of ending all forms of child labor by 10% by 2025.

The Specific Objectives

- The specific objective was to add the nation’s voice to the global movement that sought to improve the safety and health of young workers to end child labor as the theme suggested for 2018 celebration.
- To mobilize support for the implementation of National Plan of Action (NPA II) from all stakeholders in the fight against child labor.
- To create awareness and sensitize the populace on the harmful effect of child labor on the child, the family, the community and the nation at large.

### 1.2 Outcomes

The desired outcome of this year’s WDACL celebration in Ghana is to ensure an increased political and social will and have a behavioural change in the use of children as slaves. Again it’s to help increase awareness in the fight against child labor and trafficking achieving TIER 1 by the US state department trafficking in person report.

## 2. EDUCATION, SENSITIZATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF CLAT MATERIALS TO TWO FISHING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

On Monday June 11, 2018, Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) and some implementing partners of the Sustainable fisheries management project (SFMP) embarked on a working visit to educate, sensitize and distribute child labor materials to school pupils in two schools (Wesley Methodist Basic School, Cape Coast and Philip Quacoo Boys JHS, Cape Coast) located within the fishing community of Cape Coast as part of the activities marking the commemoration of the World Day against Child Labor. The program was carried out in collaboration with the Metropolitan Directorate of Education. The dignitaries that participated in the school's visit were; the Metropolitan Director of Education, the Central and Western regional directors of the Fisheries Commission, Social Welfare, Ghana Police Service, SFMP, FON, CEWEFIA, and the school teachers. The children had fruitful interactions with officials present and were presented with 500 copies of booklets on anti-Child Labor and Trafficking for their library and reading. At Wesley Methodist Basic School the team interacted with 35 school pupils; all girls and with Philip Quacoo boys the team interacted with 30 school pupils and 5 teachers. The participants expressed the need for such interventions to be replicated for other schools and for the PTA in order for students, teachers and parents to understand their rights and responsibilities towards each other and towards reducing the occurrence of CLaT among children in the fishing communities.



**Figure 1. Picture from the left is District Metro Director giving his remarks at Wesley Methodist Girls' school and Mad. Sarah Agbey of SNV delivering a speech on SFMP's commitments to eradicating Child labor in the fishing communities**



**Figure 2. Presents sections of students who participated in the sensitization program from both schools**

### 3. THE NATIONAL DURBAR AT VICTORIA PARK, CAPE COAST



Figure 3. Selected school children marching through the street of Cape Coast

This major event to climax the celebration of 2018 World Day against Child Labor was celebrated in Cape Coast on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2018. Cape Coast is a fishing town and research indicated that it is a major source area in the field of child trafficking with its related issue-child labor. It was therefore appropriate to have this program organized there to create awareness for the parents who give out their wards to fishermen and other perpetrators from neighboring fishing communities to help them in their fishing expedition as source of cheap labor to desist from doing so. The program attracted duty bearers and the general public.

#### 3.1 Prelude to the Program

##### 3.1.1 Placard walk by school children

The day started with a placard walk by some selected school children from Cape Coast and its suburbs. The children carried placards with inscriptions on educative information on anti-child labor and trafficking. The children marched through the principal streets of Cape Coast, Kotokoraba Street to create awareness on the event which ended at the durbar grounds amidst cheers and drumming. On arrival at the durbar grounds, the National Anthem was sung by the Gate Child Development Regimental Band to signify the start of proceedings of the national event.



**Figure 4. School children with placards at the durbar grounds**

### **3.1.2 Presentation of the flame of Torch**

Mr. Harry Ahorlu of the Macee Foundation held the flame of torch and presented it on behalf of the Paramount Chief, Nana Tengey of Adidome Traditional area in the Volta Region to the Minister of Employment and Labor Relations (MERL). The Minister received the flame of torch assisted by the anti-Child Labor ambassador Sefakor Yaa Mawusie Dostse. The flame went round for every child at the durbar grounds to touch it. Finally the flame was received by the ambassador on behalf of all children in Ghana. Other dignitaries had the opportunity to touch the flame.



**Figure 5. USAID Representative James Lycos being handed over the Anti-CLaT flame by Torgbui Tengey, Paramount Chief of Adidome**

### **3.1.3 Media Discussions**

Around 7:00 am on June 12, 2018 just before the main durbar started, some members of NSCCL and Civil Society Organization including SFMP/SNV had a radio discussion on Radio Central, Cape Coast on the event and to raise awareness on the upcoming event.

## **3.2 The Durbar**

The MC, Earl Ankrah called the program to order at 10:00 am. The opening prayer was said by the Very Rev. Minister Sam Darko Yawson, Bishop of the Cape Coast Diocese of the

Methodist Church. Thereafter, the introduction of the chairperson for the occasion and the other dignitaries was made.

Dignitaries were introduced as and when they arrived. These included the following;

The Hon. Minister of Employment and Labor Relations (MERL), Hon. Ignatius Baffour Awuah, Deputy Minister of Employment and Labor Relations, Hon. Eric Wireko Brobbey and MP for Twifo Lower Denkyira, Deputy Central Regional Minister, Hon. Thomas Adjei Baffoe, Osabarima Kwesi Attah 11 Omanhene of Cape Coast traditional area, the Paramount Chief of Adidome Traditional Area, the Regional Coordinator GNCRC, the representative of TUCGhana, the representative of GEA, the representative of ILO, the representative of USAID, Very Rev. Minister Sam Darko Yawson, Bishop of the Cape Coast Diocese of the Methodist Church and heads and representatives of agencies in Cape Coast Municipality.



**Figure 6. Section of dignitaries at the durbar**

Others included the school children from the selected schools in Cape Coast, the child Anti – Child labor Ambassador, the Chief Imam of Central Mosque Cape Coast, the media and the New Blessed cultural troupe from Cape Coast.



**Figure 7. Traditional leaders present at the durbar**

### ***3.2.1 Remarks by the Paramount Chief Adidome traditional area***

The Paramount Chief Tengey of Adidome in the Volta Region and the President of Macee Foundation, a local NGO made a brief statement on the significance of the flame of torch presented to the Minister of Employment and Labor Relation (MERL). He said this was to mark the celebration of World Day against Child Labor and that was a symbol of their contribution towards creating awareness in the communities to the fight against child labor. The paramount Chief again presented two books to the Minister, that contains signatures of individuals in various communities in the Volta Region who have committed to protecting their children and avoiding child labor and trafficking.

The Chief in his address lamented that, in time past, the development of the child was not only the responsibility of the biological parents alone but for the whole society, or everybody in the community. Macee Foundation believed the best place for the child to be was in the classroom. He was not happy with the way children had been left alone to fend for themselves, and that informed the formation of the Macee Foundation that would provide support to fight this menace. He said Macee Foundation had a short term, medium term and long term program in agriculture i.e. fishing and crop cultivation to support the program of finding an antidote to the menace in communities in the Volta Region.



**Figure 8. Torgbi Tengey with USAID leader James Lykos**

### **3.2.2 The Chairman's Response**

Nana Osabarima Kwesi Attah 11, is Omanhene of Cape Coast traditional area made his presentation in the local language (Fante). In his acceptance speech, he expressed his gratitude to the planning committee for inviting him to be part of the event. He welcomed all to his traditional area and wished them a happy stay. He again expressed happiness about the global attention being given to child labor now because of the realities involved. He said he had an encounter with the reality on the ground in his own traditional area the week before at a program that he attended and narrated that, there was a video clip show on a parent who sold his child for a hundred Ghana cedis (GHC100.00) to a trafficking tycoon who sent the child away to an unknown destination. That child was never seen again and the next time she heard was the death of her child; very pathetic story indeed.

He lamented for not seeing many parents around to listen to the message that would push them to change this negative attitude. He rebuked parents for not being fair to their children and not doing their best to protect them. He encouraged the children to be bold and say no to the parents and report to the police if they sense any danger when the parents send them on dangerous errands or stop them from going to school. He pleaded with the people gathered to pay attention to the proceedings at the durbar and take some lessons that would help them stop the practice. He wished the gathering a happy celebration.



Figure 9. Osabarima Kwesi Attah 11

### **3.2.3 Welcome Address by Central Regional Minister**

The Deputy Minister, Central Region, Hon. Thomas Adjei Baffoe, welcomed the gathering to his constituency on behalf of the Central Regional Minister, Hon. Kwamena Duncan. He stated that this annual celebration affords us the opportunity to assess the progress made and also strategize and coordinate our efforts to addressing the menace of child labor in all sectors of the economy.

He cited the current statistics by ILO on the incidence rate of child labor globally and in Africa especially where there are 218 million children between five and seventeen years employed globally, with 72.1 children engaged in child labor in Africa alone, which has repercussions on African development. He said if he should go by the adage that '*charity begins at home*' then, though he would not discourage parents and guardians from taking their children through normal household chores and duties, which they needed to enable them grow up to acquire the skills capable of managing their own lives without difficulty in future, he would rather caution parents to guard against all tendencies that could adversely affect the education and proper upbringing of our children that would also deprive the nation of quality human resource needed for the social, economic, and political development. He ended by saying that the fight against child labor should be everybody's responsibility. He thanked the USAID and other partners for the funding support for the event and the organizers for a good job done for bringing the event to Cape Coast. He wished everybody a happy celebration.





**Figure 10. Hon. Thomas Adjei Baffoe**

### **3.2.4 Summary of Statements by Partners**

#### **Statement by Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child (GNCRC)**

The GNCRC was represented by the Central Regional coordinator of the Coalition by name Philip Bosomtwi Amoah. He was grateful for the opportunity given the Coalition to be part of the celebration and to make a statement. He stated that, there was more work to be done after the launch of NPA11 and pleaded with all stakeholders to ensure that this policy worked. He further encouraged government to play its role in committing resources especially to the CLU to effectively implement the document while other partners who only play complementary role do the same.

He further mentioned that in addressing child labor issues, we should not forget other devastating social issues as Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) that was gaining roots in the region.

It was interesting to note that, while it was easy to get partners to support child labor in cocoa, mining, fishing and other worst forms, donors or partners do not find it interesting to support work in CSEC making it difficult to address. He therefore appealed to government agencies in Tourism, Interior, Labor, and Gender and related Ministries to address the situation as a matter of urgency by developing a strategic framework to address the issue of CSEC which is spreading like wild fire in the country. He again appealed to the media to change the mode or shift from political partisan reportage to social protection whereby it will increase the visibility of children's rights and welfare issues. He mentioned that child labor and poverty were interrelated and if nothing was done to stop children from working to support meagre family income due to poverty, none of the two problems could have a solution. Therefore all attempts should be made to stop child labor, and automatically the problem of poverty would be eradicated. He wished all a happy celebration.



**Figure 11. Philip Bosomtwi Amoah**

### **Statement by TUC -GH**

The Trades Union Congress was represented by Alberta Laryea Djan. She was grateful to the sector Ministry for the opportunity to address the gathering on behalf of TUC-Ghana.

She said the event which is celebrated worldwide provides an opportunity to tackle child labor and helps give the children a healthy and happy life. She mentioned that after the launch of NPA11 it is the expectation of Labor that, government would walk the talk towards the implementation of NPA11. We cannot afford to disappoint the children. It is a shame that a country that is 61 years old has no National Policy to protect its working people with regard to occupational, safety, health, and environment. I plead with the sector Ministry to take note as we celebrate this day looking at the theme. She said TUC was indeed committed to the child labor elimination process and had contributed in diverse ways to help eradicate the social canker. TUC- Ghana as an organized labor front had been at the forefront in the fight against child labor in Ghana. The TUC-Ghana has reviewed its policy frameworks on Child Labor to increase visibility and to prioritize levels strategies action plans to demonstrate the importance we attach to Child Labor issues. It had actively been involved in the design and development of the NPA for the elimination of Child Labor in Ghana and has been instrumental in the implementation of many projects of the ILO, especially in sectors of agriculture, education, and programs as the Torkor Model on child labor which is being emulated by partners in Ghana and abroad. We will continue with our support and commitment towards the elimination of child labor in Ghana. She ended by sending a congratulatory message to the Minister of Employment and Labor Relations and his Deputy for partnering with Labor to promote a peaceful industrial relations atmosphere in Ghana and leading the crusade for the approval of NPA11. She encouraged the sector Minister to put mechanism in place to implement all ratified OSHE Conventions e.g. C184 and also develop a National OSHE Occupational Safety and Health Education policy as a legacy.



**Figure 12. Alberta Laryea Djan**

### **Statement by ILO**

ILO was represented by Kwame Mensah. He acknowledged the presence of all protocol and stated that children were more vulnerable to risk than adults, and this calls for an urgent need to ensure no child under age 18 is in hazardous child labor, says ILO Director-General Guy Ryder on the occasion of World Day against Child Labor.

The presenter encouraged that government, in consultation with social partners, should establish and enforce a national list of hazardous work prohibited for children. Ratification of these conventions by 171 and 181 ILO member states respectively –close to universal ratification-reflects a commitment to end child labor in all forms. It is time to step up, he said. He cited the ILO report, *Towards the Urgent Elimination of Hazardous Child Labor*, which outlines the crucial and mutual link between education and health; lack of education increases the risk of negative health outcomes from work and conversely, quality education has positive and protective effects on health. Although the overall number of children in hazardous work has decreased over the past years, progress has been limited to older children in hazardous work. Between 2012 and 2016, there was almost no reduction in the number of children aged 5 to 11 in child labor, and the number of these most vulnerable, youngest children in hazardous work actually increased.

“If we are to keep the solemn promises, we have made to children, we must, once and for all, turn off the tap’ and stop children from entering child labor in the first place. Many of whom especially in agriculture, commonly start when they are six, seven or eight years old” he exclaimed. There was a bid to join the WDACL in committing to urgent action to combat hazardous child labor and to accelerate progress towards ending all child labor by 2025.

## Statement by USAID

USAID was represented by the Deputy Director, Office of Economic Growth – James Lykos. He stated that GSS Survey 2014 indicated that there were 1.2 million children in child labor in Ghana and that, the largest employers of child labor were in fishing, cocoa, and small scale mining sectors. Currently about hundreds of thousands of these children were into fishing an industry that employs about 2.2 million people. He turned to the children and made them aware that there was nothing wrong with helping parents, but getting education should be their priority. Young people were often seduced by money and decide to leave school to help out their parents. He stressed that by getting a good education and sacrificing a little in a short term, they could earn a lot more in the long term as they start their careers They could become quality human resource, as Ghana transitions into Ghana Beyond Aid. A vision by the President of Ghana which is being supported by the US government.

He then turned to address the parents and said that though the financial stresses on households were enormous, we should resist giving into temptation of letting our children shoulder the burden of working to support families. We will only end up robbing the children of their present and future if they were allowed to work now.

He again turned to the leaders and the duty bearers and mentioned that the NPAII recognized the need for special efforts and attention to addressing the under lying problems such as poverty, that makes families unable to take care of their expenses, including children’s educational needs. This makes children in fishing communities vulnerable to exploitation.

He said USAID was happy to be working with its partners in Ghana and hoped that these efforts would be aligned with UN,s Sustainable Development Goals 7&8 that call on all signatories to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, and end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of all forms of child labor as an essential step to achieving decent work for all full and productive employment and inclusive and sustained economic growth.



**Figure 13. USAID's James Lykos**

He shared a story of a mother called Adwoa Mansah who lost one of her ten children through trafficking and now an advocate for the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP)

for the ordeal that she went through. He recounted what USAID had done with a tall list of partners and the government to combat child labor in the fisheries sector which included the development of a fisheries sector anti-child labor and trafficking strategy that is currently pending endorsement by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development etc. He ended by saying that a collective effort by all stakeholders would help improve the livelihoods of communities and eventually eradicate child labor and trafficking in Ghana.

### **Interlude Cultural Display by Ankonam Cultural Troupe**

There was a cultural display by the Ankonam Cultural troupe to sensitise as well as educate the audience on the dangers and effects of child labor and child trafficking on the child as an individual, the family and society at large.



**Figure 14. Cultural display by Ankonam**

### **Wake up call- by the Child Anti-Child Labor Ambassador**

Sefakor Yaa Mawusie Doste of the Rising Sun Montessori School in Accra and the ‘child’ anti- child labor ambassador sent a wake-up message to all children in Ghana to be law abiding, stay away from the street at night and should not indulge in sexual activities. She told them to be obedient and respectful, go to school, and stay in school. She called on all stakeholders to pull efforts together to fight against and resist child labor which is a menace to society.



**Figure 15. Sefakor Yaa Mawusie Doste of the Rising Sun Montessori School**

### **3.2.5 Keynote Address**

The key note address was made by the Hon. Minister of Employment and Labor Relations, Hon. Ignatius Baffour Awuah. The Minister was moved by the touching performance of the drama troupe and therefore spoke in the local language so he could reach out to the wider listening audience. He categorically mentioned that if the whole world was against child labor then it is worth seeing the sketch.

He narrated his experience at the just ended child labor conference in Geneva on June 4<sup>th</sup> 2018, where in the presence of the world body including many Ghanaians, a video on child trafficking in Ghana was shown. He said he could not believe it was happening in his own country, until he saw the video which was about difficulties children go through on the Volta Lake, some died and some were maimed, they were not in school and maltreated, these children were mostly trafficked from other parts of Ghana especially the Central Region to assist their masters in the fishing industry on the lake. It was an embarrassing situation for him on that day. He has thus determined to fight this social evil in his country and has been selected as a child labor ambassador for the UN.



**Figure 16. Hon. Ignatius Baffour Awuah**

He cautioned parents to take good care of their wards and stop engaging them in child labor that would jeopardize their future. By forcing children to do harmful work especially in mining they tend to lose their lives. He said even adults who were more experienced in life were losing their lives how much more these inexperienced little ones. He indicated that, in Ghana there were 1.9 million children in child labor and 1.2 million were into hazardous work.

He acknowledged the good work being done by NGOs to fight the menace as well as the role of the traditional leaders in the communities, the GES, The sector Ministry, the Gender Ministry and other partners to stop the menace in the country. He said parents should not use lack of money as an excuse for not sending their wards to school since there were a number of social intervention programs to support them. He named the Free school feeding and free school uniform for the children, free NHIS registration and lately the free SHS among others as opportunities for reducing CLaT occurrence in the country. He continued to plead with all stakeholders including the school teachers, children and parents to join the crusade to stay in school and learn and not to chase money by going out to work.

He mentioned the campaign launched by the Laurel Prize winner to create awareness to fight the menace using the 100million target approach whereby as an ambassador to the crusade everybody tries to reach out to at least 100 people within your community in turns. This would add on cumulatively till the target is reached around the globe. He said when NGOs or partners entered a community on a project, all forms of child labor should be addressed and there should not be such projects as solely for cocoa, mining or fishing exclusively. The essence was that, children could move from one project site to the other in the communities and this will defeat the purpose of the objective. When children work, adults do not have work to do and this can cause poverty, so children should not work.

He narrated the reason and how Sefakor Mawusi Yaa Dotste, as the Child anti-child labor ambassador was selected among many children at a program, to target the children to join the crusade to fight against child labor. She travelled with the Minister to the Geneva conference on child labor for exposure to embark on the campaign to reach out to 100million child laborers.

The Minister continued to appeal to USAID, ILO and other partners to keep up the faith and invest in the NPAII to free Ghana from Child labor by 2025. He lamented that though Central Region was the hub of education it is also a high risk sending area for child trafficking where most of the children were sent to go on fishing expedition on the Volta lake, most of these children die on the lake during fishing, this is pathetic, very discouraging and also a set back to the development of the community.

Finally he congratulated the various partners, NGOs, etc. for the role being played by all in fighting against child labor in Ghana. He urged them to do more by focusing on all forms of child labor in the communities in which they work and not in selected forms of child labor. He assured all by the Ministries preparedness to assist in the process.

## **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

The Hon. Minister presented additional incentives to deserving pupils that excelled in the quiz competition organized for the school children as part of the celebration. They were given a cash prize of a hundred Ghana cedis each in addition to the book prizes.

The following children were awarded with prizes ranging from books, cash and other stationery by USAID/SFMP and the Minister:

**Table 1. Children awarded prizes**

NAME OF CHILD	SCHOOL
Aaron Hammond	Bantuma M/A Basic School
Dorothy Assifuah	
Ebenezer Teye Nartey	
Christopher Mensah	Egyaa M/A Basic School
Daniel Acquah	
Esther Acquah	
Genevive Arthur Mensah	Ekon M/A Basic School
Mathew Mensah	
Enoch Eshun	
Rebecca Edzii	Moree M/A Basic School
Emmanuel Andoh	
Christopher Okrah	

The overall best pupil for the quiz competition on the theme was Rebecca Edzii from Moree M/A Basic School, which won the competition. She was congratulated by the Minister of Employment and Labor Relations. The Minister declared her as an anti-child labor ambassador for the Central Region and will travel with the Minister to Cote D'Ivoire in July, 17th-19th this year for a conference on child labor in cocoa. She was also given a cash prize of a thousand Ghana cedis in addition to the books and other items from SFMP.



**Figure 9. Winner of the Quiz Competition Elizabeth Edzii being honored by the Hon Minister Baffour Awua**

### **3.2.6 Chairman's Closing Remarks**

All said and done the chairman, Osabarima Kwesi Attah II, the Omanhene of Cape Coast Traditional Area, was highly enthused by the performance of the drama troupe and stated that the performance had conveyed the needed message to the people. It was unfortunate that many of the targeted parents were not around to watch it and wished if it could be played back in the communities. That was a lesson for all to learn and that children should not be made to work under unsafe circumstances, they should rather stay in school and learn for their future development. He pleaded with the authority to secure airtime in the various TV stations to show the sketch to the people. It is a lesson worth learning. He was grateful to the audience for their full participation.



#### **4. CONCLUSION**

The June 12th program to climax the celebration at Cape Coast was unique and colourful. All the activities outlined for the day were carried out successfully. The performances by the cultural troupes were so touching and carried the message to the people and that was laudable. In all efforts to reduce child labor and trafficking in Ghana, especially in the fishing communities in the Central Region, the SFMP and its partners have been working on a behaviour change communication campaign to make CLaT in fisheries socially unacceptable. The WDAFL event has been a key occasion for this campaign and this has been successfully realised in all the activities carried out with the SFMP partners in collaboration with fishing communities. The national media coverage, local drama, the presence of the traditional leader during the event were key campaign strategies in reaching out to the communities.

Child labor affects all sectors of our economy. If we don't deal decisively with it, it will remain a blight on our future. But if we dare to eliminate it, especially the worst forms, then we are sure of securing the future for our children, our country and many generations yet unborn. On this occasion of the World Day against Child Labor, we call on all Ghanaians to actively support the fight against child labor to protect children from child labor and secure a safe and healthy environment for young workers.