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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Anti-CLaT Partners Meeting Report



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THE
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SNV SMART
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Cover photo: Meeting participants

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ACRONYMS

CCPCs	Community Child Protection Committees
CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CLaT	Child Labor and Trafficking
CoP	Chief of Party
CRC	Coastal Resource Center
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DAA	Development Action Association
FC	Fisheries Commission
FON	Friends of the Nation
GES	Ghana Education Service
MOFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
URI	University of Rhode Island
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WDAFL	World Day Against Child Labor

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SNV appreciates the presence of all the partner organization representatives who made themselves available for the meeting and made effective discussions towards achieving the goal of the component.

We are also grateful to all the heads of the various partner organizations for permitting their staff to participate in this meeting and also resourcing them enough for them to participate effectively.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The SFMP in the past three years have worked in the Central Region (identified as the source area) through behavior change communications and livelihood intervention towards reducing the incidence of CLaT. Over the years Community Child Protection Committees have been formed and capacitated in the project pilot communities and various trainings have been carried out for the important actors. SFMP has also engaged other stakeholders in developing a Policy document on CLaT for the Fisheries Sector and facilitates continuous interactions with stakeholders towards harnessing all interventions to drastically reduce CLaT especially in the Fisheries Sector.

Under the SFMP, four implementing partners work on this component of the project. SNV, CEWEFIA, DAA, FON and with the support of CRC have collaborated over the past three years to effectively create an enabling environment towards reducing the occurrence of CLaT in Ghana.

In order to effectively work together to ensure that the project's interventions are making positive impacts, it has become necessary to undertake periodic coordination meetings to ensure adequate collaboration and integration of roles towards achieving the goal of the project's interventions under CLaT.

This last quarter meeting which ends all CLAT activities for the project was focused on reviewing work done over the four year term of the project and identified, successes, challenges and opportunities for further interventions.

BACKGROUND

The fourth quarter coordination meeting was held on Thursday, 31st July, 2018 at the SNV conference room. SFMP, CEWEFIA and DAA were represented by 1 staff each whereas SNV was represented by 2 staff members.

Ghana's open access fishery continues to create an avenue for many fishers to employ illegal and unsustainable fishing practices, and many children are caught in the center of these practices.

Children involved in CLaT are exposed to various degrees of life-threatening dangers such as rain storms, very cold weather, and risk drowning, while some suffer daily thrashings from their employers.

In other to bring an end to this menace, The USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) was initiated in 2014 to complement government's determination to end child labor and trafficking across the country with special focus in the central region since it is the source community of most trafficked children.

The project which seeks to reduce CLaT in the fishing communities comes to a close in year four and as such, partners met to evaluate and deliberate on the successes, challenges as well as the way forward of the project.

Meeting Objectives

The objectives of the meeting were:

1. To share experiences from the commemoration World Day Against Child Labor
2. To plan for close out of CLaT as this Component comes to a close in Year Four (4) of SFMP

Expected outcomes

Expected outcomes of the workshop included:

1. Deliberation on challenges and successes of the WDACL commemoration.
2. Way forward of CLaT as its components under the SFMP project comes to a close.

DELIBERATIONS

Review of commemoration of the World Day Against Child Labor

Partners shared key lessons they learned from the preparations to the commemoration of the main events (durbar) in Cape Coast. The shared lessons are captured below;

2.1.1 CEWEFIA

Nicholas Smith of CEWEFIA expressed his satisfaction at how successful the Quiz and the Distribution of Anti-CLaT Booklets to the schools in Cape Coast prior to the Commemoration of the WDACL durbar went and how the stakeholders were also involved. He commended the police, the District Social Welfare as well as the Fisheries Commission and not forgetting the education directorate for their participations.

Nicholas Smith then shared how delightful the durbar went and seeing how the governments also took turns to commit to the improvements in its operations on CLaT.

Mr. Nicholas Smith of CEWEFIA also explained some challenging issues to the team. He said that, going forward we should improve on our communication and also be committed in helping each other.

2.1.2 SFMP

Dr. Margaret was pleased with the planned activities of the commemoration of the WDACL. She was happy to be part and she commended all partners for their commitments.

Dr. Margaret's major challenge was the attitude of the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations, where they had no funds for this year's WDACL commemoration and was pushing SFMP in footing most of their plan program.

2.1.3 SNV Netherlands Development Organization

Edem Semordzi thanked all partners for their support since SNV was the lead stakeholder for this year's WDACL. He further appreciated the roles played by partners and commended their efforts. The only issue was the need for partners to budget adequately for such functions in order not for SNV to be burdened with budget issues, always. The team also discussed why we missed FCs participation in the celebration.

2.1.4 Major Successes outlined

Developing National Strategy and Community Action Plans

A national Child Labor strategy has been adopted for the Fisheries Sector with multi-stakeholder involvement. On the one hand, while working with community leaders and local government, community action plans were developed in Winneba, Apam, Elmina, Moree, Biriwa, Ajumako, Abandze all in the Central Region. The CAP is operational now and helping in reducing CLaT in these areas.

Implementing Behavior Change Prevention Awareness Campaigns

Working to raise awareness about the dangers of child Labor and trafficking, we focus on adult caretakers such as parents, guardians, and family members who are often the key perpetrators as a result of poverty or lack of knowledge on the damages of child labor and trafficking. Awareness campaigns have been organized to inform parents about the negative consequences of child labor as well as the rights of children to education and quality life. Knowledge and awareness creation on CLaT has been shared across the coastal communities as most of the members now understand CLaT. Over the years the project has commemorated WDACL in almost all the project community and has been very successful. There has been collaboration with government agencies and other stakeholders which include NGO's. This year's commemoration gave birth to AntiCLaT ambassador (a 16 year old girl Rebecca Edzii) from the Moree Basic School who emerged the overall winner of Anti- CLaT quiz competition. This has motivated the community to send their wards to school and not to sell them out to be involved in Child labor.

Strengthening capacity of government institutions

Enhancing the capacity of focal persons at the Fisheries' Ministry and Social Welfare Officers at the District offices to better mainstream efforts within the Fisheries Commission initiatives and program is a major action for achieving success. Stakeholders, community leaders, schools kids and other focal persons within the Central Region were trained on the Child Labor Strategy in order to mainstream its implementation at the community level now

that it's approved. This effort helped in supporting Community Child Protection Committees to function effectively in reducing and eventually eliminating Child Labor and trafficking in Ghana.

Empowering Child Protection Committees and Advocates

Community Child Protection Committees have been formed and members trained to identify households that are prone to CLaT; and provide counselling and advisory support to such families. They carry out house-to-house education on child rights and the harm child labor and trafficking could cause to their children. Two hundred and forty (240) anti-child labor advocates were trained and are active across 14 coastal fishing communities in the Central Region. Religious leaders in the various communities have been trained on CLaT issues and are now AntiCLaT ambassadors

Summary of the Successes

- Knowledge and awareness creation on CLaT has been shared across the coastal communities. Most of these communities which include Winneba, Apam, Elmina, Cape Coast, Moree, Biriwa, Ajumako, Abandze etc. have all benefited and now know what CLaT is.
- SFMP has built structures from national, regional, district, and local levels. These include governments, community, traditional leaders and NGO's. These structures include Community Child Protection Committee (CCPC), Anti Child Labor Advocates in all the project communities and they are operational. All these community members are involved in CLaT management in the community.
- Religious leaders in the various communities have been trained on CLaT issues and are now AntiCLaT ambassadors.
- There is more collaboration with other NGO and individuals in the community due to impact and success of the Anti-CLaT project.
- A lot of IEC materials have been developed to aid in advancing the course of Child labor and trafficking.
- Over the years the project has commemorated WDAFL in almost all the project community and has been very successful. There has been great collaboration with government agencies and this year's commemoration gave birth to Anti-CLaT ambassador (a 16 year old girl Rebecca Edzii) from the Moree Basic School who emerged the overall winner of Anti- CLaT quiz competition. This has motivated the community to send their wards to school and not to sell them out to be involved in Child labor.

Over the period the project (Reducing Child Labor and trafficking in the central region) have concentrated on build structures, governance, policies, educating and empowering the parent and community leaders but much has not been done for the victims or children.

Conclusion and Way Forward

Over the four year project period (Reducing Child Labor and Trafficking in the Central region) activities focused on building structures, formulating policies, educating and empowering the parent and community leaders. However, much has not been done for the children (the vulnerable and victims) directly. The children in these fishing communities must be empowered to resist CLaT and report perpetrators to the appropriate authorities.

At the evaluation meeting the partners were impressed about the successes chalked and recommended that the project is extended so that children (the vulnerable and victims) can be

empowered to become peer educators and Anti-CLaT ambassadors in their various communities.

It is in this vein that all partners agreed to inspire management to consider committing some more resources to the end of the year for partners to implement dialogue programs for the school children (Vulnerable and Victims) as well as their parents and teachers to help them understand CLaT very well in order to complement all the efforts of partners within the circle. Again, partners also agreed that as the project comes to a close, bill boards should be mounted in the various communities with anti-CLaT messages. These bill boards will also serve as SFMP anti-CLaT monument in the project communities.