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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Report On Refresher Training Workshop.



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THE
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Cover photo: Photo of Participants at the Workshop (credit: CEWEFIA)

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ACRONYMS

CCM	Centre for Coastal Management
CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CRC	Coastal Resource Center
CSLP	Coastal Sustainable Landscape Project
DAA	Development Action Association
DFAS	Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Science
DMFS	Department of Marine Fisheries Sciences
DQF	Daasgift Quality Foundation
FtF	Feed the Future
GIFA	Ghana Inshore Fishermen's Association
GIS	Geographic Information System
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen's Council
HM	Hen Mpoano
ICFG	Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Governance
MESTI	Ministry of Environment Science and Technology
MOFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
SSG	SSG Advisors
STWG	Scientific and Technical Working Group
UCC	University of Cape Coast
URI	University of Rhode Island
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WARFP	West Africa Regional Fisheries Development Program
TOT	Training of Trainers
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan
CSLP	Coastal Sustainable Landscape Project
CCPC	Community Child Protection Committee
KEEA	Komenda Edina Eguafo Abrem
AAK	Abura Aseibu Kwamankesse

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Another appreciation again goes to Godfred Nyarko, Social Welfare Officer for facilitating the training.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CEWEFIA through Sustainable Fisheries Management Project organized a day's refresher training for Anti-CLaT Advocates and Community Child Protection Committee (CCPCs) on Friday, 17th August, 2018 at Cape Coast (Pension House conference Room).

The training was attended by the Anti-CLaT Advocates and CCPC members, who shared their experiences, successes, challenges and recommendation to address them.

Representatives of the Department of Social welfare at KEEA and Abura Aseibu Kwamankese (AAK) District Assemblies also participated. Fifty-six (36 men and 20 women) participated in the training.

Mr. Godfred Nyarko (Social welfare officer with KEEA) facilitated the first session of the workshop. The first session was for brainstorming, discussion and experience sharing. The members recalled some of the activities and role plays on CLaT from previous trainings and how it linked to their advocacy work.

It became evident that elimination of CLaT in our society demands the collective support and willingness of all stakeholders. The participants shared some of the experiences in the execution of their duties such as;

- single households most vulnerable to Trafficking,
- Social welfare department not providing enough support to families and victims,
- Slow response by the social welfare officials to reports on CLaT due to logistical constraint.
- Inclusion of Child labor and Child Trafficking issues on the agenda at Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meetings in all schools,
- Dissemination on information on CLaT during festive occasions and events,
- Hosting programs on CLaT on radio and information centers prior to the broadcast of the mid-day news to increase awareness level

The workshop highlighted the need for every individual to play a role in eliminating CLaT in our Communitie

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

CEWEFIA under the Sustainable Fisheries Management project is working to strengthen child protection and family welfare systems along the coastal communities. A strengthened child protection system will also ensure justice for all abused children.

CEWEFIA's work ensures that children in their intervention communities are well cared for and prevent them from being trafficked. The USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) supported CEWEFIA to organize a day's refresher training for the Anti-Child Labour and Trafficking Advocates (Anti-CLaT) and Community Child Protection Committee (CCPC) members in Elmina and Moree to strengthen them in their advocacy work. The training was held on Friday, 17th August, 2018 T Cape Coast, Pension House, Central Region.

The workshop was attended by all the Anti-CLaT Advocates and CCPCs to empower them to share successes, experiences and lessons learned in the course of their advocacy work to boost their sense of recognition, challenges faced and some recommendations.

The workshop started at 10:00am.

Workshop attendance

The attendees of the workshop were CCPC members, Anti-CLaT Advocates and Social Welfare Representatives from KEEA and Moree. Fifty-six (36 males and 20 females) participants took part in the training.

1.1 Objectives

The objectives of the workshop were to:

Enhance the capacity of the participants to improve upon their advocacy work.

Create a platform for participants to share their experiences and challenges and make recommendations.

Develop of community plans based on recommendations on the elimination of child labor and Trafficking through sustained community education.

1.2 Expected outcomes

The following outcome are expected after the training;

Participants will have a better appreciation of the dangers and impact of child labor and trafficking.

Participants will have new advocacy skills enhance their effectiveness in their advocacy work.

Participants will develop an action plan to sustain Anti-Child labor and Trafficking education in their communities.

SECTION 2: WORKSHOP DELIVERY

2.1 Opening

Mr. Nicholas Smith of CEWFIA opened the workshop by warmly welcoming participants, outlined the objectives of the training and encouraged the participants to contribute to all discussions. He asked the participants to share their experiences gained since the last training, to inform the development of action plans and intervention strategies to help sustain CLaT prevention activities after SFMP's exit.

2.2 Organization

The one-day training, was attended by selected Child Protection Committee (CCPCs) members and Anti-CLaT Advocates of Elmina and Moree communities of the Central Region.

Godfred Nyarko, Social Welfare Office, KEEA facilitated the workshop in first session and assisted by CEWEFIA team. They encouraged the participants to be sincere and vigilant in the implementation of the advocacy project and indicated their readiness to support the members with any relevant information and contacts that will make their action successful. CEWEFIA promised its preparedness to support them to ensure best practices in the implementation of the plan to achieve results and to derive maximum impact from the program.

2.3 Methodology

The method for delivering the training was Participatory Rural/Learning Appraisal

Some of the tools used include the following:

- Brainstorming
- Discussion and presentation
- Recall of Role plays
- Experience sharing

2.4 workshop Materials

- Pen
- Note pad
- Projector/projector screen
- Flipchart/flip chart stand
- White board Markers



Figure 1: Mr. Nicholas Smith, CEWEFIA welcoming the Participants at the refresher training workshop.

SECTION 3: WORKSHOP CONTENT

Mr. Godfred Nyarko began his presentation by reiterating that the SFMP is closing out and that CCPCs and Anti-CLaT Advocates should be able to collaborate with CEWEFIA to source funds to continue the CLaT education. He asked the participants several CLaT related questions. The participants were taken through the following role plays and the rationale behind them which include; Tug of War, Circle of Support, Stepping Stones, and Child Development Ladder.

3.1 Tug of War

In the Tug of War activity, the facilitator indicated that, the pressure from the tug around the waist of an object indicates the problem a child faces in life as he /she grows. The rationale behind doing this activity was to help the participants understand and appreciate the problems a child goes through and suggest solutions to help the child.

3.2 Stepping Stone

Stepping stone activity clarifies the participant's roles in Child Labor prevention.

3.3 Child Development

The Child Development Ladder, according to Godfred was developed with UNICEF to enable parents learn and appreciate the stages of child growth and the requisite support needed for the child to ensure better and healthy growth.

3.4 The Maize Plant

This activity compares bringing up a child or making family with growing maize. Growing maize requires important inputs such as fertile soil, maize seed etc. so is making a healthy family, where one needs to both parents, home, employable skills to earn living and other things to make up a happy family.

At the end of the recollection exercise it was revealed that elimination of CLaT in our society requires the collective support of all stakeholders.

3.5 Interventions/ Measures to Sustain CLaT Prevention Education

According to the facilitator, the exit of SFMP should not be the end of, CLaT activities. He therefore admonished the participants to develop an action plan that will guide and sustain Anti- CLaT programs. The participants in response suggested the following;

- The Advocates and CCPC should mobilize funds from individual community stakeholders such as Members of Parliament, Assembly members, District Chief Executives, Chiefs and opinion leaders to support CLaT prevention education.
- Seek the support of the Media in Anti-CLaT campaign on pro bono basis.
- The Anti-CLaT Advocates and CCPCs will collaborate with CEWEFIA to work closely with Ministry of Education to facilitate the inclusion of child protection in the primary school curriculum.
- Inclusion of Child labour and Child Trafficking on the agenda of Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meetings in all the community schools.
- There should be Child protection and CLaT education at community festive occasions.
- Radio programs on CLaT prior to mid-day news broadcast will be initiated to capture people's attention to increase awareness.
- Funds will be solicited from churches to support child victims.
- Drama on CLaT acted out in community basic schools and churches.
- Investment: the Anti-CLaT Advocates and CCPC will invest their finances to cater for CLaT victims
- Wealth creation and family planning education will be included in house and church visitation campaigns.

The facilitator concluded by appealing to the participants to ensure compliance with all the interventions outlined to reduce CLaT in the Central Region.



Figure 2: The facilitator, Godfred Nyarko presenting at the Refresher workshop

3.6 Experience sharing

This section was devoted to the sharing of experiences, success and challenges in the implementation of CLaT activities by the CCPCs and make recommendations. Nicholas Smith highlighted some of the daily recurring CLaT practices in the communities including street hawking by children sometimes late in the night.

The participants shared their experiences and success. Some of the successes are summarized below;

A CCPC member from Elmina, Andrew said he shares out anti- CLaT bumper stickers and has one on his car, and as people notice and ask questions, he uses that as an opportunity to educate them on CLaT.

An Advocate from Elmina, Kweku Mensah also said “I took the initiative to enroll a 7-year-old child in school when his parents couldn’t afford to.

Another Advocate from Moree, Pius said he provides biscuit and juice to school children a day to the school vacation popularly called “our day”. He said this encourages children to be punctual in school.

Rebecca Eshun, a CCPC member from Moree said she has enrolled one child out three at Moree who are not attending school because their parents are poor and could not afford to. According to her, she often invites the mother of these children to women’s program with the purpose of helping her to be enlightened and feel empowered. During lean season for fish harvest, some people together with their children travel to as far away as Half Assini (locally called Anneiy) for fishing. When this happens the children don’t attend school but are used

for fishing. According to Madam Rebecca she has been able to stop one mother in Moree New town from undertaking such travel expedition.

John Abednego Otoo, CCPC member from Moree also offer CLaT education at the community information center every Sunday morning. Some parents have approached to tell him that his education has really enlightened them.

Another CCPC member John Niche is one of the beneficiaries of the Best Fish Practices award organized by CEWEFIA in 2017. He has rescued and enrolled a 10-year-old boy back to school after he escaped from Kormantse in the Central Region to Elmina to earn a living. He and also offers CLaT education in churches”. According to him, becoming CCPC member has won him great respect from his community (Elmina Marine) and the residents are encouraging him to contest for Assemblyman in the next election year”. Said John Nichie. Other members including Mary Eshun, Isaac Mensah Elmina, also shared their experiences.



Figure 3: A CCPC member, Andrew Ghansa, Elmina sharing his experience and success at the workshop



Figure 4: A CCPC member Moree, Rebecca Eshun, sharing her experience and success in CLaT activities.

3.7 Challenges

The participants shared some of the observations in their advocacy work as;

- Single parenthood households are vulnerable to Child labor and Trafficking
- Social welfare department lack the logistics to support victims and respond to emergencies.
- Some parents shirk their responsibilities to the Advocates, when the they offer their help
- Some parents also demand money from the Advocates.

3.8 Recommendation

The participants also made the following recommendations;

- Mother-child communication: mothers should communicate more with their young children (teenage girls and boys) and empower them to stay in school.
- The Anti-CLaT Advocates and CCPC members should go the extra mile to commit their financial resources when needed.
- The parents gathered were also encouraged to take full responsibility for their children's upbringing.
- Parents should bear the full responsibility of looking after their children
- Poor and vulnerable parents should be targeted and supported with some hardship funds and skills development.
- Issues on child welfare should be reported to social welfare department for prompt action

- Inclusion of sanitation education in household sensitization

3.9 Lessons learnt

The participatory training methodology adopted helped the participants to share their experiences and enrich the discussion.



Figure 5: cross section of participants at the refresher workshop

SECTION 4: CONCLUSIONS

The workshop ended with the Advocates and CCPCs promising to work together with CEWEFIA to reduce the CLaT menace in Elmina, Moree and beyond with the skills acquired through the support of USAID/ SFMP.

Members were empowered and motivated to own the process. Everything went as planned except for the delay in starting the workshop.

REFERENCES

APPENDIX 1



Figure 6: Social welfare officer from Abura Aseibu kwamankese district Assembly(AAKDA) making a contribution