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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

DAA Exchange Visits with Anti-CLaT NGOs



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THE
UNIVERSITY
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Cover photo: Community Anti-CLaT Advocates Visits Challenging Height Rehabilitation Center at Sweduro. Credit: Development Action Association.

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ACRONYMS

CLaT	Child Labor and Trafficking
DAA	Development Action Association
DOVVSU	Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
SFMP	USAID/ Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
USAID	United State Agency for International Development

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On July 22nd 2017, Community Anti-CLaT advocates from Winneba, Apam and Mumford had an exchange visit to Challenging Heights Rehabilitation Centre, Swedru to have firsthand experience or knowledge about what victims go through when they are trafficked. This was necessitated due to prevalence of child labor and child trafficking in these communities. The visit created collaboration between Challenging Heights and International need on issues of child labor and trafficking. The advocates were equipped with skills and expertise on how to detect CLaT activities in the community.

INTRODUCTION

The prevalence of child labor and trafficking along the coastal communities in Ghana, and especially in the Central region has made it necessary for the Development Action Association (DAA) under the SFMP to train Community Anti-CLaT Advocates to advocate against Child Labor and Trafficking. The Anti-CLaT Community advocates from Apam, Mumford and Winneba organized a Study Tour to the Rehabilitation Centre of Challenging Height on 22nd of July, 2017. The study tour equipped the Community Anti-CLaT Advocates with behavioral characters of some Victims of Child Labor and Trafficking.

Objectives

The objectives of the exchange visit were to:

- To equip Community Anti-CLaT Advocates with more skills and expertise
- To improve knowledge of community Anti-CLaT Advocates on behavioral characters of survivors of child labor and trafficking.
- For Community Anti-CLaT Advocates to have first-hand experience and interaction with survivors of child labor and trafficking.

Expected outcomes

Expected outcomes of the exchange visit include;

- Community Anti-CLaT advocates will be equipped with skills and expertise on how to detect and identify possible occurrence of child labor and child trafficking in their communities
- Advocates will get in-depth knowledge to sensitize parents of victims of child trafficking

PROCEEDINGS OF THE VISIT

The Team arrived at 12:26 pm and proceeded to the Challenging Height HOVDE wall of fame where images of survivors and activities are posted. The Recovery Manageress, Mrs. Pomaa Arthur, and Mr. Emmanuel Entsie, a teacher at the center gave a welcome address stating the purpose of the HOVDE house. “The purpose of the HOVDE house is to accommodate survivors of child trafficking retained by all CLaT rescuing organizations such as the Human Rights, DOVSU human trafficking unit etc. The HOVDE house screen the children brought to them for HIV, syphilis, bilharzia, hepatitis B and all contagious diseases that they may have been exposed to during the trafficking. They have behavioral management system to regulate survivor behavior and they do not use corporal punishment. She added that the maximum period of stay in the center is one year but is extended in exceptional cases.

Peter Edzie asked how the house determines cases of victims of Sexual Abuse, and the response was, “the house conducts post traumatized screening after some week of rescue. Mrs. Agnes Sheburah asked if the house admit and care for only children rescued from Yeji. The response was “Challenging Heights works along the lake Volta which passes through 9 regions in Ghana therefore, all children along the river and coastline involved in CLaT are rescued and admitted”.



Figure 1. Pictures of survivors of Child labor and Trafficking - Wall of Fame, Swedru Rehabilitation Centre of Challenging Heights.

Mrs. Florence Nartey asked if the organization continues to take care of survivors after discharge from the center. She answered that the organization officially monitors and provides them with livelihood support and educational materials for 2 years after they are returned to their biological parents or foster parents. In cases where survivor's parents have died, they give them to people to cater for them after consultation with the Human Rights and Social Welfare and such parent(s) are referred to as "foster parent(s)".

Mr. Kyikyibi Bondzie also asked how survivors are grouped in studies. She answered that their classes are grouped according to survivor's performance and are named Kofi Annan, Obama, Nkrumah and Mandela respectively. Mrs. Judith asked why laws do not prosecute parents found guilty and she replied that some parents are considered ignorant for the first time but if they again send the survivor back into trafficking after rescue, the law then prosecutes them. He added that, the inability for the nation to back stakeholders of Anti-LaT organizations with laws makes the work difficult hence leaving those found guilty to go scot-free.

CHALLENGES OF THE VISIT

The following were some challenges during the study tour:

- The Community Advocates were not allowed to interact with survivors of child labor and trafficking at the Centre.
- Pictures were not allowed to be taken with or of survivors at the Centre.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Centre Manager, advice advocate to exercise patience in the field of work and be confidential on information they are entrusted with from others on their field of work. He added that advocate should learn to update themselves on modern strategies culprit are using to trafficked victims. The advocates were enthusiastic about the study tour and learnt a lot from the visit.

Stella Quartey gave vote of thanks and a closing prayer, and all departed.