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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Combined Training Report On Child Labor and Trafficking for Six District Assemblies



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THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF OCEANOGRAPHY



Friends of the Nation

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Cover photo: Nana Kweigya, a Community anti-CLaT advocate engaging the GIS – (Credit: Gregory Essieh, FoN).

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ACRONYMS

GPS	Ghana Police Service
FoN	Friends of the Nation
GIS	Ghana Immigration Service
CLaT	Child Labor and Trafficking
EU	European Union
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
CPC	Child Protection Committee

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FORWARD

As part of the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP), FoN organized a 3-day training workshop for the Child Protection Panels/Committees members selected from selected Coastal Districts in the Central Region namely: Abura-Asebu-Kwamankese, Cape-Coast Metropolitan, Efutu Municipal, Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abrem Municipal and Mfantseman Municipal Assemblies. A total of 47 participants (i.e. 13 females & 34 males) were trained at this workshop held from February 14th to 16th 2017 in Cape-coast.

The training provided the platform to engage and provide information of the legal and regulatory framework for child protection; copies of relevant laws including Child Protection Act, Human trafficking Act, etc were given to the participants.

7.1.1 About 80% of the participants said this was the first time they were receiving copies of Laws. They noted that they will refer to the laws to guide their work.

As part of the training workshop the participating Child Protection Panels/Committees were supported to performance review and identify key areas for improvement. The panels were supported to develop specific annual action plans for their respective District. The Action plans indicated how the knowledge from the training was to be used to address child labor and trafficking issues in their respective districts. FoN will work with the panels to implement the plans to ensure the child labor and trafficking becomes socially unacceptable. Also specific monitoring indicators were developed as part of the Action Plans to track/measure the progress of implementation of the plans.

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

The issue of Ghana Government not doing enough in terms of enforcement of anti-human trafficking laws and prosecution of offenders has come under the international spotlight in recent years. Child Labor and Trafficking (CLaT) issues are one of the blotched areas of Ghana's fisheries contributing to Ghana spiraling down to Tier Two of the US State Department Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Watch-list in June 2016 after two consecutive years – meaning the country's authorities aren't doing enough to combat human trafficking.

The 3-day program involved coastal District Assemblies of the Central Region, and few selected communities anti-CLaT advocates.

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 also contributing to the GOG's 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 by Friends of the Nation (FoN) and partners to bring to fore the drivers of CLaT and propose actions that will contribute to clean, and sustainable fisheries for now and the upcoming generations.

The history and magnitude of CLaT in fisheries within the coastal-fishing communities in the CR has been determined through community interactions and studies clearly as fishing activity linked. Children from the coastal fishing communities are relatively better swimmers compared to children from other areas of the country. Culturally, these are communities that are already steeped deep into fishing and everything revolved around fisheries.

Therefore, taking children from poor families (who hardly are able to put food on the table on daily basis) because are good swimmers or conversant with fish processing, or both to go do same in other geographical areas for perceived rewards was a matter of course. Poverty and deprivation are the main causes. Declining fish harvest has seriously deepened poverty in the fishing communities where there are hardly any other viable forms of livelihood activities.

SECTION 2: OBJECTIVE

Friends of the Nation organized a three-day training program for thirty-five (35) District Assemblies' Child Protection Committees (CPCs) or Child Panels from Tuesday 14th to Thursday 16th February, 2017. This was designed to increase the capacity of participants to contribute to enforcement of anti-Child Labor and Trafficking (CLaT) laws, and bringing auxiliary services to the coastal-fishing communities to contribute to reduction of the menace.

There is the need to bridge the gaping disconnect between communities and duty-bearers and stakeholder-agencies in CLaT issues. The issue of efficiency and the ability to deliver upon their mandate within their roles as service providers and law enforcement officials the role of state institutions is bedeviled with gaps in delivering expectations as expected of it.

Awareness of the state institutions' roles and where citizens have to go for needs to be addressed would contribute greatly to plugging the holes that is left in the functions of the

sector within the communities, district and the region. Communities themselves must also understand the implications of trafficking their children as the law is no respecter of persons, nor is it lenient based on one's social predicament.

The issue of cheap labor in fisheries in form of CLaT has big legal consequences and also, bilateral implications for Ghana as the country are listed for two continuous years on the US Tier Two for Trafficking in Persons (TIP).

State agencies need to live up to their very best as they have the mandate to enforce the regulation more than any other group or groups.

It is evident that either law enforcement agencies are not adequately resourced to deal with the situation despite recent gains in the fight against human trafficking. But with a resolve to fight the menace, we can only envisage the very best.

According to the US State Department Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report (in 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 stakeholders need to up their act to address the issues which is for our own national development and human rights improvement. The fact that some police post is just besides embarking points in communities is disturbing. The exercise was therefore designed to pool together district level stakeholder's ideas on what the institutional gaps are in order to contribute to fighting CLaT activities at the decentralized system level whilst coordinating community efforts with that of the national actions.

The SFMP seeks to build on gains and lessons learned by the USAID/Ghana Integrated Coastal Fisheries Governance initiative (ICFG) to scale up the latter's successful model for improving law enforcement effectiveness; and extend the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) capacities from the Western to the Central Region (CR) Coordinating Council (RCC), and nine district assemblies (DAs) in the CR.

2.1 DAY ONE

2.1.1 DETAILED PROGRAM

Introduction of Invited Participants and Program:

After the opening prayer, Mr. Kwadwo Kyei Yamoah, the Programmes Manager of Friends of the Nation (FoN) gave an overview of Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) - being a USAID-funded project implemented over a 5-year duration (2014 to 2019) in Ghana by a group of partners with Coastal Resources Centre of the University of Rhodes Island as the lead partner.

Present at the training were seven-member Child Protection Committee (CPC) each from the following Districts

- 7.1.2 Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abirem Municipal Assembly (Elmina)
- 7.1.3 Cape-Coast Metropolitan Assembly (Cape-Coast).
- 7.1.4 Abura-Asebu-Kwamankese District Assembly (Abura-Dunkwaw)
- 7.1.5 Mfantseman Municipal Assembly (Saltpond); and
- 7.1.6 Ekumfi District Assembly (Essakyir).

Participants came from across diverse fields of professional (socio-economic) backgrounds. These were

- 7.1.7 Education,
- 7.1.8 Health,
- 7.1.9 Social welfare,
- 7.1.10 Fisheries,
- 7.1.11 Traditional authorities, and
- 7.1.12 Civil and local government service.



Figure 1: Mr. Yamoah of FoN introducing participants in the opening session.

2.1.2 OPENING STATEMENT

2.1.2.1 Welcome Address

The Programs Manager of FoN, Mr. Kwadwo Kyei Yamoah welcomed participants and thanked them for availing themselves off their busy schedules for the training program. He mentioned that the issue of inadequate enforcement of anti-human trafficking laws, apprehension and prosecution of perpetrators has led Ghana into being listed on the Tier Two Watch List of the US State Department for two consecutive years (2014, and 2015). This has dire economic implications for the country if its position does not improve by December 2016 (to be published in June 2017).

District Assemblies were contacted in November 2016 to assess the 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. District level anti-Child Labour and Trafficking activists and officials from eight out of ten coastal-fishing District Assemblies in the Central Region were successfully contacted and openly elaborated their handicap in implementing their mandate due to resource constraints. The training workshop is therefore a follow-up on that exercise.

Child Labor and Trafficking (CLaT) issues in the Central Region of Ghana is one of the blotched areas of Ghana's fisheries. The one-day District level stakeholders' meeting was organized to pool together ideas and make plans to link appropriately national and community efforts at stemming the problem of CLaT in fisheries in Ghana.

He concluded that FoN has found a natural ally in the SFMP which is a five-year project with the goal of rebuilding targeted marine fish stocks that have seen major decline in landings over the last decade particularly the small pelagic fisheries that are imported for food security.

7.1.13 The loss of potential quality human resources as children who should be in school to build a better future for themselves, families, communities and the nation, but are rather out working under hazardous conditions

7.1.14 And secondly, natural resources in fisheries and mining are overexploited contributing to food and livelihood insecurity and degradation of the environment.

Mr. Yamoah hoped that FoN's interventions in 2017 (comprising community sensitizations, radio talk shows drama films shows etc and the capacity building for local governance structures to strengthen the CPC) will contribute to halting Child Labor and Trafficking.

Mr. Yamoah urged participants to take the program serious, and help ensure a halt to the social canker. He added that SFMP also aims at building the capacity of the Regional Coordinating (RCCs) Councils and District Assemblies in the Central and Western Regions to improve marine fisheries, spatial planning, and meeting the development needs of climate change affected economically vulnerable fishing communities.

He concluded by admonishing all participants present to contribute to play their roles positively and help in combatting CLaT.

SECTION 3: GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ACTIVE IN ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING ENFORCEMENTS

3.1 Ghana Immigration Service (GIS)

The Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) is a state agency mandated for the regulation of entry and exit of persons into the country. Mrs. Alberta Ampofo stated that GIS in relation to trafficking deals with cross boarder trafficking and that in combating Child Trafficking has embarked on numerous campaigns to sensitize people within communities on the dangers of trafficking with the youth, especially pupils and students being their main target during such campaigns.



Figure 2: Madam Alberta Ampofo of the GIS engaging the CPCs

The service through the Ghana Integrated Migration Management Approach (GIMMA) project funded by the European Union and jointly implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the GIS have put up a center in Sunyani known as Migration Information Center (MIC) whereby would be travelers or migrants in Brong-Ahafo and its environs are able to source for information before they embark on their journeys.

She further stated that the GIS is in collaboration with other stakeholders in combating this crime and the Anti-Human Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons Unit (AHSTIPU) are

working hand -in-hand with the migration information Bureau to solidify this preventive, investigative and prosecution approach towards the trafficking menace.

She concluded that, FoN should complement the effort of GIS which is ready to help solve any trafficking issues that brought to them.

3.2 Ghana Police Service

Madam (Chief Superintendent of Police) Patience Quaye who was also the main facilitator-trainer at the workshop gave an overview of Ghana Police Service’s activities Child Labor and Trafficking led to the formation of the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) as a unit in the Ghana Police Service.

Ghana is a country of origin, transit and destination especially for trafficking of women and children. There are criminal activities of recruiters, transporters and intermediaries and in some cases, ignorant or plain wicked parents and guardians are also involved.

Globally CLaT and human trafficking are amongst the biggest profit churning businesses comparable to drugs and arms trafficking. The risk is of arrest is low but the reward is high therefore making it attractive to criminals.



Figure 3: Madam Patience Quaye and a participant sharing info on the situation on the ground

According to the police, in 2016 over 360 girls were rescued out of slavery from the Gulf states and brought back to their parents; likewise, 22 boys who had been trafficked to South Africa. The Anti-Human Trafficking Unit educates and sensitizes the public on the dangers of CLaT and hence the police look forward to working with everyone all the time.

Dial 1855 an emergency line to call in case you find any children being trafficked.

“Say no to human trafficking and child labor”, she ended the day.

3.3 DAY TWO

SECTION 4: REPORT - ENGAGEMENT WITH ASSEMBLIES ON CPCS CAPACITY

In November 2016, FoN engaged all the coastal-fishing assemblies with an aim of garnering information on relevant Local Government structures about the current state of functionality of anti-CLaT activities, and to solicit their inputs to make the relevant structures effective.

Respondents came from the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development – they were nominated by the all the District officials.

According to the respondents, the child panels (and also court systems) across the coastal-fishing areas in the Central Region were non-functional because the Assemblies no longer paid for the services of officials who render services to those institutions. Another important area was that the current laws of the country did not cater for victims and witnesses of crime and noted that the situation where the offenders were punished without rewarding the victims and witnesses and protecting them from further harassment was not the best.

Another factor militating against children in the incidence was lack of shelter for victims, lack of information and accessibility to the justice systems. They stressed the need for assistance for the committees working on the Justice for Child Policy (training, legal literature/documents, vehicles, office equipment/stationery and financial assistance) to facilitate their efficient functioning to ensure that the juvenile courts and child panels work effectively.



Figure 4: Kwesi Johnson of FoN sharing information on institutional challenges with the CPCs

Respondents lauded NGOs (e.g. Challenging Heights, Cheerful Hearts, FoN, ILO, IOM and UNICEF) for supporting the department in enriching their work with information and training sessions, and also assistance in following up cases now and then. UNICEF in particular was cited for its collaborative-partnership with the Ghana Police Service to develop a manual on child protection to be made part of the training of the police in handling issues of children better. This and other serious engagement with the Police Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of was strongly recommended. A comprehensive capacity building for the judiciary (judges and magistrates) was also recommended (to clearly distinguish cultural practices from criminality).

4.1 THE LAW AND ETHICS

4.1.1 ROADMAP

7.1.15 SECTIONS FROM THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACT (ACTS 694)2005.

7.1.16 SECTIONS FROM THE CHILDREN’S ACT (ACTS 560)1998.

7.1.17 ETHICS OF CHILD PANEL MEMBERS

4.2 LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

7.1.18 Human Trafficking Act, 2005 Act 694

- 7.1.19 Criminal Code of Ghana, Act 29
- 7.1.20 The Criminal Procedure, Act 30/60
- 7.1.21 The Constitution of Ghana, 1992
- 7.1.22 The Labor Act,2003
- 7.1.23 The Children Act, 1995 (Act 560)
- 7.1.24 The Anti- Money Laundering Act, 2008 (Act 749)
- 7.1.25 The immigration Act- Migrant Smuggling Act, Act 848 2012
- 7.1.26 Juvenile Justice Act

4.3 PHASES OF ACT 694

- 7.1.27 Prevent and suppress human trafficking
- 7.1.28 Punishes the human trafficker
- 7.1.29 Protect the human trafficked
- 7.1.30 Partnership

4.4 DESCRIPTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is defined as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons, by means of the use of threat, force, abduction, or deception, abuse of power, exploitation of vulnerability and giving / receiving payments as a form of consent, for the purpose of exploitation”.

SECTION 5: OF THE LAW

- 7.1.31 Prohibition of trafficking
- 7.1.32 Use of trafficked person prohibited
- 7.1.33 Conveyance in trafficking
- 7.1.34 Duty to in form
- 7.1.35 Filing of complaint to police
- 7.1.36 Police assistance
- 7.1.37 Receipt of complaint by police
- 7.1.38 Arrest by private person without warrant (the gives power to civilians to arrest but thereafter, hand over the person to the police).

SECTION 6: CHILDREN’S ACT (ACTS 560) 1998.

87 Prohibition of exploitative child labor.

- 7.1.39 1. No person shall engage a child in exploitative labor.
- 7.1.40 2. Labor is exploitative of a child if it deprives the child of its health, education or development.

88 Prohibition of child labor at night

- 7.1.41 1. No person shall engage a child in night work.
- 7.1.42 Night work constitutes work between the hours of eight o’clock in the evening and six o’clock in the morning.

89 Minimum age for child labor

- 7.1.43 1. The minimum age for admission of a child to employment shall be fifteen years

90 Minimum age for light work

- 7.1.44 1. The minimum age for the engagement of a child in light work shall be thirteen years.
- 7.1.45 2. Light work constitutes work which is not likely to be harmful to the health or development of the child and does not affect the child's attendance at school or the capacity of the child to benefit from school work.
- 91 Minimum age for hazardous employment
- 7.1.46 (1) The minimum age for the engagement of a person in hazardous work is eighteen years.
- 7.1.47 (2) Work is hazardous when it poses a danger to the health, safety or morals of a person.
- 7.1.48 (3) Hazardous work includes –
- a) going to sea;
 - b) mining and quarrying;
 - c) portage of heavy loads;
 - d) manufacturing industries where chemicals are produced or used;
 - e) work in places where machines are used; and
 - f) work in places such as bars, hotels and places of entertainment where a person may be exposed to immoral behavior.

SECTION 7: ETHICS OF CHILD PANEL MEMBERS

7.1 Definitions (what is ethics?)

- 7.1.49 A code of values guiding our choices and determining the purpose and course of our lives.
- 7.1.50 Work Ethics: A group of moral principles, standards of behavior, or set of values regarding proper conduct in the workplace.
- 7.1.51 We get “ethics” from our upbringing; school; religion; friends; society as a whole.

7.2 Importance

- 7.1.52 Play an important part of the internal image of any institution.
- 7.1.53 Play an important part in how an institution is perceived by the public.
- 7.1.54 Ensure self-respect in the individual.
- 7.1.55 Mutual respect.

SECTION 8: ETHICAL MANAGEMENT

8.1 The Five principles

- 7.1.56 **Purpose** – your personal vision
- 7.1.57 **Pride** – your sense of satisfaction
- 7.1.58 **Patience** – sometimes it's a long road
- 7.1.59 **Persistence** – standing your ground
- 7.1.60 **Perspective** – be focused and clear.

<p>“There is no pillow as soft as a clear conscience.”- French Proverb.</p>

8.2 The Four Components of Consistent Ethical Behavior.

- 7.1.61 **Moral Sensitivity** – the ability to recognize the presence and nature of ethical issues; the awareness that a situation represents an ethical problem that requires an ethical decision.
- 7.1.62 **Moral Judgment** – the ability to make the right ethical decision; to determine the morally correct and wisest course of action. This requires the use of critical thinking skills and the ability to prioritize competing ethical principles and values.
- 7.1.63 **Moral Motivation** – the desire to do the right thing and to be a good and ethical person.
- 7.1.64 **Moral Character** – possessing the maturity, courage, and discipline to follow through and do what you know is right in situations of strong temptation and/or great pressure from others.

8.3 The checks

- 7.1.65 Is it legal?
- 7.1.66 Is it balanced?
- 7.1.67 How will it make you feel about yourself?

8.4 Legality

- 7.1.68 Violation of criminal laws?
- 7.1.69 Violation of civil laws?
- 7.1.70 Violation of institutional policy?
- 7.1.71 Will it harm or embarrass the public or institution?
- 7.1.72 “Reputation is character minus what you’ve been caught doing.” – Michael Iapoce.

8.5 Balance

- 7.1.73 Is it fair to all parties concerned?
- 7.1.74 Fair short-term & long-term?
- 7.1.75 Would it cause public to view the institution negatively?
“The reputation of a thousand years may be determined by the conduct of one hour.”
- Japanese Proverb

8.6 Is it Right?

- 7.1.76 How will it make you feel about yourself?
- 7.1.77 Will you be proud of yourself after making this decision?
- 7.1.78 How would you feel if your decision made the front page?
“The time is always right to do the right thing.” - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

8.7 At the End of the Day

- 7.1.79 How do you feel about yourself?
- 7.1.80 How do others feel about you?
- 7.1.81 Did what you do, match what you said?
- 7.1.82 Did what you do, match what you feel?
- 7.1.83 Did what you do, match what other people believe is right or good?
“Live in such a way that you would not be ashamed to sell your parrot to the town gossip.” - Will Rogers.

SECTION 9: IMPLICATIONS OF CHILD LABOR AND TRAFFICKING IN GHANA

Children are future citizens of the nation and their adequate development is utmost priority of the country. Unfortunately, child labor engulfs children across the coastal-fishing communities of the Central Region of Ghana. They are trafficked within the country into forced labor in fishing). Several studies have proven that children (aged 5-17) are victims.

However, despite its menace in various forms, data shows variation in prevalence of child labor across the country. Rapid Rural Appraisal activity carried out in November 2016 showed that eight out of ten District Assemblies are handicapped in many ways in dealing with the situation which is a serious developmental challenge to the nation.

Many children are “hidden workers” working in homes or in the underground economy. Although the Constitution of Ghana guarantees free and compulsory education to children between the age of 6 to 14 and prohibits employment of children younger than 18 hazardous occupations, child labor is still prevalent in the informal sectors of the Ghanaian economy. Child labor violates human rights, and is in contravention of the International Labor Organization (Article 32, Convention Rights of the Child) which Ghana is a signatory to. About one-third of children of the developing world are failing to complete even 4 years of education.

The term “child labor” is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical-mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children, and interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, obliging them to leave school prematurely or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work. Child labor continues to be a great concern in many parts of the Ghana.

SECTION 10: TIER TWO WATCH LIST ISSUES

For the second year in a row, Ghana is classified as a Tier 2 Watch List country by the US Department of State. 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.

A Tier 3 ranking indicates a government does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons and is not making significant efforts to do so. Ghana could be subject to an automatic downgrade to Tier 3 in the 2017 TIP Report.

If Ghana is downgraded to Tier 3 in 2017, it will become subject to restrictions on U.S. assistance, including development aid and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Compact. The US currently provides more than \$140 million per year in development aid to Ghana while the MCC Compact is worth more than \$498 million. Other U.S. programs, including assistance in the areas of law enforcement; capacity building for state prosecutors; security and military assistance; and increasing the capacity of the Electoral Commission, health, education etc would all be subject to restrictions.

Commenting on the report, U.S. Ambassador to Ghana Robert Jackson said in October 2017 the “Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report recognizes the trafficking problems we all know exist in Ghana as

- 7.1.84 Forced labor,
- 7.1.85 Child labor and
- 7.1.86 Sex trafficking of children and adults.

It is important to note, however, that it is not the *quantity* of trafficking in any given country that is being evaluated. Trafficking exists everywhere, including in the United States. Rather, the ranking assesses the efforts made by government to prevent trafficking, prosecute criminals and protect victims.

“Unfortunately, despite some investigations and awareness campaigns, the government of Ghana (*District Assemblies inclusive and relevant Central Government Agencies and Institutions*) did not demonstrably commit to anti-trafficking efforts in 2015. As such, Ghana is placed on the Tier 2 Watch List for the second consecutive year. Ghana (*District Assemblies*) must increase the resources it invests in anti-trafficking enforcement and protection activities and track and report the results of its efforts.

Major engagement was in agriculture sector, followed by fisheries, aquaculture, livestock and forestry. In addition to work that interferes with schooling and is harmful to personal development, many of these children work in hazardous occupations or activities that are harmful. Central Region has the highest prevalence of child labor in fisheries incidents due to the fact that it is the fourth poorest region in Ghana (after the three northern regions); and also that children from the area are already conversant with swimming and rudimentary processing of fish. The skills which otherwise should have been a blessing to the children who possess them rather has become their undoing.

10.1 THE LAW AND CHILD LABOR

The policy curbing child labor exists but lack of enforcement of labor restrictions perpetuates criminality. This is manifested in variation in minimum age restriction in different types of employment. The International Labor Office reports that children work the longest hours and are the worst paid of all laborers. In Ghana, the Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Children’s Act 560 (1998); Human Trafficking Act 694 (2005) and other regulations state that no child shall be employed or permitted to work in hazardous work.

10.2 CHILD LABOR IN FISHERIES

Children are employed in both formal and informal sectors. Among the occupations wherein children are engaged in work are construction work, domestic work and small-scale mining, and fisheries industries. Fishing is not only the mainstay economic activity in the coastal-fishing communities in the Central Region but actually a cultural activity where children from a fishing family hardly go into another vocation. This situation therefore contributes to disguising CLaT activities as “normal” training for offspring’s and dependent youngsters.

10.3 THE CONSEQUENCES OF CHILD LABOR

The negative impact on the physiological and psychological levels of children includes specific concerns of child labor and its consequences on mental health. It is worth noting that a large number (estimated at 60%-70%) of children of the coastal-fishing areas in the Central Region are not very interested in school, and failing to complete even 9 years of basic education. The analysis of factors leading to engagement of children in hazardous factors elucidated socioeconomic factors as one of the important determinants. Poverty is considered as one of the contributory factors to child labor.

10.4 INTERVENTION IN CHILD LABOR

Education is a very important part of development. Children who are drawn to child labor are basically driven because of economic deprivation, lack of schooling and engagement of family for daily needs. Studies have found low enrollment with increased rates of child employment. Schools are the platform for early intervention against child labor, as it restricts their participation in menial jobs. Hurdles in this approach are economic reasons. Unless economic change is brought about, the children will not be able to attend the school. Child labor can be controlled by economic development increasing awareness and making education affordable across all levels, and enforcement of anti-child labor laws.

The Government of Ghana (and District Assemblies) has taken certain initiatives to control child labor. The Child Protection Committees (CPCs) or Child Panels which are invariably operationally mandated by appointed sub-committees to deal with CLaT issues within the local government jurisdiction. However, these initiatives are not functioning efficiently due to logistics, programmatic, financial and human resource challenges amongst others. The communities' level of appreciation or understanding of the implications of perpetrating of CLaT is another big issue. For them, it is usually a matter of surviving – starving to death, or taking the gamble.

SECTION 11: DAY THREE

11.1 INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION IN FIGHTING CRIME

Day three started with a recap of the previous day's work followed by watching of film on anti-CLaT advocacy activities.

This was followed up by a second presentation from the Ghana Police Service on inter-agency collaboration in fighting crime (specifically human trafficking).

11.2 COLLABORATION/COOPERATION

Madam Patience Quaye started by asking the gathering “why is cooperation important in counter trafficking and child labor?”

No one organization or agency has the capacity to respond to trafficking in persons or child labor alone. In order to assist trafficking victims, punish traffickers, and prevent human trafficking, service providers, governments, law enforcement agencies and others must find a way to work together.

11.3 is Interagency Collaboration /Cooperation?

A mutually beneficial and well-defined relationship entered into by two or more (individuals or) organizations to achieve common goals.

Includes a commitment to:

A definition of mutual relationships and goals;
A jointly developed structure and shared responsibility;
mutual authority and accountability for success;
sharing of resources, information and rewards.

7.1.2 Types of cooperation

Cooperation among similar organizations or agencies

Cooperation across sectors or agencies

Cooperation among those working on the same issues

Cooperation among those working in a particular counter-trafficking area
Cooperation can take place in homogeneous groups (e.g. NGO with NGO) or heterogeneous groups (e.g. government and NGO) and at a variety of levels, but trust and respect are essential regardless of the make-up of the group.

The type of cooperation that is most beneficial will depend upon the specific circumstances (political and cultural context, current response to human trafficking, etc.).

Helping a group of trafficked persons found in our country, in order to focus on the local context.

- What if the victims were children?
- What if they had been sexually exploited?
- What if they didn't speak the local language?
- What if they were from another country and didn't have permission to be in the country (irregular migrants)?

Why do we need to cooperate with others (both internally and internationally)?

- A) Sharing of information
- B) Some of the cases are transnational
- C) Intelligence
- D) Investigation planning
- E) Sharing experiences
- F) Fight together to break the chains of criminals
- G) Legal issues
- H) Effective networking
- I) Foster effective collaboration

7.1.3 BENEFITS OF WORKING TOGETHER

- A) Maximize human and financial resources
- B) Increase efficiency levels; reduce overlap; promote specialization based on strengths
- C) Identify and respond to gaps
- D) Foster accountability
- E) Determine common goals and strategies
- F) Establish uniform criteria for activities
- G) Achieve the desired impact

SECTION 12: CLOSING REMARKS BY FON

The issue of CLaT, capacity (awareness) allocation of resources in adequate amounts and inter-agency collaboration came out clearly as some of the hindrances that have stalled the work of Child Protection Panels in the districts. (CPCs are the constitutionally mandated bodies within the District Assembly structure that deliberates on issues of child welfare and security (rights of children and responsibilities of parents etc).

The issue of efficiency and the ability to deliver upon its mandate within the gamut of governance and other activities, the role of Child Protection Panels (CPCs) in the District Assemblies is bedeviled with gaps in delivering services as expected of it. Efficient performance of the CPCs could contribute greatly to plugging the holes that is left in the functions of that sector within the assemblies and act as a bridge to address the challenges.

The issue of cheap labour in fisheries in form of CLaT has big legal consequences and also, bilateral implications for Ghana as the country are listed for two continuous years on the US Tier Two for Trafficking in Persons (TIP). It is evident that either law enforcement agencies are not conversant with that aspect of the law, or they are just playing into the hands of traffickers who may induce them to turn their attention to ‘‘more serious things’’. Ignorance is however no excuse and complicity is a crime.

Children’s rights are human rights and should be treated as such. Therefore, the CPCs must be active and the assemblies must allocate them adequate resources to carry out their mandate to the fullest. Thank you.

SECTION 13: RECOMMENDATIONS

After three days of packed information sharing sessions and establishment of networks, participants recommended that

- A) Children are the insurance of the future of the nation and its inhabitants. Quality people will ensure quality life.
- B) The Child Protection Committees (CPCs) should be very active and report all challenges they face throughout their work to their district authorities.
- C) Similar programs (sensitization and awareness creation) will be organized for parents along the coast for more education on by the CPCs and they will fall on FoN and other relevant organizations and their networks for assistance.
- D) Everyone should take active participation in combating CLaT.
- E) All should come together as one to help save the lives of the children.
- F) The Children’s Act should be expounded to the traditional leaders since they have no or little knowledge on such laws.

SECTION 14: CONCLUSION

The programs launch was very successful in that it achieved its objective of bringing all relevant stakeholders together to deepen awareness on the issue, and also get adequate information on what the relevant state institutions are doing to combat the menace.

With stakeholders asking for more capacity building and more sensitization in coastal-fishing communities and adjoining areas, the anti-CLaT advocacy work can only get more efficient and productive.

It is therefore very critical that all stakeholders put push and shove together to harness all necessary resources to continue work now that adequate momentum has been gathered.