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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Community Action Plan on Child Labor and Trafficking in Moree



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THE
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Cover photo: The Executive Director and members of Community Child Protection Committee (CCPC) at the Community Action Plan validation meeting at Moree (Photo credit: Michael Takyi)

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ACRONYMS

AAK	Abura-Asebu-Kwamankese District
CCM	Centre for Coastal Management
CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CRC	Coastal Resource Center
CLaT	Child Labour and Trafficking
CCPC	Community Child Protection Committee
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

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BACKGROUND

Moree is the only fishing community in the Abura Asebu Kwamankese District. It is the most densely populated town in the district with an estimated population of 22,703. As a fishing community, about 85% of the inhabitants are fisher folks. Moree is reputed to be the cradle of fishing in West Coast of Africa. Ghana with a first fisherman called “Ofarnyi Kwegya” a name which is now the title of every chief fisherman.

Education was a major aspect of the society many years ago until conflicts resulted in breakup of social cohesion that affected education. The attendant problems include illiteracy, job insecurity, sand winning, child labor and trafficking among others.

Through the mission and vision of Central and Western Fish Mongers Improvement Association (CEWEFIA), an implementing partner under USAID GHANA Sustainable Management Project MOREE was adopted as one of the vulnerable communities of child labor and trafficking in the Central region. In 2014 CEWEFIA informed the community to provide human resource to support them to eradicate child labor and trafficking in Moree.

The community leaders or opinion leaders came together and provided the following resources as support to eradicate child labor and trafficking in Moree.

Formation of Community Child Protection Committee, which constitutes the following members:

- Fishmongers representative. (konkohema). Nana Esi Nyame
- Ebusuapow representative Nana Kwesi Abaka
- Bentsil Apofohen. Nana Bassaw
- Nkum Apofohen. Nana Agyei
- Baahema- Ama Ahobow
- Assembly representative Hon. Boison
- Muslim representative Mr. Awotwe
- Local council of churches representative Pastor Ottoo.J
- District girl child coordinator
- District director of education (representative)
- District health representative David Koduah
- Mr. and Mrs. Apram
- Other equally important members appointed by the community to serve the committee.

Formation of the Anti-child labor and trafficking Advocates group.

It has 20 members comprising five past and present assembly members and other 15 selected members to serve the purpose.

These two groups represent the community to prevent child labor and trafficking.

The Community Child Protection Committee (CCPC) and Anti CLaT Advocates in Moree collaborated with CEWEFIA to prepare the Community Action Plan. Prior to the preparation of the Action plan, SNV in collaboration with CEWEFIA trained the CCPCs and Anti-CLaT Advocates on the preparation of the Action Plan. After the training, a meeting was organized by CEWEFIA for the preparation of the Action Plan in collaboration with the Anti-CLaT Advocates and CCPC. The preparation of the Action plan was guided by an official from the Development Planning Unit of the AAK District Assembly. It was envisaged that the interventions outlined in the Action plan to combat child labour and trafficking in the community would be implemented with support from the District Assembly. After the draft Action plan had been prepared, a meeting was held with the Traditional Authorities and

opinion leaders to solicit their input into the Action plan. Subsequently, a community durbar was held in the Community to validate the Action Plan. Community members adopted the Action plan and pledged to support its implementation to reduce CLaT in the community. The District Assembly also promised to incorporate it into the Medium Term Development Plan.

As community representatives, both CCPC and Anti CLaT Advocates collaborated to come out with this action plan to be adopted and implemented by the community, with support from the AAK District assembly to propel the group.

MAJOR PROBLEMS

There are several factors leading to the problems faced in Moree.

- Poor access to capital/credit
- Poor parental control/irresponsible parenting
- Lack of sustainable jobs
- Challenges in the fishing sector (unsustainable fishing methods)
- Teenage pregnancy
- Low level of education
- Child labor/Trafficking/child rights abuse
- Low acceptance of Family planning
- Breakdown of social values and poor social cohesion
- Sand Winning

The above mentioned problems were identified by the CCPCs and the Anti-CLaT Advocates. Prior to the preparation of the Action Plan, the CCPCs and Anti-CLaT advocates were tasked to engage with the community members (households, youth groups, the concerned Citizens Association of Moree, women groups) to identify the problems in the community. They were given a week to carry out the task.

PRIORITIZED PROBLEMS

The problems were ranked by the CCPC and Anti-CLaT advocates during the preparation of the Action Plan. The prioritized problems have been validated by the community.

- Lack of sustainable jobs
- Low level of education
- Child labor and trafficking/child rights abuse
- Breakdown of social values and cohesion
- Child neglect and poor parental control
- Lack of access to capital
- Low acceptance of family planning
- Sand winning

The Anti-CLaT Advocates and CCPC were trained on the preparation of the Action Plan as well as the template for the preparation of the Action Plan in collaboration with SNV. The problems in the community were identified and subsequently ranked from the major to the minor. The actions and interventions to address the identified problems were also outlined together with the persons responsible for each action and the stipulated date for the implementation of each action. Persons responsible for monitoring the implementation of each action were also stated. These are presented in Tables 1-14 below.

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN FOR MOREE

Sustainable Jobs

Table 1. P1. Lack of Sustainable Jobs

APPROACHES	PRACTICAL STEPS	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	TIME FRAME	MONITORING
Eliminate unapproved/illegal fishing practices	Advocate for the fisheries laws that ban the use of unapproved nets, poisonous chemicals and light fishing, Awareness Creation and Sensitization	Marine Police, Ghana Navy, Police Enforcement Unit, Stakeholders, Traditional Authorities, MoFAD	Jan – Dec, 2018	Fisheries Commission Chief Fishermen
Promote modern methods of fish preservation, processing, packaging and storage,	1.Facilitate the provision of cold stores	CCPC/ Advocates, DA	Jan - Dec	Fisheries Commission, Opinion Leaders
	2.Promotion of Ahotor Ovens through campaigns, dramas, floats etc.	CCPC/ Advocates, Market Women	Jan - Dec	Fisheries Commission, Opinion Leaders
	3.Use of appropriate materials for handling and packaging fish	CCPC/ Advocates, Market Women, Food and Drugs Authority, Environmental Health	Jan - Dec	Fisheries Commission, Opinion Leaders, CEWEFIA, Food & Drugs Authority Environmental Health
Provide diversified sources of livelihood	Training of women in employable skills (beads/soap making, bread making, tie & dye and batik making, etc.)	Market Women Assoc., BAC/ CEDECOM, CEWEFIA	March - June	CCPC/Advocates, CEWEFIA

Level of Education

Table 2. P2. Low level of Education

APPROACHES	PRACTICAL STEPS	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	TIME FRAME	MONITORING
Education/Sensitization on importance of education	1. engagements with Stakeholders on the importance of education	CCPC/Dist Educ Directorate	Aug- Oct	DA/ , GES
	2. Engage NCCE/Non formal department to do public education and teach them functional literacy	DA,NCCE, GES	September	Opinion Leaders, NCCE, GES, CEWEFIA
	3. Organize community durbar to educate the Townsfolk	CCPC/Advocates	March - Dec	Opinion Leaders

Child labor and trafficking

Table 3. P3. Child Labor and Trafficking / Child rights abuse

APPROACHES	PRACTICAL STEPS	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	TIME FRAME	MONITORING
Education, Awareness Creation and Sensitization	Public Education on Child Labor & trafficking	CCPC/Advocates,	Jan - Dec	Opinion Leaders, Immigration Service, Ghana Police Service, CEWEFIA, DSW
	Stakeholder engagements on Dangers of Child Labor & Trafficking	DSW/CD/CCPC	Once every Quarter	Opinion Leaders
	Lobby GES to inculcate learning about CLaT	CCPC/Advocates/DA	April-July	Opinion Leaders
Enforcement of appropriate legislation	Public education on Child Rights and anti-trafficking laws	DSW/CD/CCPC/CHRAJ,MGCSP	March, July	DA/Opinion Leaders
	Pressure appropriate institutions to perform their functions	CCPC/Advocates	Jan - Dec	Opinion Leaders

Breakdown of social values and cohesion

Table 4. P4. Breakdown of social values and cohesion

APPROACHES	PRACTICAL STEPS	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	TIME FRAME	MONITORING
Re-ignite societal values and culture	Promote Traditional festivals and culture	CCPC/CNC	Aug-Sept	Traditional Authorities, Opinion Leaders
	Formulate bye-laws to regulate social behavior	Opinion Leaders	May	DSW/CD, CHRAJ,NCCE
	Promote Patriotism and non- Politicization of Community initiatives	Opinion Leaders	March- Dec	DSW/CD, NCCE
Civic Education	Educate youth and children through Community durbar, campaigns, drama performances etc.	CCPC/Advocates	March- Dec	DSW/CD, NCCE

Child neglect and poor parental control

Table 5. P5. Child neglect and poor parental control

APPROACHES	PRACTICAL STEPS	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	TIME FRAME	MONITORING
Re-ignite societal values and culture	Formulate bye-laws to regulate social behavior	Opinion Leaders, Traditional Authorities	May	DSW/CD, CHRAJ
	institute and implement sanctions against defaulters	CCPC/Advocates		DSW/CHRAJ
Public Education	Organize house-to-house based education on the need for parental responsibility	CCPC/Advocates	Mar-Dec	Opinion Leaders
	Education through information centers	CCPC/Advocates	Sept- Nov	Opinion Leaders

Access to capital

Table 6. P6. Lack of access to capital

APPROACHES	PRACTICAL STEPS	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	TIME FRAME	MONITORING
Promote Savings and Banking	Encourage local savings Introduce village savings and loans (VSLA)	CCPC/Advocates/ Local Banks	Jan - Dec	Opinion Leaders
	Blacklist Defrauding Fin. Institutions	DA, Ghana Police Service	March	Bank of Ghana
Facilitate Credit from Financial Institutions	Encourage formation of groups to access credit	Dept. of Cooperatives, BAC, CEWEFIA	Jan - Dec	
	Education on financial management and the need to repay loans	Dept. of Cooperatives, BAC, CEDECOM, NBSSI	May-Aug	Opinion Leaders

Acceptance of family planning

Table 7. P7. Low acceptance of family planning

APPROACHES	PRACTICAL STEPS	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	TIME FRAME	MONITORING
Education and sensitization and Promotion	Educate Both men and women on the importance of Family Planning	CHN/CCPC/Advocates, PPAG, Ghana Health Service	Jan - Dec	Opinion Leaders
	Educate clients on the various options to encourage patronage	CHN/CCPC/Advocates, PPAG, Ghana Health Service	Jan - Dec	
	Make Family Planning methods more accessible and affordable	CHN/CCPC/Advocates	Jan - Dec	Opinion Leaders

Sand Winning

Table 8. P8. Sand Winning

APPROACHES	PRACTICAL STEPS	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	TIME FRAME	BUDGET	MONITORING
Control and Regulation	Liaise with EPA to set Guideline to help control the activities	Opinion Leaders/EPA	April		DA
	Restrict sand winning to demarcated areas and time	Opinion Leaders/EPA	Jan - Dec		DA
	Enforce Local bye-laws against sand winning	Ghana Police Service/EPA, Environmental Health, Chief Fishermen, CCPCs	Jan - Dec		EPA, Environmental Health, CCPCs, Chief Fishermen, Opinion Leaders

INDICATOR REFERENCE TABLE FOR THE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN MOREE

Sustainable Jobs

Table 9. P1. Lack of Sustainable Jobs

APPROACHES	PRACTICAL STEPS	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	INDICATOR
Eliminate unapproved/illegal fishing practices	Enforce the fisheries laws that ban the use of unapproved nets, poisonous chemicals and light fishing, Awareness Creation and Sensitization	Marine Police, Ghana Navy, Police Enforcement Unit, Opinion Leaders, Local NGOs, Chief Fishermen, MoFAD	Number of fishermen using appropriate methods of fishing
Promote modern methods of fish preservation, processing, packaging and storing,	3.Use of appropriate materials for handling and packaging fish	CCPC/ Advocates, Local Associations, Cooperatives, Food and Drugs Board, Environmental Health	Percentage of women who use appropriate materials for handling fish.
Provide diversified sources of livelihood	Training of women in employable skills (beads/ soap making, bread making, tie & dye and batik making, Gari Processing etc.)	Market Women Assoc., BAC/ CEDECOM, CEWEFIA	Number of women using alternative livelihood

Level of Education

Table 10. P2. Low level of Education

APPROACHES	PRACTICAL STEPS	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	INDICATOR
Education/Sensitization on importance of education	Education/Sensitization on importance of education	Education/Sensitization on importance of education	Education/Sensitization on importance of education

Child Labor and Trafficking

Table 11. P3. Child Labor and Trafficking (First Problem)

APPROACHES	PRACTICAL STEPS	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	INDICATOR
	Educate GPRTU/ Drivers on identification and referral	CEWEFIA , CCPC	Number GPRTU and drivers trained.
Education, Awareness Creation and Sensitization	Public Education on Child Labor & trafficking	CCPC/Advocates,	
	Stakeholder engagements on Dangers of Child Labor & Trafficking	DSW/CD/CCPC	Number of stakeholders engaged
Enforcement of appropriate legislation	Public education on Child Rights and anti-trafficking laws	DSW/CD/CCPC/ CHRAJ,MGCSP	Number of people educated on the rights of the child.
	Pressure appropriate institutions to perform their functions.	CCPC/Advocates	Number of institutions pressured to perform their functions

Breakdown of social values and cohesion

Table 12. P4. Breakdown of social values and cohesion

APPROACHES	PRACTICAL STEPS	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	INDICATOR
Re-ignite societal values and culture	Promote Traditional festivals and culture	CCPC/CNC	Percentage of community members taking part in festivals
	Formulate bye-laws to regulate social behavior	Opinion Leaders	Number of bye laws done
	Promote Patriotism and non-Politicization of Community initiatives	Opinion Leaders	Number of promotions done
Civic Education	Educate youth and children through Community durbar, campaigns, drama performances etc.	CCPC/Advocates	Number of community durbar organized

Child neglect and poor parental control

Table 13. P5. Child neglect and poor parental control

APPROACHES	PRACTICAL STEPS	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	INDICATOR
Re-ignite societal values and culture	Formulate bye-laws to regulate social behavior	Opinion Leaders, Traditional Authorities	Bye laws formulated and implemented
	Institute and implement sanctions against defaulters	CCPC/Advocates	Number of defaulters sanctioned
Public Education	Organize house-to-house based education on the need for parental responsibility	CCPC/Advocates	Number of households educated
	Blacklist Defrauding Fin. Institutions	DA, Ghana Police Service	
Facilitate Credit from Financial Institutions	Encourage formation of groups to access credit	Dept. of Cooperatives, BAC, CEWEFIA	Number of groups formed to access credit
	Education on financial management and the need to repay loans	Dept. of Cooperatives, BAC, NBSSI	Number of women educated on loans
Education and sensitization and Promotion	Educate Both men and women on the importance of FP	CHN/CCPC/Advocates, PPAG, Ghana Health Service	Number of women and men educated on the
	Educate clients on the various options to encourage patronage	CHN/CCPC/Advocates, PPAG, Ghana Health Service	Types of family planning options introduced
	Make FP methods more accessible and affordable	CHN/CCPC/Advocates	percentage of women accessing family

Sand Winning

Table 14. P6. Sand Winning

APPROACHES	PRACTICAL STEPS	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	INDICATOR
Control and Regulation	Liaise with EPA to enforce Guideline to help control the activities	Traditional Authorities/EPA	Number of guidelines set by EPA
	Restrict sand winning to demarcated areas	Opinion Leaders/EPA	Areas restricted by community members.
	Enforce Local bye-laws against sand winning	Ghana Police Service/EPA, Environmental Health, Chief Fishermen, CCPCs	Number of local bye-laws enforced.

CONCLUSIONS

The people of Moree upon embarking on the Three (3) year action plan want to reduce child labor and trafficking by 50%, maintain 80% of their school going age in school, have 40% of their women accessing family planning services and fully maintain and protect the marine natural resources.

The Action plan has been incorporated in the Medium Term Development Plan of the AAK District Assembly for implementation. In Year 5, CEWEFIA will follow up on the implementation of the Action Plan.

Copies of the Action Plan have been given to the Traditional authorities and opinion leaders in the community.

The Action plan was not signed by a specific individual since it was generally accepted through community durbar.