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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Monitoring of CLaT Activity Report in Elmina and Moree



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THE
UNIVERSITY
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Cover photo: A cross section of Moree traditional authority at the inauguration of the Community Action Plan (CAP) (Credit: Michael Takyi)

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Resonance Global: <https://resonanceglobal.com/>
SNV: <http://www.snvworld.org/en/countries/ghana>

ACRONYMS

CCM	Centre for Coastal Management
CCPC	Community Child Protection Committee
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
Resonance	Resonance Global
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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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the communication strategy and monitoring activities of the SFMP to create awareness on child labor and trafficking (CLaT) in Elmina and Moree, CEWEFIA formed an Anti CLaT advocate and a Community Child Protection Committee (CCPC) to create awareness on the prevention of CLaT in first year of the project.

CCPCs were trained to undertake door to door campaigns, disseminate information through community information centers and radio stations, conduct focus group discussions and engage school children.

CCPCs and advocates are retrained every quarter to upgrade their skills on child protection and improve on their ability too effectively engage the communities on the dangers of CLaT and develop strategies to reduce its occurrence.

BACKGROUND

The Central and Western Regional Fishmongers Improvement Association (CEWEFIA) as part of its monitoring activities visited two hundred and forty five (245) households in Moree and Elmina, to evaluate the activities of the Anti-CLaT Advocates and Community Child Protection Committees.

Child Labor and Trafficking is prevalent in Elmina and Moree in the Central Region of Ghana. As a result, CEWEFIA has established Community Child Protection Committees (CCPCs) and Anti-CLaT Advocates in these communities as part of efforts to reduce CLaT.

These Committees use advocacy; community sensitization, awareness creation on radio and at information centers, to engage the community.

To measure the progress and impact of their activities in achieving SFMP's objectives, a monitoring survey was conducted on 28th June, 2017- 3rd July, 2017 in Elmina and Moree Communities.

The survey was conducted over six (6) days.

Objectives

The objectives of undertaking the monitoring survey of the CCPCs and Advocates activities are to:

- Assess understanding of the people in the community on Child Labor and Trafficking.
- Assess the level of awareness in the community on Government Policies that protect Children.
- Assess the communities' awareness on the dangers, consequences, and effects of CLaT
- Assess the communities' understanding of the various forms of CLaT.

Expected outcomes

The expected outcome of this survey is to determine any gaps in the transfer of knowledge from the CCPCs and Anti-CLaT advocates to the community and devise strategies to address them.

FINDINGS

High birth rates and large family sizes account for the prevalence of child labor and trafficking in Moree and Elmina. In a baseline survey conducted in the Central Region by USAID/Ghana SFMP in 2015, a significant number of the 762 households sampled, were female single-headed households.

With an average family size of six, these single mothers who are usually low skilled, uneducated and not engaged in any profitable economic activity are compelled to handover their children to strangers as laborers for a pittance.

Some of the respondents interviewed did not find anything wrong with children working to earn money to support the family. According to them, children cannot say no to their parents who traffic them. There are, however, a few who object to Child Labor and trafficking, especially those who are past survivors. They strongly oppose the idea of sending their under-age child to someone in the same community or another to work under the guise of apprenticeship.

Most people in these communities are not aware of the right to free compulsory universal, basic education policy (FCUBE) of Ghana but are aware of the feeding program in public

schools. Yet most children are in private schools because public schools do not have adequate teaching and learning materials.

The communities are aware of the existence of CEWEFIA, but are less aware of the activities of the CCPCs.

CCPCs are not visiting the households to engage them on the CLaT or the interventions of CEWEFIA. They also discriminate on who to engage and enroll in the, causing dissatisfaction among some of the association's members.

Children especially males whose parents are poor are out of school or have never been to school usually engage in early fishing activities and early parenthood.

Children are taken into forced labor in other towns and villages, leaving old people in the community.

According to the respondents the only acceptable work a child can do is domestic chores. The worst forms of child labor identified were, street hawking, child working in the canoe on sea. Child trafficking was understood to mean when a child is transferred from his permanent residency to someone other than the parent in another community or country for fishing or prostitution to earn money for the family.

It was observed that CLaT was more prevalent in the Moree Community than in Elmina. A number of respondents had heard of CEWEFIA but had not heard of the anti-CLaT Activities. Some of the respondents are aware of the presence of CCPCs and Anti- CLaT Advocates but they had not been visited by them before. All most all the respondents had not heard of the Community Action Plan (CAP).

Challenges

People especially in Elmina were hostile to the enumerators. Most of them were not willing to talk because of their previous experiences with organization who come to write their names, take photos, make promises and never show up. While most did not understand the questions being asked.

Recommendations

To curb the high birth rate, family planning education should be intensified in these communities.

The executive committee or leaders of CEWEFIA should review its selection of CCPCs and retrain them on their roles and work.

The infrastructure in the local schools should also be improved and stocked with teaching and learning materials, desks, library, and classrooms to encourage children to stay in school.

Older children can also be enrolled on vocational skills training to learn a trade so they do not become delinquents.

CEWEFIA should also intensify its community sensitization in Elmina and Moree.

CONCLUSIONS

The survey was successful despite the challenges encountered. Some of the respondents were happy with the interview and wish that the education on anti-CLaT issues would be done more often.