



SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Refresher Training Report for Anti- ClaT Advocate and Community Child Protection Committee (CCPC)



SEPTEMBER, 2017

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Citation: Takyi, M. Refresher Training Report for Anti-Clat Advocate and Community Child Protection Committee (CCPC) Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP). Narragansett, RI: Coastal Resources Center, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island. GH2014_POL084_CEWEFIA. 14pp

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Prepared for USAID/Ghana under Cooperative Agreement (AID-641-A-15-00001), awarded on October 22, 2014 to the University of Rhode Island, and entitled the USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP).

This document is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The views expressed and opinions contained in this report are those of the SFMP team and are not intended as statements of policy of either USAID or the cooperating organizations. As such, the contents of this report are the sole responsibility of the SFMP team and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

Cover photo: Selected Anti-CLAT advocate presenting a community action plan in Moree (Photo by Michael Takyi)

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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

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Child Labor and Trafficking is on the rise in all the coastal regions of Ghana, and Central Region is known to be the source community for which children are trafficked to other places to work. Based on this assertion the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) is set to reduce Child Labor and Trafficking in fisheries.

As part of CEWEFIA'S effort to help protect children, Anti-CLaT advocates and Community Child Protection Committees (CCPCs) were formed to work in the communities. The main role of the Advocates and the CCPCs is to do house to house awareness of issues bordering on Child Labor and Trafficking Prevention, use the community information system and other media to educate the target community members on the need to protect their children

CEWEFIA is committed to building the capacity of the anti CLaT advocates and Community Child Protection Committee (CCPC) members from time to time. The project organized Refresher Training Course to upgrade the knowledge base of the two groups on Child Protection Strategies.

The aim of the training was to develop their Child Protection Approaches and to discuss the achievements of the anti-CLaT advocates and the CCPC members in their respective communities.

The training was organized in Cape Coast with 70 participants comprising 46 males and 24 females.

The Child Protection Compact Model by UNICEF was used to train the participants.

1.1 Brief Description and Essence of Activity CM.3

The activity involved one volunteer (symbolizing the child in need of protection) standing in the middle of a circle with ropes tied around his waist (ropes representing the various problems the child faces). If community members work together they can help to reduce the load of problems in the life of the child in the community and hence provide safe and protective environment in the community for the child.

Methodology

Child Protection flash cards with child protection challenges were shown to participants and asked to identify which of them represented problems occurring in their communities. Eight (8) of such problems were identified.

One volunteer was asked to stand in front of all the participants. Eight (8) other participants were asked to pick eight (8) ropes of different colors and tie them around the waist of the volunteer (child) in the middle, each rope representing one of the eight problems identified by the participants.

All the eight persons were asked to pull the ropes at the same time to demonstrate how difficult it is for a child to face too many problems at the same time. As they were pulling the ropes each of the volunteers was asked to mention the specific problems faced by the child in the community.

The volunteer was asked how he was feeling when the ropes were pulled at the same time. His response was that he was feeling very uncomfortable, unstable and felt pains from the pull. It was explained to the participants that a child subjected to all those problems at the same time could feel unstable in both physical and emotional development, unsafe from

physical danger in the environment in which he/she lived, be exposed to psychological harm; and future prospects of such a child might be bleak.

The participants were asked how they thought each of the problems they had mentioned could affect the child. The responses included low academic performance of the child, physical bruises on body of child, possible death of child, potentially causing the child a disability, drug addiction, indulgence in prostitution and armed robbery activities.

The discussion was concluded by asking the participants to mention how the community could work together to reduce the identified problems of the child, and suggest solutions to the problem. Some of the suggestions made included sending children to school and supporting them to stay in school by paying school fees, buying textbooks and helping them with their homework; desisting from making children work for long hours to the detriment of their education, refraining from using corporal punishment as a means of correction of the child; not allowing children to carry heavy loads; and provision of counseling and community support for a child exposed to drugs.

Each of the eight volunteers was asked to suggest one solution to the problem identified and untie the rope.

1.2 Brief Description and Essence of Activity CM.5

This was the second exercise carried out, and the purpose was to help participants understand and realize that the problems that children faced were their problems as well, hence they were responsible for creating a safe, protective and problem-free environment in their communities for the children.

1.3 Methodology

The participants were put into three separate groups. The functions of each group were explained to them.

Group One was to act out in a form of role play from three (3) of the problems of the child in the communities as identified in the earlier activity. They were also to demonstrate how the child was affected by each of the problems. The group identified some of the problems of the child as follows: Drug Abuse, Child in a Stone Quarry, Child in Fishing, Child carrying heavy loads, Child as a head porter (*Kayaye*), teenage pregnancy etc. The group acted the problem of drug abuse and a child made to carry heavy loads.

Group Two was to act out how the community was affected by the problem the child was facing. How the community could be affected included teenage pregnancy leading to low enrolment in schools, drug addiction making community lose future leaders, the prevalence of stealing and robbery.

The final group was asked to identify ways in which the members of the community could adopt to solving the various problems of the child in the community. The group identified some solutions as awareness creation, enforcement of community rules, supporting children and counseling them on issues that affected them. They acted out the involvement of community structures to solve the problems of the child.

1.4 REPORT FROM THE VARIOUS COMMUNITIES

1.4.1 *Elmina Advocates*

As part of the plans to help reduce Child Labor and Trafficking in the fishing community, the Elmina anti- CLaT Advocates designed many strategic plans and activities that could best help reduce the menace.

Firstly, the advocates went to the Information Centers. Some of the members were selected to go to the various information centers to deliver on the topic “Child Labor and Trafficking (CLaT)”, which was successful and it caught the attention of many people to phone in and ask or contribute to the program. About 13 people phoned in, and made up of 7 males and 6 females.

Some members heard of an announcement concerning the welfare of children being undertaken by a Radio Presenter named Auntie Nyaneba and since that was also the duty of the advocates, they decided to go and have an encounter with the leader of that group at Oguaa Town Hall where the program took place. It was in a form of a Radio Program organized by the Presenter from Okokroko FM at Cape Coast. In all, 15-20 schools were present and an opportunity was given to the team to give their input concerning the program.

Thirdly, a visit was made to Ahomka FM which was a joint program by CEWEFIA and anti-CLaT Advocates from Elmina and Moree. Questions were posed and vivid answers were also given in line with reducing CLaT in the targeted communities. The interactions were successful and 15 people phoned in to either ask questions or contribute to the ongoing program.

From Ahomfa FM, the team went to churches in the Elmina and its surroundings. The Light House Chapel was the first church that was visited. The elders received them well and given the platform to talk. The congregation embraced the message in good faith and they requested for another session the following week. Thirty-five (35) to fifty (50) people were reached during the visits.

The team then went to the Apostolic church on their second visit to the churches which was also successful. There, between 50 and 90 people were reached.

The anti- CLaT team embarked on another community awareness program at Nanuma Hall, Nana Kobina Gyan and Terterim. In all, 3 communities were reached where the community members found it educative since some parents did not know that some of their actions were not in the right way towards their children.

SECTION 2: COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE (CCPC) ELMINA

The following activities were undertaken:

- Development of Community Action Plan
- Involvement of radio programs at Ahomka FM and Asafo FM
- Sensitization and educational programs on reducing Child Labor and Trafficking, and Child Protection in the coastal communities in Elmina
- Individual counseling
- Out of these, two boys have been sent back to school
- Formation of Child Protection Clubs in Basic schools
- Annual get-together was organized for more than 500 children

2.1 The Way Forward

- The committee will intensify its sensitization meetings on CLaT Prevention
- Will hold regular joint meetings with the trained anti-CLaT Advocates
- Disseminate the Community Action Plan to key stakeholders in Elmina
- Elmina CCPC will organize regular meetings for community Opinion Leaders.
- Hold regular CCPC meetings
- Intensify radio programs on CLaT Prevention.

2.2 Anti-CLaT Advocates in Moree

In Moree, there are 20 members comprising 5 females and 15 males. Below is the situational report as anti- CLaT advocates eradicating Child Labor and Trafficking.

2.3 Proposed Problems in Moree

- Financial Constraint
- Unemployment
- Lack of Education
- Yearly migration of fisher folks
- Frequent divorce
- Poor Parental Care
- Ignorance

Below are the activities and programs embarked on to reduce the situation of Child labor and Trafficking in Moree

Table 1: Activities and programs embarked on to reduce the situation of Child labor and Trafficking in Moree

DATE	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	ACTION BY
Oct. 2016 – April 2017	Refreshing programs	Have attended two refreshing programs organized by CEWEFIA on issues pertaining to Child Labor and Trafficking	CEWEFIA
Oct. 2016 – May 2017	Capacity building	Have attended three capacity building programs on ways to eradicate Child Labor and Trafficking at GNAT Hall, Eyifua, Cape Coast and Teachers Cooperative Credit Union Conference Hall, Bakano, Cape Coast. Such programs comprised of capacity building for Community champions, Leadership Roles and qualities of an Advocate	CEWEFIA
Jan. 2017 – April 2017	Community Action Plan	Proposed and designed an action plan for the community to be considered by the district assembly	Advocates
Sept. 2016 – Dece2017	Visited four community radio/information centers four times each.	To educate the general public on issues regarding child labor and trafficking. Listeners were allowed to call in and share their views on the discussions.	Advocates

DATE	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	ACTION BY
Sept 2016 – April 2017	Visited fifteen churches in Moree	To educate the church members on issues regarding child labor and trafficking. Members were allowed to share opinions and contribute to the talk show	Advocates
Sept 2016 – Dec 2016	Visited eleven schools in Moree	To educate the schools on issues regarding child labor and trafficking. Members were allowed to share and contribute to the talk show. Schools were promised of forming Anti child labor and trafficking clubs.	Advocates
Oct 2016 – April 2017	Enrolment drive to Vulnerable persons in Moree	Visited regularly the vulnerable persons in Moree to check on them	Advocates

SECTION 3: RESULTS

Able to reach the following vulnerable persons in Moree

- 9 males
- 8 females

Table 2: Males

Name	Action	Action by
Kojo and Kojo	Brought from Lagos after going through hardships and suffering all sources of pains. One is learning a trade and other is in school	Advocates
Kweku Awotwe	Talked to the mother and was brought from Agege in Nigeria. He is now in school	Advocates
Junior Takyie	Now in school	Advocates
Kwesi Anamoah	Advocates prevented his mother from trafficking him to Lagos through a male trafficker	Advocates
John Esibu	Now in school	Advocates
Kofi Akroma and Kwamena Attow	After visiting some homes in Moree their parents were prevented from accepting monies from traffickers to La Cote d'Ivoire	Advocates
Peter Ackon	Stopped schooling and joined a fishing crew but now back in school	Advocates

Table 3: Females

Name	Action	Action by
Nana Ekua	Prevented her mother from allowing them to be trafficked to Nigeria for an amount of GHS200.00 only. An anti-CLaT Advocate had to pay back the money to the trafficker to settle the case	Advocates
Maame Mensimah	She is a sister to Nana Ekua	Advocates
Ekua	Now in school	Advocates
Adjoa Ackon	In school	Advocates
Ama Nesfuaba and Mary Aidoo	Educated their parents on causes and hazardous effects of trafficking and convinced them to stop trafficking their wards to La Cote d'Ivoire	Advocates
Adjoa Abban	Now in school	Advocates
Mercy Nunu	Now in school	Advocates

SECTION 4: COMMUNITY CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE (CCPC) MOREE

After attending a series of seminars/workshops in Child Labor and Trafficking and Leadership skills sponsored and organized by the USAID, Coastal Resources Center and URI-GSO through CEWEFIA since February 2016, Moree CCPC has been able to identify the following socio-economic and environmental problems facing the people of Moree:

- Lack of sustainable jobs
- Low level of education
- Breakdown of social values and cohesion
- Child neglect and poor parental control
- Lack of access to capital/credit
- Low acceptance of Family Planning
- Sand Winning
- Upgrading of Moree Health Centre and other related Issues. The committee's resolve to deal with the above-named challenges has influenced the following approaches:
 - Public education, Awareness creation and sensitization,
 - Promotion
 - Enforcement of proper legislation
 - Development of a Community Action Plan

The CCPC has so far made the following visitations:

- Heads of 16 clans
- Local Information centers: 3
- 12 Apostolic Churches: 2
- Musama Disco Christo Church (MDCC): 2

- Mosques: 2
- Interaction with a staff of NBSSI – Cape Coast: 1
- Soliciting financial assistance from Vision Fund Ltd. Accra –Adenta for groups of fishmongers
- Promotion of Ahotor smoking kilns (ovens) for fishmongers and approved fishing nets and responsible fishing practices (methods)
- Validation of Community Action Plan on 4th April, 2017.

SECTION 5: IMPACT OR RESULTS

- The Heads of clan and other opinion leaders, Chief Fishermen and the Queen of the Fishmongers have understood the adverse effects these problems may pose to the people of Moree. They are therefore supporting the CCPC members
- The fishmongers have embraced the use of Ahotor ovens. So far, Moree has seen seven ovens and many fish processors are applying for the facility through CEWEFIA, SNV and the Fisheries Commission-Cape Coast. The fishmongers have also seen the need to handle and package the fish under proper hygienic conditions.
- Vision Fund Ltd is granting loans to fishmongers in groups. The first group has been served, and two others groups will be considered shortly.
- Having been sensitized on the benefits of formal education parents have decided to send their children to school. Basic school enrolment has gone up but not significant.
- Many parents who have given their children below 18 years out have decided to bring them back home and send them to school. About 38 boys and 15 girls aged between 5 and 11 years have been admitted to the basic school.
- Dr. Joseph Kwegyir Aggrey’s famous statement that “if you educate a man, you educate one person; but if you educate a woman you educate a nation” has been a morale booster for parents to send their girl children to school. Girl-child enrolment in the senior high school is on the increase.
- It is gratifying to learn that some CCPC members are serving on the Community Watch dog (Monitoring) committee which is enforcing local bye-laws against sand winning. Currently there is an indefinite ban on sand winning at Moree.

Plans are underway to engage National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI) to train fishmongers in batik/tie-dye, soap making, bead making etc.

Activities will be continued while waiting for ratification of the Community Action Plan by the Abura-Asebu-Kwamankese District Assembly.

A One-Day Refresher Training Course was held on 16th August, 2017 at Teachers Cooperate Credit Union Conference Hall, Cape Coast. It was organized by CEWEFIA for Trained Anti-CLaT Advocates and CCPC members from Elmina in the Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abrem Municipal Assembly (KEEA) and Moree in the Abura-Asebu-Kwaman Kesse District (AAK).

SECTION 6: OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING

- To assess the impact of Anti-Child Labor and Trafficking Advocates and CCPC Members’ CLaT activities on the two communities
- To identify Government Institutions that address CLaT
- Learn lessons from each community through experience sharing
- To equip participants with Child Protection Strategies.
- To equip participants with Monitoring and Evaluation Strategies in Child Protection

SECTION 7: ATTENDANCE

Sixty-two (62) participants attended the Refresher Training Workshop. In Moree the number of community child protection committee (CCPC) members were 16 comprising 9 males and 7 females. The Anti-CLaT Advocates of Moree were 20, comprising 14 males and 6 females. In Elmina, the CCPCs members were 12, (10 males and 2 females), Anti-CLaT Advocates of Elmina were 21 (13 male sand 8 females).

SECTION 8: DETAILS/CONTENT OF THE TRAINING

Welcome address was delivered by Mr. Nicholas Smith, the Project Officer of CEWEFIA who represented the Executive Director. He made it known to the Anti-CLaT Advocates and CCPC members that Child labor and Trafficking was a menace and needed to be tackled holistically. He went on further to advise them to take the Refresher Course seriously and to remain in the hall till everything ended so that together they could share ideas, experiences and learn new ways of creating awareness on CLaT.

Mr. Michael Takyi took on the” Findings on Evaluating the impact of Anti-Child Labor and Trafficking efforts by the trained Anti-CLaT Advocates and Community Child Protection Committee members”. During his presentation, he made them know the roles of the Anti-CLaT Advocates and CCPC members to educate the community about CLaT. They should also focus awareness in the communities by visiting more households.

Mr. Godfred Nyarko, the Acting Director of the Department of Social Welfare in the KEEEA Municipal Assembly and a CCPC member made a presentation on “Child protection approaches”. After his presentation, questions were asked: e.g. 1.” How do we check if we are achieving our objective?” He answered by saying that to achieve an objective one needed to monitor or follow up to know how things were responding. 2. “Why is it important to check progress?” The answer was that to check progress one needed to develop new strategies and make corrections. 4. Who is responsible for checking progress? CEWEFIA, Anti-CLaT Advocates, CCPC members and Government institutions. At the end of this session, he made it known that Anti-CLaT Advocates and the CCPC members should monitor community action on Child Protection to get information and use it.

Kristine Beran presented on “Identifying Government Institutions that address CLaT” (breakout session). During the presentation, she made them know who they could contact when they were facing problems. Their first contact was the Parents and then the Opinion leaders, Assemblymen, Police Station and Department of Social Welfare. The Anti-CLaT Advocates drew diagrams that showed how Child Labor and Trafficking could be stopped.

SECTION 9: CHALLENGES

Late start of the program

SECTION 10: CONCLUSION

The training was successful.