



SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP)

Strategic Regional Stakeholders Engagement Workshop to Implement Anti-CLaT plans in Medium Term Development Plans



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Cover photo: Participants of the Strategic Regional Stakeholder engagement workshop with the National Steering Committee members Ms Victoria Natsu and Elizabeth Akanbobire, DCEs from the various coastal communities, DSP Irene Oppong, Head of AHTU. , (Credit: Kwadwo Kyei Yamoah, FoN)

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ACRONYMS

AAKDA	Abura-Asebu-Kwamankese District Assembly
ASDA	Awutu-Senya District Assembly
ASEMA	Awutu-Senya Municipal Assembly
CCMA	Cape-Coast Metropolitan Assembly
CLaT	Child Labor and Trafficking
CPC	Child Protection Committee
CEDECOM	Central Region Development Commission
CH	Challenging Heights
CR	Central Region
CRCC	Central Regional Coordinating Council
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DA	District Authorities
DCPC	District Child Protection Committee
DSWCD	Department of Social Welfare and Community Development
EDA	Ekumfi District Assembly
EMA	Effutu Municipal Assembly
FC	Fisheries Commission
FCUBE	Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education
FOAT	Functional Organizational Assessment Tool
FoN	Friends of Nation
GEDA	Gomoa-East District Assembly
GES	Ghana Education Service
GHS	Ghana Health Service
GIS	Ghana Immigration Service
GPS	Ghana Police Service
GWDA	Gomoa-West District Assembly
IJM	International Justice Movement
IN	International Needs
KEEAMA	Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abirem Municipal Assembly
MASLOC	Microfinance and Small Loans Centre
MiDA	Millennium Development Authority
MMA	Mfantseman Municipal Assembly
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
NCCE	National Commission for Civic Education
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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1. BACKGROUND

Records from Ghana's Ministry of Gender and Social Protection indicates that Child Labor and Trafficking (CLaT) practices are severe in Ghana and about 2 million children are estimated to be trafficked into child labor.

CLaT issues are one of the blotched areas of Ghana's fisheries contributing to Ghana spiraling down on the US State Department Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report Watch-list in June 2016 after two consecutive years which meant the country's authorities were not doing enough in combatting human trafficking, therefore risking sanctions from the donor community, especially the U.S Government (USG).

It is against this background that Friends of the Nation under the auspices of USAID-SFMP has been implementing anti-child labor and trafficking (CLaT) interventions which has contributed to institutional strengthening and awareness raising towards addressing CLaT in coastal districts of the Central Region. Notably, the milestones achieved include:

- Strengthening of District Child Protection Committees/Panels.
- Mobilization and training of community Anti-CLaT Advocates.
- Massive behavior Change communication including Radio and media events, stakeholder sensitization meetings, film shows, community durbars, etc.
- Support to the ten (10) Coastal District of the Central Region to develop anti-CLaT actions in the Medium-Term Development Plans (MTDPs 2018 - 2021).

This and other efforts by Government of Ghana contributed to Ghana been upgraded from Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Tier 2 Watch-List to Tier 2 by the US State Department in 2018; indicating acknowledgement of government and stakeholder efforts to reduce Trafficking in Persons including CLaT.

To consolidate the above gains, FoN organized a strategic regional stakeholders' engagement workshop on 6th February 2019 at Pempamsi in Cape Coast, in the Central Region of Ghana. Participants were from the ten coastal Districts namely:

- Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abirem Municipal Assembly (KEEAMA);
- Cape-Coast Metropolitan Assembly (CCMA);
- Abura-Asebu-Kwamankese District Assembly (AAKDA);
- Mfantseman Municipal Assembly MMA);
- Ekumfi District Assembly (EDA);
- Gomoa-West District Assembly (GWDA);
- Effutu Municipal Assembly (EMA);
- Awutu-Senya District Assembly ASDA);
- Gomoa-East District Assembly (GEDA); and
- Awutu-Senya East Municipal Assembly (ASEMA).

In attendance were also key institutions including the Fisheries Commission, Ghana Police Service (Anti-Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence and Victim Support Units), Ghana Immigration Services, Ghana Education Service and Ghana Health Services (Reproductive and Child Health Unit). In all there were forty-nine (49) participants, thirty eight (38) male and eleven (11) female who took part in the training.

1.1 Objectives for the training

The workshop aimed at supporting the District Assemblies in the Central Region to actively implement their Anti-CLaT plans in their Medium Term Development Plans (MDTPS 2018-2021).

1.2 Outcome of the workshop

- A draft unified Region-wide strategy for the implementation of the anti-CLaT action in the MTDPs 2018- 2021 was developed.
- Additional resources and partners were also identified to help the various Districts to implement anti-CLAT interventions in the MTDPs especially the outreach programs. An example is FoN in collaboration with Fisheries Commission will be supporting all the District in their sensitization programs.

2. DETAILED SESSION

2.1 Opening and Purpose of the meeting by Donkris Mevuta (CEO, FoN)

Mr. Donkris Mevuta in his opening speech welcome all participants and thanked them for availing themselves for this training workshop and said their commitments gives him much joy that there is hope for our future. Again he, appreciated the various intervention programs of the various district for helping Ghana to move from tier 2 watch list to tier 2 of the trafficking in person report by the United States agency for trafficking in person. Lastly he was overwhelmed by the activity participation of district chief executives DCEs who were present at the workshop. They included the DCE of Mfantseman district, Cape Coast municipal, Effutu municipal, Gomoa East. Mr. Mevuta, applauded the various district for capturing Anti-CLaT activities in their medium term budget and encouraged them to resource their officers to implements the activities to help Ghana achieve the goal of moving from Tier 2 to Tier 1 of the TIP report this year. He concluded by wishing participants the best for the workshop and said they should feel at home.

2.1 Optional Stakeholder Statements

2.1.1 *Free the Slaves*

Mr, Joha Braimah, the Country director for Free the Slaves thank the organizers for inviting their outfit to share their expertise in the training workshop. He said many donor funded project are folding up and therefore encourage district assemblies to take keen interest in CLaT issues by budgeting and implementing the activities in the NPA 2. He appreciated the DCEs for their commitments and this shows how important they appreciate the issues and ready to help eradicate the menace.

2.1.2 *Ghana Immigration Service*

C/SUPT. Justice Bosomtwi-Ayensu led the house in this session. He said Ghana Immigration Service has not been reluctant in curbing the menace of child labor and trafficking in recent years despite its logistical constraints. Through its sting operations, the Service was able to arrest four (4) suspects at Aflao border when they attempted to traffic forty-three (43) girls to Saudi Arabia from Ghana through Nigeria last year and other numerous arrest. C/SUPT Bosomtwi said in view of these, GIS has set up Anti-Human Trafficking Unit to help address all trafficking issues and also with the assistance of other agencies, have been offering training courses for its officers on trafficking. This Unit also collaborate with NGOs and other stakeholders in fighting this menace. He concluded by sharing with the house some of their education and sensitization programs made in some communities.



Figure 1. C/SUPT Justice Bosomtwi-Ayensu Presenting on GIS role in Combating CLaT

2.1.3 Ghana Police Service

DSP Irene Oppong took the house through various programs and intervention on CLaT. She said in central region they have opened Anti Human Trafficking unit in all the station and have officers at post. Therefore members are encourage to report child labor and trafficking issues to that unit and not the DOVWSU. DSP Oppong bemoaned how some parent of victims are not cooperative rather will be pleading for the perpetrators that they want to settle the issues in the house. He pleaded with the DCE to help educate the various communities and also help resource their unit to fight CLaT holistically.



Figure 2. DSP Irene Oppong taking turn to address the role of the GPS in Combating CLaT

2.1.4 Ghana Education Service

Madam Nora Akoto (Girl child coordinator), said they have instituted various programs and intervention that help eradicate CLaT in schools. Below are some of the intervention.

- Follow up on absenteeism students.
- Formation of Anti-CLaT clubs.
- Making school more lively to keep students in school by making sure all curricular activities are been introduced i.e. inter Football completion, inter-cultural performance and many others.



Figure 3. Mr. Nicholas Ofori-Boateng, Central Regional Director of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) making a presentation

2.1.5 NCCE

Mr. Nicholas Ofori-Boateng, the Central Regional Director of the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) briefed participants on what the Commission has done in collaboration with the United Nations Children’s Education Fund (UNICEF) in organizing education and sensitization activities in schools and communities.

The NCCE have facilitated formation of Social Studies Clubs at the basic level (Primary and Junior High) where the children were sensitized on CLaT issues. He said that the NCCE always sought the permission of the Ghana Education Service (GES) to grant them formal access to the schools with MMDCEs lending their administrative support in the training and sensitization programmes. This collaboration has gone on well and he prayed that it continues so that the NCCE will also rightfully deliver its mandate in educating the populace on this sensitive issue and other related ones like fisheries.

2.2 Design of Community Outreach Plan.

Mr. Kwadwo Kyei Yamoah, Programmes Manager for Friends of the Nation took participants through how to design an outreach plan taking out the education and sensitization from their Medium Term Development Plans (2018-2021) Participants were group into District and were tasked to develop their communication outreach plan. Below is the outreach plan for the ten (10) Coastal Districts

ABURA ASEBU KWAMANKESE DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

Table 1. Abura Asebu Kwamankese District Assembly

	ACTIVITY	WHEN/MON TH	WHEN/WE EK	WHERE	HOW	WHO/PARTNERS
1.	Conduct stakeholders' analysis	February	3 rd week	Dunkwa	Discussion at meeting	DSW & CD, GES, HEALTH , CSO
2.	To organize stakeholders consultative meeting	March	1 st week	Moree	Discussion at meeting	DSW & CD, GES, NCCE, Information Services Department (ISD).
3.	Formation of school based drama groups for anti CLaT campaign	February	3 rd week -1 st week in March	Moree, Abakrampa	Visit schools/community engagements/PTA	GES, DSW & CD, HEADS OF SCHOOLS, GHS, CSO'S
4.	Organize community sensitization fora	Quarterly	Quarterly	Moree, Nyamedom, Atsuansi	Community durbar	DSW & CD, FBOs, Police, ISD, NCCE
5.	Record , play jingles on Anti -CLaT messages in local information centers	Monthly	Once in a week in every month	Moree, Nyamedom , Abakrampa, Atsuansi, Abura-Dunkwa	CD's , pen-drives	Community Information Centres (CICs)

AWUTU-SENYA DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

Table 2. Awutu-Senya District Assembly

ACTIVITY	WHEN	WHERE	HOW	WHO
Intensify public education on topical child protection issues	March, 2019	Senya-Beraku , Ayensomko	Community durbar ,	DSW , NCCE , DISTRICT ASSEMBLY , POLICE, GES
Train fish farmers on pond management and improved fishing practices in fishing communities	May to July , 2019	Senya-Beraku, Awutu-Bunkese, Adamukwa		DSW & CD Ministry of fisheries District assembly
Create public awareness on the rights of the child	August to November, 2019	Awutu-Bunkese, Obrachire.	Community forum. Formation of clubs in schools, public education, Traditional leaders	FBOs, DSW & CD, NCCE, GES District Assembly

MFANTSEMAN MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY (Saltpond)

Table 3. Mfantseman Municipal Assembly (Saltpond)

ACTIVITY	WHEN	HOW	WHERE	RESOURCES NEEDED	WHO/COLLABORATORS
Organize school based sensitization program and form anti-CLaT clubs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule dates for sensitization programs. • Implement the activity by using TLMs. • Enroll interested pupils into clubs to draw programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools (Nankesedo Lower Town MA; Kormantse M/A; Hasowadze M/A; Pomase M/A; Egyirfa M/A; Ndasimamu M/A; Mankessim Edumadze; Biriwa Methodist; Abandze Methodist; Anomabo Catholic). 	Fuel for facilitators	Municipal Child Protection Committee (MCPC); ISD GES
Educate opinion leaders & community members on the negative effects of CLaT (sensitization program)	20 th February- 20 th March 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit FBOs • Circulate info at Community Information Centres (CICs). • Meet with traditional leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglican Church (Saltpond) • Mosques (Biriwa, Saltpond; Mankessim) • Communities (Aboadze, Kormantse, Biriwa, Ankaful). • Traditional Councils (Mankessim, Anomabo, Nkusukum, Abeatre). 	Fuel for facilitators	MCPC; ISD ; Police GES; MMA; Religious leaders (pastors and imams)

KOMENDA EDINA EBRIM AGUAFO MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY

Table 4. Komenda Edina Ebrim Aguafo Municipal Assembly

Activity	Timeline	Outcome indicator	Location	Lead	Who/collaborators
Formation of schools' anti-CLaT clubs	Q2 (June)	Anti CLaT clubs formed and students oriented on CLaT.	Elmina, Kissi	DSW CD	GES NCCE
Formation of Child Protection Teams	Q3 (August)	Teams formed and members sensitized	Elmina, Kissi,	DSW CD	GES NCCE
Monitoring LEAP formation in 54 communities.	February, April, June, October, December	Leap M and E reports	Selected communities	DSW, CD	Assembly members
Sensitization of communities on CLaT and Human Trafficking.	Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4	Community educated on CLaT.	Elmina, Kissi, Eguafo, Ntranoa	DSW CD	NCCE, CHRAJ, MPO, ISD, HOD, CIC

AWUTU SENYA EAST MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY

Table 5. Awutu Senya East Municipal Assembly

Activity	When	Where	How	Partners	Who
Capacity building workshop for MCPC	March, 2019	Municipal Assembly Hall	Training workshop to build capacity for MCPC members	FoN ISD	DSW & CD
Training of key stakeholders on CLaT issues	15 th March, 2019	Municipal Assembly Hall	Talk/orientation	FoN, IJM Police	DSW & CD
Intensify community sensitization and education.	30 th September, 2019	Kasoa, Akweley and Kpormeten Zonal Council	Talk show (discussions on local radio stations)	FoN, IJM DOVVSU, GIS ISD	DSW & CD
	31 st December, 2019.	Opeikuma CP and Ofaakor Zonal Council	Community outreach programmes.	FoN, IJM Police (DOVVSU/AHTU), GIS; ISD	DSW & CD
Write report and send to key stakeholders					DSW & CD

EKUMFI DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

Table 6. Ekumfi District Assembly

ACTIVITY	WHEN	WHERE	LEAD	PARTNERS	HOW	BUDGET
Sensitization on parenting in 6 communities	July-September	Immuna, Srafa, Aboano, Narkwa, Asafa, Edumafa	DSW & CD	FoN NCCE	Community durbar	500
School based sensitization on clat	Once each, school term	Public schools	DSW & CD	NCCE ISD GES		200
Prepare data based on movement of children during school holidays.	July-September	District	DSW & CD	GES Police		
Increase anti-CLaT enforcement activities.	June-December	District	DSW & CD	FoN Police		2000

GOMOA WEST DISTRICT ASSEMBLY (Apam)

Table 7. Gomoa West District Assembly (Apam)

ACTIVITY	WHEN	WHERE	LEAD	PARTNERS	HOW
Education and sensitization of various stakeholders eg parent, opinion leaders etc	6 th March 2019 9 th March 2019	Apam, Mumford, Dago, Mankoatze	DSW CD	DSW, Police, Child panel, Assembly and Unit committee	Organize a community durbar
Radio Programme on ClaT	15 th April 2019	Radio Peace-Winneba	DSW CD	DSW / CD Child panel, Assembly and Unit committee	
Provide alternative livelihood to vulnerable parent	7 TH August 2019	Apam, Mumford, Dago	DSW, CD	DSW / CD BAC	Expand Leap to other communities
Follow-up on fishing communities to engage community members on the extent to which CLaT activities have been combatted	16 th -27 th Oct 2019	Apam, Mumford, Dago, Mankoatze	DSW CD	DSW, Police, Child panel, Assembly and Unit committee	Meetings with Chiefs, Opinion leaders and Assembly members.

EFFUTU MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY (Winneba)

Table 8. Effutu Municipal Assembly (Winneba)

ACTIVITY	WHEN	WHERE	LEAD	PARTNERS	HOW
Capacity building for Local Persons on Anti-CLaT advocacy	March 2019	Assembly conference room	FoN DSW & CD	GhanaPolice Service, Ghana Immigration services Department of social welfare/Community Development	Training workshop to build capacity for local person on Anti-ClaT Advocacy
Formation of Anti CLaT Clubs and sensitization of school children	2 nd week in May	ACM Basic school, Don Bosco basic, Zion Basic school and other in consultation with GES	DSW & CD	UEW Depart of Art, GES	
Sensitization at churches and mosque,	June-July 2019	Church of Christ, SDA, Baptist, Pentecost,	DSW & CD	Pastors, Imam Ghana Police Service Ghana Immigration service	Visit churches and mosques with DCPC

GOMOA EAST DISTRICT ASSEMBLY (Potsin)

Table 9. Gomoa East District Assembly (Potsin)

ACTIVITY	WHEN	WHERE	LEAD	PARTNERS	HOW	BUDGET
Sensitization in communities	March 2019	Coastal Communities	DSW & CD	FoN	Community durbar	
School based sensitization on clat	May- July	Public schools	DSW & CD	NCCE ISD GES	Once each, school term	
Formation of Anti CLaT Clubs	2 nd week in May	Selected schools in consultation with in consultation with GES	DSW & CD	GES, FoN	Formation of Anti CLaT Clubs	
Increase anti-CLaT enforcement activities.	June-December	District	DSW & CD	FoN Police		2000

CAPE-COAST METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY (CAPE-COAST)

Table 10. Cape-Coast Metropolitan Assembly (CAPE-COAST)

ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVE	WHEN	WHO	COLLABORATORS	BUDGET
Recontitue of the Municipal Child Panel Committee	To reduce CLaT by 40% by 2021	15/3/2019	MCE, MSWO,	Police, GES, GHS, CCMA	3,000.00 (Internal Generated funds)
Sensitisation to community, schools, faith base organisations etc	To reduce CLaT by 40% by 2021	18/4/2019 18/7/2019 10/11/2019 21/11/2019	MSWO	Police, GES, ISD, NCCE, CCMA	2,000 (Internal Generated funds)
Formation of CPC	To reduce CLaT by 40% by 2021	18/5/2019	MCE, MSWE	Assembly members, Traditional Authority, Police	1000 (Internal Generated funds)
Identify peer-educators and trainers from communities	To reduce CLaT by 40% by 2021	17/7/2019		PPAG, Police , Assembly member, Unit committee, Chiefs etc	1000 (Internal Generated funds)

2.3 Identification for areas of possible collaboration

This session was facilitated by Mr. Kwadwo Kyei Yamoah from Friends of the Nation. The session created a platform for the Assemblies to interact with other agencies for effect collaboration. Additional resources and partners to support rolling out anti-CLAT interventions in the MTDPs were also identified. Fisheries Commission was ready to support the Assemblies with an information van. Ghana Police Service (Anti-Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence and Victim Support Units) and Ghana Immigration Services were also ready to support the Assemblies with Resource Persons. Ghana Education Service and Ghana Health Services (Reproductive and Child Health Unit); were ready to provide the platforms for the Assemblies to do sensitization.

3. EVALUATION

An evaluation carried out revealed that an enabling learning environment was created that provided space for interaction and sharing of experiences ensuring equal participation of all. Participants indicated their readiness to intensify the communication outreach plans developed.

4. CONCLUSION

All participants unanimous agreed that there is the need for all to come onboard, especially the DCEs, because CLaT activities affect their district and hamper developments. The participants resolved to work with civil society, the National Steering Committees against Child Labor and Child Trafficking and all other relevant stakeholders to reduce CLaT in their jurisdictions.

The National Steering Committee (NSC) advised all stakeholders who aim to implement interventions to combat CLaT to always liaise with them and the Assemblies to increase chances for success, and also report to be captured by NSC as the overall national efforts to combat human trafficking.