



**MINISTRY OF GENDER, CHILDREN
AND SOCIAL PROTECTION**

ACRONYMS & TERMS

APRIL 2025

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ACRONYMS AND TERMS



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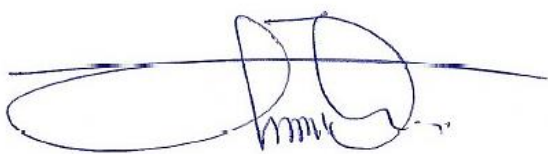
FOREWORD

As we deal with the complicated issues in our world today, the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MoGCSP) stands out as a leader in safeguarding and supporting the most vulnerable individuals in this country. In our daily efforts to ensure fairness, safeguard rights, and promote diversity and inclusivity for vulnerable groups, we frequently come across unfamiliar technical terms, terminologies, and acronyms that not everyone is aware of or familiar with. We identified this need and took the initiative and produced this document.

The journey to compile these terms and acronyms has been a collaborative one, driven by the unwavering commitment of our dedicated team from the Research, Statistics, and Information Management (RSIM) Directorate and Public Relations Unit (PRU). Through meticulous research and thoughtful curation they have produced this valuable document which will assist not only the Ministry's staff but also our valued stakeholders as a comprehensive tool for communication.

This endeavour reflects our steadfast dedication to transparency, accessibility, and excellence in service delivery. Let's reaffirm our collective resolve to champion the rights of women, children, and vulnerable populations as we embark on this endeavour, ensuring that no voice remains unheard, no issue remains unresolved, and no one remains behind.

Thank you,



HON. DR. AGNES NAA MOMO LARTEY

MINISTER

MINISTER FOR GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Research, Statistics, and Information Management (RSIM) Directorate and the Public Relations Unit (PRU) of the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection jointly produced this document. We first extend our gratitude to Dr. Sylvester Kyei-Gyamfi, Director of the Research, Statistics, and Information Management Directorate, and Bismark Nyadzi from the Public Relations Unit, who successfully guided the preparation of this document.

We acknowledge and value the efforts, dedication, and endeavour of the staff of the RSIM Directorate: Kingsley Osei-Owusu, Ida Awuviri, Gloria Charway, Isaac Asamoah-Boadi, Godwin Appiah Kubi, Kelvin Kwaku Aduful, Victor Hammond, Maame Adwoa Sam, Patience Asiedu, Steve Twumasi, Yasmine Rose Aboagye, and Augustina Owusu, who worked tirelessly to compile the document.

Finally, we also appreciate the efforts of Patience Hayford, Joseph Kwatsenu, Joseph Martey, and Abigail Ntiamoah, as well as representatives from all directorates, departments, agencies, and units whose invaluable insights helped ensure the success of document production. This compilation is merely the beginning.

Thank you,



DR. AFISAH ZAKARIAH

CHIEF DIRECTOR

MINISTRY OF GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In an ever-evolving landscape of policies, programs, and initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality, protecting children's rights, and supporting vulnerable communities, effective communication is paramount. However, navigating the myriad of terms and acronyms prevalent within the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MoGCSP) can often prove to be a daunting task for both newcomers and seasoned professionals alike. Recognising this challenge, the MoGCSP has undertaken a laudable initiative to compile terms and acronyms frequently encountered within our operational framework. This comprehensive compilation, titled 'Terms and Acronyms Used by MoGCSP,' serves two purposes: to familiarize new personnel and stakeholders with commonly used phrases and acronyms, and to provide a valuable reference tool for staff, stakeholders, government agencies, and the public.

By providing clarity and coherence to our linguistic landscape, this initiative seeks to enhance understanding, streamline communication, and foster collaboration across all facets of our work. This booklet also promises to be an indispensable resource for all stakeholders interested in advancing the cause of gender equality, children's rights, and social protection. As we embark on this journey of knowledge dissemination and empowerment, let us reaffirm our unwavering commitment to creating a more just, equitable, and inclusive society for all.



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MINISTRY OF GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

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INTRODUCTION

During the recent Annual Review Management Meeting, held at the Marlin Beach Resort in Gomoa Fetteh, the heads of directorates, units, and secretariats were expected to submit their performance for 2023 as well as projections for their activities in 2024. The meeting was very successful, and participants gained great ideas to use in the future. During the presentations, many unit presenters frequently used acronyms that several participants did not understand. This is when an idea of collating the Ministry's terms and acronyms emerged, and the RSIM and Public Relations Unit (PRO) collaborated to create this user-friendly booklet called 'Terms and Acronyms Used by MoGCSP'.

Objectives

The terms and acronyms compilation initiative has the following two objectives:

1. Provide new MoGCSP personnel and stakeholders with the frequently used phrases and acronyms by the Ministry to facilitate their understanding and reference.
2. Provide a comprehensive list of terms and acronyms used by the Ministry for staff, clients, government, and the public.

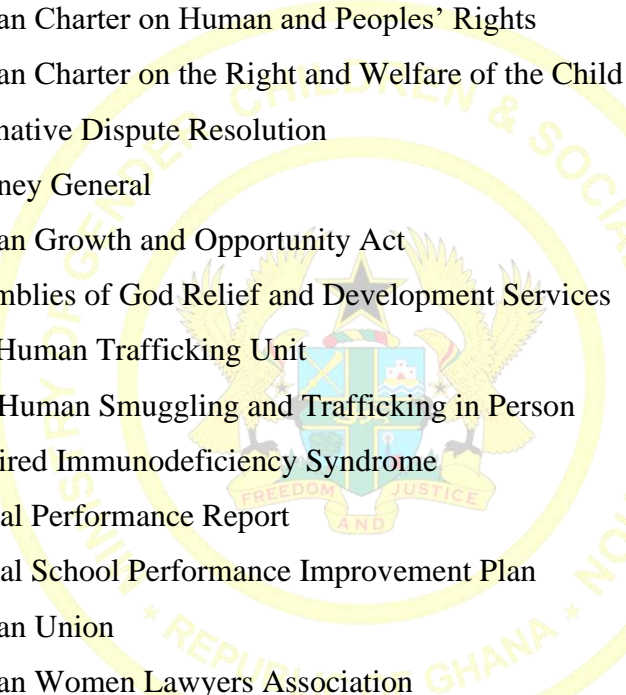
Outcome

The booklet will be an invaluable resource for ministerial statements, briefs, Cabinet memos, program and project proposal writing, research, and other activities involving gender, children's rights, and social protection.

ACRONYMS

These commonly used acronyms are essential in the work related to gender, child rights, and vulnerability issues. They are very handy and provide convenience when one needs to know the full meaning of unfamiliar terms. The collection is extensive, diverse, and includes important acronyms that are crucial for the work we do at the Ministry

A



AA	Affirmative Action
ACHPR	African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
ACRWC	African Charter on the Right and Welfare of the Child
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AG	Attorney General
AGOA	African Growth and Opportunity Act
AGREDS	Assemblies of God Relief and Development Services
AHTU	Anti Human Trafficking Unit
AHSTIP	Anti-Human Smuggling and Trafficking in Person
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
APR	Annual Performance Report
ASPIP	Annual School Performance Improvement Plan
AU	African Union
AWLA	African Women Lawyers Association

B

B&DR	Births and Deaths Registry
BWA	Beneficiary Welfare Association

C

CAA	Central Adoption Authority
CAGD	Controller and Accountant General's Department
CAMFED	Campaign for Female Education
CAN	Child Abuse Network

CAPI	Computer Assisted Personal Interview
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CCPC	Community Child Protection Committee
CD	Chief Director
CDI	Central Destitute Infirmary
CDPA	Chief Director's Performance Assessment
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CFP	Community Focal Person
CFWP	Child and Family Welfare Policy
CHAG	Christian Health Association of Ghana
CHPS	Community-Based Health Planning Service
CHRAJ	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
CIC	Community Information Centers
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIGS	Complementary Income Generation Scheme
CIS	Children Information Service
CL	Child Labour
CLASS	Complementary Livelihood and Asset Support Scheme
CLIC	Community LEAP Implementation Committee
CLU	Child Labour Unit
CMIP	Child Marriage Information Portal
CMU	Child Marriage Unit
CNACT	Coalition Of Ngo's Against Child Trafficking
COP	Child Online Protection
COVID-19	Coronavirus 19
CP	Child Protection
CPC	Child Protection Committee
CPC	Child Protection Compact
CPIMS	Child Protection Information Management System
CRC	Convention on the Right of a Child

CRI	Care Reform Initiative
CSA	Cyber Security Authority
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSR	Child Study Report
CSR	Client Service Report
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
CT	Cash Transfer
CTM	Common Targeting Mechanism
CWSA	Community Water and Sanitation Agency

DA	District Assembly
DACF	District Assemblies Common Fund
DCD	Department of Community Development
DCEs	District Chief Executive
DFATD	Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development,
DHS	Demographic Health Survey
DHIMS	District Health Information Management System
DHMIS	District Health Mutual Insurance Scheme
DISCAP	District Capacity Building Project
DISEC	District Security Committee
DLIC	District LEAP Implementation Committee
DoC	Department of Children
DoG	Department of Gender
DOVVSU	Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit
DP	Development Partners
DPCU	District Planning Coordinating Unit
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
DSWCD	Department of Social Welfare and Community Development
DSWO	District Social Welfare Officer
DVS	Domestic Violence Secretariat

E

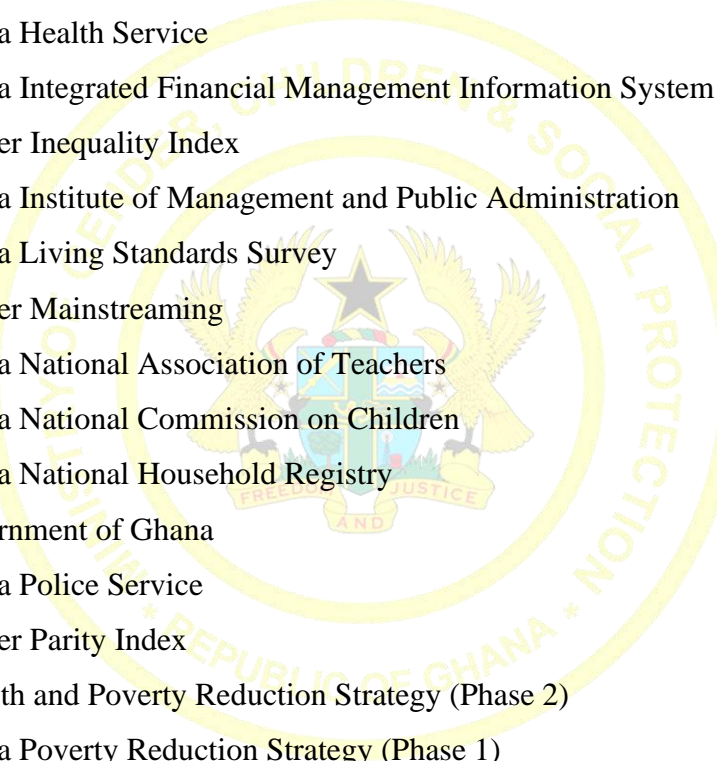
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECCD	Early Childhood Care and Development
ECOSOC	Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EMIS	Education Management Information System
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
ESP	Essential Service Package
ESPAR	Electronic Staff Performance Appraisal Report
EU	European Union

F

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FBO	Farmer-Based Organizations
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FBOs	Faith-Based Organizations
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FIDA	International Federation of Women Lawyers
FL	Force Labour
FOMS	Field Operation Management System

G

GA	General Administration
GAC	Ghana AIDS Commission
GACA	Ghana Against Child Abuse
GAD	Gender and Development
GAWU	Ghana Association of Workers Union
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GDO	Gender Desk Officer
GDP	Gross Domestic Product



GDHS	Ghana Demographic and Health Survey
GE	Gender Equality
GEA	Ghana Employers Association
GES	Ghana Education Service
GEU	Girls Education Unit
GEST	Gender Equality Sector Team
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GHANAP	Ghana National Action Plan
GhIPSS	Ghana Interbank Payment and Settlement Systems
GHS	Ghana Health Service
GIFMIS	Ghana Integrated Financial Management Information System
GII	Gender Inequality Index
GIMPA	Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration
GLSS	Ghana Living Standards Survey
GM	Gender Mainstreaming
GNAT	Ghana National Association of Teachers
GNCC	Ghana National Commission on Children
GNHR	Ghana National Household Registry
GoG	Government of Ghana
GPS	Ghana Police Service
GPI	Gender Parity Index
GPRS II	Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (Phase 2)
GPRS	Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (Phase 1)
GPRS	Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy
GPRTU	Ghana Private Road Transport Union
GPSNP	Ghana Productive Safety Net Project
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
GSFP	Ghana School Feeding Programme
GSDP	Ghana Statistics Development Project
GSGDA	Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda

GSOP	Ghana Social Opportunities Project
GSS	Ghana Statistical Service
GTA	Gender Transformative Accelerator
GVSSN	Gender Violence Survivor Support Network
GVSSN	Ghana Violence Survivor Support Network
GWCL	Ghana Water Company Limited
GLSS	Ghana Living Standards Survey

H

HDI	Human Development Index
HH	Household
HISWAP	Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West Africa
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HGSF	Home-Grown School Feeding
HODVIC	Holistic Development Programme for Visually Impaired Children
HRMD	Human Resource Management Directorate
HRMIS	Human Resource Management Information System
HSR	Home Study Report
HT	Human Trafficking
HTF	Human Trafficking Fund
HTS	Human Trafficking Secretariat

I

ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IE&C	Information, Education, and Communication
IEC	Information Education Communication
IGF	Internally Generated Funds
ILGS	Institute of Local Government Studies
ILO	International Labour Organization

IMD	International Men's Day
INSTRAW	United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement Women
INGOs	International Non- Governmental organisation
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPA	Institutional Plan of Action
IPEC	International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour
IPT	Intermittent Preventive Treatment
IRAD	Information Research Advocacy Division
ISS	Intergrated Social Services
ISD	Information Service Department
ISSE	Institute of Statistics Social and Economic Research
ISSOP	Inter – Sectoral Standard Operating Procedures for Child Protection and Family Welfare
IT	Information Technology
ITN	Insecticide Treated Nets
IWD	International Women's Day
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JHS	Junior High School
LAP	Land Administration Project
LAWA	Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa
LEAP	Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
LI	Legislative Instrument
LIPW	Labour Intensive Public Works
LMS	LEAP Management Secretariat
LRC	Legal Resources Centre
LGSS	Local Government Service Secretariat

M

MASLOC	Micro-finance and Small Loan Centre
MB	Management Board
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MDLGRD	Ministry of Decentralization, Local Government and Rural Development
MDPI	Management Development and Productivity Institute
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MIS	Management Information System
MLGDRD	Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization and Rural Development
MLTF	Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing
MMDAs	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
MMDCDs	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Coordinating Directors
MMDCEs	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoELR	Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MoGCSP	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoI	Ministry of Information
MoJAJ	Ministry of Justice and Attorney General
MOWAC	Ministry for Women and Children's Affairs
MRC	Mobile Registration Center
MSD	Management Service Department
MTCT	Mother to Child Transmission
MTDP	Medium Term Development Plan
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
MTU	Mobile Targeting Unit
MYS	Ministry of Youth and Sports

N

NAGRAT	National Association of Graduate Teachers
NADMO	National Disaster Management Organisation
NAP	National Action of Plan
NCCE	National Commission on Civic Education
NCPD	National Council on Persons with Disability
NCWD	National Council for Women and Development
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NEA	National Education Assessment
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NER	Net Enrolment Rate
NETRIGHT	Network for Women's Right
NFED	Non-Formal Education Division
NBSSI	National Board For Small Scale Industries
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NGP	National Gender Policy
NHIA	National Health Insurance Authority
NHIF	National Health Insurance Fund
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme
NIA	National Identification Authority
NITA	National Information Technology Agency
NMA	National Media Commission
NMCP	National Malaria Control Programme
NMTDPF	National Medium Term Development Policy Framework
NPA	National Plan of Action
NPC	National Population Council
NPC	National Peace Council
NPO	Non-Profit Organization
NPHC	Natinal Population and Housing Census
NSPP	National Social Protection Policy

NSPS	National Social Protection Strategy
NTU	National Targeting Unit

O

OHCS	Office of the Head of Civil Service
OHLGS	Office of the Head of Local Government Service
OIC	Opportunities Industrialization Centre
OPAC	Optional Protocol on Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict
OPIC	Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure
OPSC	Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
OVC	Orphan and Vulnerable Children

P

PASS	Promoting Adolescent Girl's Safe Space
PAP	Prospective Adoptive Parent
PBB	Programme-Based Budget
PCMEU	Policy Coordination Monitoring and Evaluation Unit
PFI	Participating Financial Institution
PFM	Public Financial Management
PFMA	Public Financial Management Act
PHC	Population and Housing Census
PI	Productivepublic Inclusion
PIC	Public Information Campaign
PLWH	Persons Living with HIV and AIDS
PMT	Proxy Means Test
POC	Project Oversight Committee
POS	Point of Sale Device
PPAG	Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana
PPMED	Policy Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PSC	Public Services Commission

PSIA	Poverty and Social Impact Assessments
PSP	Payment Service Provider
PTA	Parent Teacher Association
PTC	Project Technical Committee
PTR	Pupil Teacher Ratio
PV	Payment Voucher
PWD	Person with Disability
PAMSCAD	Programme of Actions to Mitigate the Social Costs of Adjustment
PLWHiVAs	People Living with HIV/AIDS

QA Quality Assurance

RCC	Regional Coordinating Council
RCHS	Reproductive and Child Health Services
REGSEC	Regional Security Council
RHC	Residential Homes for Children
RPCU	Regional Planning Coordinating Unit
RSIM	Research, Statistics and Information Management
RSWO	Regional Social Welfare Officer
RTI	Reproductive Track Infections

SCC	Senior Correction Center
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA	School Education Assessment
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SER	Social Enquiry Reports
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SGD	Sustainable Development Goals
SHEP	School Health Education Programme

SIGI	Social Institutions and Gender Index
SIP	Strategic Implementation Plan
SIC	School Implementation Committee
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
SMC	School Management Committee
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SMTDP	Sector Medium Term Development Plan
SHEP	School Health Education? Program
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPD	Social Protection Directorate
SPMEMIS	Social Protection Monitoring and Evaluation, Management Information System
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
SPSWG	Social Protection Sector Working Group
SSNIT	Social Security and National Insurance Trust
SSW	School of Social Work
STD	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
SWCES	Single Window Citizens Engagement Service
SWIMS	Social Welfare Information Management System
SWPB	Social Work Profession Bill

T

TBA	Traditional Birth Attendant
TUC	Trade Union Congress
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education Training

U

UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities

UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes
UNESCO	United nations Education scientific and Cultral Organistion
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
US TIP	United States Trafficking in Person Report
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USN	Unique Serial Number

V

VoT	Victims of Trafficking
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Associations

W

WANEP	West African Network for Peace-building
WASH	Water , Sanitation and Hygiene
WB	World Bank
WE	Women Empowerment
WFCL	Worst Forms of Child Labour
WFP	World Food Programme
WIAD	Women in Agriculture Department
WID	Women in Development
WIFA	Women in their Fertility Ages
WILDAF	Women in Law and Development in Africa
WILDAF	Women in Law and Development in Africa
WISE	Women Initiative for Self Employment
WFCL	Worst forms of child labour
WSSD	World Summit for Sustainable Development
WWD	Women With Disabilities

Y

YEA	Youth Employment Agency
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Z

ZUTA Zonal, unit, town and area



TERMS AND DEFINITION

This compilation includes frequently used phrases and key definitions related to gender, child rights, and vulnerability concerns relevant to the ministry's operations. Although not exhaustive, we have covered many of the essential terms necessary for fulfilling the Ministry's mandate.

1. **Abandoned Child:** A child who has been left or deserted by their caregivers without any intention of returning or providing further care. This includes situations where a child is deliberately left behind by caregivers and is no longer under their protection¹.
2. **Adoption:** This is the legal process which permanently transfers all legal rights and responsibilities of being a parent from the child's birth parents to the adoptive parent².
3. **Affirmative Action:** A set of procedures designed to eliminate discrimination against members of a disadvantaged group within a culture, mainly by enhancing their priorities, visibility and interests towards a holistic development of that culture or society.
4. **Alternative Care:** Care for children who are not under the custody of their biological parents. Alternative care can be formal and informal. It includes family-based care (kinship care, foster care and adoption) and residential care³.
5. **LEAP Appeals**³: An appeal is a request by a person or a household for a review of a decision or an action taken by the Social Protection LEAP programme implementers.
6. **LEAP Beneficiary/Beneficiaries:** Individuals, families, or households who are enrolled in the Social Protection programmes and are recipients of the benefits or services under the programmes³.
7. **LEAP Benefits**³: Benefits are something tangible that is given by social protection programs to individuals, families, or households. They may be in the form of cash transfers or in-kind (such as food stamps, food rations, subsidies) or linkages to other social protection programmes³.
8. **Bonding Period:** The period of supervised placement of a child with a prospective adoptive parent to enable the Authority determine the compatibility between a particular child and the prospective adoptive parent prior to the initiation of proceedings in court for an Adoption Order⁴.

¹ Inter- Sectorial Standard Operating Procedures for Child Protection and Family Welfare

² Adoption Regulation.

³ LEAP Operational Manual.

⁴ Child Protection Case Management Standard Operating Procedures.

9. **Bullying:** The use of force, coercion, or threat, to abuse, aggressively dominate or intimidate. Such behavior is often repeated and habitual, and often marked by perceptions of an imbalance of physical or social power among those involved.
10. **Informal Care:** Unpaid care for dependent children, the elderly, ill, or disabled persons carried out by family members or others. Additionally, as per the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for case management, informal care is defined as any private arrangement in a family environment where relatives or others, acting in their individual capacity, provide ongoing or indefinite care for dependent children, the elderly, ill, or disabled individuals. The child, his/her parents, or another individual initiates a private arrangement in a family setting, where relatives or others, acting in their individual capacity, provide ongoing or indefinite care for the child, without a competent administrative body or judicial authority ordering this arrangement⁴.
11. **Care Work:** Care work involves providing care to dependent children, the elderly, the sick, and the disabled, either in care institutions or in the home of the individual in need of care. The achievement of equality between women and men intrinsically links to care policies and the provision of care services. The lack of affordable, accessible, and high-quality care services, as well as the fact that care work is not equally shared between women and men, have a direct negative impact on women's ability to participate in all aspects of social, economic, cultural, and political life.
12. **LEAP Caregiver:** Caregiver is the individual authorized to collect payment on behalf of a beneficiary on Social Protection programme. The caregiver may be a beneficiary in some cases. It can also refer to "an individual, community, or institution (including the State) with clear responsibility (by custom or by law) for the well-being of the child. It most often refers to a person with whom the child lives and who provides daily care to the child."⁵
13. **LEAP Case Management:** Case Management is a comprehensive system that provides feedback on grievances, complaints, appeals and updates. The system receives, records and resolves update requests and cases from beneficiaries, caregivers, community members, district staff, and other stakeholders.³
14. **Case Management (Child Protection):** A collaborative, multidisciplinary process promoting quality and effective outcomes through communication and the provision of

⁵Glossary Alliance CHPA , alliancecpa.org.

appropriate resources to meet an individual's needs. These processes include identification, assessment, planning, implementation, review and closure. Coordination between multiple service providers cuts across all the case management stages³

15. **LEAP Cash Out:** Cash out is when the physical cash is accessed by the beneficiary or caregiver. This takes place at the payment point via a Point of Sale device.
16. **LEAP Cash Transfers:** Money distributed to individuals, families, or households. Cash transfers are direct, regular, and predictable non-contributory cash payments that help beneficiaries to raise and smooth incomes.
17. **CEDAW:** CEDAW is Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women An International Convention adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is often described as an International Bill of Rights for women. Consisting of a Preamble and 30 Articles, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discriminatory practices. By accepting the Convention, States commit themselves to undertake a series of measures to end discrimination against women in all forms⁶
18. **Child Abuse:** Child abuse is when a parent or caregiver whether through action or failing to act, causes injury, death, emotional harm or risk of serious harm to a child. Child abuse covers neglect, negligent treatment, and any act wherein a child is hit or beaten with the hand or an implement (belts, canes etc.), kicked, shaken, or thrown, pinched or pulled by their hair, forced to stay in an uncomfortable or undignified position, or to take excessive physical exercise, burnt or faced with the threat of any of these actions as a form of discipline³
19. **Child and Family Welfare System⁷:** Child and Family Welfare System comprise of laws and policies, programmes, services, practices and structures designed to promote the well-being of children by ensuring safety and protection from harm; achieving permanency and strengthening families to care for their children successfully.
20. **Child at risk of not attending school:** A child who is unable or unwilling to attend school or is at heightened risk of interruption or discontinuation of his/her education. This includes cases of children who have dropped out of school.

⁶National Gender Policy

⁷Child and Family Welfare Policy.

21. **Child Custody:** Legal and practical relationship between a parent and his or her child, such as the right of the parent to make decisions for the child, and the parent's duty to care for the child.
22. **Child Labour**⁸: The term “child labour” is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, potential and dignity, harmful to physical and mental development; work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and/or 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. Applicability of the term depends on child’s age, the type and hours of work performed, the conditions under which it is performed and the objectives pursued by individual countries.
23. **Child Maintenance:** An ongoing periodic payment made by a parent for the financial benefit of a child following the end of a marriage or other relationship. Child maintenance cases often include other high-risk protection concerns such as neglect, which falls under child abuse cases (excluding child sexual abuse). For all such cases, a comprehensive assessment is required.
24. **Child Marriage:** A child marriage occurs when one or both of the parties involved are under the age of 18. Section 14 of the Children's Act, 1998 (Act 560) of Ghana prohibits forced marriages of children and further states that the minimum age of marriage for any kind shall be eighteen years. This provision renders any marriage contract with or among children null and void.
25. **Child Parent:** A child who is a parent and takes care of another child.
26. **Child Protection:** Child Protection seeks to guarantee the right of all children to a life free from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect.
27. **Child Sexual Abuse:** A child below the age 18 who has suffered or is at risk of suffering from sexual violence including incest, defilement, attempted defilement, or other forms of sexual violence.
28. **Child Victim of Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation:** Any child who has been abused and exploited in a manner linked to the online environment. This includes cases

⁸ Human Trafficking Act.

involving production and/or circulation of child sexual abuse material including indecent pictures and videos of children, live streaming of child sexual abuse, and sextortion of children. This covers cases of child grooming, aiding, and abetting of child grooming and cyberstalking of children for sexual purposes.

29. **Child Victim of other Online Protection Issues:** Any child who has suffered from online harassment, bullying and cyberstalking.⁹
30. **Child with Special Education Needs:** A child who has physical, mental, sensory, or intellectual impairments or who otherwise requires special attention whether in general or through specialized education⁸.
31. **Child Witness of Violence to others:** A child who has witnessed any form of violence or killing against others, including family members or close friends⁹.
32. **Child:** A child as a person below the age of 18. In line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the 1992 Fourth Republic Constitution of Ghana (article 28) and the Children's Act, 1998 (Act 560).
33. **Child-headed Household:** A child without any adult to care for him/her and who therefore assumes responsibility of head of his/her household⁹.
34. **Children in Conflict with the Law:** Children who are alleged, accused, or recognised as having committed a crime or being in contravention/infringement of the law are the focus of this typology. This typology focuses solely on cases involving offenders, not on victims of juvenile offenders. It includes children on probation, children in correctional facilities, and children released on bail by police or courts⁹.
35. **LEAP Claims:** Claims are cases relating to the LEAP payment process.
36. **Community-based Targeting of the LEAP:** A mechanism by which local communities are given discretion to determine which individuals, families, or households will be selected as beneficiaries of the LEAP program.
37. **LEAP Complaint:** Complaints are grievances about the quality or type of processes for delivering benefits and/or services. They can arise due to delays, wait times, long lines, excessive documentation requirements, program staff behaviour, public office

⁹Protection Concerns – Typology & Definitions for Case Workers and Swims Users

accommodation, lack of information about the program decisions, difficulty accessing social protection benefits and/or services, and so forth.

- 38. LEAP Compliance and Non-compliance:** Compliance refers to adherence by beneficiaries to specific co-responsibilities required for participation in Social Protection programs. Non-compliance refers to a failure to carry out said co-responsibilities.
- 39. LEAP Co-responsibilities:** Co-responsibilities entail duties that beneficiary households on Social Protection programs are expected and encouraged to discharge in order to promote and facilitate human capital development through access to other services. The role of co-responsibilities is to ensure that the LEAP beneficiary households engage in behaviors that optimize investments in the household's human capital development.
- 40. Diversion in Juvenile Justice¹⁰:** Diversion means the referral of cases of children alleged to have committed offences away from the criminal justice system with or without conditions. It is a process which seeks to avoid a first or early contact with the criminal justice system by directing children away from the formal justice system and prosecution towards community intervention and appropriate services.
- 41. LEAP Eligibility Criteria:** Factors used to determine whether an individual, family, or household is eligible (inclusion criteria) or not eligible (exclusion criteria) to participate in a program.
- 42. LEAP Eligibility:** A state in which individuals, families, or households are entitled or qualified to receive a benefit or service because they satisfy certain criteria.
- 43. Engendering:** The process of integrating gender considerations and concerns into words, actions and assessments⁶.
- 44. LEAP Enrolment:** This is a process by which targeted beneficiary households move from being identified and ranked as eligible for the programme, to being ready to receive their first programme benefits.
- 45. LEAP Error:** Error is an unintentional violation of program or benefit rules that results in the wrong information being submitted to the LEAP program, a wrong benefit amount being paid or in payment to an ineligible applicant etc.
- 46. LEAP Exit:** Exit refers to the stage in the LEAP cycle where a household is taken off the cash transfer due to death, inclusion error or voluntarily.

¹⁰ Juvenile Justice Act, 2003 (Act 653).

47. **Exploitation:** Includes at the minimum, induced prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, salary or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs¹¹.
48. **Family-based Care:** Family-based care is the alternative care of children in a family environment. Family-based care includes: i) Kinship care (living with relatives); and ii) Foster care (living in a home with a foster parent, who provides round-the-clock care – in the same capacity as a biological parent). iii) Adoption: legal responsibilities as parent of a child who is not one's biological child⁴.
49. **Female Genital Mutilation:** Female genital mutilation (FGM) also referred to Female Circumcision relates to all procedures involving partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons⁶.
50. **Feminization of Poverty:** The phenomenon in which a disproportionate number of people living in poverty are women or female-headed households. It highlights the intersection of gender and poverty and the need to address the specific challenges faced by women in poverty alleviation efforts⁶.
51. **Financial Service Provider or Payment Service Provider:** The public or private sector organization tasked with delivering the social protection program's payments, such as a bank, post office, mobile network operator. For the LEAP Programme, GhIPSS is current the Financial Service Provider.
52. **Formal care:** All alternative care in which placement has been ordered by a competent administrative body or judicial authority. Placements in residential care without the necessary authorisation are illegal⁴.
53. **Formal Justice:** refers to the State-run system for addressing legal issues, including the hierarchy of courts, law enforcement agencies, social welfare, legal aid, correctional services, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), and the Attorney General's Department.
54. **Fraud (LEAP):** Fraud occurs when a claimant deliberately makes a false statement or conceals or distorts relevant information regarding program eligibility or level of benefits on LEAP.

¹¹ Human Trafficking Act, 2005 (Act 694).

55. **Gender Analysis Matrix:** The collection of data on cultural norms and expectations of men and women in the society⁶.
56. **Gender Analysis:** Involves the collection and analysis of sex disaggregated information, examine women's and men's specific activities, conditions, needs, access to and control over resources, and access to development benefits and decision-making⁶.
57. **Gender Analytical Framework:** A tool designed to provide the basis for gender profile of a social group as it helps to collect information and carry out an analysis⁶.
58. **Gender and development:** It is an approach that focuses on interventions to address unequal gender relations which often lock women out of full participation. GDA seeks to have both women and men participate, make decisions and share benefits⁶.
59. **Gender And Sustainable Development:** Development that is pro-poor, pro-nature, pro-women, pro-men, and pro-children⁶.
60. **Gender Awareness:** a way of seeing a perspective, a set of insights which inform our understanding of equitable distribution of resource and the unequal gender social relations⁶.
61. **Gender Bias:** a positive or negative attitude/ practice towards either male or female⁶.
62. **Gender Division of Labour** An overall social pattern where women are allocated a set of gender roles and men given another set. This division is given on the basis of sex and not by acquired skills⁶.
63. **Gender equality:** The concept that all human beings, irrespective of their sex or gender identity, are free to develop their personal abilities and make choices without the limitations set by stereotypes, rigid gender roles, or discrimination. Gender equality means that the different behaviour, aspirations, and needs of males, females, and people of other gender identities are considered, valued, and favoured equally. It does not mean that women and men become "the same", but that the rights, responsibilities, and opportunities of individuals will not depend on whether they were born male or female⁶.
64. **Gender equity:** The process of being fair to women and men, boys and girls. To ensure fairness, measures must be taken to compensate for cumulative economic, social, and political disadvantages that prevent women and men, and boys and girls from operating on a level playing field⁶.

65. **Gender expression:** How an individual expresses a sense of being masculine, feminine, neither, or both through clothing, mannerisms, haircut, voice, and behaviour. Gender expression is not an indicator of sexual orientation⁶.
66. **Gender gaps:** The female-male disparities in socio-economic status, in access to public services and in social and political participation⁶.
67. **Gender identity:** A person's internal psychological sense of being male or female or a blend of both, or neither. One's gender identity can be the same or different from one's sex assigned at birth⁶.
68. **Gender Integration** Refers to a process of including gender perspectives and issues into a system that is not gender sensitive⁶.
69. **Gender Mainstreaming:** The process of integrating a gender perspective into all stages and aspects of policies, programs, and projects. It aims to ensure that gender considerations are systematically taken into account to promote gender equality⁶.
70. **Gender minority:** A group whose gender identity and/or expression differs from the majority of the surrounding society. It can also refer to transgender, genderqueer (including third gender), non-binary or gender-fluid⁶.
71. **Gender norms:** The often unspoken social rules that govern the attributes and behaviours that are valued and considered acceptable for males and females within a given culture or social group. Norms are learned and reinforced from childhood to adulthood through observation, instruction, positive and negative sanctioning, the media, religion, and other social institutions. At times, norms can be so pervasive that individuals mistakenly assume that they are “natural” or “ordained” and can’t be changed⁶.
72. **Gender Policy Analysis:** a systematic way of determining options and the likely outcomes, that is understanding and documenting the differences in gender roles, activities, needs, benefits and opportunities⁶.
73. **Gender Responsive Development Planning** is about both the content of the plan and process that produces the plan. It promotes transparent and participatory governance by involving a broad range of social actors, including policy-makers, parliamentarians, civil society and gender, equality experts⁶.
74. **Gender Responsive Evaluation:** means integrating gender lens into the evaluation of national policies and programmes⁶.

75. **Gender Roles:** a set of behavior, whether deliberate or unconscious, that indicates whether somebody's gender identity is male or female. It entails activities and which roles are associated with one sex or the other are preconceived via gender stereotypes⁶.
76. **Gender Sensitive Data:** These are data that reflect the proportion of a given population (male or female) in a particular development imperative. For example, proportion of men engaged in informal sector-work⁶.
77. **Gender Sensitive Indicators:** a signal that helps to measure gender-related changes in society over time and against an established baseline⁶.
78. **Gender statistics:** The collation, processing, presentation and dissemination of data with due attention to gender variables and indicators⁶.
79. **Gender system/order:** The structures, social relations, and processes that define males and females as different in socially significant ways and justify inequality on the basis of that difference. Each society creates and maintains a system where women and men are assigned different tasks, roles, and social positions. Most existing gender systems consider things deemed male/masculine superior to those deemed female/feminine⁶.
80. **Gender:** The culturally defined roles, responsibilities, attributes, and entitlements associated with being male or female in a given setting, along with the power relations between and among women and men, and boys and girls. The definition and expectations of what it means to be a woman/girl or man/boy, and sanctions for not adhering to those expectations, vary across cultures and over time, and often intersect with other factors such as race, class, age, and sexual orientation⁶.
81. **Gender-Based Violence (GBV):** Any harmful act perpetrated against an individual based on their gender or sex. It includes physical, sexual, emotional, and economic abuse, as well as coercion and control. GBV is a widespread human rights violation and a barrier to development and gender equality¹².
82. **LEAP Graduation :** Graduation refers to the stage in the LEAP cycle where a household is taken off the cash transfer due to their overcoming the condition of extreme poverty as a result of sustainable independence through increased income generation capacity.

¹²Domestic Violence Policy, 2007

83. **LEAP Grievance** : Grievances refer to two distinct categories: (i) complaints, and (ii) appeals, and any other feedback from the general population, the intended population, registrants, applicants, beneficiaries, or other stakeholders of the social protection program.
84. **LEAP Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)**: Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) is a formalized way to accept, sort, assess, and resolve complaints, appeals and complaints from the program beneficiaries and other stakeholders. The GRM comprises of a set of institutional structures, mandated rules, procedures and processes through which complaints, appeals, and queries about the social protection program(s) are resolved. This is referred to as Case Management in LEAP.
85. **Guardian Ad-Litem**: A person identified by an adoptive parent as a guardian for an adopted child in the event of incapacitation of the adoptive parent.
86. **Household**: Members of the same family unit sharing a common income/expenditure pot.
87. **In-Country Adoption**: This means an adoption where both the applicant and the child habitually reside in Ghana.
88. **Inter-Country Adoption**: This is an adoption of a child by a person who is not ordinarily resident in the country of the child and intends to reside in his/her home country with the child after the grant of the adoption order.
89. **Intersectionality**: The concept that individuals' experiences of oppression and privilege are shaped by the intersection of multiple social identities, such as gender, race, class, sexuality, and disability.
90. **Justice for Children System** refers to the system proposed in this policy for addressing legal issues affecting children and encompasses community justice interventions, as well as formal justice interventions by law enforcement agencies, vii juvenile courts, family tribunals, social welfare, legal aid, correctional services, CHRAJ, and the Attorney General's Department.
91. **Justice for Children System**: refers to the system proposed in this policy for addressing legal issues affecting children and encompasses community justice interventions, as well as formal justice interventions by law enforcement agencies, juvenile courts, family tribunals, social welfare, legal aid, correctional services, CHRAJ, and the Attorney General's Department Juvenile.

92. **Juvenile Offender:** A child below the age of 18 years who has been accused or found guilty of an offence, act of vandalism, or anti-social behaviour¹⁰.
93. **Kinship care:** Family-based care within the child's extended family.
94. **Linkages:** Linkages under Social Protection is a system that would offer a framework within which all sectors playing a role in meeting the needs of vulnerable people are required to communicate and act together, so that the dynamic, multidimensional and complex nature of their vulnerabilities are met.
95. **Matching:** The process of finding an eligible prospective adoptive parent whose attributes and resources meet the specific needs of a child in need of adoption as outlined in the care plan and child study report of the child.
96. **Men's Engagement:** Men's engagement is a programmatic approach that involves men and boys a) as clients and beneficiaries, b) as partners and c) as agents of change, in actively promoting gender equality, women's empowerment and the transformation of inequitable definitions of masculinity. In the health context, this comprises engaging men and boys in addressing their own, and supporting their partners' reproductive, sexual and other health needs. Men's engagement also includes broader efforts to promote equality with respect to caregiving, fatherhood, and division of labor, and ending gender-based violence.
97. **Mental Illness:** Person who has a mental or psychological condition which impacts on daily functioning. This includes both persons formally diagnosed, and persons suspected of having a mental illness. Characteristics of this category include obviously confused thinking; disorientation in time, place, or person; marked inattention; obvious loss of contact with reality; clearly peculiar behaviour and severe withdrawal, anxiety, or depression such that daily functioning is affected. Mental illness also includes risk of harm to self or others.
98. **Migrant Smuggling:** Any act committed towards procuring the illegal entry of a person into a country of which that person is not a national or a permanent resident, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, financial or other material benefits as reward.
99. **Minor Offence:** "includes offences such as petty theft, petty assault and threatening¹⁰

100. **Missing Child:** A child who is lost or whose whereabouts are unknown to their caregivers. This category includes children who have run away, been abducted, or otherwise gone missing.
101. **Outreach:** Deliberate efforts to reach and inform intended populations and vulnerable groups about social protection programs and delivery systems in ways that they will comprehend so that they are aware, informed, able, and encouraged to engage.
102. **Paradigm:** This refers to the integrated, multi-pronged approach to combatting human trafficking. The 4Ps are Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership.
103. **Payment (Social Protection Programmes):** The transfer of cash to the programme beneficiaries. It involves the process of ensuring that the correct amount is delivered to the right person using the most appropriate method on a regular basis.
104. **LEAP Payment Reconciliation:** Reconciliation is an accounting process that uses two sets of records to ensure figures are correct and in agreement. It confirms whether the money leaving an account matches the amount that's been spent and makes sure the two are balanced at the end of the recording period. For cash benefits, reconciliation confirms whether the funds transferred to the service provider match the amounts paid out to beneficiaries for that implementation cycle, and identifies any amounts not disbursed.
105. **Persons with disability:** An individual with a physical, mental or sensory impairment including a visual, hearing or speech functional disability which gives rise to physical, cultural or social barriers that substantially limits one more of the major life activities of that individual¹³
106. **Placement:** The official handing over of an adoptable child to a prospective adoptive parent for a bonding period and subsequent processes leading to the grant of an adoption order and also into a foster care, alternative family-based care arrangements.
107. **Primary protection concern:** Refers to broad case categories. This is selected based on the context and overarching nature of the case (e.g. Sexual and Gender-based Violence). Each case can have only one primary protection concern.
108. **Probation Officer:** An officer from the Department of Social Development/Community Development trained and appointed to investigate and report on and supervise the conduct of committed offenders on probation.

¹³ Persons with Disability Act 2006, (Act 715).

109. **Probation:** is the release of an offender from detention, subject to a period of good behaviour under supervision.
110. **Prospective Adoptive Parent:** Refers to a person who has declared their intention to adopt a child through an application form and is going through the adoption process.
111. **Proxy Means Test:** A process used to assess a family's socio-economic status using a composite measure that calculates a weighted score based on observable household characteristics, such as demographic structures, education levels, location and quality of the household's dwelling, ownership of durable goods and other assets. The PMT is questionnaire that is used to collect information on observable demographic characteristics and physical assets of a household to estimate a poverty score for each household, and is used to assess whether the household qualifies for LEAP.
112. **LEAP Reassessment:** is the process of reviewing/evaluating the poverty status of all households on the LEAP programme by obtaining an updated poverty score for the LEAP households. It will determine which LEAP households are eligible to exit, remain or graduate from the programme.
113. **LEAP Recertification:** Recertification is the process of re-admitting or re-enrolling households that have been reassessed and confirmed to still be eligible to receive LEAP benefits.
114. **Restrictive Gender Norms:** Are those that permit only a narrow range of gender expressions and/or behaviours as acceptable for men and women. Individuals who do not conform to prevailing gender norms may experience sanctions.
115. **Reintegration:** "The process of a separated child making what is anticipated to be a permanent transition back to his or her family and community (usually of origin), in order to receive protection and care and to find a sense of belonging and purpose in all spheres of life⁴.
116. **Reunification:** Reunification refers only to the physical return of the child to the family⁴.
117. **Residential Care:** Residential Care is care provided for children in any non-family-based group setting, such as shelters for emergency care, transit centres in emergency situations, and all other short- and long-term residential care facilities, including group homes⁴.

118. **Secondary Protection Concerns:** Refer to specific violations (e.g. child sexual abuse, female genital mutilation, child maintenance, etc.). As a single case may present multiple and/or intersecting violations, each case can have one or more secondary protection concerns. A maximum of five secondary protection concerns can be assigned to one case.
119. **Separated Child:** A child who is separated from their primary caregivers (e.g., parents) but may still be in the care of other relatives or adults who are not their legal guardians. This category includes children who are not with their immediate family but are under the care of extended family members or other adults.
120. **Serious Offence:** “includes offences such as robbery, rape, defilement and murder”¹⁰.
121. **Sex Trafficking:** The term “sex trafficking” means the recruitment, harbouring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act¹⁴.
122. **Sex:** A person's biological status as male, female, or intersex (a person who is born with sexual anatomy or chromosomes that do not conform to what typically distinguishes male from female). There are a number of indicators of biological sex, including sex chromosomes, hormones, internal reproductive organs, and external genitalia.
123. **Sexual Orientation:** Sexual orientation refers to an enduring pattern of emotional, romantic and/or sexual attraction to men, women, or both sexes. It is separate from gender identity or how a person chooses to display gender through their appearance, dress, and actions.
124. **Social Protection Basket:** Consist of five (5) on-going flagship programmes with the potential for high impacts. These programmes are Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Programme, National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), Labour Intensive Public Works (LIPW), Basic Schools Capitation Grant and Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP).
125. **Social Protection Floor:** Ghana’s SP Floors, seeks to cater for the entire life cycle of our existence, fill Social Protection gaps and strategically balance social assistance, social security and productive inclusion. This are mainly done through; Access to basic

¹⁴Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000.

essential health care for all; Minimum income security to access the basic needs of life for children; Minimum income security for people of working age; and Minimum income security for older persons.

126. **Social Protection:** Social protection is a national system of policies and programmes that aim to prevent, reduce and mitigate vulnerability and persistent poverty. Such a system is commonly made up of social transfers, social insurance, and programmes that promote access to social services.
127. **Social Welfare Officer:** A social worker working with the Department of Social Development under the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection or a Social Welfare and Community Development Officer/ Social Development Officer working under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development with the responsibility of social welfare, health, child welfare or gender or women's affairs.
128. **Targeting:** This is the process of identifying the beneficiaries for Social Protection programme. It involves using a set of criteria to select geographic locations (region, district and community) and screening of households within the selected communities to arrive at the qualifying households.
129. **Trafficking:** Shall also include Placement for sale, bonded placement, temporary placement, placement as service where exploitation by someone else is the motivating factor¹¹.
130. **Transgender:** An umbrella term for persons whose gender identity, gender expression, or behaviour does not conform to that typically associated with the sex to which they were assigned at birth.
131. **Unconditional Cash Transfers:** That is when programs provide cash transfer benefits to individuals, families, or households without imposing any conditions on the beneficiaries.
132. **Unaccompanied Child:** A child who is in a situation of migration or other circumstances and is separated from both parents and other relatives. This child is not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so, leaving them entirely without adult supervision or protection

133. **Welfare:** The Policy defines welfare as guaranteeing the availability of the basic necessities of life as well as minimising the levels of violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect.
134. **Well-being:** Well-being is a general term for the condition of an individual or group, for example, their social, economic, psychological, spiritual, mental or physical state. It relates to the state of being happy, healthy or prosperous.
135. **Women's Empowerment:** The process of increasing women's ability to participate in decision-making, access resources, and control their own lives. It involves challenging gender norms and structures that limit women's opportunities and agency.



LAWS, POLICIES, INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND CONVENTIONS

Ghana has developed several national laws and policies and ratified international agreements and conventions to strengthen the legal and policy framework for gender equality, the protection of vulnerable populations, child and family welfare, and poverty reduction. Additionally, there are national action plans, standard operating procedures, guidelines, and manuals for implementing child rights programs. This section lists the instruments currently in force in the country

Laws/Regulations

Name/Title	Year
Adoption Regulations L.I. 2360	2018
Adoption Rules, 2003 (CI.42)	2003
Beggars and Destitutes Act, 1969 (N.L.C.D. 392)	1969
Births and Deaths Registration Act of 1965, (Act 301)	1965
Criminal Code (Amendment) Act, 2007	2007
Criminal Offences (Amendment) Act, 2012 (Act 849)	2012
Cyber Security Act 2020 (ACT 1038) – child online protection related provisions	2020
Foster Care Regulations L.I. 2361	2018
Human Trafficking Act, 2005 (Act 694)	2005
Human Trafficking Prohibition Regulation, 2015 (LI 2219)	2015
Juvenile Justice Act (Act 653), 2003	2003
Legislative Instrument (LI) on Domestic Violence Act 732	2016
Person With Disability Act, 2006 (Act 715)	2006
Pre-Tertiary Education Act 2020 (ACT 1049)	2020
The 1992 Constitution of Ghana	1992
The Children's Act (Act 560), 1998	1998
The Domestic Violence Act, 2007 (Act 732)	2007
The Education Act, 2008 (Act 778)	2008
The Ghana National Commission On Children (Repealed) Act, 2006 (Act 701)	2006
The Intestate Succession Law of 1985	1985
The Labour Act, 2003 (Act 651)	2003
The Registration of Births and Deaths Act 2020 (ACT 1027)	2020
Source: RSIM, 2024	

Policies

Name	Year
Adolescent Reproductive Health Policy	2000
Capitation Grant	2005
Child and Family Welfare Policy	2015
Child Labour Policy	2006
Early Childhood Care and Development Policy	2004
Early Childhood Care and Development Policy (Revised)	Ongoing
Free Mass Transit Ride for School Children	2009
Free School Uniform and Exercise Book Programme/Policy	2009
Free Senior High School Policy	2017
Health Sector Gender Policy	2009
ICT in Education Policy	2008
Inclusive Education (IE) Policy	2016
Justice for Children Policy	2016
National Aging Policy	2010
National Disability Policy	2000
National Domestic Violence Policy	2007
National Employment Policy	2012
National Gender Policy	2015
National HIV/AIDS, STI Policy	2013
National Human Resource Development Policy	2011
National Neo-natal Health Care Strategy	2014
National Policy and Plan of Action on Domestic Violence	2009
National Policy Guidelines on Orphans and Other Children made Vulnerable by HIV/AIDS	2005
National School Feeding Policy	2015
National Social Protection Policy	2016
National Youth Policy 2022-2032	2022
Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Policy	2016
Tertiary Education Policy	2012
Under-5 Child Health Policy	2007
Source: RSIM, 2024	

National Plan of Actions, Strategic Plans, Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs), Guidelines and Regulations

Name	Year
Case Management Standard Operating Procedures for children in need of care and protection – MoGCSP	2020
Five Year Strategic Plan for Department of community Development – MLGDRD (2019-2023)	2019
Five-year Strategic Plan for Department of Social Welfare – MoGCSP (2019-2023)	2019
Foster Care Operational Manual – MoGCSP	2018
Foster Parent Training Manual – MoGCSP	2018
Gender-Based Training Manual for judicial service – Judicial Service	2019
Guidelines for the Prevention of Pregnancies Among School Girls And Facilitation of reentry into School After childbirth –MoE	2018
Inter-sectoral SOPs for the child protection and Family Welfare - MoGCSP	2020
National Plan of Action for elimination of Human Trafficking in Ghana	2017
National Plan of Action Phase II For The Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour in Ghana - MoELR (2017-2021)	2017
National Standards for Residential Homes for Children - MoGCSP	2018
National strategic Framework to end child marriage in Ghana and its operational plans – MoGCSP (2017-2026)	2017
Five Years National Strategic Plan to end adolescent pregnancies – MoGCSP (2018-2022)	2018
Social Welfare Service Workforce Capacity Assessment and Capacity Building Strategy – MoGCSP	2020
Standard Operating Procedures for handling the cases of child victims, witnesses and offenders – Ghana Police Service	2016
Standard Operating Procedures for inspection, licensing and monitoring Residential Homes for Children – MoGCSP	2018
The Guidelines for Deinstitutionalization of Residential Homes for Children- MoGCSP	2020
The National Standards for Foster Care – MoGCSP	2020
Source: RSIM, 2024	

List of International Agreements and Conventions

No	Name	Brief Description	Specific Obligations	Date Ratified	Status
1	Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957	Adopted in 1957 as a supplementary to the Forced Labour Convention	To suppress the use of forced labour in all its forms	15 th December, 1958	In force
2	Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957	Supplements the 1930 Convention to further suppress forced labor.	Abolish forced labor.	17 th June, 1958	In force
3	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child-0003 (ACRWC)	The ACRWC was adopted by the AU in 1990 and was entered into force in 1999. It also sets out rights and defines universal principles and norms for the status of children in Africa	Calls for the creation of an African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child to promote and protect the rights established by the ACRWC.	15 th July, 2005	In force
4	Budapest Convention on Cyber Crimes by the Council of Europe	Adopted in 2001 as a common criminal policy aimed at the protection of society against cybercrime, inter alia, by adopting appropriate legislation and fostering international cooperation	To promote international cooperation related to cyber-crimes including crimes against children especially child online sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA)	1 st April 2019	In force
5	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	Text of the Convention was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10/12/1984 and came into force on 26/06/1987	Requires parties to take effective measures to prevent torture in any territory under their jurisdiction	7 th September, 2000	In force
6	Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances	Text was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 20/12/2006 and entered into force on 23/12/2010	Required to ensure the protection of all Persons from enforced disappearances	N/A	Signed, Not in force
7	Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption	Adopted in 1993 to find appropriate measures to enable the children to remain in the care of family of origin and provide common provisions to this effect, taking into account the principles set forth in international instruments, in particular the United	To promote family-based care and enable children to remain with their biological families	1 st January 2017	In force

No	Name	Brief Description	Specific Obligations	Date Ratified	Status
		Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, of 20 November 1989, and the United Nations Declaration on Social and Legal Principles relating to the Protection and Welfare of Children, with Special Reference to Foster Placement and Adoption Nationally and Internationally (General Assembly Resolution 41/85, of 3 December 1986),			
8	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), 1979	Promotes the elimination of discrimination against women.	Periodically report to the Committee on CEDAW.	2nd January 1986	In force
9	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	The Convention was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 13/12/2006 and opened for signature on 30/03/2007	Promote, protect and ensure the full enjoyment of human rights by people with disabilities	31 st July, 2012	In force
10	Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	Was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 20/11/89 and it sets out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to.	Report to and appear before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child periodically on the progress with regards to the advancement of the Convention in the country.	5 th February, 1990	In force
11	Convention relating to the Status of Refugees	A UN Multilateral treaty that defines the status of refugees. Was opened for signature in 28/07/1951	Required to enforce the rights of individuals who are granted asylum.	18 th March, 1963	In force
12	Forced Labour Convention, 1930	Adopted in Geneva on 28/06/1930 and entered into force on 01/05/1932	To suppress the use of forced labour in all its forms	20 th May, 1957	In force
13	Minimum Age Convention, 1973	Was adopted by ILO in 1973 and came into force in 19/06/1976. It replaces several similar ILO Conventions in specific field of labour	Required to pursue a national policy designed to ensure the effective abolition of child labour	6 th June, 2011	In force
14	Optional Protocol on the Convention Against Torture	A Treaty that supplements the 1984 Convention Against	Strengthen the protection of people deprived of their liberty	23 rd September, 2016	In force

No	Name	Brief Description	Specific Obligations	Date Ratified	Status
		Torture. Adopted on 18/12/2002 and came into force on 22/06/2006			
15	Optional Protocol on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Adopted on 13/12/2005 and opened for signature on 30/03/2007	Recognize the competence of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to consider complaints from individuals	31 st July, 2012	In force
16	Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees	Opened for signature on 31/01/1967 and entered into force on 04/10/1967. Removed restrictions created by the Convention relating to Refugee Status	Required to enforce the rights of individuals who are granted asylum.	30 th October, 1968	In force
17	Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking Persons Especially Women and Children	Was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 15/11/2000 and came into force on 25/12/2003	Parties are obliged to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, protecting and assisting victims of trafficking	21 st August, 2012	In force
18	Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, 2003	Protects the rights of women in Africa.	Implement policies to protect women's rights.	13th June 2007	In force
19	The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), 1981	Promotes and protects human rights in Africa	Establish and promote mechanisms for human rights protection.		
20	The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995	Global framework for gender equality and women's empowerment.	Implement measures to achieve gender equality	N/A	Adopted
21	The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2007	Protects the rights of indigenous peoples	Recognize and protect the rights of indigenous peoples.	N/A	Adopted
22	The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Declaration, 1994	Promotes reproductive rights, women's empowerment, and sustainable development	Implement policies related to population and development	N/A	Adopted
23	The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW OP), 1999	Allows individual complaints to be submitted to the Committee on CEDAW.	Recognize the competence of the Committee to consider complaints	Signed on 24th February 2000	Signed

No	Name	Brief Description	Specific Obligations	Date Ratified	Status
24	The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict	Was adopted by the UN General Assembly as a supplementary protocol to the CRC by resolution 54/263 on 5 th May 2000 and came into force on 12 th Feb. 2002.	Report to and appear before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child periodically on the progress with regards to the advancement of the Convention in the country.	9 th December, 2014	In force
25	The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	Protocol was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2000 and entered into force in 18 th January, 2002	Requires parties to prohibit the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	N/A	Signed
26	UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace, and Security	Focuses on women's participation in peace processes and protection from violence.	Implement measures to ensure women's participation in peace processes.	N/A	Implemented
27	Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948	Sets fundamental human rights to be universally protected.	Promote and protect human rights.	N/A	Adopted
28	Vienna Declaration on Human Rights, 1993	Reinforces the universality and indivisibility of human rights	Commit to human rights promotion.	N/A	Adopted
29	Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999	Was adopted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in 1999 and came into force on 19/11/2000	Obligated to take immediate action to prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labour	13 th June, 2000	In force
Source: RSIM, 2024					

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