



Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection News

► JANUARY - DECEMBER 2020

Issue #1

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HON. CYNTHIA MAMLE MORRISON

Message from the Hon. Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection

Today, we are pleased to launch the very maiden edition of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection's Newsletter, dubbed "MoGCSP News".

As you are aware, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) of Ghana was created in January, 2013 by the Executive Instrument (E.1.1) as a successor to the Ministry of Woman (Women) and Children Affairs (MoWAC). The primary objective for its establishment was to have a Ministry

responsible for Policy Formulation, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation of Gender, Children and Social Protection issues within the context of national development agenda.

Launching the Ministry's newsletter today serves as an opportunity for both our internal and external stakeholders to be abreast with the mandate of the Ministry and programmes and activities being implemented in the achievement of the mandate. The development of MoGCSP newsletter would be a quarterly event to ensure key stakeholders effectively track the Ministry's progress to keep the Ministry on its toes.

As we have all experienced, 2020 has been one extra-ordinary year with the potential to distort any workplan, calendar of events, activities and programmes. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the inequalities that exist in our societies with particular emphasis on the heightened vulnerabilities of the aged, the poor and has also further threatened our achievement of gender equality in all economies. A special response was instituted to address the prevailing needs of the most vulnerable persons in the Ghanaian society.

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection under the instruction of H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo provided three-square meals for about 470,000 vulnerable persons in Greater Accra and Greater Kumasi during the lockdown period. Again, monthly cash grants allocated to LEAP beneficiaries were also increased during the period to ensure that no one was left behind in the fight against the deadly COVID-19 virus.

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Again the survival of all children in Ghana is at the heart of the President of the Republic of Ghana who directed the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) to distribute of One Hot Nutritious Meal to all final year JHS students in both public and private schools. This intervention fed 584,000 students and 146,000 staff in 17,440 Junior High public and private schools nationwide as a measure to restrict movement of school children and curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The level of compliance among children, parents and teachers was very encouraging.

I wish to congratulate Ghanaians for the peaceful participation in the just ended free and fair December 2020 elections amidst the pandemic and giving H.E the President of the Republic of Ghana a second term in Office. Once again Ghana emerged victorious.

2021 gives us hope that with the help of the Almighty God, we look forward to a brighter year full of opportunities, strategies and programmes that will promote gender equality and equity, ensure a conducive environment for the promotion and the protection of the rights of Children, the vulnerable and the excluded in our society.

God bless our homeland Ghana and make our nation great and strong.



From left to right: Mrs. Vida Ntow, Ghana Education Service; Hon. Cynthia Mamle Morrison, Minister, MoGCSP; Dr. Afisah Zakariah, Chief Dir., MoGCSP; Mrs Florence Ayisi Quarley, Ag. Dir., Department of Children

The Department of Children under the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) joined the rest of Africa to celebrate Day of the African Child (DAC) on 16th June, 2020 in commemoration of the 16th June uprising in Soweto, South Africa where students who marched in protest against apartheid regime for a better education were murdered.

The event took place at the Ministry of Information's press center under the theme, "Access to Child – Friendly Justice System in Ghana". The celebration also coincided with the 30th anniversary of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child which aims at promoting and protecting the rights of children in Africa.

Speaking at the event, Madam Anne – Claire Duffay, the country representative of UNICEF commended the Government of Ghana for her efforts in containing the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic. She stated that UNICEF has been working closely with the Judicial Service, the Ghana Police Service and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to fight injustice against children in Ghana. This, she noted, has resulted in the establishment of the a child friendly court which also addresses issues of Gender Based Violence (GBV).



Mad. Anne – Claire Dufay, the Country Representative of UNICEF, Ghana, addressing participants at the event

The Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection, Hon. Cynthia Mamle Morrison said the Day of the African Child presents a unique opportunity for Africa to focus on critical challenges facing children in the continent.

She advised the public to treat children who seek justice in a child sensitive manner, by recognizing their vulnerabilities and ensuring that they are addressed in a manner that will not make them feel discriminated against.

Hon. Cynthia Mamle Morrison also said the introduction of Justice for Children policy in 2016 marks the landmark change in Ghana's justice system with an overall goal to improve access to justice for children in line with the acceptable status, values and beliefs of formal justice system.

In her concluding statement, the Hon. Minister pledged on behalf of the Ministry to do her best to ensure an enabling legal and policy environment that will protect the children of Ghana.



Cynthia Mamle Morrison, Minister, MoGCSP, addressing participants at the Event

Other speakers at the events include Madam Esi Oforiwaah Amanful from the Ghana Health Service, and Kofi Atimbire Chief Inspector of the Accra Regional DOVVSU Office of the Ghana Police Service. Madam Amanful briefed participants on the impact of COVID 19 on children while Inspector Atimbire bemoaned the difficulty his outfit faces in gathering evidence to

support successful prosecution of child abuse cases in court. This, he indicated, often makes it difficult for prosecutors to find justice for victims of child abuse in Ghana.

Compiled by: Department of Children

(Source, DOC Report and MoGCSP Website)

CAMFED PARTNERS MINISTRY OF GENDER , CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION TO MARK INTERNATIONAL WOMEN DAY IN ACCRA

The Department of Gender under the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in collaboration with CAMFED Ghana organized a Dinner and Awards ceremony at the Accra Digital Centre on Sunday 8th March, 2020 to mark International Women's Day. The well patronized event was organized under the theme: " I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights". The event was to celebrate women and young girls, recognize their hard work towards building a free fair and just society and sustainable development. The event also recognized and awarded key individuals and deserving media houses for their contributions towards the attainment of gender equality and women empowerment in Ghana.

In a keynote address, the Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection Hon. Cynthia Mamle Morrison described the event as timely since it forms part of the Ministry's resolve to motivate and honour deserving individuals, institutions and media houses who have contributed to the mandate of the Ministry to achieve gender equality in Ghana.

She congratulated all media houses around the world especially, those in Ghana who are using their platforms to promote and educate the public on women's rights and empowerment issues. The Hon. Minister also assured the gathering that her Ministry will soon award other deserving media houses who are not part of this category at another event. She said the success stories of these young ladies being honoured today will make the development of the strategic plan a necessary tool to complement other policies and interventions to position adolescent sexual and reproductive health issues within a broader context in national agenda.

Madam Pearl Nikki Quarayne, the National Vice Chairperson for CAMFED Association Ghana, said CAMFED Association is a Peer Support Network, a Framework for Young Women's Activism and a Platform for Young Women's Leadership in Ghana. She said membership of the Association currently stands at 32,663 and it operates in 31 districts and 28 Chapters across

the country. She mentioned advocacy on socio-cultural barriers to young women empowerment, support for children's education, protection, safety and philanthropy as some of the activities the association has been carrying out in Ghana. The national vice chair for CAMFED acknowledged the presence and support of their partners including the MasterCard Foundation, Cummins Ghana, the Girls Education Unit and the National Board for Small Scale Industries at the ceremony. According to her these organizations have supported them over the years and that CAMFED will continue to work with them to realize women's rights Ghana.

The Chief Director of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Dr. Afisah Zakariah congratulated the award winners and encouraged them to be role models and mentors to other young women and girls and be examples to shape the future of the next generation.

There were some solidarity messages from Development Partners, The MasterCard Foundation, Girls Education Unit and Nana OtuaOwusu1.

There was also a Panel discussion on the topic: "Contemporary Challenges Inhibiting the Rights of Women: Strategies for Realizing Women's Rights" which was moderated by Wendy Laryea a broadcast journalist with TV3.

The Director for the Department of Gender, Rev. Dr. Comfort Asare who presented the awards to deserving media houses and individuals called on other young girls and media houses to strive for success no matter the circumstance they find themselves.

Eleven Media houses including Ghanaian Times, Ghana News Agency, Kantaka TV, Daily Graphic, TV3, Citi TV, Atinka TV, GBC, Uniq Fm, TV Africa and Star Fm were awarded namely. Other awardees at the event were Madam Eugenia Bassaw, Madam Abigail Amankwah, Miss TeniAgana, Miss Hannah Quainoo and Madam Mariama Mahama.

Prior to the award ceremony, the Odogono Senior High School was crowned the champion of this year's International Women's Day Inter-Schools Debate which was on the topic, "Long Walk to Women's Right, an Equal World is an

Enabled". The debate was fiercely contested by four popular schools namely; Orielly SHS, Odogono SHS, Presec and Accra Westly girls SHS.

A maiden cooking competition was also held among men on 27th February, 2020 at the

MoGCSP and Partners engages paralegals on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, in partnership with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Ghana organized a refresher training workshop for paralegals at Agbobboshie and Madina Market centres in the Greater Accra Region. The workshop sought to enhance existing knowledge on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), share



A resource person from the International Women Federation of Lawyers (FIDA-Ghana) in the person of Mad. Afua Addotey educated paralegals on the laws that pertain to issues of sexual and gender-based violence, ways that they can adapt to handle SGBV cases and how a protection order can be filled for an SGBV victim.

She noted that in the wake

of COVID-19 pandemic, women and girls have been put at higher risk of experiencing intimate partner violence and other forms of domestic violence due to heightened tensions in the household. She called on the paralegals to improve on their response rate in order to help curb the SGBV issues during the pandemic.



Participants at the workshop pointed to unwillingness of some SGBV victims to pursue cases and inadequate response centres to handle SGBV cases as some of the challenges militating against successful handling of SGBV issues in the country.

As part of measures to address the above listed

challenges, the Domestic Violence Secretariat of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection has resolved to establish more rapid response centres as a reporting channel at various markets across the country. These centres are expected to help realise the Ministry's vision of promoting a domestic violence free society and a strong family cohesion which will contribute effectively towards national development.

GNHR Makes Steady Progress on Data Collection Exercise

The Ghana National Household Registry (GNHR) is making steady progress in compiling a single national household register on the poor and vulnerable. This will serve as a measure for targeting beneficiaries of social protection programmes.

The GNHR successfully completed data collection on households in the Upper West and Upper East Region in 2016 and 2018 respectively. At the end of the first phase of data collection, the GNHR successfully registered 137,565 households in the Upper West Region. Of this, Sixty-six percent (66%) were categorized as extreme poor, 18% as poor and the remaining 16% as non-poor households.

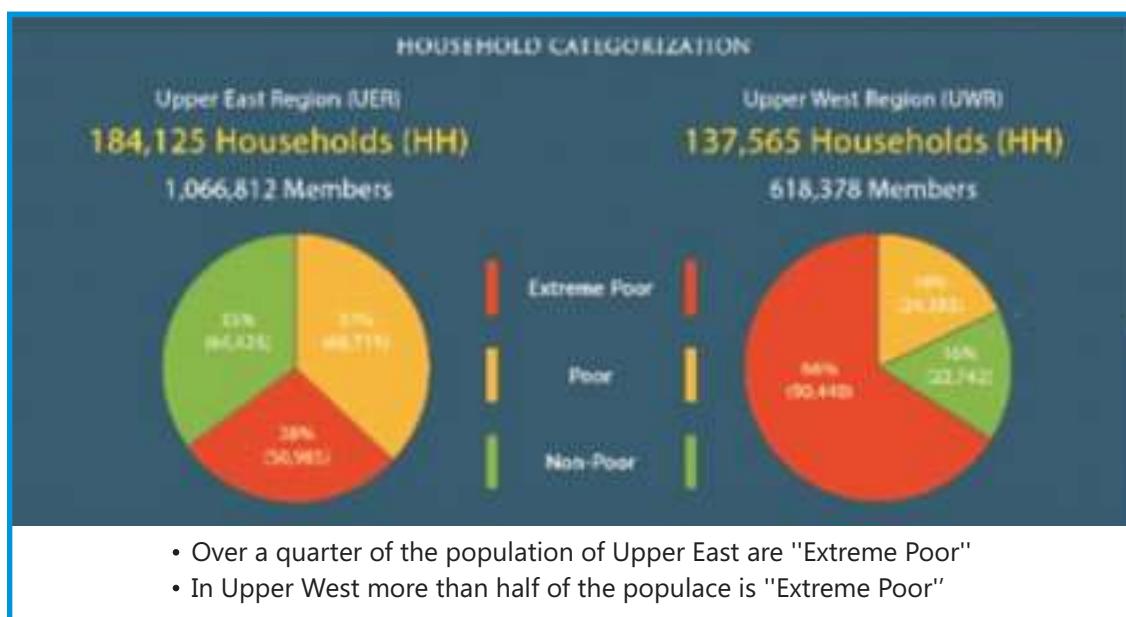
In the Upper East region, which was the second phase, 184,125 households were successfully registered. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of these

households were categorized as extreme poor, 37% as poor and 35% as non-poor households.

Currently, the GNHR has started field activities to collect data in North East, Savannah and Northern regions. The Registry is practicing the Covid-19 safety protocols in conducting the exercise to ensure the health and safety of all people involved in the exercise. Similar exercises would be carried out in the Central and Volta regions by the end of December 2020.

The data covers various dimensions including education, health, agriculture among others. State programs and institutions such as the Ghana School Feeding Program, the National Health Insurance, Capitation Grants, NGOs among others use the GNHR data as criteria for the implementation of social intervention programs.

The GNHR data collection exercise is funded by the World Bank and Department for International Development, United Kingdom.



Emergency Data Collection in Greater Accra Region

Earlier this year, the GNHR carried out emergency data collection of the poor and vulnerable in the Greater Accra Region. The exercise was part of measures taken by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to update its data in Accra as it was assumed that the coronavirus pandemic might have rendered many more people vulnerable.

Registered households and individuals would be categorized into poor and non-poor households after which social intervention criteria would be used to determine beneficiaries for social protection.

The GNHR provided field staff with critical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and briefed them on the need to observe social distancing protocols to safeguard the health and safety of all participants in the exercise.



GNHR enumerators ready to be deployed to undertake data collection in selected Hotspots in Accra



Kayayee at Tema Station being registered during the GNHR emergency Data Collection exercise



A vulnerable household in Accra share challenges the corona virus pandemic presented while they are registered

Making Giant Strides -Achieving Quality Education through School Feeding

School feeding programs have been defined by the World Bank as "targeted social safety nets that provide both educational and health benefits to the most vulnerable children, thereby increasing enrollment rates, reducing absenteeism, malnutrition and improving food security at the household level".

In 2005, the Government of Ghana as part of its measure to ensure that school children went to school and stayed in school, piloted the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP) in selected

districts across the then ten regions of the country.

Later in 2007, the first four-year phase of the programme was launched with nationwide coverage in all districts with the goal of reducing poverty and promoting food security as well as offer employment to other incidental beneficiaries such as caterers and cooks.

In the short-term, the GSFP was expected to address multiple objectives across the agricultural, educational and health sectors targeting children and small-scale farmers and their families as the primary beneficiaries.

The Success stories

Headed by its National Coordinator, Dr Mrs Gertrude Quashigah, the programme today feeds about Three Million (3,000,000) beneficiary pupils in primary and KG schools in all the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) with one hot nutritious meal every school going day and has also created over 35,053 direct jobs through the engagement of caterers and cooks.



ONE HOT MEAL FOR BENEFICIARY PEOPLE

To ensure that the children benefit from the full nutritional benefits that they need in a day, the GSFP is currently undertaking an innovative nutrition practical training for caterers and cooks to enhance the use of alternative sources of protein and local food stuff including "Gari Fortor" in the preparation of meals for children. So far, 15,872 caterers and cooks in eleven regions out of the estimated 30,000 caterers and cooks in all 16 regions have been trained.

The training covered health and nutrition, food safety and menu development using the school meal planner software for desk officers, nutrition and SHEP officers and is expected to continue in the rest of the 8 regions in 2020.



REVIEW ENGAGEMENT WITH CATERERS IN ALL REGIONS

After a decade and half of the implementation of the programme the GSFP has undertaken a review engagement with caterers to address the school feeding programme in all regions. So far, the exercise has been successful.

Since January this year, government has started the distribution of food items to caterers under the programme. The rationale behind the food supply is to ultimately relieve the caterers from the huge financial burden involved in pre-financing or procuring food items for the preparation of meals for the school children.

The items include rice, cooking oil, tinned tomatoes and texturized Soy Protein sourced from

local farmers through the National Buffer Stock Company Limited.

To ensure that the GSFP received a reliable and predictable core public financing, secured relevant legal and institutional support, achieved robust institutional arrangements and facilitated programme management, a draft GSFP Bill is being finalised for submission to the Attorney General's Department.

The GSFP is also currently into partnership talks with the Agricultural Development Bank to support its payment system to caterers by providing full banking services to ensure that caterers are paid on time.

To scale-up a pilot-payment system, an audit into the payment of services and data analysis had been conducted and this is to ensure a long-lasting and sustainable approach towards achieving a clean financial management of the programmes payment structure.

To help enhance effective communications at all levels, the GSFP has also built a new website www.schoolfeeding.gov.gh.

In March this year, the GSFP joined other countries to celebrate the African Day of School Feeding. Ghana marked the day at Nkonsia A & B Primary School in Wenchi, Bono Region under the theme **“One Meal, Many Benefit”**.



AFRICAN DAY OF SCHOOL FEEDING

Again, in March, the programme also joined the international community to observe the International School Meal Day at Agona Nyarkrom, in the Agona West Municipality of the Central Region on the theme **“Who Makes My Meal?”**

Both celebrations were marked with durbars and practical cooking demonstrations using locally produced food as well as presentation of exercise books and eating bowls to pupils.

We need all hands on deck

Indeed, the GSFP is making giant strides in achieving its goal and objectives. We, therefore, call on all well-meaning Ghanaians, development partners and corporate organisations to contribute their quota to help GSFP to become a major tool for reducing poverty and hunger in Ghana.

Combating Human Trafficking in Ghana: The Journey So far

Human trafficking, is the act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring, trading or receipt of persons for the purpose of exploitation within or across national borders by use of threat, force, coercion, abduction, fraud or deception for monetary gains. Victims of human trafficking, mostly women and children are subjected to forced labour, such as fishing, domestic servitude, street hawking, begging, portering, artisanal gold mining, quarrying, herding, agriculture work, including such inhumane acts as organ harvesting and sexual exploitation.

Governments, past and present, have made extensive efforts in the fight against the phenomenon. One of such major stride was the passage of the Human Trafficking Act, Act 694 that gave way for the establishment of the Human Trafficking Secretariat (HTS) and the Human Trafficking Board (HTB).

The HTS has an overall goal of facilitating the prevention and combating of trafficking cases in Ghana. In a bid to achieve its goal, the HTS has over the years continued to run programmes specifically targeted at the prevention,

protection, prosecution and partnering with stakeholders to fight human trafficking. It does this through sensitization and awareness creation in various urban and rural communities especially, in areas that have been identified as hotbeds for this crime.

HTS also coordinates all activities of Human trafficking by liaising with government agencies and organizations to promote the training of stakeholders and the rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficked persons whilst also ensuring that offenders are brought to book.

Human trafficking activities on the Volta lake is one that has gained a lot of attention even from the international media. In the light of this, the Ministry and the Human Trafficking Management Board (HTMB), in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), has recently held a one-day community engagement and sensitization durbar at Kete Krachi in the Oti Region. The durbar brought together key stakeholders in the district who were sensitized on a wide variety of human trafficking and child labour issues including counter trafficking mechanisms and preventive efforts in combatting human trafficking and child exploitation.



The team also travelled on the Volta Lake to organize similar durbars and visit nearby island communities to observe first-hand how fishing looks and feels like.

The team took the opportunity to educate and advise the fishermen desist from using children and rather hire adults to help them in their fishing activities. It is expected that these sensitization programs will help protect our children from hazardous work.



Besides these outreach programmes, the HTS works with various stakeholders and groups to ensure a greater partnership in the fight against child trafficking.

HTS currently runs two shelters which provides for the physical, emotional and psychological needs of rescued trafficked victims and ensures their functional rehabilitation and reintegration.

The government hopes to do more in the fight against human trafficking and is calling for a collaborative effort of all Ghanaians to end this heinous crime.

THE LIVELIHOOD EMPOWERMENT AGAINST POVERTY (LEAP) PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

The Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Programme is one of the flagship social protection programme of the Government of Ghana. The implementation of the LEAP programme begun in 2008 against the backdrop that despite the gains Ghana has made in socio-economic development and poverty reduction, poverty persists and its manifestation differ by gender, geography and life cycle.



to in-and-out of poverty drawing back the gains of national development and the attainment of development goals. The initiation of the LEAP Programme was national response upon the realization that the extreme poor and vulnerable segment of the population needed targeted support else they would perpetually be left out of mainstream economic development interventions or be trapped into the vicious cycle of poverty with no hope of ever escaping – partly, because their sources of livelihood either dry up too quickly or do not exist at all. The Government of Ghana could not afford to leave this segment of the population behind.

Since its inception in 2008, the programme continues to provide cash transfer to selected households. Over the years, the programme has expanded systematically from 1,654 beneficiary households in 21 districts to almost 350,000 beneficiary households (constituting about 1520841 individuals) in 2020 in all the 260 Metropolitan, Municipal and Districts Assemblies across the country. The LEAP programme aims to smoothen consumption as well as empower

extremely poor and vulnerable households consisting of the elderly (aged 65 and above) without support, orphaned and vulnerable children, persons with a severe disability who are unable to work, and extremely poor pregnant women/lactating mothers with children under a year.



The households are selected through nationwide enumeration exercises with proxy indicators to ascertain their wellbeing and poverty level. The LEAP programme has set out the following specific objectives to provide the parameters and indicators for measuring the impact of the LEAP Programme: (1) to improve basic household consumption and nutrition; (2) to improve the health and educational status of children in the poorest families; (3) to increase basic school enrolment, attendance and retention; and (4) to help the poorest families come out of their poverty situation.



Households benefiting from the LEAP programme are paid four different amounts every two months. The payment is based on the number of eligible members in that household. A beneficiary household with 1 and 2 eligible member(s) receives GHS 64.00 and GHS 76.00

respectively. Then a beneficiary household with 3 eligible members receives GHS 88.00. While beneficiary households with 4 or more eligible members receive GHS 106.00. Payment of the LEAP cash grant is done electronically through the e-zwich platform provided by the programme's payment service provider – field or community level cash-out by beneficiary households is done by participating financial institutions across the country. The participating financial institutions include commercial banks, universal banks, rural/community banks and cooperatives and reputable saving and loans companies.

Administratively, the LEAP Programme is Managed by the LEAP Management Secretariat (LMS) at the national level. The LMS has seven functional units – Management Information Systems (MIS), Operations, Payment, Monitoring and Evaluation, Case Management, Finance, Audit, and Communication. At the sub-national level, the programme is implemented by the District Social Welfare Officers with oversight from District LEAP Implementation Committee and the Regional Social Welfare Department. Within LEAP communities, the programme has community focal persons or community LEAP implementation committee members who support the implementation of programme activities. The sub-national level structures perform sensitization, mobilization, case management and monitoring and evaluation functions of the programme with respect to beneficiary households and other stakeholders.



The programme was designed with monitoring and evaluation mechanism. As result, the programme since inception has conducted routine and intermittent internal and external monitoring and impact assessment (see impact

evaluation reports – baseline (2010), mid-line (2012) and end-line (2017) conducted by the University of North Carolina in collaboration with the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research of the University of Ghana). The findings suggest that the programme positively impacts beneficiary household's nutrition, education, access to health, and increased household productivity (petty trading and agricultural productivity).

For example, in the end-line impact assessment report, it has been noted that: the LEAP programme contributed to a 12% increase in school enrolment of children of school-going age. Improved access to health care through NHIS for LEAP beneficiaries. 65% of LEAP households reported an increase in food security for their children while 62% of beneficiary households can purchase fertilizers for their farms. 63% of LEAP households have invested their accumulated grants savings into economic activities in their communities.



Some civil society organizations have interest in the affairs of the LEAP programme – thus Center for Democratic Development (CDD), Imani Centre for Policy and Education (Documentary January 2020) have also assessed the programme – their findings were consistent.

The LMS is grateful to management of the MoGCSP, Government, its Development Partners (DfID, World Bank and UNICEF) and other collaborating agencies for the increased and consistent support to the programme – together we can reduce poverty and improve the wellbeing of the poor and vulnerable in Ghana through the LEAP Programme.

Ministry of Gender , Children and Social Protection and partners to develop a mobile application for Collecting Data on Gender Based Violence



MADAM EFUA .A. ANYANFUL, THE HEAD OF RSIM (MOGCSP) SPEAKING AT THE LAUNCH OF THE MOBILE APPLICATION FOR THE COLLECTION OF DATA ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN GHANA

The Research, Statistics and Information Management Department (RSIM/D) and the Domestic Violence Secretariat of Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) in collaboration with the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH will soon develop a mobile application for the collection of data on Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Ghana.

The Mobile application dubbed, "Let's Talk" which will be made available on google play store and apple IOS for citizens to download and install, is part of measures the Ministry and its partners are putting in place to address the deficiencies in the current traditional method of collecting data on GBV at the community level across the country.

Announcing the initiative, the Director of Research, Statistics and Information Management Department (RSIM/D) of MoGCS, Madam Efua Enyanful, said the Mobile App will be piloted in Buife, Ga West, Ho and Techiman, and be used to

collect the newly introduced Citizen Generated Data (CGD) that seeks to bridge the information gaps created by the period nature of the population census and survey methods currently being used to collect GBV data.

Citizen-Generated Data is the data produced by people or their organisations to directly monitor, demand or drive change on issues that affect them. As the name suggests, it is actively given by citizens, providing direct representations of their perspectives and an alternative to datasets collected by governments or international institutions."

Madam Anyanful indicated that CGD will provide reliable supplementary data for measuring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). She further explained that, "Due to its sensitive nature, Gender-Based Violence is globally under-reported both in administrative data and in surveys. CGD will help improve the situation and increase accountability as it will provide the basis for citizens to hold authorities and service providers to account by evidencing inadequate service delivery."

On the advantages of the CGD, she said it is timely, scalable and sustainable, community based, empowers citizens, and very good for **advocacy or awareness creation**.

Efficient Social Protection Interventions in the Midst of a Pandemic: The Ghana Example

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus has brought to the fore the importance of social protection across the globe. Many governments have introduced varied social protection measures to mitigate the negative economic and social impacts the pandemic might have on their citizens.

In Ghana, government announced several measures including a partial lockdown of Greater Kumasi Metropolitan area, Greater Accra Region and its environs. To mitigate the impact of the lockdown on the citizenry, government provided some social protection relief packages. Beside government relief packages, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) put in specific measures that sought to curb the spread of the coronavirus and provide social and economic reliefs to the poor and vulnerable in the affected areas of the country.

Production and Distribution of Hand Sanitizers

One of the immediate measures the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection implemented during the COVID 19 Pandemic was to produce and distribute hand sanitizers to the poor and vulnerable groups across the country. The Chief Director of MoGCSP, Dr. Afisah Zakariah, led a team of staff to produce over 20,000 hand sanitizers and distributed them to the targeted poor and vulnerable across the country. This was complemented with the distribution of veronica buckets to these vulnerable groups.

These interventions were timely and important as the fear arising from the increasing cases of the COVID-19 and lockdown announced by the President at the time, resulted in panic buying and hikes in the prices of preventive items such as veronica buckets and hand sanitizers. It can, therefore, be said that the free distribution of these items played a critical role in curbing the spread of COVID 19 among the poor and vulnerable in Ghana.



Hon. Cynthia Morrison (third from left) and Dr. Afisah Zakariah (Right) preparing hand sanitizers at the MoGCSP premises



Dr. Afisah Zakariah (Right) leading a team of MoGCSP staff to prepare hand sanitizers at the MoGCSP Premises

Distribution of Food and Relief Items to Vulnerable Groups

The Ministry through its Social Protection Directorate also distributed food and other relief items to vulnerable groups across the country. The exercise which was led by the Director for Social Protection, Dr. Rita Owusu-Amankwah, and other top officials of the Ministry distributed both cooked and raw food items to Kayayeis, the Veterans Administration, Ghana (VAG), National Council of Persons with Disability, People Living with HIV AIDS, the aged, widows, orphanages and care homes. These donations provided some forms of support and relief to the members of these vulnerable groups during the pandemic.



Hon. Cynthia Morrison presenting a pack of food to a vulnerable boy in Accra. Looking on (in gloves) is Dr. Rita Owusu-Amankwah, Director for Social Protection



Dr. Afisah Zakariah (Middle) and. Dr. Rita Owusu- Amankwah, presenting food items to the leadership of National Council of Persons with Disability and Ghana Federation of Disability



Dr. Rita Owusu- Amankwah, the Director for Social Protection, interacting with beneficiary People with Disability after presenting food items to them



Some vulnerable persons smiling home after receiving their packs of food from the MoGCSP

Rallied Development Partners and Private Sector Support

Besides the Ministry's own efforts, the Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection with the support of the Chief Director and Director for Social Protection, rallied support of development partners, and private sector organizations to provide relief packages to the poor and vulnerable during the pandemic. Many of these organizations donated assorted food items, sanitary items, Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and other relief items which the Ministry distributed to the targeted beneficiaries in the affected areas.



Hon. Cynthia Morrison (in blue) receiving sanitary items from Atlantic Catering & Logistics LTD.



Hon. Cynthia Morrison (second from right) receiving PPEs from UNICEF for onward distribution to the poor and vulnerable

The Deputy Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection, Hon. Freda Prempeh also led a team comprising NADMO and Social Welfare Officers in the Ashanti region to provide support for children with special needs and their parents. The beneficiaries were presented with bags of rice, gari, and beans; gallons of oil, sardines, tin tomatoes and cash.



Hon. Freda Prempeh encouraging a parent of a special need child in Kumasi after presenting relief items to her.



Hon. Freda Prempeh presenting a pack of food to a vulnerable lady in Kumasi

Provision of Residential Facility for Kayayeis and Street Children

Another major measure undertaken by the MoGCSP was the provision of a temporary residential facility for Kayayeis, street children and other homeless poor in Accra. This ensured the safety and wellbeing of the targeted beneficiaries during the lockdown period.



Hon. Cynthia Morrison addressing the media at the Temporary Shelter for Kayayeis



Kayayeis washing their hands at the shelter

The Helpline of Hope Call Centre

During the COVID 19 pandemic, the Ministry put out its Helpline of Hope Call Centre's toll free number, 0800800800 / 0800900900, for Ghanaians who needed social protection support to call for assistance. This initiative yielded a very high result as the centre fielded close to five thousand (5000) calls from poor and vulnerable across the country who then received assistance from the Ministry in the form of assorted food, sanitary items, PPEs and other relief items.



Relief items being presented to some poor and vulnerable who called the Helpline of Hope Call Centre for assistance during the pandemic.

Working visit to alleged witch Camps

A delegation from the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection and the Parliamentary Select Committee on Gender and Children embarked on a 3-day working visit to some alleged witch camps in the Northern and North East Regions.

The delegation which was led by the Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection, Hon. Cynthia Mamle Morrison, visited the Gnani, Kpantinga, Kukuo and the Gambaga witch camps in the two regions.

Interacting with inmates of the various camps, the Hon. Cynthia Mamle Morrison said the Ministry will ensure the registration of the elderly women not captured on the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Programme.

She added that government will put in place measures that will streamline activities at the various witch camps to make them a safe haven for the inmates.

The Hon. Minister also pledged government's willingness to support women who are into farming and other businesses with start-up capitals and farm inputs to enable them expand their farms.

She used the opportunity to appeal to all and sundry to help end child marriage and also stop attacks and harassment of elderly women professed to be witches.

The Deputy Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Hon. Freda Prempeh said government will ensure that living conditions in the various witch camps are improved. She added that persons who were not registered under the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) will be enrolled onto the scheme.

Dr. Appiah Kubi, the Chairman of Parliamentary Select Committee Gender and Children informed hinted that parliament will soon come out with a bill which when passed into law will protect vulnerable people, especially women being accused of being a witch.

On her part, the ranking Member for Gender and Children Committee, Hon. Ayi Ayamba assured the inmates that the parliamentary committee will do everything within their powers to safeguard human lives and dignity, especially that of elderly women being accused as witches.

The Tindana of Gnani Witche Camp, Shei Alhassan, made a passionate appeal to the government to renew the subscription of the inmates NHIS and also enroll qualified inmates

onto the LEAP Programme.

The Regent of Kukuo, Mahami Iddris, expressed his gratitude to the Minister and her team for the timely visit and appeal for government's support for the inmates at the camps.



Hon. Minister interacting with some inmates of the camp

The delegation donated bags of rice, gallons of oil, tubers of yam, boxes of soaps, cartons of tin tomato paste, bags of sachet water and undisclosed amount of money to each of the camps visited.



some members of the parliamentary select committee



Presentation of food items to inmates



Reagent of Kukuo



HON. CYNTHIA MAMLE MORRISON
Minister



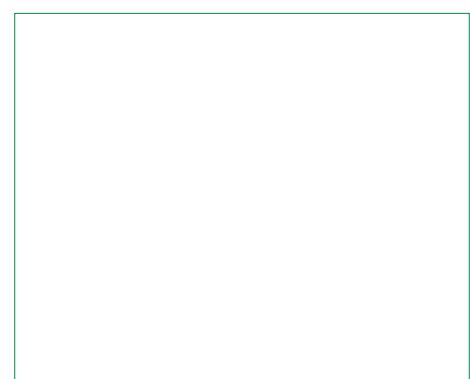
HON. FREDA PREMPEH
Hon Deputy Minister



DR. AFISAH ZAKARIAH
Chief Director



DR. PROSPER LARRI
National Coordinator for GNHR



.....
National Council of Persons with Disability



DR. MRS. GETRUEDE QUARSHIGAH

*National Coordinator for the
Ghana School Feeding Program*



DR. PRINCE ABRAH

Principal, School of Social Work



MADAM EFUA ANYANFUL

*Director Research, Statistics & Information
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DR. RITA OWUSU AMANKWAH

Director of Social Protection Directorate



MR. STEPHEN TIKAI DOMBO

Head of Central Adoption Authority



MALONIN ASIBI

Head of the Domestic Violence Secretariat



MR. MAWUTO ABLO

Director PPMED



MR. MYLES ONGO

Head of LEAP Programme



MRS FLORENCE AYISI QUARTEY

Ag. Director, Department of Children



MRS. ABENA ANNOEBA ASARE

Head, Human Trafficking Secretariat



MRS. FELICIA YEMOLEY BUABENG

Head Public Affairs Unit



MRS. VIDA MENSAH

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ALI NAPARI SEIDU
Chief Accountant



MISS DZIFA KEMEVOR
Ag. Director, Human Resources



MISS FAUSTINA ACHEAMPONG
Director, Department Of Gender



MR. DANIEL NONA
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MR. ABDUL KARIM TOSSA
Chief Internal Audit