



# **A STUDY INTO EXISTING SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICIES AND MECHANISMS FOR CHILDREN IN GHANA**

## **FINAL REPORT**

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## **Acronyms**

ACHD	African Centre for Human Development
AFRC	Armed Forces Revolution Council
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women
CHRAJ	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice
CL	Child Labour
CRC	Coalition on the Rights of the Child
DCD	Department of Community Development
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
FIDA	International Federation of Women Lawyers
FL	Forced Labour
GES	Ghana Education Service
GHS	Ghana Health Service
GoG	Government of Ghana
GPRS	Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy
GNCC	Ghana National Commission on Children
GNCRC	Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child
ICI	International Cocoa Initiative
IEC	Information Education Communication
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IPEC	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
HIV/AIDS	Human Immuno Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOWAC	Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs
MMYE	Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
OIC	Opportunities Industrialisation Centre
PLWA	People Living with Aids
RCC	Regional Coordinating Council
SW/CD	Social Welfare and Community Development
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Fund
WAJU	Women and Juvenile Unit
WFCL	Worst Forms of Child Labour
WILDAF	Women In Law and Development in Africa

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this study is to carry out an in-depth analysis into existing social protection policies, programs and structures, that seek to address the needs of child victims of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) in Ghana as per ILO convention 182 and its recommendation 190 and cases of forced labour (FL) as per ILO convention 29. Convention 182 makes provision for the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour.

The report is divided into eight sections. The first section outlines the background and the study methodology. Section two provides the contextual background to social protection in Ghana. The third section reviews the legal framework for child protection and considers specific legislation on Child Labour practices in Ghana. Section four provides an analysis of national institutional mandates for social protection and regional level findings concerning child protection mechanisms. Section five provides a contextual overview of ICI districts and considers district level arrangements for child protection. It also outlines procedures and mechanisms for managing cases of child abuse and in particular, child labour practices. Section six considers a field perspective of existing traditional/informal systems for the protection of children at the community level. Section seven provides an analysis of the field findings. It considers the family dynamics and the social context for child abandonment and neglect. Section eight explores programming possibilities for ICI. The final section highlights the main conclusions and overall recommendations for ICI.

### **1.1 Study Objectives**

The main objective of the study was based on the programmatic need of ICI and its local partners<sup>2</sup> to understand existing social protection policies and mechanisms within the Ghanaian context which “respond to child victims of abuse, worst forms of child labour and cases of forced labour”. The study was carried out to inform ICI’s programme support to design and implement practical as well as appropriate community-based approaches for positive and sustainable change in the lives of children in the cocoa-producing communities.

The specific objectives of the study were to determine and investigate:

- The mandates and competencies of the various ministries dealing with social protection at national and decentralised levels as well as cases of forced labour.
- The actions and plans of these agencies related to social protection (e.g. constitution, laws, policies and programmes) within Ghana.

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<sup>2</sup> ICI partners in Ghana are focussed on providing community-based solutions to combat all forms of child abuse and the worst forms of child labour practices.

- The various institutions and organisations from international agencies and civil society that are either supporting government social protection plans and interventions and/or responding to extreme cases of WFCL and cases of Forced Labour.

The objectives of the study relating to the district and regional level investigations included:

- The identification of organisations, vocational training centres and hosting facilities, which are taking care of children and/or dealing with cases of forced labour. These were to include traditional as well as formal structures.
- An assessment of the capacities and potential of various hosting institutions that care for children who are victims of the worst forms of CL and/or deal with cases of forced labour;
- Based on the assessment of organisations visited make recommendations to ICI regarding structures which have the potential to become part of a social protection network that could take care of children;

An additional objective of the research which was carried out during the second phase of research was to investigate the district/regional level structures and procedures for handling cases of child abuse, and the worst forms of child labour.

## **1.2 Methodology**

The study was carried out based on the Terms of Reference provided by ICI and discussions between Associates for Change and ICI. The study adopted a multi-stage approach to collect data. First, a desk review and analysis was undertaken on existing social protection policies, programs and mechanisms/structures as well as existing legal frameworks for protecting and ensuring the safety of all children in Ghana. This included the following:

- Analysis of the mandates of institutions charged with the responsibility at both national and decentralised levels to a) protect and ensure the safety as well as welfare of all children; and b) deal with cases of child abuse including child labour. Analysis and study of Government of Ghana bills, and decrees that reveal the creation and mandate of Ministries or the creation of structures relevant for child social protection procedures and mechanisms.
- An assessment of how social protection is addressed in the various legal frameworks for protecting children including the Children's Act and its legislative tools as well as other legal instruments; concrete enforcement measures were also analysed.
- Analysis of existing social protection programmes and actions in Ghana at national and district level dealing with cases of child abuse including child

labour and cases of forced labour. This included gathering information on programmes and pre-assessing formal and informal systems available at the community and district level for ensuring the promotion of children’s welfare and protection.

The second stage of the study included interviews with over 14 key stakeholders at the national level directly involved in child protection and social protection issues in Ghana. It also involved the identification of key agencies and programmes, which were considered potential models, which could cater for the needs of children experiencing moderate conditions of child labour. A list of these stakeholders is contained in Annex 1.

The third stage of the study involved fieldwork in three ICI operational districts<sup>3</sup> in Western and Ashanti Regions of Ghana. The districts were Mpohor Wassa East and Amenfi East Districts in the Western Region, and Adansi South District in the Ashanti Region. Three communities were selected in each district. The research team used ICI programme communities as a proxy in selecting the communities. The selection of these regions and subsequent study sites were based on ICI programmatic focus and need. The following key criteria were considered in selecting the communities:

- o Nature of Economic Activity – Farming
- o Type of Major Farming Activity – (Cocoa, Palm Oil, Rice)
- o Availability of School
- o Absence of Chieftaincy Disputes
- o Access to the Community

The selected communities are as follows:

<b>Mpohor Wassa East District</b>	<b>Amenfi East District</b>	<b>Adansi South District</b>
District Capital – Daboase	District Capital – Asankragwah	District Capital – New Edubiase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Senchem</li> <li>o Botogyina</li> <li>o Mpohor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Yirase</li> <li>o Mosease</li> <li>o OdaaKrofuom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Nkran Kese</li> <li>o Atwerboana</li> <li>o Ataase Nkwanta</li> </ul>

The approximate distances of the communities from the district capital was between 10 – 15kms and all were accessible by road.

Following the district and community level interviews, a follow up phase of fieldwork was organised in order to investigate the social protection mechanisms and structures available at the regional level in Western and the Ashanti regions. The second phase of fieldwork involved deeper probing into the district level child protection processes. Three hosting facilities, which according to the Regional level

<sup>3</sup> See Section 5.0 for Profiles of the Districts.

Social Welfare offices, were offering the best and most appropriate array of services were selected for interview.

### **1.3 Highlights of Key Findings**

There is presently no well-defined social protection policy in Ghana. There is, however, a compelling need for a social protection strategy in Ghana. A process is currently underway to develop a “Comprehensive Social Protection Strategy” to address measures to sustain livelihood security of the vulnerable and excluded, and cushion them from falling into extreme poverty when they experience shocks<sup>4</sup>. The National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), with funding support from UNICEF commissioned an extensive study to develop a social protection strategy for Ghana during 2005. DFID, the World Bank and GTZ are also helping with the process.

In the absence of any formal Social Protection policy, there are legal and constitutional provisions that make it mandatory for the State to ensure the protection of all vulnerable groups and improve their conditions of life. According to most national stakeholders interviewed, the Department of Social Welfare was seen as the main agency responsible for protecting children from all forms of abuse. The Department of Social Welfare, which is under the Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment, operates three children’s homes in Accra, Tamale and Kumasi. It also supervises and grants subventions to two other orphanages established by the Catholic and Anglican Churches. These are the Jirapa Orphanage and the Mampong Babies home respectively. A full listing of registered orphanages both private and public along with the Departments accreditation system is contained in Annex 7.

However, the department is seriously under-resourced and as a result, is unable to act effectively regarding the enforcement of child protection measures as outlined in the constitution and children’s act. The Social Welfare Department is woefully under-resourced in terms of human resources, training and other logistics. The greater proportion of social protection activities in the country are often sponsored, by non-governmental organisations, development partners and informally by the traditional leaders, communities and extended family systems. The Social Welfare system is unable to protect children adequately since the department has been marginalized over the years due to its low political priority, inadequate government support and poor response by national agencies. The Ministry and Department receive very limited budgetary allocation from government<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> Sync Consult 2005, Terms of Reference for the Social Protection Strategy development.

<sup>5</sup> For example, the budget to operate the entire Western Regional social welfare services along with all its district social welfare offices on a quarterly basis is 3,000,000 cedis (less than 350. USD)

There are 4 main shelters and hosting structures for children at the National level. These include the:

- Shelter for Abused Children (Department of Social Welfare hosting facility) – UNICEF and the French Embassy funded the renovation of this facility, which can accommodate 40 people. The dormitory is already equipped with beds and beddings as well as other basic facilities;
- Proposed Shelter for Trafficked Children by DSW and ILO/IPEC – support and operations are yet to be commenced;
- Crisis Response Centre of the Ark Foundation (NGO)
- African Centre for Human Development (NGO)

Government and Non Governmental responses to child protection issues across the country have been in the form of using:

- Prevention approaches through education and awareness creation activities;
- Withdrawal of children from abusive situations which includes health screening, provision of shelter and basic needs;
- Social Support –school fees, school uniforms, livelihood skills training for the victims and within communities.
- Support for families – such as the provision of vocational training, skills development, micro-credit, etc.
- Re-integration of victims with their families.
- Counselling services for victims.
- Temporal home care services.

UNICEF sees poverty alleviation as a critical element in social protection and is therefore providing technical support on thematic areas of Government priority such as the “Vulnerable and Excluded component” of the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy, 2005 revision; this will serve as an entry point to ensuring social protection issues are captured in the national development framework and become more visible on the Government agenda. As a result of this recognition, UNICEF is supporting the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), the Ghana National Coalition on the Rights of the Child, Ghana National Commission on Children (GNCC) and the Department of Community Development (DCD) to participate fully in the GPRS revision. This is being carried out in order to ensure that issues that were not captured under GPRS 1 are captured in the GPRS II.

UNICEF, ILO/IPEC and IOM are also collaborating on a number of issues to ensure that child protection is covered within the policy and legal protective frameworks in Ghana. Areas of collaboration include: ensuring that the human trafficked bill is passed and support towards GNCC is provided to conduct a nationwide survey on the magnitude of child abuse and child protection.

## **2.0 CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND TO SOCIAL PROTECTION IN GHANA**

Social Protection is a long-standing concern of the International Labour Organization since its creation in 1919. In recent times, the ILO has assigned a strategic objective to its social protection sector within the agenda of enhancing coverage and effectiveness for all men and women. From the perspective of ILO, effective access to social protection is a fundamental indicator of the success of national development policies. Social Protection according to ILO, must respond to crucial basic demands in an individual life cycle, including prevention and protection against HIV/AIDS, safety and health at work, conditions of work including wage income security, care for the elderly among others. Neglecting social protection weakens social cohesion by promoting exclusion, social fracture and egoism, thus opening the door to inequities, increased violence, social unrest, trafficking, child labour, stress, drugs and prostitution (ILO, 2003).

Issues of social protection have been at the centre of the ILO's agenda since 2000. This concern manifested itself at the International Labour Conference in 2001, which focused on Social Security Schemes and eventually culminated in the "New Consensus" including the launching of a global campaign on the extension of social security including social protection of workers in agriculture. At the centre of the International Labour Organization's increasing concern for addressing issues of child labour, child trafficking, the worst form of child labour and all forms of abusive practices, are efforts aimed at ensuring effective social protection systems and mechanisms that will respond to the needs of the society at large and the exclusion of women and children in particular.

For the ILO, social protection is about people and families having security in the face of vulnerabilities and contingencies. It is having access to health care and working in safety (ILO, 2003). Social protection offers poor people the space to step from fighting for survival to working for a better future and escaping poverty. Social protection must therefore be part of a supportive and enabling environment that allows people to systematically move out of poverty. People experience life in different ways. A life cycle approach to protection helps to connect the realities and interconnectedness of peoples' needs. Simple life cycle events easily throw families, especially children, into extreme vulnerability and over time, the cycle is repeated as successive generations become trapped in poverty.

This Study is therefore guided and informed by the growing concern over the Government's neglect of social protection and effective access to social rights. *The study therefore defines social protection as the promotion of the fundamental rights of all men and women, particularly children, through improvement as well as extension of social welfare schemes and effective access to them. This is in recognition of the fact that addressing Child Labour, Child Trafficking and all forms of Child Abuse demands effective access to social protection schemes that respond to the forces driving them.*

Social Protection within the Ghanaian context involves both formal and informal mechanisms and systems to protect and prevent the vulnerable and disadvantaged from falling into extreme poverty. Social protection helps lift people out of unacceptable living conditions and strengthens peoples' rights and entitlements. A good social protection strategy covers preventive actions, social welfare, education and health care services, employment/income security, disability and old age security (Helsinki, 2001). It encompasses *“both formal and informal initiatives that provide social assistance to extremely poor individuals and households; social services to a segment of the population who need special care or would otherwise be denied access to basic social services; social insurance to protect people against the risks and consequences of livelihood shocks; and social equity to protect people against social exclusion and the denial of rights”*<sup>6</sup>.

In Ghana, social protection is aimed at giving protection to the vulnerable. Vulnerability is described by King (2000) as the extent to which a household can become a victim of economic or social shocks and the ability of the household to escape such a situation. The traditional extended family systems in Ghana are known to provide such buffers to members so that anyone that falls prey to social and economic shocks can easily be protected. The gradual 'worsening' of economic development in the country and the deepening level of poverty in most rural areas has placed increasing pressure on the traditional extended families to provide support particularly in cases of death and abandonment (GSS, 2000).

Interviews with key national stakeholders within the social service sector suggests that providing social protection for households to reduce their risk of vulnerability through the provision of livelihood security is key to ensuring human resource development for sustained economic growth. Many stakeholders interviewed felt that while pursuing issues of social protection, a working definition of the concept must be defined and relevant to the socio-cultural context of Ghana in order to serve the needs of government and the society at large. Although some national stakeholders expressed the opinion that it is too early to talk about social protection in Ghana; the vast majority of stakeholders interviewed expressed the view that Ghana is long overdue in adopting a social protection strategy for children which is consistent with existing legal frameworks such as the Children's Act (Act 560).

## **2.1 THE DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT**

The next section will address the policy framework for social protection outlining the main developmental framework and plan put forth by Government in order to protect children. Protection is an entitlement of all human beings to sustained action by their governments, public and social institutions aimed at ensuring security (Common Country Assessment, 2004). It is particularly needed to combat vulnerability and social exclusion; and provide support to reduce vulnerability as well as helping the poorest from falling into extreme poverty.

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<sup>6</sup> Social Protection Strategy Draft Inception Report February, 2005.

Ghanaian economic and poverty studies define vulnerability as the inability of the poor to withstand shocks or manage risks, which undermine their well-being and quality of life (GPRS 2000; GSS/GLSS 4). Sync Consult 2004 explains that vulnerability is linked to social exclusion whereby individuals and/or groups are wholly or partially excluded from full participation in the society in which they live. Vulnerable groups are those who suffer from extreme poverty whereby they cannot meet their minimum nutritional requirements (UNGA, 2000). The GLSS 4 of 1999, indicates that 40% of Ghanaians are poor and 27% extremely poor. Women experience greater poverty than men. Child poverty is reflected in 20% - 25% of children of school-going age who are out of school (GPRS 2000:102). It is also reflected in the growing numbers of street children, '*kayayei*' and children affected by the worst forms of child labour and domestic violence<sup>7</sup>. (Common Country Assessment, 2004)

### **2.1.1 National Development Policy Framework**

The Ghana Poverty Reduction Programme (GPRS), which is the country's main development plan, highlights the key development programmes to support growth and poverty reduction. The goal of the first Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS I) was to create wealth by transforming the economy to achieve growth, accelerated poverty reduction and the protection of the vulnerable within a decentralised democratic environment. One of the five key areas of priority for the government under the GPRS I was social protection measures for the vulnerable and excluded. The inclusion of the social protection component in the GPRS I underscores the recognition by Government that social protection can contribute effectively to the reduction of poverty in Ghana.

The GPRS I however, did not adequately address the issues of social protection. As a result, high on the agenda of the current GPRS I review is the prioritisation of the vulnerability and exclusion thematic area in order to ensure that those social protection issues that were not captured are adequately and comprehensively covered under the GPRS 2.

In line with this, a process is concurrently underway to develop a Comprehensive Social Protection Strategy to address measures to sustain livelihood security for the vulnerable and excluded, and cushion them from falling into extreme poverty. This effort was commissioned by the National Development Planning Commission with funding from UNICEF and others such as the World Bank, DFID and GTZ. It is hoped that the strategy when complete, will be mainstreamed into the GPRS 2 as the national development policy framework for the next five years. The strategy proposes to cover the following four areas, which represent the major policy measures necessary to provide social protection in Ghana:

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<sup>7</sup> Kayayei is a local term used for young girls who travel from the north to work in the markets in large cities such as Kumasi and Accra as head porters.

Promotive measures are interventions that seek to improve real incomes and capabilities through a range of livelihood-enhancing programmes targeted at households and individuals such as microfinance. Promotive measures serve as a “springboard” by improving the livelihoods of people and move them out of poverty.

Preventive measures are interventions that seek to avert deprivation and deal directly with poverty alleviation. They include *social insurance* for “economically vulnerable groups” – people who have fallen or might fall into poverty, and may need support to help them manage their livelihood shocks. Examples include social insurance programmes such as formalised systems of pensions and health insurance, and informal mechanisms such as savings clubs. Strategies of risk diversification – such as crop or income diversification – are also considered as preventive measures.

Protective measures seek to provide relief from deprivation and are targeted safety net measures that seek to provide relief from poverty and deprivation to those who are unable to take advantage of promotional and preventive measures and as a result “fall through the cracks”. Protective measures include social assistance for the “chronically poor”, especially those who are unable to work and earn their livelihood. The main instruments include social assistance programmes especially targeted transfers that are financed publicly – out of the tax base, with donor support, and/or through local and international NGO projects. Other protective measures can be classified as social services for those requiring special care. Existing schemes include orphanages, health exemptions and education charges in order to extend access to basic services to the very poor.

Transformative measures seek to address concerns of social exclusion such as child rights, gender issues, discrimination and denial of access to social services. Transformative interventions include changes to the regulatory framework to protect the rights of children and socially vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, PLWAs and victims of domestic violence against discrimination and abuse. It also includes measures to transform public attitudes and behaviour and enhance social equity. Transformative measures generally seek to address issues of exclusion, denial of rights and access to social services.

## 2.1.2 Other Development Policy Initiatives

Other development policy initiatives and funding mechanisms to support decentralised programmes include the Social Investment Fund, the Education Capitation Grant system, scholarship schemes and community based rural development schemes. These are some of the most important examples of national social support programs which assist communities and children across the country.

### ***The Social Investment Fund***

The Social Investment Fund (SIF) was a special scheme set up by NDPC to provide direct assistance to urban and rural impoverished communities in order to help reduce poverty in the country. The Government of Ghana, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Development programme and the OPEC fund provided the financial and technical support for the programme.

Although the SIF was designed to improve the lives of the poor in general, special attention was given to women, youth and street children in both rural and urban communities. The Fund provided support in the following areas:

- Economic Infrastructure and Services
- Social Infrastructure Services
- Urban Poverty Reduction
- Micro-Finance
- Capacity Building

### ***The Capitation Grant System***

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports has set up a Capitation Grant Scheme, which started during the 2004/2005 academic year. Under this scheme, every Primary School particularly in deprived districts<sup>8</sup> will receive an amount of ₵25,000 per male pupil and ₵35,000 per female pupil. This is aimed at removing the financial burden created by school levies previously charged to parents.

The rationale for the capitation scheme is based on the recognition that despite the policy of fee-free tuition in basic schools under the fCUBE, many districts still charge levies as a means of raising funds. This deters many families, particularly the poorest, from sending their children to school. The scheme originally covered 40 of the most deprived districts as defined by the Ministry of Education but has been expanded to cover every district across the country.

The utilisation of the Capitation Grant has been designed to empower the schools to effectively use financial resources to plan and carry out school quality improvement activities. The process of planning activities should be participatory and transparent. The grant is therefore expected to serve as an opportunity to help build school level capacity to effectively implement fiscal decentralization while improving school quality - which are long-term goals of the Government of Ghana.

### **The Community Based Rural Development Project**

The Community-Based Rural Development Project under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, became operational in 2005, focuses on rural poverty reduction and capacity building for improving the effectiveness of the local government system. It aims at improving the quality of life of Ghana's rural communities through increasing the transfer of technical and financial resources for the development of basic rural infrastructure that can be sustained by beneficiaries. It has been designed among others as a tool for achieving the objectives set forth in the GPRS.

The Community-Based Rural Development Project has five components namely:

- Institutional Strengthening and Capacity-Building
- Infrastructure for Agricultural Development

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<sup>8</sup> See Annex 4 for the list of the most deprived districts

- Rural Enterprise Development and Learning Centres
- Infrastructure for Human Development
- Community-Based Natural Resources Management

### **The Cocoa Scholarship Scheme**

The Cocoa Scholarship is a scheme put in place by the Cocoa Board in the early 1960's to assist children from cocoa growing communities receive support for educational purposes. Field interviews with cocoa farmers suggest that the scheme is not being implemented in an equitable manner and that urban children and those with close connections to the 'centre' are benefiting more from the scheme. There is a tremendous amount of agitation by cocoa farmers and cocoa producing communities for fairness in the implementation of the scheme.

*“The government should also ensure that the CMB scholarship reaches the poor rural farmer”* – Elders and PTA executives of the communities during field work.

Approximately, 9,000 scholarships for Government assisted Senior Secondary, Technical or Vocational Schools are awarded each year. Each district is provided with a proportion/percentage of the scholarships depending on the district cocoa production for a particular year.

### **Conclusion**

Ghana's commitment to social protection is manifested in the GPRS--- its overall developmental framework and other initiatives by the government aimed at addressing issues of vulnerability and preventing the disadvantaged from falling into extreme poverty. The country has made efforts at ensuring that there are measures to release people from poverty. Ghana's commitment to social protection is manifested in her national development framework and the provision of some basic social welfare services. The weakness has been the implementation of national developmental strategies, the small scale of initiatives and lack of monitoring of schemes put in place in the past.

### 3.0 THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION IN GHANA

This section will review the legal framework, constitutional mandate and instrumentation related to the social protection of children in Ghana.

#### 3.1 Constitutional Mandate

The 1992 Constitution of the fourth Republic of Ghana provides the basic legal framework for the protection of human rights of all citizens. Articles 35 (2) and (3); and 36 (1) and (10) states that the government has the obligation to ensure the well being of all citizenry and their unimpeded access to public facilities and services, in accordance with the law, and furthers the Government's obligation to maximize the welfare, freedom and happiness of every Ghanaian, through the provision of 'adequate means of livelihood, suitable employment and public assistance to the needy'.

General provisions on fundamental human rights and freedoms are incorporated in chapter five of the 1992 constitution. The more direct provisions on fundamental human rights, which come close to a legislation on social protection, are those that emphasize and address the equality of all citizens before the law: Article 17 – which seeks to protect the homes and properties of citizens; Articles 18 and 20 – provisions giving economic rights to all Ghanaians; Article 24 – provides for educational rights; Article 25 – addresses women's rights.

The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana has made specific provisions on children's rights in Article 28, in accordance with and in recognition of all international treaties on Human Rights and the Rights of the Child, as follows:

- (1) Parliament shall enact laws as are necessary to ensure that –
  - a) *Every child has the right to the same measure of special care, assistance and maintenance as is necessary for its development from its natural parents, except where those parents have effectively surrendered their rights and responsibilities in respect of the child in accordance with the law;*
  - b) *Every child whether or not born in wedlock, shall be entitled to reasonable provision out of the estate of its parents;*
  - c) *Parents undertake their natural right and obligation of care, maintenance and upbringing of their children in cooperation with such institutions as parliament may, by law, prescribe in such manner that in all cases the interest of the children are paramount;*
  - d) *Children and young persons receive special protection against exposure to physical and moral hazards; and*
  - e) *The protection and advancement of the family as the unit of society are safeguarded in the promotion of the interest of children.*

- (2) Every child has the right to be protected from engaging in work that constitutes a threat to his/her health, education or development.
- (3) A child shall not be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
- (4) No child shall be deprived by any other person of medical treatment, education or any social or economic benefit by reason only of religion or other beliefs.
- (5) For the purposes of this article, the “child” means a person below the age of eighteen years.

These provisions make it mandatory for the state to ensure the protection of all vulnerable groups and improve their conditions of life.

### **3.2 The Children’s Act**

The most comprehensive legislative effort aimed at ensuring social protection of children in Ghana is the Children’s Act, ACT 560, of 1998. The Children’s Act owes its advent to the 1990 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Ghana satisfied its treaty obligation under CRC and subsequently passed the Children’s Act in 1998 in accordance with international standards. Included in Act 560 are:

- A list of the rights of the child and parental duties;
- Provisions for the care and protection of the child;
- Rules prohibiting numerous forms of child labour; and
- Rules regarding legal apprenticeship.

According to the Children’s Act, ACT 560, and a “child is a person below the age of 18 years”. The Act carefully integrates most of the laws affecting the rights of children reflected in international treaties and documents.

Sections 6(2) and (3); and sections 8, 12 – 14 of the Act define the ‘status of childhood’ and employs as a standard called the “best interest” of the child which includes the child’s own opinion in all matters relating to the child. It confers on the child those traditional rights to life, dignity, respect, liberty, name and nationality, to live and grow with parents and family. The Act also enumerates rights attached to parental care and responsibility to provide shelter, education, health, guidance, assistance, care, non-violent and non-abusive environment among others, for the child. Specifically related to international child labour standards are {part V, Sub-Part I} sections 12, 87 – 91 of the Children’s Act, Act 560.

The Children’s Act also provides for ‘care and protection’ of children in sub-Part II of Part I and Part II. The Act places this responsibility in the hands of the Departments of Social Welfare and the Department of Community Development<sup>9</sup>, which are decentralised agencies under the District Assembly. Children falling within the classification of those in need of care and protection include the neglected and ill-treated, orphans, homeless, destitute, beggars, those at risk of being in the company

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<sup>9</sup> The Department of Community Development is under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.

of thieves or prostitutes, those engaged in other immoral or criminal conduct and those exposed to physical danger.

### **3.3 Other Legislations**

The other legislations related to the social protection of children in Ghana and the objectives of this study include the Human Trafficking Bill, the Juvenile Act and the Domestic Violence Bill.

#### *3.3.1 The Human Trafficking Bill*

Presently a draft Human Trafficking Bill, is being discussed in parliament and is expected to be passed into law in 2005. The Bill is intended to provide the legal framework for the prevention, suppression and punishment of human trafficking, for the rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficked persons and for other related matters (The Human Trafficking Bill 2004).

#### *3.3.2 The Juvenile Act*

The Juvenile Justice Act, ACT 653 of 2003, outlines a juvenile justice system, which is intended to: protect the rights of juveniles, ensuring an appropriate individual response to juvenile offenders, and provides for young offenders and other related matters. Part II and III of ACT 653 make provision for the creation of juvenile courts and the establishment of junior and senior correctional centres.

#### *3.3.3 The Domestic Violence Bill*

This Domestic Violence Bill covers all forms of abuses within the domestic setting and seeks to provide protection for victims of such abuses. Domestic violence has been defined to include all acts resulting in physical, sexual, economic, emotional, verbal and psychological abuse, intimidation and harassment. The bill also includes any other conduct that 'endangers' the well-being and safety of others, 'undermines' privacy, integrity, and security of others or 'distracts' from another's dignity and worth as a human being. The Bill defines domestic relationships to include family relationships, blood relationships, marital relationships, cohabitation or any other relationship determined by a court of law to be a domestic relationship.

### **3.4 The Legal Instrument for Protection of Children in Ghana**

Subsequent to the enactment of the Children's Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred on the Minister responsible for Manpower, Youth and Employment by sections 60 and 123 of the Children's Act of 1998 (ACT 560), a Legislative instrument on Child Rights Regulation (L.I. 1705) was enacted in 2002. The legislative instrument L.I. 1705 makes regulations in respect of care and protection under Sub-Part II of Part I;

- On Fosterage
- On Child Labour
- On Apprenticeship
- On Homes

## On Day Care Centres

What still remains is the enforcement of the Act itself by responsible agencies such as WAJU and the Department of Social Welfare. In spite of the comprehensive nature of the Act in dealing with issues of child rights and social protection for all children, there is still a large gap between the legislation and the capacity of agencies responsible to implement. Unfortunately, many agencies are still not fully aware of the existence of this legal instrument and therefore, the regular usage of this instrument to bring offenders to court is still not widely practiced. (A full copy of the legal instrument is contained in a documentation folder; a supplement to this study).

## **Conclusion**

Existing legal instruments are adequate in providing protection for children in Ghana. What remains a problem is the enforcement and implementation of the laws set out to monitor child labour practices and all forms of abuse against children. The way forward in terms of protecting children using this legal framework is to bridge the gap between legislation and enforcement.

## **4.0 NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION IN GHANA**

There are a number of national and district level institutions that are in place to respond to issues of social protection of children including child abuse and in particular, child labour, forced labour, the worse forms of child labour and child trafficking. These will be discussed below in relation to their role in ensuring the social protection of children and their families.

### **4.1 National Level Institutions and Mandates**

#### **4.1.1 *Department of Social Welfare***

The major elements of the welfare system in Ghana are led by the Department of Social Welfare. The mission statement of the department is to work with people in their community in order to improve their social well being through the promotion of development with equity for the disadvantaged and the vulnerable in society. The policy direction of the Department of Social Welfare is to integrate the vulnerable, persons with disability and the disadvantaged into the mainstream of society through community-based interventions. The department is expected to achieve this through the following interventions:

- ◆ Provision of child welfare services;
- ◆ Equipping disadvantaged youth with employable skills;
- ◆ Integrating disadvantaged adults into mainstream society;
- ◆ Integrating persons with disability into mainstream society.

The department manages and is responsible for the maintenance of children's homes in the country. The department has three children's homes country wide under its control, namely: the Children's homes in Accra, Tamale and Kumasi. It also supervises and grants subvention funds to two other orphanages established by the Catholic and Anglican Churches. These are the Jirapa Orphanage and the Mampong Baby Home respectively.

In more recent times, the department manages a hosting structure called 'the Shelter for Abused Children' located in Accra. There is also another hosting facility that has been renovated and prepared to house victims of child trafficking in Madina, Accra. This facility is however, yet to be made fully operational.

In spite of its key role in protecting children, there is a huge gap between the Department's mandate and its capacity to implement programmes, effect procedures and carry out routine activities which ensure the welfare and protection of children countrywide. The department is seriously under-resourced and is unable to act effectively deal with cases of child abuse and protection. The Social Welfare system is unable to protect children adequately since the resource base

and mandate for social safety nets for children are almost none existent<sup>10</sup>. The Social Welfare Department is woefully under-resourced in terms of human resources and other logistics such as basic transportation suggesting that social protection has not been given adequate Government attention. Within the Ministry of Manpower Development and Employment, the government's contribution to social protection is described by many *senior officer*' as "a drop in the ocean". Although the Social Welfare Department carries the 'lion's share' of the responsibility for ensuring that social welfare systems offer 'safety nets' for the destitute and those who fall below the poverty line, the mechanisms for operations have almost come to a halt as a result of decades of inadequate budgetary allocation. The department has been marginalized over the years, lacking government support, policy interest and direction to respond to the growing social problems in the society. The lack of political will and commitment at the highest levels of Government is reflected in the kind of budgetary allocation provided to the department.

In 2002 the Ministry of Manpower Development and Employment (MDE) received less than 1% of the total expenditure for the Social Sector which includes expenditures for health and education.<sup>11</sup> Over 40% of the 1% given to MDE went to the MDE headquarters with less than 10% to the labour department and 25% going to district and regional departments of social welfare. The 2002 budget analysis also revealed that from the district and regional departments allocation only 15% was used to support orphanages and schools under the social welfare departments auspices, 17% for general administration, 5% for child rights and protection programming; the large bulk of the funds (63%) went to the administration of justice (ISODEC, 2002).

Interviews with key national stakeholders involved in childcare and protection pointed out that the Department of Social Welfare is the main agency responsible for protecting children from all forms of abuse, including child labour, forced labour, the worst forms of child labour and child trafficking. Although interviews revealed that most people in Ghana do not acknowledge child labour as a problem. Child labour is perceived to be children working at home and selling on the street for money. They however, acknowledged that Forced Labour and the Worst Forms of Child Labour as an abusive action perpetuated against children and child trafficking as a criminal act. Hence, children found in any such condition must be given the protection and care necessary for their survival and livelihood. Relating this to the role of the Department of Social Welfare, it was admitted that the department's response to issues of child labour and related cases has not been that proactive. This was acknowledged by an officer from the department itself when he said:

*'The Social Welfare Department is not responding very well in Ghana due to the fact that Government's focus is mostly on the provision of*

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<sup>10</sup> Lack of resources in some districts studied prevented social welfare officers from protecting children and carrying out a thorough process for assisting trafficked children attain safety.

<sup>11</sup> 27.7 Billion cedis was allocated to the Ministry of Manpower Development and Employment.

*physical infrastructure such as latrines, water supply systems and school buildings in order to prove its delivery. Social development services are not given much attention, as a result, the capacity to implement is lacking as compared to the mandate of the Department”.*

The procedure for managing cases of child abuse and all forms of child labour practices is discussed in section 5.2.2.

#### **4.1.1.1 Child Labour Unit**

The establishment of the Child Labour Unit in 1999, as part of the Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment to better respond to the needs of children in abusive labour situations<sup>12</sup> was also a sign of the Government’s interest in child welfare and protection in Ghana. There are approximately five core staff at the national level and three staff at the regional level. The unit has developed a framework<sup>13</sup> which trains students pursuing social work at the University of Ghana and other trainees from frontline social work agencies. The framework deals with child labour issues and provides the context for detecting activities that are related to child labour. The framework also lays out a procedure for reporting cases of child labour to appropriate authorities for intervention and action.

The Labour Department receives some support for specific programmes from ILO/IPEC, UNICEF, Action Aid, Save the Children, Association of People with Disabilities (a local organisation) as well as several other NGO’s across the country etc. The greater proportion of social protection activities in Ghana are sponsored by non-governmental organisations, development partners and informally by the traditional extended family systems.

#### **4.1.1.2 Key Challenges of the Department of Social Welfare**

The key area of concern for the Department of Social Welfare is its poor budgetary allocations to implement programmes. The DSW is under resourced in the following areas:

##### **◆ Staffing**

According to interviews with the DSW: most of the Staff at the department have a Post Secondary Diploma Certificate in Social Work and are highly skilled. Quite a significant number are also graduate and postgraduate holders. The major problem is that the department is woefully under staffed, especially at its district offices. Most of the staff that are given the opportunity to undergo further training in Social Work outside the country never return to the Department to apply the acquired expertise. Lack of professional development and poor resourcing within the department has resulted in a tremendous lack of motivation among staff. The Government has also placed an embargo on the recruitment of newly trained

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<sup>12</sup> Interview with Mr. Addae Kyeremah, Chief Director, Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment

<sup>13</sup> Source: Daily Graphic, Monday March 21, 2005.

graduates who are willing to work with the department. This situation continues to impede the effective operations of the department.

◆ **Financial**

The key funding sources for the department have been the budgetary allocation from the Ghana Government. The DSW experiences significant delays in the release of funds and has also experienced a sharp drop in the department's annual allocations from Government which pose major challenges to its operations.

◆ **Logistics**

The 2004, Poverty and Social Impact Assessment Study revealed that as at 2002, the Department had only 5 Vehicles at the national level and the 10 regional offices, had no vehicles. In addition to this problem, during the visits of the study team, it was observed that the Girls' Industrial School, the Boys' Remand and Probation Home and the national day care training centre all in Accra, still use manual typewriters for secretarial work. Access to Computer facilities and their accessories are almost non-existent. The budgetary allocations of most district and regional offices make it almost impossible to carry out even the most basic social welfare services.

#### **4.1.2 Ministry for Women and Children's Affairs**

The creation of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs in 2000 was to formulate policies that would advance the interests of women and children in Ghana. In line with this it has developed a policy document on Gender and Children to inform programme design and implementation. The Ministry has initiated a number of projects to improve the livelihoods and status of women and children in Ghana<sup>14</sup>.

##### *4.1.2.1 Ghana National Commission on Children (GNCC)*

The Ghana National Commission on Children, as a department under MOWAC, was established through section 2 of the Armed Forces Revolution Council (AFRC) Decree 66. This decree mandates the commission:

- To see to the general welfare and development of children and co-ordinate all essential services for children in the country which will promote the United Nations Rights of the Child;
- To make proposals to government from time to time for the enactment or review of legislation in areas of children's rights, privileges and benefits in Ghana;
- To encourage and assist in regulating the establishment of crèches, day-care centres and homes for disabled children<sup>15</sup>.

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<sup>14</sup> Interview with Mr. Quaye, Chief Director of MOWAC

<sup>15</sup> Leslie Casely Hayford, (2004) Situational Analysis of Child Labour in Cocoa Sector of Ghana, supported by the International Cocoa Initiative.

MOWAC has commenced designing and implementing several pilot programmes to improve the conditions of women and children particularly in the rural areas. They have also developed a framework for improving the conditions of women and children.

Under the operational arm of MOWAC, the mandate of GNCC is to implement programmes and projects to address issues that affect children. Over the years GNCC has been focussed on attempting to ensure that the legislative instruments for operating the Children's Act are in place. They are also the coordinating body in charge of the multi sectoral committee on children which brings stakeholders together on a quarterly basis.

#### **4.1.3 Department for Community Development**

The Department for Community Development, is under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development has been quite active in dealing with child labour and trafficking issues. It participates in almost all the inter-agency meetings at the national level related to Child Labour and Child abuse. The Department is also constrained by a lack of human and financial resources to carry out its mandate as well as the political will to support its activities.

#### **4.1.4 Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ)**

Under judicial protection the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) has the mandate under CHRAJ Act 1993, Act 456 to promote and protect fundamental human rights in Ghana. The Commission's Activities related to the protection of the rights of children are carried out within four (4) main areas, namely: Public Education, Complaints Resolution, Counselling and Supervision. In spite of its mandate, CHRAJ has not been proactive or shown much interest in issues of child labour and child trafficking<sup>16</sup>. Field research did suggest that where the Department of Social Welfare is unable to carry out its functions related to cases of social protection and social welfare, cases are transferred to CHRAJ. District CHRAJ officers also appear to be in a stronger financial position to assist with cases of abuse partly due to their close collaboration with District Assemblies.

#### **4.1.5 Women and Juvenile Unit (WAJU) / Ghana Police Service**

The mandate of the Women and Juvenile Unit of the Ghana Police Service is to respond to the needs of children by investigating and preventing crimes against them. The unit arrests people involved in child trafficking and child labour when provided with evidence as well as reports from the Department of Social Welfare and the Child Labour Unit. The WAJU commander when interviewed, indicated that there is not much coordination among the Department of Social Welfare and the Child Labour Unit; *"...there is the need to harmonize and coordinate their activities. Not enough is being done at the Department of Social Welfare though they seem to be*

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<sup>16</sup> Face-to-face Interview with Mr. Eric Okrah, ILO National Programme Coordinator, 02/03/2005.

*doing their best*". She suggested that there needs to be a Task Force set up between the Department of Social Welfare and WAJU in order to develop an Action Plan and source funding to facilitate the process of combating the problem (WAJU Interview).

The work of WAJU is to prevent all forms of abuse against women and children, specifically domestic violence, sexual abuse and child abuse. The vision of WAJU is to promote public support for vulnerable groups and ensure that they are protected against all forms of abuse. WAJU has the mandate to prosecute the perpetrators of such acts. The establishment of WAJU is an indication of the efforts being made within the criminal justice system to respond to the needs of women and children in Ghana. Since its inception in October 1998, WAJU has become a household name, credited with serving as the platform for addressing crimes against women and children<sup>17</sup>.

#### **4.1.6 National Commission for Civic Education**

The commission was established by Act 452 of the 1992 constitution to create and sustain awareness on civic rights and responsibilities and to educate the public to defend the constitution. At the district level, the Commission has carried out education on child related issues such as child abuse and child labour practices.

### **4.2 Development Partners**

#### **4.2.1 UNICEF**

UNICEF works through the existing Policies and Legal Frameworks for Children in Ghana such as the Children's Act, Convention on the Rights of the Child, and CEDAW. UNICEF is partnering with the National Coalition on the Domestic Violence Bill Legislation in Ghana to ensure that the Bill receives the due attention by Parliament. UNICEF tries to reach out to the vulnerable through the following approaches:

1. Advocacy – Advocacy is carried out among stakeholders such as the government to:
  - Bring about change in children and their parents attitudes and practices;
  - To bring about possible reforms.
2. Legal Reforms – it provides technical and financial support for the drafting of the Human Trafficking Bill, which was passed into law in 2005.
3. Capacity Building of partners such as DSW, MMYE, MOWAC, GNCC, and the Local Government at the District Level through the Department of Community Development.

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<sup>17</sup> Interview with Ms. Elizabeth Dassah, Director of WAJU, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2003

4. Service Delivery – Support has been provided through the Department of Community Development to offer skills training in communities in the Northern and Upper East Regions. This is being implemented through partners at the community level for children at risk and victims rescued and returned. UNICEF has not yet gone into the provision of Credit Schemes for families of these victims.

UNICEF also believes that Child Trafficking is rooted in poverty and sees poverty alleviation as a preventable measure to the problem. It is therefore playing a key role in providing technical support to the GPRS revision process by focussing on the Vulnerability and Exclusive thematic area in order to ensure that issues that were not captured in the GPRS I are adequately covered under the GPRS II.

UNICEF admitted during interviews with the team that much has not been done in the area of Social Protection for children at risk of forced labour and victims of child trafficking. UNICEF officers indicated however, that discussions began in-house and with partners last year with the following outcome:

1. UNICEF will provide funds for GNCC to carryout a study on Child Labour in Cocoa growing areas to ascertain the magnitude of the problem.
2. UNICEF is collaborating with ILO/IPEC and supports the training of 120 Police officers to equip them with the skills to tackle child labour issues.
3. UNICEF is supporting ILO/IPEC to develop a Child Labour Monitoring System.
4. UNICEF is collaborating with the IOM to support the development of Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials with images of children involved in child labour and trafficking.
5. UNICEF has been collaborating with IOM and ILO/IPEC to see how best they can combat the issue of child trafficking through the implementation of the Human Trafficking Act (694) which was passed in 2005. As part of the process, the following will be done:
  - Conduct a nation-wide study to find out the magnitude of the problem
  - In order to get the Human Trafficking Bill passed as early as possible, it plans to team up with the IOM and ILO to strategically meet with the parliamentary select group to lobby for the early passage of the Bill.
6. UNICEF is currently providing support for skills development for 12 adolescent Ghanaian girls in their communities in the Central Region who were trafficked to the Gambia but were rounded up by the Gambia Immigration Service, and were later brought home through the efforts of UNICEF Gambia and UNICEF Ghana.
7. UNICEF is planning to form a Child Protection Alliance with interested partners.

#### **4.2.2 International Labour Organisation (ILO)**

The International Labour Organization's (ILO) technical cooperation with Ghana involves the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda, which is informed by the Organization's four main strategic objectives for the:

- Promotion and realization of standards, fundamental principles and rights at work;

- Creation of greater opportunities for women and men to secure decent employment and income;
- Enhancing the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all;
- Strengthening tripartism and social dialogue.

Pursuant of its strategic objectives, the ILO has been developing and promoting coherent cross-sectoral strategies and integrated frameworks that are consistent with country's poverty reduction strategy and the Decent Work Agenda at the national and local levels. Within the last three years, the ILO has increased the scale and focus of its cooperation with Ghana in eight inter-related interventions, namely;

1. The Ghana Decent Work Pilot Programme
2. The Ghana Time-Bound Programme for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour
3. The LUTRENA Project on Combating Child Trafficking (sub-regional)
4. The West Africa Cocoa and Commercial Agriculture Project (WACAP) for the elimination of child labour
5. Skills Training Strategies to Combat Worst Forms of Child Labour in the Urban Informal Sector in Sub-Saharan Anglophone Africa (sub-regional)
6. Action Programme Against Forced Labour and Trafficking in West Africa (Ghana, Nigeria)
7. The HIV/AIDS Workplace Education Programme
8. Gender Mainstreaming Project for African Trade Unions (GEPATU)

#### ***Ghana Decent Work Pilot Programme***

In 2002, Ghana joined the ILO Decent Work Pilot Programme (ILO DWPP) as the first country in Sub-Saharan Africa. Earlier work by the ILO constituents in Ghana had shown that the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (2002-2005) neither targeted employment quantity and quality nor did it have an informal economy strategy. To address this shortcoming, the Ghana DWPP focuses on contributing to the national priority goal of poverty reduction with funding from the Netherlands Partnership Programme with the project title, "Working Out Of Poverty" for the period March 2004 – February 2006. The project aims at reducing decent work deficits and promoting quality employment and income opportunities in micro- and small enterprises in the informal economy. It has the following two inter-related components which draw on relevant expertise and know-how from across the ILO:

- A national level component aimed at building the capacity of constituents to influence the formulation, implementation and monitoring of the GPRS;
- A district level component to develop and test a coherent set of policy tools using a local economic and social development approach.

The current programme is aimed at achieving the following outcomes:

- a. District Assembly Sub-committees enabled to plan and coordinate gender specific initiatives in micro and small enterprise development and basic skills training in dialogue with representatives of the public and private sector
- b. The social partners, Small Business Associations and other organisations that represent informal economy workers and employers are strengthened in terms of their capacity to represent micro and small enterprises in the informal economy and to provide advocacy as well as services that enhance basic skills and knowledge and address decent work deficits
- c. District and local governments establish and maintain an enabling environment for reducing poverty and decent work deficits in micro and small enterprises in the informal economy

- d. Service providers enabled to offer new or improved market-driven services to women and men in micro and small enterprises in the informal economy, including basic vocational and small business management training
- e. Decision makers in other districts and at the national and international level have learned from the programme in the two districts, through the generation, documentation and sharing of knowledge and experience.

The lead office for this programme is the ILO Office for Ghana in Abuja, Nigeria and the implementing agency is the Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment.

***Time-Bound Programme for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour***

The TBP project which is a four-year project (Oct 2004–Dec 2008), with funding from the United States Department of Labour and is the umbrella project for all current ILO child labour interventions in Ghana under the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). It represents intensification in ILO/Government of Ghana cooperation to combat child labour and its worst forms, which began in 2000 with the establishment of a two-year IPEC Ghana Country Programme. It is guided by the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (C.182 of 1999) and the Minimum Age Convention (C. 138 of 1973); and provides the linkage between the WACAP, LUTRENA and the Capacity Building and Skills Training Projects.

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to the elimination of the worst forms of child labour and the creation of strong institutional and socio-economic basis for dealing effectively with all forms of child labour in Ghana. The national Time–Bound Programme (TBP) provides an integrated framework for linking relevant actions undertaken by different partners in different sectors, with a view to tackling the child labour problem in a coordinated and sustainable manner. It is composed of upstream policy related strategies that emphasize poverty reduction, universal basic education and social mobilization, along with measures for developing national institutional and organizational capacity for addressing child labour issues.

In order to complement the upstream measures, the project is implementing a set of downstream interventions aimed at identifying and removing children from the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL), preventing other at-risk children from engaging in such activities, providing them with education and skills training alternatives and assisting their families to access and make good use of available opportunities for income-generating activities. Some of the intended measures of this project are to:

- Work closely with government MDAs, social partners, community organisations and NGOs to enhance their capacity to undertake effective action against (WFCL) with minimal external assistance;
- Work with relevant agencies to improve the enforcement of the legal framework on child labour in Ghana ;
- Support a nationwide social mobilization campaign to improve the awareness of the Ghanaian society;
- Support programmes to expand and enhance apprenticeship and skills training to contribute to the elimination of the worst forms of child labour; and
- Conduct baseline studies, opinion and attitude surveys, administrative census and other research activities to enhance the knowledge base for planning, designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating child labour interventions in Ghana.

The project will work with at least 20 District Assemblies to establish a child labour monitoring system. A total of 14,000 children will be targeted for withdrawal and prevention from exploitative and/or hazardous work through the provision of educational and non-educational services following direct action from the project. Of this total, 5,000 will be withdrawn from work and 9,000 will be prevented from being engaged in child labour. In addition, 2,500 families of targeted children will be provided with assistance for economic empowerment. The project will seek to develop linkages and collaboration with other international agencies, such as UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, FAO and IOM.

### ***LUTRENA (Child Trafficking) Project***

This project is also designated as “Combating Trafficking in Children in Benin, Burkina Faso and Ghana (Ghana Component)”. It is planned for the period November 2004 – June 2007 with the objective of “Contributing to a reduction in the incidence of trafficking in boys and girls for labour and sexual exploitation in Benin, Burkina Faso and Ghana”. The national implementing agency for this project is the Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment in collaboration with the Ghana Police (WAJU and Interpol), Ministry of Women and Children, non-governmental organizations, Ghana National Commission on Children, the Trade Unions, Ghana Immigration Service, Parliament, etc.

The following five action programmes have been developed for implementation

- Capacity building programme for security agency personnel at selected border posts to detect and intercept victims and perpetrators of child trafficking (distinguishing between trafficking and illegal migration)
- Eliminating child trafficking through awareness raising campaigns in key demand sectors, industries and geographical areas of Kumasi Metropolis
- Creating a child trafficking referral and simple case-management system for social service providers and trafficked children in Ghana
- Eliminating child trafficking from selected districts in Northern and Upper East regions through improved capacity of schools to monitor vulnerable children at risk of dropping out
- Preventing child trafficking through formal education of trafficked and at-risk children and reduce school drop-out rate.

There was limited access to results from this program.

### ***The West Africa Cocoa and Commercial Agriculture Project (WACAP)***

In line with the 2001 cocoa protocol<sup>18</sup> to eliminate child labour signed by the World Cocoa Industry and key stakeholders, ILO/IPEC elaborated a large-scale programme of concrete action to eliminate child labour in cocoa production. This programme, known as the West Africa Cocoa and Commercial Agriculture Project to Combat Hazardous and Exploitative Child Labour (**WACAP**) has a resource outlay of US\$ 5 million funded by the United States Department of Labour, with an additional US\$ 1 million funded by the International Confectionary Association and World Cocoa Foundation. The programme of activities commenced in 2003 and is scheduled to end in 2006. This project is being implemented in Ghana, Cameroon, Guinea, Nigeria and Cote d’Ivoire.

The expected outcomes of this programme includes:

- a. Selected public and private sector partners and concerned agencies, have strengthened capacity to plan, initiate, implement, monitor, and evaluate actions to combat child labour;
- b. Increased awareness among children, families and communities and within concerned public and private sector agencies on issues related to child labour, particularly to hazards for children in the cocoa/agriculture sector and viable alternatives to child labour;
- c. Model interventions for the withdrawal of children and provision of rehabilitation are tested;
- d. The situation of children withdrawn and prevented from child labour is being monitored and verified in selected areas through a credible, affordable and feasible/sustainable child labour monitoring system;
- e. There is an enhanced knowledge base through action-oriented research and a viable information dissemination system.

As at July 2005, progress made by the WACAP programme is as follows:

<sup>18</sup> This is a strategy codified in a Protocol to eliminate the worst forms of child labour from the cocoa and chocolate sector, signed by representatives of the major stakeholders in September 2001, in the United States. It laid out a timetable to eliminate both child labour and forced labour in cocoa growing and set a timeline for the creation of a foundation and its secretariat by July 2002. It also foresaw the establishment of a viable and credible monitoring and certification system by July 2005.

- By mid-March 2005, a total of 747 children at risk involved in hazardous child labour activities have been withdrawn/prevented and placed into the regular educational system and vocational training. Efforts are being made to enhance this component by collaborating with the Ministry of Education to assess the training needs of teachers to improve the quality of education in WACAP's districts as well as assess the demand and supply for microfinance services to enhance parents/farmers income.
- The Child Labour Monitoring System (CLMS) is being implemented through the Employment Information Bureau (EIB) of the Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment (MMYE). Reports of the monitoring process are disseminated primarily through the National Steering Committee (NSC) whose membership includes stakeholders such as the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Ghana Police Service, the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs and the Ghana Cocoa Board, among others.
- Monitors and supervisors have been selected from the communities and have been trained to collect data from children, parents/farmers and institutions to operationalise the monitoring system. Baseline information was collected for the database from all the communities and the first report was presented to the NSC on 11 February 2005. A follow-up monitoring report was presented to the NSC on 26 May 2005. Ghana's CLMS experience has been thoroughly shared with the other WACAP beneficiary countries and the Ghana team is assisting these countries to develop their own child labour monitoring databases. The Ghana government is using this system to issue cocoa certificate as required by the protocol.
- Capacity building for communities including farmers, implementing agencies such as NGOs, District Assembly staff, personnel of the EIB, the Child Labour Unit (CLU) and other partner organizations, focused on planning and implementation of ILO/IPEC/WACAP initiatives on the prevention and elimination of child labour is underway.
- WACAP has conducted and generated outputs such as the Rapid Assessments, CLMS results and the Occupational Safety and Health reports. These reports are disseminated to the NSC membership and other interested stakeholders.
- The Sociology Department of the University of Ghana is collaborating with ILO/IPEC/WACAP to undertake a study on Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) in relation to child labour.

### Capacity Building and Vocational Skills Projects

This is a five-country project covering Ghana, Zambia, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda. The objective of the Capacity Building Programme is to equip government, workers' and employers' organisations, NGOs and other partners with relevant technical skills and organisational capacity to formulate and implement policies, programmes and other initiatives to facilitate prevention, protection, withdrawal, rehabilitation and reintegration of the worst forms of child labour (WFCL). Its activities have included the withdrawal of at least 2000 children from various forms of the WFCL by 2006. Currently there are seven APSO (?) being implemented. The table below provides the details

	Title	Area of intervention	Proposed Implementing agency
1.	Prevention of Young Girls in the Tolon/Kumbungu and Savelugu/Nanton Districts in the Northern Region from engaging in 'Kayaye' activities.	Direct Action	Regional Advisory and Information Systems (RAINS)
2.	Prevention and Withdrawal of Children in Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in the Accra Metropolitan Assembly	Direct Action	International Needs – Ghana
3.	Mobilising Community Structures (CLCs) for the prevention and withdrawal of Children in fishing	Direct Action	International Needs – Ghana
4	Progressive Elimination of Child Labour in Illegal Mining and Stone Quarrying in Adansi West and the Ga Districts of Ghana	Direct Action	Youth Development Foundation (YDF)
5	"Stop Child Labour" Interactive Theatre Project	Child	Centre for Community Studies, Action and Development

		Participation	(CENCOSAD)
6	Curriculum Improvement/Revision Towards the Production of Child Labour Sensitive Social Workers	Curriculum Development	School of Social Work–Accra (SSW)
7	Development of a National Advocacy Strategy	Advocacy	CLU, TUC and GEA

### **The Vocational Skills Project (VT)**

This is a multi-bilateral programme in four countries, including Ghana, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The VT Project involves using skills training strategies to combat the WFCL. The objective is to reduce the incidence of child labour in the informal economy in the participating countries, through non-formal, low-cost skills training and facilitating access to employment. Currently, the project is mobilising potential implementing agencies towards the development of action programmes.

### **Action Programme against Forced Labour and Trafficking in West Africa (Ghana, Nigeria)**

This project, funded by DFID for the period of 2004-2006, is one of the ILO's cooperation initiatives in Ghana pursuant to the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Forced Labour, 1930 (No. 29). The project builds on the work of the LUTRENA project in West Africa on trafficking in children for labour and sexual exploitation. It will support the efforts of national stakeholders to mainstream counter trafficking measures into national development and poverty reduction strategies and to adopt and enforce anti-trafficking legislation and bilateral labour agreements that render migration safer. Its components include:

- a. Enhancing the knowledge base through in-depth anthropological studies into recruitment mechanisms which will be conducted along with focus group discussions in vulnerable communities related to their cultural perceptions of trafficking. An inventory of current responses in the form of legislation, awareness raising programmes and grass roots action to prevent trafficking and to rescue and rehabilitate victims will be made.
- b. Building consensus on appropriate policy - The project will offer opportunities to concerned Ministries, workers', employers' organizations and NGOs to develop appropriate policy measures that link anti-trafficking to the poverty reduction strategies. It will also promote labour agreements between selected countries with unfulfilled demand for labour and West African countries that have a pool of potential migrant workers.
- c. Capacity building of labour market institutions - The project will improve the outreach of employment agencies and the capacity of the state to monitor them as an effective step towards disseminating information about quality job opportunities at local, national and international levels and preventing the collusion of labour intermediation agencies with trafficking networks. Community-based skills training and employment services will be promoted in areas vulnerable to trafficking.
- d. Awareness raising - By working with traditional chiefs and opinion leaders, the project will spread awareness of the risks associated with migrating for work and highlight ways to redress the problem available to victims of trafficking and smuggling. It will inform workers and employers, particularly those in the transport and tourism sectors of trafficking related practices and engage them in identification and rescue of victims of trafficking.
- e. Pilot interventions - The project will facilitate community mobilization for the prevention of trafficking and assist the state in the long-term economic reintegration of returnees. Good practices emerging from these pilot interventions will be documented and widely disseminated with the aim of contributing to government policy, action plans and sub-regional initiatives to combat trafficking.

The project Advisory Committee composed of representatives of the relevant Ministries, workers' and employers' organizations, non-governmental and people's organizations will guide ILO staff and participate actively in the implementation of the project.

**HIV/AIDS Workplace Education Project**

This project is planned for the period 2003 – 2006. Its main objective is to contribute to the prevention of HIV/AIDS in the world of work, facilitate the enhancement of workplace protection and the reduction of the adverse consequences of HIV/AIDS on social, labour and economic development. At the end of this project:

1. The tripartite constituents will have been sensitized and mobilized to develop policies and programs for prevention of HIV/AIDS in the world of work;
2. A comprehensive national policy on HIV/AIDS and the world of work will be in place and prevention programs in specific sectors would have been implemented, evaluated and good practices identified;
3. A sustainable national plan on prevention of HIV/AIDS in the world of work would have been developed to be fully integrated into the regular programs of the Government, employers' and workers' organizations, individual enterprises in both the public and private sectors and the informal economy.

**Gender Mainstreaming Project for African Trade Unions (GEPATU)**

This is a three-year Joint ILO-OATUU Initiative (July 2004 – February 2005) under the project theme; 'Promoting gender mainstreaming in the work of trade unions with special emphasis on gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS, informal economy and poverty'. The project works with affiliated national trade union centres; Ghana - TUC, Tanzania - TUCTA, Mali - UNTM, Guinea (Conakry) - CNTG, Sudan - SWFTU and Ethiopia - CETU.

The ILO/IPEC works closely with the Department of Social Welfare by supporting the establishment of structures and carries out joint monitoring activities in the field. It is also involved in awareness creation by educating parents and children on the dangers of child trafficking and the importance of educating the child. The following are ILO/IPEC's main programme approach in response to Child Labour, Forced Labour, the worst forms of child labour and child trafficking; their approach involves the following main elements:

1. Case Management for victims of trafficking;
2. Interception and Reintegration/Rehabilitation;
3. Awareness Creation at the National and District Levels;
4. Ensuring protective environments through legislation such as effort made to help pass the Human Trafficking Bill;
5. Economic support to communities and families of victims of child trafficking --- vocational training, child rehabilitation and placement back in school.

In 2004, ILO/IPEC provided funding for the renovation of some buildings at the Department of Social Welfare's National Day Care Training Centre at Madina, in Accra which will be used as a transit centre for victims of child trafficking. The purpose of the renovation was to improve the facility in order to provide a venue for supporting victims of child trafficking. The renovations have been completed but operations are yet to begin fully.

**4.2.3 UNICEF, ILO/IPEC and IOM Collaboration**

These three agencies are collaborating to ensure issues of child protection are addressed in Ghana. Among the issues that they are collaborating on are:

- Ensuring the implementation of the human trafficking act (694) of 2005;
- Supporting GNCC to conduct a nationwide survey on the magnitude of child Abuse and Protection.

#### **4.2.4 Ghana National Coalition on the Rights of the Child (GNCRC)**

The Ghana National Coalition on the Rights of the Child is an NGO Coalition set up to advocate on children's rights, and protection and ensure the promotion of welfare of all children. Presently, the Coalition is implementing a 3-year advocacy programme (2005 - 2008) with the following objectives: 1) to reach out to policy makers and; 2) to look at how government can strengthen the various institutions such as the DSW.

The coalition has set up 8 committees in 8 communities in the Yeji fishing area and its catchment area. The committees have been trained on child rights, trafficking and counselling skills, and they have been provided with ID cards. The work of the committees is to sensitise communities on child trafficking and look out for child traffickers. They work closely with the police and municipal assemblies. In 2004, some committees were able to help arrest a number of traffickers within the catchment areas. The *committees* undertake follow-ups on cases of child trafficking and maintain close contact with children who have been rescued and reintegrated with their families. The Ghana National Coalition on the Rights of the Child is also undertaking capacity building and child rights advocacy in the Upper East Region of Ghana.

#### **4.3 Social Protection for Children: A National Perspective**

Interviews with key national stakeholders revealed that the ability of the various agencies of Government in responding to the needs of trafficked children and victims of abusive child labour practices is greatly affected by the extremely poor budgetary allocation provided to the departments of Social Welfare. Very little funding is made available to the departments at all levels in order to work. *"...The government does not give much priority to social work and its related services in Ghana. Government is rather more interested in sectors and institutions which bring in financial returns; as a result, not much change is seen in the lives of the vulnerable..."* (Government Official, MMYE). As stated by one of the interviewers:

*"While society is changing and a lot of problems such as HIV/AIDS are cropping up, the structures have not been changed. Previously, child labour, child trafficking and HIV/AIDS were not issues but they are now a big challenge... yet, the Department lacks the requisite support to effectively deal with the issues as they come. Governments do not show much interest in social welfare since they are interested in departments which produce; the focus is on revenue but one cannot quantify social welfare so government will always think of you last!"*  
(Mr. Stephen Adongo, Deputy Director, Child Rights and Protection Unit, Department of Social Welfare)

However, despite the lack of funding and slow pace in responding to the problems of child abuse, child labour, forced labour and the worst forms of child labour, there are

a number of programmes that are ongoing to promote the welfare of children in 'extreme' situations of abusive child labour and those who are trafficked. The responses have been in the form of:

- Prevention programmes
- Withdrawal (Health Screening, provision of shelter and basic necessities)
- Social Support –School fees, school uniforms, livelihood skills training for the victims and within communities.
- Support for families - Vocational Skills, Micro-Credit, etc.
- Awareness creation and awareness raising programmes.
- Re-integration of victims with their families.
- Services for victims.
- Temporal home care services

Interviews with national stakeholders revealed that not many strong governmental institutions dealing with child labour and abuse cases. Interviews at the national and regional level and confirmed by field work suggest that civil society agencies are in the forefront of dealing with CL, WFCL child trafficking and child abuse cases. Interviews also suggest that there is little or no coordination among these various stakeholders. While some stakeholders feel the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWAC) should be seen coordinating, others think the responsibility lies with the Ministry of Manpower Development, Youth and Employment since it houses the Department of Social Welfare. The consensus, however, is that there should be an institution tasked to provide oversight for programmes and initiatives that relate to child labour and child trafficking within Ghana.<sup>19</sup>

The issue of child labour until recently was not of major concern to government and many other civil society organisations. Since Cocoa is a highly sensitive issue within the higher levels of government, the issues of child labour have become increasingly more politicised awakening the public to the problem (e.g. recent statements from MOWAC Minister related to child labour issues). With a gradual shift from the Government's denial stage to recognition stage, some attention is being paid to the issues and key stakeholders are becoming increasingly concerned. There is still a tremendous need for government to take a more proactive role by strategically adopting measures to combat the problem.

#### **4.4 Case Studies on Social Protection Centres at the National Level**

This section highlights some of the social protection models identified during interviews with national level stakeholders.

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<sup>19</sup> A conference to bring together key stakeholders involved with Child labour and trafficking was facilitated by the Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment in February, 2006.

#### 4.4.1 Shelter for Abused Children, Accra

In October 2003, the Girl's Industrial School, which is under the Department of Social Welfare in collaboration with UNICEF and the French Embassy, renovated and furnished the probation unit of the remand home for use as a shelter for abused children. The renovated building is serving as a dormitory for girls and boys. The two dormitories have the capacity to accommodate 40 children.

Since its establishment, the shelter has dealt with 127 cases, which include:

- ◆ Missing children
- ◆ Child labour
- ◆ Victims of Child Trafficking
- ◆ Defilement
- ◆ Physical abuse
- ◆ Neglect and abandonment
- ◆ Victims of HIV/AIDS

Regarding the child labour cases, the shelter has hosted children between the ages of 8 and 13 years, who in one way or another were placed with people to work as house helps but later absconded from their mistresses due to the abusive nature of their work. So far, the shelter has dealt with and discharged 16 such cases.

In relation to child trafficking, the shelter has seen 27 cases (25 girls and 2 boys), between the ages of 8 and 18 years. The victims are usually sent to neighbouring countries i.e. Benin, Togo and Nigeria. The shelter works in close collaboration with a local NGO called *Terres Des Homme* based in Togo as well as the Ghana Immigration Service. There has also been a series of cases involving 12 girls trafficked into the Gambia and were repatriated for being abused by their guardians. These girls have since been reintegrated into their families with financial assistance from UNICEF.

The Shelter for Abused Children provides the following basic services:

- Screening
- Health care (most cases are STI related)
- Counselling
- Temporal Home care services
- Literacy skills (while children are at the shelter)
- Re-integration of victims with their families.

According to the Manageress, the estimated cost of hosting a child in terms of feeding and medical care is around ₵40,000 per day (i.e. about US\$5). The victims usually spend between 2 weeks to 1 month in the shelter depending on how quickly they are able to provide leads about their background. The longest stay in the shelter has been 2 years but this was an isolated case. The children are often brought into the shelter either through a referral service by WAJU or at contact point at the community level, lorry stations and/or market places.

The shelter has 3 core staff including the Manageress, who is also responsible for the Girls' Industrial School and the Boys' Remand and Probation Home. The other two staff members are caseworkers. The shelter receives national service personnel and volunteers who occasionally come in to support. The manageress is a postgraduate with professional training in social work. The 2 caseworkers hold certificates in Social Work from the School of Social Work.

The major challenge of the centre is the lack of vehicles to: facilitate the process of re-integration of victims with parents and to undertake follow-up visits to track cases that have been discharged. The shelter also lacks the following:

- Telephone facilities;
- Computer and other secretarial facilities such as printer & photocopier;
- Recreational facilities for the children.

#### **4.4.2 Shelter for Trafficked Children, Madina**

This Shelter was created through the collaboration between the Department of Social Welfare and ILO/IPEC. It is situated within the premises of the National Day Care Training Center at Madina, a suburb of Accra. ILO/IPEC in June 2004 provided funding for the renovation of a two unit building within the premises for the purposes of providing shelter for trafficked children. The renovation has since been completed but operation of the facility is yet to commence. Interviews suggest that the delay, is mainly due to the lack of funding from the ILO. The two buildings which serve as a dormitory, are expected to accommodate 50 children at a time. According to the Principal, the Centre already has links with some focal communities (e.g. Kokrobite and Weija) along the Densu River in the Ga District, which serve as transit points for child trafficking.

The centre presents an attractive site for hosting children found in extreme abusive situations of forced labour, worst forms of child labour and child trafficking. It already has an accommodation facility for staff, sufficient office space, training workshop facilities, cooking areas and a relatively large compound for recreational facilities. At the time of field work, the facility was not fully operational and could not estimate the cost per child.

#### **4.4.3 Crises Response Centre**

The Crises Response Centre is a centre set up under the Ark Foundation, an advocacy based NGO. The centre is the operational arm of the Ark Foundation, which provides support and protection for survivors of Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse. Established in 1998, the crisis response centre has a shelter which provides the following services:

- Counselling (both legal and psycho-social)
- Medical care

- Re-settling/re-integration
- Provide schooling support

The centre receives a number of referral cases from WAJU, DSW, and hospital network partners, FIDA and individuals. Sometimes the victims come to the centre themselves. The cases of child abuse include cases of severe neglect and non-maintenance, incest and defilement. The centre has also dealt with one case of child trafficking, where the victim spent almost 6 months at the shelter until the family was finally traced and re-integrated with them in Togo. The trafficker was identified and arrested.

The centre undertakes follow-ups by checking with network partners on progress of each case, and works with referral agencies to document the progress of cases. The follow-ups continue until cases are brought to their logical conclusion. According to the Executive Director of the Ark Foundation, the estimated cost per child per month as at last year (2004) was about US\$45. This includes the provision of basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, health screening and care; and sanitary care for the girls.

The crises centre has seven full time social workers plus volunteer consultants (given honorariums) and provides legal, medical and psycho-social services. The seven core staff have a minimum of a first degree in one of the following disciplines; social work, law and sociology. Within the Ark Foundation, staff are given regular and consistent specialized training in areas of management, counselling and strengthening self esteem.

#### **4.4.4 International Needs**

International Needs Ghana has been involved in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of Child Labour in Ghana. The involvement of International Needs Ghana arose from its work with Trokosi<sup>20</sup> girls and children of Trokosi victims, most of whom are trafficked or exploited for labour purposes. This initial involvement culminated in the implementation of a project targeted at children of Trokosi parentage with funding from the ILO/IPEC country programme. The first project adopted awareness creation and awareness raising strategies on Child Labour in the communities. The objective of the awareness creation strategies were to get the mothers of children liberated from the Trokosi practice and their children assessed and mainstreamed into basic schools and vocational skills training. The trokosi project ended in 2003 with over 500 children being enrolled in basic schools and benefiting from one academic year's school fees and school uniforms.

Presently, International Needs Ghana is implementing two programmes on Child Labour, focusing on children in the fishing communities of the Awutu-Effutu-Senya District and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) – child prostitution

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<sup>20</sup> Is a traditional practice where young girls are placed in shrines with fetish priests for an indefinite period in slavery and bondage.

in the Accra Metropolitan Area. The work of International Needs Ghana involves; prevention, withdrawal, social support, counselling, support for families, awareness creation and community mobilisation. International Needs Ghana does not have hosting centres but does have a vocational training centre for rehabilitating Trokosi victims.

The Project Communities are:

- Chorkor, Korle Gonno, James Town, Agbogbloshie and La all in the Accra Metropolitan Assembly;
- Sankor, Senya, Winneba and Akosua Village, in the Awutu-Effutu-Senya District, Central Region.
- Dago, Mumford, Apam, Abrekum, Gomoa Fetteh and Gomoa Nyanyanor, in the Gomoa District, Central Region.

The projects related to child exploitation in fishing communities and commercial sex workers target a total of 900 children (600 & 300 respectively) who are prevented or withdrawn from Child Labour practices. The following strategies are being implemented at the community level:

- The formation of Child Labour Monitoring Committees (CLMC) in the project communities to mobilise resources and assist in the withdrawal and prevention of the children.
- Formation of a District CLMC as the apex body to monitor CL and interventions in CL in the District. Membership – DA, NCCE, CHRAJ, GES, National Youth Council, NFED, DSW, and Dept of Community Devt.
- Children’s Forum in selected schools: peer-to-peer approach;
- Community Education programmes to raise awareness on CL through Drama, durbars, film shows (interactive theatre) with Info Services Dept, etc.
- Radio and TV programmes on Child Labour.

All the above strategies are expected to result in raising awareness on the hazards of CL and in addition build the capacity of the communities to mobilise and work towards the elimination of Child Labour. The children withdrawn or prevented from engaging in child labour activities benefit from the following social support programmes:

- Enrolment into basic schools;
- School fees for one academic year,
- Two sets of school uniforms,
- Vocational skills training,
- Counselling services.

International Needs Ghana works with children in exploitative labour situations and does not cover trafficked children. The organisation does receive child victims through community sensitisation programmes and key informants and other community groups. The children are mainly from relatively poor backgrounds, usually school-drop outs, and victims of parental irresponsibility, neglect and total

abandonment. The victims, who are mostly girls, are aged between 8 and 18 years. The common medical diagnoses are sexually transmitted infections. There are isolated cases where the shelter for abused children at Osu has to deal with children who are infected with HIV/AIDS.

#### **4.4.5 The SOS Children's Village in Ghana**

The SOS Children's Village in Ghana started in 1974, to address the plight of orphans, destitute and abandoned children and children who do not live with their natural families. SOS has 2 villages, one in Tema, and one in Asiakwa; in the Greater Accra and Eastern Regions respectively.

In Tema, there are 15 family houses (cluster of houses) with an appointed professional mother to each house as well as aunties; aunties assist mothers and can become mothers themselves after few years of training. Tema hosts more than 150 children and contains five educational institutions including a kindergarten, primary school, JSS, a girls' vocational training centre, and an international college which supports the education of children.

Asiakwa in the eastern region has 18 houses and over 182 children with educational facilities such as Kindergarten, Primary Schools and Secondary Schools. A clinic has also been established to take care of children.

Schools in Tema have the potential to become self sustaining while it is less likely for schools in Asiakwa. Since 1974, 450 children have been brought through the SOS children's village programme. The SOS village does not take children above the age of 6 years except in cases where there is an older sibling in order to avoid separation. The SOS village fosters children above 7 years of age by providing a long distance support programme to assist families meet the needs of some of these children. Support is provided for education and food, as well as medication for HIV/AIDS. Staff members are dedicated to the long distance support programmes. The SOS is also intending to reach out to the northern region.

SOS is considering professionalising the status of "mothers" who oversee the smooth functioning of the homes. The current funding sources for SOS are mainly private donations. SOS receives support from foreign countries and also through a school fee paying system which attracts children to the International school from wealthy families. SOS does not receive any support from government but they are exempted of taxes.

The estimated cost per child is 10,500 cedis per day which does not include the resources to monitor the status of children in the premises. The youth homes cost 300 dollars a month to cover the school fees, uniform, clothing, professional mothers and aunties.

No cases of abuse, incest, streetism or trafficking have been directed to the SOS children's village staff. Interviews with management did reveal that there is interest in potential collaboration with ICI, especially through its long distance support programme to children (based on ICI interview, 2005).

#### **4.4.6 African Centre for Human Development**

The African Centre for Human Development has also been in the forefront of the fight against Child Trafficking and all forms of abusive child labour practices. However, it was not possible during the fieldwork to interview personnel from this organisation or to solicit for information on their programmes and areas of operation.<sup>21</sup>

#### **4.5 Technical and Vocational Training Options for ICI at the National Level**

The team investigated potential options for ICI related to skills development and technical training options for children particularly in areas where ICI was operational. These options were particularly assessed in relation to their potential to assist children who were identified as engaging in child labour activities and needed rehabilitation but could remain within their district, community and in some cases family setting.

The 2005 NACVET Report is the most comprehensive report which contains information on all Technical and Vocational Training Institutions in Ghana (a summary of this report is contained in annex 8). The report contains both public and private institutions including those owned by religious organisations. The report however does not provide an exhaustive list of all existing technical & vocational institutions in the country, but only those that have registered with the secretariat for the National Co-ordinating Committee for Technical & Vocational Education and Training (NACVET), the National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI), the Ghana Education Service (GES) and the Ministry of Education and Sports; and Polytechnics. The document covers information related to the following institutions:

- Polytechnics
- Technical Institutions (GES)
- NVTI Centres
- ICCES Centres
- Department of Community Development Institutions
- Department of Social Welfare Centres
- Ministry of Agriculture Institutions
- Leadership Training Institutes
- Ministry of Roads and Transport Training Centre
- GRATIS Centres

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<sup>21</sup> Several attempts were made to interview the national director and key staff.

- Opportunities Industrialization Centres
- Private Institutions in All the 10 Regions across the Country.

### Summary of Registered Technical and Vocational Education Training Institutions in Ghana<sup>22</sup>

Type of Institution	Number	Responsible Ministry/ Department/Agency	Contact
GES Technical Institute	23	Ghana Education Service	MOEYS/GES, Accra
NVTI Centre	38	Ministry of Manpower ,Youth and Employment	Training Officer NVTI
ICCES Centre	68		Training Officer ICCES
Social Welfare Centre	15		Human Resource, Dept of Social Welfare
Leadership Training Institute	9		National Youth Council
OIC	3		NACVET
Community Development Training Institute	24	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development	Training Officer MLGRD
Agric Farm Institutes	3	Ministry of Food and Agriculture	NACVET
Technical Training Centre	1	Ministry of Roads and Transport	NACVET
HOTCATT	1	Ministry of Tourism and Modernisation	NACVET
Gratis Foundation	9	Ministry of Trade and Industry	NACVET
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>		
<b>Private and Religious Institutions</b>			
Ashanti Region	64	Ms. Akua Kwapong, President Tel: 0244-984259/051-21250	
Brong Ahafo Region	29	Mr. Adampa Sunyani	
Central Region	54	Principal Biriwa NVTI	
Eastern Region	58	Principal, Solomon Commercial College	
Greater Accra Region	79	Ms. Rose Sam, Social Advance Institute, Accra Or Mr. Anim Tema Industrial Mission Tel: 022-305233	
Volta Region	47	Rev. Cecilia, Catholic Education Unit , Ho	
Western Region	27	Ms. Ana Derby, Takoradi	
Upper West Region	17	Principal, Asaman Memorial, Wa	
Upper East Region	12	N/A	
Northern Region	21	N/A	
<b>Total</b>	<b>408</b>	N/A	

<sup>22</sup> Refer to Annex 7 for institutions situated within or close to ICI operational areas.

There is presently no comprehensive national directory with specific information on course requirements, duration and the average estimated cost of training per child for each of the identified programmes. There is very little assessment made of technical and vocational courses and more investigation is needed on the issue. The NACVET has a limited mandate in terms of coordinating the activities of the same institutions since they are the examining body for such institutions. Efforts are however being made by NACVET to develop programme resource directory for use by all stakeholders {Mr. Edwin Akorli Director of EMIS, NACVET}<sup>23</sup>.

## Conclusions

The table 1 below summarises some of the key national level institutional arrangements for providing social protection for children in Ghana.

**Table 1: Key Types of Social Welfare Mechanisms**

Name of Mechanism	Level of Operations
Multi-Sectoral Committee on Children under the GNCC of MOWAC.	An umbrella committee where stakeholders meet to discuss issues affecting children and identify strategies to respond to the problem and promote welfare of affected children. The Chief Justice is the Chair of the committee. It operates at the National & Regional levels. Meetings are held once every quarter. - UNICEF is supporting the activities of Multi-Sectoral Committee
Child Protection Centres	There are three main shelters or hosting structures at the National level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Shelter for Abused Children (DSW)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Shelter for Trafficked Children (DSW), yet to be fully operational</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Crisis Response Centre (The Ark Foundation)</li> </ul>
WAJU / Ghana Police	This has been set up in all Regional Offices of the Ghana Police. WAJU has the mandate to arrest and prosecute anyone found guilty of Child Rights' abuses including the rights of women.
Family Tribunal	According to the Children's Act, a Family Tribunal shall exercise jurisdiction in matters concerning parentage, custody, access, maintenance of children and shall exercise such powers as are conferred on it by the ACT or under any other enactment.
Child Panels	This institution is enshrined in the Children's Act, ACT 560 that each district shall establish a Child Panel as the District Assembly may find it necessary. A Child Panel according to the ACT shall have non-judicial functions and shall mediate in criminal and

<sup>23</sup> The NACVET study does however mention some course related information by the institutions listed. This document will be included in the documentation folder handed over to ICI.

Name of Mechanism	Level of Operations
	civil matters, which concern a child as, prescribed therein.

The multi-sectoral committee has been effective at the national level as a coordinating mechanism in ensuring that problems of children in the country receive the needed attention from the relevant ministry and agency. The women and juvenile unit of the Ghana Police Service has also made significant impact in responding to issues of social protection of children at the national level and to a limited extent at the regional level; its presence is not felt at the district level according to stakeholder interviews. The establishment of the child panels remains a key challenge for Ghana and in particular, the District Assemblies who are mandated by the Children’s Act, ACT560 to set up these bodies.

#### **4.6 SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN: A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE**

The next section reviews the key findings based on interviews with regional stakeholders concerning social protection of children at regional and district level<sup>24</sup>. The section also presents findings from the assessment of prospective institutional arrangements for responding to issues of social protection in “extreme” cases of abusive child labour practices or trafficking.

The team visited several regional stakeholders involved in social protection activities including the Regional Coordinating Council, the Department of Social Welfare, the Department of Community Development, Ghana National Commission on Children (regional office), CHRAJ and Regional Population offices. The Regional Directors of Social Welfare guided the team in their selection of institutions and organisations serving the needs of regional social welfare offices when dealing with cases of child abuse and trafficking.

##### **4.6.1 Western Region**

###### **4.6.1.1 Western Regional Co-ordinating Council (RCC)**

The Regional Co-ordinating Council (RCC) is the political administrative body at the regional level that is responsible for all administrative oversight of the region. Although the RCC does not deal directly with social welfare issues, they have the mandate to coordinate, monitor and harmonize development programmes that cut across districts in the region. The RCC, has on several occasions provided logistical support to the Department of Social Welfare in the form of means of transport in managing cases of child abuse.

Though the RCC does not directly handle cases of child labour and trafficking, it has the responsibility to protect lives and properties through the Regional Security Council which is made up of security services at the region. The council provides an opportunity for tackling child trafficking in the region. The chair of the Regional

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<sup>24</sup> The two regions of focus are the Western and Ashanti regions where ICI is operational.

Security Council, has the mandate to coordinate activities of all the security services and ensure the enforcement of laws in the region. The RCC also has the oversight responsibility to safeguard the lives of the population which includes children.

#### **4.6.1.2 Department of Social Welfare**

The Department of Social Welfare among others has the mandate to provide child welfare services, equip disadvantaged youth with employable skills and integrate persons with disability into mainstream society through vocational training. The Department of Social Welfare also supervises the implementation of child welfare activities and programmes in the region. The department collaborates with the police, District Assemblies, Ghana National Commission on Children, Family Tribunal, Juvenile Courts, Department of Community Development, Orphanages and NGOs (e.g. Women In Law and Development in Africa [WILDAF]) including Faith Based Organisations. All these organizations have come together to form a Child Rights Committee to oversee the rights protection of children in the Western region. The committee operates under the chairmanship of WILDAF, a women's rights and protection NGO.

The Department of Social Welfare's approach to social protection of children focuses on preventive measures through the social education of communities. In spite of its key role of ensuring improved social well being of the vulnerable in society, the department has done little to address issues of child labor practices in the western region, although it acknowledges that child labor exists in the region, predominately in cocoa growing and "galamsey" (small scale mining) areas. Limited data however exists to indicate the existence of Child Trafficking. Interviews with the regional directorate did indicate that they have heard of, and in some instances, handled child trafficking cases directly.

The following are the procedures for managing cases of child abuse including abandonment, harmful child labour practices and child trafficking:

- The first step, based on reported cases, the department will visit the community and identify the victim; take the particulars or details of the victim through interviews; refer the victim for medical screening and for possible medical care and treatment (the department has an officer stationed at the regional hospital charged with this responsibility).
- The next step is to inform the police and request that investigations be carried out.
- While awaiting the results of the investigations, the victim is sent to an orphanage or home for shelter. In the recent past and in relation to child trafficking cases, the department while working to trace and reunite victims with their families liaises with the Centre for Trafficked Children in Madina, Greater Accra in order to ensure options for shelter are available for the rescued children.
- If there is no immediate place for the child to stay within a regional or district institution, social welfare officers also reported temporarily housing the child with a reliable person within the district capital.
- Officers in some districts also reported that they dealt with child trafficking and child labour cases by sending the children directly back to their home district by public transport; these officers were unable to accompany the children and had

to simply liaise with social welfare officers in those districts to ensure that the child was taken back to their original home.

Among the recent efforts at responding to issues of Child Trafficking, the sensitization programmes by SCMPP, a local NGO based in Daboase in the Mpohor East District on the issues of child abuse and child labour has had some impact in the area. Recently, the Department dealt with a case from Daboase that had been reported and investigated by SCMPP under ICI programme, that included a boy and two girls, aged between 13 and 14 years who were trafficked from Northern Ghana to a community called Atieku by a particular woman. The regional office of the Department of Social Welfare in collaboration with its district office in Daboase, rescued the children and subsequently sent them to the '*Madina Shelter for Trafficked Children*' in Accra, this was in the second week of February 2006.

### **Relevant Regional Level Facilities**

The Department of Social Welfare in the Western Region manages the following facilities:

- **The Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre at Essipon**, near Sekondi. The Centre which is a village on its own has an administrative block with a store and toilet facilities. It also has accommodation facilities and workshop facilities for skills training. It has a dormitory that has a capacity to house 150 trainees – a three-block unit plus a facility for a housemaster, a dining hall, kitchen and quarters that can accommodate 6 instructors. Though these facilities are being underutilized, it can be rehabilitated and put to good use. The centre presently offers the following training programmes:
  - Carpentry
  - Rural Crafts (e.g. basket weaving)
  - Dressmaking/Tailoring
  - Batik, Tie-and-dye
  - Food Processing
  - There are plans by the Department of Social Welfare to include hairdressing, electronics and electrical installation training to the above programmes.
  
- **National Sheltered Workshop at Wassa Akropong** – this workshop is already training disabled persons who are brought together to work and support themselves economically. There are plans by the department to turn the Sheltered Workshop into a vocational school to train the blind in rural youth in crafts and tailoring.

In spite of the valuable services that the Department of Social Welfare at regional level can render to the state, it is not well resourced to work satisfactory hence the

*“vulnerable in the society keep falling out of the safety net<sup>25</sup>”*. Similar to its national office, the Regional Social Welfare Office has a very weak staff strength and no vehicle to carry out their work schedules effectively. Through the national office the department of social welfare at regional level receives funding support from UNICEF and ILO/IPEC for targeted programmes.

#### **4.6.1.3 Department for Community Development, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.**

At the regional level, the Department for Community Development (DCD) educates communities on child abuse, child labour, and child trafficking in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare, Non-Formal Education Division and Ministry of Food Agriculture. This is carried out by the women’s work division of the department through mass meetings and study groups with the communities. The study groups are organized women’s group who on a regular basis discuss current topics and issues. Their activities include education of women on issues of child labour, child abuse and child trafficking. At Axim in the Nzema East District, fish mongers are the target; in the Sefwi Wiawso District cocoa farmers are the target, while in Tarkwa the educational activities take place at the ‘*galamsey*’ (small scale mining sites). Through these activities the department is able to encourage parents, particularly women to enrol their children in school.

Though the DCD has limited collaborators at the regional level, the offices at the district level are actively involved in combating the problem of child labour practices. The department has extension services with World Vision International on child labour and trafficking issues in cocoa growing areas such as Ahanta West and Mpohor Wassa East Districts.

There is a regional female supervisor of the Department of Community Development who is in charge of the women’s work activities. The women’s wing of the department organizes women’s groups and trains them in vocational skills through the Women’s Training Institutes. The department manages a number of Women’s Vocational Institutes across the region and admits girls from the age of 18 years. These are located in Takoradi, Tarkwa and Axim. The staffing situations at the three institutions are as follows:

- Takoradi – eighty teachers with one hundred and fifty nine students, all girls.
- Tarkwa – seven teachers with two hundred and fourteen students and all girls.
- Axim – five teachers with ninety students, all female.

The women’s vocational training institutions provide training in hair dressing, catering, computer studies, needle work and craft. The entrance requirement is JSS or SSS. The programmes offered are all three-year courses leading to NVTI certificates. The total cost per trainee is six hundred thousand cedis a year excluding items for practical training by the students.

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<sup>25</sup> Direct quote from the Deputy Western Regional Director of the Department of Social Welfare

The key challenge for the Department of Community Development at the regional level is staffing and transport. In spite of these challenges, ICI could link up with these institutions to train trafficked children and organize sensitization workshops in communities by building the capacity of the staff related to issues of social protection for children.

#### **4.6.1.4 Ghana National Commission on Children (MOWAC)**

The mandate of the Ghana National Commission on Children (GNCC) at the regional level is to implement programmes to address developmental needs of all children. At the regional level, GNCC coordinates the operations of the Child Multi-Sectoral Committee under the sponsorship of UNICEF. Presently, GNCC is networking with regional stakeholders to develop child rights advocacy strategies to combat the problem of child abuse and child labour practices in the Western Region.

The Commission collaborates with a number of agencies and departments within the region. These include the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Department of Social Welfare (DSW), National Commission on Civic Education (NCCE), WAJU, National Youth Council, Ghana Education Service (GES), Ghana Health Service (GHS), District Assembly, World Vision International, WILDAF, and the family tribunal. The commission recently collaborated with World Vision International and conducted a survey on child rights protection. The survey focused on child labour and child abuse in the Ahanta West district. The dissemination of the survey report was carried out with the District Assembly and one community.<sup>26</sup> Based on the outcome of the survey, a child rights committee has been constituted consisting of NCCE, DSW, GHS, CHRAJ, GES, Customs, Excise and Preventive Service (CEPS) and the District Assembly in Ahanta West district. GNCC is also collaborating with Women In Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) to set up a right-based network to assist children in the region.

#### **4.6.1.5 Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice**

The office of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) in mid 2005 collaborated with the Department of Social Welfare, police services, and WILDAF on reported cases of child trafficking in Asankragwa, and Sefwi Wiawso but nothing concrete was done due to lack of funding to follow up on the reported cases. The focus of CHRAJ in 2006 is to educate the general public on how to take care of their children, and this will be done through workshops and other educational programmes. In the Western Region, the commission has limited ability to handle more cases of child trafficking. It however, does have the capacity to carry out advocacy work particularly in collaboration with other agencies.

#### **4.6.1.6 National Population Council, under the Office of the President**

The National Population Council (NPC) collaborates with the Ghana National Commission on Children (GNCC) on issues of children's rights and protection. The Regional office of the National Population Council is directly responsible for data collection, documentation, database management, advocacy and networking for

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<sup>26</sup> Six communities were involved in the survey.

development planning. The GNCC relies on NPC through its Regional Population Advisory Committee (RPAC) to reach out to departmental heads in the region for advocacy purposes. The RPAC meets quarterly at the regional level to discuss social developmental issues affecting the region. Currently one of the topical issues that the RPAC is addressing in the Western Region is the high incidence of teenage pregnancy in the Nzema East district. The following agencies are involved in the RPAC:

- Regional Coordinating Council – Chair
- Ghana Health Service
- Ghana Education Service
- Department of Social Welfare
- Department for Community Development
- Ghana National Commission on Children
- National Youth Council
- Ministry of Food and Agriculture
- Non Formal Education Division
- National Commission on Civic Education
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Christian Council
- Moslem Council

The RPAC provides a window of opportunity for advocacy efforts with major stakeholders for ensuring social protection of abused children, and in particular, victims of child labour practices including trafficking due to their large membership and involvement of all key stakeholders. The Population Council at regional level includes a wide network of agencies that can be used to reach out to a greater proportion of the population in the region.

Even though the office has limited or no data on child labour practices in the region, it is working with some district assemblies such as Wassa West and Nzema East to stem the problem through educational workshops and seminars with district stakeholders. One of the council's strategies is to work with district assemblies to check the prevalence of school drop out rates in the region.

#### ***4.6.1.7 Livelihood Training Institutions in Western Region***

##### ***4.6.1.7.1 GRATIS Foundation***

GRATIS Foundation evolved out of the GRATIS project by the Government of Ghana in 1987 with support from the European Union and CIDA. The mandate of GRATIS is to promote small-scale industrialization in the county. GRATIS operates several centres in all the regions of Ghana except the Ashanti region. The GRATIS Foundation offers three main courses. These are:

- Welding and fabrication
- Metal machine work
- Carpentry

The preferred basic entry requirement is Senior Secondary School Certificate and Basic Education Certificate. Drop outs from Junior Secondary School are also considered if they have the ability to read and write. The duration of courses is 3 years and is non residential. The average cost per student per annum is about 7 millions cedis. Recently, the Foundation collaborated with the Ministry of Manpower Development, Youth and Employment and trained 150 youth in the STEP programmes—Skills Training and Employable Program. The Foundation is self sustaining because it is able to generate its own income. GRATIS generates 80% of the required funds for its operations through private sector work and tuition for courses.

There is a possibility that collaboration between ICI and the GRATIS foundation in the area of livelihood skills training could be beneficial for the youth in some of the target areas through providing scholarships.

#### **4.6.1.7.2 Opportunities Industrialization Centre (OIC)**

Opportunities Industrialization Centre is a community-based, non-formal vocational and technical skill training organization. Established in 1971, it provides marketable skills training, job placement, job creation opportunities, counselling and follow up services to disadvantaged unskilled, unemployed school leavers and dropouts generally aged between 17 and 30 years. The following programmes are offered at the centre:

- Carpentry and joinery
- Masonry
- Building Draughtsmanship
- Welding and fabrication
- Tie and dye and batik
- Dress making and
- Hair Dressing
- Stenography
- Office and Computer Skills

The duration of the courses is 12 months leading to NVTI II certificate and is non residential. The cost ranges between ₦950,000 and ₦1,500,000 to train each student. Entry requirement is JSS and SSS certificates or youth who can read and write in English. Illiterates are also trained. The school generates funds through its services and appeal for funds from churches such as the Methodist and Catholic Church as well as other philanthropists.

There could be possible collaboration between OIC and ICI to train rescued victims. The centre recently, collaborated with the Ministry of Health and trained identified HIV Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) with support from OIC.

#### **4.6.1.8 Recommended Hosting Facilities by Department of Social Welfare in the Western Region**

A total of three homes/orphanages were recommended by the Department of Social Welfare in the Western Region. These are the: Angels of Hope in Tarkwa, Word Alive Orphanage in Esiama and Father's Home Care in Butumajabu. The team visited the following two homes because it had earlier on during the district level interviews been to Angels of Hope in Tarkwa.

##### ***4.6.1.8.1 Word Alive Orphanage, Western Region***

The Word Alive Children's Home is a faith-based hosting facility for vulnerable children. It is situated at Esiama about 60 kilometres away from Takoradi off the Agona-Nkwanta and Tarkwa main road in the Nzema East district in the Western Region. The home is under the operations of World Alive Mission, a Christian organization and was started in 2003. Children are brought to the home through community sensitization outreach programmes which focus on the identification of needy and vulnerable children. These include orphans and abandoned children. Before admission of the children into the home, their guardians or families are allowed to apply formally. The applications are later vetted and considered for admission. Once admitted, medical screening is carried out for special attention and care of the children.

Presently, there are 19 children at the home and they consist of 10 boys and 9 girls, between the ages 1 and 13 years. All the children are enrolled in school, which is run privately by the Mission. The World Alive Mission supports the operations and activities of the home. The mission operates private educational programmes which include Primary and Junior Secondary School, Senior Secondary School and a Community Health School to make it self sustaining. The mission also generates funding from its church activities.

The cost of feeding a child is estimated at around two hundred and forty thousand cedis per month. The home has 3 rooms and each room has the capacity to accommodate 10 children at a time. It has a kitchen, toilet, dining hall, and office and a space for children to play. The key challenge of the home and the entire Word Alive Village is water; the institution relies on boreholes. The staff strength of the home is 8 made up of the Director, an Administrator, a caretaker, 3 security men and 2 cleaners. The Director of the home is the Reverend Minister in charge of the mission.

What is worrying about the home is how it operates with respect to child adoption. Though the administrator admitted no adoption has taken place, his explanation about possible adoption from the home appears suspicious. According to him the home received three applications for adoption about 6 months ago but the Department of Social Welfare has not been informed. Discussions with the administrator revealed the limited knowledge about adoption procedures. Probably children are being adopted from the home without the involvement of the

Department of Social Welfare, who has the sole prerogative and mandate to oversee any child adoption in the country. Even though the interview team educated the administrator of the home about the procedures for child adoption and recommended stronger collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare, a more in depth training on the subject matter to avoid the 'sale' of children under the pretext of adoption is needed.

**Assessment:** The Word Alive Orphanage is recommended to ICI as a potential transitional institution for helping victims of child trafficking before they are sent to national level institutions. This recommendation is based on the capacity of the institution to manage cases of child abuse. Word Alive also has a self sustaining approach to it's' operation. In order for Word Alive to act as a transit point for ICI the staff need more orientation and training in dealing effectively with cases of child abuse and trafficking. The Director expressed interest in collaborating with ICI and its partners.

#### ***4.6.1.8.2 Father's Home Care, Western Region***

Father's Home Care was established in 2001. It is located in Butumajabu a suburb of Sekondi-Takoradi off the Takoradi-Ketan Junction in the Western Region. The home takes care of less privileged children in society including orphans. Most of the Children are brought into the home by individuals. Before final admission into the home the child is taken through the following:

1. A team from the home follows up to investigate the family background;
2. The Department of Social Welfare is informed about the case;
3. A form is sent to the child's family to complete;
4. The child is admitted into the home; this is followed with medical screening for care and treatment.
5. The children are enrolled in school.

Presently the home has 22 children made up of 10 girls and 12 boys mostly orphans. The children are between the ages of 1 and 14 years. There is one case who was admitted because the mother is an epileptic. Another was also admitted into the home because he was begging with his mother who is a mental patient. In addition, the home is also supporting 6 other children staying outside the home with foster parents who are with their extended family members. The home assists needy children to further their education. The home also assists surviving parents to undertake income-generating activities.

The cost of feeding per child per day is between ¢8,000 and ¢10,000 cedis. The home spends about 13 million cedis annually on clothes, medical care, school uniform, books and tuition for the children. The main funding sources are from; transportation business, donations from churches, and individuals philanthropists. The key challenge of the home is the lack of qualified personnel.

The home has 5 staff members consisting of a secretary who also doubles as the mother of the home, 2 cooks, a cleaner and a janitor. There is a part time teacher

who comes in the evening to help the children with their homework. The home receives volunteers from Canada. The home has 2 bedrooms and a hall for staff and volunteers, 4 bedrooms for inmates, 1 play room, 2 toilets and 2 bathrooms.

**Assessment:** Fathers' Home Care appears congested with 22 children; the facility cannot house any more children. The organisation does have experience in developing outreach programmes for income generation and support for children who remain with their families.

Although the two homes are rated as "B facilities" according to the Social Welfare rating system both institutions would require a high degree of capacity building to enable them to provide a basic level of service to children in difficult circumstances. Their weak linkages to the Department of Social Welfare further ensures that procedures and practices within the orphanages cannot be monitored.

#### **4.6.1.8.3 Angels of Hope should go under other district not to confuse with ICI district of intervention**

"Angels of Hope" which is situated in Tarkwa, was established in 1999 and registered in 2000 by Madam Esi Antobam who resides in the United States of America. According to the "mother of the home", Yaa Frimponmaa Arhin, the founder had a vision to help the poor and needy motivated by the suffering she went through after the death of her father when she was very young.

Angels of Hope is the nearest orphanage to Amenfi West District. The orphanage takes mainly abandoned children, orphaned children, (either both parents or one parent) along with needy street children and orphans from birth to 14 years. It has 13 children most of whom are enrolled in school. The eldest child is attending Adisadel College, pursuing senior secondary education. The children are also given skills training in bead-making and tie-dye after school hours and during Saturdays as well as on holidays and weekends. The orphanage has a capacity for 30 children.

Children are brought to the orphanage through the District Department of Social Welfare and the local office of the National Youth Council. Other children are brought to the Orphanage by their parents or other relations who are poor and needy. According to the mother of the home, children are sometimes identified directly by the orphanage but go through the Department of Social Welfare's procedures to allow the orphanage to take responsibility for their care. The children stay in the home until they are either adopted or 'fit to go out into the world on their own'.

The founder, Madam Esi Antobam provides the orphanage with its main source of funding; she remits the home with an average of ₵4 million every quarter. Other sources of funding support come from volunteer organizations, churches, mining companies and individual donors who have the welfare of children at heart. When remittances from Esi Antobam are late, the orphanage appeals to these groups for

assistance. The home has staff strength of five which includes the “mother of the home”.

**Assessment:** Not recommended as hosting facility. The orphanage was found to be quite under resourced affecting the quality of care being provided to the orphans; the orphanage does not appear well supervised.

## **4.6.2 The Ashanti Region**

### ***4.6.2.1 Regional Co-ordinating Council***

As the political administrative body in the Ashanti Region, the Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) has no mechanism in place to handle cases of abusive child labour practice. Children who are found loitering are sent to the police service or the department of social welfare for investigation and follow up. Although the District Assemblies, whose efforts the RCC coordinates, are charged with the responsibility to implement programmes and projects to improve the lives of people in general, there is a huge gap between their mandate and the capacity to respond to social welfare issues in the region. Similarly, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), who are supposed to implement programmes that address social welfare issues, are not resourced to carry out their work.

The RCC has the coordinating capacity in the region to address issues of child protection yet most MDAs and NGOs do not involve the council in programme planning and implementation. Strengthening the social welfare systems in the region will require increased budgetary allocations for social protection issues. The RCC is well placed to advocate for MDAs including the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), to assist them obtain the needed funds for their work. Although the DSW is not fully decentralized, efforts are being made to integrate budgets of the central government and Assemblies. This may perhaps help in operationalising the mandate of DSW as captured in the Children’s Act, ACT 560 of 1998.

### ***4.6.2.2 Department of Social Welfare***

The Department of Social welfare has the mandate to respond to the social welfare needs and provide care and protection to the citizenry in Ashanti Region. At the regional level, the Department collaborates with the Ghana National Commission on Children, GES, GHS, WAJU, District Assemblies and NGOs who are working on child rights and protection issues.

The Department of Social Welfare has no clear set of procedures in handling related cases of abusive child labour practice. However, if cases of child abuse are reported to the police, the DSW is informed. Based on the assessment of the situation and if the department thinks a particular child victim needs to be taken away from the offender, then the child is sent to a home within the region for shelter. The Department’s programme approach on the protection for victims of child labour and trafficking, is most apparent in the Atwima Mponua District where it is engaged in

withdrawing children who are being used on cocoa farms. This is a joint effort with opinion leaders, the labour department and the District Assembly. The withdrawal of children is part of the implementation of ILO/IPEC project on child labour in Nkawie and Atwima Mponua districts.

The Department of Social Welfare in the Ashanti Region manages the following institutions:

- Kumasi Children's home
- Amoafu Technical and Vocational Institute
- Bekwai Central Destitute Institute

The main source of funding is from the Government of Ghana. The Department also receives financial support from UNICEF. The Regional Directorate of Social Welfare recommended that the team visit at least two of its most preferred institutions for hosting potential cases of child abuse and trafficking. These included the Westphalian Children's Village and Abdullam Orphanage in Ashanti Region.

#### ***4.6.2.3 Ghana National Commission on Children***

The 2005 report by the Ghana National Commission on Children indicated that Kumasi, which is the Capital of the Ashanti Region, is increasingly becoming the base for migrant child labourers from northern Ghana who work mostly for chop bar operators. Even though there is limited information about these children, their welfare is worsening. The Commission is collaborating with DSW, CHRAJ, GES, DAs, GHS, and Attorney General Department and the regional branch of the Ghana National NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child to develop an integrated programme in response to the problem. As a first step, the Commission is planning to conduct a survey to document the issues and map out a strategy to protect these children.

The commission also coordinates activities of the Child Multi-sectoral Committee in the region. At the moment the Commission is working to put a consortium of child experts together to draw up strategic interventions to combat the movement of child labourers from the north to Kumasi. The main source of funding is from the Government of Ghana. The Commission also receives funding from UNICEF in support of its advocacy programmes. At present, UNICEF is supporting the commission with 2 million cedis per quarter for the activities of the Child Multi-sectoral Committee in the region.

#### ***4.6.2.4 Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice***

The regional office of CHRAJ in Ashanti region does not receive formal complaints on child labour or child trafficking. However, child labour practices are prevalent in the region. In 2005, the Commission collaborated with the DSW and conducted an investigation into reported cases of child labour practices in New Edubiase in the Adansi South district. The commission undertakes public education activities using the prints and electronic media to sensitize the public on child right issues. It has also organized workshops for women's groups in Buoho and Kuntanase in the Lake Bosomtwi area on

the negative effects of using children for stone cracking and fishing activities respectively.

Even though there is limited collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare, the Commission collaborates with the Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly (KMA), GNCC, NCWD ? and NGOs including the Youth Development Foundation and Defense for Children International on child rights and child labour practices. The main source of funding is from the Government of Ghana, which is woefully inadequate. The Commission also receives external funding support from UNICEF, the African Women's Development Fund, USAID and DANIDA.

The key challenge to providing social protection for children is the misplaced priorities of the government. While there are some strong institutional arrangements for providing social welfare support, budget allocations are not adequate to support the most basic programme interventions. Most of the departments charged with the responsibility to provide welfare services do not have proper resources to work with.

#### ***4.6.2.5 Labour Department***

The Labour Department in the Ashanti Region is at the moment involved in the implementation of ILO/IPEC project on child labour in Nkawie and Atwima Mponua districts. The WACAP project was implemented in 18 communities across the two districts. As part of the project implementation, a committee consisting of the local people, the Unit Committee and the Department of Social Welfare was set up and trained on Child Labour issues and related legislations.

The committee was charged with the responsibility to withdraw children working on cocoa farms and undertake awareness creation activities at the community levels. The withdrawn children were enrolled in school and provided with uniforms, books as well as other basic school items. Those who had no form of formal education were enrolled in the Skills Training and Employment Programme (STEP). The project which is ending in 2006, was implemented in collaboration with CEDEP, a local NGO based in Kumasi.

#### ***4.6.2.6 Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child (GNCRC) – Ashanti Region Branch***

The Ghana National Coalition on the Rights of the Child (GNCRC) is a network of NGOs working on child rights and protection issues in the Ashanti region. There about 80 child focussed NGOs in the Ashanti Region but only 25 are active at present. The members of the coalition refer reported cases of child abuse to the Department of Social Welfare. The coalition has assisted in the withdrawal of 130 children age between 10 and 16 years from cocoa farms in 5 communities in the Amansie West District and enrolled at least 112 children in school. The remaining 18 children were given livelihood training in tailoring and carpentry. As part of the programme, a child labour committee has been formed in the district and the committee monitors children who are sent back to school. This was done in collaboration with ILO /WACAP and WINROCK international.

The Coalition's main source of funding is from dues paid by members and donations from donors like Save the Children's Fund, Sweden.

#### **4.6.3 Recommended Hosting Facilities by the Department of Social Welfare in the Ashanti Region**

The Department of Social Welfare office in the Ashanti Region recommended the Westphalian Children's Village in Oyoko and Abdullam Orphanage in Obuasi. According to the Department of Social Welfare, these structures are rendering the best and most appropriate services to handle cases of vulnerable, needy and abused children in the region. The team visited the Abdullam Orphanage during earlier visits at the district level which is contained in section 5.4 of the report.

##### ***4.6.3.1 Westphalian Children's Village, Ashanti Region***

The Westphalian Children's Village is a private institution based in Oyoko in the Ashanti region. It was registered 1984 by the International Union of Westphalian Children's Village based in Germany. The village sees the provision of a safe home for orphans and the homeless as a crucial factor in curbing maladjustment. The Village supports orphans and vulnerable children to develop their personality and potential.

Children are brought into the Westphalian Village by destitute families, individuals and sometimes the Children's home in Kumasi. These children are mostly orphans, deserted children and 'social orphans' that are often children of mentally ill parents. The village has five detached houses. Each house has 5 bedrooms with kitchen and toilet facilities which constitute a " family set up".

The children of the Westphalian Village are brought up together with natural children of foster parents. Couples will have to apply to become a head of a family. There are presently 65 children in the village including 7 biological children of the couples. At the moment there are 3 sets of couples who are taking care of the assigned children including their biological children in a non-discriminately manner. The original concept was to have between 10 – 12 children per couple. However, the village is faced with a challenge of resettling the older children. As a result, each family set up is at the moment having about 16 children. Even though the older children assist in taking care of the younger ones the situation is not the best.

All the children in the Village are attending school; some are in Primary, Junior Secondary, and Senior Secondary schools outside the village. Those with difficulty in coping with formal education have alternative education in vocational and technical training depending on their areas of interest. Parents or the couples of the family are all professional teachers who go about their normal life. The estimated cost per child is between ₵350,000 and ₵500,000 per month. The children stay in the village until they are self-sufficient.

The Westphalian Village operates the following institutions on a commercial basis: hospital and specialists eye clinic, optical training school, basic and vocational school, a printing press and a carpentry shop in order to make it self sustaining. The total number staff in the Village is 31, made of a 6-member management council, 6 parents, 1 social worker, 1 project supervisor, 2 accountants, and 15 support staff. It also receives volunteers from Europe upon application. The main source of funding is from the International Union of Westphalian Children's Villages, individual philanthropists and churches.

**Assessment:** In spite of the uniqueness of this Village, it lacks experienced social workers to support its activities. The village is however open to possible collaboration with ICI, and could serve as a hosting facility for rescued children from the Ashanti region. The Westphalian Children's Village is a very professional hosting facility and is therefore recommended as a transitional or permanent institution for ICI to use for rescued children and victims of abusive practices.

The Kumasi Children's home was mentioned but not recommended as a preferred venue by the Regional Directorate of Social Welfare for hosting children from abusive or trafficked conditions. The Regional Directorate of Social Welfare refers the most extreme cases of abandonment to the Westphalian Children's village.

### **Conclusions**

Interviews with regional stakeholders revealed that there are a number of institutions involved in social protection of children in both the Western and Ashanti regions. These include the Regional Coordinating Council, Department Social Welfare, Department of Community Development, Women and Juvenile Unit (WAJU) of the Ghana Police Service, Ghana National Commission on Children (GNCC), Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), National Population Council (NPC), Children Homes/Orphanages, Livelihood Training Institutions and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). However despite the institutional arrangements in place for child protection, responses to the problems of child labour practices remain weak at the regional level. The social welfare system is generally weak and child protection appears non-existence at the regional level.

There is a very weak follow up mechanism by the Department of Social Welfare on activities of hosting facilities for children. Most of homes/orphanages operating at the regional level have limited knowledge about procedures for child adoption. If action is not taken, these orphanages are likely to become 'institutional centres' for trafficking children.

The most promising institutional linkages for ICI appear to involve supporting the Regional Directorates of Social Welfare and potentially linking to existing coalitions such as the Rights of the Child Coalitions in both Western and Ashanti region. An increasing degree of experience is being gained by both NGO's and the labour units particularly in the Ashanti region due to the efforts of ILO/IPEC project. There is need to collaborate very closely within these regions to avoid duplication of efforts

particularly related to child trafficking and building capacity of hosting institutions. Field investigations identified only a few potential options for ICI and DSW in each region. The best option in the Ashanti region appears to be the Westphalian children's village and in the Western Region, Word Alive. The Abdullam orphanage may also be possible but the large number of children currently in the orphanage is compromising the quality of services being provided.

Another promising option for ICI in hosting children who are removed at the regional or district level is the Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre at Essipon, near Sekondi in the Western Region. This centre is directly under the supervision of the Department of Social Welfare for the Western Region. Though in a very dilapidated state, the centre could be rehabilitated by ICI to serve as an intervention centre to train children in livelihood skills who are in the worst situations of abuse and victims of child trafficking. The centre could also serve as a transitional centre for children in and around Western and Central Regions.

There are several options for ICI to assisting children who are able to remain in their communities through the usage of referral services to existing vocational training centres such as the OIC or the Gratis centres of excellence. These vocational training centres are strongly recommended since they have a track record in providing high quality training and stronger linkages than public vocational training centres to the labour market. A scheme of providing scholarships for children who have been identified within the communities could be started.

## **5.0 DISTRICT CONTEXT AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION**

The District Assemblies are mandated by the Children's Act to provide protection and welfare to all children within their jurisdiction. The District Assemblies have created and charged the Social Service Sub-Committees with the responsibility of childcare and protection. In some districts, the DA has appointed a Children's Committee which acts as an oversight body for child related issues and liaises with the Ghana National Commission on Children (e.g. Wasswa West).

The districts have departments and agencies, which are supposed to respond to the needs of children; however most of them play an advocacy role. These are the Department of Social Welfare, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, the Social Services Sub-Committee, and the Justice and Security Sub-committees. The main challenge these agencies face in providing protection and social services in the districts is related to logistics and transport needs of these agencies. There are a large body of human resources available at the district level to conduct advocacy and education campaigns, as well as identify and refer cases of child trafficking and child abuse but the resources needed to carry out such programmes are lacking.

The following section outlines the district profiles for the three ICI intervention districts, and reviews the potential institutional arrangements for managing cases of abusive child labour practices.

### **5.1 District Profiles**

#### ***5.1.1 Mpohor Wasswa East District***

Mpohor Wasswa East is located at the south-eastern end of the Western Region. The district shares borders with Wasswa West, Ahanta West and Shama-Ahanta East districts all in the same region and Komenda-Elmina-Eguafo-Abrem district in the Central Region. The total population of the district based on the 2000 census is around 123,964 with a population density of 86 persons per square kilometre. The population between 0 – 14 years of age is around 41% of the total population. This figure corresponds with the school-going age cohort at the basic education level. There are a total of 285 schools in the district including pre-schools, primary, JSS and SSS. The dependency ratio is 1:13; the drop out rate is generally very high at around 42% for boys and 51% for girls. A significant proportion of the total population (59%) is without access to portable water. The doctor-patient ratio is 1:34,321 people and the nurse patient ratio is about 1:13,677 (SCMPP Document, 2005).

The main economic activity in the district is farming, specifically in cocoa and oil palm; other activities include lumbering, and mining (both legal and illegal). The road networks in the district are mostly un-tarred making accessibility to communities

difficult. The ethnic distribution is fairly heterogeneous and includes ethnic groups such as the: Wassa, Ahanta, Nzema, Fante, Twi, Ewe, Ga-Dangbe and Hausa. The dominating religion is Christianity and other religions include: Islam and the African Traditional religion. The traditional area system evolves around two traditional ethnic groupings: namely, the Mpohor and Wassa Fiase.

The district is one of the fifty-three (53) most deprived districts according to the Ministry of Education and Sports which was targeted for the capitation grant programme. As a result, since the 2003/04 academic year, the DA instituted a policy to relieve school children from paying school fees and examination fees.

### **Relevant Social Protection Institutions operating at District level**

There are a number of institutions in the district responsible for the protection of children below 18 years of age. These include: CHRAJ, the Department of Social Welfare, Department for Community Development, the National Commission for Civic Education, Ghana Police Service and the District Assembly through its sub – committees. There are three sub-committees of the District Assembly that are charged with formulating laws to protect children; these include the:

- Social Welfare Sub - Committee
- Education and Gender Sub - Committee
- Justice and Security Sub – Committee.

The District Coordinating Director explained that the District Assembly passes the bye-laws to protect children in the district. The District Assembly has passed a bye-law banning children under 18 years of age from attending funerals and video shows during school hours. The DCD also mentioned that the District Assembly made these bye-laws because the standard of education in the district was falling and teenage pregnancy was on the increase. He said children who are caught will be punished and parents are fined.

### ***Department of Social Welfare***

The Department of Social Welfare is charged with the responsibility to protect children. According to the District Social Welfare Officer, there are two types of children whom the department assists:

- Children who are cheated or deprived of their fundamental human rights and are described as children in “contact with the law”.
- Children who go against the law and get themselves involved in criminal activities; these children are classified as children in “conflict with the law”.

On procedures for handling cases of children who come into contact with the law, the department conducts social investigations in relation to both the child and the offender. The DSW officer explained that while the investigation is going on, the child stay’s with a ‘fit’ person often in the district capital. A “fit” person was defined as someone who is socially and economically capable of taking care of the child until the matter is resolved. The person is given money by the department to cater for the

needs of the child. The DSW indicated that while the child is with the person, the department approaches the Assembly for funds to assist with the up keep of the child. The department often writes an “order” to the parents and in most cases, the father is asked to provide funds for the maintenance of the child. When this fails the case is sent to the Family Tribunal.

With children who come into “conflict” with the law, the department writes an “enquiry offence” committed by the child. This is to ensure that the child is not treated as a criminal, but as a minor who needs to be corrected.

The district level investigation revealed that the Department of Social Welfare has links with CHRAJ, NCCE, Ghana Education Service, Community Development and the Ghana Police Service. The Social Services, Education and Gender, and Justice and Security Sub – Committees of the District Assembly are supposed to make laws to protect children, but they are yet to do so. The DSW officer explained that all the departments under the District Assembly refer cases involving children to the Department of Social Welfare. The department handles mostly cases of child neglect, non maintenance and paternity. As of September 2005, the department has handled the following cases:

- Non – Maintenance - 38 cases
- Paternity - 11 cases

The DSW Officer reported that child abuse and child labour cases are not reported officially, however, he believes these exist in the district. In some communities, “young girls below 18 years of age are asked to provide either fish or meat for the evening meals or else they will not take part in the meal... this practice encourages girls to have sexual relations with men for money in order to purchase basic needs for their families”. According to the DSW officer “there are cases where a child who refuses to go to the farm on school days is denied food...these are all forms of child abuse”. Cases of child abuse and child labour often surface during divorce and separation where the father is no longer able or willing to take care of the family.

The staff strength of the department is two; the department has no vehicles or equipment, and has to type their letters at local communication centres. He said the District Assembly assists by providing fuel for vehicles in order to execute some of their programmes.

### ***Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ)***

The Commission has the mandate to promote the fundamental human rights of the citizenry. The Commission is an independent institution having administrative and functional autonomy, and its services are free of charge. The type of cases handled by the Commission involves children below 18 years of age; these are mainly cases of:

- Non - Maintenance
- Child Abuse

- Child Labour

Interviews with CHRAJ officers revealed that such cases may exist but are rarely reported officially in the district. CHRAJ officers gave an example of a child trafficking case reported by SCMPP, an NGO. operating in the district. SCMPP reported that there were trafficked children at Ateiku, a community in the district. CHRAJ, and the Department of Social Welfare together with SCMPP and the police assistance are planning a joint activity to apprehend the offenders. CHRAJ and the Department of Social Welfare have a very good working relationship, and often refer cases to each other. The Commission also collaborates with NCCE, SCMPP, Ghana Police Service and the Ghana Education Service. Some of the gaps related to social protection of children in the district mentioned by CHRAJ include:

- NGO's working on child protection issues need to collaborate more with government departments entrusted with these responsibilities.
- Agencies responsible for child protection issues are not properly resourced. (e.g. government department)
- Lack of proper networking among agencies and NGO's on child protection issues and procedures.

#### ***National Commission for Civic Education***

The NCCE at the district level organises education forums on child protection issues in schools, churches, and mosques in various communities. The NCCE officer in charge, indicated that NCCE does come across cases of child abuse during out reach programmes and refers these to the Department of Social Welfare or CHRAJ. The NCCE relates cordially with the Social Welfare and CHRAJ through their participation in the District Assembly Sub-Committee meetings. NCCE also collaborates with World Vision Ghana, the Ghana Police Service, Ghana Education Service, District Assembly and SCMPP.

The NCCE operates with approx. 9 full time staff, and the District Assembly allocates funds for the Departments operations. Other support comes from World Vision Ghana. The NCCE has no means of transport and therefore relies on public transport for most of its community out reach activities.

#### ***The Department of Community Development***

The mandate of the department is to assist rural and urban communities improve their living standards, through their own initiative. The Community Development Officer reported that the department does not have any specific procedure in dealing with the cases of child trafficking or child abuse, since they are not directly in charge of this service. However, the Community Development officer did say that during community outreach programmes, if the department comes across cases of child trafficking, they report these to the Social Welfare officer. There is a very close working relation between community development and other agencies such as the Social Welfare Department and CHRAJ. The Department of Community

Development also reported that they collaborate with NCCE and the District Assembly.

The Officer said the staff strength in the district is two and they have a computer and printer given to them by the World Bank. He said the District Assembly sometimes provides a vehicle for their outreach activities.

### **5.1.2 Wassa Amenfi West District**

Wassa Amenfi West<sup>27</sup> is among the newly created political and administrative districts in the country and was formerly part of Wassa Amenfi District (currently separated into Amenfi East and Amenfi West). It is situated in the middle part of Western Region of Ghana with a total land area of 4747 square kilometres. The people are mainly farmers and the main farming activities include cocoa, oil palm, rice, and maize. The district has a very poor road network. Asankrangwa which is the capital of the district serves also as the commercial centre. There are several towns and villages located within 10 – 15 kms radius of the district capital. The district is mostly made up of settler communities in which almost all the ethnic groups in Ghana are represented. There is no hosting facility in the district for needy, abused and abandoned children; the only nearby facility is about 60kms from the district capital, situated in Tarkwa, in the Wassa West District which is an orphanage known as the Angels of Hope.

#### **5.1. 2.1 Relevant Social Protection Institutions operating at District level**

There are a number of decentralized departments and agencies including NGOs responsible for rights protection and promotion of children in the Amenfi West district. These include the Department of Social Welfare, CHRAJ, the Police, NCCE, Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The Deputy District Coordinating Director said that child labour and child abuse are common occurrences in the district, but are not officially reported to the authorities. According to him, the District Assembly has not received any official reports of child trafficking cases.

#### ***Department of Social Welfare***

The Department of Social Welfare has the main responsibility to protect children in the district. The department deals with children who come into contact with the law and children in conflict with the law. Divorce is one of the issues that bring children into contact with the law. When the parents initiate divorce procedures, the children are often neglected, so it becomes the responsibility of the department to ensure that these children are taken over by the extended family for safety when tensions between the parents are high and can affect the child.

Children are considered to be in conflict with the law when they are involved in criminal activities such as stealing and are immediately handed over to the police. In

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<sup>27</sup> Information on the newly created districts are yet to be available.

such cases, the department will follow up and where necessary, the child is granted bail. The department also ensures that the child is given a fair trial.

There is collaboration between the DSW and the Ghana Education Service (GES). The collaboration between the two agencies is manifested at the following levels within the District Assembly:

- District Education Planning Committee,
- District Education Oversight Committee
- Quality Education for Primary School Committee.

The Department of Social Welfare is also a member of the social services sub – committee of the District Assembly which plays a central role in enacting bye-laws at the Assembly level. Some of the bye-laws are those relating to the banning of video shows and the banning of children from attending funerals. While the police are empowered to enforce the regulation on video shows, the issue of children attending funerals has been referred to the Traditional Authority (chiefs) in order to advise the DA. The department also collaborates with the following agencies:

- NCCE
- Community Development
- NFED
- GES
- Ghana Health Service

At the Assembly level, the department undertakes the identification and registration of children with disabilities in order to either assist them attend school or learn a trade. According to the District Social Welfare Officer, issues of child labour and child abuse are very complicated, as in most cases, families involved try to justify their act, and punish the child concerned. The officer gave a few examples of child trafficking in the district. In all the instances of rescue, the Department was assisted by the Ghana Private Road Transport Union (GPRTU) in financing the transportation of children back to their families (often in the Upper East or Northern regions).

The DSW officer also reported cases of children being used on cocoa farm but this does not affect school attendance. The officer explained that the department works with the “district unit committees” to track and report instances of child labour and child trafficking; this collaboration between social welfare and the unit committees is working well. The District Officer said the common cases that the department handles are:

- Family reconciliation cases where couples are brought together for the maintenance and custody of their children.
- Paternity of children... when a father refuses to accept responsibility for a pregnancy.
- Helping place children with a family member after both birth parents are dead;
- Inheritance of dead parents’ property.

### ***Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice***

The Commission handles the following cases within the district:

- Interstate issues,
- Child neglect issues,
- Inheritance issues,
- Child abuse and other related issues.

The Commission also handles torture, unlawful detention, administrative injustice and wrongful dismissal.

Out of 108 cases handled by the Commission in the district in 2005, 48 were child neglect cases resulting from divorce and separation. When cases come before the Commission, CHRAJ makes sure that the terms of settlement/maintenance are prepared and signed by both parents after the decision on who takes custody of the child. In most cases, the child custody cases are sent to the circuit court if it becomes too difficult for the Commission to handle. Even though the Commission is aware of the prevalence of child labour practices within the district, these cases are not reported officially to the office but sometimes surface during separation or divorce disputes. The mandate of CHRAJ does not enable them to go out to the community level and look for cases since this is the mandate of social welfare and community development.

### ***National Commission for Civic Education***

The commission was established by Act 452 of the 1992 constitution to create and sustain awareness on civic rights and responsibilities and to educate the public to defend the constitution. At the district level, the Commission has carried out education on child related issues such as child abuse and child labour practices. According to the district officer of NCCE, in situations where staff members of NCCE come into contact with cases of child abuse and child labour at the community level, they refer these cases to CHRAJ, because CHRAJ is empowered by the constitution to handle such cases.

According to the NCCE officer at the Amenfi West district office, efforts by the Department of Social Welfare to set up an inter departmental committee on child protection could not work due to lack of logistics and financial support from the DA. This is an area where ICI might consider supporting.

### ***Department for Community Development***

The department has only one Officer, who is involved in Water and Sanitation issues and the Social Investment Fund activities. The department is a good partner in child rights and protection issues but is woefully under resourced.

### ***National Youth Council***

The National Youth Council is responsible for youth development activities in Ghana. In the district, the National Youth Council work in partnership with other departments and NGOs such as GES and CODESULT for the protection and development of

children. The National Youth Council has youth leaders as volunteers in the communities who assist in its activities. Currently, the Council is collaborating with CODESULT, an NGO in the district on child abuse and child labour issues supported by ICI.

### **5.1.3 Adansi South District**

Adansi South is among the newly created political and administrative districts in the country and was formerly part of Adansi East District in the Ashanti Region. The former Adansi East District was created in 1989 and had a population of 111,319 according to the 2000 census. The 1996 population distribution indicates that children from 0 – 14 years of age constituted 47% of the total population while adults above 65 years of age formed 3%. The male – female population was 48.8% and 51.2% respectively. Based on the data provided by the district, there were a total of 167 schools in the district including Pre-school, Primary, JSS and SSS; and less than one-third of the school going age children were in school (GSS data provided to the district).

Districts which share boundaries with the Adansi South District include Adansi West and Amansie East districts to the north and Amansie East District to the North-West and North-East respectively. The district also shares boundaries with Assin District to the South in the Central region and to the East by Brim North and South Districts of the Eastern Region.

Another characteristic of the district is the large number of migrants, which constitute about 45% of the total population. Among the settlers are Ewes, Fantis, Ga-Adangbe, Akwapims and people of northern extraction.

### **Relevant Social Protection Institutions operating at District level**

There are a number of decentralized structures charged with the responsibility to protect and ensure the welfare of all children in the district. These include: the Department of Social Welfare, Department for Community Development and Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ). There are Sub-Committees of the District Assembly which oversee child rights related issues such as the sub committees for Social Services, Education, Justice and Security.

Although child labour and child abuse cases are not reported officially, there are several of such practices in the district. The following key issues were identified by the departments working under the District Assembly:

- Child rights and child protection issues are of major concern to the District Assembly; interviews revealed the existence of child abuse and child labour issues in the districts, but these are often not reported officially.
- Child neglect, inheritance, maintenance, child custody and child paternity are some of the major cases reported to Social Welfare and CHRAJ.

- Both Social Welfare and CHRAJ handle cases involving children below 18 years of age, and the most common cases are child neglect or non – maintenance, paternity and child custody.
- The District Social Welfare Officers has a clear understanding of child protection issues.
- Efforts to have an inter-departmental committee put in place by Social Welfare to promote child protection are not working due to lack of funding.

### ***Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ)***

The CHRAJ is the national institution entrusted with the responsibility to protect and promote fundamental human rights, freedoms and administrative justice. According to the district officer, activities and cases handled by the Commission vary, but sometimes involve children. The main cases involving children, include child neglect and child labour cases. The Commission refers cases involving child labour to the Department of Social Welfare, “which is responsible for children”.

According to the CHRAJ district officer, about 25 percent of all cases handled by CHRAJ in 2005 were child rights related; these are mainly cases related to child maintenance and interstate inheritance. The investigation revealed that the Commission handles cases by following a procedure: when the complaint is submitted to the office, the defendant is invited by the Commission and the case is looked into. After the investigation, the commission makes an “order” to the defendant to make provisions for the maintenance of the child.

On child labour and child abuse issues, the CHRAJ Officer, said, these cases exist in the district, but rarely are officially reported. She said because the district is a farming area, “parents’ use their children on their farms and on market days... the area has a large population of rice cultivators; during the rice season, parents withdraw their children from school to help them in driving away birds and harvest the rice. There are children who also leave the classroom to assist rice farmers carry out their harvesting activities. These children belong to families whose parents do not cater for them, so they work to take care of themselves”.

The CHRAJ office has four full time staff members. CHRAJ collaborates closely with the Department for Social Welfare, NCCE, Ghana Police Service, GES, the District Assembly and Hope for Humanity... an NGO operating in the district.

### **Department of Social Welfare**

The Department of Social Welfare is responsible for child protection in the district. The district officer mentioned that the department handles two categories of children: children in conflict with the law, and children whose rights are abused, or who come in to contact with the law. Children, who come into contact with the law, are children whose parents often do not care for them, or are experiencing abuse. These children are assisted through processes such as mediation, reconciliation, and arbitration.

Children who come into conflict with the law are children who involve themselves in criminal activities such as stealing, and causing harm to others. The DSW officer reported that in such cases, the department will ensure that the child is given a fair trial, by writing a report on the child and submitting this to the circuit court.

The department has a strong linkage with the family tribunal and works closely with CHRAJ who also handles issues affecting children. The District Officer said there are Sub-Committees of the Assembly which oversee child rights and protection related issues such as the Social Service, Education and Gender, Justice and Security sub committees of the District Assembly. The department deals mainly with the following types of cases:

- Non –maintenance (neglect)
- Paternity

#### Number of cases in 2005

- Non – Maintenance - 56 cases
- Paternity - 19 cases

On child labour and child abuse cases, the District officer said that such cases are not reported officially to the department. However, he said there are a number of such cases in the district. The District Officer reported that their office has not handled any case of child labour or child trafficking. The District Officer reported that the nearest hosting facilities for “trafficked children” are in Obuasi and that the DSW has not transferred any child to any hosting institution; however when children need to be separated from their parents, a “fit” person is found to take custody of the child until the case is dealt with<sup>28</sup>. The District Officer reported that the department collaborates with the Family Tribunal, the Police Service, NCCE, CHRAJ, Ghana Education Service, the District Assembly and Hope for Humanity.

#### **Department for Community Development**

The district officer indicated that the mandate of the department is to assist communities improve their standard of living, with the assistance of the District Assembly. The Officer said, anytime they come across a child whose rights are being abused, they report the case to the Department of Social Welfare who are mandated to handle such cases. The DCD Officer said, they have not encountered any child labour and child trafficking cases. The Officer said the department has a very good working relationship with Social Welfare, CHRAJ and the District Assembly. The officer also mentioned that the department has a good relationship with the Ghana Private Road and Transport Union (GPRTU) who assists them conveys staff to rural communities for outreach programmes. The staff strength of the department is two. The department has one type writer and no means of transport.

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<sup>28</sup> A “fit” person within this context may be someone who is trustworthy, respected by the community and able to take custody of a child for a limited period of time.

### ***National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE)***

The NCCE was created to sustain awareness in the society, and to educate the citizens of Ghana to defend the constitution and understand their civic rights and responsibilities. The Commission does not handle child abuse, child labour or child trafficking issues directly, however, during their work with the public they educate the communities on these issues. The NCCE Officer said that if they come across any situation where a child is being abused, they report these cases to either Social Welfare or CHRAJ. The Commission has a strong working relationship with Social Welfare and CHRAJ by involving them in most of their outreach programmes. NCCE has six full time staff members.

## ***5.2 District Assemblies and their agencies***

The social protection of children is visibly lacking at the District Assembly level across the three districts studied. Interviews in all 9 communities visited reveal that the District Assembly provides no social welfare services to respond to the problems of children. According to some Assembly members interviewed, the only support that children receive from the District Assembly is the periodic supply of school uniforms, bags, and sandals for the needy but brilliant children. Sometimes the District Assembly also supports communities by supplying school furniture.

### ***5.2.1 Department of Social Welfare and Department for Community Development***

The Department of Social Welfare at the district level also has the mandate to provide social service support to children and oversee the implementation of laws that protect the rights of children. Childcare and protection is placed in the hands of the Department of Social Welfare and the Department of Community Development within the District Assembly structure as stipulated in the Children's Act, ACT 560 of 1998.

Any citizen has the right to report child abuse and/ or neglect to the officers of the Department of Social Welfare and/or the Department for Community Development (SW/CD) at the district level. The SW/CD may undertake investigations in relation to any child suspected of being abused or in need of care and protection. The SW/CD under the Children's Act has the mandate to undertake the following:

1. If the child is in need of immediate care and protection, then the child is to be removed from the place of abuse and placed in a safe environment for at least a week, until an order is made by the district court for placing the child in an appropriate environment, such as a residential home, or with an approved adult.
2. If the child is not in immediate danger, then the circumstances of the child must be referred to the child panel.
3. The SW/CD may seek a supervision order from the district court for the endangered child that remains at the family home in the custody of a parent, guardian or a relative. This order places the child under supervision of

SW/CD for a maximum period of one year or until the child attains 18 years of age or whichever is earlier.

As part of their mandate, the Departments of Social Welfare and Community Development at the district level are also empowered to undertake home visits, advice and assist the child and the immediate family, and to take all necessary steps to ensure the safety and overall well being of the child.

Field work from this study suggests that most of the cases of child related abuse or neglect are referred to the Department of Social Welfare and/or CHRAJ. There are no child panels operating in any of the districts visited; district circuit courts and in some cases, family tribunals are used to deal with cases of child abuse. Investigations also reveal that there are no temporary holding centres in these districts and the Social Welfare officers rely on “responsible individuals” at the district capital level to take care of children on a temporary basis.

### **5.2.2 Procedures and Mechanisms for Managing Cases**

According to Social Welfare officers at district level, the first point of call for handling cases of severe child abuse at the community level is at the household or family level. Such cases are dealt with by the child’s immediate family relations or the chief in the community. At the district level cases are often reported to the Department of Social Welfare, CHRAJ or the police for investigation. At the district assembly level the following persons or agencies may handle cases:

- District Chief Executive
- Assemblymen & women
- Department of Social Welfare
- Department of Community Development
- CHRAJ
- Shelter for Abused Children

In cases of trafficking, reports are made directly to the:

- Police, Immigration Service, Customs, Excise and Preventive Service.
- Department of Social Welfare
  - Regional Office
  - District Office
  - Zonal Office
  - Shelter for Abused Children
  - CHRAJ

According to the Department of Social Welfare, if ‘good Samaritans’ report a case of child abuse in any form, they are requested to report to the police before the children are handed over to any of their shelters. This is done for the purposes of record keeping to help investigations... a ‘good Samaritan’ could also be a perpetrator and must be prosecuted if found guilty.

The major procedures which were identified for handling cases of child abuse and neglect by the Department of Social Welfare include:

- Investigating the situation through interviews with relevant people and if possible field visits to the location of the incident.
- Placing the child in protective and interim custody with a “responsible person”
- Giving an “order” to the parents or guardian related to the case identifying the recommended changes which need to be made.
- Proceeding to court if the parents or guardian are not conforming to ensuring the child’s welfare and protection.

Procedures being adopted by Social Welfare to handle cases of child trafficking involve:

- Investigations and interviewing all relevant parties.
- Placing the child in protective and interim custody with a “responsible person”;
- Liaising with the GPRTU to ensure that the child is sent back to his place of abode;
- Calling the District Social Welfare officer from the locality to follow up on the case.

### **5.3 Selected NGOs working at the District Level**

There are a few civil society organisations working across the three study districts focused on child welfare and worst forms of child labour in the cocoa sector. These 3 organisations have been supported by ICI and had their capacity built by PDA to lead a community level action plan focused on child labour. The partners have also been active at working with district assemblies in order to coordinate responses to address the worst cases of abuse or child trafficking. During the field study, visits were made to the following NGOs:

- Community Mobilization Project/Programme (SCMPP), Mpohor Wassa East District
- Community Development Consult Network (CODESULT), Wassa West District
- Hope for Humanity, Ashanti Region

One programme which appears to be building organisational capacity in the area of child protection and monitoring is the work being supported by ICI.

### **ICI community Initiative called by its partners “Ye Daakye”**

ICI was started in 2002 as a joint partnership between the cocoa industry and civil society members. It seeks to support community-driven initiatives for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour and forced labour in the cocoa industry through a child development programme. It is a collaboration between the ICI, the funding organization, PDA as its coordinating agency in Ghana and three district implementing partners namely Hope for Humanity in new Adubiase, Community Development Consult (CODESULT) in Asankragwa, and Support for Community Mobilisation Project/Programme (SCMPP) in Dabase.

Its main mission is to oversee and sustain efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labour and forced labour in five areas:

A combination of cost replicable and sustainable community led practices and activities to eliminate the worst forms of child labour and forced labour, are demonstrated in a limited number of communities;

Local government and decentralized structures, representatives from CS, projects and other initiatives actively support community action plans to eliminate the worst forms of child labour and forced labour;

The concerns of the cocoa sector in relation to the worst forms of child labour and forced labour are integrated into legislation, key ministries' policies, plans and efforts;

A coordinated social network is initiated in collaboration with specialized agencies, relevant ministries etc to address and absorb the most urgent cases of the worst forms of child labour and forced labour in the pilot districts;

ICI is an established and credible source of information on worst forms of child labour and forced labour in the cocoa sector.

The strategy focuses on the elaboration of community action plans aimed at preventing and addressing abusive labour practices in the cocoa production process in a sustainable approach.

There were also a few orphanages and church based groups which have supported centres for abandoned and abused children across the districts studied. These are presented in the next section.

The following section highlights some of the findings from interviews with organisations working on this project and other organisations identified at the district level which could provide support for children in abusive situations of child labour. These locally based organisations have through their work been progressively involved with children related issues and have become a facilitator of identifying and directing children in need of relevant social protection agencies at district level and regional levels but have also become a responsible actor to monitor relevant agencies .

#### **5.3.1 Support for Community Mobilization Project/Programme (SCMPP), Western Region<sup>29</sup>**

SCMPP started operating in 1994 as a CBO called the Community Implementation Committee for the UNDP Habitat Project for human settlement. Its focus was on strengthening communities, family life education, micro finance and resettling

<sup>29</sup> A full organizational profile is contained in Annex 10.

people. It operates in Mpohor Wassa East District in the Western Region. SCMPP began collaboration with ICI through PDA in 2004 when it was selected to participate in a training session on Child Rights (child labour/forced labour). It has collaborated with other agencies such as UNDP, SNV and O.I.C on strengthening community management practices, reproductive health and family life education, micro financing and good governance.

The organization's mission is to improve the socio-economic status of the rural and urban poor through awareness creation, mobilization of human and material resources and the establishment of viable CBOs, using participatory methodologies in order to ensure good governance, improved health status and increased employment opportunities for the people. The objectives of SCMPP are:

- To promote good governance in the rural-urban communities and strengthen community management practices.
- To enhance community local business, especially among the women through capacity building and solicit micro-financing support fund and ensure efficient and effective management of the beneficiary groups.
- To promote sound reproductive health and family life education with serious emphasis on STI/HIV/AIDS prevention and control education programmes.

Their operational areas include: Mpohor Wassa East District and parts of Shama Ahanta East district. Specifically, SCMPP is working in fifteen communities across its operational districts.

SCMPP provides support to out-of-school children to put them back in school. Four children, made up of three teenage mothers and one boy have now completed school. There were five children including three girls and two boys who were receiving support in school at the time of the field visit. SCMPP has a child rights promotion and development programme in order to sensitize community members, authorities and teachers on children's rights and development. They also form child rights clubs in schools to train children and build their capacity on their rights and responsibilities to advocate and sensitize their peers. SCMPP has formed 15 clubs in the District with 5 patrons; each club has a limited membership of 20 pupils/students in each school due to logistical constraints. Some of the activities they embark on include radio talks and discussions, excursions and training. SCMPP has organized district training and capacity building activities on participatory methodology for all key stakeholders and has introduced the project to all the targeted communities.

### **5.3.2 Community Development Consult Network (CODESULT), Western Region**

CODESULT is located in the Amenfi West District in the Western Region and was formed in 1994 and registered in 1996 with special focus areas including: the environment and forest management, water and sanitation, mobilizing and training of farmers groups and helping them access support from rural banks by preparing a comprehensive business plan. Their rural capacity building efforts cover the following areas:

- Animation services, awareness creation, forest resource protection
- Training in group development and re-forestation
- Micro enterprise and business management skills
- Natural resource management

Objectives of the organisation include:

- Helping communities support youth by building rural capacity under the concepts of community ownership and management.
- Assisting rural farmers with managerial skills (financial and administrative) and linking them with other businesses within the local environment.

CODESULT is currently working on child rights issues through the 'Yen Daakye' Project. It has Child Rights Clubs in schools and periodically sensitizes community members as well as builds their capacity.

### **5.3.3 Hope for Humanity, Ashanti Region**

The organization was established in 1994/95. It was the first NGO in the District which was formed when the founding members realized the need to work together towards the development of the people. Hope for Humanity operates in Adansi South district in the Ashanti Region.

Hope for Humanity is focussed on agricultural development and has supported farmers by building their capacity. It started by forming farmers groups for example rice farmers groups, and maize farmers groups. The 'Sasakawa' Foundation also assisted in 'gari' and oil palm processing. The group later began an HIV/AIDS project called "Women and HIV/AIDS" and trained women in HIV/AIDS programming. The mission of Hope for Humanity is to seek the welfare of the people in the district in the area of health, education, environmental protection and economic support.

Hope for Humanity began their programming activities by supporting tree planting, forming groups such as the Rice Growers Association and 'Gari' Processing Association in order to build their capacity; they also embarked on an HIV/AIDS programme. They form Child Rights Clubs in schools through the 'Ye Daakye' Project. Hope for Humanity collaborates with the government of Ghana through the District Assembly and other NGOs.

## 5.4 Private Homes and Orphanages at the District Level

The following section profiles the orphanages across the regions where ICI focal districts exist. A summary of key information on orphanages visited during the field work is contained in annex 6 and a listing of accredited orphanages under the Department of Social welfare is contained in annex 7.

### 5.4.1 Ooeim Orphanage Mission Home

The Ooeim Orphanage Mission Home is located in Eduagyei near Elmina on the Takoradi-Cape Coast Road. The orphanage was started in 1996 by Reverend Richard Essilfie-Awotwe after his return from Sierra Leone and was registered in 2000. The orphanage originally started in Aboadze which is under the Shama-Ahanta East Metropolitan Assembly, but due to lack of land for accommodation, it re-located to its present site near Elmina. Currently there are 74 children in the home but has the capacity to accommodate 150 children.

The purpose of the orphanage is to care for orphans, needy and abandoned children; and help them develop spiritually, physically and morally. The orphanage operates in the Central, Western and Volta regions and accepts children mainly from these areas. The children in the home come from the following backgrounds:

- a) Children orphaned by both parents.
- b) Children orphaned by one parents.
- c) Abandoned children.
- d) Poor and needy children.

Children from birth to ten years of age are brought to the orphanage, and stay until they are adopted or have acquired the basic education and/or skills in a trade. It is expected that those who acquire a high level of academic qualification will work as staff of the orphanage. The orphanage has a total of 12 staff members made up of 7 males and 5 females.

Proper feeding of the children was mentioned as a major problem. This was attributed to the lack of funding to run the orphanage. The home receives funding mainly from individuals and voluntary organizations mostly from the Western Region. The Orphanage has a strong working relationship with the Department of Social Welfare.

**Assessment:** not recommended as a hosting facility due to lack of institutional capacity and distance from ICI operational areas.

### 5.4.3 Abdullam Orphanage

The Abdullam Orphanage which started operations about ten years ago, is run by Pastor Louise Timothy an Australian Woman based in Obuasi. Registered in 2002, the orphanage takes care of children in extreme poverty situations. Currently there

are 172 children between the ages of 0 – 19 years, 64 are children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS – nine are HIV infected. There are 32 toddlers, 5 disabled, 12 children brought from the Liberian Refugee Camp and 4 victims of trafficking. The orphanage provides education and skill training to the children.

It presently has 5 rooms designed to accommodate 30 children per room. There are separate rooms for boys, girls, toddlers and babies. When fully completed the facility will accommodate 330 children. The Orphanage has a total staff of 39 with 11 men and 28 women. The Addullam Orphanage collaborates with the Department of Social Welfare at Obuasi and most of the children are identified and brought to the orphanage through the DSW.

The orphanage tries not to take in children above 12 years of age but when such children are brought to the orphanage, they are not sent away. The cost of feeding per child is around ₵300 000 per month and between ₵400,000 – ₵600,000 per month for babies. An Italian airline is the major sponsor of the orphanage. However the orphanage also receives some voluntary contributions from well-wishers as well as support from the founder's personal funds.

**Assessment for ICI purposes:** the quality of care for the children is being compromised in these institutions due to the large numbers of children currently placed in the orphanage. It may serve as a transitional centre due to its location to the ICI districts in Ashanti and Western Region.

### ***Community Orphanage - Asankra Breman Orphanage***

The Asankra Breman Orphanage is a newly established organisation in the district which was set up to assist orphans, and abandoned children through the provision of shelter and protection. The orphanage started in 2005 by a group of people who came across three abandoned children, between the ages of 9 and 12 years, who were believed to be trafficked from the Yeji area. The orphanage has a 7-member management committee and receives donations both in cash and kind from a church in the US and other philanthropists.

The orphanage is also involved in the following activities: sensitization durbars in communities on child labour practices and mobilizing opinion leaders and school authorities to discuss issues affecting children within the community.

### **Conclusion**

Overall the field research suggests that there are very few NGOs, or hosting facilities to support the program activities and needs of ICI at the district level. The three NGOs identified and interviewed though not very well resourced, are credible and respect in their respective areas of operations All the communities visited attested to the various roles that they are playing in the districts and the communities in particular. They all have some level of collaboration with the relevant departments and agencies within the district assembly but need more support to identify the

procedures and processes for bringing cases to the attention of the District Assembly and its agencies. Interviews with the NGOs revealed that although ICI partner organisations at the district level were sensitive to issues of child labour, particularly child trafficking but will need to become more aware of what to do when confronted with rescuing children from extreme situations of abusive child labour and trafficking. ICI partners will also have to remain working in a supportive role in relation to Government when carrying out investigations into child abuse and trafficking ensuring that proper procedures are followed in handling these cases.

The private homes and orphanages provide a networking opportunity for transitional interventions by ICI for children in the worst situations of abusive practices and victims of child trafficking. The challenge ICI will face in its collaboration with these homes is that their capacity is limited to enable them to provide an all-inclusive quality of service. It would also have to ensure a basic standard was maintained in order to house the children.

Currently there are few orphanages or hosting facilitation with the basic infrastructure and systems in place, which can be recommended as a transitional place for hosting children within the district. In the case of child trafficking, there is a need to build the capacity of the District Social Welfare Department offices to identify potential options (local orphanages) or use the existing options (“fit persons identified by the DSW”) as a transitional place before children are transferred back to their areas of origin. Some of the potential options for “transitional hosting centres appear to be: Word Alive, Essiama in the Western region, Abdullam Orphanage in the Obuasi area and Westphalian Children’s village, Oyoko, in the Ashanti areas.

In cases of child abuse, where the cases can be supported by providing services to children and their families in the host community there appears to be a large number of Government agencies able and willing to support these types of efforts but will require transportation and logistical support. Capacity building of the Social Welfare office, CHRAJ and even the NCCE could provide ICI with a stronger more sustainable network of agencies providing collaborative services at the community and district levels. There is a need to support an inter agency task force on child protection in each of the ICI districts. In some districts this initiative has begun (i.e. Wassa West) but simply needs more support. This interagency task force would ensure a more coordinated approach to identification and investigation into cases of trafficking and abusive child labour situations. Vocational education options within both regions are abundant but will require that youth are provided with support for tuition and in some cases boarding.

## 6.0 Traditional Systems of Child Care and Protection

*Issues of social protection for children evolve around all kinds of child labour practices which eventually take a significant number of them out of the classrooms. There are other children who are willing to go to school but do not have proper caregivers so they roam about working for a fee to fend for themselves –ICI Social Protection Fieldwork, 2005.*

### 6.1 The Social Context for Child Abandonment and Neglect

In Ghana, the external family provides informal social support for family members and community members who are found to be vulnerable and disadvantaged, particularly children. The protection includes taking care of orphans and vulnerable children, providing for social and psychological support to the emotionally traumatised members of the family in difficult situations. The role of communities and the society at large cannot be over emphasised. They play a valuable role in the care and protection of its members, especially young people and widows. Culturally, Ghanaian communities are groomed to collectively share whatever resources that are available to the community. The spirit of collective sharing means that a poor person can benefit from a rich relative. It also means that children in difficult and distressed conditions can receive support from an elderly person within a kinship network.

These social practices have weakened over the years by social and economic shocks and the process of urbanization and migration out of the communities. Families are no longer able to support all their members. Children are now given out as social commodities and take up adult responsibilities at a very early age in order to support their families.

Research by Casely-Hayford (2000) in rural Ghana suggests that the traditional patterns of raising a child within the family home are gradually giving way to the modern practices which come with formal schooling. Children are no longer reared using indigenous knowledge focused on “survival farming values” but increasingly being socialized by the teachers and school authorities. At the same time the increasing migration patterns to the urban centres often leave poor communities with no “middle income earners” or farmers to ensure that the traditional social protection systems are in place when there is a need (Korboe, 1998).

The communities visited during the field work were largely engaged in cocoa, oil palm and rice farming; and children play key role in the domestic economy.

*Our major problems are that we are used on farms by parents during school days. We are made to carry cocoa beans for drying and at times have to get up at about 4:30am to go on long distance to collect the beans and send them to the drying points. This makes us late for school or abandon school altogether. We get to school tired and have a decreased concentration span and are unable to learn – school children; Yirase.*

*Most of the time, our parents ask permission from our teachers to allow us to accompany them to their farms. On the farms we help in driving birds from the rice farms, carrying and drying of cocoa beans, fetching water for spraying, carrying palm fruits and foodstuffs to buying centres – school children; Ataase Nkwanta*

All the communities included in the fieldwork reveal similar trends of child labour practices. Apart from the usual household work, children start working on farms as early as 7 – 10 years of age which is supported by earlier studies by Casely-Hayford (2004). Both children and adults acknowledged the fact that children drop out of school as early as P3 because of farming and other economic activities. Parental neglect and poverty at the household level were given as the key reasons that compel children to undertake economic activities in order to fend for themselves and their younger siblings.

### *The Role of the Family and their Responsibility towards Parenting*

Although the extended family system still bears the collective responsibility and the material cost for raising children in Ghana this depends on the 'legitimate birth of a child'. In Ghana, marriage represents a union between kin groups and the children born into the kin group belong to their kin group (Bledsoe, C.H and Cohen, B. eds; 1993). Because of this practice, the collective care and protection of a child is greatly influenced by the legitimate affiliation to a family, which is also dependent on birth within a socially defined marriage. Hence, if a child is born to parents in 'free unions' to get the father as well as the extended family's willingness to assume social and economic responsibility may be difficult. In traditional Ghanaian society the man is always looked up at as head of the household and breadwinner for the family. The tradition defines the different social and economic responsibilities for mothers and fathers. The prominent feature of the fathers' role is that they are fully responsible for their children's educational cost. Therefore, the prevalence of a female-headed household often due to marital disruption or separation of partners from any kind of sexual relationship has an important effect on children's education. Very often such mothers have little or no employable skills (Fiscian, V 2001).

In most cases of 'free union' births, men may refuse to accept the child; such children may then suffer the consequence of desertion by their supposed biological fathers. Emerging out of this situation are the child labour practices which jeopardise their schooling. An example of this can be cited from a girl in JSS 1 at Ataase Nkwanta in Adansi South District:

*At an early age of 7 she had to stay with the maternal grandmother at 'Sowotoum', a suburb in Accra, where she was selling ice water to support the household. She later moved in to live with the biological mother at age 9 but due to sexual harassments by the stepfather, this girl was relocated to her maternal aunt at Nsawam. Apart from selling by the roadside, she also suffered other forms of abuses (both sexual*

*and non sexual in nature) from both the aunt and the husband. She has now been able to trace the biological father, whom she is presently staying with and attending school (Field notes, ICI Social Protection Study, 2005).*

### *Adapted Approaches to Family Breakdown*

Despite the breaking down of the collective family responsibility towards children, there are still individuals at the community level who are providing care and support for children belonging to their extended families. Field work revealed that other community leaders such as traditional authorities, teachers, religious/opinion leaders, assemblymen/women, unit committee members and philanthropists within the community who are not necessarily direct members of their extended families but are willing and able to support needy children. Some individuals provide support to abandoned and neglected children because they were named after them. An example is a female Chief at Senchem--- NANA KOFI AMPONSAH II:

*She adopts and provides economic as well as social support for children who are mostly named after her and whose parents are unable to cater for them. She adopts these children as early as two and makes sure they are enrolled in school when they reach school-going age. According to her, the main reason for doing this is because she and the siblings were taken care of by an uncle. Nana Kofi Amponsah has been doing this for the past thirty (30) years. Though she couldn't immediately count the number of children that have passed through her hands, an instant head count indicated over 50 children over the years. Two of such children are currently in the university, which she still supports. Three others are also in Senior Secondary School while those who are not academically inclined go for skills training. She indicated that some of the children she supports stay with either their mothers or other relations while she regularly sends remittance for their school and other basic needs. At the time of the field visit, there were five children who were staying with her and going to school. She earns her income mainly from trading of cloths and other items. She also produces and sells 'Apketeshie' (a local gin).*

The case of Nana Amponsah II and many others are clear examples of the significance of the 'Naming' ceremony and its impact on child care and protection in Ghana. Other examples of community members taking up these responsibilities include philanthropists and other religious organisations who are starting up more formalised systems of child care including orphanages.

#### **6.1.1 Community-Based Initiatives in Response to Child Care and Protection**

Apart from these 'extended family approaches' to child care and protection at the community level. Several communities are also using other systems to provide for the welfare of their citizens and children which include the 'kilo kilo' systems and local fund raising activities.

## Kilo-Kilo System

This is a system that was adopted by cocoa producing communities as a form of raising funds for development initiatives at the community level. In most of the communities visited the 'kilo-kilo system' has been adopted as a scheme for funding development projects including school buildings and maintenance of water facilities among others. Even though most of the community members agreed that this is a good system that can be adapted to support needy and abandoned children, they expressed fears that the poor management of the scheme in the past may discourage community members from active participation.

## Community By-Day 'Fund Raising' Initiative

This initiative was specific to Odaakrofuom in the Amenfi East District. The chief and elders of the community have put in place a system whereby the entire community undertakes a job to raise funds to support development projects in the community.

## Annual Communal Contributions

Again in Odaakrofuom, the community has a scheme where each member makes an annual contribution. Part of this contribution is used to pay 50% of the total school fees per the total school population. This year, the community paid ₵300,000 as its 50 percent share to the school. This meant that parents only pay half of their children's school levies.

## 6.2 A VIEW FROM BELOW: Findings from the Field work

This section provides extracts from the focus group discussions with community members including chiefs, elders, teachers, schoolchildren, PTA/SMC, Unit Committee, Assemblymen and women's groups during field work conducted in May, 2005. It also provides a snap shot of some of the communities' approaches and views on social protection of children.

### **BOTOGYINA**

Botogyina is about 12kms from Daboase, which is the district capital of Mphor Wassa East in the Western Region. The main occupation of the people in Botogyina is farming. They cultivate mostly cocoa and oil palm. The community has a primary school and JSS but has no health facility. Most of the children in the community lack parental care and support due to poverty, divorce and separation; many of these children end up abandoned or lack care as a result of divorce. Children often got to school without food or pocket money. The children explained during the focus group discussions:

*"Our fathers are not bothered about where we are, so some of us have to undertake 'odd jobs' such as truck pushing, weeding on cocoa farms, carrying palm bunches or sand, for a fee... to enable us to survive. This is what we use to cater for ourselves and provide for our school needs".*

*“Peter has to go and work on cocoa farms for ₦10,000 per working day and at times has to stay out of school for a week to be able to raise enough funds for himself and his siblings. He uses part of the money to buy school uniforms and shoes for himself”.*

*“Joseph Arthur has stopped school to tap palm wine with his father because his family could not afford to cater for him”.*

*“There is a boy in primary 4 who got his leg broken during a high-jump at school and due to poverty the parents left the leg to rot, and was later amputated”.*

*– School children –*

A lot of children dropout of school due to financial problems in order to undertake jobs to fend for themselves. At school, the children are further frustrated by teachers who send them home when they are bare footed or wearing improper shoes such as ‘charlie wate’ --- (a local expression for a rubber slipper). Teenage pregnancy is high in the community and is attributed to the poor socio-economic conditions of households.

Children are not trafficked into the community. Most of the children from this community, especially females, are sent out to ‘big towns’ to work for people with the promise of helping them to learn a trade. ‘Middle men/women’ come to take children to the big towns. In some cases the young girls travel without informing their parents. Most of these girls end up being cheated or taken advantage of by the middlemen and women. In response to children’s problems in the community the Chief and His elders have had meetings at school with the PTA. The leadership in the community ensures that children who have lost their parents are not cheated in terms of their inheritance.

The community appealed to the leadership of ‘Life Church International’ to support the needy but brilliant children. The church assisted in paying the school fees and provided school uniforms for 30 children in one year. The community has also set up an arbitration process whereby parents especially fathers who refuse to take care of their children are summoned by the chief. Interviews with the chief suggest that the chief believes that divorce and separation should not interfere with the child’s welfare “ ... there can be an ex-wife or ex-husband, but there is nothing like an ex-child; the child did not ask to be born, hence parents are expected to bear the responsibility and the material cost for childcare and protection...”.

There are still signs that the informal traditional approaches to child protection are still alive. For instance, prominent individuals in the community like the sub chief (Tufohene) who takes care of children who are not his biological children out of service to the community. Examples were given of the Methodist Catechist of the town, who is taking care of a girl whose parents are dead, and the Tufohene who is caring for two girls aged 12 and 17 who attend P6 and JSS2 respectively.

The community thinks the following needs to be done to respond to issues of social protection and child labour practices (direct quotes from the children):

- Provision of textbooks, exercise books, library and teachers.
- National budgets should take care of cocoa farmers just like fishermen. The government has provided cold storage facilities for fishermen to store their surplus catch, so many wonder why the government could not do the same for farmers to store cassava, vegetables etc.

- According to the children, the government should make a law to force their parents to cater for them. They also said the community leaders should be empowered to punish parents who refuse to send their parents to school.
- The government has to provide school-friendly items like footballs, and other playing kits. These things and a school band will attract them to stay in school. They also said they need books, textbooks and exercise books.
- Parents who refuse to care for their children should be punished because when there is a funeral they are able to credit clothes for the occasion.
- The classroom should be secured and electricity extended to the school to enable schoolchildren use the place for studies at night.
- An open day should be organized in the school where parents can be invited to see what their children are doing in school.

### 6.2.1 The Context for Child Labour Practices

The major problems of children in all the 9 communities visited were lack of parental support, neglect and abandonment. Interviews with adults and the children revealed that there are a growing number of children in the communities who have been neglected by their parents due to poverty, divorce or separation. Key among these cases was the issue of cohabitation births, which tends to impact negatively on the care and support for children. This happens when parents of children are no longer living together. Teachers, chiefs and elders acknowledged that there are a lot of female-headed households in the communities resulting in this “unaccepted” relationship or what they locally term ‘*bokomodo aware*<sup>30</sup>’.

#### *Children: whose responsibility?*

It is expected that when children are born out of ‘socially sanctioned union’, that is, in a legitimate marriage, both the parents and the immediate extended family should have the collective responsibility to ensure the proper upbringing and care of the children<sup>31</sup>. In Botogyina for example, the chief and elders made an assertion that, “*one can be an ex-wife or ex-husband, but there is nothing like an ex-child*”, so parents especially fathers have no excuse for neglecting their children even after divorce or separation from a legitimate relationship. The community has set up arbitration processes for dealing with cases of child neglect and abandonment...*‘fathers who neglect their children are summoned by the chief and elders for questioning when the matter comes to their notice’*. According to the chief and elders, this system is more effective than what takes place at the Family Tribunal and the Courts. According to them, it becomes difficult when young girls get pregnant and the male partner refuses to accept the pregnancy. In these cases, the elders are not able to compel the “supposed biological father” of the child to accept both social and economic responsibility for the child.

#### *Children taking care of themselves*

<sup>30</sup> This literally refers to illegitimate marriage or unions that are not socially sanctioned.

<sup>31</sup> A socially accepted marriage in this area is one which has performed the customary right referred to as “engagement”--the meeting of both families and the exchange of gifts and drinks.

The general lack of parental support and proper care of children across the nine communities visited compel the children to undertake 'jobs' to cater for themselves. Children drop out of school simply because they do not have any one to care for them. A greater number of children stay out of school for days, weeks or months and may resume only when they have money to provide for their basic school items. In almost all the communities visited, during the farming season the majority of the schoolchildren stay out of school to undertake 'by-day' i.e. work on farms for money on a daily basis. For instance, during cocoa harvesting periods children spend up to three days a week out of school working on farms. Some parents around this period withdraw their children from school to work for them. They engage the children in the collection of cocoa pods, carrying water for spraying the cocoa and helping in the drying of the cocoa beans. Teachers interviewed indicated that this results in a high level of absenteeism. On market days, most children do not attend school but go to the villages to carry foodstuffs and other items in the markets for a fee. Field interviews also revealed that there is an issue of peer pressure as children who engage in these "by day" jobs and have completed school or dropped out of school often influence their peers who remain in school sometimes resulting in further drop out. Children are paid ₵15,000 for carrying loads for a day.

#### **ATWERBOAONDA**

Atwerboanda is located in the Adansi south district and is about 15kms from New Edubaise, the district capital. Most settler farmers are from the Volta regions; the people of Atwerboanda engage mainly in cocoa and rice farming. The community has a Primary and a Junior Secondary School with an enrolment of 161 and 75 respectively.

There is a high incidence of school drop out in the community. Children drop out of school because they are used on their parents' cocoa farms. Some children do not go to school because their parents take them to cocoa farms to weed, collect cocoa pods, split cocoa pods or carry beans before coming to school. At times they will spend two to three consecutive days a week engaged in these jobs. Most of the children are used on cocoa farms by their parents and take jobs on other cocoa farms for a fee in order to cater for themselves (15,000 cedis for a "by-day" labourer). Lack of parental support for children is a common problem in the community. This situation compels most children to undertake work to take care of themselves.

*"Some of them too have been abandoned because of divorce or separation of parents which is very high in the community" – chief and elders*

Parents do not provide children with their basic school needs such as uniforms, shoes, exercise books etc. Field interviews revealed that there was one child who dropped out of school because he lacked a pen.

*"Another example is Kofi Appiah who had to stop school because his parents were not caring for him, and he had to work to fend for himself".*

*"Charles collects snails with other friends at night for sale the next morning. At times they are bitten by snakes or stung by bees"- School children's interviews.*

The children earn between ₦15 000 cedis for carrying cocoa and ₦20,000 per day for weeding. The chief and elders are aware of the situation but feel helpless. Several attempts have been made at PTA meetings in response to the problems of child work yet, there have been no results thus far. Lack of cooperation from parents and some children is a problem.

*“A lot of parents use their children to trade and when the community leaders talk about that.... they insult them” – an elder.*

*“Because of lack of parental care, the young girls have affairs with men” – interview with a teacher.*

The community expects the government to make provisions to educate them on their rights of the child and other child related issues as well as making their schools more child friendly. The DCE for the district provided school uniforms, bags, and sandals to 7 children in the community. The Assembly also provided desks to the schools. The following issues were mentioned as issues which need to be addressed in response to the problem of child welfare:

- Provision of school library, teacher’s quarters and other school friendly facilities that will attract and retain children in school.
- There is a need for the children to be provided with basic school supplies such as uniforms, bags, and shoes.
- There is the need to put in place laws banning parents from using their children on farms and also ensuring that parents provide the needs of their children.
- They expect the government to enact or enforce laws to stop parents from using children on their farms during school time.

In all the nine communities visited, interviews with teachers revealed that the average drop out rate was around 30%. Quite a significant number of school age children were not in school because of the desire to work for money to take care of themselves. Some of the girls in particular drop out of school because of pregnancy resulting from sexual relationships with men. Focus group discussions with the children revealed that girls are often enticed by men with money for sexual relationships. According to some of the schoolgirls, many of their friends are not in school because they are pregnant.

Interviews with both teachers and children in Mpohor (Mpohor Wassa East District), the only mining community among the nine communities, revealed that some parents ask their children to buy their own fish or meat for evening meals and if they fail to do so they eat their ‘fufu’ or ‘ampesi’ without fish or meat. As a result, most children do ‘Awiabo’<sup>32</sup> or what is generally known as ‘galamsey’ (small scale mining activity) for money; some of the girls in particular, engage in sexual relationships with older boys as well as adult men with the hope of obtaining support for their upkeep. Interviews with the children also revealed that enrolment in the school was not encouraging because most of the children indulge in “Awiabo” or “galamsey” to support themselves due to lack of support from their parents. The teachers revealed that there are about 60 – 70% of school-going aged children in school but

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<sup>32</sup> It is a local expression of ‘Galamsey’ work – local legal.

attendance is very poor; around 60%. The children are paid ₵13 000 for every 40 head loads of sand. According to the teachers both parents and children enjoy doing 'Awiabo' due to the money they earn. Out of ten school children who were involved in FGD, 7 have been working at the 'Awiabo' sites. According to them, they work at the sites to earn money to fend for themselves---buy food, school uniforms, school bags, pens, pencils, sandals, studies fees (₵5,000) and printing fees (₵5,000). At the site, they carry sand which earns them an income of ₵15,000 per day after making about fifty to seventy trips---the distance for a trip is about 50 meters.

Interviews with teachers and school children also revealed examples of students who undertake "galamsey" but still go to school; others undertake "galamsey" and drop out all together. Children gave examples of a boy whose mother had made him stop school to care for his younger brothers and sisters while she worked at the local "galamsey" site. According to the Assembly woman, education is a problem in the community. Children between 10 and 15 years of age do not go to school but indulge in 'galamsey' activities. The Unit Committee members commented during interviews that the work that they do at the 'galamsey' site is very tedious and dangerous, and must not be encouraged. Some believe that the children work at the mining sites mostly because they are interested in getting money, others think it is due to parental neglect or the inability of parents to take care of the children which pushes them to engage in 'Awiabo' in order to support themselves and their siblings. It was interesting to note that most people interviewed felt that if a child could work to cater for his/her schooling costs then he /or she was a successful child. For example in Mpohor, all the adult groups interviewed cited one particular SSS boy as a 'good' example of such a scenario:

' (Kwame)...Is attending Senior Secondary School in Takoradi (the Capital of Western Region) and fortnightly, asks for permission from the head master to come home and do 'awiabo' to earn money to pay his school fees and provide for his other school needs". He has been doing this since JSS. As expressed by one of the Elders: "*one wonders what would have happened to his schooling without 'Awiabo'*".

In the other communities, both children and adults acknowledged that children undertake "by-day" work to fend for themselves and other siblings.

*Peter's father has travelled, leaving him and six other siblings in the care of their mother who is a cocoa farmer and is unable to care for them well. Because of that Peter has to go to people's cocoa farms to weed for money –he earns about ₵10, 000 per working day and at times has to stop school for a week to be able to raise enough funds for himself and his siblings. He used part of the money to buy school uniforms and shoes for himself – FGD with Children in Nkrankese.*

*Kweku's parents have travelled leaving him to be on his own. So he had to undertake jobs such as carrying planks and weeding other peoples'*

*cocoa farms for a fee. According to him, he had to search for these jobs because he needed money to care for himself and his other siblings. Currently, he does not know where his parents are so he has to work to keep himself as well as his two siblings. There are a lot of school dropouts due to financial problems and other factors. For instance, Isaac Twum's parents cannot afford his school uniform so he had to stop school when he was in JSS 1 to work for a living. Joseph Arthur has also stopped school to tap palm wine with his father because his family could not afford to cater for him. Also Evans Akose stopped school to go to another community to work to fend for himself. Because of poverty, four girls got pregnant and could not write their BECE exams – Focus Group Discussions with Children in Atwerboana*

*Sometimes we go to school on an empty stomach. Some of our friends drop out or play truancy when their parents fail to provide them with their needs. On market days most of us go to the market to sell foodstuffs, carry people's items for a fee to enable us to buy our necessities – Focus Group Discussions with Children*

#### *Poverty, poor quality education and child labour trends*

Though community members feel it is alright for children to work when they have no one to take care of them, they also admitted that most children are difficult to control and manage when money comes to their pockets. According to the teachers, children who are fending for themselves are very difficult to control and are disrespectful towards teachers because of their exposure to money. The communities expressed their worries about this situation, yet they were helpless in dealing with the situation. Both Elders and Teachers acknowledged that the children are willing to go to school but due to poverty their parents are not able to provide for their basic needs so children have to work for their own upkeep. One of the elders remarked that: *“there is nothing that can be done about this situation as the parents cannot provide the needs of these children due to poverty” – an elder from Mpohor.*

The elders explained that there is poverty in the communities because the national policies do not cater for farmers. Apart from cocoa farmers, there seems to be no specific policy that addresses issues concerning other farmers such as those who cultivate crops like palm fruits, cassava, maize and vegetables. According to them the government is only interested in cocoa farmers and fishermen. The government has provided cold storage facilities for fishermen to store their surplus catch, so many wonder why the government could not do the same for farmers to store cassava, vegetables etc. These crops are not priced by the government so the buyers determine the prices; and this does not fetch them enough money to be able to care properly for their children. They believe that an improvement in real incomes at the community level can help respond to the problems of children who are left alone to fend for themselves. The community needs to be assisted so that the children will not indulge in child labour activities.

### 6.3 Issues of Child Trafficking

Based on interviews with ICI partner organizations in the districts, some level of child trafficking is present in the districts but the exact numbers are not known. Interviews with key stakeholders at the district level suggest that trafficked children are often brought from the northern part of Ghana and given to farm owners, who use them on their cocoa farms for an agreed annual fee to be paid to the front person. The females are made to either sell or used as house help. When these children arrive, most of them start weeping because they were either stolen or lured to the area. The security agencies are not helping to deal with these cases. When cases are reported to the police, they ask the individuals who have lodged the complaint to provide a means of transport for the children to return home. Interviews with CODESULT revealed that the district social welfare system is weak and does not respond to children who are trafficked or considered victims of child labour. Field interviews also revealed that there are a growing level of child labour problems in the districts.

The communities by contrast denied any of such practices involving children. They admitted that people are brought from the Northern and the Volta Regions but those who are brought into the communities, are often above the ages of 18 years. The people brought into the communities for labour purposes are mostly males, and are escorted by “front-men” who give them out to farm owners for ‘ebunu’, ‘ebusa’ or ‘nhweso’ system. In Botogyina, the Elders indicated that children are not trafficked into the community but some girls are sent out of the community to the large towns in order to work for people with the promise of helping them to learn a trade. Middle men come to take children to the big towns and at the end of the month or year money is paid to the middlemen and/or the children are helped to go through puberty rites. In some cases the young girls travel without informing their parents. Most of these children are cheated and end up selling items by the roadside.

#### **YIRASE**

Yirase is a farming community located in Wassa Amenfi West District. The main occupation of the people is farming. The people of Yirase are mainly settler farmers who cultivate cocoa, oil palm, rice, ginger and tiger nut. The community is about 12kms from the Asankrangwa, the district capital. It has both a primary school and JSS; the primary school has benefited from the USAID/QUIPS programme. The schools in the community serve other communities within the catchment area. The enrolment for the primary school is 280; 170 males and 110 females respectively. Some of the children walk very long distances between 4 – 5 miles to school each day. The community has no health care facility.

Some of the problems of children highlighted by stakeholders in Yirase are that parents are not able to cater for their children’s basic needs. As a result, most of the children in the community have to work to support themselves and their families. Some children sell in the morning before going to school. Children are also used on cocoa farms to carry cocoa beans or pods before school hours. Some children start farm work as early as 5:30am, if it is a school day, to enable them to finish their farm work before school starts in the morning. Focus group discussions with children revealed that:

*“Our major problems are that we are used on farms by parents during school days to carry cocoa beans for drying and at times we have to get up at about 4:30am to go a long distance to collect the beans and send them to the drying points; this makes us late to school or abandon school altogether for that day/week. Because of the work we do and the distance we cover by walking we get to school tired; this results in decreased concentration span, which affects our ability to learn” – School children.*

Sometimes parents ask permission from the school heads in order to allow them to use their children on the cocoa, rice and oil palm farms. During the rice season most children are sent to the rice farm to drive away birds; this is also the period of the year that children are more likely to drop out of school. On Tuesdays, a market day at Asankragwa, most children go to the market in order to carry items to raise money to buy their basic needs. There are cases in the community where older children are brought from other communities, especially the northern part of Ghana to work on the farmlands. These children are brought by middlemen who give them out to farm owners for the ebunu<sup>33</sup> or ebusa<sup>34</sup> or nhweso<sup>35</sup> system.

Through the USAID/QUIPS programme, the primary school has received support, which included furniture, books and teachers’ quarters. The programme provided the school with a school band, football and jerseys. The school also received a computer with some accessories but due to lack of electricity in the school, they could not keep it. Enrolment in the school has increased significantly, as result of the QUIPS programme.

Problems of children in the community are often discussed at PTA meetings. Yet, no concrete steps have been taken in response to these issues. In response to the problem of lack of teachers, the community through PTA contributions was able to engage a teacher for five years until the government absorbed him into the GES payroll system. At the school level, contributions are made by the children during Wednesday morning worship. These monies are used to buy First Aid drugs for the children.

The following issues related to children and their needs were expressed by the community during the field work:

- There is a need for a library and new classroom block for the JSS.
- The government should ensure fairness in the award of the CMB scholarship to rural farmers; especially those in cocoa growing communities. For the past 15 years no one has received this scholarship in the community.
- There is the need for the government to assist needy children in the community.
- A community clinic or health facility to cater for the children is needed.
- There is the need for role models to motivate the children in the community. Some children come to school, and without seeing a role model, are not serious with their studies.
- The school needs a first aid box in order to cater for children who fall sick or are injured.
- There is a need for learning and teaching materials and other child-friendly materials such as a school band, table tennis, football, and TV sets in order to make the school attractive to the children.

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<sup>33</sup> Having 50% share of proceeds from the farm at the end of the harvesting period

<sup>34</sup> One-third share of farm proceeds

<sup>35</sup> Caretaker of the farm

## 6.4 The Responses at the Community Level

Interviews with opinion leaders revealed that the PTAs/SMCs have met in some communities to address the issues of child work and child welfare. Some of the communities (e.g. Nkrankese, Mpohor, Botogyina, Ataase Nkwanta and Atwerboana) indicated that they have decided to launch a campaign on the lack of child care and explore opportunities for credit facilities for the women.

In Botogyina, the chief and elders appealed to the leadership of Life Church to assist in paying the school fees for some of the needy children and also provide them with school uniforms. The Life Church had previously agreed and provided library books and paid for the school fees of thirty children identified by the teachers. These children were either orphaned or needy but brilliant. The support was provided for a period of one year. As part of the Government of Ghana's package for needy children, the District Assembly in collaboration with the Ghana Education Service provided school uniforms for some needy children at the JSS level. In addition each beneficiary was given five exercise books. In Mpohor the chief and elders indicated that they have made efforts to advise the 'Awiabo' site owners to stop children from working at the sites during school days.

Schools in the communities generally lack the facilities that will make children stay in school. The schools lack textbooks, exercise books, libraries, adequate teachers and equipment reduces the quality of education and deters many children from attending school.

*"Our schools are not friendly and lack basic recreational facilities that will sustain their interest in school." They believe that most of their friends find working on farms and the mining sites more lucrative than schooling – Focus Group Discussions with Children.*

When asked what they think should be done to sustain their own interest and attract and retain their friends in school, they had to say:

*"The Government should provide school-friendly items, such as textbooks, exercise books, library, school band and football to keep them in school. Others say they need school bags and shoes. The classroom too should be secure and the facility extended to the school to enable them to learn at night. These things would attract them to stay in school. They also recommend an open day in the school where parents could be invited to see what their children are doing in school and punishment administer to parents who refuse to care for their children since they spend money on funerals and other occasions; for instance, they are able to credit or buy clothes for the occasion. "Our day" (end of the year party) could also be organized for the children".*

Both teachers and other adults in the community believe that the general lack of school infrastructure and other related supplies such as books and teachers, contribute to poor school attendance and drop out in the community. They believe

that in order to reduce the incidence of child labour, school conditions must be improved to retain children in school. Examples were cited related to previous programmes that helped in raising enrolments in school.

At Yirase, the government, through a USAID project, assisted the community to build teachers' quarters and provided them with books and furniture for the primary school. They were also provided with a school band, football and jerseys.

At Odaakrofuom, in order to attract children to go to school, a member of the community, Mr. Frank Oppong bought a school band for the school. This according to the teachers has reduced lateness to school and has attracted many more children to enrol in school. PTA/SMC members in both communities indicated that any time schools receive new furniture supplies from the District Assembly a significant increase in enrolment is observed. However, the schools do not get regular supplies; where there are such supplies, the communities in most cases would have to arrange for transport to convey the furniture and sometimes books from the districts to the schools.

According to PTA/SMC members, some parents refuse to support their children's education and are not committed to the welfare of their children. There is the need for parents to be educated on these issues. Field interviews also suggest that in order to protect children the elders and community leadership should meet on a regular basis to discuss issues affecting children and put in place bye-laws for the development of their children. According to the children in Odaakrofuom, *the government should make a law to force their parents to cater for them. Children said the community leaders should be empowered to "bring to book parents who are financially sound relative to others, and yet refuse to send them to school"*.

Among the specific issues that were enumerated during the focus group discussions as a way of preventing child labour practices and to ensure increased school enrolments and retention were:

- Parents should be stopped from removing children from the classroom in order to work on farms and to do other jobs.
- Schools should be given more teachers.
- School friendly games such as football should be provided in order to attract more children to school.
- Textbooks and more exercise books should be given to children.
- Parents should be made to respect decisions of the PTA/SMC.
- Teachers should not allow parents to remove children from the classroom to the farm.
- Parents should be given loans in order to improve their ability to support their children.
- Video operators should be stopped from showing films after 8:00pm.

## **Conclusion**

The extended family remains the only informal social support system in Ghana. This system is however being weakened by social and economic shocks and changing

family dynamics. The trend continues to undermine the development of children and jeopardises the child's education forcing them to engage in all forms of child labour in order to survive. Some communities are testing out community initiated approaches to respond to the gradual break down of the extended family system.

Children play a key role in the domestic economies of all the communities visited. They are used on cocoa farms by their parents which contributes to the high incidence of drop out and absenteeism in primary and JSS schools. Most children in the communities also lack parental care and support due to poverty, divorce and separation. The high incidence of divorce and separation results in child neglect and abandonment forcing them to fend for themselves and other siblings. Children are therefore compelled by financial need and the lack of social support at both district and community levels to undertake jobs to support themselves. Although community members including chiefs, elders, teachers and PTA/SMC are aware of the problems that confront children, they have not been successful in responding to the problems of child protection.

## **7.0 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROGRAMMING POSSIBILITIES FOR ICI**

Any action to reduce poverty and parental neglect is key to preventing vulnerability and social exclusion. Effective social services, income generating activities and micro finance form the structural foundation for preventing, extreme poverty and social exclusion. Specific intervention measures aimed at addressing the problem of child labour, forced labour, worst form of child labour and child trafficking should address long-term unemployment, poverty alleviation, interventions at the early stage to address child welfare, education policy, legal systems and the social service sector. Interventions should also place special emphasis on supporting the family as a unit and particularly female headed households by finding ways of improving their livelihoods and ultimately their ability to support their children within the family and community context. Analysis of the existing policies and programmes presents some attractive programming options for implementation. Against this background, the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) should consider the following options and/ or a combination which could result in strengthened initiatives in the area of social protection for children in Ghana.

### **7.1 National Level Recommendations**

#### **7.1.1 Policy and National Stakeholder Recommendations**

In view of the fact that there is no formal social protection policy for children in Ghana, ICI should support ongoing efforts at formulating a comprehensive policy to address the social welfare needs of neglected and abandoned children<sup>36</sup>. This initiative should stress the preventive approaches for combating child protection at the community level based on implementation strategies and field based learning which can enhance policy and decision making at the national level. The ICI study on social protection suggests that there is a tremendous need for all interested stakeholders to collaborate and strengthen the Department of Social Welfare as a critical step to effective policy and programme implementation. The following recommendations were suggested by national stakeholders for consideration by ICI:

##### **National Stakeholder Recommendations for ICI**

1. Awareness raising should be carried out in communities that are identified as 'sending communities' and 'receiving communities' on the negative effects of child trafficking. Government officials should also be sensitised to understand the value of social development work. The importance of using existing structures was emphasised.
2. ICI should look at issues of poverty alleviation such as Credit schemes particularly for women and families. This should not target only the affected families but the entire community. The provision of skills training for children above school going age (15) should also be considered. This should include trafficked children and those at risk of being trafficked.

<sup>36</sup> This initiative was started by UNDP and UNICEF with support by Sync Consult.

3. Necessary interventions to protect children should be holistic and all-inclusive to cover education, health, livelihood training and other initiatives including educational and recreational facilities. This should be down streamed at the community level, and community/opinion leaders could be used as frontline agents.
4. ICI can work with government to improve the legal policy environment to ensure that trafficking no longer exists. It should also explore the possibility of collaborating with other development partners such as UNICEF, ILO and IOM to form a social protection alliance.
5. ICI should identify allies among the network of partners identified in this study such as (i.e. DSW, DCD, WAJU, International Needs Ghana, The Ark Foundation, ACHD and others) to provide a systemic framework for referrals and tracking/follow-ups;
6. ICI programmes should focus on the preventive and transformative elements of social protection.

### **7.1.2 Building a Social Protection Alliance with key partners**

There is an urgent need to form an official alliance at national level among like minded partners. UNICEF had initially expressed interest in this initiative but little action has taken place. An alliance with other development partners at national level would be an effective way to ensure an integrated programming approach. There are several international agencies and NGOs identified in the study which already have structures and programmes related to social protection. Forming an alliance would mean pulling resources together to maximise programming outcomes and ensure no duplication in efforts. This is particularly important given the key role that government agencies such as Social Welfare will need to play in the process of designing strategies which work at district level.

### **7.2 Building Capacity to Address Child Protection in ICI Target Areas**

There are several different case scenarios which might be used to address a range of abusive child labour situations in ICI target areas. Findings from the district and regional levels strongly suggest the need for ICI partners to play a supportive role to Government charged agencies such as DSW, DCD and CHRAJ responsible for child abuse, child labour and child trafficking incidents. The ICI collaborating NGO's should be in a position to deal with child abuse and child trafficking cases through referral systems to both formal and traditional modes of operation.

To address social protection, ICI should have a multi teared approach to assisting children in abusive child labour and trafficked situations, some of which is already addressed through its current programme. This approach could include:

1. Improving parental responsibility for children (focusing on the moral responsibility of parents and community members to protect their children from abusive and harmful practices);
2. Improving the capacity of traditional leaders to regulate, supervise and discipline perpetrators of harmful practices against children.

3. Improving the capacity of the social welfare services at a district and regional level to respond to extreme cases.
4. Building a network or interagency task force made up of social protection agencies in each district to improve the level of coordination particularly among child labour programmes (e.g. ICI and ILO).
5. Supporting Regional Directorates of Social Welfare to set up updated procedures and referral services for ICI partners and others to respond to cases of extreme child labour abuses and child trafficking.
6. Building capacity of ICI partners to refer and support relevant agencies and explore options available to children and their communities.

### **7.2.1 Parental programmes to improve capacity of parents to care for their children**

Religious institutions and faith based organisations in all the districts could be sensitized on the issues of child labour and child trafficking. A simple but well planned brain storming session with these agencies could assist ICI and other partners reach out to individuals who may be involved in child trafficking; this type of exercise could also alert the communities of measures to protect children. Reaching out through religious organisations will highlight the moral obligations and responsibilities parents and communities have in protecting their children and also be a watchdog for abusive practices within the community. Section 7.3 outlines in more detail approaches to strengthening the social and economic fabric of the family unit and preventing abusive child labour practices.

### **7.2.2 Building the capacity of district assemblies, traditional authorities, chiefs and elders to respond effectively.**

The study revealed that chiefs and opinion leaders in the community can be a valuable source of enforcing both traditional norms and modern laws and ensuring that the parents improve their capacities to care for their children. Already traditional authorities are holding fathers accountable for their children's upkeep and basic needs in some communities visited. Chiefs have also introduced community laws which prevent children from watching video shows during school days.

Finally another key recommendation relates to the need to engage with key community and district leaders on issues of child protection by encouraging dialogue and eventually the setting up and enforcement of community and district bye laws which protect children. The training and technical support communities including traditional authorities, teachers and opinion leaders for effective management of cases child abuse and child labour practices should also be introduced.

### **7.2.3 Improving the capacity of social welfare services to respond to extreme cases of child trafficking---who are charged with the responsibility?**

The Ghana Government through its Children's Act has mandated certain institutions to carry out child protection activities. NGO' or international UN agencies should work closely with government at all levels to carry out this mandate. The growing incidence and possibly more visible nature of child labour and child trafficking within Ghana is placing some level of stress on an already weak and fragile social welfare system.

ICI should build the capacity of district and regional institutions particularly the Department of Social Welfare, CHRAJ and the Department for community development which have capacity for social protection and social mobilisation activities. The ICI social protection study identified two key agencies which are currently handling cases of child abuse and trafficking (sometime informally) these were DSW and CHRAJ. There are several other district agencies involved in the identification of children and the follow-up these agencies including: NCCE, Population Councils and Youth Councils. The key areas of capacity building should include the following:

- Training in basic social protection skills and recognition of resources for the management of various case scenarios;
- Working document to guide the management of cases at the regional and district levels;
- A public brochure to inform stakeholders at all levels of referral services within a given area.
- Logistical support for case follow-up and referral (this could be done in an innovative way by supporting DSW to deal with cases in a timely manner)
- District Assembly led task force for interagency involvement on child welfare and protection.

ICI and other partners should design strategies in the following areas to help empower the Department of Social Welfare to address the increasing responsibilities of child abuse and child trafficking. These would involve capacity building, staff expansion/ motivation and improved working conditions such as the supply of computers, and regular transport support to follow up on cases.

There is a tremendous lack of follow-up by most of the existing programmes and agencies. This problem has been largely attributed to the lack of transport and the difficulty involved in travelling to and from a location, which has cases of children, which need reintegration. ICI and its partners should consider helping the Government develop a child monitoring system that can track each 'case', whereby communities are alerted and engaged in information collection and recording on a regular basis with the Department of Social Welfare.

## **Transitional Hosting Centres**

Institutionalised initiatives to respond to the safety and relief needs of victims of child labour and child trafficking should help them cope with life in a holistic manner providing an environment for self development. This may include social assistance programmes such as hosting centres for abandoned and abused children, victims of forced labour and those found engaged in the worst forms of child labour as well as child trafficking. These institutionalised hosting programmes should be seen as a transitional point for children who are trafficked and in some cases experience severe levels of abusive child labour practices.

ICI should continue to engaging with ILO/IPEC and the Department of Social Welfare to explore possible partnership arrangements in relation to improving the operations of the Child Trafficking Centre in Madina, Accra and the Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre in Essipon, Sekondi. These are institutions under the auspices of the national and regional departments of Social Welfare and appear capable of serving the purposes for transitional centres for young people.

At the national level, ICI should ensure that the proposed Child Trafficking Centre becomes operational in response to its programmatic needs. ICI could work out an arrangement with DSW and the ILO on the renovation of the Madina Centre in Accra, to facilitate the operations of the proposed national shelter for victims of child trafficking. ICI should also consider networking with the Ark Foundation to provide the needed legal support for children who may be rescued from extreme situations of abusive child labour and trafficking.

At the district level, ICI could consider a partnership arrangement with three transitional hosting centres for children who are withdrawn from abusive child labour situations:

- Word Alive Orphanage, Western Region
- Westphalian Children's Village, Ashanti Region
- Abdullam Orphanage, Obuasi, Ashanti Region

The Westphalian Children's Village might be considered for children who for a variety of reasons are better off not returning home to their families; this facility could be used for longer term care situations. These partnerships will require some level of capacity building between the Department of Social Welfare, ICI implementing agencies and the orphanages in order to ensure coordination, a high quality of care and protection on a transitional or more permanent basis.

The re-integration of children with their families should be done after a thorough social assessment is carried out with children and their families by the Department of Social Welfare in order to ensure that the families' accept and improve the conditions of their children's welfare and that children also are willing to stay with them. There should be regular follow-ups on cases to ensure that the child is staying where she/he was sent for at least six months.

## **7.2.4 Supporting an Interagency Task Force on Child Protection at District and Regional Levels**

Already some districts have set up interagency committees to coordinate efforts but lack funds to ensure that these committees are effectively dealing with cases (e.g. Wasswa West). The creation of an interagency task force should be led by the District Assembly but supported by agencies like ICI to help to develop procedures and approaches for addressing child labour and child trafficking cases. This task force should be trained in some general approaches to social protection as well as child labour issues in their districts. Where Child Panels exist and are being created, ICI should continue to pursue their support and development.

## **7.2.5 Supporting Regional Directorates of Social Welfare improve their capacities to manage cases.**

The Regional Directorates of Social Welfare for Ashanti and Western Region should be assisted to develop a practical guide for assisting agencies understand the procedures for dealing with cases of abusive child labour and trafficking. This guide should also identify appropriate transitional hosting and permanent hosting institutions within the regions and at the district levels. In the long run, the guide should include measures to streamline their procedures and support the development of a handbook for social welfare officers and related agencies in the area of social protection of children.

## **7.3 Community-Based Initiatives**

Children withdrawn from abusive child labour situations and or prevented from extreme situations of forced labour and child trafficking and re-united with their families could be targeted for social support programmes through the following programmes:

- Scholarships for enrolment into basic schools or vocational school;
- School fees and school uniforms plus other school items
- Improving the conditions at the school (improving quality inputs such as books and teaching learning materials) and making education attractive
- Livelihood training; and
- Counselling services

Additional approaches to the community-based initiative could also provide an alternative education programme for children who are at risk of child trafficking in the 'high risk communities'. Such an initiative could be designed strategically to prevent children from dropping out schooling, and also reduce the risk of being trafficked. A counselling, support and recreational programme set up at the school level in sending and receiving communities may be an initial step to build awareness and support for children who are the most vulnerable to falling victim of child trafficking.

### **7.3.1 Improving the quality of educational facilities**

Parental neglect and abandonment was widespread across the districts coupled with the breakdown of the extended family system a more rigorous approach to child protection is needed. The field work suggests that parents and children identified that lack of quality educational facilities and inputs into the school are a key factor in retaining children in the communities studied. More emphasis should be placed on improving the educational options for children in child sending and receiving communities in order to deter children from engaging in “by day” labour and eventually in search of better opportunities out of school.

#### ***Learning Materials for School and Recreational Facilities***

ICI should pilot an approach to provide targeted schools with learning materials including exercise books and recreational facilities that will make schools friendly and attractive to children. This will also contribute to improving the quality of education at the community level. The general lack of learning materials and recreational facilities is a disincentive for children to enrol and stay in school.

### **7.3.2 Reaching out to the Family Unit as a Primary mode of Prevention**

The family unit in the sending and receiving areas of child trafficking must be taken into consideration and targeted for poverty alleviation programmes. Preventable interventions at the family level, particularly in respect to reducing the economic and social vulnerability of the poor, will serve as an early intervention measure to curbing the problem. Such targeted interventions would reduce the risk of people becoming socially vulnerable and excluded. It will also address the problem of social inequity and to a very large extent transform the attitudes and behaviours toward the use of children as commodities.

One of the key interventions which appears well tested and effective in poverty alleviation schemes aimed at children is the provision of credit facilities to farmers and their families and those which target single or female headed households. Family breakdown, divorce and separation were found in the field study as key reasons for instability within the family unit often forcing children to fend for themselves. Credit and training facilities provided to family heads of households and/or parents responsible for the children may be one way of preventing children from having to engage in child labour practices and improve the living standards of the family. Freedom from Hunger and the World University Service of Canada have both tested out this approach to tying credit support for mothers to improving the educational conditions of their children.

## **Conclusions**

There is presently no well-defined social protection policy in Ghana. The Department of Social Welfare is the only national institution with the responsibility of ensuring social welfare of all citizenry including children. Yet, the department lacks the

capacity to implement. As the key agency charged with the responsibility of protecting children from all forms of abusive practices including child labour, forced labour, worst forms of child labour and child trafficking, the department needs a more updated and systemic approach to improving procedures and mechanisms for managing cases. The department also needs to join forces with other like minded agencies both governmental and non government to identifying these procedures and setting them in motion.

Addressing the problems of child labour, forced labour, worst forms of child labour and child trafficking requires an all-inclusive intervention strategy involving a range of stakeholders, including the victims and those at risk of these and other forms of child abuses as well as the community and the family unit. The International Cocoa Initiative should continue to collaborate with other partners who are already involved in initiatives that aim at combating the problem of poor social protection systems and measures for children. Apart from the Department of Social Welfare, CHRAJ and NCCE, and the Department for Community Development, there are several other stakeholders involved in the identification of cases of child abuse, neglect and child trafficking at district and regional levels. An interagency task force should be set up in each district under the direction of the District Assembly and involving key stakeholders such as NGO's as a first step to ensuring a coordinated approach to child protection.

Reducing the incidence of child abuse and in particular, child labour, forced labour, worst forms of child labour and child trafficking, calls for improving people's economic livelihoods; and reducing the gaps in social equity. Enhancing and stabilising incomes would mean implementing a range of livelihood-enhancing programmes targeted at households and individuals. This may include providing skills training, micro credit and loans, recreational facilities and educational/school support. Such social activities may provide relief from poverty and deprivation particularly if it is focussed on mothers and/or the primary care givers of children.

Responding to the problem of abused, and vulnerable children will therefore involve adopting an integrated and holistic approach to programme planning, design and implementation in order to prevent social exclusion as well as ensuring that the poorest are protected against destitution and are lifted out of absolute poverty. It will also require that ICI collaborate closely with existing Government agencies mandated to ensure and carry out child protection procedures. This will mean that ICI and other like minded agencies will have to work in building the capacity of these organisations and play a supportive role in order to strengthen existing systems thereby ensuring long term sustainability of approaches which benefit the Ghanaian child.

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- Sync Consult (2005) Social Protection Strategy Draft Inception Report February, 2005
- Sync Consult (2005) Proposal on Developing a Social Protection Strategy for Ghana.
- The Children's Act, (1998) – ACT 560
- The Juvenile Act, (2003) – ACT 653
- The Domestic Violence Bill
- The Human Trafficking Bill: A Bill Entitled Human Trafficking ACT 2004

### Annex 1: Interview List – National Level

No.	Name	Organisation	Position	Telephone No.	Postal/Email Address
1	Emmanuel Quaye	Ministry of Women and Children. MOWAC	Chief Director	669597	
2	Marilyn A. Annan	MOWAC	Director	669597	ropalin@yahoo.com
3	Addae Kyeremeh	Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment	Chief Director	665797	Box M84 Accra
4	Susan Sabaa	GNCRC	National Coordinator	768551	Box G976, Accra  gncrc@yahoo.com
5	Mr. Bennet Kpentey	Sync Consult	Associate Director	783523	
6	Stephen Adongo	Department of Social Welfare	Deputy Director of Child Rights Promotion & Protection	684543	Box M230, Accra

No.	Name	Organisation	Position	Telephone No.	Postal/Email Address
7	Eric Appiah Okrah	ILO	National Project Coordinator	684543 675671 681806	Office of Head of Civil Service (Room 9) P.M.B, Ministries  <a href="mailto:okrah@iloghana.org">okrah@iloghana.org</a>
8	Matthew	IPEC	National Programme Officer	684543 675671 681806	Office of Head of Civil Service (Room 9) P.M.B, Ministries
9	Elizabeth Dassah	WAJU	Director	662438 687755 0277154809	Box MB681  Ministries, Accra
10	Cromwell Awadey	International Needs			<a href="mailto:intneeds@ghana.com">intneeds@ghana.com</a>
11	Angela Dwamena Aboagye	ARK Foundation	Executive Director	0244 254280 021 511610	<a href="mailto:adaboagye@yahoo.com">adaboagye@yahoo.com</a> P. O. Box AH 1230 Accra
12	Tamar Schrofer	UNICEF	Project Officer, Nutrition/Officer- in-Charge of Protection	772524 777972 773583-4	<a href="mailto:tschrofer@unicef.org">tschrofer@unicef.org</a>

No.	Name	Organisation	Position	Telephone No.	Postal/Email Address
13	Mr. Idris Abdallah	UNICEF	Assistant Child Protection Officer	772524 777972 773583-4	<a href="mailto:iabdallah@unicef.org">iabdallah@unicef.org</a>
14	Victoria Natsu	Department of Social Welfare Shelter for Abused Children	Centre Manageress	021 775244	Department of Social Welfare P.O. Box 027 Osu-Accra

### Annex 2: Interview List – Regional Level

No.	Name	Organisation	Position	Telephone No.	Postal/Email Address
1	Mr.Gyamera Ahwenee-Pa Danquah	Department of Social Welfare	Deputy Western Regional Director (Community Care Officer)		Department of Social Welfare Regional Office Sekondi
2	Erasmus Davies Aseidu	Department of Social Welfare	Programme Head, Child Rights and Protection – Western Region		Department of Social Welfare Regional Office Sekondi
3	Mr Ben Ahookye White,	National Population Council	Western Regional Population officer	0244-830646 031-46021	National Population Council Regional Office Sekondi
4	Miss Nancy Dzaa	Regional Co- ordinating Council	Deputy Western Regional Co-ordinating Director	0244-978850 031-46957	Regional Coordinating Council Sekondi
5	Mr Winfred Wek Adu	Department for Community Development	Regional Director		Department for Community Development Sekondi
6	Miss Joyce Obiri Yeboah	Department for Community Development	Regional Female Supervisor	0244 265601	Department for Community Development Sekondi
7	Pastor John Angati Morgan	World Alive Orphanage	Administrator	020-8533984	P.O. Box 7 Esiama
8	Mr John	Ghana National	Western		Ghana National Commission on

No.	Name	Organisation	Position	Telephone No.	Postal/Email Address
	Hackman Regional Director	Commission on Children	Regional Director		Children Western Regional Administration Sekondi
9	Nana Ama Amua- Sekyi	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice	Ag. Western Regional Director	020-8167146 031-23730	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice P.O. Box 616, Takoradi
10	Vincent Ezenemea,	Father's Home Care	Board member	0244-446323	Father's Home Care, Butumajabu Sekondi.
11.	Mr. George Twumasi	GRATIS Foundation	Regional Manager	020-8123630	GRATIS Foundation P.O. Box 351, Effia Nkwanta Takoradi
12	Mr. Samuel Kpakpa Thomson,	OIC	Director	031-23111	OIC Effi Nkwanta Sekondi
13	Mr. Ernest Yaw Kwarteng	Regional Coordinating Council	Ashanti Region Coordinating Director	020-5110898 051-24647	Regional Coordinating Council Kumasi
14.	Andrew Boye Agyemang-	Ghana National Commission on Children	Ashanti Regional Director	020-8177134	Ghana National Commission on Children Regional Coordinating Council Kumasi
15.	Charles Gyamfi Dankwa	CHRAJ	Ashanti Regional Director	051-27445 0244-630954	CHRAJ Kumasi
16.	Miss Nancy Owusu	Department of Social Welfare	Outgoing Ashanti Regional Director	0244-801312	Department of Social Welfare Kumasi
17.	Mr Twumasi –	Department of Social	Incoming	051-24607	Department of Social Welfare

No.	Name	Organisation	Position	Telephone No.	Postal/Email Address
		Welfare	Ashanti Regional Director		Kumasi
18.	Agnes Gorman	Labour Department	Ag. Ashanti Regional Chief Labour Officer	020-8888986 051-26583	Labour Department Kumasi
19.	Mr Oduro Boakyei Yiadom	Labour Department	Assistant Regional Labour Officer	0243-503816 051-26583	Labour Department Kumasi
20.	Mr John Kodjoe Owusu	Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child	Ag. National Chairman	0244-760994	C/o Environmental Protection Association of Ghana P.O.Box As32 Asawasi, Kumasi
21.	Mr. Sampson Owusu-Boapong	Westphalian Children's Village	Executive Director	051-91954 020-8121338	<a href="mailto:westpha@ghanatel.com.gh">westpha@ghanatel.com.gh</a>

### Annex 3: Interview List – Phase 1 and Phase 2 of field work

No.	Name	Organisation	Position	Telephone No.	Postal/Email Address
1.	<b>Mpohor Wassa East</b>				
2.	Efua Nyankson	CHRAJ	District Officer		CHRAJ office Daboase
3.	Martha Opere	National Commission on Civic Education	District Officer		NCCE, Daboase
4.	Mr Mathew Abizie	Department of Social Welfare	District Head		DSW, District Assembly, Daboase
5.	Mr James Asmah	Department of Community Development	District Officer		DSW, District Assembly, Daboase
6.	Mr Alex Obeng Gyabaa	District Assembly Office	District Coordinating Director		District Assembly
7.	Mr S.B Efful	Presiding Member	District Assembly		Daboase
8.	Mr. Agyapa Buah	Support For Community Mobilization Project Programme [SCMPP - NGO]	Team Leader	0277145255	Daboase
9.	Rev. Richard Essilfie Awortwe	OOEIM Christian Orphanage	Founder	Tel. 0244954707 ooeim1454@yahoo.com	Eduagyei, near Elmina, Central Region
10.	Ms. Yaa Frimpomaa Arhin	Angels of Hope	Mother of the Home	0244462516 0362-20768	P.O. Box 106 Tarkwa
11.					

No.	Name	Organisation	Position	Telephone No.	Postal/Email Address
12.	<b>Wassa Amenfi West</b>				
13.	Ms. Agatha Addo	Ghana Education Service	Girls' Education Officer		District Education Office, Asankragwa
14.	Mr. Obiri Yeboah	Community Development Consult Network [CODESULT – NGO]	Executive Director		
15.	Mr James Boadi	Department of Social Welfare	District Officer		District Assembly, Asankragwa
16.	Mr Innocent Haligah	District Assembly	Deputy Coordinating Director		District Assembly, Asankragwa
17.	Mr John Asiedu	District CHRAJ	CHRAJ officer in charge		
18.	Officer in charge	National Commission on Civic Education	NCCE		
19.	Mr Kofi Ampoe	Friends of the Children Association	Officer		Box 2 Asankragwa
20.	Anthony Aidoo	Asankra Breman Orphanage	Officers	039222025	Asankra Breman PO box 1 Asankra Breman
	<b>Adansi South</b>				
21.	Isaac K. Paintsil	Department of Social Welfare	District Welfare Officer		New Edubiase
22.	Anthoy Amankwa-Affum	DSW	Case Officer		New Edubiase
23.	Agnes Gyemfi	Department of Community Development	District Officer		New Edubiase

No.	Name	Organisation	Position	Telephone No.	Postal/Email Address
24.	Mr Willie Klutse	District Commission on Civic Education	District Officer		New Edubiase
25.	V.O Essilfie	CHRAJ	District Officer		New Edubiase
26.	Mr. Joshua Appiah	Hope for Humanity - NGO	Executive Director		New Edubiase
27.	Ms. Louise Timothy	Adullam Orphanage	Founder/ Executive Director	0243-216434 0582-40713	P.O. Box 582, Obuasi <a href="mailto:adullam@hotmail.com">adullam@hotmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.adullam.be.tf">www.adullam.be.tf</a>

**Annex 4: List of GES 53 Most Deprived Districts under the Capitation Scheme**

<b>Region</b>	<b>The Initial Districts = 40</b>	<b>New Districts =53</b>
<b>Northern</b>	Saboba-Cheriponi	Saboba-Cheriponi
	East Gonja	East Gonja
	East Mamprusi	East Mamprusi
	Savelugu Nanton	Savelugu Nanton
	Zabzugu-Tatale	Zabzugu-Tatale
	Bole	Bole
	Yendi	Yendi
	Tolon-Kumbungu	Tolon - Kumbungu
	Nanumba	Nanumba
	Gushiegu-Karaga	Gushiegu - Karaga
		Sawla – Tuna - Kalba
		Bunkpurugu - Yungoo
		Central Gonja - Buipe
		Karaga
	Nanumba South-Wulensi	
<b>Upper East</b>	Bawku West	Bawku West
	Bawku East	Bawku East
	Builsa	Builsa
	Bongo	Bongo
	Bolgatanga	Bolgatanga
		Talensi-Nabdram-Tongo
		Garu -Tampane
<b>Upper West</b>	Jirapa Lambussie	Jirapa Lambussie
	Nadowli	Nadowli
<b>Brong Ahafo</b>	Sene	Sene
	Wenchi	Wenchi
	Atebubu	Atebubu
	Nkoranza	Nkoranza
		Pru - Yeji
		Tain - Nsawkan
<b>Ashanti</b>	Sekyere East	Sekyere East
	Adansi East	Adansi East
	Ahafo Ano South	Ahafo Ano South
	Amansie West	Amansie West
<b>Eastern</b>	Afram Plains	Afram Plains
	Birim North	Birim North

<b>Region</b>	<b>The Initial Districts = 40</b>	<b>New Districts =53</b>
<b>Volta</b>	Nkwanta	Nkwanta
	Krachi	Krachi West - Krachi
		Krachi East – Dambai
<b>Central</b>	Abura – Asebu - Kwamankese	Abura-Asebu-Kwaman Kese
	Assin	Assin
	Asikuma – Odoben - Brakwa	Asikuma-Odoben-Brakwa
	Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abrem	Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abrem
		Assin South
<b>Western</b>	Sefwi Wiawso	Sefwi Wiawso
	Mpohor Wassa East	Mpohor Wassa East
	Wassa Amenfi	Wassa Amenfi
	Juabeso Bia	Juabeso Bia
	Aowim Suaman	Aowim Suaman
		Bia - Essam - Debiso
		Amenfi East
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>53</b>

## **Annex 5: List of WAJU Collaborators**

1. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
2. United Nations International Children's Fund
3. National Population Council (NPC)
4. International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
5. Women's Initiative for Self Empowerment (WISE)
6. Action Aid Ghana
7. Legal Aid
8. Department of Social Welfare
9. Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice
10. The Ark Foundation
11. Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs
12. Federation of African Women Lawyers (FIDA)
13. AWLA



NAME OF AGENCY/ORGANISATION	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	TARGETS and CAPACITY	STAFFING/ESTIMATED COST PER CHILD
<b>International Needs</b>	Accra Office with field programmes in Volta and Central Regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two programmes on Child labour. Children in fishing communities (Awutu-Efutu-Senya District)</li> <li>Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Child Prostitution (Accra Metropolitan Assembly)</li> <li>Provide social support in the form of school fees, school uniforms and skill training;</li> <li>Operates a Vocational training centre for abused girls in the Volta region.</li> </ul>	Children in exploitative labour situations within the fishing sector and Child Prostitutes; 8 to 18 years of age	<p>10-15 staff including field staff.</p> <p>Varied costing depending on the services provided.</p>
<b>The SOS Village in Ghana</b>	Tema, Greater Accra & Asiakwa, Eastern region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide institutionalised support and protection for orphans, destitute and abandoned children</li> <li>Provide long distance support programme to assist families meet the needs of children SOS cannot foster.</li> </ul>	<p>Children 0 -6 years</p> <p>Foster children 7years and above</p>	Costing: 300 USD per child per month.
<b>REGIONAL LEVEL</b>				
Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre, Department of Social Welfare	Essipon, Sekondi, Western Region	Has a facility for training in Livelihood Skills. Potential for residential programme with accommodation facilities.	Correctional Children targeting day students and Vulnerable Children	<p>Has a centre Manager and Trained Instructors;</p> <p>Could not provide estimated cost.</p>
<b>DISTRICT LEVEL</b>				
<b>NGOS</b>				
SCMPP	Mpohor Wassa East District in the Western Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide support for out-of school children</li> <li>Child rights promotion</li> <li>Community and</li> </ul>	In and out-of school children	<b>8 full time</b>

NAME OF AGENCY/ORGANISATION	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	TARGETS and CAPACITY	STAFFING/ESTIMATED COST PER CHILD
		Stakeholder sensitisation		
CODESULT	Amenfi East district also in the Western Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community mobilization and Training</li> <li>Child Rights promotion</li> </ul>	Farmers and Children	6 full time staff
Hope for Humanity	Adansi South district in the Ashanti Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide support for tree planting</li> <li>Community mobilization</li> <li>Child Rights Education</li> </ul>		5 full time staff
<b>Private Homes and Orphanages</b>				
Ooeim Orphanage Mission Home	Eduagyei near Elmina, in the Central Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To care for orphans, needy and abandoned children;</li> <li>Provide Support through the provision of shelter, food and education</li> </ul>	Children Orphaned and Abandoned (from birth to 10 years of age)	12 full time staff
Western Region				
Word Alive	Essiama, Western Region (80 Km from Takaradi)	<p>Provide support through the provision of shelter, food and education.</p> <p>Operates a school (primary, JSS and SSS and a community health school)</p>	Children Orphaned and Abandoned (takes children from 1 to 13 years of age)	<b>8 Full time staff</b>  <b>Cost of feeding a child is about 240,000 cedis per month.</b>
“Angels of Hope “	Tarkwa in the Western Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides support through the provision of Shelter, Food, Education and livelihood skills training</li> </ul>	Children Orphaned, abandoned as well as the poor and Needy	5 full time staff  Cost of operation is 4 million cedis per quarter to sustain 13 children and staff.
<b>Ashanti region</b>				
Abdullam Orphanage	Obuasi in the Ashanti Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides support through the provision of shelter, food and education</li> </ul>	Children Orphaned, and Abused (takes children from	<b>39 full time plus Volunteers</b>  Cost per month is approx. 400-600,000 cedis per baby

NAME OF AGENCY/ORGANISATION	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	TARGETS and CAPACITY	STAFFING/ESTIMATED COST PER CHILD
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal support for Abused children</li> <li>• Support for HIV/AIDS child victims</li> </ul>	birth to 12 years of age)	
Westphalian Children's Village	Ashanti Region	<p>Unique approach to supporting child orphans through a system of fostering children in families.</p> <p>All the children attend school from Primary to SSS or are offered vocational training.</p> <p>Has the Capacity to host rescued children; Operates a hospital, eye clinic and carpentry shop on a commercial basis.</p>	Orphans and Homeless Children	<p>31 Full time staff</p> <p>Estimated cost is 300-550,000 per child per month</p>

## Annex 7: List of Accredited Orphanages and Institutions

REGION	NAME OF INST.	POSTAL, TEL; E-MAIL ADDRESS	PARTICULARS OF PERSON IN-CHARGE	TYPE OF INST. (PUB OR PRIV.)	DATE OF ESTB.	POP. OF CHN (MALE & FEMALE)	NO. OF STAFF IN INST. (MALE & FEMALE)	SOURCE OF FUNDING	CONDTION OF THE HOME OR ORPHANAGE
1 UPPER WEST	St. Joseph's Orphanage, Jirapa	Tel. 0756 - 22883	Sister Sabina A-Iyeh (Nursing Officer)	Private	March 1939	19 (6Boys 13Girls)	13 (3Male 10Female)	Catholic Church & Dept of Social Wel	Grade B

### Key

Grade A	Excellent
Grade B	Very Good
Grade C	Good
Grade D	Satisfactory
Grade E	Poor

REGION	NAME OF INST.	POSTAL, TEL; E-MAIL ADDRESS	PARTICULARS OF PERSON IN-CHARGE	TYPE OF INST. (PUB OR PRIV.)	DATE OF ESTB.	POP. OF CHN (MALE & FEMALE)	NO. OF STAFF IN INST. (MALE & FEMALE)	SOURCE OF FUNDING	CONDITON OF THE HOME OR ORPHANAGE
2 UPPER EAST	Mother of Babies Home' Bolgatanga	P. O. Box 351, Bolga	Ms Matilda Yelbaya	Private	1984	36 (22male 14female)	14 (4male 10female)	Catholic Church	Grade B
	Afrikids Next Generation Home Bolga	P. O. Box 600, Bolga Tel. 072-23748	Mr. Nicholas Kuma	Private	December, 1997	30 (22male 8female)	9 (7male 2female)	Catholic Church	Grade A
	Anglican mother and Baby Home Bolga	P. O. Box 46 Bolga	Ms. Rebecca Anyoore	Private	1986	11 (6male 5female)	5 (1male 4female)	Anglican Church	Grade B
	Afrikid Charity Home	P. O. Box 600 Bolga	Lady Awuni	Private	1991	27 (17male 10female)	3 2male 1female)	Presby Church	Grade C
	Afrikid Centre for the Youth	P. O. Box 600 Bolga Tel.0208256685	Mr. Dagore	Private	2004				

Key

Grade A	Excellent
Grade B	Very Good
Grade C	Good
Grade D	Satisfactory
Grade E	Poor

REGION	NAME OF INST.	POSTAL, TEL; E-MAIL ADDRESS	PARTICULARS OF PERSON IN-CHARGE	TYPE OF INST. (PUB OR PRIV.)	DATE OF ESTB.	POP. OF CHN (MALE & FEMALE)	NO. OF STAFF IN INST. (MALE & FEMALE)	SOURCE OF FUNDING	CONDITON OF THE HOME OR ORPHANAGE
3 NORTHERN	Anfani Children's Home, Tamale	P. O. Box 112 Tamale	Mrs. Fati Issaka	Private	Jan. 2001	10 5male 5female	7 1male 6female	Indiv philantropists, Organisations, Board of Directors	Structure is alright but it lacks play equipment.
	Tamale Children's Home	P.O. Box 57 Tamale	Ms. Augustina Quianoo Supervisor (SSDO)	Public	1969	25 17male 8female	22 5male 17female	Central Gov't & Donations	Poor state Stru. needs rehabilita-tion Inadequate funds Inadequate care givers

Key

Grade A      Excellent  
Grade B      Very Good  
Grade C      Good  
Grade D      Satisfactory  
Grade E      Poor

REGION	NAME OF INST.	POSTAL, TEL; E-MAIL ADDRESS	PARTIC. OF PERSON IN- CHARGE	TYPE OF INST. (PUB OR PRIV.)	DATE OF ESTB.	POP. OF CHN (MALE & FEMALE)	NO. OF STAFF IN INST. (MALE & FEMALE)	SOURCE OF FUNDING	CONDITON OF THE HOME OR ORPHANAGE
4 CENTRAL	Faith and Fire Orphanage Home, Twifu Darmang	P. O. Box 85 Twifo Praso e-mail <a href="mailto:fmigh@yahoo.com">fmigh@yahoo.com</a> Tel. 022-411305	Mr. Michael Jacob (Project Manager) Masters Degree	Private	3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2000	13 10male 3female	5 2male 3female	Faith & Fire Revival Ministries Int. (USA)	Grade C
	LA- Twins Children's centre Twifo Praso	P. O. Box 36 Twifo Praso	Mr. Charles Therson-Coffie (Director & Proprietor) 3yr. Post Sec. 'A'	Private	1 <sup>st</sup> March, 2000	27 17male 10female	3 1male 2female Proprietors personal contribution	Grade D	
	Nana Awaa Orphanage Home, Twifo Wawase	P.O.Box 10 Twifo Wawase	Mr. Michael Sikansuo (Co-ordinator	Private	April 199	71 20male 51female	5 2male 3female	External Donor support Produce from farm	Grade E
	Living Hope Orphanage	P.O.Box 1000 C/Ctel.042- 33371 Email-livinghopeinter- national @yahoo.com Tel:0244-880128	Mr.Emman-uel Asomaning	Private	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2003	20 7Male 13Female	18 Male-5 Female-13	Foreign	GradeB
	The Lighthouse Children's Home	P.O.Box cc718 Cape Coast Tel.37529/36824 <a href="mailto:lighthouse4chn@yahoo.com">lighthouse4chn@yahoo.co m</a>	Galen Weber	Private	24/5/02	30 Male-24 Female-6	14 Male—8 Female-6	Light House Ministry Canada	Grade B
	Human Service Trust Orphanage	P.O Box 364 AD. C/C Cape Coast Tel 32055 <a href="mailto:servicetrust@hotmail.com">servicetrust@hotmail.com</a>	Mrs. Nancy Arkorful	Private	1997	25 Male-12 Female-13	7 Male-4 Female 3	Local/Personal	Grade C
	New Life International Orphanage, Cape Coast	P.O.Box AD 927 Cape Coast Tel.0244-618065 <a href="mailto:nlyffe@yahoo.com.uk">nlyffe@yahoo.com.uk</a>	Madam Ruby Ayivorh	Private	25/5/98	45 Male-20 Female-25	19 Male-7 Female-12	Gospel Exprees USA, Simpa Family Holland	Grade C

REGION	NAME OF INST.	POSTAL, TEL; E-MAIL ADDRESS	PARTICULARS OF PERSON IN-CHARGE	TYPE OF INST. (PUB OR PRIV.)	DATE OF ESTB.	POP. OF CHN (MALE & FEMALE)	NO. OF STAFF IN INST. (MALE & FEMALE)	SOURCE OF FUNDING	CONDTION OF THE HOME OR ORPHANAGE
5 EASTERN	Tomo-ni Childrens Home	P.O.Box 78 Mpraesso Tel. 0277737868	Benjamin Amankwah	Private	1997	16 12male 4female	9 6male 3female	Churches Individs Benev. Orgs	Grade C
	Bless The Children International ahaome	P. O. Box 67 Nkweatia Kwaho Tel. 0244-257767 <a href="mailto:gjyebo@yahoo.com">gjyebo@yahoo.com</a>	Rev.Jerem-iah Yeboah	Private	June 2000	22 15male 7female	6 2male 4female	Ozark Baptist Church America	Grade B
	Baptist School Complex &Orphanage	P.O.Box1950 Koforidua Tel.081-22300 Mobile: 0208131702 0244- 858005	Rev. Victor Ofori Amoah	Private	16 <sup>th</sup> Sept 1996	192 Male-100 Female-92	Male-4 Female7	The body of Christ Baptist Chapel and other philantropist	Fair D
	Hour of Grace Children Home	P.O.Box 16 huhuya <a href="mailto:graceorphans@yahoo.com">graceorphans@yahoo.com</a>	Evangelist Lawrence Gbengor	Private	18 <sup>th</sup> March 2003	20 male-9 Female-11	9 Male-4 Female-5	Elim Pentecostal U.K	Grade C
	Hugs Tender Loving Care	P.O. Box20922 Accra Tel. 021-719125/0244- 366265	Adjetey Ollan	Private	11 <sup>TH</sup> Sept 2004	20 Male-7 Female-13	11 Male-5 Female-6	Coral Gray & Family – U.K	Grade B
	Osenase Orphanage	P.O.Box 21 osenase Tel. 0244366082 <a href="mailto:osenaseorphan@yahoo.com">osenaseorphan@yahoo.com</a>	Rev.Dr.JRK Mensah Elim Evangelical Church North Kaneshie	Private	29 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2002	33 22male 11female	8 3male 5female	Seeway Trust- U.K. Elim Evang. Church	Grade B
	Otumfuor Osei Tutu II orphanage	C/o Oppong Kyei Kwaku Sarfo P.O.Box 949 Nkawkaw Tel- 024-3108323	Opong Kyei Kwaku Sarfo	Private	2001	55 30male 25female	4 3male 1female	Proprietor	Grade C

REGION	NAME OF INST.	POSTAL, TEL; E-MAIL ADDRESS	PARTICULARS OF PERSON IN-CHARGE	TYPE OF INST. (PUB OR PRIV.)	DATE OF ESTB.	POP. OF CHN (MALE & FEMALE)	NO. OF STAFF IN INST. (MALE & FEMALE)	SOURCE OF FUNDING	CONDITON OF THE HOME OR ORPHANAGE
6 ASHANTI	Adullam Orphanage	P.O.Box 582 Obuasi. Tel 051 91334 <a href="mailto:adullamorp@hotmail.com">adullamorp@hotmail.com</a>	Rev. Mrs. Louis Timothy	Private	August 1999	Male- 94 Female-34	Male-16 Female-16	Donation from churches& individual organisations	Good but needs additional classroom block
	Kumasi Childrens Home	P.O.Box 66 Kumasi Tel 05122891	Supervisor	Public	1965	Male-37 Female-15	Male-6 Female34	GOG Individuals, Churches NGOs	Fair but needs expansion&ren ovation
	Mampong Babies Home	P.O.Box 151 Tel. 0561-22379	Mabel Asafo Adjei  Midwifery	Private	1967		Male-13 Female-17	<u>Permanent</u> Male-10 Female-26 Casual Male-1 Female-7	Good
	King Jesus Charity Home(Boadi-K.N.U.ST	P.O.Box6759 Kumasi Tel 051 63246	Rev. Kofi Owusu Afriyie	Private	1955	Male-35 Female-30 Babies Male-2 Female-1	Male-5 Female-1	Donation	Needs Buildings, Textbooks, Stationary & Furniture
	Ahmed Uwaisi Centre, Boadi-Junction KNUST	Tel:051-61830 0244-777922	Mr.Abdallah Mohammed	Private	2000	Male 170 Female-40	Male-5 Female-8)	African Muslim Agency (Kuwait)	Needs lab & playground
	Ashan Development Childrens Village Edenase	P.O.Box SE 1307 Kumasi Tel 0244 977883	Mr. Jim Akwasi Kumi	Private	2002	Male-30 Female-20	Male-5 Female-6	Donation of funds from Holland	Uncompleted School block

Key

Grade A	Excellent
Grade B	Very Good
Grade C	Good
Grade D	Satisfactory
Grade E	Poor

REGION	NAME OF INST.	POSTAL, TEL; E-MAIL ADDRESS	PARTICULARS OF PERSON IN-CHARGE	TYPE OF INST. (PUB OR PRIV.)	DATE OF ESTB.	POP. OF CHN (MALE & FEMALE)	NO. OF STAFF IN INST. (MALE & FEMALE)	SOURCE OF FUNDING	CONDTION OF THE HOME OR ORPHANAGE
7 BRONG AHAFO	World of Friends Berekum	P. O. Box 548, Berekum Tel. 0208115124	Dr. Nana H. Ababio	Private	January 1990	Male -14 Female- 11	Male -3 Female-5	Dues& NGO Funds from Sweden	Good
	Bethesda Baptist orphanage Techiman	P. O. Box 248 Tel.061-28160 Techiman	Rev. Stephen J. Volante	Private	12/6/96	Male-4 Female-1	Male-2 Female-2	Church & Donations	Satisfactory
	World Friends, Nkoranza	P. O. Box 141, Tel-061-23212 Nkoranza	Alhaji B. Samo	Private	1997	Male-6 Female-3	Male-0 Female-2	Voluntary Contrib.	Fair

Key

Grade A            Excellent  
Grade B            Very Good  
Grade C            Good  
Grade D            Satisfactory  
Grade E            Poor

REGION	NAME OF INST.	POSTAL, TEL; E-MAIL ADDRESS	PARTICULARS OF PERSON IN-CHARGE	TYPE OF INST. (PUB OR PRIV.)	DATE OF ESTB.	POP. OF CHN (MALE & FEMALE)	NO. OF STAFF IN INST. (MALE & FEMALE)	SOURCE OF FUNDING	CONDITON OF THE HOME OR ORPHANAGE
8 VOLTA	Volta Home Orphanage Ve-Dome	P. O. Box 61 Ve-Golokwati	Prophet Amnabi Issah	Private	1992	Male - 22 Female -18	Male - 3 Female – 3	Self funding and Donations	Lack Amenities needs support
	Deladem Orphanage	P. O. Box 12 Golokwati	Miss Charity Siayor	Private	18-1-2002	Male - 26 Female -31	Male - 1 Female -4	District Assembly and Donations	Grade D
	Eugemot Orphanage	C/o Eugemot Home, Ve – Kolonu	Mad. Eugenia Kahu & Mr. George Motogbe	Private	-----	Male - 20 Female - 9	Male - 2 Female -5	NGO, ICGC	Lacks Amenities need assistance
	Missahoe Charity Orphanage	P. O. Box 186 Kpando	Mawusi Dotse	Private	Oct. 2002	Male - 26 Female -11	5 Volunteers	Charity Sisters Foundation	Grade D
	Dr. Asase Memorial Orphanage	P. O. Box HP 665 Ho	Mrs. Irene Asase Dagadzi	Private	6-9-96	Male - 2 Female - 5	Male - 2 Female – 3	From Founder / Director	Satisfactory C
	Children of Zion Orphanage	P. O. Box 42 Adidome	Sharon Titian – Director	Private	28-1-05	Male - 12 Female -15	Male - 1 Female – 5	Donation and Transport Services	Satisfactory C
	Friends Orphanage	P. O. Box AZ 94, Klikor – Agbozume	Rev. David K. Kpofor of Seek First Ministries	Private	1993	Male - 20 Female - 5	Male - 2 Female – 5 Dutch Volunteers 2	Fees and Donations	Satisfactory C

Key

Grade A	Excellent
Grade B	Very Good
Grade C	Good
Grade D	Satisfactory
Grade E	Poor

REGION	REGION	POSTAL, TEL; E-MAIL ADDRESS	PARTICULARS OF PERSON IN-CHARGE	TYPE OF INST. (PUB OR PRIV.)	DATE OF ESTB.	POP. OF CHN (MALE & FEMALE)	NO. OF STAFF IN INST. (MALE & FEMALE)	SOURCE OF FUNDING	CONDITION OF THE HOME OR ORPHANAGE
9 GREATER ACCRA	Good Shepherd Orphanage Odupong Ofankor	Good Shepherd Odupong-Ofankor Bohye Aseso near Kasoa Mobile: 0244-469028 <a href="mailto:bishopkwakuode@yahoo.com">bishopkwakuode@yahoo.com</a>	Paul Kwaku Addei, Jnr.	Private	June 2002	Male 32 Female 22	Male 0 Female 6	Donations	Good
	*** Chance for Children – Accra	P. O. Box 251, Accra Mobile: 0244-881 <a href="mailto:chanceforchildren@yahoo.com">chanceforchildren@yahoo.com</a>	Annor Kortey	Private	***	Male 0 Female 0	Male 0 Female 0	***	***
	Teshie Orphanage	P. O. Box LA 425 Tel: 021-715098	Janet Parker	Private	31/05/1995	Male 21 Female 19	Male 2 Female 3	Donation	Good
	Peace & Love Orphanage – Adenta	Mobile: 0277-776600 <a href="mailto:vitiaa222@yahoo.com">vitiaa222@yahoo.com</a>	Vetiina Appiah	Private	-	Male 0 Female 0	Male 0 Female 0	-	-
	Agape Children's Home	P. O. Box 17182 Accra Mobile: 0243-103302 / 0244-260855 <a href="mailto:peacelove@hotmail.com">peacelove@hotmail.com</a>	Rev. Joseph Egyir-Asam Bright Doe	Private	July 2000	Male 44 Female 20	Male 8 Female 5	Agape Gospel Mission Inter. & Donation from partners	Good
	Christ Faith Foster Home – Madina, Accra Frafrafa	P. O. Box 1241 Mobile: 0244-059219 020-8136971	K. Adu Boahene	Private	1972	Male 37 Female 11	Male 2 Female 8	Benevolent Societies and Oden Walden Heider mission Germany	Good
	Osu Children's Home, Accra	P. O. Box GP 640, Accra. Tel: 021-776773 <a href="mailto:osuhome@hotmail.com">osuhome@hotmail.com</a>	Mrs. Helena Obeng-Asamoah	Public	1949	Male 76 Female 70	Male 4 Female 67	GoG Donations	Good
	The Least of These Children's Home	P. O. Box OS 1808, Osu – Accra Tel: 021-322609 Mobile: 0244-619910	Joseph Class Peters	Private	28/04/05	Male 7 Female 9	Male 1 Female 2	Donations Internal and External (USA)	Good

	Missionary of Charity Sisters Ashaiman – Tema	Tel: 022-312929	Rev. Sister Lisa	Private	1988	Male 14 Female 21	Male 4 Female 19	Catholic Church Donations Local & Foreign	Good
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REGION	NAME OF INST.	POSTAL, TEL; E-MAIL ADDRESS	PARTICULARS OF PERSON IN-CHARGE	TYPE OF INST. (PUB OR PRIV.)	DATE OF ESTB.	POP. OF CHN (MALE & FEMALE)	NO. OF STAFF IN INST. (MALE & FEMALE)	SOURCE OF FUNDING	CONDITON OF THE HOME OR ORPHANAGE
10. WESTERN REGION	Word Alive Children's Home (Esiama)	P. O. Box 7 Esiama Tel: 031-28671 <a href="mailto:walive@ghana.com">walive@ghana.com</a>	Rev. Angate Morgan	Children's Home	March 2003	Male 8 Female 9	Male 5 Female 3	Churches, Individuals, NADMO, District Assembly	Grade B
	Father's Home Care (Butumajebu) Sekondi	P. O. Box TD 1422, Takoradi Tel: 031-91308 <a href="mailto:fahocare@e-mail.com">fahocare@e-mail.com</a>	Rev. Benard Ackah – Miezah	Orphanage	7 <sup>th</sup> March 01	Male 12 Female 9	Male 2 Female 3	Individuals Groups, Churches, Companies	Grade B
	Angels of Hope (Tarkwa)	P. O. Box 106, Tarkwa Tel: 0362-20768	Mad. Yaa Fripoma Arhin	Orphanage	Dec. 2000	Male 8 Female 5	Male 2 Female 3	Groups, Individuals, Churches	Grade C
	Orphans Cry International	P. O. Box 369, Takoradi	Mad. Vivian Young	Orphanage	Sept. 2000	Male 23 Female 45	Male 6 Female 7	Ghana Aids Commission, Groups, Fund Raising and Churches	Grade C

Key

Grade A	Excellent
Grade B	Very Good
Grade C	Good
Grade D	Satisfactory
Grade E	Poor



<p>Integrated Community Centres for Employable Skills (ICCES)</p>	<p><b>Ministry of Manpower Development, Youth &amp; Employment</b></p> <p><u>Ashanti Region</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Baworo ICCES</li> <li>2. Akutuase ICCES</li> <li>3. Nerebehi ICCES</li> <li>4. Otaakrom ICCES</li> <li>5. Tetrefu ICCES</li> <li>6. Konkoma ICCES</li> <li>7. Atiwima Twedie ICCES</li> <li>8. Asiwa ICCES</li> <li>9. Dwease Praaso ICCES</li> <li>10. Afoako ICCES</li> <li>11. Kumasi Production Unit</li> <li>12. Ofoase Kokobeng</li> <li>13. Amoawi ICCES</li> </ol> <p><u>Western Region</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sekondi Production Unit</li> <li>2. Asasetre ICCES</li> <li>3. Dompim ICCES</li> <li>4. Denchemoase ICCES</li> <li>5. Shama ICCES</li> <li>6. Wasa Saa ICCES</li> <li>7. Nkenya ICCES</li> <li>8. Bibiani ICCES</li> <li>9. Adupri ICCES</li> <li>10. Angu ICCES</li> <li>11. Adabokrom ICCES</li> <li>12. Juaboso ICCES</li> <li>13. Sefwi Adupri ICCES</li> <li>14. Wassa Akropong</li> <li>15. Nsawura ICCES</li> <li>16. Whindu ICCES</li> </ol>	<p>Basic Education</p>	<p>Competence based skills training – livelihood training</p>	
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Social Welfare Centres	<b>Ministry of Manpower Development, Youth &amp; Employment (MMDY&amp;E)</b> <u>Ashanti Region</u> 1. Edwinase Rehabilitation Centre  <u>Western Region</u> 1. Essipong Rehabilitation Centre	Basic Education		
Community Development Centres	<b>Ministry of Local Government &amp; Rural Development</b> <u>Western Region</u> 1. Takoradi Women’s Training Institute 2. Tarkwa Women’s Training Institute 3. Axim Women’s Training Institute			

<p>Faith Based/Private Vocational training institutions</p>	<p><b>Ashanti Region</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catholic Technical Institute, Kumasi</li> <li>• Christ the King Bus/Vocational, Obuasi</li> <li>• Christian Vocational Training Institute, Kumasi</li> <li>• Methodist Vocational Training College, Kumasi</li> <li>• St. George Technical Commercial Kumasi</li> <li>• St. Joseph's Tech. Institute Kumasi</li> <li>• St. Mary's Vocational Institute Kumasi</li> <li>• St. Peter's Girls' Vocational Institute, Kumasi</li> <li>• St. Paul's Girls' Vocational Institute, Kumasi</li> <li>• Ramseyer Institute, Kumasi</li> <li>• Jachie Training Centre for Disabled</li> <li>• Aflame Girls' Vocational Institutes, Kumasi</li> <li>• Mancel Girls' Vocational Kumasi</li> <li>• City Girls Vocational, Kumasi</li> <li>• Modern Institute of Tech. Kumasi</li> <li>• Majdoub Vocational Institute Kumasi</li> <li>• Asanteman Vocational Institute</li> <li>• Swan Sewing Centre, Kumasi</li> <li>• Opoku Ware Girls' Vocational Institute, Kumasi</li> </ul> <p><b>Western Region</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methodist Secondary Vocational School, Sekondi</li> <li>• Bishop Essuah Catholic Vocational, Tarkwa</li> <li>• YMCA Vocational School, Takoradi</li> <li>• Happy Home Vocational School, Takoradi</li> <li>• Gladmond Girls' Vocational, Takoradi</li> <li>• Prudence Vocational Institute, Tarkwa</li> </ul>	<p>BECE</p>	<p>Formal Training</p>	
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Other Options	Agriculture Training Institutes (Ministry of Food and Agriculture) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asuasi Farm Institute (C/R)</li> </ul>	BECE		
	Leadership Training Institutes (MMDY&E) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asankare Youth Training Institute (A/R)</li> <li>Abura Youth Leadership Training Institute (C/R)</li> </ul>	Basic Education	Competence Skills Training	
	Ministry of Road & Transport Training Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ghana Technical Training (Gt. A/R)</li> </ul>	BECE	Formal Training	
	Gratis Foundation – Ministry of Trade & Industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gratis Takoradi (W/R)</li> </ul>	Basic Education	Competence-Based skills training	
	Opportunities Industrialisation Centres (OIC) – MMDY&E <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OICG Kumasi (A/R)</li> <li>OICG Sekondi/Takoradi (W/R)</li> </ul>	Basic Education	“	

## **Annex 9: The Field Guide**

### A: (i) National Level: Ministries & Departments

**Ministry of Manpower Development and Employment**  
**Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs**  
**CHRAJ**  
**Child Labour Unit**  
**Ghana National Commission on Children (GNCC)**  
**Women and Juvenile Unit (WAJU) Ghana Police Force**

1. What are your organisation's mandate, policies and plans in relation to Social Protection in general but more specifically with child protection? (Can you please provide us with copies of these policy documents?) *Important to explore the terminology used within each ministries and department because some maybe talking about child care, child welfare, child protection, protection measures or responses to cases of abuse etc.....*

2. What are the structures overseeing issues of abusive forms of child labour at the district level for which your ministries or department is responsible (i.e. District Assembly structures, District Children's sub committee etc)

2a. What are the structures, private or public, with which your ministries collaborate?

3. How does the Social Welfare system in Ghana respond to children who are trafficked and considered victims of child labour?

3a. Are there any procedures or guidelines available?

5. What are the gaps in the public system (i.e. social welfare and social safety nets)?

6a. What is the level of knowledge of your staff on social protection and child protection issues?

6b. How are they trained to keep abreast of the latest approaches for assisting children in these circumstances?

7. What is your main source of funding/resources for addressing child protection?

7a. Do you receive from external donors (agencies, private donations, churches etc...)?

8. Do you have Resource Directory or a List of Organisations that you use to help identify organisations involved in Social Protection and refer children and their families?

9. What are the specific steps you recommend for ICI partner organizations to take when they identify children in “extreme” situations of abusive child labour or being trafficked?

9a. Are you aware of existing guidelines?

(ii) Extra Questions for the Department of Social Welfare

10. How are children brought to your hosting structures?

11. For how long do children stay in the hosting structures?

12. Where do the children go next? What follow up is done on the children?

13. What is the estimated cost for hosting a child or liaising with an organization to support a child?

14. What is the profile of children brought to the hosting structures?

15. How are the children dealt with and what kind of services do the structures offer them (health, education, life skills or vocational training, psychological support etc)?

16. What are the problems encountered by the structures?

17. What are the problems encountered by the children?

18. What calibre of staff do you have and what is their level of training?

**B: Other National Stakeholders**

**IPEC, UNICEF  
SOS Children's Village  
Africa Centre for Human Development  
ARK Foundation  
International Needs Ghana  
International Organisation for Migration (IOM)?**

1. How does the Social Protection/Welfare system in Ghana respond to child victims of abuse or those who are trafficked and considered victims of child labour?
2. How do the various levels of government and non governmental organisations respond to the needs of children considered "trafficked" or victims of abusive child labour practices at home and in the community?
3. What are the gaps in Ghana's social welfare/safety net system?
4. What is your organization's approach/programme on Social Protection of children who are trafficked and considered victims of child labour?
5. Do you manage hosting structures (directly) or support any hosting/caring structures for children victims of abuse?
- 5a How are children brought to your hosting structures (who? What was the institutional circuit that some children have followed?)?
6. What is the profile of children brought to your hosting structures?
7. How do you deal with the children and what kind of services do you offer them (health, education, life skills or vocational training, psychological support)?
8. What are the problems encountered by the organisation in meeting the needs of these children?
9. What are the problems encountered by the children?
- 10a. What staff do you have and what is their level of training?
- 10b. What is the level of knowledge of your staff on social protection issues?
- 11a. How is the Government helping your organisation?
- 11b. What do you expect the Government to do to help?

12. What is your source of resources and what support have you received from external donors (agencies, private donations, churches etc...)?

13. How long do children stay in the hosting/caring structure that you managed or collaborate with?

14a. Where do they go after leaving the structure? Are there any traditional community based systems to help them?

14b. What follow up mechanisms are there to track children who move out of the structures?

15. What is the estimated cost for hosting a child or liaising with an organization to support a child?

16a. What should ICI partner organizations do when they identify children in “extreme” situations of abusive child labour or children being trafficked?

16b. What specific steps should be taken by ICI?

### **Ghana National Coalition on the Rights of the Child**

1. How does the Social Welfare system in Ghana respond to children who are trafficked and considered victims of child labour?

2. How do the various levels of government respond to the needs of children considered “trafficked or victims of abusive child labour practices at home and in the community?

3a. What do you do in the area of children’s social protection?

3b. What is your organization’s approach and programme on Social Protection of children who are trafficked and considered victims of child labour?

4. What is the knowledge level of your staff on social protection issues?

5a. How do you collaborate with the State on social protection issues and how does the State help you?

5b. How do you expect the State to help?

6. What specific steps should ICI partner organizations take when they identify children in “extreme” situations of abusive child labour or children being trafficked?

7. Do you know of any organisations which are working with children in these conditions? If so can you recommend and describe any organisations which are currently working with children in these conditions which we should visit?

### **C: Regional Level Interviews**

1. What are the structures overseeing issues of abusive forms of child labour at the regional level for which your Department is responsible?

2a. What are the structures, private or public, with which your department collaborate?

3. How does the Social Welfare system in this region respond to children who are trafficked and considered victims of child labour?

3a. What cases of children are brought to your attention and how do you address these cases?

4. What is your organization's approach/programme on Social Protection of children who are trafficked and considered victims of child labour?

5. What are the challenges facing your institution? How do you improve upon the current system?

6a. What is the level of knowledge of your staff on social protection and child protection issues?

6b. How are they trained to keep abreast of the latest approaches for assisting children in these circumstances?

7a. What is your main source of funding/resources for addressing child protection.

7b. Do you receive from external donors (agencies, private donations, churches etc...)?

9. Do you manage hosting structures (directly) or support any hosting/caring structures for children victims of abuse?

9a. How are children brought to your hosting structures (who? What was the institutional circuit that some children have followed?)?

9b. What is the profile of children brought to your hosting structures?

- 9c. How do you deal with the children and what kind of services do you offer them (health, education, life skills or vocational training, psychological support)?
- 9d. What problems do your organisation encounter in meeting the needs of these children?
- 9e. What problems do the children encounter?
- 9f. What staff do you have at the Hosting Facilities and what is their level of training?
- 9g. What is the level of knowledge of your staff on social protection issues?
- 9h. How is the Government helping your organization to respond to the social welfare needs of children?
- 9i. What do you expect the Government to do to help?
- 9j. What is your source of resources and what support have you received from external donors (agencies, private donations, churches etc...)?
- 9k. How long do children stay in the hosting/caring structure that you managed or collaborate with?
- 9l. Where do they go after leaving the structure? Are there any traditional community based systems to help them?
- 9m. What follow up mechanisms are there to track children who move out of the structures?
- 9n. What follow up mechanism is put in place by Social Welfare at the regional level to monitor activities of Children's homes or orphanages
- 9o. What is the estimated cost for hosting a child or liaising with an organization to support a child?
10. What should ICI partner organizations do when they identify children in "extreme" situations of abusive child labour or children being trafficked?
11. What specific steps should be taken by ICI?

13. Do you have Resource Directory or a List of Organisations that you use to help identify organisations involved in Social Protection and refer children and their families?

14. Which of the Hosting Structures for hosting children victims of abuse in the region (both private & public) do you think is offering the best and most appropriate services to handle vulnerable and abused children and why?

**D: District Level Interviews** (District Social Welfare Department, Civil Society Organisation including Churches and NGO's in the District)

(i) Organisational Profile

*(Probe more with organisations dealing with children).*

<p><b>1. Name of the NGO</b>.....</p> <p><b>2. Key contact person</b>.....</p> <p><b>3. Email/Postal Address</b>.....</p> <p><b>4. Telephone Number</b>.....</p> <p><b>5. Fax Number</b>.....</p> <p><b>6. Date NGO was started</b>.....</p> <p><b>7. A brief on how it was started</b>.....</p> <p><b>8. When it was registered</b>.....</p> <p><b>9. The mission or purpose</b>..... ..... .....</p> <p><b>10 Areas of operation (region, district and number of communities)</b>.....</p> <p><b>11a. Number of staff (Male/Female)</b>.....</p> <p><b>11b. Number of paid staff (Male/Female)</b>.....</p>
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(ii) Social Protection Issues

12. How does the Social Welfare system in your district respond to children who are trafficked and considered victims of child labour?

13. How is the district responding to the needs of children considered “trafficked” or victims of abusive child labour practices at home and in the community?

14. Which organisations are addressing children’s needs in the district, and which one is dealing with child victims of abuse?

- How are the NGO’s and various civil society organisations in your district and region responding to the needs of children considered “trafficked” or victims of abusive child labour practices at home and in the community?

15. What are the gaps in the social welfare and what is the existing social safety nets system at district level?

16. What is your organization’s approach and programme on Social Protection of children in general or children who are trafficked and considered victims of child labour?

17. What type of activities do you undertake in relation to children and child rights?

18. Are there any traditional systems/mechanisms which were once used in the communities to protect and care for children who were victims of abuse or left on their own?

19. Are children brought to your organisation which can be considered victims of child labour abuses? What is the profile of the children brought to your hosting structures?

20. How do you deal with them and what kind of services do you offer the children and their families when they come (health, education, life skills or vocational training, psychological support)?

21. What are the problems encountered by most of them?

22. What are the challenges and problems encountered by your organisation?

23. What is the level of training of your staff?

24. Is there any collaboration between you and the Government and how is the Government helping you?

24b. How should the Government be helping your organisation?

25. What is your source of income/resources and what support have you received from external donors (agencies, private donations, churches etc...)?

26. Do you know of any other NGO's working in the area/district and region on issues of related to the social protection of children?

Questions only relevant to organisations having Hosting structures:

27. How long do children stay in your hosting/caring structure?

28a. Where do they go after leaving your structure?

28b. What follow up mechanics do you embark on to track children who move out of the structures?

29. What is the estimated cost for hosting a child or liaising with an organization to support a child?

30. What specific steps do you recommend for ICI partner organizations to take when they identify children in "extreme" situations of abusive child labour or being trafficked?

31 In your view, what are the best approaches to rehabilitate children who are victims of child labour?

### **E: Community Level Interviews**

i. Focus Group With Community Leaders (traditional and assembly persons, PTA and SMC members, Women's leaders etc)

1. How does the Community respond to situations where children are left abandoned and in need of assistance?
2. Has your community ever had any cases of such children (if so give an example of what happened) Probe for various scenarios of child abuse and child labour issues.
3. How did the community respond to these cases... has this approach changed over the last ten years?
4. How does the community respond to situations where children are sent from another area to work in your farms but they have no direct family relations?
5. What do you expect to see from the Government/ social welfare system to respond to what is happening?

6. What is done with children who drop out of school as a result of being engaged in work related tasks on the farm most of the day?
7. Are there any organizations in the community/district who help to take care of children who have been abandoned, or left on their own and may be considered abused.
8. What type of activities do you undertake in your community in relation to children and child rights?
9. What are the problems encountered by the community in dealing with school drop outs?
10. What do you expect the Government to do to support?
11. What specific steps do you recommend when children are left alone without any family to care for them in your community? Probe: for traditional approaches and what happened historically...
12. In your view, what are the best approaches to rehabilitate children in these situations?

## **II. Focus Group with Children and teachers**

1. What is the level of school enrolments in this community?
2. What are the major problems of children in the community?
3. Do you have cases of children dropping out from school simply because they don't have any one to care for them? (Probe for their history and other reasons for drop out...)
4. What does the District Assembly do to improve the conditions of children in your community (can you name a few programs? Or services)?
5. What do you think needs to be done to help children in the community grow up in a nurturing environment?
6. In the past, was there any traditional means of caring for children who were left abandoned in your communities?
7. What is done to children who drop out of school as a result of being used on the farms? (do you know of some children in this situation? Are there a lot?)
8. Who do these children go to in the community for help?

9. Are there any traditional ways of helping children who are victims of abusive child labour practices? What are they?
10. What does the community do to assist a family who has taken

## **Annex 10: Detailed profiles of communities visited**

### **SENCEM**

This community is about 15kms away from the district capital, Daboase in the Mpohor Wasa East. The main economic activity is cocoa and Oil Palm farming. The community has both primary and Junior Secondary Schools with a total population of 206 for the primary and 78 for the Junior Secondary [i.e. JSS 1 – 2<sup>37</sup>]. The schools serve other satellite communities, and most of the children had to walk long distances to get to school. There is no health care facility in the community.

There is poverty in the community and most of the children rely on some form of economic activity for survival. Some of the children often sell before coming to school to support the household. On Fridays, which is the market day in this community, most children do not go to school, instead they go to the market to assist traders from the big towns to sell their wares or work as porters for fee. The earnings from these jobs are used to take care of their basic school needs and pocket money to buy food in school. Since most of the children are not given food or money when going school. Children are sometimes withdrawn from classrooms to work on cocoa farms. The children leave school to help collect cocoa pods, split cocoa pods and/ or collect bunches of oil palm. Those who are serious with their studies have to use part of the money to buy lanterns to study in the evening at home. The reason is that Parents use the lantern for other purposes at night thus denying the children its use.

The general lack of school facilities and other resources do not make the school attractive to the children. The school has no First Aid facility to take care of children when they fall sick or get injured while in school the primary school especially lack teachers; this has compelled the school to combine classes e.g. Primary one (P1) and Primary two (P2); P3 and P4; P5 and P6. The Primary section has 3 teachers including the Head teacher and the JSS section has 5, this also includes the Head teacher. Lack of role models for the children in the community, coupled with the poor quality of the school makes undertaking 'jobs' more lucrative to most of the children than going to school; thereby contributing to the high incidence of drop outs.

The PTA/SMC has met to address the problems of school children and have decided to look for a credit facility for the women to trade with, but this has not materialized. The chief has met with her elders and they are planning to put in place a bye-laws to ban all parents from using their children during school hours on the farms.

This community has a female Chief called NANA KOFI AMPONSAH II; who adopts and provides economic as well as social support for children who are mostly named after her and whose parents are unable to cater for them. She

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<sup>37</sup> At the time of the visit the JSS 3 students had already graduated.

adopts these children as early as at the age of two and makes sure they are enrolled in school when they reach school-going age. According to her, the main reason for doing this, is because she and the siblings were taken care of by an uncle. Nana Kofi Amponsah has been doing this for the past thirty (30) years. Though she couldn't immediately count the number of children that have passed through her hands, an instant head count indicated over 50 children over the years. Two of such children who she still supports are currently in the university. Three others are also in Senior Secondary School while those who are not academically inclined go for skills training. She indicated that some of the children she supports stay with either their mothers or other relations while she regularly sends remittance for their school and other basic needs. At the time of the field visit, there were five children who were staying with her and going to school. She earns her income mainly from trading of cloths and other items. She also produces and sells 'Apketeshie' (local gin).

In the views of the community the following need to be done in response to child labour practices:

- Parents should be empowered financially to be able to provide the needs of their children.
- P.T.A. should be empowered to enforced decisions taken at meetings in the interest of the children.
- A task force on enrolment should be formed in the community.
- Parents should be stopped from removing children from the classroom to work on farms and to do other jobs

The expectations of the Community from government were that; the government should:

- Provide text books, exercise books, teachers and micro credit for parents and accommodation for teachers.
- Ensure that the C.M.B. scholarship reaches the cocoa farmers.
- Provide a health post to the community.
- Provide school friendly items to the schools.
- Ensure that the C.M.B. scholarship gets to the rural farmers.
- Provide them with a cocoa buying depot that is within their district and also within their region of location (i.e. Western Region) so that the community can also get some of the benefits from the profits.
- Put in place measures to ban parents from using their children to work on farms during school hours.
- Make the school friendly by providing more teachers, more classrooms and games.
- Put in place measures to stop teachers from having affairs with the school children.

## **BOTOGYINA**

Botogyina is about 12kms from Daboase, which is the district capital of Mphor Wassa East in the Western Region. The main occupation of the people in Botogyina is farming. They cultivate mostly cocoa and oil palm. The community has both a primary school and JSS but has no health facility.

Most of the children in the community lack parental care and support due to poverty, divorce and separation. Most children are abandoned as a result of divorce. Some children have parents who are divorced and the fathers do not care for them. Children often got to school without food or pocket money. As explained by the children during the focus group discussions:

*“Our fathers are not bothered about where we are, so some of us have to undertake ‘odd jobs’ such as truck pushing, weeding on cocoa farms, carrying palm bunches or sand, for a fee... to enable us survive. This is what we use to cater for ourselves and provide for our school needs”.*

*“Peter has to go and work on cocoa farms for ₵10 000 per working day and at times has to stay out of school for a week to be able to raise enough funds for himself and his siblings. He uses part of the money to buy school uniforms and shoes for himself”.*

*“Joseph Arthur has stopped school to tap palm wine with his father because his family could not afford to cater for him”.*

*“There is a primary 4 boy who got his leg broken during a high-jump at school and due to poverty the parents left the leg to rot, and was later amputated”.*

### **– School children –**

A lot of children dropout of school due to financial problems in order to undertake jobs to fend for themselves. At school the children are further frustrated by teachers who send them home when they are bare footed or seen to be wearing improper shoes (e.g. ‘charlie wote’ --- a local expression for a kind of rubber slipper). Teenage pregnancy is high in the community and this is attributed to the poor socio-economic conditions of households.

Children are not trafficked into the community but rather children from this community, mostly females, are sent out to ‘big towns’ to work for people with the promise of helping them to learn a trade. ‘Middle men/women’ come to take children to the big towns. In some cases the young girls travel without informing their parents. Most of these girls end up being cheated by the middlemen and women or taken advantage of. In response to children’s problems in the community the Chief and His elders have had meetings at school with the PTA. The leadership in the community also ensure that children who have lost their parents are not cheated in terms of their inheritance.

The community also appealed to the leadership of 'Life Church International' to support the needy but brilliant children. The church assisted in paying the school fees and provided school uniforms for 30 children in one year.

The community has set up an arbitration process whereby parents especially fathers who refuse to take care of their children are summoned by the chief. Interviews with the chief suggest that the chief believes that divorce and separation should not interfere with the child's welfare " ... that there can be an ex-wife or ex-husband, but there is nothing like an ex-child; the child did not ask to be born, hence parents are expected to bear the responsibility and the material cost for childcare and protection...".

There are other individuals in the community like the sub chief (Tufohene) who takes care of children who are not his biological children out of service to the community. Examples were given of the Methodist Catechist of the town, who is taking care of a girl whose parents are dead, and the Tufohene caring for two girls aged 12 and 17 in P6 and JSS2 respectively.

The community thinks the following needs to be done to respond to issues of social protection and child labour practices:

- Provision of textbooks, exercise books, library and teachers.
- National budgets should take care of Cocoa farmers just like fishermen. The government has provided cold storage facilities for fishermen to store their surplus catch, so many wonder why the government could not do the same for farmers to store cassava, vegetables etc.
- According to the children, the government should make a law to force their parents to cater for them. They said the community leaders should be empowered to punish parents who refuse to send their children to school.
- The government has to provide school-friendly items like footballs, and other playing kits. These kits and a school band will attract children to stay in school. They also said they need books – textbooks and exercise books.
- Parents who refuse to care for their children should be punished because when there is a funeral they are able to credit clothes for the occasion.
- The classroom should be secured and electricity extended to the school to enable schoolchildren use the place for studies at night.
- An open day is organized in the school where parents could be invited to see what their children are doing in school.

### **MPOHOR**

Mpohor is a semi-urban community with more than two primary and Junior Secondary Schools. It is the only community among the nine visited with a Senior Secondary. Situated in the community is the Benso Oil Palm Plantation (BOPP). The economy of Mpohor relies on both farming and mining. Until the advent of 'galamsey' (small scale mining – previously illegal) in the early 80s, the occupation of the people in the community was mainly farming. The people in the community now rely heavily on mining for survival.

There are significant numbers of child neglect in the community as most children are left to fend for themselves by parents. Incidence of female-headed households was more prevalent in this community. At the household level parents may ask their children to buy their own fish or meat for the evening meal and if they fail they eat their 'fufu' or 'ampesi' without fish or meat. As a result, a significant number of the children do 'Awiabo'<sup>38</sup> for money; some of the girls in particular, engage in sexual relationships with older boys as well as adult men with the hope of getting support for themselves.

School enrolment is around 60 – 70% of school-going age children but attendance is very poor; around 60%. The children are paid ₺13 000 per 40 head loads of sand. According to the teachers both parents and children enjoy doing 'Awiabo' due to the money they earn from it.

*Out of ten school children who were involved in FGD, 7 have been working at the 'Awiabo' sites.*

According to them, they work at the sites to earn money to fend for themselves--- buy food, school uniforms, school bags, pens, pencils, sandals, and to pay studies fees(₺5,000) and printing fees (₺5,000). At the site, they carry sand which earns them ₺15,000 a day after about fifty to seventy trips---the distance per trip is about 50 meters.

Though the community realizes that the work that the children do at the 'galamsey' site is very tedious and dangerous, and must not be encouraged; the general feeling is also that *"there is nothing that can be done about this situation as the parents cannot provide the needs of these children due to poverty"*. Hence if a child could work to cater for his/her schooling cost then it was okay. An SSS boy was cited as a 'good' example of such scenario:

*'...Is attending Senior Secondary School in Takoradi (the Capital of Western Region) who fortnightly, asks for permission from the head master to come home and do 'Awiabo' to earn money to pay his school fees and provide for his other school needs". He has been doing this since JSS. As expressed by one of the Elders:*

*"one wonders what would have happened to his schooling without 'Awiabo'"*.

It is not easy in this community for individuals to care for abandoned children or other people's children. One of the elders declared: *"Wassa Men do not have the love to care for their own children, how much more the children of others"*. This was what another elder also said : *"first no na woye"* meaning that caring for children has become a thing of the past.

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<sup>38</sup> It is a local expression of 'Galamsey' work

Some individuals such as the chief farmer, were however identified to be taking care of other people's children

Even though it is inappropriate for children as young as 12 years to be allowed at the 'Awiabo' sites to work, the community leaders seem helpless about the situation in the community. One of the small scale mining companies in the community, St. Jude Mining Company, has made a law banning children below 18 from going to their site, but this is not working. It only worked for about five months.

The following were suggested among others as what needs to be done in response to the problem of children in the community:

- Regular supply of textbooks to the school. The school has not received any supplies for the past four years.
- Community library and provision of school-friendly facilities to attract their children to school.
- Income-generating skills training for the parents will help them to cater for their children well.
- Teachers must be empowered to handle and discipline stubborn and truant children.
- There should be a law that will force parents to send their children to school. There must be the provision of teachers' quarters to encourage retention of teachers in the community.
- There should be a bye-law restraining parents from allowing their children to working at 'galamsey sites'.

## **YIRASE**

Yirase is a farming community located in Wassa Amenfi West District. The main occupation of the people of Yirase is farming. They cultivate cocoa, oil palm, rice, ginger and tiger nut. The people of Yirase are mainly settler farmers. The community is about 12kms from Asankrangwa, the district capital. It has both a primary school and JSS; the primary school has benefited from the USAID/QUIPS programme. The schools in the community serve other communities within the catchment area. The enrolment for the primary school is 280; 170 males and 110 females respectively. Some of these children walk long distances between 4 – 5 miles to school each day. The community has no health care facility.

Some of the problems of children highlighted by stakeholders in Yirase are that parents are not able to cater for their basic needs. As a result, most of the children in the community have to work to support themselves and their families. Some children sell in the morning before going to school. Children are also used on cocoa farms to carry cocoa beans or pods before school hours. On a school day some children start farm work as early as 5:30am to enable them finish their farm work before school starts in the morning. Focus group discussions with children revealed that:

*“Our major problems are that we are used on farms by parents during school days to carry cocoa beans for drying and at times we have to get up at about 4:30am to go a long distance to collect the beans and send them to the drying points; this makes us late to school or abandon school altogether for that day/week. Because of the work we do and the distance we cover by walking we get to school tired; this results in decreased concentration span, which affects our ability to learn” – **School children.***

Sometimes parents ask permission from the school heads in order to allow them to use their children on the cocoa, rice and oil palm farms. During the rice season most children are sent to the rice farm to drive away birds which are the period that children are more likely to drop out of school. On Tuesdays, a market day at Asankragwa, most children go to the market to carry items to raise money to buy their necessities.

There are cases in the community where older children are brought in from other communities, especially the northern part of Ghana to work on farmlands. These children are brought in by middlemen who give them out to farm owners for the ebunu<sup>39</sup> or ebusa<sup>40</sup> or nhweso<sup>41</sup> system.

Through the USAID/QUIPS programme, the primary school has received support, which included furniture, books and teachers' quarters. The programme provided the school with a school band, football and jerseys. The school also received a computer with some accessories but due to lack of electricity in the school, they could not keep it. Enrolment in the school has increased significantly, as result of the QUIPS programme.

Problems of children in the community are often discussed at PTA meetings. Yet, no concrete steps have been taken in response to these issues. In response to the problem of lack of teachers, the community through PTA contributions was able to engage a teacher for five years until the government absorbed him into the GES payroll system. At the school level, contributions are made by the children during Wednesday morning worship. These monies are used to buy First Aid drugs for the children.

The following issues related to children and their needs were expressed by the community during the field work:

- There is a need for a library and a new classroom block for the JSS.
- The government should ensure fairness in the award of the CMB scholarship to rural farmers; especially those in cocoa growing communities. For the past 15 years no one has received this scholarship in the community.
- There is the need for the government to assist needy children in the community.

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<sup>39</sup> Having 50% share of proceeds from the farm at the end of the harvesting period

<sup>40</sup> One-third share of farm proceeds

<sup>41</sup> Caretaker of the farm

- A community clinic or health facility to cater for the children is needed.
- There is the need for role models to motivate the children in the community. Some children come to school, and without seeing a role model, are not serious with their studies.
- The school needs a first aid box in order to cater for children who fall sick or are injured.
- There is a need for learning and teaching materials and other child-friendly materials such as a school band, table tennis, football, and TV sets in order to make the school attractive to the children.

## **MOSEASE**

Mosease is a semi-urban community and most of the people in the community are mainly settler farmers. Situated in Wassa Amenfi West, the community is about 10kms from the district capital. The economy of the community evolves around cocoa farming. There are two primary schools and a Junior Secondary School in the community. The schools serve other satellite communities within its catchments. Most of the children walk long distances and some cross rivers to get to school. Anytime the river overflows its banks the children do not go to school.

The problem of child neglect and abandonment is prevalent in the community. Some of the children due to lack of proper accommodation had to sleep with other relations of the same age group or friends who have relatively better accommodation. This practice is common in the community among children aged 13 years and above. Some children depend on this kind of living arrangements till they are able to acquire accommodation for themselves. This results in children idling other than going to school. Most of such children undertake jobs to raise funds to fend for themselves. When they carry cocoa they are given ₵10 000 per day. When they carry the planks they are given ₵3000 per plank and they can carry an average of 10 a day; i.e. ₵30,000 per day (US\$3.2). When they carry water it is an average of ₵10 000 a drum, when they carry blocks they are given ₵100 per block and they can carry about 50 a day; i.e. ₵5,000. Others go hunting to raise money for their upkeep. Because children here become independent at a relatively early age and are able to work to support themselves, they are usually difficult to control by adults. Cases of children staying out late to watch films at the 'video centre' are more prevalent in this community.

*“Most of the children have learnt how to spend money so when they drop out and are brought back to the classroom they don't want to stay”.*

Children are used on cocoa farms by their parents and guardians. Majority of the children go to the farm before school every day, carrying cocoa beans or most children have dropped out due to these practices. Attendance in all the schools is generally very poor and the dropout rate is very high in the community. The children carry cocoa beans for about two kilometres in and out about four times a day before school. Some of the other jobs they take-up include carrying planks,

preparing the cocoa nursery, carrying beans, collecting cocoa pots, carrying water for people, carrying gravel and sand, or weeding on the cocoa farm. When the children refuse to work on the cocoa farms they are denied food at home.

Issues of child protection and care are often discussed at PTA meetings. There are however, no measures in place for children who are left alone to care for themselves. There are some individuals in the community who provide support for children of the extended family.

Regarding what needs to be done the community identified the following and made some recommendations to the government:

- The community should identify the needy and burdened children and put aside some funds to assist them.
- There is a need for parents to be given micro-financing assistance to be able to care for their children well.
- The PTA executives need to be empowered to educate parents to take good care of their children
- The cocoa board should ensure that the CMB scholarship scheme reaches the children of cocoa farmers.
- The government should assist the youth, farmers and women with micro-financing.
- Provision of adequate classrooms, furniture textbooks, first aid box, bags, sandals, school uniforms and other school friendly items for the schools is critical in addressing the high incidence of drop outs in the community.
- There is the need for community library for use by all the school children. The community already has a structure earmarked for this purpose and is looking for books and other support to make the facility operational.
- There should be bye-laws stopping parents from taking their children to farms during school hours.
- The government should institute a school feeding programme for children in the community. *“If the children are fed at least once a day in school it will greatly help”.*
- Teachers should be provided with accommodation.

### **ODAAKROFOUM**

This community is about 10kms from Asankranqwa, which is the district capital of Wassa Amenfi West. Odaakrofum has no health facility. The people are farmers and cultivate mainly cocoa and other food crops. The community has one primary school with only three teachers. The school has therefore combined the classes.

Poverty is prevalent in this community, making it difficult for parents to feed their children at home. Majority of the children go to school without food. Most of the children do not find going to school interesting because their parents do not provide them with their basic school needs such as school uniforms and exercise books. During farming season or the cocoa harvesting period, children spend

about three days a week out of school working on cocoa and other family farms. Some of the jobs children undertake are collection of cocoa pods, carrying water for spraying the cocoa or for building houses.

The Headteacher of the school, who is a female, is supporting one of the school boys in Primary 3. Although the child is living with her biological mother, she is mentally deranged; this is what made the teacher to provide the support. The head has been providing support to needy children in the school for the past three years. There are others in the community who also provide support for children. Among them is the Mbrantsehene<sup>42</sup> of the community. In fact, he is one person in the community that children feel free to go to in cases of abusive behaviours against them both at home and in school. He sometimes helps to resolve issues between parent and their children; as well as parents and teachers.

To attract children to school, a member of the community bought musical instruments to create a school band for the school. This has contributed in reducing lateness and absenteeism; and has also attracted some new children to enrol in school.

In response to the problems children face in the community, the chief and elders have put in place the following to provide social support for children in school:

- Community By-Day 'Fund Raising' Initiative – The chief and elders of the community has put in place a system whereby the entire community undertake a job to raise funds to support development projects in the community.
- Annual Communal Contributions – The community has a scheme where each member makes an annual contribution. Part of this contribution is used to pay 50% of the total school fees per the total school population. This year, the community paid ₦300,000 as its 50 percent share to the school. What this means is that parents only have to pay half of their children's school levies.

In terms of what needs to be done in response to problems of children, the community made the following suggestions:

- The school needs to be provide with a library
- The government should institute a feeding programme for school children in the community.
- There is the need for a law banning children from working during school hours and preventing parents from allowing their children to undertaking these labour intensive activities.
- There is the need to organize "our day"<sup>43</sup>, for the children.
- The community should be encouraged to continue with the 'kilo-kilo' system to assist the children.

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<sup>42</sup> Title for a sub chief in charge of young people.

<sup>43</sup> A special day when children have fun

- The way forward is that bye-laws on child rights must be enforced.

### **NKRANKESE**

Nkran Kesse also known as Prekese Ase, is in the Adansi South District in Ashanti region. The people in this community are mostly settler farmers and are engage in cocoa and rice farming. Nkran kese has both a primary and JSS with a school population; Primary School: 331(136 female and 195 male) JSS: 92 (52 male and 40 female). There is no healthcare facility in the community. The population of this community is made up of Ga people from Greater Accra and Fantes. Each of the two major ethnic group has its own chief (the Ga Chief and the Fante Chief). Issues of community development are however, handled jointly.

There are a number of children in the community who have been neglected by their parents due to poverty, divorce and separation. Most of these children between the ages of 6 and 12 do not go to school. Some of the children in the community sleep in the homes of their friends. Majority of girls in the community do not complete JSS due to lack of parental support. Most of the children in the community have to undertake 'jobs' to fend for themselves. Some of them have to carry planks or cocoa beans for a fee.

At home schoolchildren have to work on farms or carry cocoa beans in the mornings before school. Very often, children absent themselves from school for days or weeks due to farm work. It is very common for parents to ask permission form school to take their children to the farm for spraying, carrying of cocoa pods or beans among others.

PTA meetings are used to discuss issues that affect children in the community, yet the situation remains unchanged. The Fante Chief, Nana Asmah on his own motivates children, especially girls who excel in school. The Head teacher and some teachers in the school provide support for schoolchildren who are serious about their schooling but lack parental care and support. The community is ready to contribute "kilo kilo" for education in the community as they did for the water project but members are hesitant due to past experience regarding management of funds.

The community thinks the following needs to be done in response to the problems of children in the community:

- The District Assembly should be enforced bye-laws on the rights of children.
- There is the need for parents to be educated on the need to send their children to school. Though some parents are poor they can afford to buy clothes for funerals.
- Poor children should be provided with school uniforms, textbooks, exercise books, schoolbags and sandals/shoes by the government.
- The school should be made friendly by providing school-friendly items like furniture, classrooms and teachers.

- Parents should be stopped from removing their children from the classroom to work on farms.
- The school should be given a library, Teachers' quarters and a clinic for the community.
- The PTA/SMC should be functional and pro-active.
- They need for children to be motivated, particularly the female ones, by sending a female teacher to the community to teach and be a strong role model. GES should ensure the school gets a female teacher to serve as a role model for children in the community
- The women in the community should be helped to learn income-generating skills and community members should be made to be keepers of the children in the community.

### **ATWERBOAONDA**

Atwerboanda is located in the Adansi South district and is about 15kms from New Edubaise, the district capital. Mostly settler farmers from the Volta regions, the people of Atwerboanda mostly engage in Cocoa and rice farming. The community has both Primary and a Junior Secondary School with an enrolment of 161 and 75 respectively.

There is a high incidence of school drop out in the community. Children drop out of school because they are used on their parents' cocoa farms. Some children do not go to school because their parents take them to cocoa farms to weed, collect cocoa pods, split cocoa pods or carry beans before coming to school. At times they will spend two-three consecutive days doing these jobs. Most of the children are used on cocoa farms by their parents and the majority of them also take jobs in cocoa farms of other people for a fee in order to cater for themselves.

Lack of parental support for children is also very common in the community. This situation compels most of the children to undertake work to take care of themselves.

*“Some children have been abandoned because of divorce or separation of parents which is very high in the community” – **chief and elders***

Parents do not provide children with their basic school needs such as uniforms, shoes, exercise books etc. The study revealed that there was one child who dropped out of school because he lacked a pen.

*“Another example is Kofi Appiah who had to stop school because his parents were not caring for him, and he had to work to fend for himself”.*

*“Charles collects snails with other friends at night for sale the next morning. At times they are bitten by snakes or stung by bees”- **school children***

The children earn between ₦15 000 cedis for carrying cocoa and ₦20,000 per day for weeding. The chief and elders are aware of the situation but feel helpless. Several attempts have been made at PTA meetings in response to the problems of child work yet, there have been no results thus far. Lack of cooperation from parents and some children is a problem.

*“A lot of parents use their children to trade and when the community leaders talk about that.... they insult them” – **an elder.***

*“Because of lack of parental care, the young girls have affairs with men” – **a teacher.***

The community expects the government to make provisions to educate them on the rights of the child and other child related issues as well as making their schools more child friendly. The DCE for the district provided school uniforms, bags, and sandals to 7 children in the community. The Assembly also provided desks to the schools. The following issues were also mentioned as those that need to be addressed in response to the problem of child welfare:

- Provision of school library, teacher’s quarters and other school friendly facilities that will attract and retain children in school.
- There is a need for the children to be provided with basic school supplies such as uniforms, bags, shoes and others.
- There is the need to put in place laws banning parents from using their children on farms and also ensuring that parents provide the needs of children.
- They expect the government to enact or enforce laws to stop parents from using children on their farms during school time.

### **Ataase Nkwanta**

Ataase Nkwanta is about 10kms away from New Edubiase, the district capital of Adansi South. The main economic activity is farming. The people mainly cultivate cocoa and rice. The community has both primary and Junior Secondary School with an enrolment of 275 (male 150, female 125) for the primary and 108 (60 male, 48 female) for the JSS. The schools serve other communities in its catchments. Drop out rates are high and this more prevalent at upper classes (P5 – JSS).

Most of the children do not have proper sleeping place within their own households and had to rely on other relations and friends for sleeping place.

*“There is the example of those who sleep in rice mills and with friends”*  
– Chief and elders.

Lack of Parental support and neglect is common and most children undertake jobs to fend for themselves. Some of the children have to go fishing or trapping crabs or driving away birds from rice farms or carry cocoa beans before school to

enable them get pocket money. Parents also use children on rice farms to drive away birds during school hours.

*When we are help in birds driving we are given an “alonka” of rice (i.e. “American tin” worth of rice) which sell for ₦52 000. We use the money to buy our basic school items.*

PTA meetings have been used to educate parents on problems of child care and protection. According one of the PTA executives: *“we discuss these issues and advice parents to care for their children’s needs and send them to school”*.

According to the community, the District Assembly has not been helpful in addressing issues that affect children in the community. The following were therefore suggested as what needs to be done to respond to the problems of children:

- They must provide for the needs of the children, for example school uniforms and learning materials. They must provide proper feeding (at least once a day) for the children.
- There is the need to educate the parents about the importance of sending their children to school and providing for their needs.
- There is the need for attractive classrooms, a staff common hall, furniture for teachers and children, teachers’ quarters, games like football and table tennis, and feeding for the children.
- The government should also make provision to educate the community on child right activities.
- The government should also punish fathers who abandon their children.
- The government should provide the JSS with modern classrooms.
- There is the need for children to be given food at school to enable quality learning.
- There is the need to empower or resource those who are providing care and support for abandoned children to encourage them to continue these efforts.
- There is the need for the PTA to put in place a committee that will check school dropout.
- Education must be free and compulsory. The government should come out with plans to ensure that the fCUBE is properly implemented. ‘Education is not free: parents need to provide the uniforms and food for their children’.
- Parents need to be advised on the importance of sending their children to school. Children should be provided their needs by the parents or philanthropists.

- There is the need for the government to make the department of social welfare effective and mobile at the district level and engage more staff in the department.

## **Annex 11: NGO Supplementary Information**

### **Support for Community Mobilization Project/Programme (SCMPP), Western Region**

#### *Areas of Intervention*

The main intervention areas of SCMPP include: good governance and human rights, entrepreneurship development (micro financing), reproductive health and family life education, technical/advisory services by voluntary professionals and natural resource management.

#### *Staff Strength/Capacity*

SCMPP has 8 paid staff made up of 3 women and 5 men plus a PDA Coordinator (female). The office has a limited number of facilities which include: 1 computer which is without a printer, 1 manual typewriter, 1 electrical typewriter, 1 cabinet, 3 tables and some chairs. All members of staff are given monthly allowances. The staff members have at least A' Level Certificates.

#### *Sources of Funding*

All the support that comes to the project are earmarked for specific activities. The main sources of financing include support from the US Embassy, OICI for micro finance, livelihood and skills training, SNV for its Governance programme and PDA for the Child Labour project.

#### *Level of Collaboration within Operational Areas*

SCMPP collaborates with the DA, CHRAJ, NCCE, GES and Department of Social Welfare and holds meetings to discuss issues affecting children including HIV/AIDS in the district. SCMPP also uses the DA facilities for meetings. They have received training on NGO management from the Ministry of Manpower, Employment and Youth.

The major challenge facing SCMPP is inadequate funding and logistical support. SCMPP however, is very strong on the ground at the district level and has achieved a high degree of support from the communities it works with.

### **Community Development Consult Network (CODESULT), Western Region**

#### *Activities*

CODESULT has been working under the new national policy on Water and Sanitation. It has trained over 154 Water and Sanitation Committees (WATSANs) in 158 committees in the Wassa Amenfi and Aowin Suaman for the Community Water and Sanitation Agency. It also mobilized and formed 16 farmers groups and trained them in group development and micro enterprise management skills in the Wassa Amenfi District under the Village Infrastructure Project. They are currently training 15 farmers' groups and associations who have already accessed financial support from rural banks.

### *Sources of Funding*

All funds coming into the organization are project specific. The sources include:

- International Cocoa Initiatives (ICI)
- Japan International Cooperation Association (JICA)
- International Development Association (IDA)
- Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA)
- Village Infrastructure Project (VIP)
- Ghana AIDS Commission

CODESULT receives local support from the DA by using their assembly hall and projector freely for their meetings.

### *Level of Collaboration in the Operational Areas*

There is collaboration between CODESULT and the DA, the Department of Community Development, Social Welfare, the National Youth Council, Cocoa Services Department, MoFA, CHRAJ, GES, the Forestry Commission, the National Commission on Civic Education and Non-Formal Education Division. They attend meetings and organize programs with these various agencies.

### *Staff Strength*

CODESULT has six (6) full time staff members and three (3) auxiliary staff that are called on whenever the workload is beyond their capability or they need extra support. The six members are GCE Advanced Level and Diploma certificates holders.

## **Hope for Humanity, Ashanti Region**

### *Staff Strength*

The organisation has five (5) full time staff members made up of three (3) males and two (2) females. They are holders of M.A, B.A, B.Ed and A' Level Certificates.

### *Sources of Funding*

The organization's activities are funded by donations and contributions from board members, individuals interested in the programmes, and organisations such as ICI, GAC, DA/VIP and MoFA.