

**THE SECOND SESSION OF THE
SEVENTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF
GHANA**

**REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE
ON GENDER AND CHILDREN
&
EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL WELFARE
AND STATE ENTERPRISES
ON THE 2019 ANNUAL BUDGET
ESTIMATES FOR THE MINISTRY
OF GENDER, CHILDREN AND
SOCIAL PROTECTION**

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REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON GENDER AND CHILDREN AND EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL WELFARE AND STATE ENTERPRISES ON THE 2019 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE MINISTRY OF GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 2019 Draft Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection were referred to the Joint Committee on Gender and Children, and, Employment, Social Welfare and State Enterprises for consideration and report, pursuant to Orders 140 (4), 175 and 184(1) of the Standing Orders of the House. This followed the presentation to Parliament of the 2019 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government by the Minister of Finance (MoF), Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta, in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution and Order 140 (2) of the Standing Orders of the House.

The Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Hon. Cynthia Mamle Morisson, with a technical team from the Ministry, its Departments and Agencies, as well as officers from the MoF, assisted the Committee during its deliberations.

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- i. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana;
- ii. The Standing Orders of the House;
- iii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2019 Financial Year;
- iv. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2018 Financial Year;
- v. Report of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection on the actual releases and expenditure of the Ministry for the 2018 financial year

3.0 VISION, MISSION AND MANDATE OF THE MINISTRY

The Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection (MoGCSP) was established by the Civil Services Instrument, 2013 (E.I1) and replaced the Ministry of Women & Children's Affairs (MOWAC) which was also established by EI 18, 2001. The Ministry, pursuant to EI1, 2013, is currently an amalgamation of MOWAC, the Department of Social Welfare and the Social Protection Division of the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations as well as the National Council on Persons with Disability.

The Ministry's Vision is to create a harmonious society in which the survival and development of the sexes, children, the vulnerable, the excluded and persons with disability are guaranteed.

4.0 IMPLEMENTING DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

The Ministry is currently made up of the following Departments, Secretariats and Units:

- i. Department of Gender
- ii. Department of Children
- iii. Department of Social Welfare
- iv. Domestic Violence Secretariat
- v. Human Trafficking Secretariat
- vi. National Council on Persons with Disability
- vii. Ghana School Feeding Programme
- viii. Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Secretariat
- ix. Ghana National Household Registry (GNHR)
- x. Child Marriage Unit
- xi. Adoption Regulation Unit

5.0 MANDATE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MINISTRY

The Ministry has the Mandate to ensure gender equality through the mainstreaming of gender considerations, promote the welfare and protection of children and empower the vulnerable, excluded, the aged and persons with disabilities through social protection interventions to contribute to national development, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection. To effectively undertake fulfil this mandate it has identified itself with two of the Development Dimensions in the National Medium-Term Development Policy Framework (NMTDPF) "*An Agenda For Jobs: Creating Prosperity And Equal Opportunity For All 2018-2021*".

These Development Dimensions are Social Development and Governance, Corruption and Accountability. The specific policy objectives under these dimensions include the following;

I. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Attain gender equality and equity in political, social and economic development systems and outcomes;
- Promote economic empowerment of women;
- Promote full participation of PWDs in social and economic development of the country;
- Strengthen social protection especially for children, women, persons with disability and the elderly,
- Enhance the well-being of the aged;

- Ensure the rights and entitlements of children ensure effective child protection and family welfare system.

II. GOVERNANCE, CORRUPTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Enhance capacity for policy formulation and coordination;

6.0 THE YEAR 2018 IN RETROSPECT

With a total staff strength of one thousand, one hundred and twenty-eight (1,128), the Ministry had the following key outputs were achieved in 2018.

I. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

- Procurement Plan for 2018 developed and being implemented
- CVs and performance appraisals of staff due for promotion submitted to Office of the Head of Civil Service (OHCS) for assessment interviews
- Sector Medium Term Development Plan developed and submitted to the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC)
- MIS facility developed and a technical team constituted to assess the facility
- Second draft IT Policy in place.
- 5-year Strategy Plan on Gender Statistics developed.
- Printed and disseminated 200 copies of Gender Statistics Assessment Report.
- 38 officers trained in competency based and Scheme of Service programmes
- Facilitated the conduction of promotion interviews for 168 officers of the Department of Social Welfare

II. Gender Equality and Equity Programme (Women's Development:

- Participated in the 62nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March, 2018 on the theme, "Challenges and Opportunities in achieving Gender Equality, and the empowerment of rural women and girls".
- Series of activities were undertaken to commemorate the 2018 International Women's Day on the theme: "Women too: Press for progress as game changers to develop Ghana"
- A forum on Adolescent pregnancy, Sex and Gender-Base Violence (SGBV) held in the Central Region to educate young people. A total of 867 boys and 1,133 girls participated in the programme;

- 290 girls, 180 boys and 50 parents from the Central Region, 2000 girls in the Sunyani Municipality and 700 girls from Banda District benefited from a school outreach programme dubbed “My Body My Pride”;
- Organized a sensitization forum on Sexual and Gender Based Violence for 100 participants in the Telensi District of the Upper East Region;
- Community Outreach Services & Sensitization programmes on Adolescent Reproductive Health organized for 1,300 people from 3 communities in the Central Region on 4th May 2018 at Academy of Christ the King SHS;
- 500 copies of the 5-year Strategic Plan on addressing Adolescent Pregnancy printed for distribution;
- The Ministry, as part of the UN global agenda to ensure gender equality, equity and empowerment has sensitized 631 persons in the Upper East, Ashanti and Central Region under the HeForShe Campaign. The objective of the campaign is to promote the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 5 aimed at achieving Gender Equality and Empowerment of all Women and Girls. Currently, a total of 2,156 people have pledged their commitment to the He-For-She Campaign;
- 78 women from the Forestry Commission in the Brong Ahafo Region were sensitized on the National Gender Policy with support from GIZ on the 6th June, 2018 at the Forestry Conference Hall;
- A workshop with 35 participants held from 27th to 28th February, 2018 to solicit inputs to develop GHANAP 2. Draft submitted for validation;
- Built capacity of 28 Gender Desk officers and 40 officers in MMDAs on mainstreaming the National Gender Policy into MDAs and MMDAs plans;
- Currently the Affirmative Action Bill is undergoing further review for re-submission to Cabinet;
- A mentorship programme held for 300 girls at Accra Wesley Girls Senior High. on good morals and the challenges of early sex; and
- A Capacity Building Workshop on effective participation of women in local governance organized for 100 Women in Agona West Municipality on 19th April 2018.

III. Child Rights Promotion, Protection and Development Programme:

- The Ministry has begun the process developing and operationalizing a Child Protection Information Management System for data capture, sharing and monitoring. Stakeholder consultation are on-going to gather input for the finalization of the System by 2019;

- A study was conducted on 5,160 children in 43 selected districts. They were interviewed on issues relating to their health, education, justice administration, environmental health and sanitation, and social welfare for the quantitative aspect of the study;
- The AU Day of the African Child was observed in all regions with a grand durbar held at Somanya on the 16th of June under the theme “Leaving no child behind for Africa’s Development”. Over fifteen thousand (15,000) children and one thousand five hundred (1,500) adults participated in this year’s celebration nationwide;
- The Early Childhood Care and Development standards for children 0 – 3 years validated by sixty-eight (68) stakeholders and their inputs were compiled for the finalization of the ECCD standards (0 – 3 years);
- One National Child Protection Committee meeting organized to discuss Ghana’s United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) concluding observation report. The report will be disseminated nationwide to all stakeholders;
- Four calendar day events celebrated; Safer Internet Day, AU Day of the Child, National Children’s Day and the Child Labour Day); and
- The Department held 20 series of radio sensitization programmes on Child Rights and responsibilities, violence against children, responsible parenting, the content of the Child and Family Welfare Policy (CFWP) and Justice for Children Policy (JfCP) to empower children, parents and families on Child rights issues.

IV. Social Development:

➤ Social Services

- ✦ Seventy-one (71) street persons rescued to three (3) shelters.
- ✦ 2,972 data on PWDs compiled nationwide.
- ✦ 63 adoption applications processed and 47 approved.
- ✦ 75 families counseled and provided with family counseling and support services.
- ✦ 167-day care centers registered, 225 renewed and 88 caregivers trained.
- ✦ 219 children in conflict with law received counseling and education
- ✦ 139 PWDs provided with skills training
- ✦ 443 welfare cases handled
- ✦ Organized 4 public education programmes on child care and protection and support to the aged.
- ✦ 322 children received Care and Protection
- ✦ 162-day care centers registered and 165 certificates renewed
- ✦ 83 street children sensitized on vocational training in Achimota, Neoplan Station, Ghana Standard Authority (GSA), National theatre

➤ **Securing Inclusion for Persons with Disability**

- ✚ 1 meeting held with the NCPD Board to develop the Disability Amendment Bill, review draft LIs for Disability and Mental Health Acts and establish NCPD offices in the 254 MMDAs.
- ✚ 3 consultations held with the NCPD Board and Ministry of Transport officials on mainstreaming provisions in the GASB into Ghana's building code.
- ✚ Sensitization programme on sign language usage held at the Calvary Evangelistic Ministry in Accra.
- ✚ 5 awareness programmes on disability held on GTV, OBONU, Lancaster University and Special Needs students at the University of Ghana.
- ✚ A meeting held with stakeholders and a technical committee to identify gaps in ACT 715 vis-à-vis United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCRPD).

➤ **Social Protection**

- ✚ National Stakeholder consultations have been conducted to review the draft National Social Protection Bill for submission to Cabinet.
- ✚ On single window case management system (SWCMS), 635 cases recorded, out of which 532 cases were resolved.
- ✚ All social welfare officers have been trained on SWCMS/Helpline of Hope.
- ✚ Needs assessment for the development of the Ghana Employment and Social Protection (GESP) Project estimate conducted.
- ✚ National Stakeholder consultations have been conducted to review the National Ageing Bill for re-submission to Cabinet.
- ✚ High level meeting on Productive Inclusion successfully held; to engender the Development sustainable income earning activities for the SP beneficiaries.
- ✚ The Ministry continuously made 5 bi-monthly payments covering a total of 213,044 households nation-wide.
- ✚ 2 Social Protection Inter-Sectorial Technical Committee (SPiSTC) meetings held in January, 2018 to review SP M&E framework and April, 2018 to develop SP annual report.
- ✚ Social Protection dialogue successfully held (May 2018) on the Ghana National Household Registry (sharing the Upper West register)
- ✚ Draft Ghana Productive Safety Nets Project (GPSNP) deprogram document prepared and Pre-appraisal successfully held

➤ **Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP)**

- ✚ Workshops held for all MMDCEs and Coordinating Directors for Greater Accra, Central, Western, Ashanti and Brong Ahafo Regions.
- ✚ Protocols for reconciling LEAP payment data and funds with GhIPSS and generating LEAP beneficiary payroll in place.
- ✚ As at October, 2018 the Programme enrolled a total of 408,512 extremely poor households and this translates to 1,781,938 direct beneficiaries.
- ✚ The MIS unit conducted a training workshop for 38 participants made up of Regional Directors, Community Care Programme Heads as well as Regional Accountants from all regional offices of the Department of Social. The training built the capacity of participants on Microsoft Share Point.

✚ **Ghana National Household Registry**

- ✚ Successfully launched GNHR data collection exercise in Pusiga in the Upper East Region.
- ✚ 170 zonal team (team leader, mobile technicians and zonal assistant), district coordinators, supervisors and 801 enumerators trained.
- ✚ Successfully trained 26 Information Service Development (ISD) officers and 20 media persons on GNHR, data collection and their roles in community sensitisation/publicity in the Upper East Region.
- ✚ 23,959 households enumerated (83%) in the Upper East Region.
- ✚ 184,112 households passed through QA data cleaning (100%)

➤ **School Feeding Programme**

- ✚ The Ghana School Feeding Programme increased by 30%, i.e. from 1,671,777 to 2,589,618 beneficiary pupils.
- ✚ 34,028 caterers and head cooks trained in food safety, hygiene and child nutrition.
- ✚ 3,023 schools across the country monitored to check enrolment, quality and quantity of food, kitchens.
- ✚ Enrolment figures in the Greater Accra, Eastern and Central Regions validated.

Footnote: (After successful completion of the 30% expansion of the programme, and validation of enrolment figures nationwide, the enrolment increased by 917,841 pupils totaling 2,589,618 pupils).

➤ **Human Trafficking Unit**

- ✚ Human Trafficking Management Board (HTMB) inaugurated.
- ✚ 3 HTMB meetings held.
- ✚ Trafficking in Person Information System National Data Base developed.
- ✚ 3 Child Protection Compact Technical Working Committee (CPCTWC) meetings held.
- ✚ Standard Operating procedure on HT launched in Greater Accra, Volta and Central Regions.
- ✚ 9 victims of HT reintegrated and supported with seed capital.
- ✚ 10 Shelter Staff recruited to operationalize the Adult and Children's shelters.
- ✚ Over 500 stakeholders sensitized on child labour and child trafficking issues.
- ✚ Collaborated with the Centralized Adoption Unit to sensitize 2 Appeal Court Judges and 75 High Court Judges in Accra and Kumasi on human trafficking and its modern trends and adoption. Her Ladyship The Chief Justice was the resource person
- ✚ The Ministry renovated the children's shelter for trafficked victims in Madina, Accra
- ✚ Government of Ghana (Ministry of Works and Housing) supported the Ministry of Gender with a renovated bungalow to be used as an adult shelter to rehabilitate trafficked women.
- ✚ Ghana commemorated the World Day Against Trafficking In Persons (Blue Day) with a grand durbar of Chiefs, Queen mothers and the general public including drivers, boat and canoe owners associations of Sege in Ada West and Afram Plains North in Afram Plains.

➤ **Domestic Violence Secretariat**

- ✚ The Ministry marked the International Day for Zero Tolerance against Female Genital Mutilation at Pusiga in the Upper East Region in February, 2018.
- ✚ The Domestic Violence Management Board inaugurated and orientated a Fourteen (14) Member Board on 29th March 2018 in Accra.
- ✚ Sensitization workshop held for MCEs and DCEs on DV issues in the Greater Accra, Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Upper East, Upper West and Northern Regions.

- ✚ School outreach programmes held in the Osu Klotey Sub-Metro District.
- ✚ DV Stakeholders' Meeting organised on 25th July 2018. At Cleaver House, twenty-five (25) Stakeholders' were in attendance.
- ✚ Sensitization held in the Upper East, Upper West, Brong Ahafo and Northern Regions in collaboration with the Social Protection Directorate of the MoGCSP in September.

6.2 FINANCIAL

BUDGET PERFORMANCE FOR 2018

Table 1: 2018 Budget Performance for GoG, IGF and DP Sources excluding LEAP

Description	Approved Budget	Amount Released as at end Oct, 2018	% Approved	Actual received	Amount Utilized	Variance
Compensation of Employees	27,034,013.00	20,455,308.58	75.67	20,455,308.58	20,455,308.58	6,578,704.42
Goods & Services	2,323,200.00	2,323,200.00	100.00	1,335,728.84	1,249,204.65	-
CAPEX	10,000,000.00	9,246,170.14	92.46	5,991,506.89	5,991,506.89	753,829.86
TOTAL GoG	39,357,213.00	32,024,678.72	81.37	27,782,544.31	27,696,020.12	7,332,534.28
IGF	32,770.00	15,258.31	46.56	15,258.31	15,258.31	17,511.69
DP	21,990,690.00	4,042,870.38	18.38	4,042,870.38	4,042,870.38	17,947,819.62
GRAND TOTALS	61,380,673.00	36,082,807.41	58.79	31,840,673.00	31,754,148.81	25,297,865.59

Table 2: LEAP 2018 Performance

Description	Approved Budget	Amount Released as at end Sept, 2018	% Approved	Actual received	Amount Utilized	Projections to the end of the year
GoG Goods & Services	168,369,800	123,216,334	73.18	78,293,067	78,293,067	45,153,466
DP	**84,511,800	15,260,541	18.06	15,260,541	15,260,541	69,291,259
GRAND TOTALS	252,881,600	138,476,875	54.76	93,553,608	93,553,608	114,404,725

**** DPs pledged an amount of GHS 15,260,541 to support the grant payment of LEAP beneficiaries. This amount was fully released. However the approved ceiling of GHS 84,511,800 was maintained by Ministry of Finance.**

Table 3. 2018 GHANA SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

	Approved Budget	Amount Released as at end Sept, 2018	% Approved	Actual received	Amount Utilized	Projections to the end of the year
GoG Goods & Services	423,795,400.00	358,330,705.00	84.55	358,330,705.00	358,330,705.00	65,464,685.00

6.3 CHALLENGES FACED IN 2018

- Limited office accommodation
- Inadequate number of Technical Staff
- Inadequate logistics
- Inadequate and delay in release of funds
- Low DP support for SP intervention
- Decreasing financial support by DPs to cash payments for LEAP
- Delayed re-assessment of poverty in LEAP communities due to limited data availability from GNHR

7.0 BUDGET OUTLOOK FOR 2019

For the 2019 financial year, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection has been allocated the amount of **Sixty-three million, two hundred and fifty four thousand, three hundred and eighty-one Cedis (GhC 63,254,381.00)** to undertake its activities. The budgetary allocations for 2019 from GoG and donor sources are as indicated in the table below:

Table 4: 2019 Budget Ceiling for MOGCSP excluding LEAP and School Feeding:

GRAND TOTAL BUDGET FOR THE MINISTRY		
NO.	BUDGET CLASSIFICATION	EXPENDITURE CEILING (GH¢)
1	COMPENSATION	30,160,047.00
2.	GOG GOODS AND SERVICES	3,224,224.00
3.	IGF	21,530.00

4.	DONOR (Goods & Services)	13,073,580.00
5	DONOR (Capex)	12,025,000.00
6	GOG CAPEX	4,750,000.00
Total		63,254,381.00

Table 5: Total Budget Distribution including LEAP and School Feeding

NO	BUDGET CLASSIFICATION	EXPENDITURE CEILING (GH¢)
1.	COMPENSATION	30,160,047.00
2.	GOG GOODS AND SERVICES	3,224,224.00
3.	IGF	21,530.00
4.	DONOR	25,098,580.00
5.	GOG CAPEX	4,750,000.00
6.	LEAP	168,000,000.00
7.	GHANA SCHOOL FEEDING	262,016,517.00
Total		493,270,898.00

Table 6: Expenditure Distributions by Line Programme

EXPENDITURE BY BUDGET PROGRAMME	GOG		IGF		ABFA		DP FUND		TOTAL
	COE	G & S	COE	G & S	COE	G & S	G&S	CAPEX	
Programme 1: Management and Administration	7,194,341	1,218,477.40	4,750,000				4,575,753	12,025,000	29,763,571.40
Programme 2: Gender Equality and Women Development	1,507,146	264,665.64					1,438,094		3,209,905.64
Programme 3: Children Right Promotion, Protection and Development	2,125,002	354,664.64		21,530			1,438,094		3,939,290.64
Programme 4: Social Development	19,333,558	999,509.44					4,052,810		24,385,877.44
Programme 5: Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking		386,906.88					1,568,829		1,955,735.88
Programme 6: Ghana School Feeding Program		262,016,517							262,016,517
LEAP		168,000,000							168,000,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	30,160,047	433,240,741	4,750,000	21,530			13,073,580	12,025,000	493,270,898

2019 ACTIVITIES

The above budgetary allocations of the Ministry have been planned to carry out the following activities:

I. GENDER EQUALITY AND MAINSTREAMING

- Hold Mentoring programs for boys and girls;
- Re-Submit the AA Bill to cabinet and onward submission to Parliament.
- Undertake Obstetric Fistula repairs for 30 women and girls
- Award Scholarships of Excellence to 20 brilliant but needy girls
- Implement the 5-year Adolescent Pregnancy Strategy
- Train 50 women in basic business and financial management per region.
- Undertake Data collection exercises on:
 - ✦ Status of Witches camps
 - ✦ women in public service
 - ✦ women in public service

II. DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN

- Develop a comprehensive M&E plan for both CFWP and J4CP;
- Conduct a Producer and User needs assessment for the development of the Child Protection Information Management System
- Operationalize the Child Protection Information Management System in all 50 Districts
- Train 300 Child Protection Committee members on the use of CFWP and JFCP
- Monitor the implementation of the Child and Family Welfare Policy, Justice for Children and ECCD Policies in 43 districts
- Conduct an assessment of the ECCD policy implementation in Ghana

III. DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE

- Provide 600 orphaned children in 3 Government Children's home and 2 sub-vented Orphanages with counselling, education and skill training
- Provide 350 PWDs with employable skills
- Provide Family welfare services to 4,250 Disintegrated families

- Monitor and evaluate DSD operations, residential Homes for children, NGOs and day Care Centres in all 10 regions
- Prepare regulations for the operations of the Central Authority for Adoption
- Support the operations of International Social Service
- Create data base on 4000 kayayei and street children nationwide
- Undertake needs assessment of children in difficult situation in all regions
- Undertake M&E activities
- Build capacity of 100 staff for effective service delivery

IV. DISABILITY

- Develop database on PWDs and Service Providers
- Develop Guidelines on the use of Accessible formats
- Train selected MDA Officials in Sign Language Interpretation
- Monitor the disbursement of the Three percent (3%) DACF for PWDs
- Disability Act,2006,715 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCRPD)

V. SOCIAL PROTECTION

- Establish Social Protection Committees in four (4) Regions and thirty (30) Districts.
- Undertake 6-bimonthly monitoring of regular LEAP payments.
- Establish a coordination mechanism to Operationalize Productive and Financial Intervention (PF&I) for LEAP and other Social Protection beneficiaries.
- Prepare LI for the ageing Law.
- Re-assess LEAP beneficiaries to ascertain number for graduating households

VI. GHANA SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME

- Provide one-hot nutritious meal daily for million pupils in the existing beneficiary schools
- Training of stakeholders at all levels on nutrition, handy measures and use of menu charts
- Provide gender sensitive sanitary, hand washing facilities and deworming of children
- Provide kitchen facilities and portable water
- Link GSFP to local farmers/ Roll out the GSFP Agricultural Model

- Training of programme actors on the use of Code of Practice of food safety and hygiene
- Generate anthropometric data on beneficiary children
- Undertake Monitoring of the programme at all levels
- Organise district level orientation for the district Implementation Committee (DIC), on their roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the Programme.
- Provide Operational and Administrative support to the Programme

VII. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Identify and rescue survivors of child marriage
- Capacity building training for selected clergy and heads of schools.
- Organize 16 Days of Activism on violence against women
- Organize activities to End Sexual and Gender Based violence
- Support and give skills training to widows and alleged witches (Enroll them on LEAP)
- Organise and intensify campaign on Ending Early Child marriage
- Celebrate the International day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) (Community Sensitization).
- Revamp and operationalize the two rapid response Domestic Violence centers in Agbogbloshie and Mallam-Atta markets.

VIII. HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Operationalise / Build capacity of implementers on the TIPIS data base on Human Trafficking nationwide
- Give care and protection to 90 rescued victims in shelters
- Implement the Human Trafficking National Plan of Action NPA (4Ps)
- Organize four community sensitizations on Dangers of Human Trafficking.
- Facilitate payment of money into the Human
- Commemorate the UN Day against human trafficking - blue day
- Furnish and operationalize Adult Shelter in Accra
- Procure items and operationalize Madina Children's Shelter in Accra

8.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Limited Funds for the Ministry

The Ministry undertakes varied activities directly linked to the achievement of the SDGs so that nobody is left behind in the country's development. Resources made available are however woefully inadequate. The Committee observed only a slight increase in the budgetary allocation of about 3% for 2019. It should, however, be noted that this minimal increase in the budget of the ministry is against the backdrop of increases in activities and problems that the ministry is burdened with. The allocated budget for goods and services, for instance, is expected to increase by only about 3.9% in 2019 in spite of the fact that GSFP and LEAP monies are additionally going to be managed by the ministry. The President of the Republic of Ghana has also in recent time been chosen to lead in the attainment of a lot of Sustainable Development Goals and is currently the Gender Empowerment Champion for Africa. Hence the Ministry should be given sufficient resources commensurate with its increasing assignments.

The Committee is of the view that this minimal increase in the budget of the ministry would not be sufficient to enhance the efforts of the ministry to effectively fulfill its mandate. The Committee is therefore pleading with the Ministry of Finance to consider the relevance of the ministry's planned activities, in the light of the President's agenda, to make more resources available to it at least in any supplementary budget.

II. School Feeding Programme and LEAP

The Committee observed that the funds for the School Feeding Programme and LEAP would not be treated as statutory releases directly from the Ministry of Finance in 2019 contrary to the practice in 2018. The ministry believes this practice is better and would give them more control over the management and accounting of the funds.

The Committee, however, agrees with the ministry about the need for the fund releases for 2019 to be timely to prevent delays in paying caterers of the GSFP and beneficiaries of LEAP. Going forward the Committee intends to engage the Ministry of Finance on how to prevent any long delays in the release of funds particularly when some of the monies for the GSFP would be coming from the District Assembly Common Fund.

III. Variance in LEAP allocations

The Committee noted that in 2018, an amount of GH168,369,800.00 was provided to cover 456,000 households under the LEAP Programme. In 2019 however, the Ministry projects to utilise a total of GH338,261,085.60 to cater for 350,000 beneficiaries. This indicates that whilst the number of expected beneficiary households will drop from 456,000 in 2018 to 350,000 in 2019, the budget for LEAP will inversely increase by over 50%.

The Ministry explained that they want to carry out a comprehensive impact assessment of the LEAP from January to June 2019, and that per its preliminary projection, based on the work it has carried out, about 106,000 households currently on the programme would exit from the programme since they are likely to move out of the "extreme poor" category, which is covered by LEAP. These beneficiary

households would be given some financial support to undertake alternative livelihoods. Secondly, part of the budget would be utilised to undertake the impact assessment nationwide.

In accepting the explanation for the utilization of the monies the committee requested the ministry to provide it with more in-depth details of all expenditure projections for the LEAP for 2019.

IV. Inconsistencies between approved budget and expenditure trends

The Committee also observed wide variations between original approved budget figures and end of year expenditures. This is due to the fact that monies meant for LEAP and GSFP, which were originally not part of the approved budget of the ministry, are in the course of the year given by the Ministry of Finance to the ministry of gender to disburse. This weird procedure creates serious accounting problems for the ministry and inconsistencies between the approved budget and the appropriation act.

The committee wants to engage the Ministry of Finance and the Gender Ministry to resolve these conflicts and streamline the budgeting and accounting processes.

V. Limited Office Accommodation, Personnel and other Logistics

It came to the attention of the Committee that the Ministry faces challenges such as limited office accommodation, inadequate number of technical staff, inadequate logistics and low Development Partners support for social protection programmes. The Committee noted however that the ministry plans to undertake a number of programmes and activities, notwithstanding the numerous challenges it is confronted with.

The Committee therefore recommends that given budgetary constraints, there was the need for the Ministry to re-prioritise its programmes and activities for implementation with the view to achieving better results and outcomes.

VI. Fistula Operations

The Ministry reported that the 155 persons with fistula that were referred to in the Budget, was actually a projection and no procedure had been done. Indeed the Committee was saddened to hear that since 2017, the Ministry has not been able to provide any fistula operations as in previous years when there was collaboration with Mercy Hospital, Winneba. In 2017 there were plans to cater for 80 people but none was actually done. In the 2019 budget also, 30 people have been

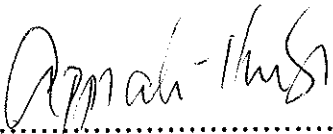
Members are of the opinion that this is a very important activity that the Ministry was undertaking because it was helping poor people who had been stigmatized and ostracised due to the symptoms of having a fistula. The Committee therefore urges the Ministry to revamp this program as it was serving a very important public good.

9.0 CONCLUSION

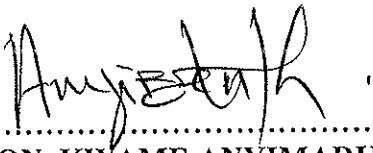
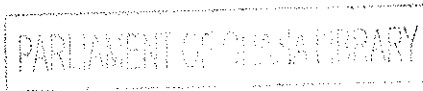
The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, is very vital to our national growth and development, especially catering for the very poor and vulnerable groups in the country. The Committee therefore wishes to impress on the Ministry of Finance the need to adequately resource this ministry to carry out its mandate.

In conclusion, the Committee recommends that the House approve the amount of **Four hundred and ninety-three million, two hundred and seventy thousand, eight hundred and ninety-eight Cedis (GhC 493,270,898.00)** for the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection for the implementation of its activities, including the School Feeding Programme and LEAP, for the 2019 Financial Year.

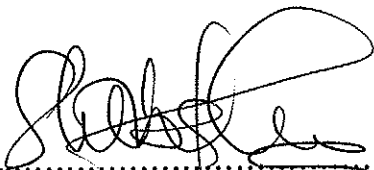
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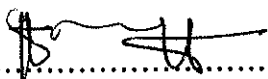
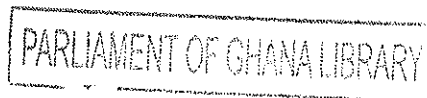
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HON DR. KOJO APPIAH-KUBI
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON GENDER AND CHILDREN



.....
HON. KWAME ANYIMADU-ANTWI
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT SOCIAL WELFARE AND STATE ENTERPRISES



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SHEBA NANA AFRIYE OSEI
CLERK
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