

**REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON GENDER AND CHILDREN & EMPLOYMENT,
SOCIAL WELFARE AND STATE ENTERPRISES ON THE 2023 ANNUAL BUDGET
ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government for the 2021 Financial Year was presented to Parliament on Thursday, 24th November, 2022, by the Hon. Minister for Finance, Mr. Ken Ofori Atta. This was in accordance with Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution.

1.2 Pursuant to Article 130 of the 1992 Constitution and Orders 140(4), 175 and 186 of the Standing Orders of the House, the Rt. Hon Speaker referred the Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to the Joint Committee on Gender and Children & Employment, Social Welfare and State Enterprise for consideration and report.

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1.3 The Committee met on Wednesday, 7th December, 2022 and considered the referral. Present at the Committee's sitting were the Deputy Minister, Hon Lariba Zuweira Abudu, the Chief Director, Dr Afisah Zakaria, officials of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ministry of Finance (MoF) and the underlisted Departments, Secretariats and Units under the purview of the Ministry:

- Department of Gender (DOG)
- Department of Children (DOC)
- Department of Social Welfare (DSW)
- Child Marriage Unit (CMU)
- Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Secretariat
- Domestic Violence Secretariat (DVS)
- Human Trafficking Secretariat (HTU)
- National Council on Programme with Disability (NCDP)
- Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP)
- Ghana National Household Registry (GNHR)
- Adoption Regulation Unit (ARU)

The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Hon. Minister, the Chief Director, Heads of the Agencies and officials of the Ministries of Gender, Children and Social Protection and Finance for attending upon the Committee to assist in its deliberations.

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- i. The 1992 Constitution
- ii. The Standing Orders
- iii. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2022 financial year
- iv. The Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection for the 2022 Financial Year
- v. The Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection for the 2023 Financial Year
- vi. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2023 financial year
- vii. Report of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection on actual releases and expenditure of the Ministry for 2022 financial year

3.0 MANDATE, VISION AND STRATEGIC OVERVIEW OF THE MINISTRY

The Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection (MoGCSP) was established by the Civil Services Instrument, 2013 (E. 11) and is mandated to promote an integrated society that offers equal opportunity for both gender and ensure equality through the mainstreaming of gender considerations, promote welfare and protection of children and also empower the vulnerable, excluded, the aged and persons with disabilities through social protection interventions to contribute to national development.

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

The objective of the Ministry is to promote an integrated society that offers equal opportunity for both men and women and safeguards the rights of children, and empower the vulnerable, excluded, the aged and persons with disabilities by social protection interventions to contribute to national development. The Ministry adopted the following

policy objectives under three Development Dimensions of the National Medium-Term Development Policy Framework (NMTDPF):

a. Social Development

- Attain gender equality and equity in political, social and economic development
- Strengthen gender mainstreaming, coordination, and implementation of gender related interventions in all sectors.
- Promote economic empowerment of particularly women
- Promote the rights and welfare of children
- Harness the benefits of migration for socio-economic development
- Prevent and protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation
- Improve and strengthen the policy and legal environment, institutions and systems for child and family welfare
- Enhance the wellbeing and inclusion of the aged in national development
- Strengthen social protection for the vulnerable
- Promote job creation and decent work opportunities
- Promote equal opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in social and economic development
- Eliminate discrimination in all forms and protect the rights and entitlements of Persons with Disabilities

b. Governance, Corruption and Accountability

- Enhance security service delivery
- Deepen transparency and public accountability

c. Implementation, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation

- Strengthen plan preparation, implementation, and coordination at all levels
- Strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems at all levels

4.0 PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY IN 2022

4.1 Financial Performance

For the fiscal year 2022, the Ministry was allocated an amount of ***One billion, One and Forty-Three million, Four Hundred and Twenty-One Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,143,421,000.00)*** for the implementation of its programme and activities.

The Committee noted that as at December 2022, the Ministry had expended an amount of **Five Hundred and Seventy-Four Million, Three Hundred and Thirty-Two Thousand and Ten Cedis Fifty-Six Peswas (GH¢574,332,010.56)**. The breakdown of the allocation by source of funding and expenditure item is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Breakdown of 2022 Budgetary Allocation by Source of Funding and Expenditure Item

ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION	2022 APPROVED BUDGET	2022 REVISED BUDGET (A)	AMOUNT RELEASE (B)	ACTUAL RECEIVED	VARIANCE C=A-B
Compensation of Employees	38,465,000.00	38,465,000.00	37,773,816.93	37,773,816.93	691,183.07
Goods and Services					
<i>HQ & Agencies</i>	2,886,000.00	1,740,758.00	157,337.02	65,294.16	1,583,420.98
<i>LEAP</i>	197,535,000.00	197,535,000.00	66,250,260.80		131,284,739.20
<i>Ghana School Feeding Prog</i>	881,000,000.00	881,000,000.00	458,937,436.00	434,468,420.00	422,062,564.00
<i>DV fund</i>	2,000,000.00	1,440,000.00	154,517.32	154,517.32	1,285,482.68
<i>HT fund</i>	2,000,000.00	1,440,000.00	154,517.32	154,517.32	1,285,482.68
<i>IGF</i>	552,000.00	552,000.00	74,542.37	74,542.37	477,457.63
<i>Donors</i>	14,153,000.00	14,153,000.00	10,616,814.84	10,616,814.84	3,536,185.16
CAPEX	4,830,000.00	3,477,600.00	212,767.96		3,264,832.04
TOTAL	1,143,421,000.00	1,139,803,358.00	574,332,010.56	483,307,922.94	565,471,347.44

An amount of **Two million Cedis (GH¢2,000,000.00)** was allocated to the Domestic Violence Fund and Human Trafficking Fund respectively. Out of allocated amount, **One Million, Four Hundred and Forty Thousand Cedis (GH¢1,440,000.00)** was the amount released to each of the two Units.

4.2 Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP)

The LEAP Programme received an approved budget of **One Hundred and Ninety-Seven Million Five Hundred and Thirty-Five Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢197,535,000.00)**. The amount warrant from Ministry of Finance to the Controller and Accountant General's Department (CAGD) was **Sixty-Six Million, Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Two Hundred and Sixty Ghana Cedis (GH¢66,250,260.00)** but the CAGD has not yet released anything to the Ministry for the 2022 financial year. The Ministry received Donor Support of an amount of **One Hundred and Twenty-Six, Five Hundred Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢126,500,000.00)** for the performance of the LEAP Programme.

Table 2 provides details on the performance of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) and:

Table 2: Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP) Performance

SOURCE OF FUNDING	APPROVED BUDGET (GHC)	WARRANT FROM MOF TO CAGD (GHC)	ACTUAL AMOUNT RECEIVED (GHC)	EXPENDITURE (GHC)
GOG	197,535,000.00	66,250,260.00		0.00
DONORS				
<i>GPSNP 1</i>	11,786,159.04			11,786,159.04
<i>GPSNP 2</i>	114,713,840.96			114,713,840.96
TOTAL	324,035,000.00	66,250,260.00		126,500,000.00

4.3 Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP)

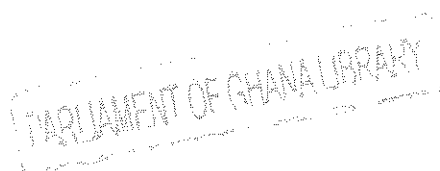
With regards to the School Feeding Programme, the Committee noted that out of the **GH¢881,000,000.00** allocated for the Programme only **GH¢434,468,420.00** was received by the Ministry leaving a variance of about **GH¢446,531,580.00**. Below is the breakdown for the programme.

Table 3: Ghana School feeding Programme (GSFP) Performance

EXPENDITURE ITEM	APPROVED BUDGET (GHC)	REVISED BUDGET 2022 (GHC) (A)	WARRANT FROM MOF TO CAGD (GHC)	ACTUAL AMOUNT RECEIVED (GH) (B)	VARIANCE C=A-B
GOG	881,000,000.00	881,000,000.00	458,937,436.00	434,468,420.00	446,531,580.00
TOTAL	881,000,000.00	881,000,000.00	458,937,436.00	434,468,420.00	446,531,580.00

5.0 2022 NON-FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

In the 2022 financial year, the Ministry was able to achieve various success under its programmes and interventions to mitigate the challenges and issues faced by the vulnerable and excluded in society amidst the various financial constraints. The achievements include the following among others:



5.1 Management and Administration

- ❖ The Ministry in 2022 submitted to the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) the 2021 Annual Progress Report (APR) which highlights on the Ministry's achievements and challenges faced during the financial year.
- ❖ The Ministry held its 2021 Annual Performance Review to help with the planning of the 2022 work plan in order to review activities, identify challenges and lessons learnt from the implementation of the 2021 work plan.
- ❖ The RSIM developed in 2022 collated the events calendar of the Ministry, Articles and stories, developed them into newsletters and uploaded them onto the MOGCSP website.
- ❖ The Ministry in addition held its 2022 Annual Summit to throw more light on the Ministry's performance and discussed ways of strengthening the avenue for resource mobilisation for social protection interventions.

5.2 Gender Equality and Women's Development

- ❖ The Ministry inaugurated the Technical Working Group for the implementation of GHANAP 2.
- ❖ The Ministry held 44 sensitization programmes, reaching over 5,000 people (opinion leaders, queen mothers, apprentices, youth) in different communities across the country on Adolescent Reproductive Health Rights, Harmful Practices (HP), Child Marriages and Adolescent Pregnancy, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV).
- ❖ The Ministry held a National Gender Equality Clinic for 100 Adolescents (70 girls, 30 boys) from all regions and the girls were provided with 4 months' supply of sanitary pads.

5.3 Children Rights Promotion, Protection and Development

- ❖ The Ministry through the Department of Children submitted Ghana's 2nd Periodic Report on African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of Children as part of our statutory obligation.
- ❖ 900 community and opinion leaders, traditional authorities, professionals, Civil, Faith-Based and Non-Profit Organisations, parents and children were engaged in the caring for children with visual impairment.

- ❖ The Ministry, through the Department of Children, organised 32 Regional Child Protection Committee Meetings and 3 National Child Protection Committee Meetings to discuss and find solution to challenges facing implementors and child protection issues at regional and national levels. These meetings were also used to track the implementation of national child protection policies ie. Child and Family welfare and Justice for Children policies
- ❖ The Ministry launched the Ghanaians Against Child Abuse (GACA), which is a social drive or a campaign for the protection of children.

5.4 Social Development

5.4.1 Social Services

- ❖ The Ministry provided care and protection for 294 children in the state-owned Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) i.e.:
 - Tamale Children’s Home
 - Kumasi Children’s Home
 - Osu Children’s Home
 - Shelter for Abused Children
- ❖ 184 (76 males, 108 females) children were reunified with their biological parents. The children are integrating well within their families and various communities
- ❖ 29 aged/destitute persons were provided with care and support in 2022 at the Central Destitute Infirmary (CDI)

5.4.2 Social Protection

To facilitate the enactment of social protection law, the Ministry finalised the drafting Instructions and submitted to the AG’s Department for redrafting of the Social Protection Bill.

5.4.3 Non-Profit Organization (NPO)

- ❖ The Ministry conducted 2 off-site Monitoring on 200 Faith Based and Humanitarian organisations in the country to ensure their operations are in line with the NPO regulations.
- ❖ The Ministry through the NPO secretariat developed an Operational Manual/Risk Based Supervision Manuals for effective and efficient service delivery.

5.5 Securing Inclusion for Disability

- ❖ The National Council on Persons with Disability in line with its mandate strategically implemented development programmes and collaborated with relevant stakeholders to implement activities geared towards the inclusion of persons with disabilities in national development. Key achievements in 2022 include;
- ❖ Legally drafted Persons with Disability Bill, 2022
- ❖ Guidelines on the management and disbursement of the District Assembly Common Fund for Persons with Disabilities reviewed but yet to be launched
- ❖ Progressive on-going compilation of disaggregated database on persons with disabilities disaggregated by age, gender, employment, literacy, category of disability, congenital/onset of disability, parents of children with disabilities, District and Region
- ❖ Tracked reports on the management and disbursement of the common fund for persons with disabilities from 98 MMDAs

5.6 Ghana School Feeding Programme

- ❖ The Ministry provides 3,620,468 pupils in 10,832 public basic schools with one hot and nutritious meal for every school going day under the Ghana School Feeding Programme.
- ❖ The programme provided employment for 32,496 caterers and cooks especially women to generate income to enable them take care of their families.
- ❖ Also, the programme has created a ready market for local farmers thereby boosting the local economy.
- ❖ The Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance have paid the caterer arrears for the 2020/2021 academic year and the first term of the 2021/2022 academic year.

5.7 The Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Programme

- ❖ The Ministry has successfully paid Five (5) cycles of LEAP cash grants to 344,023 households to help smoothen their daily consumption.

- ❖ The Ministry conducted a nationwide Joint Spot Check on the five cycles of the LEAP Payment to acquire first-hand information, insights, and shortfalls to help inform decision making.
- ❖ The Ministry through the LEAP Management Secretariat (LMS) has registered 78.5% of all LEAP beneficiaries onto National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)

5.8 Domestic Violence Secretariat (DVS)

- ❖ The Ministry organized a one-day National Stakeholders Meeting on the review of the Domestic Violence ACT, Act 732, and the Legislative Instrument LI 2237 to gather inputs into the review of the documents.
- ❖ Embarked on joint monitoring visits with UNIFPA/UNICEF to the Northern and Savanna Regions under the Promoting Adolescent Safe Spaces (PASS) Project with the UNFPA, UNICEF International Needs Ghana, and NORSAAC to assess the resilience of the PASS project interventions and to identify existing gaps and leverage on areas that need strengthening.
- ❖ The Ministry launched the 16 days of activism of violence against women, to create awareness on the abuse women and children face.

5.9 Human Trafficking (HT)

- ❖ The Ministry launched and disseminated the new National Plan of Action (NPA) for the Elimination of Human Trafficking in Ghana (2022 -2026).
- ❖ The Ministry finalized, validated and submitted the 2022 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report to the US Embassy.
- ❖ The Human Trafficking Secretariat under the Ministry conducted a needs assessment of law enforcement officers and social workers in the Bono, Ahafo, Ashanti, Eastern and Bono East Regions of Ghana to help them fight human trafficking activities.
- ❖ The World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (Blue day) was commemorated with a stakeholder consultative meeting and to create awareness on the harmful effect of human trafficking and also solicit support to help curb the menace.
- ❖ One hundred and thirty-one (131) officers comprising cabin crew, pilots, passenger handling staff, ground staff, air traffic controllers, aviation security personnel, law enforcement officers and instructors from the various Aviation

Training Organizations (ATOs) were trained on victim identification and Compliance on Counter Trafficking activities.

6.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2023

In year 2023, the Ministry will continue to focus on the following Policy objectives:

- a. Social Development
- b. Governance, corruption and accountability
- c. Implementation, co-ordination, monitoring and evaluation

Pursuant to the above Policy objectives, the Ministry will undertake the following programmes and activities among others in year 2023:

i. Management and Administration

- To provide administrative support for the Ministry
- Formulate and translate policies and priorities of the Ministry into strategies for efficient and effective service delivery
- To co-ordinate resource mobilization, improve financial management
- To facilitate research and development, data production and dissemination

ii. Gender Equality and Equity Programme

- In 2023, the Ministry will continue with the sensitisation programmes on SGBV, early marriage, women's reproductive health rights and harmful cultural practices. In addition, the Ministry will initiate the process of reviewing the strategy for ending adolescent pregnancy five years after its implementation.
- The Ministry will also advocate for the passage of the Affirmative Action Bill as well as observe and participate in all International Days that affect men and women.

iii. Children Rights Promotion, Protection and Development Programme

- In 2023, the Ministry will continue to sensitise the public and stakeholders on the development, protection and promotion of the rights of children in Ghana, coordinate the implementation of child related policies and standard operating procedures for child protection. Ghana's 6th and 7th Combined

Reports to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child will also be defended.

iv. Social Development Programme

- In 2023, the Ministry will continue to sensitise stakeholders on social protection issues, develop and implement a shock response strategy to address the needs of Ghanaians during disasters and strengthen systems for the delivery of effective and efficient social protection services in Ghana.
- Government will continue to provide support for vulnerable children and disintegrated families in 2023. The support includes education and the provision of care in government residential homes, the provision of counselling services to distressed individuals, support services to children and families, provision of vocational skills training to vulnerable youth, adults and persons with disabilities to help them live productive lives. The Ministry will monitor and license day-care centres, foster parents and residential homes for children.

v. Ghana School Feeding Programme

- In 2023, the programme will continue to provide one hot, nutritious meal to school pupils on each school-going day and the Ministry will implement vigorous monitoring to ensure effective and efficient service delivery of the GSFP.

vi. Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking

- In 2023, the Ministry will continue to provide comprehensive trauma care to survivors of human trafficking. Preventive mechanisms, including community dialogues and the commemoration of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, will be undertaken. The Ministry will also embark on awareness raising programmes to sensitize stakeholders on the devastating effects of human trafficking.

8.0 BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR 2023

As contained in the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government for the 2023 Financial Year, an amount of **One billion, Four Hundred and Eighty-Six Million, Five Hundred and Twenty-Eight Thousand, Six Hundred and Ninety-Six Cedis (GH¢1,486,528,696.00)** has been allocated to the Ministry for the implementation of its programmes and activities in 2023. The breakdown of the allocation by Source of Funding and by Programme and Expenditure Item are shown in Tables 4 and 5.

Table 4: Breakdown of 2023 Budgetary Allocation by Source of Funding and Expenditure Item

Item	GoG GH¢	IGF GH¢	DONOR GH¢	TOTAL GH¢
Compensation	34,869,501			34,869,501.00
Goods and Services	1,369,502,900	496,695	80,580,000	1,450,579,595.00
Capital Expenditure	1,079,600	-	-	1,079,600.00
TOTAL	1,405,452,001	496,695.00	80,580,000	1,486,528,696.00

SOURCE: The Programme Based Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection for the 2023 Financial Year

Table 5: Breakdown of 2023 Budgetary Allocation by Programme and Expenditure Item

PROGRAMME	COMPENSATION (GH¢)	GOODS & SERVICES (GH¢)	31-NON FINANCIAL ASSETS	TOTAL (GH¢)
Management and Administration	11,850,607.00	1,810,218.00	1,079,600.00	14,740,425.00
Gender Equality & Women's Dev	2,438,427.00	2,411,948.00		4,850,375.00
Child Rights Promotion, Protection and Dev.	2,891,916.00	5,441,648.00		8,333,564.00
Social Development	17,688,551.00	1,438,915,781.00		1,456,604,332.00
Dom Violence & Human Trafficking		2,000,000.00		2,000,000.00
Total	34,869,501.00	1,450,579,595.00	1,079,600.00	1,486,528,696.00

SOURCE: The Programme Based Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection for the 2023 Financial Year

Out of the total amount allocated, **Nine Hundred and Sixty-Nine Million (GH¢969,000,000.00)** and **Three Hundred and Ninety-Five Million and Seventy Thousand (GH¢395,070,000.00)** are allocated for the Ghana School Feeding Programme(GSFP) and the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) respectively.

The LEAP and GSFP makes 92% of the Ministry's Budget as indicated in Table 6 and Table 7 respectively.

Table 6: 2023 Budget for the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Programme

Households (HH)	Current HH composition	% Increase	Proposed 450000 HH composition	Proposed Rate/HH	Cost of Payment/Month	12 months Payment
1 Member	141,441	30.2709056	184,256.47	72.96	13,443,352.20	161,320,226.37
2 Members	87,202	30.2709056	113,598.84	86.64	9,842,203.06	118,106,436.77
3 Members	52,348	30.2709056	68,194.21	100.32	6,841,243.55	82,094,922.58
4 Members	64,443	30.2709056	83,950.48	120.84	10,144,576.00	121,734,912.04
Total	345,434		450,000		40,271,374.81	483,256,497.76
Add:						
Direct Cash Transfer cost					5.00%	24,162,824.89
Operation Cost					4.00%	19,330,259.91
Admin cost					3.00%	14,497,694.93
Total Proposed 2023 Budget						541,247,277.49

Table 9: 2023 Budget for the Ghana School Feeding Programme

EXPENDITURE ITEM	Number of Beneficiaries	Cooking days	rate/day	Amount (GHS)
First term 2023 Feeding Cost	3,801,491	62	1.20	282,830,930.40
Second term 2023 Feeding Cost	3,801,491	66	1.20	301,078,087.20
Third term 2023 Feeding Cost	3,801,491	68	1.20	310,201,665.60
Total Feeding Cost				894,110,683.20
Goods & Services and Capex				17,882,214.00
Arrears (3rd Term 2022)				57,007,102.80
Grand Total				969,000,000.00

9.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

i. ARREARS OF SCHOOL FEEDING CATERERS AND FEEDING FEE

The Committee observed that payment of School Feeding Arrears for the Second and Third Term have delayed as evidenced in Table 3. This was attributed to delay in submitting requests for payments.

The Committee further observed that the 2023 Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection made no provision for arrears from 2022 but only captured arrears of GH¢57,007,102.80 representing the third term arrears for 2022 which was not the full value of arrears of the Programme. In the 2022 Annual Budget Estimates, the School Feeding Programme gave a total budget estimate of GH¢881,000,000.00 but had an expenditure of GH¢944,080,282.00 thus incurring a deficit of GH¢63,080,282.00 as a result of inappropriate budgetary allocation.

Explaining the arrears, officials of the Ministry indicated that the GH¢57,007,102.80 was included in the proposed budget with the assumption that they would receive full complement of the 2022 budgetary allocation of GH¢881,000,000.00. They informed the Committee that they have raised this issue with the Ministry of Finance and are of hoping to receive the full complements of the allocation to clear all outstanding arrears as the year has not yet ended.

The Committee urged the Ministry to expedite processes for the release of funds for payment.

The Committee also noted that the current feeding fee of GH¢1.20 Cedis per head is inadequate to provide the required nutritious meal for growing children amidst the prevailing economic conditions.

The Committee therefore recommends an upward adjustment of the fee to GH¢2 Cedis per head to reduce the agitations from caterers and also ensure that food prepared for the children are of good quality and nutritious.

ii. **DELAYED RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR LEAP PAYMENTS**

The Committee was informed that an amount of **GH¢197,000,000** voted for the payment of LEAP beneficiaries for the 2022 fiscal year was not released. As a result, the Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and World Bank advanced funds for the payment of LEAP grants. As at October 2022, only **GH¢66,250,260.80** (37%) of the total amount have received a warrant from the Ministry of Finance to the CAGD for payment. This warrant amount has still not been received from the CAGD.

The Committee expressed concern about the state of affairs as the prevailing economic conditions may worsen the plight of the poor but the Ministry informed the Committee that some payments were made out of donor funds received.

The Committee again observed that the number of beneficiaries has increased from GH¢345,434 to GH¢450,000 and the LEAP grant has been increased from GH¢45 to GH¢90 per head per household.

The Committee is therefore urging the Ministry of Finance to release fund to the Ministry to enable them pay the outstanding arrears of the LEAP grants for the 2022 fiscal year.

iii. **INADEQUATE RELEASE OF FUNDS**

The Committee noted that the Ministry is confronted with inadequate allocations of funds to the departments, units and secretariats under the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection for the implementation of the programme and activities. The budgetary allocation to the Ministry keeps reducing over the years.

Interrogating the financial performance of the Ministry for the 2022 fiscal year, the Committee observed that out of the **GH¢157,337.03** voted for Goods and Services, only a paltry **GH¢65,294.16** (41%) was released. This situation has posed considerable difficulty to the MOGSCP in its ability to undertake its operations in the year under review. The Committee urges the Ministry of Finance to release funds to enable the Gender Ministry execute its mandate.

The Committee advised the Ministry that in order to attract the much-needed funding, the Ministry must tell its own stories by creating awareness about the challenges such as lack of shelters for Domestic Violence Victims and lack of funding and accommodation when they are made known would attract the Donor Community to support them.

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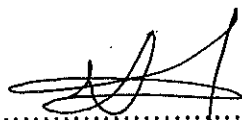
10. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Committee wishes to reiterate that the work of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection is very vital to our national growth and development, especially with regards to children, the very poor and the vulnerable groups in the country.

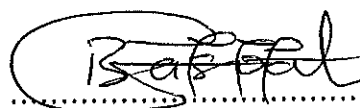
The Committee therefore wishes to impress on the Ministry of Finance, the need to adequately resource this ministry to carry out its mandate

Considering the importance of the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection in promoting the welfare and protection of Children and the vulnerable in our national development, the Committee recommends to the House to adopt its report and approve a total budget amount of **One Billion, Four Hundred and Eighty Six Million, Five Hundred and Twenty Eight Thousand, Six Hundred and Ninety Six Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 1,486,528,696)** for the 2023 Financial Year of the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection.

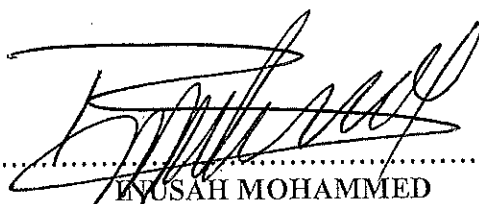
Respectfully submitted.



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HON. FRANCISCA OTENG MENSAH
CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON GENDER AND CHILDREN



.....
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