



**IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF
THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

**REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON GENDER AND
CHILDREN AND EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL WELFARE AND
STATE ENTERPRISES**

ON THE

2014 PROGRAMME BASED BUDGET ESTIMATES

OF THE

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

December 2013

**REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEES
ON GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION AND EMPLOYMENT,
SOCIAL WELFARE AND STATE ENTERPRISES
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2014 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Article 179 of the Constitution the Honourable Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Mr. Seth Emmanuel Terkper, on Wednesday 19th November, 2013 presented the Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2014 fiscal year to the House.

Pursuant to Standing Orders 140(4), 175 and 184 of the House, Mr. Speaker referred the draft Annual Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to the Joint Committee on Gender and Children and Employment Social Welfare and State Enterprises for consideration and report to the House. The referral was done with regards to the alignment of the Department of Social Welfare and the National Council on Persons with Disability to the Ministry of Gender, children and Social Protection.

The Joint Committee presents its report for the consideration of the House.

2.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Committees met with the following to deliberate on the 2013 Draft Annual Estimates of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection:

1. The Minister for Gender, Children and Social protection, Mrs. Nana Oye Lithur, as well as Directors and officials of the following departments and agencies:

- a. Ministry Headquarters
- b. Department of Gender
- c. Department of Children
- d. Department of Social Welfare
- e. National Council on Persons with Disability
- f. Domestic Violence Secretariat
- g. Human Trafficking Secretariat
- f. Ministry of Finance

The Committee is grateful to all who participated in the deliberation of the programme based budget estimates of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection for the 2014 fiscal year and also for the information and support they provided.

3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

In considering the draft Annual Estimates for the Ministry, the under listed documents were used as reference materials:

1. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana
2. The Standing Orders of Parliament of Ghana
3. The 2013 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana.
4. The 2014 Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana.
6. The 2014 Draft Programme Based Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection.
7. Budget Review reports from the Ministry and its departments.

4.0 MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Ministry is to:

- a. ensure gender equity through the mainstreaming of gender considerations.
- b. promote the welfare of children and
- c. empower the vulnerable, the excluded, the aged and persons with disability by social protection interventions to contribute to national development.

5.0 STRATEGIC POLICY OBJECTIVES

The strategic policy objectives of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection are based on the National Medium Term Policy Objectives contained in the GSGDA (2010-2013). They are as follows:

1. To promote gender mainstreaming and gender responsive budgeting in the MDAs and MMDAs through capacity building.
2. To improve the socio-economic status of the vulnerable and the excluded through targeted interventions.
3. To enhance evidence based decision making on gender equality, the empowerment of the vulnerable and excluded by collecting disaggregated data.
4. To protect and promote the development and the rights of children, the vulnerable and the excluded through awareness creation and effective implementation of National and International Policy Frameworks and Legislations.

5. To assess progress on implementation of gender related programmes and project and
6. Evaluate policy outcomes and impacts through effective monitoring and evaluation framework to provide inputs for gender, children and social protection policy review and planning.

6.0 REVIEW OF THE 2013 PERFORMANCE OF THE MINISTRY OF GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

For the implementation of activities for 2013 fiscal year, an amount of Thirty Eight Million Five Hundred and Ninety Six Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy Ghana Cedis (**GH¢38,596,470**) was allocated. The breakdown is as follows:

Seven Million Six Hundred and Four Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Ghana Cedis (**GH¢7,604,820**) is **GoG. SIP** is Thirty Million Ghana Cedis (**GH¢30,000,000**), Twenty Five Thousand Ghana Cedis (**GH¢25,000**) is **IGF** and Nine Hundred and Sixty Six Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Ghana Cedis (**GH¢966,650**) is **DONOR**.

Table 1: Allocation for 2013

ITEMS	GOG	DONOR	IGF	SIP	TOTAL
WAGES AND SALARIES	1,572,064	-	-	-	1,572,064
GOODS & SERVICES	1,698,404	193,330	-	30,000,000	31,891,734
ASSETS	4,334,352	773,320	25,000	-	5,132,672
TOTAL	7,604,820	966,650	25,000	30,000,000	38,596,470

Source: The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of GOG for 2013 fiscal year

Table 2: Summary of 2013 Budget Distribution by Item for MoGCSP and its Departments

COST CENTRE	CENTRAL GOG				FUNDS/OTHERS ABFA(LEAP)	IGF	DONOR FUNDS	GRAND TOTAL (GHc)
	COMPENSATION	GOODS AND SERVICE	ASSETS	TOTAL GOG				
MOGCSP HQ	611,962	509,521	4,041,764	5,163,247	-	-	-	5,163,247
DEPARTMENT OF GENDER	454,269	339,681	180,000	973,950	-	-	966,650	1,940,600
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN	505,833	254,760	-	760,594	-	25,000	-	785,594
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL PROTECTION	-	424,601	112,588	537,189	30,000,000	-	-	30,537,189
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITY	-	169,841	-	169,841	-	-	-	169,841
GRAND TOTAL	1,572,064	1,698,404	4,334,352	7,604,820	30,000,000	25,000	966,650	38,596,470

Source: Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection

Table 3: Budget Performance for 2013

ITEMS	APPROVED BUDGET	AMOUNT RELEASED	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE	VARIANCE	PERCENTAGE
Employee Compensation	2,108,665.00	13,226,561.93	13,226,561.93	11,117,896.93	527.25
Goods and Services	31,298,404.00	8,150,980.90	8,150,980.90	23,147,423.00	73.96
Assets	4,758,953.00	-	-	4,758,953.00	100
Total GOG	38,166,022.00	21,377,542.83	21,377,542.83	12,029,526.07	-
Donor Funds	14,966,650.00	8,402,378.08	8,402,378.08	6,564,271.91	43.86
IGF	250,000.00	46,559.97	46,559.97	203,440.03	81.38
Total	53,382,672.00	29,826,480.88	29,826,480.88	18,797,238.02	

4.0 PERFORMANCE IN 2013

The under-listed were given as some of the key achievements of the ministry for the year 2013:

4.4 Gender Mainstreaming and Budgeting

A total of 243 officials of the Department of Gender, Home Science Instructors of the Department of Community Development, District Planning Coordinating Unit and Staff of beneficiary districts in 9 Regions were trained on strategies to mainstream gender into planning, budgeting and monitoring. Gender Analysis Framework and Planning Templates were developed to guide DPCUs for the inclusion of Gender issues in planning processes.

4.5 Social Protection Programme

In order to tackle extreme poverty and achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, the Ministry provided grants to a total of 73,042 households under the Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP) to improve their socio-economic status, ensure the survival and development of their children as well as promote the welfare of the vulnerable and excluded in society. In addition, Electronic Payments of LEAP Grants was piloted in 3 Ecological Zones for purposes of ensuring timely transfer of cash to beneficiaries.

A Framework on National Targeting Mechanism to facilitate the implementation of other social protection interventions to reduce duplication of programmes and interventions was developed.

About 7,331 of the affected market traders in 4 markets were provided with cash grants to replenish their businesses as a result of fire outbreaks and thereby contributing to their empowerment and reducing poverty and vulnerability.

The Ministry facilitated the celebration of the National Day for the Aged to create awareness on the need to develop and implement relevant interventions.

A total of 288 Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) were registered for better targeting of service delivery.

4.6 Child Rights Promotion, Protection and Development Programmes

The National Child Protection Policy was finalized to ensure the holistic protection and welfare of the Ghanaian child within a functional family welfare framework and also reviewed Early Childhood Care and Development Policy to improve ECCD services for children aged 0-8 years. The Ministry prepared a

Consolidated Report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child highlighting practical strides made to address the concerns of children.

4.7 Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Programme

The Ministry developed guidelines to facilitate the disbursement of the Human Trafficking (HT) Fund for the protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of human trafficking victims. The referral strategy to link human trafficking victims to appropriate services was also drafted.

Communication Strategy on Domestic Violence (DV) issues was developed to facilitate educational campaigns and training for the prevention of gender-based violence and protection of survivors of gender-based violence. In addition, DV Victim Support Fund was launched to galvanize support for its growth and a training manual developed for DV Service Providers as well as for the sensitization of stakeholders on domestic violence.

7.0 OUTLOOK FOR 2014

7.1 FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR THE 2014 FISCAL YEAR

For the implementation of activities for 2014 fiscal year, an amount of **GH¢91,038,708** has been allocated. Out of this GoG is **GH¢63,684,856**, **GH¢17,550** is IGF and DP Funds is **GH¢27,336,302**.

The breakdown of the allocation is as follows:

TABLE 4: ALLOCATION FOR 2014

	GOG	IGF	D.P FUNDS	TOTAL
WAGES AND SALARIES	17,335,506	-	-	17,335,506
GOODS & SERVICES	45,000,000	17,550	5,467,260	50,484,810
ASSETS	1,349,350	-	21,869,042	23,218,392
TOTAL	63,684,856	17,550	27,336,302	91,038,708

Source: The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of GOG for 2014 fiscal year

TABLE 5: 2014 BUDGET ALLOCATION BY DEPARTMENTS

COST CENTRE	GOG	OTHER FUNDS	IGF	DONOR FUNDS	ASSET	GRAND TOTAL
	Compensation	Goods & Services				
Headquarters	459,261	577,246	-	15,701,720	1,349,350	18,087,577
Department of Gender	692,888	278,000	-	6,727,868	-	7,698,756
Department of Children	715,492	255,680	17,550	2,692,00	-	3,680,722
Department of Social Welfare	15,467,865	43,578,204	-	400,000		59,446,069
Domestic Violence & Human Trafficking Secretariats	-	310,870	-	1,814,714	-	2,125,584
GRAND TOTAL	17,335,506	45,000,000	17,550	27,336,302	1,349,350	91,038,708

Source: Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection

7.2 ACTIVITIES FOR 2014

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection will use the allocated sum of Ninety One Million, Thirty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Eight (GH¢91,038,708) to perform the following activities in the 2014 fiscal year:

7.2.1 Gender Mainstreaming and Equity Programme

The Ministry drafted an Affirmative Action Bill to address the concerns of women in national development and will facilitate its enactment to promote the empowerment of women and mainstream gender into sector policies, plans and strategies. The Ministry will also conduct research on harmful cultural practices affecting women.

7.2.2 Child Rights Promotion, Protection and Development Programmes

The Ministry will finalize and disseminate the National Child Protection Policy as well as review and implement the Early Childhood Care and Development Policy. It will also promote the rights of children by creating awareness in communities and among stakeholders.

7.2.3 Social Development Programme

A Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and Manuals for LEAP are being developed to track progress, identify gaps and design timely interventions for implementation. In 2014, the Ministry will expand the implementation of the LEAP, to cover over 100,000 household beneficiaries.

The Ministry will also provide social welfare services to 1,200 aged.

The Ministry will again provide timely, reliable and disaggregated data on PWDs and mainstream PWD issues into the national planning processes and facilitate the enactment of the L.I. on Persons with Disability Act.

7.2.4 Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Programme

The enactment of the Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Legislative Instruments will be facilitated by the Ministry. The Legislative Instruments are currently at the Attorney-General's Department for final drafting. The Ministry will also implement the National Plan of Action and operationalise rapid response team for Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence matters. It will again provide professional psychosocial support for Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence victims and set up and operationalise the Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Funds.

8.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

It was realized that more was spent on employee compensation than what was allocated. An amount of **GH¢2,108,665.00** was approved but **GH¢13,226,561.93** was expended. It was explained that the increase was as a result of the migration onto the Single Spine Salary Structure. The Committee urged the Ministry to budget realistically to ensure that there is no over expenditure.

8.2 ASSETS

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection operates from seven different locations due to the lack of adequate space at the headquarters to accommodate staff. This has a great impact on staff performance because it does not allow for effective coordination and supervision. The Ministry is therefore putting up a new office complex to accommodate its entire staff. It

was however realized that no funds were released in the 2013 fiscal year towards the completion of the office complex. The Committee considers the situation unfortunate because of the effect of the lack of accommodation space has on the operation of the ministry. The Committee therefore recommends that the Ministry of Finance should release funds in respect of the completion of the office complex to ensure the entire staff work from a common location for efficiency and productivity.

8.3 GOODS AND SERVICES

It was observed that most of the allocation made under goods and services were to support the LEAP programme. Funds allocated under Goods and Services for the running of the Ministry was however very small and inadequate. The Committee therefore recommends that allocations made for the running of LEAP should be decoupled from that of the Ministry to ensure that adequate funds are provided for the management of the Ministry.

8.4 INADEQUATE TECHNICAL STAFF

The review of the mandate of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection has occasioned the need for restructuring and realigning as well as resources and technical staff. The Department of Social Welfare would for instance be changed to the Division of Social Development which would occasion the creation of the Departments of Social Protection and Social Services. There would be the need to recruit more technical personnel to fill in these positions. The Committee considers the restructuring necessary and urges the Ministry of Finance to grant approval to the Ministry to recruit the personnel need to make the Ministry functional and effective.

8.5 UPGRADE OF THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

The Committee was informed that proposals have been made for the upgrade of the School of Social Work to a tertiary institution with affiliation with the University of Education, Winneba. This is because there are currently 25 social

protection programmes running and more personnel in the field of social work are needed to effectively run the programmes. Social Protection has also become an effective tool or intervention in narrowing the poverty gap and so personnel are needed to ensure that the programmes succeed. It would also make the social welfare system in the country more efficient. The Ministry is further liaising with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development to absorb students who currently graduate from the School of Social work. The Committee lauded the proposal and urged the Ministry to ensure the approval of the proposal for transformation of the institute because it would be a source of job creation and a strengthening of our social welfare system. The Committee again recommends that the Ministry should put in more effort to address the current issues of unemployment affecting the graduates of the School of Social Work.

8.6 LACK OF ICT INTERCONNECTIVITY

The Committee noted with worry the lack of ICT interconnectivity in the Ministry. The Committee was informed that the computers in the Ministry are not interconnected and that makes communication difficult and hampers the efficiency of work. The committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance should provide the Ministry with the needed funds to acquire a server to aid in the interconnectivity in the Ministry.

8.7 LACK OF ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE

The Ministry as established by the Civil Services (Ministries) Instrument, 2013 (E.I 1) is expected to coordinate all existing social intervention programmes. It was however noted that despite the Committee's recommendation to the President to ensure that administrative directives are issued to mandate the Ministry to take up its responsibilities, directives are yet to be released from the Executive to ensure that the all the social protections are brought on board. The Committee re-echoes its request to the President to ensure that the right

directives are given to enable the Ministry coordinate the social protection programmes.

8.8 LEAP PROGRAMME

The Committee was informed that funds are being transferred electronically to beneficiaries under the LEAP and 73,042 beneficiaries are expected to benefit from the programme. A monitoring and evaluation manual is also being developed to track progress of the programme as well as identify gaps for timely interventions.

The Committee was again informed that 7,331 market women whose wares were burnt at the Agbogbloshie and Kantamanto markets were provided GH¢300.00 each under the LEAP programme. The Ministry also linked the women to MASLOC and LESDEP to source loans. The market women are further being encouraged to take insurance cover for their wares.

The Committees lauds the work being done under LEAP and urges the Ministry to ensure that the programme is sustained for the benefit of the poor. The Committee also recommends that other social intervention programmes should be brought on board to further cushion the beneficiaries because the funds provided are not regular and enough.

8.9 CHILDREN'S PARKS

It was noted that although Children's parks in the country could be gold mines for the Ministry most of them have either been leased out or taken over by individuals. The Committee was assured by the Ministry that it has consulted the Attorney - General to terminate the contracts and constituted a Committee to determine how the parks can be developed and managed. The Committee urged the Ministry to seek funds to stock the play grounds with play things and organize activities to rake in funds and provide recreation for the Ghanaian child.

8.10 THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING FUND

The Committee realized that the human trafficking secretariat of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection is not able to coordinate all human trafficking activities due to the lack of personnel and funds. The provision of shelter and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking was also a challenge. The Human Trafficking Act (Act 694) provides for a human trafficking fund but due to low budgetary allocation the fund is almost depleted and cannot support the activities of the secretariat. The Committee considers the situation unfortunate because human trafficking is on the ascendancy. It therefore recommends that efforts should be made to seek funds to activate the human trafficking fund and the Ministry of Finance should increase funds allocated to the secretariat to enable it tackle the canker that is affecting the image of Ghana internationally.

8.11 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SECRETARIAT

The Domestic Violence Secretariat was from inception funded by the Netherlands government until the support ended in 2012. Since then no funds have been provided for the running of the secretariat from government of Ghana. Currently the secretariat relies on donors like the Plan International and the Department for International Development (DFID). The Draft Legislative instrument that would operationalise the Domestic Violence Act 2007 (Act 732) is also still at the Attorney General's Department. The Committee was informed that application has been made to the Ministry of Finance to capture the secretariat as a cost centre but no allocation has been made to the secretariat for the 2014 fiscal year. The Committee recommends that the secretariat should be captured as a cost centre and provided resources to function because domestic violence is an issue that should receive support to ensure that families and the vulnerable are protected.

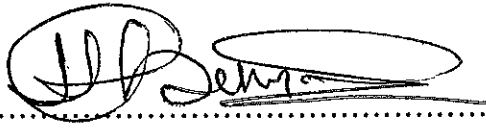
8.12 NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (NCPD)

It was realized that the National Council for Persons with Disability lacks resources to monitor implementation of the Disability Act, obtain reliable data for planning as well as access the impact of the disability fund provided under the District Assemblies Common Fund. It also needs fund managers to operationalize the disability fund to keep its focus. The Committee considers monitoring and evaluation as a component of the fund and therefore recommends that the National Council for Persons with Disability should be provided resources from the fund to monitor the operationalization of the fund and ensure its focus is maintained.

9.0 CONCLUSION

Efforts are being made to support the poor, vulnerable and disabled in the society through the development and implementation of social protection programmes. It is however obvious that more needs to be done to ensure that programmes developed to support them are effectively operationalized and sustained. It is therefore necessary that the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection is adequately supported and resourced to perform its mandate. The Joint Committee of Gender and Children and Employment, Social Welfare and State Enterprises recommends for the adoption of their report and approval of the sum of Ninety One Million, Thirty Nine Thousand and Seven Hundred and Eight Ghana Cedis (GH¢**91,038,708**) for the operations of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection for the 2014 fiscal year.

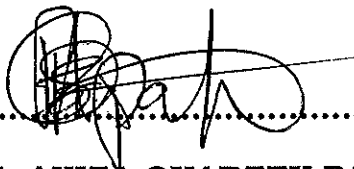
Respectfully submitted



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