

**REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON GENDER AND
CHILDREN & EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL WELFARE AND STATE
ENTERPRISES ON THE 2022
ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY OF
GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of Government for the 2022 Financial Year was presented to Parliament on Wednesday, 17th November, 2021 by the Hon Minister for Finance, Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta. This was in fulfilment of Article 179 of the 1992 Constitution.

The Budget Estimates of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection was subsequently presented to Parliament and then referred to the Joint Committee on Gender and Children & Employment, Social Welfare and State Enterprise for consideration and report pursuant to Article 130 of the 1992 Constitution and Orders 140(4) and 186 of the Standing Orders of the House.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee subsequently met on Tuesday, 14th December, 2021 and considered the referral. The care taker Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Hon. Cecilia Abena Dapaah, The Deputy Minister, Hon Lariba Zuweira Abudu, the Chief Director, Dr Afisah Zakaria and Technical Staff from the Ministry, its Departments and Agencies as well as officers from Ministry of Finance (MoF) attended the Committee's sitting to assist in its deliberations.

The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Hon. Minister, Heads of the Agencies and officials of the Ministries of Gender, Children and Social Protection and Finance for their co-operation.

3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- ii. The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana
- iii. The Standing Orders of the House
- iv. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2021 financial year
- v. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2022 financial year
- vi. Report of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection on actual releases and expenditure of the Ministry for 2021 financial year

4.0 MANDATE, VISION, MISSION 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 ensure gender equality through the mainstreaming of gender considerations and, promoting the welfare and 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, the excluded and the persons with disability are guaranteed and identifies itself with two development dimensions in the National Medium-Term Development Plan Framework (NMTDPF). These are Social Development and Governance, Corruption and Accountability, which the Ministry translates into the following Policy Objectives:

- Attain gender equality and equity in political, social and economic development systems and outcomes;
- Promote the economic empowerment of women;
- Ensure food and nutrition security;
- Strengthen food and nutrition security governance;

- Promote full participation of People with Disability (PWD) in social and economic development of the country;
- Ensure that PWD's enjoy all the benefits of a Ghanaian Citizen;
- Strengthen social protection, especially for children, women, PWD's and the elderly;
- Enhance the well-being of the aged;
- Ensure the rights and entitlements of children;
- Ensure effective child protection and family welfare systems;
- Harness the benefits of migration for socio-economic development; and
- Enhance the capacity for policy formulation and coordination

5.1 IMPLEMENTING DEPARTMENT AND AGENCIES

The Ministry is currently made up of the following Departments, secretaries and Units with a total Staff strength of one thousand, four hundred and twenty-five (1,425):

- 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 (DV)
- 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)

6.0 2021 NON-FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The Ministry was able to achieve the following in 2021:

i. Management and Administration

The Ministry in 2021 successfully organized a 3-day Annual Performance Review (APR) which was to review activities, identify key challenges and lessons learnt in the implementation of its Annual Action Plan.

ii. Gender Equality and Women's Development

- The Ministry embarked on School and Youth outreach programmes to sensitize 1,262 young ladies and 185 young men on sexual and reproductive health rights, gender-based violence, gender roles and importance of Girl-Child Education.
- With the support of the UNFPA GHANA, the Ministry held a National Gender Equality Clinic for 100m Adolescents (70 girls and 30 boys) from all regions in Ghana.
- The ministry organized a mentorship forum for over 50 adolescent girls from the Old Ningo in the Ningo Prampram District in the Greater Accra region with support of the UNFPA and Canada.

iii. Children Rights Promotion, Protection and Development

The Ministry provided care and counselling to 330 children and young adults in three government homes and two subverted residential homes for children. The Ministry also launched the Inter-Sectoral Standard Operating Procedure (ISSOP) for the Child and Family Welfare and subsequently trained 240 Stakeholders from 40 selected districts.

iv. Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP)

- The Ministry currently provides 3,448,065 pupils in 10,832 pupil basic schools with one hot and nutritious meal for every school going day.
- The programme provided employment for 32,496 caterer and cooks especially women to generate income.

- The Ministry collaborated with Ghana Education Service to collate and upload public school's data onto the ONA database to assist in real time reporting on caterer daily performance.

v. **The livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Programme**

- The Ministry through the LEAP Management Secretariat (LMS) has registered 76% of all LEAP beneficiaries onto National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS).
- 259 Districts Social Welfare Officers and 32 Regional Directors and Community Care Programme Heads from all 16 regions have been trained on the LEAP Operations Manual.
- LEAP Electronic reporting application has been deployed to remaining 160 districts: bringing coverage to all 259 LEAP implementing districts.

vi. **Domestic Violence Secretariat (DVS)**

The Domestic Violence Secretariat (DVS) through the Ministry launched Ghana's first ever Domestic Violence Information Portal (DVIP) on Tuesday, 28th September 2021 to provide and enhance data sharing amongst all stakeholders in the fight against Domestic /Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Child Marriage. A training session was also conducted for Staff on the management of the portal.

vii. **Human Trafficking (HT)**

- The Ministry has compiled and submitted Ghana's annual report on human trafficking to the US Department of Labour and Trafficking in Persons office.
- The Human Trafficking Secretariat of the Ministry has provided a comprehensive trauma informed care for 503 victims of

Human Trafficking in the Adult and Children shelters for Human Trafficking.

- The Human Trafficking Secretariat has prepared and submitted two (2) international reports on to the US Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and the ECOWAS TIP.

7.0 FINANCIALS

7.1 Budget Performance of the Ministry in 2021

Table 1. 2021 Budget Performance

Economic classification	Approved budget	Revised Budget (a)	Amount Released (b)	Actual Received	Amount Utilized	Variance (c=a-b)
Compensation	36,972,448	36,972,448	32,379,989.42	32,379,989.42	32,379,989.42	4,592,458.58
Main goods and service	2,694,420	2,694,420	1,886,093.74	997,219.40	997,219.40	808,326.26
HT Fund	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000.00			
DV Fund	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000.00			
CAPEX	6,900,000	6,900,000	3,933,000.00	3,933,000.00	3,933,000.00	2,967,000.00
IGF	9,940,800	9,940,800	17,745.09	17,745.09	8,100.00	9,923,054.91
DP	73,783,351	73,783,351	65,760,920.80	65,760,920.80	65,760,920.80	8,022,430.20
SP/ LEAP	197,534,538	197,534,538	137,158,019.73	86,748,548.88	86,748,548.88	60,376,518.27
GSFP			340,317,162.08	340,317,162.08	340,317,162.08	
Total	330,325,557	330,325,557	583,952,930.86	530,154,585.67	530,144,940.58	

NB: An amount of GH¢73,750.00 being IGF has been retained by the Central Adoption Authority but yet to be accessed due to technical challenges

A budget of **Three Hundred and Thirty Million, Three Hundred and Twenty-Five Thousand, Five Hundred and Fifty-Seven Cedis (GH¢330,325,557)** was allocated to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in 2021.

The Committee noted that as at October 2021, a total amount of **Two Hundred and Forty-Three Million, Six Hundred and Thirty-Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixty-Eight Cedis, Seventy-Eight Pesewas (GH¢243,635,768.78)** was released to the Ministry for its expenditure.

The Committee again noted that even though the budget line for Ghana School Feeding Programme was not aligned to the Ministry, an amount of **Three Hundred and Forty Million, Three Hundred and Seventeen Thousand, One Hundred and Sixty-Two Cedis, And Eight Pesewa (GH¢340,317,162.08)** was released to the Ministry for GSFP expenditure. Therefore, the total funds released to the Ministry as at October 2021 stood at **Five Hundred and Eighty-Three Million, Nine Hundred and Fifty-Two Thousand, Nine Hundred and Thirty Cedis, Eighty-Six Pesewas (GH¢583,952,930.86)**.

The Committee also noted that the Human Trafficking allocation and Domestic Violence Secretariat fund of **One Million Cedis (GH¢1,000,000)** and **One Million, Five Hundred Thousand Cedis (GH¢1,500,000)** respectively were part of GoG Goods and Services funding to the Ministry. Below are Table 2 and 3 providing detail on the performance of the LEAP and the GSFP programmes.

Table 2. LEAP Performance as at October, 2021

	APPROVED BUDGET	APPROVED BUDGET (A)	AMOUNT RELEASED(B)	ACTUAL RECEIVED	AMOUNT UTILIZED	VARIANCE (A-B)
GoG Goods and Services	197,534,538	197,534,538	137,158,019.73	86,748,548.88	86,748,548.88	60,376,518.27
GRAND TOTALS	197,534,538.	197,534,538	137,158,019.73	86,748,548.88	86,748,548.88	60,376,518.27

Table 3. Ghana School Feeding Programme Performance as at October, 2021.

Economic Classification	Approved Budget	Revised Budget	Amount Released	Actual Received	Amount Utilized	Variance
GoG Goods and Services			340,317,162.08	340,317,162.08	340,317,162.80	
TOTALS			340,317,162.08	340,317,162.08	340,317,162.80	

7.2 OUTLOOK FOR 2022

For 2022 Financial year, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection has been allocated a total amount of **One Billion, One Hundred and Forty-Three Million, Four Hundred and Twenty-One Thousand Cedis (GH¢1,143,421,000)**. **Thirty-Eight Million, Four Hundred and Sixty-Five Thousand Cedis (GH¢38,465,000)** has been allocated for Compensation of Employees, **Two million, eight hundred and eighty-six thousand Cedis (GH¢2,886,000)** for Goods and Services from GoG, **Eight hundred and eighty-one million Cedis (GH¢881,000,000)** for Ghana School Feeding Programme and **One hundred and ninety-seven million, five hundred and thirty-five thousand Cedis (GH¢197,535,000)** for Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty Programme. (LEAP)

The Committee noted that Ghana School Feeding Programme and Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty Programme allocations in 2022 constitute about 94.33% of the Ministry's budget.

Table 4. 2022 Budget allocation

Budget Classification	Expenditure GH¢
Compensation	38,465,000
GoG Goods and Services (Excl. LEAP & GSFP)	2,886,000
IGF	552,000
Donor	14,153,000
GoG Capex	4,830,000
GSFP	881,000,000
SP/LEAP	197,535,000
DV Fund	2,000,000
HT Fund	2,000,000
Total	1,143,421,000

8.2 Internally Generated Funds (IGF)

The Committee noted that the IGF Target of Five Hundred and Fifty-Two Thousand Cedis (**GH¢552,000**) set by the Ministry in the 2022 fiscal year is unrealistic and unachievable. The Committee indicated that the Ministry could not achieve its IGF target in 2021 and therefore setting a higher target in 2022 would be unrealistic.

The Ministry explained that its 2022 target is based on the approval provided by the Ministry of Finance to retain 33% of all Local and International Adoptions conducted in 2022. Again, the Ministry indicated that the School of Social Work will be operational when final accreditation is granted in 2022. The Ministry intends to realize some IGF from the School operations.

The Committee was of the view that the Ministry should concentrate on providing critical social services to citizens rather than turning itself into a revenue generation Ministry.

8.3 Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP)

The Committee observed that even though Parliament did not approve a budgetary allocation for Ghana School Feeding Programme in 2021, the Ministry of Finance released an amount of **Three Hundred and Forty Million, Three Hundred and Seventeen Thousand, One Hundred and Sixty-Two Ghana Cedis, and Eight Ghana Pesewas (GH¢340,317,162.08)** to the Ministry which was subsequently expended. The Committee raised concerns about this anomaly as it deprives Parliament and the Committee their constitutional mandate to exercise oversight mandate over the expenditure of the Ministry. The Ministry explained that the GSFP allocation in 2021 was not aligned to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection's annual budget estimates but was rather aligned to the District Assembly Common Fund.

Table 5. Breakdown of 2022 GoG Goods and Services of the Ministry

Cost Centre	Amount GH¢
HQ	1,474,208
DOC & 16 Regional Offices	214,746
DOG & 16 Regional Offices	214,746
DSD	194,885
Disability	167,026
HT	119,305
DV	71,583
Homes	238,610
Adoption	23,861
Children Marriage	47,722
Street Children	35,792
Aging	35,792
Rehab	11,931
NPO	35,793
Total	2,886,000

8.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Budgetary allocations for Agencies and Departments

The Committee observed that budgetary allocations for the various Departments, and Agencies of the Ministry in 2022 is woefully inadequate this would negatively affect the activities and performance targets of the Ministry.

The Committee therefore expressed its displeasure for the minimal allocation to the Ministry in the face of the numerous challenges been faced by children and the vulnerable in our society especially so in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic with it associated challenges.

The Ministry further stated that this anomaly has been corrected and the 2022 allocation for GSFP has been aligned to the Ministry's budget as stated in their presentation.

The Committee therefore wishes to urge the Ministry of Finance to duly inform parliament or engage the Committee whenever such releases are made.

8.4 Performance Targets

The Committee observed that the Ministry was unable to achieve most of its Performance Targets in 2021 as stated in their presentation and Budget Estimates.

The Committee noted that the Target set for Poverty Reduction, Domestic Violence, Disability and Built Environment, Monitoring of MMDA on 3% DACF on Disability and Welfare Services were not achieved by the Ministry and its Departments and Agencies. The Committee was worried about this situation and implored on the Ministry to work hard in subsequent years to achieve more of its Performance Targets. The Ministry assured the Committee that it has noted the concerns and would endeavor to achieve all their Set Targets for the year 2022.

8.5 Human Trafficking Fund

The Committee noted that a budgetary allocation of **One Million Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,000,000.00)** for the Human Trafficking Fund was released by the Finance Ministry. However, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection was unable to access this fund to enable it carry out activities under the Human Trafficking Unit.

8.6 Domestic Violence Fund

The Committee further noted that an amount of **One Million, Five Hundred Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,500,000.00)** allocated and released by the Ministry of Finance have still not been accessed by the Ministry . The Committee therefore is appealing to the Ministry of Finance and the Controller and Accountant General Department to facilitate the release of these funds for the Ministry to utilize them for its intended purposes.

9.0 CONCLUSION

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 wishes to recommend to the House to adopt its report and approve a total budget amount of **One Billion, One Hundred and Forty-Three Million, Four Hundred and Twenty-One Thousand Ghana Cedis (GH¢1,143,421,000)** for the 2022 budget of the Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection.

Respectfully submitted.



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GENDER AND CHILDREN**



**HON. PHILIP BASOAH
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