

**IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC**

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

ON THE

**2018 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE MINISTRY
OF GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION**

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IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SEVENTH 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 2017 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE MINISTRY OF GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 2018 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 2018 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. Otiko Afisa Djaba, 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 2018 Financial Year;
- iv. The Budget Statement and Economic Policy of the Government of Ghana for the 2017 Financial Year;
- v. Report of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection on the actual releases and expenditure of the Ministry for the 2017 financial year

3.0 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 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.

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)

5.0 VISION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MINISTRY

Their 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. The main objective is to ensure gender equality through the mainstreaming of gender considerations, promote the welfare and protection of children as well as to empower the vulnerable, excluded, the aged and persons with disabilities through social protection interventions.

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection has identified itself with two of the thematic areas in the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda 11 (GSGDA11). These are first Human Development, Productivity and Employment and second Transparent and Accountable Governance. The specific objectives include the following;

- i. Develop a comprehensive social development policy framework;
- ii. Make social protection more effective targeting the poor and the vulnerable;
- iii. Ensure a more effective appreciation of and inclusion of disability issues in national discourse;
- iv. Promote gender equity in political, social and economic development systems and outcomes;
- v. Enhance funding and cost effectiveness in social protection delivery;

- vi. Safeguard the security, safety and protection of the rights of the vulnerable in society especially the girl child and women;
- vii. Promote women's access to economic opportunities and resource including property;
- viii. Promote the effective integration of gender consideration at all stages and in all dimensions of data production and creation of statistical knowledge;
- ix. Protect children from direct and indirect physical and emotional harm;
- x. Safeguard citizen rights and entitlement and eliminate human trafficking;
- xi. Ensure effective integration of PWDs into society;
- xii. Improve availability of quality data for policy formulation, analysis and decision-making;
- xiii. Enhanced Public awareness on women's issues;
- xiv. Empower women and mainstream gender into socio-economic development; and
- xv. Rationalize and define structures, roles and procedures for state and non-state actors.

6.0 THE YEAR 2017 IN RETROSPECT

The following key outputs were achieved in 2017.

I. Management and Administration

- The Second draft on Information Technology (IT) Policy was developed;
- The Draft of the Sector Medium-Term Development Plan was prepared for submission to NDPC;
- The 2016 Annual Progress/ Performance Reports was submitted to NDPC, OHCS, Office of the President, Parliament and the MoF;
- Twenty-five (25) received training in competency-based and Scheme of Service programmes;
- Facilitated the promotion of 200 eligible staff of the Department of Social Welfare;
- Trained staff in research methodology and data production (25 staff) and Gender Statistics (45 staff);

- The re-designed and functional Ministry website was put in place; and
- A report on the National Gender Statistics Assessment was produced.

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

- International Women's Day (IWD), fistula day and breast cancer awareness month marked with 3 national and 30 regional durbars;
- Reviewed GHANAP 1325 to ensure the full representation and active participation of women in conflict, prevention, resolution, peace, negotiation, mediation, crisis and security management at all levels of the Ghanaian society;
- A capacity building training organized for 28 Gender Desk officers and 40 officers from MDAs and MMDAs on mainstreaming the National Gender Policy into MDAs and MMDAs plans and programmes;
- The leadership of Parliament and other key stakeholders were engaged in a review workshop on the Affirmative Action Bill to reflect a comprehensive view;
- Prepared and produced the first draft on the development of a 5-year adolescent pregnancy for consultation with stakeholders;
- Participated and organized a side event at the Diaspora Home Coming Summit to promote the northern clothing made by vulnerable groups;
- Sensitization workshops organized in 3 districts for 180 participants on child marriage and its negative effects;
- Organized a mentorship on Girls' Empowerment Summit in the central region for 90 students on the theme "Empowering the Girl Child for Sustainable Development of the Central Region"; and
- Organized a high-Level meeting with Traditional Council and Family Heads on Human Rights approach in addressing child marriage, teenage pregnancy, sexual and gender based violence in Cape Coast, Mankesim and KEEA Municipality.

III. Child Rights Promotion, Protection and Development Programme:

- African Union Day, Safer Internet Day, National Children's Day and International day of the Girl Child were celebrated with a total of 10,500 participants to promote the prevention of violence, abuse and exploitation of children;
- Operational Plans for the Justice for Children Policy and the Child and Family Welfare Policy have been realigned for implementation;
- Training workshop was held in 10 regions for 300 regional child protection committee members on the operational plan and reporting templates for the child protection policies;
- Medical outreach was provided for 500 Kayayee in collaboration with MoH and World Save, USA in Ashanti Region;
- Mapping of 1,819 child rights and 279 community based clubs in six regions have been undertaken;
- 276 orphans in DSW Run Homes provided with counselling and with education;
- 60 children counseled and provided with care and education
- 248-day care centers registered and 362 certificates renewed;
- 40 District Officers trained in reintegration of children in orphanages back into their families using new guideline on integration of children;
- 17 districts monitored on juvenile justice in Ashanti Region;
- Regulations on Adoption and Foster Care submitted to Parliament for consideration;
- Also, capacity of 13 staff in the Adoption Unit were built on the Central Adoption Authority;
- A national and regional consultative meeting were held to solicit inputs from stakeholder to review exiting child related laws and Policies;
- Seven Residential Homes for Children licensed, five renewed and seven gazette;
- Compilation of data on child protection issues for 2017 ongoing to inform policy;
- 47 Social Enquiry Report written for juveniles; and
- M and E tools for quality control of data developed for residential homes for children

IV. Social Development:

- **Social Services**
 - ✦ 549 persons were provided with family welfare services and reintegrated;
 - ✦ Follow up action on 443 PWDs provided with employable skills;
 - ✦ Prepared 409 candidates in Vocational / Rehabilitation Centers for NVTI Examination in all 10 regions;

- # 105 new NGOs registered and 195 license renewed; and
- # Questionnaire developed to collect information on street children

➤ **Securing Inclusion for Persons with Disability**

- # An implementation framework and strategies on mainstreaming Disability in MMDAs Plans developed;
- # Sensitized 50 stakeholders on Ghana Accessibility Standard in the Built-environment (20 copies of the standard were distributed);
- # Held 4 zonal consultations with 200 stakeholders on disability policies and programmes;
- # Completed registration of Persons With Disabilities in Central, Greater Accra, Eastern, western and Upper East Regions;
- # Data on 2,770 Persons with Disability compiled for programme targeting with SPSS;
- # Graduate from School of Social Work posted to selected MMDAs as disability desk officers; and
- # Organized 100 community disability fora to discuss disability issues nationwide.

➤ **Social Protection**

- # Social protection M&E indicators drafted to facilitate the development of a comprehensive M&E framework for Social Protection;
- # Reviewed and redesigned the LEAP monitoring tools and Observation Checklist for effective monitoring;
- # Draft implementation plan for Social Protection Policy developed;
- # Draft case management system for Social Protection programmes developed;
- # A draft communication strategy for Social Protection developed;
- # Over 70% of Biometric Deduplication and Adjudication Platform completed for Upper West single register;
- # The GNHR Registry System for accessing data of households and household members' data 'was developed;
- # Data Sharing Interface developed to allow other social protection interventions to access GNHR data sets to implement their programmes;
- # An automated system has been developed to manage the field staff, data collection devices and the monitoring of data collection;
- # A draft Ageing Bill has been prepared to facilitate the promulgation of Aged Persons Law;
- # A steering committee has been set up to facilitate the establishment of a single window case management system for social protection programmes; and
- # Members of Parliament have been sensitized on the Social Protection Policy.

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

- # Conducted five (5) Bimonthly LEAP Grant Payment;

- # Data collected on 93,000 households to be enrolled onto the LEAP;
- # Additional 40,000 beneficiaries Migrated onto the E-zwich Platform to enhance LEAP grant disbursement;
- # A draft plan for the exit of LEAP OVC older than 18years has been developed for implementation;
- # Held one mid-year review meeting and two LEAP payment monitoring review meeting;
- # 73 Social Welfare Officers and Regional Heads of Community Care programmes trained on revised case management manual; and
- # 57 DSO trained on LEAP Pay-point set up guidelines and electronic payment processes.

➤ **School Feeding Programme**

- # 1,677,322 pupils in the existing beneficiary schools in all 216 districts in the country were provided with one nutritious meal per each school day;
- # Implemented new caterer contracting guidelines which required caterers to purchase food items from Local Farmers and Fishermen. Five Thousand, Five Hundred and Twenty – Eight (5528) new caterers were recruited using the new guidelines; and
- # 10,200 routine monitoring were undertaken at all levels of the programme to ensure all beneficiary schools have daily retirement forms.

➤ **Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Secretariat**

- # 102 victims of trafficking rescued and provided with care and protection in collaboration with Ghana Police and International Justice Mission (IJM);
- # Two Thousand (2,000) copies of Resource Manual, Fact Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) which contain information on Child Marriage in Ghana were distributed and are in circulation across the country;
- # Second phase of mass communication products which featured the traditional, political and religious leaders, celebrities and survivors of child marriage were aired on seven (7) TV stations and nineteen (19) radio stations across the country;
- # Created Facebook page (**Ghana Ends Child Marriage**) and Twitter (@**ChildMarriageGh**) accounts, which are continually being used to engage audience with the right information using the hashtag **#GhanaEndsChildMarriage#**. The Facebook page currently has over 30, 000 Likes, with more people visiting the page by the day;
- # Human Trafficking National Plan of Action finalized, launched and disseminated;
- # Commemorated the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons by launching the Blue Day and training 25 media personnel on Human Trafficking reporting;
- # Commemoration of World Day against Trafficking In Persons (TIP) at Senya Bereku;

- ✦ Finalized the National Strategic Framework on Ending Child Marriage, document launched and disseminated; and
- ✦ Rescued and provided shelter and care for 159 rescued child victims and 7 adults.

6.2 FINANCIAL

I. Expenditure

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection was allocated a total budget of **Two Hundred and fifty-five million, four hundred and eighty one thousand, three hundred and twenty three Cedis (GhC 255,481,323.00.00)**. Of this amount, GoG accounted for Two Hundred and Twenty-Four Million, Five Hundred and Fifty Thousand, Two Hundred and Thirty-Five Ghana Cedis (GH¢ 224,550,235), which included Ghana School Feeding. Donor funds amounted to Fifty-Four Million, Five Hundred and Two Thousand, Three Hundred and Thirty-Five Ghana Cedis, Ninety Pesewas (GH¢54,502,335.90) and IGF was Seventeen Thousand, Eight Hundred and Ninety-Three Ghana Cedis, Forty-Six Pesewas (GH¢17,893.46).

Table 1: Financial Performance for 2017 Excluding LEAP

Item	Approved Budget	Amount Released as at end August, 2017	Actual received	Amount Utilized	Variance
Compensation of Employees	22,883,103.00	20,336,777.50	20,336,777.50	20,336,777.50	2,546,325.50
Goods & Services	204,249,290.00	203,211,250.46	202,965,121.97	201,080,646.97	1,038,039.54
CAPEX	500,000.00	1,248,335.08	1,248,335.08 ¹	1,248,335.08	
TOTAL GoG	227,633,393.00	224,796,363.04	224,550,234.55	222,665,759.55	3,584,365.04
IGF	18,036.00	17,893.46	17,893.46	17,893.46	142.54
DP	27,830,265.00	18,215,387.44	18,215,387.44	16,716,441.03	9,614,877.56
GRAND TOTAL	255,480,694.00	243,029,643.94	242,783,515.45	239,400,094.04	13,199,385.14

The Ministry received an amount of GH¢748,335.08 from a non-road account from the Ministry of Finance. This was to cater for the Ministry's debt owed to contractors for work done in 2016.

Table 2: Funding Type (GOG/IGF/ABFA/DP) by Budget Programme

Expenditure by Budget Programme	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	Actual	Actual as at 31 st August	Budget	Indicative	Indicative	Indicative
			GH¢	GH¢	GH¢	GH¢
Programme 1: Management and Administration	6,548,250	6,119,196	21,623,189	25,745,665	85,527,912	214,288,576
Programme 2: Gender Equality and Women Development	616,714	916,137	3,599,880	4,527,882	4,879,123	6,536,332
Programme 3: Children Right Promotion, Protection and Development	1,519,409	1,135,991	7,642,518	7,325,508	20,613,029	46,293,747
Programme 4: Social Development	19,290,209	231,591,378	23,955,086	340,232,610	384,358,901	-510,830,688
Programme 5: Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking	1,653,139	1,521,867	4,560,000	7,678,440	27,842,340	66,632,576
Total Expenditure	29,627,720	241,284,569	61,380,673	385,510,105	523,221,305	844,581,919

Table 3: 2017 Financial Performance for Social Benefits (LEAP)

	Approved Budget	Amount Released as at end August, 2017	Actual received	Amount Utilized	Projections to the end of the year
GoG Goods & Services	80,000,000	60,000,000	40,000,000	40,000,000	20,000,000
DP	62,440,382	60,053,129	60,053,129	39,340,713	2,387,253
GRAND TOTAL	142,440,382	120,053,129	100,053,129	79,340,713	22,387,253

6.3 CHALLENGES FACED IN 2017

- Financial Constraints to fund activities of the ministry
- Limited office accommodation
- Inadequate number of Technical Staff
- Inadequate logistics
- Inadequate and delay in release of funds
- Delay in Caterer payments

7.0 BUDGET ALLOCATION AND EXPECTATIONS FOR 2018

For the 2018 financial year, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection has been allocated the amount of **Sixty-one million, three hundred and eighty thousand, six hundred and seventy-three Cedis (GhC 61,380,673.00)** to undertake its activities. The allocations for 2018 from GoG and Donor Source are as follows:

TABLE 4 – 2018 GRAND TOTAL ALLOCATIONS

NO	BUDGET CLASSIFICATION	EXPENDITURE CEILING (GH¢)	PERCENT OF TOTAL
1	COMPENSATION	27,034,013.00	44.043
2	GOG GOODS AND SERVICES	2,323,200.00	3.785
3	IGF	32,770.00	0.053
4	DONOR	21,990,690.00	35.827
5	GOG CAPEX	10,000,000.00	16.292
Total		61,380,673.00	

With the above allocation, the Ministry plans to carry out the following activities:

I. GENDER EQUALITY AND MAINSTREAMING

- Review, print and sensitize the public on GHANAP 1325
- Develop implementation plan for GHANAP 1325
- Organise a 1-day training for 100 participants on GHANAP 1325 (GDOs, Security and Justice personnel's and women) in each of the 10 Regions
- Conduct Nationwide sensitisation and training on the National Gender Policy
- Hold validation meeting on the Strategic implementation plan for NGP
- Provide Training for 5 staff of the Gender Department (GIMPA, STC)
- Provide Administrative support
- Commemorate International Women's Day, Fistula Day, Mothers and Father's Day, Day of the Rural Women, AU day for the African Woman
- Hold gender community dialogues to disseminate issues on Gender Equality
- Establish Girls Leadership and Human rights Associations in 10 communities
- Organise a conference for market women
- Organise a Diaspora Home Coming Summit for Women
- Hold Stakeholder meetings with, Political Parties, Women Commissioners and Security Persons to lobby them for the passage of the Affirmative Action Bill
- Build the Capacity of Female Parliamentarians creating a safety net for women in leadership
- Undertake Obstetric Fistula repairs for 30 women and girls for free
- Award Scholarships of Excellence to brilliant but needy girls
- Hold sensitisation programmes on women's reproductive health rights, and harmful cultural practices- FGM, Fistula, Early Marriage, Teen Pregnancy
- Implement the 5-year Adolescent Pregnancy Strategy
- Organize a 1-day sensitization programme on breast cancer for 200 participants in each Region to commemorate breast cancer month
- Train 20 women's groups on entrepreneurship and link them to MASLOC
- Develop a 5-year Strategic plan for 'Kayayei'
- Provide pre- employment skills training and start-up capital for 1000 Kayayei

II. DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN

- Mainstream children's issues in sector plans of 15 MDAs and 50 MMDAs
- Hold one national and 4 zonal consultations to draft instructions for amendment of child related laws
- Develop a comprehensive M&E plan for both Child and Family Welfare Policy and Justice for Children Policy
- Conduct a Producer and User needs assessment for the development of the Child Protection Information Management System
- Establish 20 girl leadership Clubs in schools and communities
- Train 20 club patrons/patroness and executives members on relevant child rights issue and guidelines for Child Protection
- Celebrate six calendar day events i.e. AU Day of the African Child, National Children's Day, National Day of the Family, International Child Labour day, Universal Children's Day and International Day of the girl Child.
- Hold 10 regional sensitization workshop for caregivers on the ECCD Standards for children 0-3 years
- Conduct a research to assess the implementation of the ECCD Policy
- Carry out survey on children engaged in surface mining
- Undertake situational analysis on children nation wide
- Form 50 District Child Protection Committees
- Provide 10 staff with scheme of service based training
- Hold one staff review meeting
- Develop SOPs for the Child Protection Information Management System development
- Purchase implements (10 languages, and 3 mowers) for the development of the Efua Sutherland Children's Park

III. DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE

- Provide 700 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 2,300 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 kayayei and street children nationwide
- undertake needs assessment of children in difficult situation in all regions
- recruit staff 50 staff
- undertake M&E activities
- procure office equipment and accessories
- build capacity of staff for effective service delivery
- prepare DSW annual budget
- Provide administrative support

IV. DISABILITY

- Securing Inclusion for Disability

- Raise awareness on disability issues
- Printing/distribution of copies of the Ghana Standards on Accessibility Designs in the Built Environment
- Registration of all Persons With Disabilities nation wide
- Develop database on Persons With Disabilities and Service Providers
- Develop Guidelines on the use of Accessible formats
- Train selected MDA Officials in Sign Language Interpretation
- Monitor the disbursement of the 3 percent District Assemblies Common Fund for Persons With Disabilities
- Running of the Secretariat(Administration)
- Monitor the implementation of the Affirmative Action for the Inclusion and participation of Persons with Disability at MMDAs level
- Development of Information, Education and communication(IEC) materials on the Disability Act,2006,715 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability(UNCRPD)
- Review of Disability Act

V. SOCIAL PROTECTION

- Develop a comprehensive M & E framework for effective and efficient coordination and implementation of social protection in Ghana
- Conduct 4 zonal validation workshop on the Bill on Ageing,
- National launching of the Act on Ageing.
- Organise national awareness creation on the Act on Ageing,
- Provide 10,000, NHIS Cards for elderly persons
- Hold consultative meetings with stakeholders (MOH, GHS, Medical schools, Health collages, Aarhus Social Health Care College etc.) on collaboration, capacity building, training, development of curriculum and mainstreaming of geriatrics and elderly health care delivery at in hospitals
- Organise health walk and free medical screening and medication for 1,000 elderly persons
- Media campaign and education of the Act on Ageing in collaboration with Help Age Ghana
- Organise Durbar for 600 elderly persons
- Train and inaugurate twenty-five (25) District Social Protection Committees(DSPCs)/ Community Social Protection Committees and five (5) Regional Social Protection Monitoring Committees
- Procurement of office equipment
- Organize six (6) bi-monthly meetings for the Social Protection Inter- Sectoral Technical Committee for information sharing and operationalization of social protection in Ghana
- Direct Cash Transfer to beneficiary households
- Build capacity of staff to effectively and efficiently implement and coordinate social protection in Ghana
- Develop a social Protection Bill/Act
- Operationalize Complementary Productive and financial inclusion Social Protection Interventions to support the LEAP
- Provide 20,000 freedom cards for the elderly persons
- Implement Social Protection Communication and advocacy strategy

VI. SCHOOL FEEDING

- Provide one-hot nutritious meal daily for about 2,180,519 pupils in beneficiary schools.
- Organise steering and technical committee meetings
- 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
- Printing of menu
- 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 visits 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.

VII. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Organize DV quarterly Management Meetings
- Organize quarterly Inter-Agency Partnership meetings on Gender Based Violence
- Identify and support Widows and alleged witches with skills training and LEAP
- Operationalize Domestic Violence /Gender Based Violence Response Centres in Mallam Atta and Agbobgloshie markets
- Receive and rehabilitate 80 victims of domestic violence
- 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 (Enrol them on LEAP)

VIII. HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Organize sensitization workshop for key implementing partners
- Give care and protection to 80 rescue victims in shelters
- Finalize the Human Trafficking National Plan of Action
- Organize two capacity building workshops on HT NPA for stakeholders nationwide
- Organize quarterly HT management board meetings
- Celebrate UN Day against human trafficking
- Refurbish shelters in Madina for children and Accra for Adult
- Provide professional psychosocial support and skill training for victims

TABLE 5: EXPENDITURE CEILINGS BY LINE PROGRAMME

EXPENDICTURE BY BUDGET PROGRAMME	GOG			IGF		ABFA		DP FUND		TOTAL
	COE	G & S	CAPEX	COE	G & S	COE	G & S	CAPEX	CAPEX	
Programme 1: Management and Administration	8,235,127.00	823,200.00	10,000,000.00						2,564,862.00	21,623,189.00
Programme 2: Gender Equality and Women Development	1,359,880.00	240,000.00							2,000,000.00	3,599,880.00
Programme 3: Child Right Promotion, Protection and Development	1,943,921.00	240,000.00			32,770.00				5,425,827.00	7,642,518.00
Programme 4: Social Development	15,195,086.00	760,000.00							8,000,000.00	23,955,086.00
Programme 5: Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking	300,000.00	260,000.00							4,000,000.00	4,560,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	27,034,013.00	2,323,200.00	10,000,000.00		32,770.00				21,990,690.00	61,380,673.00

8.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I. School Feeding Programme

The Committee observed, with satisfaction, that the funds for the School Feeding Programme would now be treated as a statutory release under the Ministry of Finance disbursements and so the allocation is not captured under the Ministry of Gender's Goods and Services line. With this new arrangement, funds would be made available in a timelier and regular manner instead of the hitherto long delays in payments. This would go a long way to stop the delays in paying caterers and ensure that there is no disruption in providing food for the children.

II. Decrease in Goods and Services Budgetary Allocation

The Ministry indicated that its GOG Goods and Services budget request has been dramatically reduced from GH¢30,717,177.00 to GH¢2,323,200.00. It was explained that the funds requested were for interventions that would help to get Ghana off the Tier Two rating as far as Human Trafficking is concerned, especially now that the President himself is championing the cause to stop abuse against women and the vulnerable, as the AU Gender Champion.

The Committee, in considering the importance of ensuring that Ghana is not further relegated to Red Alert Tier Three, surmised that the allocation of GH¢2,323,200.00 is indeed woefully inadequate and would make it impossible for the Ministry to undertake most of its planned activities. These activities include work at the various children's homes, combatting human trafficking (which is linked to the MIDA Compact and Transfers from the US Government), Child Protection, Gender Mainstreaming, Streetism, under the Operation "Get off the Street Now For A Better Life" Initiative Etc.

The Committee is of the view that this substantial reduction in the budget of the ministry is akin to stifling the very lifeblood of the Ministry and can jeopardize its efforts at effectively fulfilling its mandate. The Committee therefore appeals to the Ministry of Finance to consider the relevance of these planned activities, in the light of the President's Gender and Ghana beyond Aid Agenda. This is in line with his wish to eliminate discrimination, gender abuses and human trafficking, to provide the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection with the needed funds to undertake these critical socio-economic development agenda. .

III: Lack of Shelters

The Ministry informed the Committee that one problem hampering the work of the Human Trafficking Unit is the lack of shelters to house surviving victims. Without this, HTU will always have a problem with prosecuting culprits as the primary witnesses cannot be given the requisite support to enable them run the full gamut of prosecutions.

The Committee also observed that there is only one Destitute Home in Ghana. This currently houses about 10 elderly people. There is however the need to do more for the elderly who may not doing so well financially.

IV. Inadequate Staff Strength

The Ministry lamented that it does not have enough staff to monitor its programs in the various regions. Hitherto, it has been depending on the staff of the Ministry of Local Government to implement its activities at the district level. The Committee recommends that the Gender Ministry must employ its own staff to ensure that there's a retention of institutional memory for years to come.

9.0 CONCLUSION

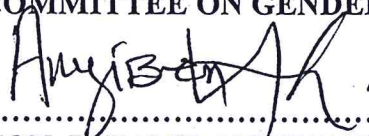
The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, is very vital to our national growth and development, especially with regards to the provision of policies, advocacy and support for full productive and financial inclusion for the very vulnerable groups in the country. The Committee therefore wishes 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 approves the amount of **Sixty-one million, three hundred and eighty thousand, six hundred and seventy-three Cedis (GhC 61,380,673.00)** for the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection for the implementation of its activities for the 2018 Financial Year.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED



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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 AFRIYIE OSEI
CLERK
COMMITTEES ON GENDER AND CHILDREN



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ANTHONY AGYEKUM
CLERK
COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL WELFARE AND STATE ENTERPRISES