



Project Funded by the European Union

## SECURING CHILD RIGHTS IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR PROJECT



Report

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Cover photo:

Group photo of stakeholders from the training workshop at Ridge Royal, Cape Coast in the Central Region of Ghana

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# 1.0 INTRODUCTION



*A group picture of participants comprising community and district level child protection structures during training at Winneba.*

Human trafficking is a phenomenon assuming alarming ascendancy in recent times. In sub-Saharan Africa, the practice has become increasingly prevalent with characteristics of cross-border and circular trafficking. Most countries in the region are noted as source, transit and destinations for victims of human trafficking. It is reported that the West African sub region often facilitates both legal and illegal migratory flow characterized by violence and various forms of abuse against victims notably forced labour and sexual exploitation. The implications of human trafficking on economies involved cannot be underestimated and therefore calls for intensified actions to curb and subsequently eliminate its occurrence.

In recent times, Ghana has become a source, transit and destination country for victims of human trafficking. These include men, women and children who suffer various degrees of abuse including forced labour and sex trafficking. In response to this, Ghana developed a National plan of action to fight human trafficking.

The strategies in the National Plan of action against Human Trafficking in Ghana, coordinated by the Human Trafficking Secretariat (HTS) of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social protection (MoGCSP) are anchored on the four “Ps” identified as “**Prevention, Protection, Prosecution** and **Partnership**.” The NPA outlines specific strategies and activities to be implemented under each of the above mentioned strategies as part of efforts to achieve desired outcomes for the fight against human trafficking. This training workshop therefore contributes to efforts under the prevention strategy in building the capacity of relevant stakeholders working in the human trafficking space to achieve better outcomes in a more efficient way.

## THE WORKSHOP

In line with the strategy to eliminate child trafficking, especially in the fisheries sector, the SECRISE project seeks to improve institutional capacity and coordination for enforcement of anti-CLaT legislation and reporting by community structures to law enforcement agencies. The training was done in two folds; at the Regional and District level. The Regional level training was conducted in partnership with a sister project- “*Support to the Fight Against Human Trafficking in the States of Gulf of Guinea*” implemented by Expertise France and with coordination from the MoGCSP from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> July to train sixty (60) participants comprising law enforcement agencies and officers of the Department of Social Welfare in Cape Coast. The workshop, under the auspices of the European Union brought together a blend of law enforcement agencies including The Anti-human trafficking unit of the Ghana Police, officers of the Ghana Immigration Services, Economic and Organised crime (EOCO) and officers of the Department of Social Welfare. The second phase of the workshop organized at the district level solely by the SECRISE project aimed at fostering or establishing strong linkages between community structures and law enforcement and state agencies to promote effective reporting, follow up and referral of trafficking cases in addition to improving knowledge on anti- CLaT legislation. The workshop brought together law enforcement and grass roots child protection structures in a day’s workshop for participants from the five project working districts in the central region on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October in Winneba and Cape Coast respectively.

## 2.0 WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

### 2.1 General Objective

The general objective of the workshop was to enhance the knowledge of target agencies on identification and management of Human trafficking cases. Also, the training workshop ensured that officials were trained on the implementation of anti-trafficking legislative instruments.

### 2.2 Specific Workshop Objectives:

- To engage participants on the basic concepts and definition of Human Trafficking,
- To enhance participants' (law enforcement) interview skills
- To educate participants on effective witness protection measures
- To foster collaboration and networking among law enforcement officers and community child protection structures
- To promote effective reporting, referrals and follow up on CLaT cases

### 2.3 Expected Outcomes:

- Participants' general knowledge on human trafficking improved.
- Participants' skills to identify or detect human trafficking cases improved.
- Participants able to take appropriate actions when confronted with a HT case.
- Effective witness protection practice by participants.
- Community child protection structures networked with state enforcement agencies
- Increased reporting of CLaT cases in target districts.

## 3.0 WORKSHOP STRUCTURE AND PRESENTATIONS

### 3.1 Opening

The Regional level workshop was organized over a three-day period. The three-day workshop was opened by dignitaries from the Ghana Immigration, Police Service and the Regional Coordinating council in Cape coast. In their solidarity messages, they demonstrated their readiness and support for the fight against human trafficking and the need to build the capacity of law enforcement to fight for this course. There were opening remarks from representatives of the workshop partnering institutions namely Hen Mpoano, Expertise France and the MoGCSP.



*(left) Stephen Kankam, SECRIFISE project addressing the audience. (right) Central Regional Commander of the AHTU of Ghana Police addressing participants in the opening ceremony*



*(left) Central Regional commander of the Ghana Immigration Service delivering his opening remarks to the gathering. (right) Mrs. Abena Amobe, head of the HTS of the MoGCSP addressing the workshop*

### 3.2 Participating organizations.

The training targeted law enforcement agencies and officers of the Department of Social Welfare in the Central Region and its surroundings. Law enforcement institutions that participated include Anti- Human trafficking Unit of the Ghana Police, Ghana Immigration, Economic and Organized crime Office (EOCO) and FBI and staff of the Attorney General’s department. The second phase of the training also brought to the training, members constituting child protection structures at the grassroots such as the DCPC, assembly men, CCPCs and child rights advocates in addition to law enforcement. In all the workshop trained 119 participants.

Table 3. 1: summary of participating organizations

<b>Participating Organizations</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
<b>Economic and Organized Crime Office (EOCO),</b>	8	5	3
<b>Ghana Immigration Service (GIS),</b>	10	6	4
<b>Ministry of Gender,</b>			
<b>Children and Social Protection (MOGCSP),</b>	11	6	5
<b>Department of Social Welfare (DSW),</b>	8	4	3
<b>Ghana Police Service/Anti Human Trafficking</b>			
<b>Unit (GPS/AHTU),</b>	17	12	5
<b>Attorney General’s Department</b>			
<b>National investigation Bureau (NIB)</b>	3		3
	2	1	1
<b>Participating Organizations</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
<b>Ghana Immigration Service (GIS),</b>	10	5	5
<b>Department of Social Welfare (DSW),</b>	10	7	3
<b>Ghana Police Service/Anti Human Trafficking</b>	10	7	3
<b>Unit (GPS/AHTU),</b>			
<b>Community reps</b>	25	18	7
<b>Fisheries enforcement unit</b>	2	2	0
<b>media</b>	2	2	0



*Participants in a group picture at Cape Coast for project beneficiaries in Komenda and Moree*



*Participants at the Regional level organized in collaboration with Expertise France and MoGCSP at Cape Coast*

### 3.3 Training-Methodologies

The training combined a set of methodologies comprising power point presentations by experts on various training modules, practical demonstrations, working sessions, pre-evaluation tests, case studies, group discussions and experience sharing to train participants on the basic concepts of HT, detection and proper management of HT cases.

The topics were presented amidst questions and answers, breakout sessions, group discussions. The pre-evaluation tests also helped reveal the extent of understanding and experiences of participants with regards to human trafficking. this was helpful in structuring discussions to areas where participants were mostly deficient in.



*A cross section of participants at the workshop engaged in a powerpoint presentation by workshop facilitators.*



<b>Topics</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>
<b>General overview of Human trafficking in Ghana</b>	Head, HTS/ MoGCSP
<b>Human/Child Rights protection in Ghana Reducing child labour and Child Exploitation</b>	Barimah Akwasi Amankwah National coordinator, GNCRC
<b>What is Human Trafficking: Law Enforcement role in the Fight against TIP (Rescue and Victim identification)</b>	Chief Supt Mike Baah
<b>Differences between Migrants Smuggling and Human trafficking; modern trends and consequences</b>	Supt. Alberta Ampofo Head AHSTIP Unit- GIS
<b>DAY 2</b>	
<b>Topics</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>
<b>Effective investigations and prosecution of sex and labour trafficking offenses using Human Trafficking Act</b>	Mrs. Ama Norman Amankwah, Lawyer
<b>Surveillance and Intelligence Gathering for HT</b>	Chief Supt. Mike Baah, Director- AHTU-Ghana Police
<b>Securing the borders of Ghana. Border response and support for Victims of Human Smuggling and Human Trafficking</b>	Supt. Alberta Ampofo Head AHSTIP Unit-GIS
<b>The need to Prosecute Human Trafficking cases, the challenges and way forward</b>	Mrs. Ama Norman Amankwah Lawyer
<b>Docket Building, Interviewing, evidence taking and victim support</b>	Chief Supt. Mike Baah, Director -AHTU-Police
<b>Day 3</b>	
<b>Security Agencies cooperation, Networking, collaboration and security operation</b>	DSO Dominic Mensah
<b>Referral Processes and support for victims</b>	HTS MoGCSP
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> part with grass roots child protection structures</b>	
<b>Topic (District level)</b>	<b>facilitator</b>
<b>Process of victim identification and investigation</b>	DSP Irene Oppong, Head of AHTU central region
<b>screening</b>	DSI Clement Doku, Immigration service, Cape Coast
<b>Comprehensive direct assistance</b>	Mr. Akyeampong, Regional Head of Programms, Department of Social Welfare. Central Region
<b>prosecution</b>	DSP Irene Oppong

## 4.0 THE SECRIFISE APP

The newly developed SECRIFISE APP, was demonstrated to workshop participants identified as target user group. A representative from the Software Development consultancy, Dinnota Consulting, was present to walk participants through both the mobile application interface of the app as well as the web interface. With the help of the project manager for the SECRIFISE project follow up questions asked about the app's functionality or operation, purpose, target users, and sustainability were answered. The gathering was generally pleased with the app and commended the SECRIFISE team and the consultant for putting together a good product. The Head of the HTS of the MoGCSP, however raised concerns about the functionality and sustainability of the app making reference to the existence of a similar app named SWIMS, put together and managed by the ministry. It was resolved that further discussions about the app would be held later with the MoGCSP and the AHTU of the Police Service to establish the next steps for the usage of the app in the human trafficking space

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

The workshop was an appropriate tool for reaching the target group. The coordination by the HTS of the MoGCSP was significant in securing seasoned facilitators and the intended target group for the training. The synergy of two European Union funded projects enhanced and enriched the organizing of the programme and response from the public officers. Again, the blend of methodologies and workshop tools deployed in the training encouraged good participation from beneficiaries.

At the end of the three days' workshop, participants attested to the relevance of the content of the training to the efficient performance of their various duties as law enforcement officers. The post evaluation test conducted revealed that participants benefited from various degrees of useful information, skills and insights that would further equip them in their line of work in the fight against human trafficking. They therefore appealed to the Human Trafficking Secretariat to organize more of such workshops for a wider reach of law enforcement officers for even greater strides in the prevention of Human trafficking.

The fight against human trafficking transcends multiple sectors and stakeholders. Effective partnerships and networking among stakeholders are key in identifying the gaps and blocking the opportunities for this phenomenon to thrive. It is also necessary that law enforcement is apt with

requisite information, knowledge and tools to fight the menace. Above all, effective coordination by the government will consolidate efforts and seal the loop holes for effective prevention of the practice and hence its total elimination.