



SUCCESS STORY

WiFVEs Project Sparks Community Collaboration, Raises Awareness on Gender-Based Violence

Residents of Lower and Upper Dixcove community and associated surrounding villages around in Ghana's Western Region, have for over a decade, had internal disputes that disjointed the twin communities and has since then seen them have individual events and rulers over the years veering off from the once united town. Among the struggles of women in these communities has been gender-based violence from spouses of these women, mostly fish processors or wives of fisher folk go through all forms of abuse especially that of gender. As a result, most women are only forced to access health care when these situations happen or be silent to live with these abuse cases in order to sustain their livelihood since most perpetrators of this menace usually are stakeholders who give them resources like fish that aids them earn a living or sustain their livelihoods. These factors, coupled with traditional beliefs such as regards for men being head of the house and final decision makers, misconceptions and other concerns have led to increased gender-based violence.



Figure 1: Placard March against GBV

As such, residents could not hide their excitement and appreciation when for the first time in their history, they had a joint programme between upper and lower Dixcove communities. This was a result of the European Union's support to ending Gender Based violence in coastal fishing communities *"It's been long we held a programme between both communities and we are*

happy to have done this together and since we are twin communities, we would speak to our leaders to know how we can resolve our disputes and come together as one". Dixcove is one of communities that are currently receiving such outreach support as part of the partnership. Through the effort of ending gender-based violence in the coastal fishing communities



A group of lower and Dixcove members playing 'ludo'.

So far, the project has used interactive drama, story cards, peer educators and community champions to effect change on the effects on Gender Based Violence and is currently addressing the access challenges through community-based engagements, community game competitions and Placard walks. remote communities like Dixcove continue to benefit from

WiFVEs support, the efforts are expected to help give women well aware to their rights, education on abuse, facilitate the avoidance of gender-based abuse to some extreme cases even death, promote better livelihoods for a better future.



Section of community members holding placards on GBV



Sensitization and placard walk on ending GBV

The engagements revealed that due to fear of stigma and ridicule, men were often not actively involved in the fight against GBV, and societal norms discouraged reporting. These events will serve as advocates and foster role models for anti-GBV actions within their communities.

About WiFVEs

The Women in Fisheries Against Violence (WiFVEs) project, which was awarded in 2021, is a three-year endeavor funded by the European Union and implemented by Hen Mpoano and CEWEFIA as partners. It aims at combating Gender- Based Violence (GBV) in all of its physical, economic, psychological, and sexual forms in coastal fishing communities of Central and Western Regions.

Furthermore, the project seeks to achieve gender equality within the fishery sector through supporting advocacy against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), abuse and discrimination in Ghana's marine fisheries sector. The project is being implemented in 18 coastal fishing communities within 7 districts in the Central and Western Regions of Ghana.

For further information about the WiFVEs project, visit <https://henmpoano.org/women-in-fisheries-against-violence/>

About the Partners



The European Union (EU) maintains diplomatic relations with nearly all countries in the world and undertakes a range of actions with partners. The EU with its Member States is the world's leading humanitarian donor with humanitarian aid as a key pillar of the EU's external action and an important part of its ability to project its values globally. The EU continues to work to prevent and resolve conflicts, support resilient democracies, promote human rights and sustainable development, and contribute to a rule-based global order.

Hen Mpoano

Hen Mpoano is a Ghanaian Non-Governmental Organisation based in Takoradi in the Western Region. In collaboration with local and international partners, it is helping address food insecurity, climate change, over-fishing, gender inequality, urbanization and poverty. It is the Lead Partner responsible for overall programmatic and financial management and reporting.



CEWEFIA is a Ghanaian Non-Governmental Organisation based in Elmina, Ghana, West Africa. It is focused on socio-economic development of women and girls in rural Central and

Western regions of Ghana. It will lead activities to synthesize social norms in fishing communities and provide temporary safe shelter with accompanying package of legal aid, psychosocial and livelihood development support to GBV survivors identified during project implementation.

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