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SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (SFMP) ANTI CHILD LABOR AND TRAFFICKING FIELD PRA SURVEY REPORT



SEPTEMBER, 2015



**COASTAL
RESOURCES
CENTER**

**THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF OCEANOGRAPHY**



Friends of the Nation

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ACRONYMS

CEDECOM	Central Regional Development Commission
CEWEFIA	Central and Western Region Fishmongers Improvement Association
CLaT	Child Labor and Trafficking
CR	Central Region
CRC	Coastal Resources Center (of Graduate School of Oceanography); Univ. of Rhode Island
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DA	District Authorities
DAA	Development Action Association
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
FiC	Fisheries Commission
FoN	Friends of Nation
GES	Ghana Education Service
GHS	Ghana Health Service
GNCFC	Ghana National Canoe Fishermen's Council
GOG	Government of Ghana
GSFP	Ghana Schools Feeding Programme
ICM	Integrated Coastal Management
ILO	International Labor Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LEAP	Livelihood Enhancement Against Poverty
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MoFAD	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
MGCSP	Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
RCC	Regional Coordinating Council
SNV	Netherlands Development Organization
SFMP	Sustainable Fisheries Management Project
UCEW	University College of Education in Winneba
UNICEF	United Nations Educational and Children's Fund
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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FORWARD

Child Labor and Trafficking (CLaT) is a very severe human rights violation, which unfortunately exists in Ghana's fisheries sector. CLaT victims are exposed to life-threatening dangers, especially children, who are forced to do fishing activities. Information available during the SFMP project design indicated that the Central Region (C/R) was one of the main areas where children are recruited for fisheries related CLaT activities.

To understand the nature of CLaT issues in the C/R, a series of studies and assessments were conducted under SFMP to find out the severity of CLaT in the C/R and to identify the root drivers of the problem. This was done through comprehensive literature reviews and field surveys.

During the field surveys, a total of eight-hundred and fifty (850) respondents were interviewed through scoping visits and, follow-up household surveys. The respondents revealed that CLaT has deep linkage with the fishing industry with children contributing to increased effort in fisheries, because they are considered as a source of cheap labor, they can work for more hours and they can fish in areas where adults may not normally, or are reluctant to fish.

Respondents also revealed that poor, female-headed single-parent households (who hardly are able to put food on the table on a daily basis) were very vulnerable in offering their children into CLaT. Also, children from fishing communities are mostly targeted by child traffickers, because they are good swimmers and, or are already familiar with fish processing.

Information from the exercises revealed that poverty and deprivation are the main causes of vulnerabilities and susceptibilities to CLaT in C/R. This has been made worse by declining fish harvests and seriously deepened poverty in the coastal fishing communities where there are hardly any other viable forms of livelihood activities. Many female-headed single-parent households send their children away to assist others for a fee, thinking they are helping both themselves and the trafficked child. Therefore the issue also has profound gender dimensions that should be given the necessary attention by appropriate policies supported by adequate interventions.

This report is the work of fruitful collaboration amongst Friends of the Nation (FoN), SFMP partners, state agencies of the Central Regional Development Commission (CEDECOM), Department of Social Welfare (DSW), and the Fisheries Commission of Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD). It epitomizes the need for strengthened collaboration amongst stakeholders in the fight for social justice, and against deprivation within the fisheries sector which is the live-wire of the livelihoods of about 10% of the Ghanaian population. Gaps in law enforcement on CLaT should be plugged to contribute to reducing the expenses and effort made in rescuing and rehabilitating victims.

Lastly, the key objective of SFMP is to contribute to the rebuilding of Ghana's marine fisheries stock (small pelagics) and catches through adoption of responsible fishing practices. The approach of SFMP is about managing the people and the related activities that contributes to overfishing, therefore this report bring to the fore the drivers of CLaT and the linkages to the effort creep in fisheries. The report also proposes some actions to address the issues to contribute to a clean and CLaT-free fishery in Ghana.

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- Central Regional Development Commission, Cape-Coast - (CEDECOM)
- Central and Western Fishmongers Improvement Association, Elmina – (CEWEFIA)
- Department of Social Welfare, Cape-Coast - (DSW, C/R)
- Development Advocates Association, Accra – (DAA)
- Fisheries Commission of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Devt; Cape-Coast.

The effort of Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) is acknowledged for providing technical support for the development of field survey instruments and training of field staff.

The assistance provided by the individual Traditional leaders (chiefs and queenmothers), chief fishermen, Assembly and Unit Committees members, heads of public first cycle schools and community opinion leaders contacted who assisted in the exercise in diverse ways is greatly acknowledged.



Fig 1.1: Cross-section of field survey team (left) and Field survey officer interviewing a couple (right)

Upmost gratitude goes to the dedicated field team, who worked day and night, walked through rains and accessed remote communities sometime on foot to collate information for this report. It is worth noting that some of the field team members donated their field allowance to some of the poor and vulnerable children. Therefore special acknowledgment for the field team members listed below:

AGUDZE-TORDZRO Robert (FoN), **ANTI** George(FC), **ANTWI** Hannah (CEWEFIA), **ARKO** Twumasi Obed (FoN), **ARMAH** Jane (CEDECOM), **BAIDOO** Stella (CEDECOM), **BOAKYE** Jonathan Konadu (CEDECOM), **BOATENG** Aryeepah James (FoN), **COBINA** Richard (FoN), **EDUFUL** Frederick (FoN), **GYENKUMA** Rebecca (DAA), **JOHNSON** Kwesi Randolph (FoN), **KORANCHIE** Felicia (CEDECOM), **MENSAH** Daniel Kofi (FoN), **MENSAH** Elijah Kwesi Armah (DSW), **PRAH** Philip (FoN), **MEVUTA** Gabriel (FoN), **QUAYE** Richmond (DAA), **SMITH** Nicholas Kwesi (CEWEFIA), **SOWAH** Samuel Mensah (DSW) and **TAKYI** Michael (CEWEFIA).

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1.0 BACKGROUND

The Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) is a five-year project (2014 -2019) with the goal of rebuilding targeted marine fish stocks that have seen major declines in landings over the last decade, particularly the small pelagic fisheries that are important for food security and are the mainstay of the small-scale fishing sector. University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Centre (URI-CRC) leads a consortium of partners tasked with an integrated suite of activities including:

- a.** Improved legal enabling conditions for implementing co-management use rights, capacity and effort-reduction strategies.
- b.** Improved information systems and science-informed decision-making
- c.** Increased constituencies that provides the political will and public support necessary to make the hard choices and changed behavior needed to rebuild Ghana's marine fisheries sector, feeding into applied management initiatives for targeted fisheries ecosystems.

The SFMP also aims at building the capacity of the RCCs and District Assemblies (DAs) in the Central and Western Regions to improve marine fisheries spatial planning and mainstream the development needs of climate- and economically-vulnerable fishing communities into their overall development plans, and to provide communities with diversified livelihoods, including ways to obtain greater profitability from fisheries value chains. Particular emphasis is placed on more efficient and profitable fish smokers that have potential for significant scale-up. This element places a strong focus on women and youth and utilizes local partners whose missions address the needs of these target groups.

During the development of the SFMP project proposal, focus group discussions were held in Moree and other communities in C/R. Participants in the discussion revealed that Child Labor and Trafficking (CLaT) in fisheries was a very prevalent issue. They revealed that children are reportedly sent to the Volta Lake region to engage in dangerous fishing activities at a very tender age, and are hardly enrolled in school. These children (under age 18) engage in hazardous fisheries work.

The Fisheries Commission and the Department of Social Welfare also highlighted the problem of illegal child labor and trafficking in fishing in the region as a rather precarious issue that needs addressing to safeguard the developmental potentials of children, Ghana's fisheries, promote good governance and socio-economic advancement of inhabitants within the coastal belt of Ghana, especially in the Central Region.

In August 2013, the United Nations challenged Ghanaian authorities to focus on addressing the root causes of slavery and Child Labor in the country. This was part of recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, Gulnara Shahinian, following her visit to Ghana. She had observed that children, some as young as four years, continue to be sent on fishing expeditions to perform some of the most dangerous work. They are deprived of education and unpaid. She blamed the persistence of the practice on poverty, regional disparities, urging that the country must begin to focus on education and health delivery to its citizenry.

These revelations informed and contributed to the design of the CLaT component for the SFMP project.

OBJECTIVE OF SFMP CLaT INTERVENTION

The main objective of the 5-year SFMP CLaT intervention is to contribute to prevention of CLaT practices in communities in the C/R through an evidenced-based information gathering and the implementation of behavior change communication and livelihood interventions that target adult caretakers (parents, guardians, etc.) who are the key actors within CLaT.

The SFMP focus on CLaT

The focus of SFMP in CLaT for the 5-year period is to conduct comprehensive assessment of the problem in the C/R by identifying communities and households most susceptible to such practices, this includes the family heads and adult population engaged in CLaT. The key task is to find out the root drivers of the problem, such as why adults use child labor;, or why adults (parents, guardians, caretakers, etc.) allow children under their care to be trafficked, etc.

As detailed in the SFMP workplan for Year 1, the process for the CLaT intervention would involve:

1. A comprehensive literature review of the problem in Ghana,
2. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) of the issues involving
 - a) Scoping visit to understand the intensity of CLaT issues in C/R and identify communities, households and actors involved in the CLaT issues, or contributing to the issues in the sourced communities in C/R.
 - b) Surveys to identify vulnerable households susceptible to these practices and the root cause for such.
 - c) Identify and mobilize network of community anti-CLaT advocates, including community champions and allies in key communities in the C/R for appropriate action.
3. Develop a behavior change communications initiative with information from the PRA with the intention to communicate extensively to community folks to the extent that such CLaT practices become socially unacceptable.
4. Develop and implement livelihood activities that will target the vulnerable households (especially the adult caretakers) most likely to engage in such practices on condition that they would not engage in CLaT such.

To support this process, a comprehensive SWOT analysis of regulatory agencies of stakeholder institutions is being conducted (by SNV) to unravel the institutional weaknesses and challenges. This will inform an institutional strengthening programmes (e.g. for the social welfare agencies, the Department of Labor and District authorities) to bring social services more forcefully to bear in the identified sourced communities. The National Steering Committee on Child Labor will also be engaged by SFMP in the design and roll out of the communications campaign; whilst exploring avenues to introduce other relevant services like reproductive health education and access to family planning services and commodities to vulnerable households.

METHODOLOGY AND PROCESSES FOR THE PRA SURVEY

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) was employed for the assessment of the CLaT issues in the C/R. The process involved scoping visits and households survey in communities in the central region to engage and interview key stakeholders and households to gather available information of CLaT.



Fig 1.2: Map of Central Region (Right) and Map of Ghana (left)

a. Scoping Visits

Scoping visits were carried out to help understand the intensity of CLaT issues in C/R and identify communities, households and actors involved in the CLaT issues or contributing to the issues in the sourced communities in the C/R.

Ten communities were visited during the scoping visits and informal conversations were held with the key informants identified in those communities. The “gossip question approach” was used during the conversation where questions such as ‘*have you heard people talking about CLaT in these community*’ and ‘*could you share with us households or communities that are perceived to be engaged in CLaT*’? These questions brought out a lot of information from the conversations as the interviewees were made to share ‘*hearsay*’ stories. This approach was very useful to overcome interviewees’ hesitation and shyness associated with CLaT surveys.

In all 88 key informants were interviewed during the scoping visits they included but not limited to; Local Chiefs, Queen mothers, Women leaders, Chief fishermen, Female fishmongers, fisher folks leaders, Community Champions, opinion leaders, Assembly members, Unit Committee members, Teachers, Social workers, etc. Thirty-Three (33), representing about 38% of these key informants interviewed were female and 55 representing 62% were Male. The table below gives the summaries of specific stakeholders interviewed.

Table 1: Table showing the number of stakeholder key informants interviewed in the scoping exercise.

Stakeholders key informants Interviewed	Number of people interviewed	No of Male	No of Female
Traditional Leaders (local chiefs & Queen Mothers)	12	8	4
Fisher folks Leaders (Chief Fishermen & Konkohene)	16	9	7
Assembly Members & Unit Committee Members	19	13	6
Opinion Leaders and Community Champions	27	16	11
Religious Leaders	5	4	1
Social Workers and Civil Servants	9	5	4
Total	88	55	33

b. Household Survey

Household surveys were conducted in 36 identified coastal communities in the C/R and a total of 762 recommended households were interviewed. Approximately about 21 interviews were conducted for each of the communities.

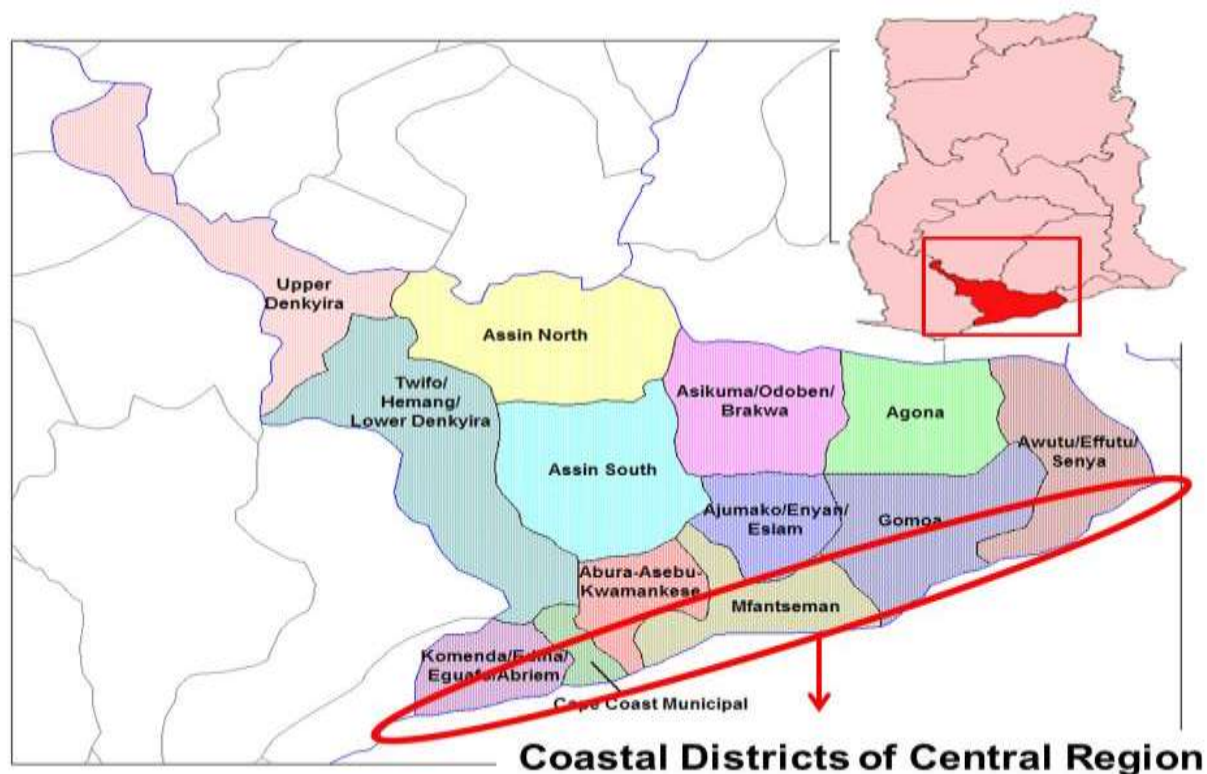


Fig 1.3: Map of Central Region showing the Districts and Coastal Areas

The District and specific communities covered by the household survey are as follows:

Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abirem District: Abrobiano, British-Komenda, Dutch-Komenda, Ampenyi, Brenu-Akyinim, Elmina-Bantuma, Elmina-Tetre-Kesim, Elmina-Eniaye, Elmina-Ayisa.

Cape Coast Municipal: Ewim, Ntsin, Brofuyedur, Anafo, Abrofo-Mpoano

Abura-Asebu-Kwamankese District: Ekon, Moree.

Mfantseman District: Biriwa, Anomabo, Egyaa I, Egyaa II, Egyaa III, Abandze, Koromantse, Saltpond-Pebi, Saltpond-Nyinee.

Ekumfi District: Ekumfi-Narkwa, Ekumfi-Immuna, Aakraa, Eku-Mpoano, Ekumfi-Otuam ();

Gomoa-West District: Apam, Mumford, Gomoa-Dago.

Efutu Municipal: Winneba

Awutu-Senya East Municipal: Senya-Beraku

Gomoa-East: Gomoa Fetteh

The Approach for the Household Survey

The approach for the household survey was a purposive sample based on recommendations of key informants interviewed during the scoping visits. Also during the household surveys interviewees suggested others to be interviewed. This approach was adopted in order to try to have a high proportion of households sampled that have been engaged in child labor and trafficking. A random sample in the communities would not have given us a large number of CLaT households and interviewing this target population was the intention.

The processes for the household survey included; questionnaire development, training and orientation of field teams, pretesting of questionnaire and finally the household interviews.

i. Questionnaire

A participatory process was used to develop a structured questionnaire. The process involved the drafting of the questions and discussions with SFMP partners and external stakeholders (CEDECOM, DSW and the Fisheries Commission in C/R). These questions were categorized under the following headings; Economic and livelihood, Child Education, Leadership, Population Health Environment, Communication and Recommendations. (See questionnaire attached in Appendix 1).

ii. Training/orientation

Training and orientation was organized for the field team, Interactive PowerPoint presentation, printed notes, experience sharing and group discussions were used during the training to explain the nature of the survey, the approach and the expected output to participants.

iii. Pretesting of questionnaire

Pretesting of the questionnaire was done within coastal fishing areas of Cape Coast, where the field team interacted with households and administered (tested) the questionnaire in the Fante language. This process provided information about the duration for each interview, the challenges associated with translating the questions into the Fante language and the decoding it back into English language. This segment was largely a very useful exercise in that it gave revealed nuances and snippets of information about some of the challenges to be expected on the field. The experience gathered from the pretesting was used to plan the household survey (i.e. the pairing of the field team members, and the plotting of the number of interviews per person/community/day).

iv Interviews

The interviews involved two processes:

1). **Introductory session**, which involved explaining the project and the purpose of the survey to the household and a request for permission to conduct the interview; and, after the request was granted, the next process involving signing/thumb printing of the consent form by the interviewee to indicate that he/she freely volunteered the information.

Also the introduction to the interview was done in such a way that the interviewee felt comfortable to give information without much hesitation. This approach was very useful to elicit information on sensitive topics such as CLaT where the interviewee may be shy to admit or devour information. With this approach re-assurances were given to the interviewee that information given would not be used against him/her or lead to any arrest.

2). **Interactive conversation** was adopted whereby the person being interviewed was engaged within a friendly conversation. By this process there is no right or wrong answers. The interviewer's objective was to upload mentally and quickly put into writing as much information within the shortest possible time. For this approach, physical observations were made of the emotional, facial and physical responses and expressions during the conversation. The interview was stopped in instances where it was observed that interviewees had extreme hesitation, anger, strong emotions during the interview process. Also where the interviewee did not sign the consent forms, the interview was not conducted and the interviewee was thanked in a nice and friendly manner that he/she did not feel offended. The reason for this is that, issues of CLaT are very sensitive and people may have emotional attachments (which was demonstrated in instances), guilt or even strong support for the activity.

Definition of key Terminology:

During the scoping exercise informants kept on asking for the definition of 'Child Labour' and Child trafficking. Because in their view, it is a normal cultural practice for children to learn the family vocations from their parents or work to support the home when necessary.

Therefore we adopted an operational definition as;

‘Any work by a person who has not attained the legal working age of 18, that is hazardous and inimical to the persons health and or well-being and that is to benefit another. Also especially when the child is denied education, the right to play and the basic necessities of life. For this work the child may be paid directly or may not be paid at all or another person may take the reward for that child’s work.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) definition of Child Trafficking was also adopted:

"recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, and or receipt or both of a child for the purpose of exploitation, ”

2.0 FINDINGS OF HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

The household survey was conducted in a total of 35 communities in the C/R. The selection of the communities were informed by the scoping visits and information gathered from literature review.

Summary of Findings

Information from the survey confirmed that CLaT is very pervasive in coastal fishing communities in the C/R. Respondents revealed that there is continuous recruitment of large number of children, who are either sold or involuntarily taken from their communities, and exploited as child laborer in the Volta lake areas, other communities in Ghana or Countries outside Ghana.

The information revealed that child trafficking in the coastal fishing communities is rooted in access to cheap labor, deep poverty, and the near-collapse of the artisanal fishing industry. Respondents explained that children from vulnerable homes are easy target for perpetrators because coming from the coastal fishing community; they already know how to swim and also how to process fish. It was also told that children, with small but deft fingers are able to work nimbly and efficiently in extricating entanglements of nets in and out of water; process fish (gutting etc) and also carry out other duties. Most children and families from communities are susceptible to CLaT due to myriad of interwoven reasons, the bottom-line however, is poverty and deprivation.

It was also revealed that most children involved in labor are engaged in hazardous activities as diving under water and working with sharp implements like knives fishing especially in the coastal areas among others. One constraint on Ghana's economic growth has been inadequate human capital development. According to the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS) Report (September 2013), the mean time spent by all children in Ghana 5 to 14 years in all activities is 18.6 hours which is higher than the mean time 16.3 hours recorded during the first three cycles of data collection. Children are engaged in these sectors such as transport and storage, mining and quarrying and in manufacturing. More than one in eight children (81.1%) are economically active and are engaged in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector, working an average of 18.2 hours a day.

Information gathered also revealed that one girl in three and one boy in four does not attend school and the figure is worse in the coastal fishing and other rural areas. The increasing demand of employers for cheap and flexible workforce has also been one of the leading causes of child labor. This is normally attributed to small-scale enterprise owners (including small-scale artisanal fisheries). Employers of small scale enterprises may employ their own family members in the villages and subject them to various herculean tasks at the workplace. These children are exploited since they are not paid according to the number of hours they work and the amount of work they do.

With endemic poverty in the coastal fishing communities, broken homes, single-parent female-headed poor families, the trafficking of children from therein is much easier. Declining fish catches was also noted to have worsened by a lot of inhabitants of coastal fishing communities so, despite the fact that awareness of the illegality of CLaT amongst people, the magnitude of poverty makes the temptation to indulge in the act hard to overcome. Information from the youth also revealed that teenagers organized themselves to work on farms for fees which they save to raise transportation to 'escape' from their

homes (without the knowledge or permission of the parents) to look for work in El Dorado. This was common in some of the household as the heads could not tell where their children had gone to but have been informed that they left in a group. There are very serious cases where some families had not seen or heard from children who left for the past 10-15 years.

Some of the youth who were interviewed (informal conversation without using questionnaire) explained that some of their friends mobilized and trafficked themselves because their families were poor and could not take them to school or afford decent meals for them. This kind of group of young teenagers that were interviewed in such manner drew close to the survey team members in households after they have overcome their initial apprehension of “an outsider” barging into their home.

Respondents also gave the following reasons as the root cause of CLaT in the communities:

(not in any special order)

- Poverty due to declining livelihoods (especially fishing) to the extent that the children cannot be catered for.
- Single-parent female-headed families are very susceptible especially where the female head has no sustainable income.
- Divorced women with children from previous relationships who remarry other men are tricked into getting rid of the children by selling them off into child work by their new partners.
- Single women with children with ‘troublesome character’ give them off to other men. This is so that the children could “have a father-figure or disciplinarian around,” but ends up with bitter experiences or been sold.
- Homes where the fathers do not honor their responsibilities of catering for the children, this includes providing them with the basic necessities of life.
- Inadequacy of social amenities in the coastal fishing areas and deprivation make life elsewhere appear better. Therefore parents give out their children hoping for better life for them.
- Large family sizes due to inadequate access to birth spacing (family planning) commodities was noted as a contributing factor for CLaT.
- Some families migrate and ensemble as workers and sometimes the whole family are engaged as laborer including the children.

Many respondents said child-employees are not as expensive to engage compared to adults. Meanwhile they are usually more hard-working than adult employees. This notion has contributed to the entrenchment of CLaT practices. The respondent also explained that:

- Traffickers prey on vulnerable households and either clandestinely lure young children away, or pay such households some money and make promises of remittances that hardly are honored.
- Children without proper parental care identify more with their peers and friends than with own families, so they become easy prey for traffickers and or child labor employers.
- Children, who are not academically good, or do not get school items for school due to poverty or poor parenting are easily lured by strangers or ‘been-tos’ to abandon their family and join them in El Dorado for a ‘better life’ that hardly ever is.

- Large family where the parents are unable to provide and control the children makes the children in the family susceptible to CLaT. Interestingly, many families gave tangible reasons for raising large families, they said, when they have large family size, they are assured there will be adult-children supporting them in their old age. Some of them noted that, they were trying to have a particular sex of child and when this did not happen they had large number of children.



Fig 2.1 The elderly working for doles of fish (left) and grandparents keeping the fort in youth's absence (left)



Figure 2.2 Under-age children working alongside adults on the beach



Fig 2.3 Children gutting fish paid them to sell (left) and pupils loitering off school hours at the beach (right).

The vicious cycle of teenage pregnancy and its contribution to the perpetuation of CLaT was expressed by field team members who coincidentally lived in Biriwa (one of the communities visited). He unequivocally stated that the high rate of pregnancy among young girls is as a result of child labor in the community. It was also learnt that girls as young as ten were sent out to trade, while others sleep outside their home due to congestion and fall prey to boys and men who impregnate them. These ‘‘baby-mothers’’ are highly susceptible to giving their children out easily, and also offer themselves cheaply for labor and further sexual exploitation. Such children go through ‘‘worst forms of child labor at the expense of formal education’’ he intoned.

It was noted that the situation where men shirked their responsibilities and over-burdened women should be discouraged and opined that both teenagers and adults who are sexually active should be availed opportunities of accessing reproductive health services.

3.0 DATA ANALYSES

The analysis of data collected from the 762 households interviewed was categorized under the following headings;

- Economic, Livelihoods and Income.
- Activities engaged in by children involved in fishing practices.
- Child Education.
- Households who give/ gave out their children.
- Community leadership & structures in reference to child welfare.
- Reasons why household give out their children.
- Access to Family Planning Services

Though there are laws restricting child labor, its existence is on the high side in the coastal fishing communities. The International Labor Organization (ILO) reports that children work the longest hours and are the worst paid of all laborers (*Bequele and Boyden 1988*). They endure work conditions which include health hazards and potential abuse. Employers capitalize on the docility of the children recognizing that these laborers cannot legally form unions to change their conditions. Such manipulation stifles the development of youths.

In many Ghana, the minimum working age of eighteen (18) is higher than the required age of compulsory education which is fifteen (15). Therefore barring children access to employment after they have even completed the minimum amount of schooling is hard for communities and families to comprehend. However, when impoverished children are allowed to work legally, they will often abandon school to better their family's condition as found out during the survey. Because the minimum age requirement for work is greater than the compulsory schooling age, children who have completed the required schooling must stay inactive for a period of time before they can legally work. For example, when a poor child from a coastal fishing community finishes the required schooling at 15 years of age, that child is not supposed to work until the age of eighteen (18). Such an expectation seems unreasonable. It is worth noting that, some respondents said they do not work with children. "We only work with people who are twelve (12) years and above". For many community folk, twelve (12) years of age, is mature. However, Ghanaian laws describe a child as any one yet to attain the age of eighteen (18).

Children work for a variety of reasons. The most important is poverty due to declining fishing livelihoods. Children work to ensure the survival of their family and themselves. Though children are not well-paid, they still serve as major contributors to family income in communities. That is, if that child is able to bring something home, it helps the whole family in a way. However, the future quality of that child's life is sacrificed to satisfy the exigencies of today. This is "like eating all of one's eggs – no chicken for tomorrow" – a Fante proverb states'.

Schooling problems contribute to child labor. Many times children seek employment simply because there is no access to schools (distance, no school at all, boredom or repetitive routine). When there is access, the low quality of the education often makes attendance a waste of time for the pupils. In this context, a few pupils who do well at the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) and their

families do not have the means for them to continue to the Senior High School. As such, in a regular case, that child if he or she had never worked at all will still start working at age fifteen (15) or sixteen (16) which is still below the legal age of eighteen.

Because parents have so much control over their children, their perception of the value of school is a main determinant of child attendance. Parents who are educated understand the importance of schooling from personal experience. As a result, parental education plays a large role in determining child schooling and employment (Tienda 1979). School attendance by a child is also highly correlated with family income (Ilon and Moock 1991). Therefore, when children drop out of school, it is not necessarily because of irresponsible parenting; it may be due to the family's financial situation. When these children leave school, they become potential workers.

3.1 Economic, Livelihoods and Income

3.1.1 Livelihood Activities

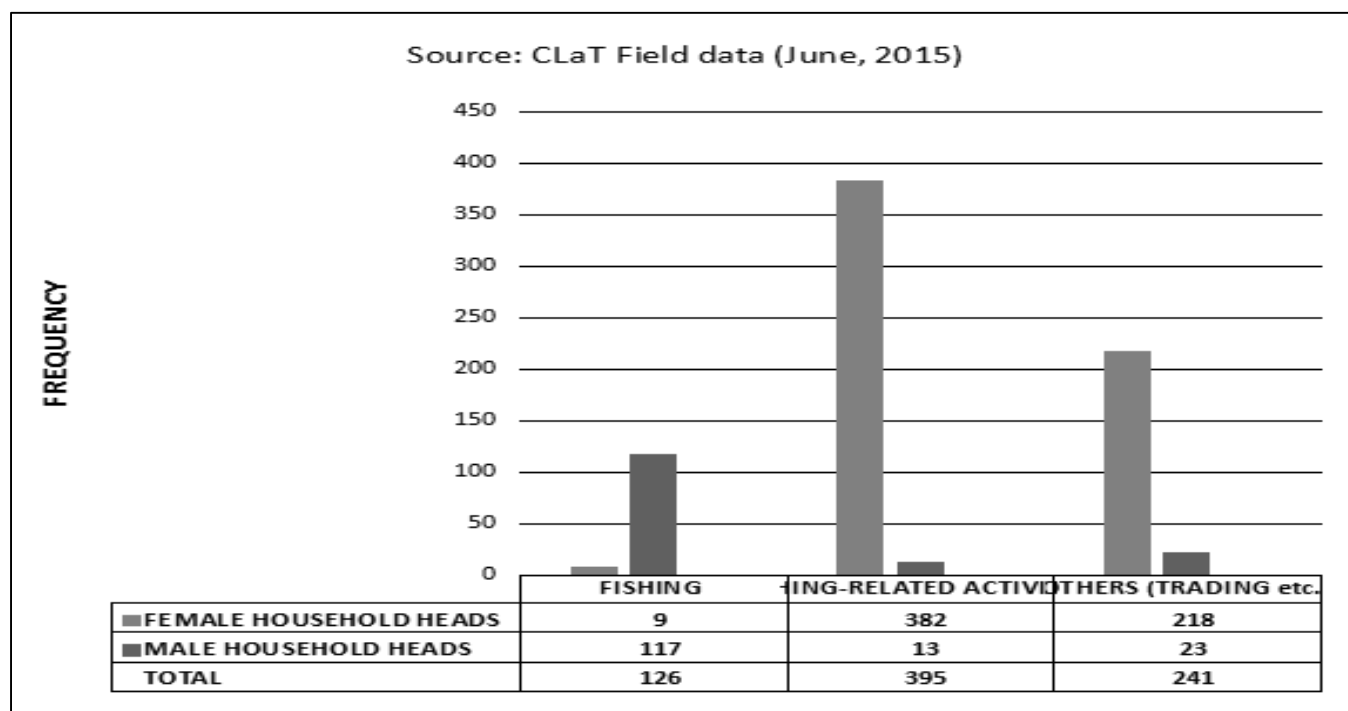
The survey revealed that the major livelihood activity/activities for 762 households interviewed were; offshore and near shore fishing, onshore fisheries related activities and other activities including trading.

About 395 (52%) of the 762 households interviewed were involved in onshore fisheries related activities such as, fish mongering, processing and marketing, hulling of nets at the shore, carrying of fish from canoes, general canoe repairs, net mending, etc. About 97% of the 395 were women and they mostly engaged in fish processing, mongering, storage, wholesaling and retailing.

The next level livelihood were those engaged in petty trading such as sale of; gari, sugar, vegetables, cooking oil, cassava, sachet water, sugar cane, clothing and other items. This constituted 241 (32%) of the 762 households interviewed, 90% of this 241 were women.

The last livelihood level was canoe/boat owners and people who go to sea and engage in proper fishing activities (fishermen). This constituted 126 (17%) of the 762 households interviewed and 7% of this 126 were women who owned canoe, nets or other fishing gears but they were not involved in the actual offshore fishing activities. It was also revealed that some of the fishermen in this category were migrants who came to do fishing in the communities. It was also revealed that some of the indigenous fishermen from the communities also moved to other areas to do fishing after the major fishing season. See fig 3.1.1 below that shows the graphical representation of household heads and livelihood activities.

Fig 3.1.1 Graphical representation of household heads and livelihood activities



3.1.2 Income Levels

This data was collected in June 2015 and the information revealed that, daily income levels were not uniform (it goes up in the major fishing season and drops afterwards). However respondents said the overall household income ranged from ‘zero’ to more than fifty Ghana cedis’ (GHS50) per day for the whole household. (See, figure 3.1.2 below).

This overall household income range was extrapolated from the income range of the individual working members of the household. In some of the households it was only the household head who earned income to support the house. However in cases where other household members also earned income, the commutative daily income for all the working members of the household was used.

(In January 2015, the National Tripartite Committee negotiating with the government increased the minimum wage from GHS6 to GHS7. The increment took effect from January 1, 2015 with a further recommendation that the increment should be tax exempt. This therefore is the current national minimum wage and the base pay for public sector workers for the year 2015. For private sector workers, this does not apply (no clear figures available). However in the informal sector (like artisanal fisheries), labor rates are not regulated and opens a leeway for exploitation. A critical note of this should be made of the fact that even if a household head responded to earning more than GHS50 per day, it is only during the fishing season which totals less than six months in total per annum. This is unlike the formal sector worker who earns income constantly throughout the year).

During this survey, it was found out that many households also live on ‘nothing’ in terms of money for a long time, existing virtually on the benevolence of others. Indeed one visibly sick woman mentioned her profession as a ‘beggar’ - ‘I beg for fish at the beach’ – she answered. It was obvious she is not strong enough to indulge even in the lightest work for money.

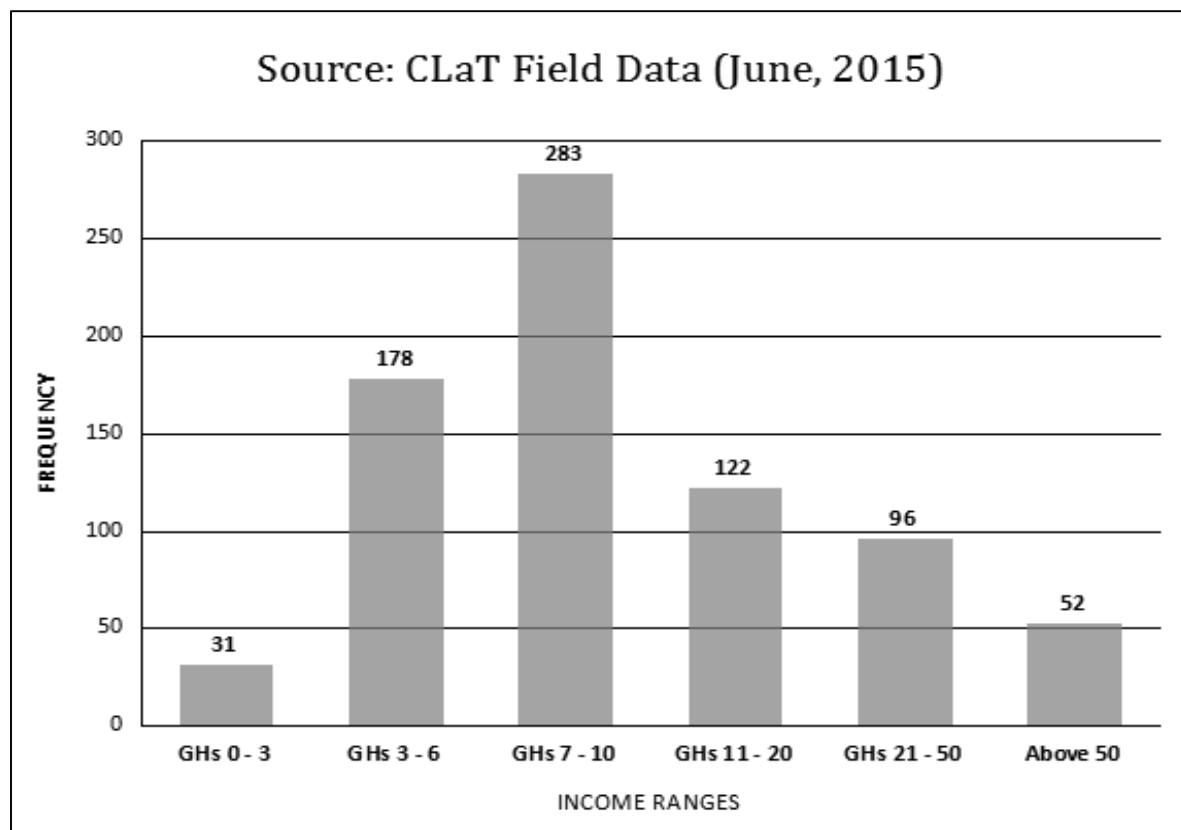
Most of the respondents explained that sometimes they do not get actual money but rather items including fish which they exchange for other items they need (e.g. exchanging fish for vegetables, etc). About 4% of the households interviewed said that their income were between GHS0.00 -GHS3.00 per day during the major fishing season, they explained that they engaged in menial jobs including; hauling of nets at the shore, carrying of fish from canoes, general canoe repairs, net mending, etc. Others said they were unemployed. This category also included single-mothers who were unemployed and would give out their children to work for others. The single mothers explained that sometimes they were paid with fish which they sell or exchange part of it for other items like vegetables, kerosene or cooking oil to enable them take care of the homes.

23% of households interviewed got incomes of between GHS3.00-6.00, 37% get GHS7.00 -10.00, 16% get GHS11.00-GHS21.00 all those in this category earning income between GHS3.00 to GHS21.00 a day during the major fishing season were those who work on fishing canoes as crew members, the women fish mongers and processors and those who do other jobs like repairs on canoes or engaged in petty trading.

13% get GHS21.00 -GHS50.00 and 7% get more than GHS50.00 a day during the major fishing season and these are those with boats and the canoe owners and some the large scale fish mongers/processes, gear sellers and other investors.

All respondents indicated that their incomes drop after the major season is over.

3.1.2 Graphical representation of average daily income range



From the chart, the majority of the people interviewed 37% (283) indicated that they get daily income of GHS7.00-10.00 during the major fishing season, however most of them indicated that their income reduce to as low as GHS0.00 when the season is over.

3.2 Activities Engaged in by Children Involved in Fishing Practices

The survey revealed that most children especially from the age of 5 in the coastal fishing communities were involved in fishing-related activities because it has being a cultural practice for children to support the family livelihood. However respondents revealed that more children are being forced into severe and full-time fisheries work due to increasing poverty levels.

The practice of children involvement in all kinds of fishing-related activities is seen as a way of life; and with no law enforcement activities, or incentives to keep children in school, life at the beach eking livelihoods for themselves in support of families have become a matter of course. It is at the beach that the children start their ‘training’.

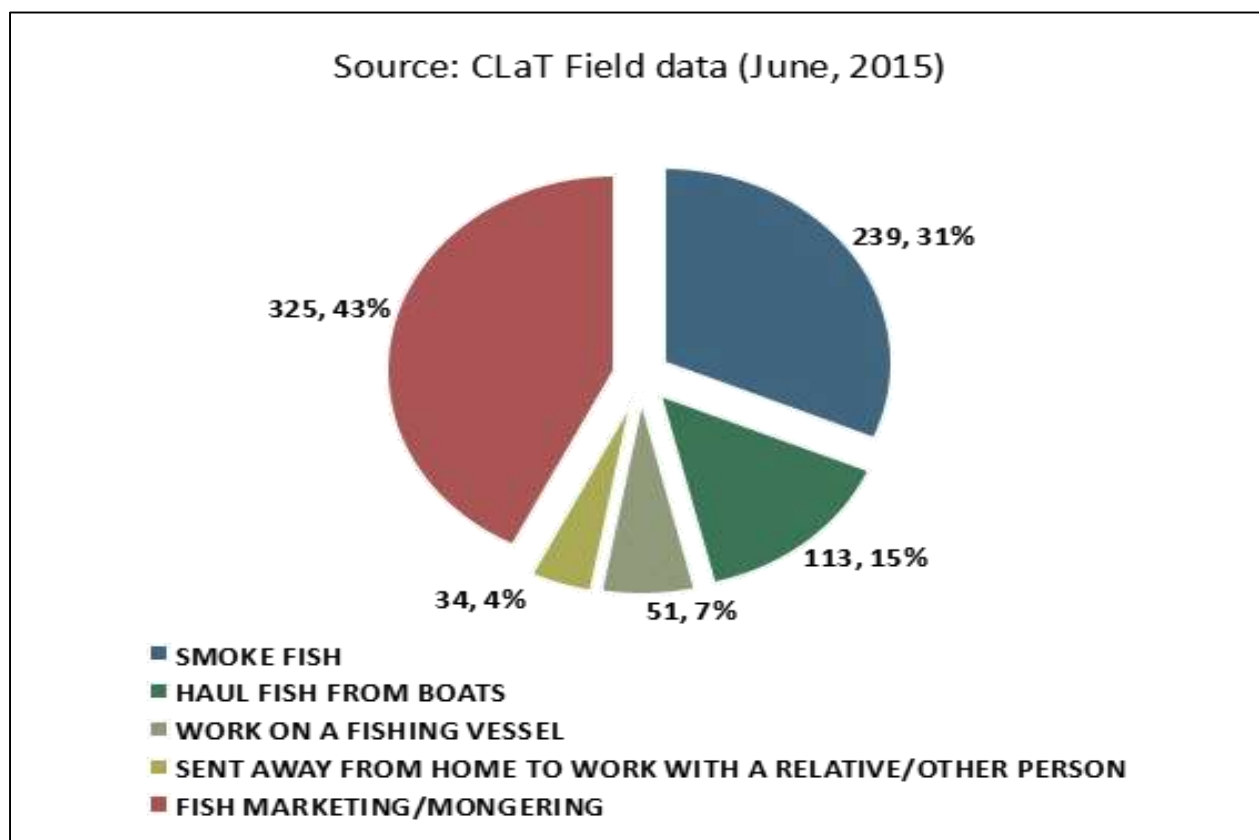
All (100%) of the children especially from the age of 5years in the households interviewed engaged in fishing or fishing related activities. About 30% of these children attended school regularly, however these children engage in fish-related activities after school, during holiday, school vacation and or weekends. 70% of the children were out of school and these children are engaged in full-time fisheries work.

Of the 762 households interviewed, 43% responded that they engage their children in fish mongering and marketing; with a further. 31% responding that they engaged them in fish smoking.

15% said their children were engaged in hauling of fish from the canoes, 7% said they work on fishing vessels that goes fishing on the sea. Hauling of fish or working on fishing vessels (canoes) are usually not for immediate family members (eg household head).

4% responded that, in times of need, they gave out their children to work with relatives of other persons in other communities, areas or other countries. Three women household heads responded that they gave out their sons to go and work for others (males) so that those boys could have father-figures and disciplinarians around them since they were going wayward. See fig. 3.2 below

Fig 3.2. Activities engaged in by children involved in fishing practices



About 22% of Respondents indicated that all their children work for them, and about 78% indicated that they allow some of their children to work for others at certain periods but not on regular basis. 34 households out of this 78% indicated that they send their children out to work with others in other communities, areas or countries. The rest of the 78% indicated that they allow their children to work for others in the same community.

3.3 Child Education

About 70% of respondents indicated that their children of school-going age (children below 15 years) were not in School. Out of this 24% said they took their children to school but they stopped on their own (these were children from the age of 7 years to 18, they indicated that 90% of the children in this category dropped out of school at the primary school level).

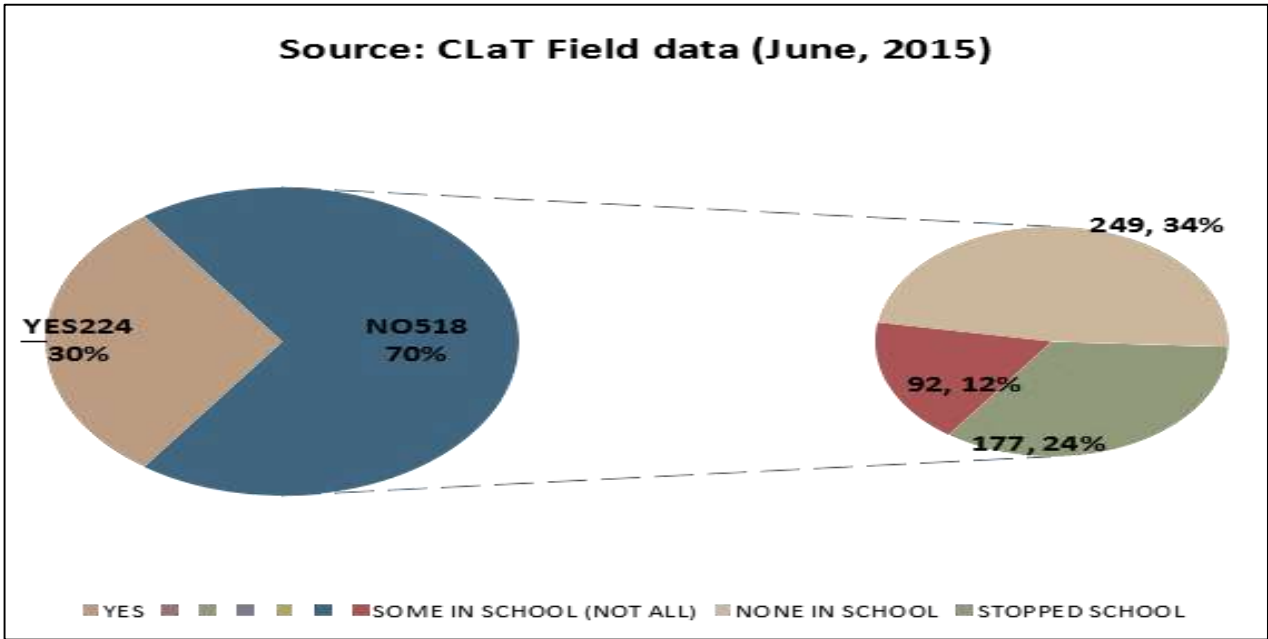
34% out of the 70% said none of the children of school going age in the household were in school, 12% said some of the children of school going age were in school but not all of them.

Children of school-going age' were defined by the households as children below the age of 15 years and these are children in the primary school.

According to respondents, most of the 30% of children who were in school do not go to school regularly, especially during the major fishing seasons. It was learned that parents or guardians could barge into classrooms to request of teachers for their children or wards to go and help them at the beach to which the teachers dare not refuse for reasons like insults, or threat to totally withdraw the child from school.

Disturbingly, it was learned that some teenagers of both sexes themselves sometimes go out on their own during school hours to work at the beach, with their teachers allowing the practice because they know that working at the beach is the only way the child could pay his/her school fees. This category of children mainly falls within the bracket that works to pay their school fees for themselves. See fig 3.3 below

Fig 3.3 Children of school going age attending school

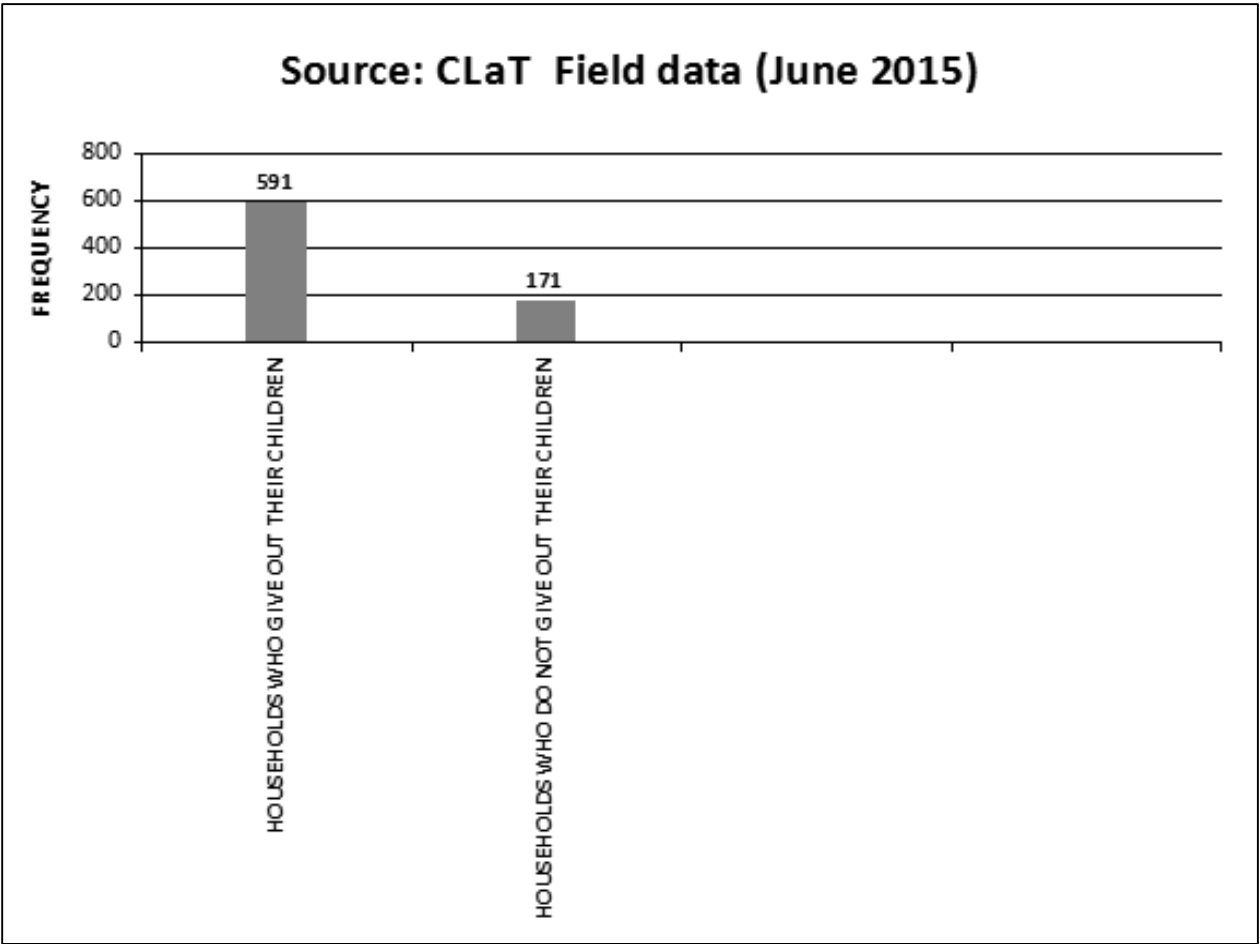


3.4 Households who give/ gave out their children out

From responses, it was clear more than two-thirds (about 78%) of the 762 interviewees give out their children, or have given out their children to work for others (for the family’s survival). 34 households out of this 78% indicated that they send their children out to work with others in other communities, areas or countries. The rest of the 78% indicated that they allow their children to work for others in the same community. 15 households of this 78% indicated that they gave out their children so that they could have father-figures to instill discipline in them (This came from some single-women with children with the fathers not caring for the kids). Clearly, boys were given out at a slightly earlier age than girls. This is due to the type of work they are engaged in.

About 22% of the households interviewed have never given out their children to work for others but used their in the families’ own economic activities to work. (see fig 3.4 below showing a graphical representation of households who give/ gave out their children out). This means that 100% of children are engaged in work though the intensity differs from families that ‘give out their children out’, to families that ‘do not give out their children’ to work for others.

Fig 3.4 Graphical representation of households who give/ gave out their children



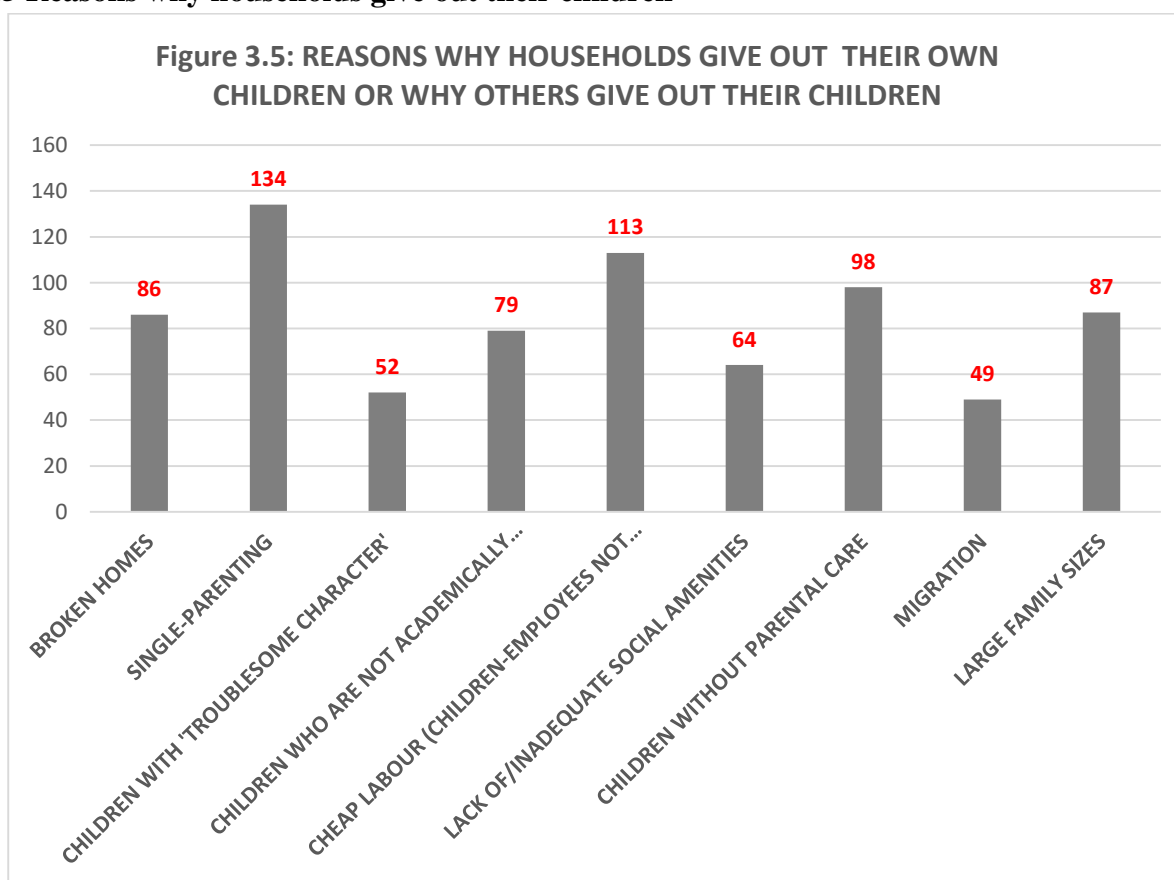
3.5 Reasons Why Households Give out Their Children or Why Some Children Went into Child Labor and Trafficking.

Respondents revealed that poverty and deprivation due to declining fishing livelihoods was the fundamental reason for CLaT practices. Other additional reasons given as follows:

18% (134) of the 762 households interviewed revealed that households gave their children out because they were single parents (all these were single-parent female-headed single-headed household heads). 15% (113) of the 762 said people gave their children out because they were cheap labor in high demand and easily employable. 13% (98) said children were sent or went into CLaT because they did not have adequate parental care. 11% (87) said because the children did not have parental care either both parents were away and a relative or family friend was taking care of them; or their parents were ‘irresponsible’.

Another 11% (86) said the children went into CLaT because they were from broken homes where none of the parents took care of them well. 10% (79) said children who were not academically good went into CLaT. 8% (64) said lack of adequate social amenities pushed parents to send their children to other areas to do child labor because they want better life for them. 7% said children with troublesome character are sent into CLaT and 6% (49) said people who migrate with their children allow their children to also work to support the family. See fig 3.5 below which shows a graphical representation of the reasons.

Fig 3.5 Reasons why households give out their children



3.6 Community leadership & structures in reference to child welfare

Almost all the respondents said there were good leadership structure and leadership in the communities that could address CLaT issues in the communities. However they explained that a *laissez-faire* attitude of these leaders' stems from the fact that children belong to individual families and parents first and foremost, before the community comes in.

It was revealed that in most of the communities visited, it was commonplace for leaders to be humiliated with insinuations when they try to admonish practices of poor-parenting. Interestingly, many children in the communities also challenge the moral authority of the adults to advise them, because they claim the adults do not take care of them and as such are not responsible.

It was also revealed that there were few organizations working for Children's welfare, education and anti-CLaT initiatives. Notable amongst those mentioned by the communities are Challenging Heights in Winneba, CAMFED and Compassion International in Mfantseman and Ekumfi areas, and International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Ekumfi-Immuna and Ekumfi-Narkwa communities in Ekumfi District; and CEWEFIA in Elmina areas, etc.

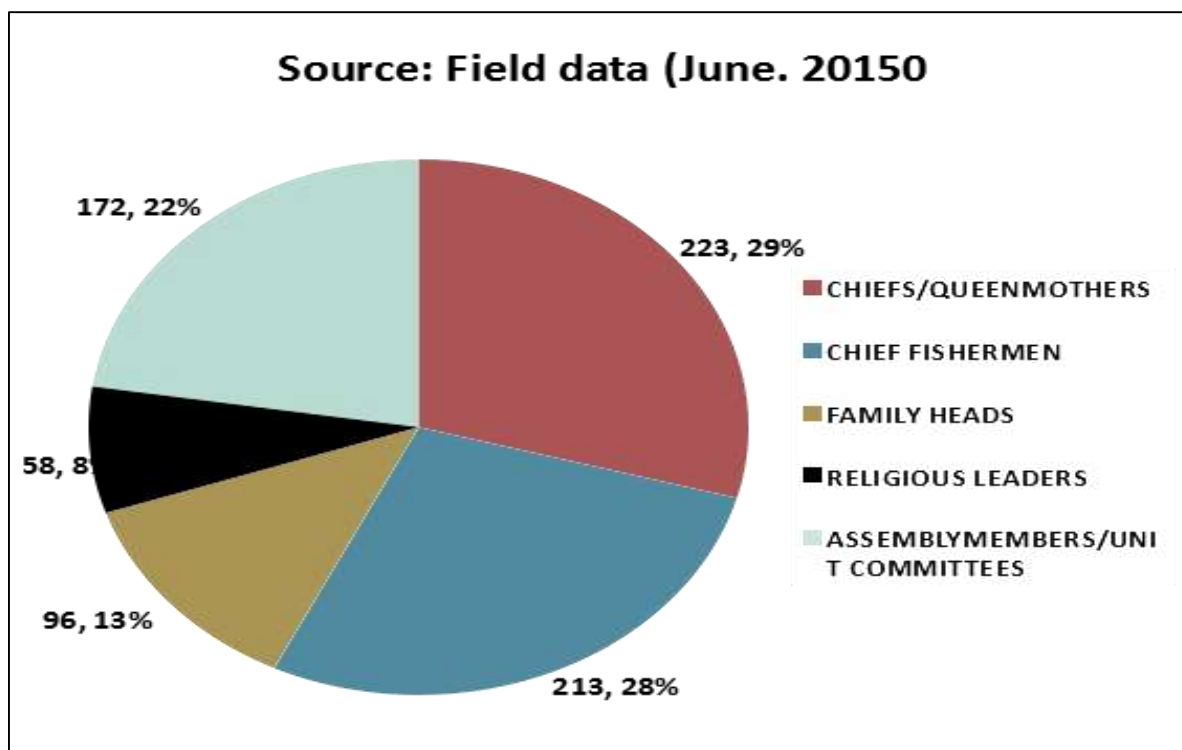
29% of the households interviewed said they see traditional leaders as key community leaders who can solve the CLaT issues in their communities, 28% said chief fishermen could ensure that children do not engage in CLaT at the beaches or work in canoes.

22% said Assembly members, along with stakeholders could enact and enforce bye-laws by the District Assemblies, 13% said family heads could ensure that family members take good care of their children and stop them from giving their children out or working with them.

During the validation workshop of field findings, Nana Kwamena Ababio III, Chief Fisherman of Atimkwaa said some children are already eager and happy to work for their families who are already into fishing as the activity is usually a family livelihood activity. In this regard, most children enjoy working rather than schooling because they earn 'something small'. In his opinion, this is 'child labor' if it is done to the neglect of the child's education or training. He also opined that it is very easy for a child already engaged in work in his or her own community to be trafficked. So stakeholders should be vigilant of such situation because it is difficult to try and deal with such situation 'once it has happened' he concluded.

8% said religious leaders could talk and advise parents to take care of their children and also talk against child trafficking. Fig 3.6. below shows community leaders who have links with children welfare and can help solve CLaT.

Fig 3.6 Community leaders having links with Children's welfare



3.7 Social Reasons Given for Large Family Sizes

As mentioned earlier, lack or inadequate parental care for children and wards is attributable to the high birth rate of teenagers in the coastal fishing communities. This is because of unprotected sex leading to pregnancy among teenage girls (and women) were very high. Also, married couples were not spacing their child birth.

Most men interview indicated that they were not interested in condom use as they say “it does not feel the same” with it on. Few women who want their men to use protection are labeled sluts and therefore don’t want to be unjustifiably stigmatized with bad labeling.

It was also revealed that the desire for a particular sex of a child was another reason for the high birthrates in the communities visited. So when a woman (or a couple) first had a boy for instance, she (or they) tried to get a girl next time. If she (or they) are unlucky) and keep on having the same type of sex of baby over and over again, it facilitates the situation of one woman having many children. Male partners of women who fall into the above situation also go behind them to “try their luck” with other women.

Poverty and hunger, coupled with the presence of a large army of children and families contribute to the cheap and rampant exchange children for a fee to engage them in labor.

22% of respondents said they would have the same number of children again if they have the chance to start all over again. 78% said they would have a fewer number of children so they could take better care of them. There was no indication of respondents wishing they had had more children though that line of interviewing was not pursued. It was however clear that they believed in having children so they could be taken care of in their old age—a form of insurance.

The interviews revealed, however, that a lot of women are especially scared of effects of hormonal method of contraception as they get negative feedbacks from their peers or associates that use them and mostly men were not keen on the condom use.

3.8 Access to Family Planning Services and Commodities

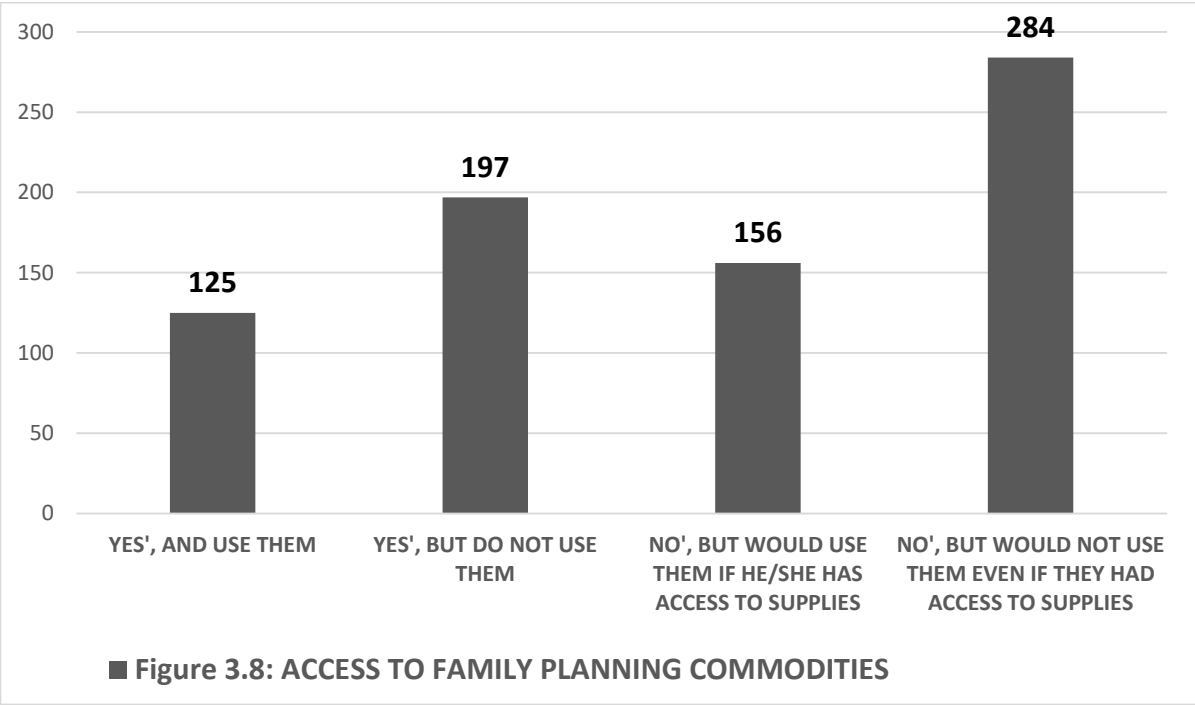
38% of the household heads interviewed said they do not have access to family planning and birth spacing services but they said they will not use them even if they had access. 26% said they have access to family planning and birth spacing services but they do not use them.

20% said they do not have access to family planning and birth spacing services but they said they would rather use them if they had access. 16% they have access to family planning and birth spacing services and they said they use them. Currently, family planning services are not free though it is subsidized through making the commodities and services relatively cheap compared to other medical services. The Ministry of Health and the Ghana Health Service (GHS) in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) plans to incorporate family planning services for mothers into the free maternal care under the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) in the country.

The sector Minister announced this at the launch of the Dissemination of the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction in Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMMA) Accountability Report and the Maternal and New Born Health Week Celebration in Accra, saying “It is to make sure that every woman has access to a family planning facility”. President John Dramani Mahama, who performed the launch, pledged the government’s commitment to allocate more resources to build more health care centers and train more midwives to ensure the delivery of timely and efficient health care to pregnant women. There are community-based ‘chemical shops’ or drug stores where family planning commodities can be accessed at a fee. For more services, one has to visit the nearest accredited health facility which on average, is about 5km from the communities. The more urbanized communities, the more access points they have (e.g. Senya-Beraku, Winneba, Apam, Saltpond, Anomabo, Moree, Cape-Coast and Elmina have relatively a lot of both government and privately operated health facilities and, shops selling family planning commodities. However in most other communities that were visited, there are few drug stores that are not licensed to sell much apart from ‘basic’ off the counter medicaments, and male condoms. Female condoms are rare in the system. Though it is evident that unmarried and non-economically active teenager- girls are having unprotected sex and are also giving birth thus worsening the economic situation of their own selves, their families, and their communities, many are unwilling to be provided with services to space child-birth. Indeed, in the rural coastal fishing communities (and many parts of the peri-urban areas within cities like Accra and Tema), child-bearing is regarded as a status symbol for females and anyone who is into her late teens and had not had a child is made fun of. So as poverty and inadequate access to birth spacing

services contributes to rising population, social expectation and peer pressure also add to the woes of the coastal fishing area teenage-dweller and aggravates the already precarious situation in many families.

Fig 3.8 (below) shows the graphical representation of the access to family planning services.



4.0 CONCLUSION

Child Labor and Trafficking (CLaT) is widespread in C/R as most families are desperately poor. In most of the communities parents and guardians are dispatching off their children for a pittance. Young teenagers on their own also organize themselves and ‘escape’ from their communities either on foot, or by hiring out labor to raise money for transportation fare. Young boys, who cannot pay their fares readily, are taken on-board “trafficking vehicles” on “credit” and pay after working for a master for some time in some communities along the Volta Lake banks universally referred to as Yeji.

The trend of poverty persists because of two main issues; non-enforcement and education of fisheries laws and regulations; and of the denial of education, blocking the escape route of poverty for the next generation for the household. Attempts to eliminate child labor and trafficking have most of the time failed because of the desperate poverty levels and high rate of illiteracy. Poor parents are unable to send their children to school either because of high cost of schooling or inaccessibility. This is attributable to low incomes as a result of depleting fish catches in the artisanal fishery sector. It is important to note that cultural pressures also undermine value for long-term education especially for the girl-child and the rural-boy who perceives an easy escape by way of fisheries. In most cases poor parents who have tried all strategies for survival and after failing, give off, or sell their kids.

Without let, CLaT activities within the fisheries sector has been going on for over five (5) decades and the challenge is an enormous one as some perpetrators and victims see it as a favour being done them. One respondent explained:

“There is poverty and hunger and someone is helping your family to put bread on the table and also take away some of your burden (children), who are a liability to feed. This is a benevolent act to support the family isn’t it?”

Poverty, Deprivation, Large family sizes, illiteracy, poor parenting, etc were identified as the root causes of CLaT. According to the Ghana Child Labor Survey (GCLS, 2003), 2 in every 5 children aged 5-17 years have engaged in economic activity before. The study showed that a higher proportion of children engaged in economic activity in rural areas (39.7%). The worrying part is, there is evidence of children as young as five years old engaged in economic activities (Ghana Child Labor Survey, GSS, 2003). As recent as 2008 studies indicated that 13 percent of 4.7million children surveyed aged 7-14 were economically active (Ghana Child Labor Survey, GSS, 2008) in sectors such as agriculture (89.3 percent of working children in rural areas), fishing (2.3 percent) and petty trading (3.3 percent). This means that a significant proportion of the time and energy of children in Ghana, especially those in rural areas, is taken up by work rather than education. This situation invariably places the development and normal growth of children at risk and prevents them from realizing their full potential.

This survey report by FoN and the SFMP will be shared with stakeholders (especially the relevant Ministries, Agencies, Assemblies and communities Leaders, NGOs and CSOs, the Media and development partners. The SFMP will also collaborate with all these stakeholders and with them work to contribute to addressing the CLaT issues. It is therefore, the hope of the project that stakeholders also carry out their duties and roles toward addressing CLaT and contribute to improved child development in Ghana.

5.0 RECOMENDATIONS

The findings in this report points to certain implications for local communities, District Assemblies, Government Agencies and both the international and local NGO community. Further studies into this subject are recommended to help prescribe sustainable interventions for the child, and for the family.

By establishing partnerships with humanitarian organizations, the stakeholders can focus on immediately solving the remediable problems of working children.

The situation of the prevalence of Child labor and trafficking in C/R is the result of poverty, deprivation, poor parenting, inadequate resources and also inefficiency of child labor inspectors among other factors discussed earlier in this report. Several laws have been passed by the Government of Ghana on child labor and trafficking also Ghana has signed three (3) key international treaties that ban certain practices of child labor. There is also the Children's act of 1998 and the labor act of 2003, both of which address child labor in detail. Article 28 of the 1992 constitution prohibits labor considered as injurious to the health, education or development of the child. Adequate measures should therefore be put in place to implement and enforce the laws and treaties; this will contribute to addressing the issues of CLaT in Ghana.

Addressing the fundamental cause of poverty in Ghana especially in coastal fishing communities in the Central Region is important to halting these CLaT practices. Poverty and related conditions will only contribute to a situation where poor parents who can hardly fend for themselves and their children will continue to send their under-aged children to work under unfavorable conditions.

Developing a Strategy

Rigid enforcement of fisheries laws in all coastal fishing communities will contribute to sustaining the fishing livelihoods and improve the fortunes for coastal dwellers who can in turn invest income in education, quality child care and training of their children. Responsible parenting, manageable family sizes via child birth spacing, etc. are very important to addressing the problem. Parents should also be held responsible for their children. Stakeholders including; Government, traditional leaders, CSOs, Media, private sector, etc. should support public education and sensitization to make child labor and trafficking socially unacceptable. School represents the most important means of drawing children away from the labor market. Studies have correlated low enrollment with increased rates of child employment (ILO 1992).

School provides children with guidance and the opportunity to understand their role in society. Therefore, many insist on immediately abolishing child labor in developing countries and requiring children to go to school. Yet this approach is unfeasible for a number of reasons. First, children will not attend these schools without an economic change in their condition. Schools must make it worthwhile for children to attend in order to make up for lost earnings. One necessary provision is that these schools be free. Another possibility is that these schools serve food supplements. Parents might view this nutrition as valuable and therefore keep their children in school. The quality of education can also be improved so that schooling is considered an important factor in the future success of a child. It is only after introduction of such substitutes will school attendance increase.

Another problem with complete abolition of child labor is that education and employment for children are not mutually exclusive. As mentioned previously, many children work and go to school. In fact, many children have to work to go to school; otherwise, they could not afford the tuition and other fees associated with attendance. This underscores the fact that child labor and education may work together in many cases. As mentioned above, specialization allows some children to acquire an education through support of their working siblings. The result of abolishing child labor would then be a reduction in the educational attainment of a population.

The analysis above leads to certain implications for the stakeholders:

- Collect/study child labor data and devise interventions that allow for the possibility of children being in school and working.
- Improve the quality of schooling by investing in education so as to increase its value to children and parents.
- Provide subsidies to poor families prone to having working children so they can afford their children's schooling (income subsidies, nutritional supplements); and
- Establish partnerships of international organizations dedicated to improving children's lives.

There must also be the increase in the number of child labor and trafficking inspectors to check CLaT cases. Prosecution of CLaT cases should be strengthened to ensure that culprits are duly punished by the legal processes. Therefore a comprehensive approach to address prevention, protection and prosecution of CLaT is recommended. This approach could include an educational component to inform people about the elements of the crime of trafficking. Educational programs for stakeholders, community champions and the media to eliminate all ambiguities on CLaT. It will be helpful for all involved in the fight against CLaT to have an identical or unified set of jargon for operation (e.g. If people are not clear on the “definition” of CLaT as understood from the surveys, it might be useful to educate them. For instance, it might be helpful to categorize the crimes of CLaT into:

1. “Actions,” such as recruiting/transporting
2. “Means,” such as fraud/coercion
3. “Purpose” being labor exploitation.

It will be useful for stakeholders, especially at the grassroots to educate perpetrators so that they understand how their actions and involvement violate national and international laws. The problem of insufficient labor inspectors or labor inspectors not doing their work well also thwarts efforts to eliminate child labor. Better-trained and well-resourced labor inspectors must be in place to address the problem. Also a multi-sectorial approach should be adopted to address the issues of CLaT.

To eliminate child labor and to improve human capital in Ghana, the government must improve schooling and formal education. The recent school feeding program is a good step taken by the government of Ghana to reduce child labor to some extent. The free basic school uniform given out to pupils will go a long way to reduce child labor, also reduction in the cost of schooling and expanding the School feeding program to all schools in coastal communities in C/R by government will put more children in school and reduce the burden on parents. Educational system must also be made relevant to

the needs of the labor market. When the country's schooling system provides all these things, more families may decide that schooling is viable option as opposed to child labor.

With children not very interested in remaining in school or continuing beyond the first-cycle, educational facilities should be made more child-friendly and incentive-driven for teachers therein to give of their best. The Integrated approach of development through the “*Population Health and Environment*” (PHE) model should be promoted to foster inter-agency collaboration amongst the sectors. Capacity enhancement of the coastal fishing communities/Districts to plan, implement and carry out demand-driven integrated programs in health and conservation should be paid attention.

The Central Region where this survey took place in June 2015 is reputed to be the fourth poorest region in Ghana after the three Northern regions. Coupled with the resource of availability of the sea, it is not surprising that, children from this area coming from backgrounds of seething poverty end up being trafficked to engage in child labor in fishing in other areas.

The Millennium Development Goals expires in 2015. The UN system has begun efforts at determining the next development agenda. The UN has targeted 50 countries, including Ghana, for national consultations on the post MDG agenda. It is an expectation that Ghana will push the issues of children without parental care to the fore.

Clearly the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, has a responsibility of ensuring that Ghana's voice is heard in the Post-Millennium Development Goals¹ agenda. The UN then set targets around poverty reduction, universal primary education, gender equality, reducing child mortality, and improving maternal health among others.

A few policy options are proposed as possible solutions to CLaT in the coastal fishing communities in Central Region. These include:

1. Improving access to quality basic education;
2. Implementing social protection schemes such as:
 - i) unconditional transfers, and
 - ii) conditional transfers.
3. Improving access to services such as potable water, schools and clinics to reduce the time spent by children and their families in accessing them.
4. Improved child care, responsible parenting and improving family planning education and services to poor and rural communities.

¹ The MDGs are eight international development goals that were established officially after the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000.

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Appendix 1

QUESTIONNAIRE

INTRODUCTION

This Survey instrument (questionnaire) is being administered as part of activities under the Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) sponsored by the United States International Development Agency (USAID) and implemented by the University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Centre (URI-CRC) as lead; with partners including Hen Mpoano, Friends of the Nation, SNV, DAA, CEWEFIA, DAASGIFT and Spatial Solutions.

This survey is being carried out to understand how children are involved in fisheries related work and the drivers for such practices. Information gathered from this survey will inform project planning and implementation to contribute to addressing the issues.

It is in line with the above that the project seeks to have a few minutes of your time to get your views on the questions below. We would also solicit your agreement to willingly participate in this exercise by signing the consent form attached.

Questionnaire

1. Name of Community & District;.....
2. Name of household:
3. Location of household (area/landmark):
4. H/No (if any):.....
5. Name of interviewee.....
6. Is this household indigenous or migrant to this community? YES / NO
7. Who is the head/ bread winner of the household?
 - a. Father; b. Mother; c. Other (please specify).....
8. What is the civil status of the head /bread winner of household?
 - a. Married; b. Separated; c. Divorced; d. Single; e. Widowed
9. How many persons are in this household?
 - a. Number of males (); b. Number of females ()
 - a. How many of them are your biological children, and dependents?
 - i. Number of biological.....; ii. Number of 'dependents'
 - iii. What are the ages of the members of this household?.....
0– 5 (); 6-10 (); 11-14 (); 15-18 (), 18 and above ()

How many of these are in school?**ECONOMIC & LIVELIHOODS**

- 10.** What are the major livelihood activity (ies) this household is involved in?
a. None (); **b.** Fishing (); **c.** Fish processing (); **d.** Fish marketing (mongering, retailing, wholesaling); **e.** Other (specify).....
- 11.** What is the average daily income range?
a. None (); **b.** GHs 0-3; GHs 4-6 (); **c.** GHs 7-10, **d.** GHs11-20 (); **e.** GHs21-50 ();
f. above GHs 50 (); **g.** Other (specify).....
- 12.** Do any of your dependents/children help you in your work? YES / NO
a. If 'yes', what are their ages?
b. Number of girls.....
c. Number of boys.....
d. What kind (nature) of work do they do for you?.....
- 13.** Do you know or have heard of people in this community who give/gave out their children to work for others? If Yes/ No.
- 14.** Do you give or have given children from this household out to work for or with others?
a. What were their ages when they were sent away?
i. Number of girls.....
ii. Number of boys.....
b. Why do/did they give away the children to work for others?
c. Where are/were they sent to work?.....
d. Who did/do they go to work with?
i. Immediate relative; **ii.** Distant relative; **iii.** Someone from your ethnic group or with family connections to other community, **iv.** Total Stranger.
e. What work were they sent to do?
- 15.** If 'no', would you ever send your children to work for others: YES / NO ?
- 16.** If 'yes', under what circumstances would you be willing to send your children to work for others?
- 17.** In your own view, what are some of the reasons why you or others prefer/preferred children workers?.....
- 18.** If you had your own way, will you employ services of children? YES / NO. Why?

- 19.** Which of the following practices do you think is okay to have children involved?
a. Smoke fish; **b.** Haul fish from boats; **c.** Work on a fishing vessel fishing;
d. Be sent away from home with a relative or other person to work;
e. Other specify:; **f.** None

CHILD EDUCATION

20. Does every child of school-going age attend school? YES / NO.

(If 'no') why?

21. At what age (s) did they stop school? 4-12 (); 13-15 (); 16-17 ()

22. Are those not in school engaged in any work activity? YES / NO

a. If yes what work do the boys engage in?

- i. Fishing (); ii. Fish processing (); iii. Fish marketing ();
iv. Other () specify.....

b. At what age do they start working i. 4-11 (); ii. 12-14 (); iii. 15-17 ()

c. If 'yes' what work do the girls engage in?

- i. Fishing (); ii. Fish processing (); iii. Fish marketing ();
iv. Other () specify.....

d. At what age do they start? 4-11 (); 12-14 (); 15-17 ()

22. If the children are in school, who pays their fees? a. Father (); b. Mother ();

c. Relative () specify; d. Other (specify).....

23. Is any child in full-time school also working? YES / NO

a. If 'yes' what work to the boys in this situation do?

- i. Fishing (); ii. Fish processing ();
ii. iii. Fish marketing () iv. Other (specify).....

b. At what age do they start? i. 4-11 (); ii. 12-14 (); iii. 15-17 ()

c. If yes what work do the girls do?

- i. Fishing (); ii. Fish processing (); iii. Fish marketing ()
iv. Other (specify).....

d. At what age do they start? 4-11 () 12-14 () 15-17 ()

24. When do the children work?

a. Monday-Friday after school only (); b. Saturday - Sunday only;

c. School holidays (); d. school vacation

e. Others (specify)

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LEADERSHIP

25. Who are the leaders in this community? (e.g. chiefs, assemblyman, pastor, family heads etc).

26. Are there organizations in the community that are concerned about or provide services regarding child and family welfare? YES or No

If Yes, can you mention them?

PHE issues

27. When fish catches are **low**, families/people are more likely to send their children away from home to work.
 i. Strongly agree; ii. Moderately agree; iii. Moderately disagree
 iv. Strongly disagree
28. When there is bumper catch, families/people in the community are more likely to have their children work during the day on fishing activities; either fishing, hauling catch from boats or smoking and processing, or selling fish.
 i. Strongly agree; ii. Moderately agree; iii. Moderately disagree
 iv. Strongly disagree
29. What is your opinion on large family size and "quality family life" (*nutrition, health care, education, clothing, household water-sanitation-hygiene issues etc*)?
30.
 What in your opinion, do you think are the factors contributing to large family sizes in this community?
31. If you had the chance, will you have the same number of children you have now again, or less, or even more? Why?
32. Where is the nearest health service delivery/provision point (hospital, clinic, pharmacy/chemist/dispenser, and herbalist)? What type(s) of services are provided there?
33. Do you have access to family planning commodities such as condoms, birth control pills or other family planning devices? YES / NO?
 a. If 'yes', do you use them?
 b. If 'no' would you use them if you had access to supplies?
34. In order for families to plan and space the number of children will you agree that it is good that access to birth-control services is improved for adolescents and adults in this community?.....
35. Will you say fishing in this community is connected to child work (*that is decline leading to exodus, and bumper catch leading to children flocking the beaches*)?

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COMMUNICATION/INFORMATION FLOW

36. In this community, what are the most often used (preferred) methods for receiving/giving out information
 a. Radio FM – which one? (); b. PA system; c. Word-of-mouth,
 d. Church announcement; e. market place; f. social group meetings;

g. Text messages on a cell phone; **h.** Others (specify):

37. Do you own a cell phone? YES / NO

a. Does it have internet access? YES/NO

b. Do you ever use your phone for the following?

i. Internet; **ii.** Facebook; **iii.** Twitter; **iv.** WhatsApp; **v.** SMS Messaging

vi. Voice mail; **vii.** Other Specify.....

Vii. Mobile money Transfer.....

RECOMMENDATIONS

38. What could be done to keep children in school and not to work?

39. If you should be assisted in order to strengthen the economic base of your family what kind of assistance will you require/suggest?

40. Why that particular choice?

41. What are the other potential economic activity(ies) that the household would like to involve in?

42. Are there some other households you will recommend that I talk to? YES / NO? If 'yes', why?

43. Thank you for your time, and do you also have questions/ comments / or clarifications to be sought?

Date:

Name of Assessor:

Please Provide your contact if you want us to contact you for further information sharing

Phone No: