

**DEFENCE for  
CHILDREN**



Ghana

**ANNUAL REPORT -2016**

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## Acronyms

<b>CP</b>	Child Protection
<b>CTP</b>	Child Trafficking Project
<b>CPCs</b>	Child Protection Committees
<b>DCI</b>	Defence for Children International
<b>DPs</b>	Development Partners
<b>GAA</b>	Girls Advocacy Alliance
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>GNCRC</b>	Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of a Child
<b>GHS</b>	Ghana Health Service
<b>GPP</b>	Girl Power Project
<b>GES</b>	Ghana Education Service
<b>CCPTs</b>	Community Child protection Teams
<b>LPS</b>	Life Planning Skills
<b>MOGCSP</b>	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
<b>MOELR</b>	Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations
<b>MLGRD</b>	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
<b>MOF</b>	Ministry of Finance
<b>MOH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MOE</b>	Ministry of Education
<b>TOC</b>	Theory of Change

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Defence for Children International-Ghana has been promoting and protecting the rights of children in Ghana for more than twenty years through various child protection programmes and activities. In the year under review, DCI-Ghana implemented three main projects namely; the Girls Advocacy Alliance, Reducing Sexual Violence against Children and Combating Child Trafficking with funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DCI-ECPAT, Netherlands and Agir Ensemble/FDH as donors respectively. These projects were implemented in three districts in the Ashanti Region of Ghana namely; the Kumasi Metropolis, Asokore Mampong and Obuasi Municipality. Key strategies used during project implementation involved networking, education, advocacy, campaign and training. Key activities for the year 2016 projects involved awareness raising campaigns, training for professionals, child protection network meetings, life planning skills sessions and provision of socio legal protective services.

Some achievements in 2016 from the projects implemented included; strengthening of referral mechanisms in Kumasi Metropolis and Obuasi Municipality through the establishment of referral protocols in the two districts and the provision of socio- legal protective services to some 4,299 girls, boys and young women through mediation, referrals and counseling. Monitoring of the living conditions of 116 ex-trafficked children in Ghana.

## **1.0 Introduction**

Defence for Children International (DCI) is an independent Non-Governmental Organization and a global movement for children's rights. It has been promoting and protecting children's rights on a global, regional, national and local level for over 30 years. Defence for Children International is represented through its national sections and associated members in 47 countries worldwide, with an International Secretariat based in Geneva, Switzerland. Defence for Children International Ghana is the national section of DCI in Ghana.

DCI Ghana operates to defend the rights of the child by advocating for and disseminating policies that protect the rights of children, building the capacities of child protection institutions and structures at national, district and community levels as well as empowering children for their self-protection and overall development. DCI-Ghana aims at promoting and protecting the rights of children as enshrined in the UN Convention on the rights of the child and the Ghanaian laws that concern children, with the vision of having a Ghana where children's rights are fully known and respected by all. Considering this, DCI-Ghana's objectives are as follows:

- To influence the development, enforcement and implementation of policies that protect the rights of children
- To foster sustainable cooperation and solidarity with government, UN and other agencies on children's rights
- To sensitize the public on the rights of the child
- To highlight child rights violations at national and international level in order to promote accountability and access to justice for the victims
- To facilitate the rehabilitation and reintegration of children from prisons, child victims of abuse and other vulnerable children

In the year 2016, DCI-Ghana promoted and protected children rights and child justice through the implementation of the Girl Advocacy Alliance Project, Reducing Sexual Violence against Children and Child Trafficking Project. This report highlights the project activities and achievements in 2016.

## **2.0 Brief Details of the Projects Executed in 2016.**

### **2.1 Girls Advocacy Alliance Project (GAAP)**

The Girls Advocacy Alliance Project (GAAP) is a follow up project on the Girl Power Project implemented from 2011 to 2015. DCI-Ghana, Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child (GNCRC) and Plan International Ghana are the Alliance partners implementing the project in Ghana with financial support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Dutch Alliance partners comprising Defence for Children International/ECPAT Netherlands, Terres Des Hommes and Plan International.

DCI-Ghana is implementing the project in 40 communities in Kumasi, Asokore Mampong and Obuasi municipalities I Ashanti region, Ghana.

### **2.2 Child Trafficking Project (CTP)**

DCI-Ghana undertook a project on combating trafficked children in the Kumasi metropolis, Asokore Mamapong and Obuasi with the financial support from Agir Ensemble and Foundation Pour Les Droits Humanins in 2016. The project was integrated into the on-going projects on Girls Advocacy Alliance and Reducing Sexual Violence against Children projects. The CTP benefited some 116 ex-trafficked children through sensitization, follow ups and monitoring visits.

### **2.3. Reducing Sexual Violence Against Children Project (RSVP)**

Reducing sexual violence against children project was supported by DCI-ECPACT with funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs from July 2015-June 2016. Through the project, DCI-Ghana organized campaigns, shared knowledge and expertise and provided direct services to child victims of sexual violence. Another important component of the project was the mobilization and strengthening of youth clubs and empowering them to defend their rights.

### **3.0 A Summary of Activities and Achievements for 2016**

#### **3.1 Awareness Raising**

**3.1.1 Distribution of IE&C materials:** 40,000 leaflets, flyers, stickers and posters were produced and distributed to the public (including children, parents, social workers, and police men) to raise awareness on reducing sexual violence against children, empowering girls and young women, and, combating child trafficking. The posters and stickers were posted at vantage places and on vehicles, schools, offices, markets, lorry parks, churches, mosques to enhance the knowledge of the public on violence against children.

**3.1.2 Revitalization & Strengthening of Child Rights Clubs:** 82 Child Rights and Young Women Clubs of 2560 members of 71 Child Rights Clubs and 11 Young Women's Clubs in the 3 districts were strengthened through awareness raising, training seminars, focus group discussions and life planning skills sessions in the Kumasi, Obuasi and Asokore Mampong.



**3.1.3 Celebration of the day of the African child:** One Hundred and eighty (180) school children from 4 cluster of schools participated in the celebration of the day of the African child organized by dci-ghana on the theme for the year 2016 “***Conflict and Crisis in Africa: Protecting all Children’s Rights***”. The children were educated on the effects of early marriage and how children can stand up for their rights for changes in harmful norms and cultural practices that hinder their development.



**3.1.4 Radio Programs:** An estimated Two hundred and twenty thousand (220,000) households were reached through radio programs in radio discussions and phone- in sessions in the project communities. The radio programs and discussions included topics such as what is sexual violence, how and where to report cases of violence, role of parents in reducing sexual violence and child trafficking, how to protect children from being sexually abused and being trafficked, effects on early marriage among others in Kumasi metropolis, Obuasi municipality and Asokore Mampong municipality.

**3.1.5 TV Campaigns:** Thirty - two thousand (32,000) households were reached through 6 Television (TV) programs organized by DCI – Ghana in collaboration with Department of Children and Anti- Human Trafficking Unit which raised the awareness of the public on the effects of violence against children.



**3.1.6 Youth Led Campaigns:** Thirteen (13) youth led campaigns were organised in the project communities on gender equality, women empowerment and gender based violence. The activities were led by youth groups such as Agogo Youth, Ahinsan Methodist youth Association, Concern Youth Association, Kaase Football Club, Adventist Youth, Church of Christ Youth, and Kasina Moro Youth Club.

**3.1.7 Press Coverages:** Eleven (11) publications were made in the Ghanaian observer, The Ghanaian Times, The Chronicle and Daily Graphic expressing the views of children on the need to be protected from sexual violence by adults.

## **3.2 Capacity Building**

**3.2.1 Training Seminar for Girls & Young Women:** One Hundred and fifty (150) girls and young women and Forty (40) boys in the Kumasi Metropolis, Asokore Mampong and Obuasi Municipality were trained on gender equality and gender-based violence, how to report violence cases, child and girls' rights, and protection measures against violence.



*Seminar for selected girls on gender based violence and gender equality in session*

**3.2.2 Focus Group Discussions /Workshops:** Focus group discussions with Five hundred and forty three (543) girls and young women and One hundred and eighty (180) boys were held in Kumasi Metropolitan, Asokore Mampong Municipal and Obuasi Municipal. The discussions were to establish, mobilize and empower girls, young women groups to express their views and stand up for their rights.

**3.2.3 Life Planning Skills Sessions/ Vocational Training:** Two thousand, four hundred and sixty two (2462) girls, young women and boys in the Kumasi Metropolis, Asokore Mampong municipality and Obuasi Municipality received life planning skills to enhance their capacity on rights and responsibilities of children, effects of unsafe abortion, teenage pregnancy, prevention and protection against violence, personal and environmental hygiene, self-esteem

and decision making, forms of violence against children, and, where to report cases of violence against children. Ten (10) young women were also enrolled in vocational training of their choice.



**3.2.4 Training for Community Leaders:** Thirty-two (32) community leaders were given training on gender equality, child protection and safety measures in the Obuasi municipality. The leaders included unit committee members, chiefs, queen mothers, religious leaders and assembly members selected from the ten project communities in the Obuasi.

**3.2.5 Training Seminar for Government Departments and Law Enforcement Agencies:** A training seminar on gender equality and child protection was organized for 27 heads of schools and government officials from; Department of Social Welfare, Department of Information Service, DOVVSU, CHRAJ, Department of Children, Department of Women, Labour department, Ghana Health Services, NCCE in Kumasi Metropolis.



**3.2.6 Conducting Trainings for Professionals:** Assessment of training needs on reducing sexual violence against children was conducted. The respondents rated the following training needs as important to their work: protection of children against sexual violence, awareness raising on sexual violence, stakeholder cooperation in reducing sexual violence, strengthening evidence based advocacy and lobbying, strengthening capacity of professionals working of sexual violence. Four (4) trainings for professionals and key experts were organised quarterly in Kumasi metropolis, Asokore Mampong municipality and Obuasi municipality. Sixty- eight (68) professionals and key experts, including policy makers and other stakeholders in areas of child protection participated in the training organised in Kumasi metropolis, Asokore Mampong municipality and Obuasi municipality. Four (4) materials were developed disseminated and used. These include directory of the professionals for smooth and easy collaboration and networking, directory on referral institutions to the media houses, information, education and communication materials on reducing sexual violence against children and jingles/audio on where and how to report cases of sexual violence.

**3.2.7 Participation in Training of Trainers on Tool Kit:** DCI-Ghana participated in the Training of Trainers organized by the Department of Community Development and UNICEF

on the implementation of the child and family welfare policy in Ghana for the southern sector of the country. The training aimed at equipping staff on community facilitation skills to facilitate the process of social mobilization for child protection at the community and provide a guide to empower families and community structure to fulfill its role. DCI-Ghana now monitors the policy implementation in Ashanti region

**3.2.8 Capacity building for staff:** Five (5) staff of DCI-Ghana participated in trainings organized by Plan Ghana. These trainings built the capacity of staff on report writing and advocacy techniques, providing psycho social support for victims of trafficking in persons, gender based violence, gender equality and gender mainstreaming.

**3.2.9. Technical Support:** DCI-Ghana continued to enjoy technical support from Defence for Children International/ECPAT (DCIECPAT) in the project implementation through regular communication, progress reporting, monitoring visits and capacity sessions. This enhanced the capacity of the organization in project implementation, assessment, learning and linking on project outcomes

### **3.3 Advocacy, Linking and Networking**

**3.3.1 Strengthening CSO Networks:** Six (6) network meetings were organised for 25 civil society organisations in Kumasi metropolis, Asokore Mampong municipality and Obuasi municipality to strengthen networks and collaboration between the organisations. These organisations include Kawda Foundation, Street Children Project, Street Children Development Foundation, Empowerment Centre for Women and Children, Light for Children and FIDA.

**3.3.2 Strengthening of Local Child Protection Teams (LCPTs):** Eighteen (18) LCPTs executives were strengthened, sensitized and trained through a day seminar in Obuasi municipality. The training enveloped areas such as Gender equality, Gender-based violence, child Protection, networking and collaboration. These committees are at the forefront of campaign activities in the communities, intervene and refer cases of violence against girls

and young women to the socio-legal centers and appropriate agencies such as DOVVSU, Department of Social Welfare and CHRAJ.



**3.3.3 Final Term Evaluation of the Girl Power Project:** DCI-Ghana participated in the Final Term Evaluation by the CSC of the 5-year Girl power project. The evaluation determined the relevance and level of achievement of the project objectives, development effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability. DCI-Ghana participated in the Girl Power Project annual reflection meeting and closeout meeting organized by country steering committee for implementing partners of the project. The implementing partners included Plan Ghana, DCI-Ghana, GNCRC and AMPCAN.

### **3.4 Child Protection and Child Justice**

**3.4.1 Socio-Legal Protective Services:** Social-legal assistance were provided to Two thousand – six hundred and eighty one (2,681) persons, of which One thousand, eight hundred and one (1,813) were girls and young women representing 67.62% and Eight hundred and sixty - eight boys, representing 32.38% in the Kumasi metropolis, Asokore Mampong municipality and Obuasi Municipality. This was achieved through the two (2) socio-legal defence centers for children in Kumasi and Obuasi. The nature of violence cases

reported included child maintenance, defilement, rape, indecent assault, child neglect, child labor, child trafficking, murder, fighting, truancy, stealing, among others. Services provided to the victims/survivors were counseling, mediation, referrals, medical treatment, tracing of families, withdrawals and monitoring.

**3.4.2 Withdrawal of Trafficked Children:** One hundred and fifty-seven (157) child victims between the ages of 8 and 17 years, were identified through outreaches to areas prone to trafficking by field staff as well as information received from Community Child Protection Committee members and the public. Victims identified were from the three northern regions of Ghana, part of Brong Ahafo and Central Region. Families of these victims were traced and the victims were reintegrated into society through formal education, vocational training and reuniting with their families. Some of the ex-trafficked victims are still with their employers who have enrolled them in schools and vocational training to advance their living conditions. Field staffs frequently monitor these children who are living with their guardians to ensure that they are not exploited again.

**3.4.3 Follow Ups on ex-trafficking:** Follow-ups were made to monitor the situations 341 ex-trafficked children withdrawn from 2013-2016 project period. The field staff and the social workers conducted several follows - up activities, by visiting the ex-trafficked children in their various communities or camps, to monitor their living conditions and to ensure that their rights are being protected. During the visits, it was identified by field staff that the ex-trafficked children are either enrolled in school and vocations of their choice and others living with their parents. Families and guardians were provided with education and social counseling on the rights of children and protection against violence and discussed their welfare issues with them. The project staff interacted with the families to examine the living conditions of the re-integrated children it was comprehended during the various discussions that though most families are financially unsound but they are putting in their best to seek for the survival and the development of the children

**3.4.4 Monitoring visit to detention centers:** DCI-Ghana embarked on monitoring visits to detention centers in Kumasi metropolis with CHRAJ. This activity aimed at monitoring the situation and conditions of juveniles in the centers. During the visit, some juveniles were seen in adult cells while the cells of other juveniles too were in poor conditions. A report was submitted to CHRAJ for necessary actions to protect the rights of the juveniles.

**3.4.5 Strengthening Child Protection/Referral Mechanisms:** Two referral protocols networks were strengthened between the Police, Ghana Health Service, Department of Social Welfare, CHRAJ, Ghana Education Service, Legal Aid and other stakeholders to strengthen referral mechanisms at Kumasi metropolis and Obuasi municipality. A referral form was developed in the 2 districts to refer cases to the appropriate agency for redress.



**3.4.6 Participation in NGO Lunch Meeting:** DCI – Ghana participated in an NGO roundtable on strategies to address hazardous child labor and mercury use in artisanal gold



mining in Ghana. At the meeting, Human Rights Watch presented its new report, and NGOs share information and perspectives on strategies for change.

**3.4.7 Participation in consultative forum:** DCI-Ghana participated in a consultative forum to develop a Programme Intervention Proposal document that will guide the implementation of a Programme that responds to the issue of child trafficking in Ghana. The forum was led by Alliance for Brighter Future and provided opportunity for sharing of knowledge, ideas and approaches for addressing child-trafficking issues in Ghana.



A section of partners and CSOs during quarterly meeting

#### **4.0 Conclusion**

Going forward, capacity sessions will be organized for the project staff of the organization to enhance their skills on lobbying and advocacy. The Girls Advocacy Alliance project is expected to chalk more successes for its outcomes to begin to show signs of change in agenda setting, policy and practices. Extended partnership will be sought with existing partners such as Foundation for Human Rights and news ones such as UNICEF.