

**DEFENCE for
CHILDREN**



Ghana

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORT - 2014

DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the year 2014, DCI-Ghana continued the implementation of the Girl Power Project (GPP), Reducing Violence against Children Project (RVP) and Child Trafficking Project (CTP) in the Kumasi Metropolis, Asokore Mampong municipality and Obuasi Municipality in Ashanti region. The activities of the projects were implemented at the four levels - individual, community, institutional and Civil Society levels. Awareness raising, capacity building, advocacy, networking and socio-legal protective services are some of the achievements for the year which details are presented in this report.

Absence of Monitoring and evaluation plan and training manuals to systematically implement and document the achievements of the projects were among the challenges being addressed for the organization.

INTRODUCTION

This summary update highlights the progress achieved, key lessons and challenges in the for the year 2014.

1.0 Individual level

1.1 Revitalization & Strengthening of Child Rights Clubs: Seventy-nine (79) Child Rights Clubs of 3215 members were strengthened through awareness raising, training seminars, education and life planning skills sessions in the Kumasi, Asokore Mampong and Obuasi. This brings to total, 38 child rights clubs and 7 young women's clubs in the Kumasi metropolis; 18 child right clubs and 2 young women clubs in Asokore Mampong municipality and 23 child rights clubs and 2 young women's clubs in the Obuasi municipality. The total membership of the 79 child rights clubs in both Kumasi and Obuasi is 3215 and the total membership of the 9 young women's clubs in both Kumasi metropolis , Asokore Mampong municipality and Obuasi municipality is 300.

1.2 Training Seminar for Girls & Young Women: 300 girls/young women and 100 boys in the Kumasi Metropolis 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.



Training seminar for girls and young women in Kumasi

1.3 Life Planning Skills Session, asset building and vocational training: 650 girls and young women and 270 boys in the Kumasi Metropolis, Asokore Mampong municipality and Obuasi Municipality received life planning skills on topics such as, 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.



Life planning skills session at St Pauls R/C JHS

1.4 Focus group discussion /workshops; 17 focus group discussion with 220 girls and young women and 80 boys were held in Asokore Mampong municipality and Kumasi metropolis. The discussion was to establish, mobilize and empower girls, young women groups to express their views and stand up for their rights.



Focus group discussion with young women

1.5 Distribution of information communication and education material: 9500 flyers, 3100 stickers, 9000 leaflets, and 2500 posters were distributed to the general public and pasted at vantage points in Kumasi metropolis, Obuasi municipality and Asokore Mampong municipality to raise awareness and knowledge on violence against children and sexual exploitation among the public and relevant stakeholders.

1.6 Withdrawal of Trafficked children: Seventy-one (71) child victims were assisted to trace their families and conferred for reintegration into the society through formal education and vocational training. Negotiations were made with some employers who accepted to keep the children to send them to school or to learn a trade of their choice to help perk up their living conditions.

1.7 Socio-legal protective services: Social-legal assistance were provided to 1621 girls and boys of which 1009 were girls and young women representing 61.9%, and 612 boys, (38.1%) in the Kumasi metropolis, Asokore Mampong and Obuasi Municipality, through the two socio-legal defence centers for children in Kumasi and Obuasi. The nature of violence cases included child maintenance, defilement, rape, child trafficking, indecent assault, child neglect, child labour, child education, child maltreatment, murder, fighting, truancy, stealing, and school dropout among others. Services provided to the victims/survivors were counseling, mediation, referrals, medical treatments and reports, tracing of families. Through the services of the socio-legal, a 17 year old boy has been acquainted and discharged after he has been on remand for not less than one year.

➤ **Key lessons include:**

- More children and young women reached with awareness raising activities
- Boys involvement in the project is encouraging
- Girls and young women feeling confident in sharing their issues.
- Girls and young women have knowledge on their rights and how to report cases of violence.
- Children advocate for their rights

- Families were happy to reunite with their children

➤ **Challenges included:**

- Expensive educational materials
- Some victims could not provide detailed information for tracing of families.

2.0 Community Level

2.1 Radio Programmes: 18 communities in the Kumasi Metropolis, 8 communities in Asokore Mampong municipality and 4 communities in the Obuasi Municipality were sensitized on gender equality, gender-based violence, child protection systems, and gender-based violence, where and how to report cases of violence against children, effects of child trafficking of the individual, family, society and the nation and protection measures on violence for girls and young women.

2.1 Strengthening of Local Advisory Committees (LACs): 20 LACs executives were strengthened, sensitized and trained through a day seminar in Obuasi municipality and Kumasi metropolis. The training enveloped areas such as Gender equality, Gender-based violence, Child Protection, connection and collaboration. These committees serve as community child protection watch dogs to identify, 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.



Group Picture of LAC executive after training session

2.2 Seminar for Community Leaders: 34 community leaders were given training on gender equality, child protection and safety measures in the Kumasi metropolis. The leaders included unit committee members, chiefs, queen mothers, religious leaders and assembly members selected from the ten project communities in the Kumasi.



Executive secretary of Defence for Children Ghana giving a talk at seminar for community leaders

2.3 Youth led campaign: 4 youth led campaigns were held in 4 communities in Kumasi metropolis and Asokore Mampong municipality. The campaign educated the public on gender based violence, gender equality and how to empower girls and women to express their views and stand up for their rights.



Youth campaign, led by Kaase football club

2.4 Community durbar: one community durbar was organized for the people of Antobuasi, a GPP community at Obuasi Municipality. The durbar round was used to educate the present community members on the need protect children from all forms of violence, like using them for economic gains, (using children at the galamsey sites),sexual violence, emotional form of violence and the physical violence. The community members were encouraged to resist from solving rape and defilement cases in the communities but to report them to the police (DOVVSU), DCI-Ghana, Social Welfare and others.

➤ **Key Lessons include:**

- ✓ Cooperation and participation by community members
- ✓ Commitment of the LAC
- ✓ Community leaders ready to fight against child abuse

➤ **Challenges include:**

- ✓ Difficulty in mobilizing community members at urban communities

3.0 Institutional Level

3.1 Press Article and Radio Interviews: 7 press publications on the projects, featured in the newspapers such as Chronicle, today, Heritage newspaper, Angel FM, Kesben FM, Metro FM, New Mercury FM and Time FM. Also 17 community information centers were used to educate community members on GBV

3.2 Training Seminar for Government Departments and Law enforcement Agencies:

A training seminar on gender equality and child protection was organized for 28 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 KMA.



Government professionals and head of schools in training seminar.

3.3 Quarterly meetings of partners and CSOs: 47 members (30 in Kumasi, Asokore Mampong and 17 in Obuasi) of the Child Protection Networks (CPN) at the regional and district levels in Kumasi, Asokore Mampong and Obuasi attended four dialogue sessions in which progress for the GPP and experiences of the partners and CSOs were shared. As a result of the meeting a two sub-committee was formed, for Kumasi, Asokore Mampong and Obuasi. In one of the dialog sessions, representatives of the community child protection committees were invited to learn from the network committee and also to share with the Network their experience at the community level.

The sub-committee in Kumasi mandate, was to discuss how the Network can advocate for the metropolitan Assembly to keep to its promises on issues concerning child protection, for instance the KMA is almost done to implement their by-law on the band of the game centers in the metropolis and any general issues that the committee sees it as an impediment to child development in which the KMA has the mandate. Committee in Obuasi is to make inputs to the drafted by-laws on the banning of the game centers by the

Municipal Assembly which is waiting for the Assembly's general meeting to approve. Also to work out modalities in which victims of violence can obtain free medical care in the municipality.



Child protection network members after a meeting

3.4 Seminar for stakeholders: 109 stakeholders from diverse disciplines participated in two seminars held at Kumasi metropolis and Asokore Mampong municipality to enhance cooperation in child protection. These stakeholders include government departments, law enforcement agencies, cooperates, civil societies and youth groups.



A section of stakeholders in a seminar

➤ **Key lessons include:**

- ✓ Partners' responsiveness to issues concerning child protection and gender equality
- ✓ Constructive discussions at meetings to influence government policy on Juvenile Justice

➤ **Challenges:**

- ✓ Limited data sharing among partners

4.0 Civil Society Level

4.1 Data Collection and Dissemination: Data on the project are regularly collected and disseminated to partners and CSOs for information and analysis. Department of Social welfare has also been sharing data with the organization. Other partners are yet to do share. Data collection and analysis is on-going. To aid the records keeping and coordination

of data sharing among partners, DCI-Ghana supported the probation unit of the Department of Social Welfare with computer and accessories for the purpose.

4.2 Training of CBOs: One day training was organized for community based organizations. 27 CBOs participated in the training. The training captured topics such as gender equality, gender based violence, cause and its effect and how to curb this menace.



Community based organization in training session

4.3 Seminar for civil society organizations: Three (3) seminars have been organized for 23 civil society organizations in Kumasi Metropolitan and Asokore Mampong municipality they included; National peace council, EAGLE consciousness, street children development foundation, Bright future service center, Light for children, Kiku children center, Faisal Foundation, Christian Council of Ghana, Window of Hope, Ghana National Association of teachers, Ghana private road transport union, Ghana Education Service, Street Children development foundation, X-Changes delta, Judicial Service Association of Ghana, Empowerment Center for Women and Children, FIDA-Ghana and Defence for children International-Ghana. Topics discussed were; The situation of Gender Based Violence and

Violence against Children in Kumasi Metropolis, The role of CSOs in combating violence against children and the capacity development of Civil Society Organizations on Child Protection. Among many issues discussed during the seminar, CSOs agreed to network to other individual organization in order to be able to learn new ways of doing things as a way of capacity enhancement.



Community based organization in a group picture

➤ **Key lessons include:**

- ✓ Good attendance at workshops
- ✓ Learning of new things and sharing of experiences

4.4 Exchange project visit; in respect to this activity, the organization embarked on a visit to the street children project at the roman hill to learn about the organization's activities. The staff was introduced to the most of the activities run at the project site on how they engage the street children from the day of identifying them to the level which these victims will be send to learn vocational skills of their choice. Through this visit it was agreed that

they will any time in point refer cases that may need legal assistance to DCI-Ghana to intervene, like wise DCI-Ghana will also send children who are vulnerable and want to learn vocational skills to them.

➤ **Key lessons**

- ✓ Opportunity for sharing of different experience together

5.0 Lobby and Advocacy

DCI-Ghana partnered with other civil society organizations to lobby with government partners like Domestic Violence and Victim Support unit (DOVVSU) of the Police, Department of Social Welfare, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAG), Ghana Health Service (GHS), etc to advocate for the child protection in the Asokore Mampong Municipality, Kumasi Metropolis and Obuasi Municipality. For instance, the lobbying and advocacy efforts resulted in the Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly (KMA) to ban children from game centers.

DCI-Ghana is also leading some selected CSOs to advocate for protection of children in Kumasi by making sure that, KMA factors expenses of the child panel in their budget for the panel to be able to functioning well.

The organization is also part of the National Advisory Committee on Child Protection Systems Strengthening, an initiative of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection that led to the development of the Child and Family Welfare Policy (CFWP) in Ghana. Experiences from the field and the Child Protection Network in the Ashanti region are brought to bear on discussions at the national advisory for a.



Lobbying and advocacy meeting on budget allocation for the child panel

➤ **Key lessons**

- ✓ Opportunity for team work and collaboration

6.0 Technical Support: DCI-Ghana this year enjoyed continued technical support from DCI-ECPAT in the project implementation through regular communication, progress reporting, monitoring visits and capacity sessions. The CRA participated in this year's GPP annual review meeting held in El-mina Beach resort where planned activities for the 2015 were discussed with implementing partners.

The Dutch partners also supported personnel of DCI-Ghana to undertake training on Ms Excel from the foundation to the intermediate level. This enhanced the capacity of staff in data management and other functions of the computer. DCI-Ghana also participated in training on gender policy development, psycho-social support, advocacy and report writing on child trafficking.

UNICEF supported the participation of DCI-Ghana in the workshop on Most Significant Change organized by the Department of Community Development.

These technical supports improved the capacity of the organization in supporting and advocating for victims of violence against children including trafficked children.

7.0 Summary of Beneficiaries

GIRL POWER PROJECT

PROJECT ACTIVITIES	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES
<i>Services to individuals girls and young women including media messages, trainings and workshops on gender equality and overall empowerment</i>	3,951
<i>Services to individual boys including media messages, trainings and workshops on gender equality and overall empowerment</i>	1300
<i>Sensitization activities/campaigns to (adult) community members and public leaders</i>	
<i>communities</i> reached with activities aimed at promotion of gender equality & girls' rights	20
<i>households</i> reached with activities aimed at promotion of gender equality girls' rights	27000
<i>traditional leaders</i> reached with activities aimed at promotion of gender equality	210
<i>Influencing national/district/local governments by partners</i>	
<i>frontline professional staff</i> of (local, district, province, regional or national) government institutions reached for training – including police, justice, health, education	26
<i>staff of government institutions</i> reached for lobby and advocacy to influence laws and policies related to girls empowerment, child rights and women's rights	23

<i>Strengthening of civil society (orgs) by partners</i>	
<i>CSO's and media professional reached with capacity strengthening support by partners – including girls' clubs, women cooperatives, youth organisations, community based organisations and other grassroots organisations</i>	41
<i>CSO networks supported or strengthened in relation to gender equality and women's rights by partner organisations</i>	4

REDUCING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN PROJECT: 2014 - 2015

PROJECT ACTIVITIES		NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES
Awareness raising initiatives and campaigns been conducted	Distribution of flyers	9500
	Distribution of stickers	3100
	Distribution of leaflets	9000
	Distribution of posters	2500
	Radio campaigns	13000
	Number of opinions, views and experiences of children included in the awareness raising message	11
Conducting initiatives to establish,	<i>Girls' Groups / Child and Youth Groups / Young Women's groups that was</i>	37

<i>mobilise and empower children's, youth and girls' & young women's groups to express their views and stand up for their rights</i>	<i>established</i>	
	<i>workshops / focus groups that was organized (discussion, debate, awareness raising, etc.)</i>	17
	<i>Number participants of workshops / focus groups</i>	300
	<i>Number youth-led campaigns that was organized</i>	4
	<i>publications/actions in which the voice and views of children was expressed</i>	1
<i>Conducting evidence based advocacy & lobby action to improve child protection (system) (e.g. legislation, policies, mechanisms, resources, enforcement, accountability)</i>	<i>meetings with (local, national, regional, international) authorities on child protection issues</i>	2
	<i>opinions, views and experiences of children included in advocacy & lobby action</i>	11
Multi-sector/multi-stakeholder cooperation in Chil		
Organising multi-sectoral/multi-stakeholder activities for	multi-sectorial/multi-stakeholder activities/seminars that was organised	3
	national/international stakeholders from different	120

enhanced cooperation in Child Protection and involving youth as stakeholders	sectors and disciplines and youth that attended multi-stakeholder cooperation/multi-sectorial coordination meetings	
	information materials that was developed, disseminated and used	3
Child protection/referral mechanisms are strengthened		
Strengthening child protection/referral mechanisms	Referral protocols/covenants established between police and social workers and other relevant partners on reporting and taking up cases	1
	Information and promotion activities on where and how to report cases (other than seminar)	8
	Cases in which stakeholders cooperated	375
Participation of partner organisations in local, national, regional, international advocacy & lobby networks and initiatives is strengthened		
<i>Participating in local, national, regional, international advocacy & lobby networks and initiatives</i>	<i>network meetings that was attended</i>	<i>1</i>
	network membership	20
	network initiatives in which participated	1

CSO networks at local, national, regional, international level are strengthened		
Strengthening CSO networks at local, national, regional, international level	initiatives and efforts to strengthen CSO networks	2
(Technical) capacity of CSOs is strengthened		
<i>Strengthening (technical) capacity of CSOs</i>	<i>organizational policies that was developed</i>	2
	training or other investment that was made to strengthen knowledge and skills of staff	2
Social-legal support services are provided		
Providing social-legal support services	Number of children	448
Medical and psychological support services and shelter are provided		
Providing medical and psychological support services and shelter	Number of children	200
Life skills, assets building and vocational training are provided		
Providing life skills, assets building and vocational training	Number of children	390

PROJECT: CHILD TRAFFICKING PROJECT

ACHIEVEMENT	BENEFICIARIES
Withdrawals	71
❖ Boys	49
❖ Girls	23
Community sensitization	2000

8.0 Conclusion

DCI-Ghana will continue the partnership with the current partners and explore others to maximize the achieved chalked so far for expanded and wider impact.

***For further information please
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