

ANNUAL REPORT - 2020

P. O. BOX FN 812 F.N.T., KUMASI. EMAIL: <u>DCIGHANA@YAHOO.COM</u> TEL: (233) – 3220- 48525/50-6830302/020-8187127 FAX: (233) 3220-48525

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 programs and activities. In the year 2020, DCI-Ghana implemented two main projects namely; the Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA), and Safe and Protective Environment for Adolescent Development (SPREAD) projects with funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs through DCI-ECPAT, Netherlands, and UNICEF respectively. The Girls Advocacy Alliance project was implemented in three districts in the Ashanti Region of Ghana namely; The Kumasi Metropolis, Asokore Mampong and Obuasi Municipality while the Safe and Protective Environment for Adolescent Development Project was also implemented in three districts in the Ashanti Region of Ghana namely; Bosome Freho, Adansi South and Amansie Central District. Key strategies used during project implementation involved linking & networking, Lobbying, advocacy, campaign and capacity support. Key activities for the year 2020 under Girls Advocacy Alliance project continued with sensitization meetings, campaigns, capacity support for networking, life planning skills sessions and provision of socio legal protective services using the child protection and communication for development tool kits developed by the Department of Community Development/UNICEF. Key activities under Safe and Protective Environment for Adolescent Development Project (SPREAD) for the year 2020 involved Capacity support for trained community champions to support community-based adolescent clubs and to identify child/adolescent abuse and exploitation cases in their communities and refer them to Social welfare, DOVVSU, Ghana Health Service, Ghana Education Service, CHRAJ, and DCI-Ghana for redress; Strengthening of adolescent clubs for out of school adolescents to sensitize adolescents on SRH in 25 communities; Provision of mentorship and skills support for out of school girls as peer educators; radio programs on local FM stations to sensitize the public and raise awareness on SRH and adolescent girls' empowerment; Distribution of IEC materials on SRH and adolescent empowerment in 25 communities; Provide socio-legal support to abused adolescent girls; Community outreach and education on SRH and adolescent girls' empowerment issues; endline survey to evaluate the SPREAD project.

Among the achievements contributed to in the year are the following:

The continuous support to the workplans of Champions of Change resulted in lobbying the traditional leaders making public pronouncement on child marriage, GBV and EE and for the Obuasi Municipal Assembly to allocate budget for child protection programs that will seek to protect girls and young women against child marriage, gender-based violence and commercial sexual exploitation in the Assembly. This was achieved when the CoC in Obuasi lobbied the assembly to include in their 2020 annual plan, allocation of funds for victims of GBV and abuse.

Increased collaborations with regional stakeholders including CSOs, Ghana Health Service, DOVVSU, CHRAJ, GES, Department of Social Welfare, Departments of Children and Gender have resulted to increased advocacy to ending GBV and child marriage especially during COVID 19 pandemic in Kumasi Metropolis, Asokore Mampong, Bekwai and Obuasi Municipalities in the Ashanti Region. This has been a first of its kind in the Ashanti region because CSOs and government partners developed and implemented a common advocacy plan in the region.

Youth advocacy and dialogue meetings with district assemblies to adopt byelaws to protect children against child prostitution and other forms of abuse and the continuous engagement with some district assemblies on the roll-out of the bye-laws in their communities.

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 34 years. Defence for Children International is represented through its national sections and associated members in some 35 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

The focal areas of operation include Juvenile/Child Justice, Sexual Gender-Based Violence against Children, Child Trafficking and Gender equality.

In the year 2020, DCI-Ghana promoted and protected children rights, child justice, child protection, girls' adolescent sexual and reproductive health, prevented and responded to sexual

and gender-based violence (SGBV) concerns in the Ashanti Region through the implementation of the Girl Advocacy Alliance Project, and Safe and Protective Environment for Adolescent Development Project (SPREAD).

2.0 Brief Details of the Projects Executed in 2020

2.1 Girls Advocacy Alliance Project (GAAP)

Output indicators	Total outputs	Realised 2020	#
Lobby			
All efforts to directly and indirectly influence decision makers through formal and informal interactions with decision-makers			
# of dialogues between alliance local partners and communities, religious and traditional leaders	31		
#of dialogues between alliance local partners and targeted CSOs	9		
# of inputs given to government on the elimination of GBV and support EE	2		
# of government officials sensitized on GBV and EE related issues	32		
Advocacy			
All efforts to indirectly influence decision makers by raising public awareness of and support for an issue			
# of coordinated, evidence based public awareness campaigns			

conducted by alliance local partners	5
# of campaigns on GBV and EE conducted by CSOs	23
# of community members (incl community, religious and traditional leaders) participating in awareness raising sessions organized by alliance local partners	
	278
Linking & networking	
All efforts to build linkages between proponents of an advocacy issues (networking) and to facilitate debate and joint policy making with decision-makers (linking)	
# of targeted national and regional CSOs attend network meetings organized by the alliance	21
Research	
Systematically investigating and issue or problem to better define it or to identify possible solutions	
# of research and campaign reports published by CSOs on benefits of GBV and benefits of decent work for private sector	1

2.1.2 Output Highlights

The 2 most successful outputs or achievement so far include:

2.1.2.1 Dialogues between alliance local partners and communities, religious and traditional leaders

Traditional leaders in Obuasi Municipality as well as the Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) for Obuasi Municipal Assembly declared their support to end child marriage and GBV by acting as Champions of Change in their various communities.

DCI-Ghana provided capacity support for Champions of Change (of traditional and religious leaders) to lobby for the protection of children, girls, and young women in Ashanti region. Also, One of the CoCs who a traditional leader, Nana Owusu Achiaw by name lobbied the MCE and other traditional leaders to become champions of change in their communities to

condemn early marriages and GBV. These leaders were trained and sensitized by DCI-Ghana on GAA thematic areas after which they declared their support for the GAA project.



Group photo of the traditional leader champions of change in Obuasi Municipality during training workshop

With the capacity support provided to them they have become confident and started advocating against GBV and early marriage in their constituencies, Traditional leaders and the MCE in one of the capacity building workshops declared their support to end child marriage and GBV in the Obuasi Municipality in Ashanti region of Ghana. With this advocacy, there is a high tendency for the community members to change attitudes and practices on GBV and child marriage in the communities.

2.1.2.2 Campaigns on GBV and EE conducted by CSOs

The Inauguration of Children's Parliament in Ashanti Region, a platform for children to participate in national level discussions and make presentation to the government and key stakeholders on issues of children's interest was inaugurated. The GAA project implemented series of campaigns on various platforms and communities on GBV and child marriage as well as children and youth involvement in promotion and protection of their rights. The campaign actions resulted in the establishment of children's parliament. The Children's Parliament is a forum for school children to mock parliament by looking at local and global issues of children's

rights and come up with proposed solutions. It is also a platform to advocate for youth participation in issues affecting them as well as communicating pressing issues of child protection to the government. It would sustain the platform for children's participation in advocacy actions in the Ashanti province.

Source: https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage /NewsArchive/CSOs-inaugurate-programme-to-promote-voices-of-children-in-Ashanti-Region-1020865?channel=D2



Children's Parliament

2.1.2.3 Inclusiveness

Girls and young women were continuously supported to participate in the lobby and advocacy actions. Youth advocates and girl advocates helped implement advocacy and lobby actions at the district, regional and national levels. They participated in public awareness campaigns and media advocacy in which they made their voices heard on issues of GBV, early marriage and EE. They also served as peer educators offering peer counselling and support to their peers including reporting cases of GBV and early and/or forced marriage for redress. They were instrumental in sensitizing their communities on the COVID-19 pandemic and advocated for observance of the COVID-19 prevention protocols, especially by the youth as well as their safe-keeping from violence during the period. Their participation in the children's parliament was remarkable in showing the way for girls and youth advocacy campaigns. Last but not the least, they joined forces with the champions of change on lobbying and advocacy actions with other stakeholders including child protection committees and the district assemblies.

2.1.2.4 Youth Participation

Youth participation in GAA contributed to achieving results since their voices in the advocacy actions attracted attention. Their readiness and preparedness to always lead advocacy actions on issues affecting the youth was exciting. Continuous capacity support for youth enhanced their knowledge and skills agency. Their involvement in GAA also led to behavioural changes amongst them because it enhanced their leadership skills, they became more assertive and more assertive. Their empowerment also led to their increased self-development. The youth participation became instrumental during the COVID-19 period when they actively championed the cause of the children and youth in their constituencies. Bringing them together for learning and linking is one of the success factors in the youth participation.

Before starting the She Leads program, there would be the need for refresher training for the youth advocates on the principles of the program and their role in the same.

2.1.2.5 Capacity Development Support

Staff of DCI-Ghana now have increased knowledge on lobby and advocacy actions at the community, sub-national, national, and international levels. Engagement with the media to highlight advocacy messages has improved. Staff have been able to ensure proper project management and progress tracking using the advocacy signs logbook and outcome harvest list template on regular basis. The organisation has gained increased contracting partnership management with implementing partners since GAA provided, that opportunity for the first time in the history of the organisation. GAA also helped to position the organisation well in the civic space in Ghana through increased linking and networking with other CSO networks. The capacity assessments and development helped the organisation in documentation of policies as well as fund raising and sustainability planning capacity, reflecting in the continuous search for funding opportunities and application for the same. Recognition by government partners and other stakeholders in child protection has been heightened through GAA implementation. Alliance building and running has been one of the legacies of the GAA for our continued engagement and joint actions.

2.3 Safe and Protective Environment for Adolescent Development (SPREAD) Project2.3.1 Socio-legal support to abused adolescent girls

Seven teenage pregnancy cases were identified by community champions from January 2020 to February 2020 at Attaasi, Sobriso and Adrinkra communities in Adansi South and Amansie central District respectively. All victims were between the ages of 16years to 19years. The cases were referred to social welfare and also to the community CHIPs compounds in their communities for counselling and antenatal care. The girl child education officers in Amansei central and Adansi South Districts were contacted and informed about the situation of these adolescent pregnant girls who have dropped out of school because of their current situation. Madam Josephine Kwateng the girl child education officer in Amansei central and Hectoria Adjei Afrifa of Adansi South District met these pregnant girls in their districts to counsel them to go back to school. After meeting the adolescent pregnant victims, they also met the head teachers of these girls to discuss the issue with them and advised them to welcome these girls back to school if any of them come. 6 of the victims still find it difficult to go back to school but they all pledged to continue their education after they give birth. Elizabeth Asantewaa from Sobriso community was the only girl who had the courage to go back to school with her pregnancy, she went to school two weeks with her pregnancy but due to her health condition now she has taken leave for treatment and now at home.

district	No of	No of	No of	No of	No of	No of	Total
	males	females	males	males	females	females	
			from	from	from	from	
			10-14	15-19	10-14	15-19	
Adansi			-	2	2	2	6
South							
Amansie	-	-	-	2	7	6	15
Central							
Bosome	-	-	-	-	3	5	8
Freho							
Total	-	-	-	4	12	13	29

2.3.2 Psycho-social support to abused or pregnant adolescent girls

From 3rd to 11th February 2020, DCI-Ghana social worker, Mr. Owusu Agyei followed-up on the identified teenage pregnancy cases. Mr. Owusu Agyei during his follow-up visit provided counselling session for the 7 adolescent pregnant victims. He also met parents of these victims and counselled them not to neglect these girls and that they should take good care of them. Community champions have shown interest and commitment to report cases of teenage pregnancy and Sexual gender-based violence to social welfare and DOVVSU.

There is increasing sensitization and support for the adolescent girls on their SRH and empowerment by key stakeholders on child protection including Department of Social Welfare and Community Development, DOVVSU/Ghana Police Service, Ghana Education Service and Ghana Health Service as well as community members in the project Districts (Adansi South, Bosome Freho and Amansie central) in the implementation of the SPREAD project. During the stakeholders meeting on the SPREAD project, all the 3 District Assemblies of the Adansi South, Amansie Central and Bosome Freho pledged to include Child protection programs in their 2020 Annual plan and budget to help reduce Teenage Pregnancy and other child/adolescent protection issues in the district.

Adolescent girls have shown interest and commitment to exercise their agency on sexual reproductive health and protection issues in the communities in the 3 project districts.

Seven (7) adolescent pregnant victims have been identified and supported with counselling sessions. They have all pledge to go back to school after given birth, which previously did not happen. Nine (9) health facilities in 9 communities in the 3 districts have been supported to provide adolescent friendly health services within the facilities. Adolescents now visit these facilities to sought for knowledge on their menstrual problems and on family planning methods. Through the community sensitization program, some estimated 2039 people comprising 600 female adults and 329 male adults; as well as 621 girls and 489 boys were reached in the 25

project communities and educated on the SRH and adolescent empowerment. Adolescent girls now have courage to say no to sex and know where to report cases to.

Community members have shown interest and commitment to issues of ASRH and GBV and always want to contribute to discussion during radio programs.

An 18-year-old girl, SHS 3 was impregnated by a Mason at Asiwa. The case was reported to the Department of Gender. Follow ups were made to get in touch with the mother of this girl who happens to be a worker at the District Assembly. A pregnant girl who has delivered within this COVID period at Sobriso in Adansi South and neglected by the male partner was referred to the Department of Social Welfare. DSW has conducted several follow-up visits to counsel her to go back to school. The boy who impregnated her was apprehended and made to take responsibility of the baby

The cases of abuse were investigated, referred, and mediated by DSW/DCD with pre and post case psycho-social counselling services to the adolescent victims. DCI-Ghana's Social Worker, followed up to provide additional counselling and post case management care support to the victims and their families.

From 15th December to 17th of December 2020, DCI- Ghana and Department of Social Welfare (DSW) provided psycho-social counselling to 20 pregnant teens, 11nursing mothers and 2 maltreated adolescent girls. Due to COVID-19, the counselling sessions were conducted on one-on-one basis strictly observing the safety protocols. The adolescents were counselled on personal hygiene, COVID-19 safety protocols and precautionary measures, reproductive health related problems including ante-natal care, and protection against sexual violence in communities in the 3 districts.

A 19-year-old pregnant girl at Fiankoma in the Amansie central district was counselled on the importance of ante-natal care and good personal hygiene. A 14-year-old pregnant girl at Mile 9 in the Amansie Central district was given psycho-social counselling and advised to go back to school after delivery.

2.3.3 Radio programmes on local FM stations to sensitize the public and raise awareness on SRH and adolescent girls empowerment

DCI-Ghana collaborated with Ghana Health Service, Ghana Education Service, DOVVSU and Departments of Social Welfare and Community to raise awareness on COVID-19 and how to protect their girl child from violence especially sexual violence in the three project districts – Amansie Central, Bosome Freho and Adansi South in the Ashanti region. The COVID-19 situation specially called for intensity in the community sensitisation and advocacy to educate the adolescents and the community households on the safety protocols to prevent the spread of the pandemic within the localities. It was suspected that violence against adolescents especially sexual violence would increase within the period of the confinement. Therefore, the community sensitisation integrated ASRH, COVID-19 and child protection education and advocacy in favour of adolescents with special emphasis on adolescent girls. The representatives from Social Welfare/Community Development and DOVVSU educated the public to report cases of violence to for immediate actions to protect the rights of the victims. The representatives from GHS also sensitised the community members to provide necessary health and safety materials including Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs) for their children to avoid COVID1-19 infection. The public was also educated on the WHO protocols and advised the people to strictly observe them. GES also educated and advised the adolescents on the need the need for self-directed learning whiles at home and the opportunity available for pregnant adolescents to return to school after delivery. The radio sensitisation programmes also employed the GACA drama and jingle resources to facilitate the community education and discussions by the panel members.

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The representatives from Social Welfare/Community Development and DOVVSU educated the public to report cases of violence for immediate actions to protect the rights of the victims. The representative from GHS also sensitised the community members to provide necessary health and safety materials including Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs) for their children to avoid COVID-19 infection. The public was also educated on the WHO protocols and advised the people to strictly observe them. Again, they educated the public on the safety net program and counselled parents to assist the young mothers who wished to go back to school or learn a trade.

The representatives from GES, educated the public and advised adolescents on the need for self-directed learning whiles at home rather than engaging in immoral act and the opportunity available for pregnant adolescents to return to school after delivery.

Population Reached with Radio Sensitisation Messages

District	No	No. of	Total				
	Female	male	girls	girls	boys	boys	
	Adult	Adults	(10-14	(15-19	(10-14	15-19	
			years)	years)	years)	years)	
Adansi	900	510	450	420	120	100	2500
South							
Amansi	310	178	103	216	70	123	1000
Central							
Bosome	430	262	231	227	160	190	1500
Freho							
Total	1640	950	784	863	350	413	5000

2.3.4 Community outreach and education on SRH and adolescent girl's empowerment issues

The community champions resorted to house-to-house and one-on-one discussions on ASRH and referral approach to the adolescents due to the COVID-19 situation with restrictions in social gathering and physical contacts. This house-to-house outreach was also utilised various IEC materials on COVID and child protection to educate the community and the adolescents on the COVID, personal hygiene and prevention and protection measures. The outreach was also used to identify and refer cases of pregnancies and violence to the health facilities and DSW/DOVVSU respectively. This activity took place in all the 25 communities in the 3

districts of Amansie Central, Bosome freho and Adansi South districts. Some of the champions also extended the one-on-one outreach small churches

One important development is that, some of the Champions are using community information Centers to reach out to their targets with education on ASRH as well as campaign on the COVID-19. The champions in Dunkura, Bosome Freho District) also added the issues of child labour and Galamsay¹ in their campaigns.

At Akutreso, church meetings were used to reach the community and adolescents on ASRH with the partial lifting of the restriction on social gathering

From July-September 2020, a series of community sensitization programs were organized on SRH and adolescent girls' empowerment. IEC materials on COVID 19 and child protection were used to educate the community and adolescents on personal hygiene, prevention and protection measures. The outreach was also used to identify and refer cases of pregnancies and violence to the health facilities and DSW/DOVVSU respectively. This activity took place in all the 25 communities in the 3 districts of Amansie Central, Bosome Freho and Adansi South districts. Through the community outreach program, some estimated 3000 people comprising 1200 female adults and 600 male adults; as well as 700 girls and 500 boys were reached in the 25 project communities and educated.

At Anyanso in the Bosome Freho district, a community champion who is also the assembly woman in the community through the SPREAD project has formed what she terms as 'virgins club'. The purpose of this club is to gather the adolescents (both boys and girls) between the ages of (10-15) years in a regular meeting to educate them on the dangers of pre-marital sex and the need to abstain from sex. She also advises those who cannot abstain to use contraceptives. So far she has over 50 boys and girls in the club. She also regularly embarks on public education using the community radio to create public awareness on ASRH issues.

Between October and November 2020, community champions and peer educators in Humase, Atwereboana and Anyanso in the Amansie central, New Edubiase and Bosome Freho districts

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¹ Illegal surface mining activities. It is unfriendly to the environment and has many adverse socio-economic consequences on the communities that are involved.

respectively organized series of community sensitisation programs on Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health to continuously educate the adolescents in these communities to be more aware of ASRH issues, GBV and girl-child empowerment.

At Humase, in the Amansie central district, a community champion by name Madam Angelina Owusu maintenance her commitment towards girl-child education and adolescent girls' empowerment in her community by regularly organizing meetings for adolescents between the ages of (10-19) to constantly remind them of the need to abstain from pre-marital sex and focus on their education.

At Atwereboana, in the Adansi south district, Mr. John Konu who is a community champion together with other champions and peer educators regularly embarks on public education through the community information centre to create constant awareness on Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health issues in the community. Mr. Konu said 'the spread project has impacted positively in his community as the rate of teenage pregnancy has reduced'.

Population Reached with Community Outreach & Education

District	No of	No of	No of	No of	No of	No of	Total
	female	male	girls	girls	boys	boys	
	adult	adult	(10-	(15-	(10-	(15-	
			14	19	14	19	
			years)	years)	years)	years)	
Adansi	276	214	170	166	119	105	1050
South							
Amansie	268	209	214	134	55	70	950
Central							
Bosome	324	196	144	169	82	85	1000
Freho							
Total	868	619	528	469	256	260	3000

2.3.5 Dissemination of IEC materials on SRH and adolescent empowerment in Communities

The DCI-Ghana's field staff and the DSW/DCD personnel continued to distribute collection of IEC materials relevant to the SPREAD project within the 25 communities in the 3 districts – Amansie Central, Adansi South and Bosome Freho between April and June 2020. Of particular

interest is the collection of various posters and flyers on COVID-19, ASHRH and SGB. These materials were shared by UNICEF and collected from partner platforms to re-inform the education and sensitisation of the community members including adolescent girls and boys. The peer educators, champions and club patrons also supported the distribution of the IEC materials in the communities.

DCI-Ghana staff, the community champions, peer educators and the DSW/DCD personnel distributed IEC materials relevant to the SPREAD project within 25 communities in the 3 districts – Amansie Central, Adansi South and Bosome Freho between July and September 2020. Of particular interest is the collection of various posters and flyers on COVID-19, ASHRH and GBV. These materials were shared by UNICEF and collected from partner platforms to re-inform the education and sensitisation of the community members including adolescent girls and boys. The peer educators, champions and club patrons also supported the distribution of the IEC materials in the communities.

2.3.6 Psycho-social support to Adolescent Pregnant girls

Department of Social Welfare/Department of Community Development and the Health facilities were at the forefront of providing psycho-social counselling to the pregnant adolescents. Due to COVID-19, the counselling sessions were conducted on one-on-one basis strictly observing the safety protocols. The adolescents were counselled on personal hygiene, COVID safety protocols and precautionary measures, reproductive health related problems including ante-natal care, and protection against sexual violence the 7 communities in the 3 districts. A community outreach to a 15-year-old girl who has given birth at Anyanso in Bosome Freho District was done within the period.

One 15-year-old adolescent mother has been counselled and encouraged by the community champion Madam Theresa with the support of DCI at Fiankoma in Amansie Central.

Four other pregnant girls have received counselling and regular visit to encourage them continue their education after their deliveries at Fiankoma.

A mother of 10 teenage children who uses the children in her chop bar business and keeps the children working deep into the night at the expense of their studies was counselled to stop the act at Homase in Amansie Central district.

This 16-year-old girl became pregnant at Sobriso in Adansi South District after receiving the trainings on ASRH. She dropped out of school because of the pregnancy. However, she is willing and ready to go back to school after delivery when the Community Champions discovered her. There is one pregnant JHS 3 student at Akutreso in the Adansi South District who is being counselled to write the BECE exams with her mates this year. Two out of schoolgirls from last year were counselled to go back to school again. These girls will be writing the BECE in the year 2020 at Akutreso in Adansi South District.

A 14-year-old adolescent mother who gave birth at subriso in the Adansi South District was counselled to go back to school. The parents were counselled on child abuse because there were reported cases of them maltreating their disobedient children at Hwidiem. 8 pregnant girls received counselling. 5 of them are in school and 3 have decided to go back to school after they have delivered at Ayanso, Asiwa, Tebeso Freboye Nsuaem No.2, Danjanso all in Bosome Freho District. An 18-year-old pregnant adolescent called Gladys Afful at Subriso in the Adansi South district was counselled and advised to go back to school after giving birth. Another 18year old pregnant adolescent by name Abigail Asare at Hwidiem was counselled on personal hygiene, and the need to attend ante-natal care. A 16-year-old pregnant girl at Hwidiem in the Adansi south was also counselled by DCI-Ghana staffs and personnel from DSW and advised to go back to school or learn a skill to improve her life. In all 20 pregnant teens, 11 nursing mothers and 2 maltreated girls received psycho-social counselling, 4 of the pregnant teens have decided to go back to school after delivery and the remaining 16 have also decided to learn a trade or skill after delivery. The cases were recorded in Fiankoma, Mile 9, Subriso, Hwidiem and Tebeso in Amansie Central, Adansi South and Bosome Freho districts respectively. The table below shows the number of adolescent girls provided with psycho-social support.

Adolescent Mothers Provided with Psycho-social Support

District	No of males	No of males from	No of females	No of females	Total
	from 10-14	15-19	from 10-14	from 15-19	
Adansi	-	-	-	2	2
South					
Amansie	-	-	1	11	12
Central					
Bosome	-	-	1	18	19
Freho					
Total	-	-	2	31	33

2.3.7 Mentorship and skills training for community-based girls as peer educators

Ghana collaborated with the District Directors of Department of Social welfare and Community Development in Bosome Freho, Adansi South and Amansie Cental in the persons of Mr Festus Effah-Konah Yiadom, Charles Obeng Boadu and Isaac Agyeman respectively, to conduct mentorship and skills refresher training for community peer educators in the various selected twenty-five (25) communities in the districts. The refresher training reviewed the training topics that were treated with them in the previous training. The training was conducted by DCI and DSW Staff using the tool kits for peer educators training.

Trained Adolescent Mentors

Districts	No of females	No of female	No of males	No of males	Total
		between 15-19			2 0 000
Adansi South	5	10	5	5	25
Amansie	11	20	10	9	50
Central					
Bosome	10	18	11	11	50
Freho					
Total	26	48	26	25	125

The training also reviewed how the peer educators have used the knowledge and skills gained from the previous training in their work with the adolescents in their communities whiles discussing the challenged encountered in their work.

Trained peer educators per the districts.

Districts	No of females	No of female	No of males	No of males	Total
	between 10-14	between 15-19	between 10-14	between 15-19	
Adansi South	5	10	5	5	25
Amansie	11	20	10	9	50
Central					
Bosome	10	18	11	11	50
Freho					
Total	26	48	26	25	125

2.3.8 Support for health facilities to provide medical support to adolescent girls

In the months of July to September 2020, the SPREAD project continued to support 4 health facilities in the 3 districts with stationeries such as 1 box of A4 sheets and pens, COVID PPEs and materials including hand sanitizer, detergents, nose masks to help them run safe adolescent friendly health services within the facilities. Health facilities that benefited from the support included Fiankoma CHPs compound, Atweneboana CHPs compound, Hwidiem CHPs compound, Tebeso no.2 Chip Compound.

2.3.9 Training of Community Champions to receive and address cases of adolescents abuse and exploitation and provide counselling

DCI Staff and Department of Social Welfare in each of the 3 districts visited the 25 selected communities in the 3 districts to meet community Champions to refresh and retrain them to address cases of abuse and exploitation and provide counselling and refer cases to Social Welfare, DOVVSU, Ghana Health Service, Ghana Education Service, CHRAJ, and DCI-Ghana for redress. At Subriso in Adansi South district, Akwasi Penstil a community champion counselled 3 adolescent girls who are pregnant to go back to school after they have delivered safely. At Hwidiem in the Adansi South District the community Champions addressed an abused case and counselled the parents to stop the act. Community champions in Fiankoma identified 2 Adolescent pregnant girls and counselled them to continue their education after safe delivery.

Summary of Activities and Achievements for 2020

PROGRAMMES / PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES

Programme / Project / Activity	JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN
Title	Socio-legal Centre for abused children
Main objective(s)	To provide socio-legal support services to child victims of
	abuse
Type of Activities – highlight	Direct interventions // Advocacy and lobbying // Awareness
those which do apply	raising // Capacity-building //
	Research and monitoring // Other:
Duration – please provide starting	January 2020 – December 2020
and finishing dates	
Partner organizations if	Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs/DCI-ECPAT
applicable	Netherlands, Foundations for Human Rights
Donor(s) and budget	Integrated into Girls Advocacy Alliance and Child
	Trafficking Projects
Geographical scope	Sub-Regional
[national,(sub-) regional,	
international]	
Thematic focus	child abuse
Key activities	Investigation, mediation, counselling, referrals and judicial
	processes
Impact/Achievements	The rights of some 750 victims of violence and abuse were
	protected
Number of beneficiaries – (if	750
necessary, please provide estimate	
to the nearest 10)	
Programme / Project / Activity – (GIRLS ADVOCACY ALLIANCE
Title	Lobby and advocacy for effective implementation of laws
11111	on child protection as well as positive values and practices
	on child protection
Main objective(s)	To advocate for equal rights and opportunities for girls and
02,0002,0(3)	young women
Type of Activities – highlight	Direct interventions // Advocacy and lobbying //
those which do apply	Awareness raising // Capacity-building //
Tr	
	Research and monitoring // Other:
Duration – please provide starting	Research and monitoring // Other: 1st July 2016 to 31st December 2020
Duration – please provide starting and finishing dates	1st July 2016 to 31st December 2020

Partner organizations if applicable	
Donor(s) and budget	Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs/DCI-ECPAT Netherlands – Euros 375,000
Geographical scope [national,(sub-) regional, international]	National & sub-national
Thematic focus	Child marriage, GBV and economic exclusion
Key activities	Mobilisation and capacity support of girls, young women, traditional and religious leaders as champions of change and youth advocates for community mobilisation, media advocacy, multi-stakeholder engagements, CSO coalitions and networking, lobby and advocacy with decision makers
Impact/Achievements	Obuasi East District Assembly has included in their budget child protection program of which Department of social welfare and community development are implementing. The department is using the Child protection community facilitation toolkit to engage with school children and communities on child protection issues.
	Contribution to the process of achieving passage of the Right to Information Bill and the processes towards the amendment of children's laws in Ghana.
	Champions of Change of traditional and religious leaders influencing their constituents on girls and women's rights.
Number of beneficiaries - (if	Estimated 300,000 households
necessary, please provide estimate	31 government officials
to the nearest 10)	22 CSOs
	300 girls and young women
Programme / Project / Activity – Company of the Project / Activity	CENDER
Title	Safe and Protective Environment for Adolescent Development (SPREAD)
Main objective(s)	To empower girls, boys, women and men in selected areas to increased their understanding of violence and harmful practices that affect children especially girls
Type of Activities – highlight those which do apply	Direct interventions // Advocacy and lobbying // Awareness raising // Capacity-building // Research and monitoring // Other:
Duration – please provide starting and finishing dates	July 2019 – December 2020
Partner organizations if applicable	UNICEF, Government of Ghana, Ghanaians Against Child Abuse

Donor(s) and budget	UNICEF/ Global Affairs Canada - EUROS 46,650
Geographical scope	Sub-national
[national,(sub-) regional,	
international]	
Thematic focus	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
Key activities	Community mobilisation, training, awareness raising
	campaigns, socio-legal services
Impact/Achievements	25 community-based adolescent clubs
	mentorship for adolescent girls
	trained 75 community champions, 125 peer educators and
	25 club patrons
	Socio-legal protective services for 12 adolescents
Number of beneficiaries - (if	
necessary, please provide estimate	
to the nearest 10)	

5.0 Conclusion

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, DCI-Ghana was able to chalk some remarkable achievements and would continue to implement more activities in 2021 including the implementation of the She Leads project to promote the leadership and participation of Girls and Young Women in decision-making processes.

Selected Photos from the Field Activities



DCI and DSW staffs with some pregnant girls and nursing mothers at Fiankoma in the Amansie Central district



DCI staff interviewing an adolescent mother at Fiankoma



DCI and DSW at the home of Adolescent Mother at Apitiso



DSW staff interviewing an adolescent mother at Fiankoma



Fig 6 DCI staff with an adolescent mother at Fiankoma



DCI and DSW personnel, and community champion investigating a case of teenage pregnancy at Subriso



DCI staffs interacting with a pregnant adolescent girl at Subriso



DCI and DSW giving IEC materials to a community champion for public education at Subriso



DCI and DSW at a follow-up action at Hwidiem



DCI staff investigating a case of child maintenance at Hwidiem









Selected pictures from interviewing pregnant girls and nursing mothers at Nyanso



DCI and DSW with the adolescent girls referred to Tebeso health centre for medical care



DCI presenting IEC materials to Adansi South District Assembly for distribution in the communities.



DCI presenting some items to Ghana Health service at Asiwa in the Bosome Freho district.

DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL-GHANA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2020 KAN CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS P. O. BOX CT 1498 CANTONMENTS, ACCRA

<u>DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL – GHANA</u> <u>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2020</u>

GENERAL INFORMATION

OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT Nana Akomanyi Essandoh V

VICE PRESIDENT Mrs. Stella Owusu Boatemaa

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR George Oppong Appiagyei Ampong

TREASURER Mrs. Mary Atwenewaa Duah

ORGANIZER Timothy Yaw Boakye

CHILD PARTICIPATION OFFICER Isaac Osei Agyemang

REGISTERED OFFICE Plot 56, Block A, Atonsu-Kumasi

Opp. Adansi Rural Bank Limited

P. O. Box FN 812, Kumasi

Tel: 0322 096 556

Email: dcighana@yahoo.com

AUDITORS KAN Chartered Accountants

Hse. No. 7 Oroko Street Kokomlemle, Accra P. O. Box CT 1498 Cantonments, Accra www.kancagh.com

Tel: 0244 753 693/0209 994 781

BANKERS Zenith Bank (Ghana) Limited

Plot No. 22, Block T Ahodwo Road Adiebeba, Kumasi

DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL – GHANA SECTION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2020

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Council has pleasure in presenting to you this report with the audited financial statements of the operations of Defence for Children International (DCI) – Ghana for the year ended 31st December, 2020.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The members of the executive council are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements for each project financial year which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Defence for Children International — Ghana and of the surplus/deficit for the period. In preparing these financial statements, the council selected proper accounting policies and then applied them, made judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and followed Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

The council members are responsible for ensuring that the DCI (GHANA) keeps proper accounting records that show with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the organization. The council members are also responsible for safeguarding of the assets of organization and taking steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The DCI (GHANA) is a non-governmental organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of the rights of the child. DCI (GHANA) believes that every child has socio-cultural, political and economic rights which must be respected, protected and promoted to ensure proper growth and development of the child.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The result achieved for the year is stated on page 5.

BY ORDER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President.....

Executive Director....

12-03-

12/08/ 2021

<u>DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL – GHANA SECTION</u> FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2020

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BY ORDER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President.....

Executive Director....

72-05-

12/08/ 2021

<u>DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL – GHANA SECTION</u> FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31⁵⁷ DECEMBER, 2020

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The Executive Council has pleasure in presenting to you this report with the audited financial statements of the operations of Defence for Children International (DCI) – Ghana for the year ended 31st December, 2020.

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RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

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BY ORDER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President.....

Executive Director.....

12-05-

12/08/ 202

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL – GHANA

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Defence for Children International – Ghana Section which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2020, and the statement of comprehensive income and expenditure and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as at December 31, 2020, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) and in the manner required by the Companies Act, 2019 (Act 992).

Basis of our opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report.

We are independent of the Company in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of the Executive Council for the Financial Statements

The Executive Council is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRS for SMEs and in the manner required by the Companies Act, 2019 (Act 992) and for such internal control as the Executive Council determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Executive Council is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Executive Council either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Executive Council is responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process. Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Executive Council.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Executive Councils' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. We communicate with the Executive Council regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit."

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

The Companies Act, 2019 (Act 992) requires that in carrying out our audit work we consider and report on the following matters. We confirm that:

- we have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit;
- ii. in our opinion proper books of accounts have been kept by the company, so far as appears from our examination of those books; and
- iii. the statement of financial position and statement of comprehensive income and expenditure of the company are in agreement with the books of accounts.



KAN CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS (ICAG/F/2021/332) SIGNED BY: Kwabena Anim Nyanteh (ICAG/P/2021/1494)

Date: 16-03-2021

Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

*		2020	2019
	Note	GH¢	GH¢
Income	2	1,018,698.25	1,043,290.93
DEDUCT:			
Programme Expenditure	3	781,299.01	614,939.04
Administrative Expenses	4	297,808.62	348,889.58
		1,079,107.63	963,828.62
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YE TO ACCUMMULATED FUND	AR TRANSFERRED	(60,409.38)	79,462.31
ACCUMMULATED FUND		GH¢	GH¢
Balance at 1st January		128,134.96	48,672.65
Transfer from Income Stateme	nt	(60,409.38)	79,462.31
Balance at 31st December		67,725.58	128,134.96

The notes on pages 7 - 10 forms an integral part of the financial statements.

Defence For Children International - Ghana Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2020

Statement of Financial Position			
		2020	2019
NON - CURRENT ASSETS	<u>Note</u>	GH¢	GH¢
Property, Plant & Equipment	5	2.00	2.00
CURRENT ASSETS			
Accounts Receivable			
Cash & Bank Balances	6	104,823.58_	191,322.66
		104,823.58	191,322.66
TOTAL ASSETS		104,825.58	191,324.66
EQUITY & LIABILITIES EQUITY		GH⊄	GH¢
Accummulated Fund		67,725.58_	128,134.96
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable	7	37,100.00	63,189.70
TOTAL EQUITY & LIABILITIES		104,825.58	191,324.66

PRESIDENT DATE: 72-83-28 28

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DATE:

The notes on pages 7 - 10 forms an integral part of the financial statements.

Defence For Children International - Ghana

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2020

Cash Flow Statement		
Cash Flow From Operating Activities	GH¢	GH¢
Surplus For the year		(60,409.38)
Depreciation		<u> </u>
(Increase)/Decrease in Accounts Receivable	0.00	(60,409.38)
Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts Payable	(26,089.70)	
		(26,089.70)
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities		(86,499.08)
Investing Activities		
Purchase of Fixed Assets		<u> </u>
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash & Cash Equivalents		(86,499.08)
Analysis of Cash & Cash Equivalents		GH¢
Cash & Bank Balance at 1/1/20		191,322.66
Net Cash		(86,499.08)
Cash & Bank Balance at 31/12/20		104,823.58

Notes To The Accounts

NOTE 1: ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following Accounting Policies have been adopted by the NGO:

(a) Convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

(b) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on accrual basis in accordance with the Ghana Accounting Standards and the companies Code, 2019(Act 992).

(c) Depreciation

Depreciation and amortization are computed on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the asset. The following rates have been used:

Motor Vehicle	20%
Furniture & Fittings	10%
Office Equipment	10%

(d) Foreign Currency Translation

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transactions. Money assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All differences are taken to the statement of comprehensive income.

Defence For Children International - Ghana Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2020

Notes To The Accounts - Cont'd

		2020	2019
NOTE 2:	INCOME	GH¢	GH¢
	Funds Received from Donors Donations Received Dues from members	1,017,269.25 - 1,429.00	1,041,366.93 939.00 985.00
		1,018,698.25	1,043,290.93
NOTE 3:	PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE	GH¢	GH¢
	Socio - Legal Services	12,534.00	51,170.00
	Research, Lobbying & Advocacy	431,523.60	432,475.11
	Monitoring & Evaluation	250,421.41	131,293.93
	Training & Capacity Building	86,820.00	
		781,299.01	614,939.04

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2020

Notes To	The Accounts - Cont'd		2020		2019
NOTE 1.	ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		2020 GH¢		GH¢
14011 4.	ADMINISTRATIVE EXTENSES				78.60
	Personnel Emoluments		90,531.16		160,340.89
	SSNIT - Employers Contribution		12,627.91		10,637.5
	Consultancy Fee		75,922.01		71,758.0
	Repairs & Maintenance		8,862.33		12,048.00
	Rent		23,400.00		23,400.0
	Telephone & Internet		20,232.20		11,289.0
	Electricity & Water		10,670.98		9,413.0
	Cleaning & Sanitation		2,956.93		825.0
	Office Expenses				1,640.0
	Printing & stationery		12,984.39		14,714.0
	Auditors Fees		20,300.00		16,445.7
	Audit Expenses		16,800.00		14,000.0
	General Assembly Expenses				200.0
	Bank Charges		2,520.71		2,178.3
	Depreciation			<u> </u>	-
			297,808.62		348,889.5
NOTE 5:	PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT	MOTOR	FURNITURE	OFFICE	
		VEHICLE/BIKE	& FITTINGS	EQUIP.	TOTAL
	COST	GH¢	GH¢	GH¢	GH¢
	Balance at 1/1/20	36,088.84	6,482.80	15,093.30	57,664.9
	Additions		-	-	11 41
	Balance at 31/12/20	36,088.84	6,482.80	15,093.30	57,664.9
	DEPRECIATION				
	Balance at 1/1/20	36,087.84	6,482.80	15,092.30	57,662.9
	Charge for the year				-
	Balance at 31/12/20	36,087.84	6,482.80	15,092.30	57,662.9
	NET BOOK VALUE				
	At 31/12/20	1.00	-	1.00	2.0
	At 31/12/19	1.00		1.00	2.0

Defence For Children International - Ghana

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2020

Notes To The Accounts - Cont'd

		2020	2019
NOTE 6:	CASH AND BANK BALANCES	GH¢	GH¢
	Zenith Bank (Ghana) Limited - EURO Account	2,947.44	147,757.98
	Zenith Bank (Ghana) Limited - Cedi Account	99,162.14	41,840.68
	Cash in Hand	2,714.00	1,724.00
		104,823.58	191,322.66
NOTE 7:	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	GH¢	GH¢
	Creditors		32,744.00
	Accrued Audit Fees & Expenses	37,100.00	30,445.70
		37,100.00	63,189.70