

**DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN
INTERNATIONAL
GHANA**

THE WORLDWIDE MOVEMENT FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



ANNUAL REPORT – 2021

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 under review, DCI-Ghana begun implementing a five-year strategic project by name; She Leads; with funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs through DCI-ECPAT, Netherlands, Plan International, African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), and Terre des Hommes the Netherlands (TdH) respectively. The project is implemented in three districts in the Ashanti Region of Ghana namely, the Kumasi Metropolis, Asokore Mampong Municipal, Amansie Central, Obuasi East and West Municipality as well as the national advocacy Centre in Accra, Ghana. Key strategies used during project implementation involved: Mobilizing communities & role models, Media influencing & advocacy, Resource girl-led organizing, collective action and activism, Support the formation & strengthening of a social movement for girls rights and gender equality (Partner with feminist organizations, girls'/women's rights organizations and children/youth organizations), Enable joint learning between girl-led groups, young feminist organizations and activists, Lobbying formal and informal institutions (Strategic partnership with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Royal Netherlands Embassy), Engagement in regional & international advocacy (Advocate for girls' access to regional and international institutions and human rights mechanisms) and Research and policy advice.

Some achievements in 2021 from the projects implemented included; strengthening of referral networks in Kumasi Metropolis and Obuasi municipalities; awareness raising to estimated 340,000 households, capacity strengthening for 206 Girls and Young Women, 7 focal persons, 10 Community Leaders, 11 media personnel, and 8 CSOs; lobbying and advocacy with 19 government officials and 6 CSOs networks and coalitions; socio-legal protective services for 5 girls/ young women and boys/ young men through mediation, referrals, and counseling; monitoring of the living conditions of 14 juveniles 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 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 2021, DCI-Ghana promoted and protected children rights and child justice through the implementation of the She Leads Project. This report highlights the project activities and achievements in 2021.

2.0 Brief Details of the Projects Executed in 2021.

2.1 She Leads Project

The She Leads Project is a 5-year strategic project which began in 2021 and is expected to end in 2025. DCI Ghana, Plan International Ghana, Women Aspire Network (WAN) and Gender Centre for Empowering Development (GenCed) are the consortium 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, Plan International, African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) and Terres des Hommes. DCI-Ghana is implementing the project in 7 communities in Kumasi, Asokore Mampong and Obuasi municipalities in Ashanti region, Ghana.

2.2 Juvenile / Child Justice

Socio-legal protective services were provided to abused children through the Socio-Legal Defence Centers in Kumasi and Obuasi. Services provided included, counselling, mediation, and referrals. This project is an integral part of all the projects implemented by DCI-Ghana over the years.

3.0 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2021

Activities	Number of beneficiaries	Details
Direct interventions/ assistance to children	19 abused children	Socio-legal protective services to children on cases of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child maintenance • Child maltreatment • Child custody • Child neglect • Children in conflict with the law
Advocacy and Lobby	8 CSOs	Dialogue and lobbying meetings with CSO representatives on gender equality and Girls and Women’s rights.
Advocacy and Lobby	19 government officials	Dialogue and lobbying meetings with CSO representatives on gender equality and Girls and Women’s rights.
Engagement with Communities	Estimated 340,000 households	Public campaigns through media (radios, community information centres, durbars) on gender equality and Girls and Young Women’s participation in leadership and decision making conducted to raise awareness and support for girls and women’s rights.
Capacity Strengthening	19 government officials, 206 Girls and Young Women (GYW) 10 community leaders	Training and sensitization programs for community leaders, GYW, government officials, traditional leaders and religious leaders on gender equality and girls and women’s rights and participation in leadership and decision making.
Research and monitoring	11 Senior High Schools (SHS)	Research on girls’ leadership in SHS conducted on the She Leads project.

Thematic areas/ Area of intervention	The implementation Processes	Details
Juvenile Justice	Integral part on-going projects	Monitoring of juveniles in detention for socio-legal defence and representations.
Violence against children	Integral part on-going projects	Lobbying and advocacy for effective implementation of laws that promotes positive socio-cultural norms, values and practices on child protection including girls and young women's rights using the child protection and communication for development tool kits developed by the Department of Community Development / UNICEF
Children deprived of Liberty	Integral part on-going projects	Legal defence and representations
Gender (Girls and Young Women)	Integral part on-going projects	Lobbying and advocacy in favour of girls and women's rights and participation in leadership and decision making
Child Participation	Integral part on-going projects	Adolescent Girls and Boys groups mobilised, trained, and supported to promote girls' rights and participation in leadership and decision making through child rights clubs, life planning skills sessions, campaign activities and dialogue meetings using the child protection and communication for development tool kits developed by the Department of Community Development/UNICEF
Child Trafficking / Exploitation / Slavery	Integral part on-going projects	Identification, withdrawal, and rehabilitation of children in trafficking and advocacy in favour of trafficked children
Child Labour	Integral part on-going projects	Awareness raising programs to educate communities, parents, traditional leaders, and religious leaders on the issue of child labour especially in illegal mining and on the streets.

3.1 Programmes/ Projects/ Activities

Programme/Projects/Activities - Justice for Children	
Title	Socio-legal defence for Children in Ghana
Main Objective (s)	To increase the understanding of the content of the Justice for children policy among CSOs and to join actions together to fight for the rights of Children
Duration – please provide starting and finishing dates	May 2021 – December 2025
Partner organizations	Defence for Children International, Ghana, Plan International Ghana, WAN and GenCed
Donors	Defence for Children International, Ghana
Geographical scope [national, (sub-) regional, international]	Sub – national
Thematic focus	Child Justice
Key activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of CSOs and Government officials on the Justice for Children Policy. • Lobby meetings with government and CSO decision makers.
Impact / Achievements / Number of beneficiaries – (if no exact numbers, please provide estimates)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The network of CSOs and government was strengthened through the capacity support in Kumasi metropolis, Asokore Mampong municipality and Obuasi municipality. • This was to also help strengthen networks dialogues between CSOs and government partners in child protection • 40 Government officials • 20 CSOs
Programme/ Projects/ Activities - Gender Equality	
Title	She Leads
Main Objective (s)	To increase sustained influence of girls and young women (GYW) on decision-making and the transformation of gender norms in formal and informal institutions.
Duration – please provide starting and finishing dates	May 2021 – December 2025
Partner organizations	Defence for Children International, Ghana, Plan International Ghana, WAN and GenCed
Donor	Dutch ministry of Foreign Affairs and Defence for Children International /ECPAT – Netherlands

<p>Geographical scope <i>[national, (sub-) regional, international]</i></p>	<p>Sub-national, National, Regional and International</p>
<p>Thematic focus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-cultural Domain: increased acceptance of GYW leadership and inclusion in decision-making processes at all levels • Civil Society Domain - Enhanced collective action of GYW in a Ghanaian civil society that values the participation and leadership of GYW • Institutional Domain – Lobby formal and information institutions to create civic spaces and value GYW to participate in decision-making and incorporate their contributions in decisions.
<p>Key activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of She Leads at regional level • Engagement with communities; boys, men, parents/care givers, chiefs, queen mothers etc. • Identify and support boys and men groups /role models to champion change in gender norms including Gender norm debates in communities and schools. • Identify and build the capacity of media houses already advocating for girls’ rights to promote She leads agenda, at regional and national levels • Engage media (sign MoU) in framing gender positive messages/ Jingles/ advertisement and countering negative gender norms and stereotypes identified at all levels • Mobilize GYW groups in each of the project regions • Conduct capacity needs assessment (hard and soft skills) of girl-led org and CSOs to identify gaps • Support capacity strengthening needs of GYW groups (soft and hardware) • E.g. soft; Lobby& Advocacy Skills, resource mobilization, Leadership& management, fund raising/resource mobilization • Identify and support capacity strengthening needs of CSOs to promote the She Leads agenda

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSOs / networks jointly provide platform for girl-led organizations to learn and network with adult-led CSOs and activists for their leadership development at regional & national levels • CSOs& Networks institutionalize GYW - led celebrations/ platforms to highlight issues affecting girls e.g., Int. Day of the Girl Child, Int. Day of the Africa Child, girls take over, girls get equal etc. at regional and national levels • Organize quarterly review meetings of CNW, CSOs and selected GYW for sharing and learning at regional and national levels. • Use evidence from time diaries and harmful norms identified and support girls to engage key actors; MMDAs, traditional & religious leaders (institutions) and lobby them to sign commitments to facilitate the creation of civic spaces for GYWs, lobby MMDAs to allocate space for their inclusion in the assembly and local level committees including unit committees • Collect data about girls' leadership in selected senior High schools and use evidence to advocate and encourage girls' leadership in schools • Mapping of the existing human rights platforms and mechanisms e.g Beijing platforms, Convention on the rights of the Child (CRC), GYW Shadow reporting on state report, SDGs VNR, UPRs, CEDAW, African Commission on human and people’s rights, African CSO Forum on the ACRWC etc. • Collaborate with a research institution to conduct research on the involvement of GYW in decision making at all levels • Development of policy recommendations and advocacy actions
<p>Impacts/ Achievements/ Numbers of beneficiaries - (if no exact numbers, please provide estimates)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified and strengthened the capacity of 2 partners (1 Woman-Led organization and 1 Girl-led Organization) to support the implement the project in the Ashanti Region. • Launched the She Leads project in Ashanti Region with the contracted partners where stakeholders from state institutions, religious and traditional leaders,

	<p>CSO/networks, Youth Advocates, Champions of Change, and the media pledged to facilitate the creation of safe spaces for GYW to take up leadership positions and participate in decision-making processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified and strengthened the capacity of 7 Girls and Young Women (GYW) groups to advocate for GYW inclusion in decision making and lobby community members on the She Leads agenda. • Increased activism by GYW in promoting girls' rights, women's economic empowerment and GYW involvement in local governance. 3 GYW and Youth Advocate from Buokrom engaged the Atonsu Presby Church using role play to advocate for girls' leadership an inclusiveness in public decision making in school, family, religious gatherings, and in the community. • DCI and contracted partners have formed partnership with 5 media houses for the She Leads project in the Ashanti Region. The media are Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC), Oyerepa FM, Ghana News Agency (GNA), Dome Peace FM and Salt FM. All the media houses have agreed in principle to commit themselves for the She Leads project. Ghana Broadcasting Corporation especially has requested for a partnership agreement between She Leads and their media house to promote the She Leads agenda. • Increased public awareness creation through mass media interviews and discussions on Garden City Radio and TV, Dome Peace FM, Kumasi FM and Ghana News Agency on GYW exclusion and the need to create a civic space for GYW in reinforcing the 3 outcomes of the She Leads project during international days i.e. World Day against Child Labour and International Youth Day • DCI and contracted partners have formed a Social Movement in the Ashanti Region. The membership has been consolidated and a committee has been put in place to plan towards the launching of the social movement.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened the capacity of 19 government officials, 5 Youth Advocates, 2 Children’s Parliament, 4 Champions of Change, 25 GYW and 8 CSOs on the She Leads agenda, networking, learning and sharing of experiences and best practices from the project through the celebration of international days i.e. Day of the African Child and Day of the Child. • Six (6) CSO networks and coalitions have been identified and engaged on the project. The coalitions were: Girls Not Brides Ghana (GNB), Network of Women’s Rights in Ghana (Netright Ghana), Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child (GNCRC), CSO SDGs Platform, Ghana Journalist Association (GJA), and International Federation of Women Lawyers Ghana (FIDA). Capacity discussion meetings and seminars have been organized to sensitize and promote exchanges on gender equality and feminism as well as formation of a social movement to promote the She Leads agenda. The CSO networks have also been supported to engage in the celebration of the international days for enhanced experience in lobbying and advocacy on girls’ rights and gender equality.
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DCI visits Ghana News Agency and Oyerepa FM to forge partnership for the She Leads project



Follow up meeting with CSOs and GYWs on the formation of Social Movement in the Ashanti



Afriqwe Girls lead group in Buokrom



She Leads Regional Launch in the Ashanti

3.2 Capacity Strengthening of Staff Members

DCI staff participated in 9 capacity building workshops and meetings both virtually and in-person. The capacity building includes:

- Webinar on the She Leads Safeguarding
- Webinar on 3rd African Girls Summit held in Niger
- Consultative meeting on the Non-Profit Organization (NPO) Bill
- Virtual: launch of the 2020 UN Agenda 2030 and AU Agenda 2063 progress reports and Forum on the Rights of Domestic workers and ILO convention 189
- She Leads Webinar on Safeguarding
- International Day of Persons with Disabilities via Zoom
- Virtual training on Learning National and global advocacy: international level participation to influence councils, experts, and human rights mechanisms. Eg. CEDAW and CRC
- Virtual: Child Safeguarding steps for drafting child safeguarding policy and discussing the policy with field organizations
- Webinar on Africa Human Rights Day.

3.3 She Leads Inception workshop

An inception workshop for the She Leads project was organized from the 23rd to the 25th of March 2021. The alliance partners together with the contracted partners of DCI-Ghana and Plan Ghana attended the workshop. The first day saw the closure of the GAA project where some highlights of the project were outlined i.e., gains and lessons learned, videos on the work of champions of change, and statements from some partners of GAA i.e., YAG and GenCED were taken. After, the new project, She Leads was launched with the NL Ambassador gracing the occasion. After the team was introduced to the project She Leads, and an overview of the project was given. The second day looked at a detailed presentation on She Leads i.e., goal, outcomes, strategies, governance, roles, and responsibilities. Presentation on TOC- review of outcome statements, review of work plan- linking it to the results framework. The third day centered on the recap of previous days, presentation on advocacy logbook and outcome harvesting list, and practical work on how to use the advocacy logbook and outcome harvesting list.

3.4 Launching of She Leads Steering Committee: The steering committee of the She Leads project was successfully launched on 30th June. All invited guests for the day represented. The invited guests were representatives from the Department of Gender, Department of Children, Policy Advisor at the Dutch Embassy, the office of the Chief Imam, representative form Youth Advocates Ghana and six (6) selected media houses at the national level. The constitution to govern the work of the committee was read, accepted, and adopted by members. The committee members were introduced and the representative from the Department of Gender launched the She Leads

Steering Committee on behalf of the Director for Gender and charged them to effectively administer their responsibilities. Key stakeholders gave their solidarity messages, and all pledged to spread the advocacy of She Leads in their institutions and organizations.

3.5 Annual General Assembly of DCI-Ghana

The Annual General Assembly of DCI-Ghana was convened in Kumasi on 25th June. The Executive director introduced members of DCI-Ghana to the staff of the organization to create familiarization. Representatives of the Girl Young Women groups advocated for the inclusion of girls in decision-making and leadership positions at all levels through an interview session on the She Leads project. A Girl and Young Women advocate sensitized members through a presentation on the She Leads project where she lobbied stakeholders to embrace the She Leads project and create a safe space for GYW to help in the realization of the She Leads objective, after which Members pledged to support the She Leads advocacy by using their platforms and institutions to help achieve She Leads objectives. The minute of the last GA meeting was presented and approved by Assembly members, Matters Arising, and membership issues were highlighted and discussed. Dr. Oppong and Finance Officer presented the annual narrative report and financial statement of DCI-Ghana for 2020. There was a presentation on the overview of the She Leads project by the She Leads Country Coordinator.

3.6 Ashanti Regional Probation Committee Meeting

Two Regional Probation Committee Meetings were held in 2021. The first meeting was held on February 12 while the second meeting was held in August. The meetings were attended by 1 DCI Ghana staff. The meetings reviewed probation activities in the Ashanti Region from 2018 to 2020. Members were enlightened on what the probation committee stands for and their purpose in the social welfare department. The participants were taken through some of the juvenile justices' cases recorded from 2018 to 2020 and cases were deliberated on by the participants. The presentations on these cases were made by the probation committee heads at Bekwai, Konongo and Foase. The Ashanti Regional Director for the Department of Social Welfare asked the probation committee members to bring out issues affecting their operations and issues of rehabilitation, the state of the remand homes as well as security and funds were discussed.

3.7 Linkage with the Netherlands Embassy

In the She Leads project, linking with the embassy for contacts, kick-off meetings and collaborations is key. On the 4th of March 2021, DCI-Ghana hosted the Dutch Ambassador and his wife and the policy advisor at the embassy as well as the project manager for Plan Ghana at DCI-Ghana's office at Accra. The meeting began with a self-introduction by members. After, there was a short presentation on She Leads, pointing out the country's alliance partners, geographical domains of each partner and justifications, global and local updates since January to date, 2021 work plan, activities for March, and the TOC.

3.8 Orientation of contracted partners

DCI-Ghana organized contracted partners meeting on the 30th of March 2021 at the Kumasi office. The meeting aimed to clearly outline the activities of each organization for She Leads, outline the districts and communities where each organization will implement their activities, and draft a budget for the activities outlined by the contracted partners for review. The meeting commenced with introductions by participants and a quick overview of the agenda for the day was given. At the end of the meeting, DCI-Ghana, RRIG, and EWEF selected their activities to be implemented in the She Leads project. EWEF concentrated on activities under the socio-cultural domain while RRIG, and DCI concentrated on the civil society and institutional domains as well as the socio-cultural domain. Each organization outlined its implementing districts and communities. EWEF will work in the Asante Akim North district in ten (10) communities. RRIG will work in Bosome Freho and Bosomtwe districts in ten (10) communities respectively and DCI-Ghana will work in Kumasi Metro and Asokore Mampong District in two (2) communities each for the first implementing year. Contracted partners of DCI-Ghana requested two days to draft and submit their budget which was agreed by all. The She Leads Regional launch was also discussed, and the program outline was designed and submitted for approval.

3.9 Capacity Strengthening for GYW Groups

Two capacity building workshops were organized for 7 GYW groups four project districts, namely, Asokore Mampong, Amansie Central, Kumasi Metropolis, Obuasi East and West Municipalities. The first training was held in the month of July and August 2021. The workshop centered on the overview of the She Leads project, advocacy and lobbying skills, and club structuring. GYW were taken through the concept of She Leads and enlightened on the meaning of advocacy and lobbying, the characteristics, and stages of advocacy to strengthen their capacity and enable them to lobby and advocate for GYW's leadership and inclusion in decision-making at the district and community level.

The second training session was organized for the Afrique Girls Leads on November 12, 2021, at the Buokrom M/A JHS premises. The training focused on gender role analysis, advocacy skill and the concept of child protection. The training was divided into two sessions: the first session discussed the concept of child protection and gave a brief explanation about a good advocacy skill. The second session defined what Gender and Sex means and Gender Stereotyping. She discussed the gender roles assigned to boys and girls in the school and home using the boys and girl's role analysis toolkits.

3.10 Annual Planning Meeting for She Leads

In August, the She Leads Ghana network organized a three-day annual planning meeting from 17th -19th to plan for the 2022 year of project implementation, in which some DCI, contracted partners' staff, and one GYW rep participated. The first day of the meeting saw partners' presentations on achievements and small victories, challenges faced in 2021 project implementation, and solutions to address the challenges. There was a presentation on baseline findings where participants were taken through the findings. The Theory of Change (TOC) was reviewed, and partners agreed to maintain the pathways in the TOC. On the second day, consortium members presented suggested activities that could be undertaken in 2022 for review. Partners also reviewed the annual plan matrix template to create targets for 2021 to 2025 project implementation. On the third day, partners were taken through the collaboration with other CSOs. Partners also joined in a virtual meeting with the global advocacy network team where participants were taken through how the Ghana consortium can link up with the African Regional and the global team. There was a presentation on the data-driven advocacy approach and the role of the EM2030's in She Leads. Dr. Opong facilitated the learning activity session where partners presented proposed learning activities, reviewed them, and agreed on four learning activities for 2022: Youth Activism, Evidence-based advocacy by GYW, International GYW advocacy, and Institutional space for GYW. After the planning, the following key decisions were taken; Partners agreed to identify role models, boys' groups, men's groups, and Champions of Change to aid in advocacy actions at the community and district level. Partners agreed that the following sustainability actions should be considered; Sustainability of Girls movements, getting girls groups to be registered with NYA, Increased support for GYWs to enable resource mobilization, partners agreed on inclusion and capacity building of the marginalized into participation and leadership to promote inclusion in the project. It was agreed that partners identify ten marginalized groups and create adolescent safe corners for girls and young women to promote their meetings in the Ashanti region. Partners agreed that five non-youth led CSOs would be equipped in youth engagement in the Ashanti region and a manual to be developed to facilitate the training. The creation of social media platforms for the Ghana She Leads network, e.g., Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Partners agreed to create a WhatsApp platform at the community, districts, regional, and national levels for GYW groups to promote social movement and easy communication.

3.11 Ashanti Regional Child Protection Committee Meeting

In August, DCI a representative from DCI participated in the Regional Child Protection Committee meeting organized by the Department of Children (DOC). The purpose of the meeting was to share information on the effort to drive foreign children begging on the street of Kumasi by DOC and the way forward and discussed the inter-sectoral standard operating procedure for Child protection and family welfare. DCI was also able to present on the She Leads project. The meeting helped participants understand the inter-sectoral standard operating procedure (I.S.O.P.) and apply it in their operation. The committee agreed to take it up with the R.C.C. in the removal of those kids.

3.12 Capacity Strengthening on Integrated Social Service Delivery in Kumasi

The meeting was held on 26th August a representative from DCI participated in the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development stakeholder's meeting on Integrated Social Service Delivery within the Municipality. The meeting aimed to strengthen the linkages between stakeholder agencies, review activities undertaken by partners to promote child protection and case management within their agencies and share success stories. The DCI rep presented some of the activities undertaken by DCI, including establishing the referrals protocol system to help refer cases and an overview of the She Leads project. The meeting enlightened participants on the Inter-sectoral, and they agreed to refer cases and act on cases quickly when referred to them

3.13 Justice for Children

Three cases were received; 1 in March and 2 in November 2021; the cases were on child maltreatment, child custody and property related. 2 of the cases were addressed where the victims and perpetrators were counseled, and the issues were resolved: 1 case is still pending because the complainant had lost interest in the pursuing the case.

3.14 Visit to the Prisons

DCI embarked on a visit to the prison to ascertain the state of juvenile justice and the prison. It was found out that about 14 minors were held in bars which was against the juvenile justice law in the country. The DCI officer present discussed the processes involved in addressing the issue with the after-care agent at the Kumasi Prisons.

3.13 The She Leads Ghana network meetings

Eight (8) She Leads Ghana network meeting was organized to network, share learning and experiences among the country networks. The issues highlighted include:

- Shortlisting final applicants for the She Leads project
- Discuss the probation of candidate for the Country Coordinator
- Debriefing on the Dutch Ambassador's visit
- Detailed discussion on the workplan and budget
- Discussion on the baseline survey
- Discussion on the FDG template

3.14 Engagement with Communities

DCI together with contracted partners engaged community members to identify and discuss harmful gender norms that affect the inclusion and leadership of GYW in decision-making processes and the strategies to address the identified gaps. Following the findings from the time diaries survey, EWEF in partnership with DCI-Ghana and the Ghana Education Service- Asante Akim North Municipal organized an Inter-School Gender Norms Debate between Collins Senior High School and State College, all in Agogo, on Friday, November 19, 2021. The main objective of the debate contest was to get the young people (boys and girls) to champion change in harmful traditional gender norms, such as overburdened household chores on women/girls that perpetuate gender discrimination and the subordination of women and girls.

The motion for the day was, *‘Boys Should be Made to Perform Household Chores as Girls’*. Collins SHS spoke in favor of the motion, and State College spoke against the motion. The debaters from both schools presented specific issues, constraints, opportunities, recommendations and action steps to support their stances. *Boys performing household chores is not about gender equality, but survival skills.* – *Afia Pokuaa Asamoah, Principal Speaker for the motion, Collins SHS*. The debate was impactful as the minds of stakeholders were transformed on gender equality and norms.

3.15 Training of selected Media Houses on Gender and reporting

DCI and contracted partners identified and built the capacity of 10 media houses who are already advocating for girls’ rights and girls’ empowerment to promote the She Leads on Concept of Gender with emphasis on gender equality, gender sensitivity, gender- interest and stories and Girls and Young Women (GYW) inclusion and involvement in leadership and decision making., ethics in gender reporting. The media houses were drawn from 5 districts in the Ashanti Region that pledged their support for the She Leads Project. Discussion on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) also took place in the training with conclusion to follow up to the Managers of the concerned media houses on the same.

3.16 Visit to media houses to forge partnership for the she leads project

DCI visited the offices of the Ghana News Agency (GNA) in Adum- Kumasi, Dome Peace in Amansie Central, Oyerepa FM in Adum- Kumasi and Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) in Asafo- Kumasi whiles EWEF visited Salt FM in Asante Akim Agogo to forge partnership for the She Leads project. All the media houses were willing to support the She Leads in news reporting, participation in advocacy work, development of IE&C materials and serve as a Resource Persons for our field work. Some media houses explained that legal commitment cannot be signed at the regional level unless they seek clearance from their Head Offices. Therefore, a verbal commitment was made by the Regional Managers and Directors of the media houses to support the She Leads project in the Ashanti Region.

3.17 Support capacity strengthening needs of contracted partners

A national training was conducted for all the She Leads Network partners in which DCI-Ghana and its contracted partners participated. DCI- provided follow-up sessions and opportunities for continued capacity support for contracted partners RRIG and EWEF at the regional level. Areas of capacity support included but not limited to; Advocacy and Lobbying skills, social media engagement skills, Community engagement skills, Leadership & management, fund raising/resource mobilization, strengthening the internal structures of NGOs, use of time diaries etc.

3.18 Formation & strengthening of a social movement for girls' rights and gender equality

Six (6) CSO networks and coalitions have been identified and engaged on the project. The coalitions were: Girls Not Brides Ghana (GNB), Network of Women's Rights in Ghana (Netright Ghana), Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child (GNCRC), CSO SDGs Platform, Ghana Journalist Association (GJA), and International Federation of Women Lawyers Ghana (FIDA). Capacity discussion meetings and seminars have been organised to sensitise and promote exchanges on gender equality and feminism as well as formation of a social movement to promote the She Leads agenda. The CSO networks have also been supported to engage in the celebration of the international days for enhanced experience in lobbying and advocacy on girls' rights and gender equality.

3.19 Joint learning between girl-led groups, young feminist organizations and activists

DCI-Ghana supported and contributed to the organisation of quarterly review meetings at the national and regional levels in which GYW groups, Girl advocates, the CSOs network partners and the contracted partners participated., Networking, learning and sharing of experiences and best practices on GYWs as well as gender equality took place in these meetings.

3.20 CSOs Networks institutionalize GYW-led celebrations/platforms to highlight issues affecting girls

Five (5) international day celebrations were celebrated by DCI and contracted partners in the Ashanti Region: World Day against Child Labour, Day of the African Child, International Youth Day, International Day of the Girl Child, and international day of the child. A total of 108 participants were reached. Participants were: GYW groups, Youth Advocates, Duty Bearers, CSOs, Media, Traditional and Religious Leaders. The events highlighted issues that affects girls' rights and participation in decision making:

GYW Advocates from Buokrom engaged in a panel discussion which highlighted the causes and the impact of child labor on Ghanaian children with a focus on the girl child and discussed ways the government of Ghana can combat child labor and strategies to ensure that children's rights and welfare are protected especially girls during national disasters.

DCI, contracted partners, GYW advocates and CSOs networks shared their experiences and lessons from their participation in the She Leads project. 2 GYW advocates from Buokrom engaged in a role play to explain the concept of the She Leads project. 5 media personnel held interview sessions with the She Leads partners and some duty bearers.

GYW Advocates from Kumasi Metropolis, Bosomtwe and Asante Akim Agogo presented the ten aspirations of Agenda 2040 and highlight issues affecting girls' development and participation in leadership and decision-making at all levels during the Day of the African Child. The advocates lobbied duty bearers from MMDAs, traditional and religious institutions create and allocate civic spaces for GYW development and inclusion in the District Assembly and local level committees.

Five news reports were developed by GBC online and TV, Oyerepa FM, New Trust and Citi TV to advocate for girls' inclusion in the digital world and to lobby the government to create a civic space for GYW participation in local government.

3.21 Mapping of the existing human rights platforms and mechanisms

There was links with the regional and international programs to update the consortium on the various regional and international mechanisms and platforms. DCI-Ghana participated in the UPR meeting in November 17, 2021 to learn about the guidelines for preparing the CSOs report on Human Rights in Ghana. DCI-Ghana will train the consortium and contracted partners to guide the network in preparing the CSO report on Girls Leadership and participation in decision making in the next country reporting. DCI-Ghana and its contracted partners also participated in and contributed to the preparation of the CSO report on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 14th December 2021 coordinated by the Ghana Monitoring and Evaluation Forum and the Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child



A group photo of the participants after the press discussion on Child Labour



A group photo of the Day of the African Child



A group photo of the participants of the General Assembly meeting of DCI-Ghana



Group picture from the She Leads Annual Planning Meeting



Panelist interview at Garden City TV and Radio



Capacity Strengthening of GYW in

Capacity Strengthening of GYW in Amansie



NL Ambassador's visit to DCI's office

Participants of the inception Workshop



Inter-school gender norm debate held in Asante Akim North



DCI-Ghana and Contracted Partners (RRIG and EWEF) in a Planning Project Meeting

4.0 Conclusion

In the year 2022, DCI-Ghana will continue to implement the She Leads project together with its consortium members of Plan International Ghana, Women Aspire Network and Gender Centre for Empowering Development.

Lessons and experiences from the achievements chalked at the community and sub-national levels would be scaled up to intensify the national and international advocacy. The organization would continue to mobilize resources through extended and additional partnerships for wider and sustained impacts on its constituents.

DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL-GHANA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2021

KAN CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
P. O. BOX CT 1498
CANTONMENTS, ACCRA

DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL – GHANA
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2021

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DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL – GHANA
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2021

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, 2021

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, 2021.

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.....

 28/04/.....2022

Executive Director.....

 28/04/..... 2022

**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, 2021, 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, 2021, 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:

- i. 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 : CA**
KAN CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Managing Partner

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

Date:

Defence For Children International - Ghana
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2021

Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

		<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	<u>Note</u>	GH¢	GH¢
Income	2	<u>698,774.25</u>	<u>1,018,698.25</u>
<u>DEDUCT:</u>			
Programme Expenditure	3	512,473.40	781,299.01
Administrative Expenses	4	<u>262,325.40</u>	<u>297,808.62</u>
		<u>774,798.80</u>	<u>1,079,107.63</u>
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMMULATED FUND		<u>(76,024.55)</u>	<u>(60,409.38)</u>
<u>ACCUMMULATED FUND</u>		GH¢	GH¢
Balance at 1st January		67,725.58	128,134.96
Transfer from Income Statement		<u>(76,024.55)</u>	<u>(60,409.38)</u>
Balance at 31st December		<u>(8,298.97)</u>	<u>67,725.58</u>

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, 2021

Statement of Financial Position

		<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<u>NON - CURRENT ASSETS</u>	<u>Note</u>	GH¢	GH¢
Property, Plant & Equipment	5	<u>2.00</u>	<u>2.00</u>
 <u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Dues Prepaid		285.00	-
Cash & Bank Balances	6	<u>14,980.03</u>	<u>104,823.58</u>
		<u>15,265.03</u>	<u>104,823.58</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>15,267.03</u>	<u>104,825.58</u>
 <u>EQUITY & LIABILITIES</u>			
<u>EQUITY</u>		GH¢	GH¢
Accummulated Fund		<u>(8,298.97)</u>	<u>67,725.58</u>
 <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
Accounts Payable	7	<u>23,566.00</u>	<u>37,100.00</u>
TOTAL EQUITY & LIABILITIES		<u>15,267.03</u>	<u>104,825.58</u>



 PRESIDENT

DATE: 28/04/2022



 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: 28/04/2022

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, 2021

Cash Flow Statement

<u>Cash Flow From Operating Activities</u>	GH¢	GH¢
Surplus For the year		(76,024.55)
Depreciation		-
(Increase)/Decrease in Accounts Receivable	(285.00)	(76,024.55)
Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts Payable	<u>(13,534.00)</u>	<u>(13,819.00)</u>
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities		(89,843.55)
<u>Investing Activities</u>		
Purchase of Fixed Assets		-
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash & Cash Equivalents		<u><u>(89,843.55)</u></u>
<u>Analysis of Cash & Cash Equivalents</u>		GH¢
Cash & Bank Balance at 1/1/21		104,823.58
Net Cash		<u>(89,843.55)</u>
Cash & Bank Balance at 31/12/21		<u><u>14,980.03</u></u>

Defence For Children International - Ghana

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2021

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, 2021

Notes To The Accounts - Cont'd

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
NOTE 2: <u>INCOME</u>	GH¢	GH¢
Funds Received from Donors	698,229.25	1,017,269.25
Dues from members	<u>545.00</u>	<u>1,429.00</u>
	<u>698,774.25</u>	<u>1,018,698.25</u>
NOTE 3: <u>PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE</u>	GH¢	GH¢
Socio - Legal Services	-	12,534.00
Research, Lobbying & Advocacy	459,112.42	431,523.60
Monitoring & Evaluation	35,012.98	250,421.41
Training & Capacity Building	<u>18,348.00</u>	<u>86,820.00</u>
	<u>512,473.40</u>	<u>781,299.01</u>

Defence For Children International - Ghana
 Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2021

Notes To The Accounts - Cont'd

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
NOTE 2: <u>INCOME</u>	GH¢	GH¢
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	<u>512,473.40</u>	<u>781,299.01</u>

Defence For Children International - Ghana
 Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2021

Notes To The Accounts - Cont'd

NOTE 4: <u>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</u>	<u>2021</u> GH¢	<u>2020</u> GH¢
Personnel Emoluments	158,676.65	90,531.16
SSNIT - Employers Contribution	20,768.59	12,627.91
Consultancy Fee	-	75,922.01
Repairs & Maintenance	7,546.50	8,862.33
Rent	18,000.00	23,400.00
Telephone & Internet	13,403.00	20,232.20
Electricity & Water	9,640.00	10,670.98
Cleaning & Sanitation	2,786.00	2,956.93
Printing & stationery	8,790.00	12,984.39
Auditors Fees	17,000.00	20,300.00
Audit Expenses	2,994.00	16,800.00
General Assembly Expenses	-	-
Bank Charges	2,720.66	2,520.71
Depreciation	-	-
	<u>262,325.40</u>	<u>297,808.62</u>

NOTE 5: <u>PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>MOTOR</u> <u>VEHICLE/BIKE</u> GH¢	<u>FURNITURE</u> <u>& FITTINGS</u> GH¢	<u>OFFICE</u> <u>EQUIP.</u> GH¢	<u>TOTAL</u> GH¢
<u>COST</u>				
Balance at 1/1/21	36,088.84	6,482.80	15,093.30	57,664.94
Additions	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31/12/21	<u>36,088.84</u>	<u>6,482.80</u>	<u>15,093.30</u>	<u>57,664.94</u>
<u>DEPRECIATION</u>				
Balance at 1/1/21	36,087.84	6,482.80	15,092.30	57,662.94
Charge for the year	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31/12/21	<u>36,087.84</u>	<u>6,482.80</u>	<u>15,092.30</u>	<u>57,662.94</u>
<u>NET BOOK VALUE</u>				
At 31/12/21	<u>1.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1.00</u>	<u>2.00</u>
At 31/12/20	<u>1.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1.00</u>	<u>2.00</u>

Defence For Children International - Ghana
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2021

Notes To The Accounts - Cont'd

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
NOTE 6: <u>CASH AND BANK BALANCES</u>	GH¢	GH¢
Zenith Bank (Ghana) Limited - EURO Account	2,848.89	2,947.44
Zenith Bank (Ghana) Limited - Cedi Account	4,064.14	99,162.14
Cash in Hand	<u>8,067.00</u>	<u>2,714.00</u>
	<u>14,980.03</u>	<u>104,823.58</u>
NOTE 7: <u>ACCOUNTS PAYABLE</u>	GH¢	GH¢
SSNIT, PAYE & Tier 2	3,572.00	-
Accrued Audit Fees & Expenses	<u>19,994.00</u>	<u>37,100.00</u>
	<u>23,566.00</u>	<u>37,100.00</u>