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Special points of interest:

- The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, engages stakeholders in M & E tools.
- Nexus Fund USA visits ADPs office to engage and if possible initiate joint cooperative activities and mutually benefiting projects to support the global and national efforts for mass atrocities prevention, human rights promotion, peace-building and conflicts management.
- ADP has successfully ended a Needs Assessment survey in Kumasi, Garden City Special Schools as part of its Advocacy campaign.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS ON MONITORING AND EVALUATION IN SOCIAL PROTECTION IN GHANA

A day's roundtable discussion on Monitoring and Evaluation in Social Protection in Ghana has been held in Accra in January 2014. In attendance at the roundtable discussion were members of the Social Protection Sector Working Group including representatives of state agencies implementing various social interventions, international agencies / NGOs, development partners and local CSOs (African Development Programme and Catholic Relief Services). The objectives of the 1-day event was to discuss the new M&E manual developed by the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), learn from the M&E arrangements of the Ghana School Feeding Pro-

gramme (GSFP) as well as launch the newly developed M&E system for the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) programme.

The Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection, Nana Oye Lithur and the UNICEF Country Rep Susan Ngongi in their remarks emphasized the need for evidenced-based policy and advocacy of social protection through rigorous monitoring and evaluation. The Deputy Director at NDPC in charge of M&E (Bruno Dery) took participants through the M&E framework as developed by the planning commission. The manual designed to guide the body of knowledge and practice in M&E, according to the

NDPC, is available on their website www.ndpc.gov.gh. The GSFP Deputy Coordinator for M&E, Victoria Kuma-Minta shared with participants the M&E design in use by the Secretariat to ensure the attainment of the programme objectives. The LEAP Coordinator at the Ministry on behalf of the team of consultants gave the overview of the newly developed framework for achieving effective monitoring and evaluation of the LEAP programme. Participants commended the steps towards implementing this LEAP M&E framework whilst expressing views there were still more grey areas to be worked to bring it in harmony with the NDPC M&E guide



A cross section of participants at the round-table Discussions



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ADP CONDUCTS NEEDS ASSESSMENT ON SPECIAL SCHOOL IN ASHANTI REGION

As part of its advocacy efforts on the needs of persons with disabilities, especially disabled children enrolled in special schools across the country, the African Development Programme has undertaken a needs assessment of the special school in Ashanti Region.

The school, known as the Garden City Special School for the Intellectually Disabled, is based in the Ashanti Region of Ghana and headed by Dr. Mrs. Roseline Frimpomaa-Adjepong. The school was established over two decades ago and caters for approximately 150 children mainly from the middle sector of the country. ADP purposively selected this special school to bring to the fore the stark realities confronting special schools in Ghana in general following its May 2013 initiated advocacy.

Messrs David Boateng and Kwadwo Dickson, Field Officers of ADP in Kumasi (ADP middle zone satellite office) conducted the participatory needs assess-

The African Development Programme is an NGO that has been in existence since 1993. In collaboration with national and international partners, it has been actively engaged in Social Protection Issues with core specialization in Education, Health, Social Development, Vulnerable and Excluded Group and the Physically Challenged in Society. Governance and Gender Issues are cross-cutting programme areas.

US-BASED HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION MEETS WITH ADP

A 2-member delegation of the Nexus Fund from the USA has met with officials of the African Development Programme to understand the nature of operations of both institutions as well as explore areas of possible collaboration at the Accra head office of ADP.

The Nexus Fund team was led by Sally Smith, who is the Managing Director of Nexus Fund and her Programmes Coordinator, William Waller. The visit afforded Nexus Fund the opportunity to share with ADP their scope of activities and initiatives for promoting human rights and ending mass atrocities, violence and conflicts. Ms. Smith highlighted the Civil Society Exchange Programme as an initiative of the Nexus Fund in facilitating the placement of development practitioners of CSOs with host organizations in the US for knowledge gaining and learning experiences especially in the areas of human rights, abuse and violence prevention, conflicts and peace-building.

Receiving the US delegation, the Head of Programs of ADP, Charles Othniel Abbey welcomed the team on behalf of the Board and management of the organization. He recounted ADP's rich experiences in conflict management and non-violence strategies in promoting community cohesion and peace-building for development. He highlighted ADP's key role together with UNICEF, World Vision and Adventist Development and Relief Agency during the 1994 violent conflicts in Northern Ghana through relief and rehabilitation efforts. The involvement of ADP in overseeing aid activities within Zabzugu, Tatale, Yendi environs in Northern region as well as some Accra settlements which had suffered a spill-over of the Kokomba-Nanumba conflict were shared with the team. ADP's efforts in building capacity of traditional authorities, civil society, media and religious leaders through non-violent strategies with the support of the Centre for Non-Violence Action and Strategies, Serbia and Swaziland were mentioned. ADP shared with the Nexus Fund team its planned activities for 2014 in the area of human rights, peace-building and conflicts management. ADP having successfully hosted the West and Central Africa office of the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) for over 6 years and the World Association of NGOs Ghana office for a period could be a strategic partner as NEXUS seeks to enter West Africa.

The leaders of both teams, Sally Smith and Charles Othniel Abbey, committed to engaging further to initiate joint cooperative activities and mutually benefiting projects to support the global and national efforts for mass atrocities prevention.



L-R: William Waller, Charles Othniel Abbey and Sally Smith

ment of the school in close collaboration with the headmistress and other school officials.

The result of the assessment is to form the basis for a joint in-kind fundraising project to address the teaching and learning challenges the school faces.