



## LOCAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION STRENGTHENING UNDER RURAL ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME (R.E.P) IN GA SOUTH MUNICIPALITY

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Hobor Soap Making Club acquire communication, conflict handling and leadership skills.**
- **Lessons from past GSFP must inform new actions of Gender Ministry**
- **21.8 percent of children engaged in child labour.**
- **Committing more resources from oil revenue must be key to financing social interventions.**

The Rural Enterprise Programme (R.E.P), which is the third phase of the rural Enterprise Project phase one and two (REP I & II) represents an important national vehicle for rural Micro and Small Enterprise (MSE) development. REP is intended to support the government of Ghana in converting the experiences of the REP I & II in rural enterprises development into a nationwide Programme.

The total cost of the programme is about \$193 million and is being funded by the Government of Ghana (GOG), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the African Development Bank (AFDB). The programme seeks to upscale the experiences and lessons learnt under REP 1 & II to cover, at least, 161 districts nationwide and is being implemented from 2012 to 2020. The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI) is the Ghana Government Executing Agency for the programme.

The overall goal of REP is to contribute to improving the livelihoods and income of rural poor micro and small entrepreneurs.

The REP in its inception since 1995, piloted a District-based model for MSEs development. The project involved the delivery of training to MSEs to enhance their technical and managerial abilities to make quality decisions for improving their productivity and incomes. Initially the Business Advisory Centres (BACs) facilitated the capacity development of the MSEs.

In the second phase of the project Business Development Services (BDS) providers were engaged in providing training; technical and managerial to rural enterprise and the Project Management Coordination Unit (PMCU) has managed the delivery of training activities over the years.

The programme targets to train 293,000 MSEs clients, out of which about 50 percent would be women, using quality training delivery and management standards and quality assurance to enable the MSE/ Local Business Associations acquire and adopt new and improved technical and managerial skills and attitudes for profitable business management, growth and employment generation in realizing the overall goal of REP.

To achieve REPs goal of effective training management and quality assurance leading



*Charles Othniel Abbey (Head of Programs, African Development Programme) in a training session with participants.*

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to enhanced rural enterprise delivery, income and job creation, REP engaged **ADP' s Centre for Development Education (ADP)** to provide quality training services.

A 3-day training programme from 22<sup>nd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> September 2015 focusing on local business association strengthening for Horbor Soap Making Club was organized in the Ga-South Municipality to provide insight into Group Dynamics, Team Building, Conflicts Handling, Communication and Leadership.

The programme came to fruition under the auspices of Ga South Municipal Business Advisory Centre.

Training resource person, ADP Head of Programs, Charles Othniel Abbey together with the participants who numbered thirty-six established Do' s and Don' ts for the group to guide participants throughout the training sessions.

A lecture session focused on the stages of group formation and highlighted issues on Forming, Storming, Norming and Performing. This was done to enable participants realize that it is at these stages that if a group is able to withstand, then it is poised to reach its set targets and development

aspirations.

This was accompanied with card games and group exercises to help the participants assimilate the learning into their daily business activities. The ADP team led by **Charles Othniel Abbey and Programs Assistant Solomon Okai** interacted with participants after the lecture session and some thoughts were shared, experiences of other successful persons trained by R.E.P were also highlighted to boost the morale of participants.

Other sessions on team building, communication and leadership skills as well as dealing with conflicts were undertaken. Group exercises, individual assignments and card games were utilized to make the learning more involving and participatory.

At the end of the training, participants together with resource persons developed a constitution which will be used to govern the affairs of the association.

## ADP SUPPORTS GOVERNMENTS DECISION TO TRANSFER SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME TO GENDER MINISTRY

Government has changed the sectoral responsibility for the Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP) from the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSPP).

The GSFP is a social intervention by government to help boost enrolment in public basic schools and the nutritional needs of basic school children. The policy, meant to provide one nutritious meal each school day for all infant and primary school children from 4 -12 years.

The programme was established in 2005 by Ghana and the Dutch Government as a means to boost domestic food production and increase school enrolment, attendance and retention among kindergarten and primary school children. The programme was inspired by the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme, Pillar three of NEPAD under the recommendations of the United Nations Millennium Task Force on Hunger.

The **African Development Programme (ADP)** supports the move by Government, however in a discussion with Joy News **ADP Head of Programs Charles Othniel Abbey** said there were major concerns with the timing and implementation with the current arrangements of the GSFP.

He stressed that the use of technology must remain key in order to curb the problem of enrolment of beneficiary schools and recruitment.

He emphasized that the Ministry must offer details regarding specific timelines of activities, what background works they have done, information on transfer of assets and clear lines of responsibilities and when the ongoing evaluation and gap analysis will be completed. When this was done, it will properly inform new actions and form a basis to correct mistakes in the previous implementation arrangements.

He recommended that the ministry must take a critical look at the implementation of the programme at the local level since researches conducted by ADP, SEND Ghana and other civil society organization on the GSFP indicates that sub-level structures and actors, particularly at the local level are not functioning properly.



**Gender Minister Hon Nana Oye Lither in a discussion with JoyNews after the sector responsibility transfer**

In his closing remarks, he was optimistic that the GSFP was going to be run smoothly if only mistakes of the past are not repeated and that the ministry has the mandate to better coordinate all the Social Protection programmes in the country.

## CHILD LABOUR AND HAZARDOUS ACTIVITY PREVALENT IN GHANA

According to the Children's Act of 1998 (Act 560), children under the age of 15 years are expected to be in school and hence are debarred from engaging in any form of employment. However, children aged 13 to 14 years are permitted to engage in 'light' family work. Despite this legal provision, children in these age brackets can be found in various forms of work, some of which are difficult, hazardous and exploitative.

Child labour is generally a complex phenomenon caused by many factors most of which are equally very complex. Examples are poverty, ignorance, illiteracy, broken homes, high fertility rates, high unemployment rates, gender inequalities, outmoded cultural practices that border on human rights abuses, and porous national borders, among others. According to the 2003 Ghana Child Labour Survey (GCLS, 2003), child labour is found in many sectors of the Ghanaian economy, particularly agriculture which had the largest proportion of the observed level of child labour (62.5%) in the country at the time.

Since the programme on the elimination of child labour was instituted in Ghana in 2000, several steps have been taken to withdraw or prevent children from engaging in child labour. In line with these efforts, a legal framework and a National Plan of Action (NPA) were developed to guide the prevention or fight against child labour. The action plan involved the establishment of systems and the development of various instruments and guidelines meant to help combat the phenomenon. These include: The Ghana Child Labour Monitoring System (GCLMS), the Hazardous Activity Framework for the Cocoa Sectors of Ghana (HAF) and the Standard Operating

Procedures and Guidelines (SOPs)

Recent Ghana Living Standards Survey (Round VI) results by the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) show that 21.8 percent of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour. The proportion of male children in child labour was slightly higher (22.7%) than females (20.8%). The proportion of urban children in child labour was 12.4 percent compared to 30.2 percent of children in rural areas. Rural savannah (34.6%) had the highest proportion of children in child labour. Among the age groups, children 12-14 years were more likely to be engaged in child labour (26.9%).

Findings indicate that about fourteen percent (14.2%) of children engaged in hazardous forms of child labour. The proportion of males engaged in hazardous forms of child labour (15.4%) was slightly higher than females (12.9%). There was a remarkable difference in the proportion of children engaged in hazardous forms of child labour in the urban (7.7%) and rural areas (20.0%).

Children 5-17 years who participated in economic activity, 76.4 percent were involved in child labour, out of which 49.7 percent participated in hazardous work. More than seven in ten of both male and female children who participated in economic activity were into child labour while more than 40 percent engaged in hazardous forms of child labour.

A little over one-quarter of the children (25.3%) who were engaged in household chores were

engaged in child labour while 16.6 percent were in hazardous forms of child labour. The proportions of males participating in household chores and involved in child labour and hazardous forms of child labour (26.7% and 18.5% respectively) were higher than females (23.9% in child labour and 14.8% in hazardous forms of child labour).

The proportion of children in child labour who did not suffer from any injury or health effect was highest in rural savannah (17.7%), followed by rural forest with 17.0 percent. Rural coastal had the lowest proportion of 10.7 percent.

Working children engaged in child labour and other forms of hazardous work are often exposed to various forms of abuses at the workplace. About nine in ten (91%) children who suffered abuses were involved in child labour while 87.4 percent of them were engaged in hazardous work. A slightly higher proportion of male (88.1%) than female (86.7%) children who suffered some form of abuse were involved in hazardous forms of child labour. The proportions of children in rural areas who were abused and were involved in child labour (92.2%) and hazardous work (89.6%) were higher than in urban areas (87.2% and 80.2% respectively). The proportions of younger children 5-7 years (93.4%) and 8-11 years (93.6%) who suffered injury and were involved in child labour were higher compared to the older children.

## ADP WORRIED ABOUT TIMING AND FUNDING OF THE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO THE SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION POLICY



**A sample of the 200 Community Day High School in Otum in the Central Region of Ghana**

The National Democratic Congress (NDC) in their 2012 manifesto, presented to the good people of Ghana series of education policies that aimed at renewing the covenant they had with Ghanaian's in pursuance of the cherished goal of "Advancing the Better Ghana Agenda" for all.

In that manifesto, the government promised Ghanaian's that it will work towards the attainment of universal access to secondary education by constructing two hundred (200) new community day

senior high schools where these schools do not exist.

In fulfillment of promise to build 200 senior high schools across the country, the president commissioned the Otum Community Day High School on 17th September 2015.

Fifty (50) schools were to be built by August this year to facilitate the implementation of the policy. JoyNews assessments across the country indicate that not even half of the initial fifty have been

completed.

However, **African Development Programme (ADP) Head of Programs Charles Othniel Abbey** in a discussion with Joy News on 17th September, 2015 expressed worry that resource from oil is not channeled more into the education sector.

On regional distribution he said "Particularly I was expecting that even with the distribution of the 200 schools some efforts would have been taken towards addressing the education deficits as experienced in the three (3) Northern regions"

He continued to say that "If in 2015 we are not even done with half of the schools how much more will we be able to complete same in 2016? One would have expected that the resources that we are getting from the oil revenue would have channeled more into the education sector"

He cited the Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP) report on the use of mineral resources in the social sector particularly the education, health and the agriculture sector which revealed that in terms of priority spending and allocation education is not given much focus.

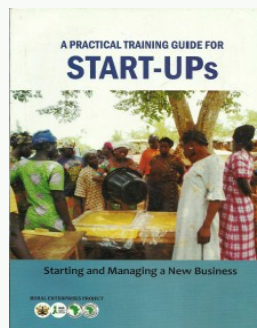
In his closing remarks he said "It is the responsibility of government to look for the funds that is why for those of us in social protection we say that financing of social development intervention is a political decision as much as a policy decision and that both funding and timing are two key issues that until we get clear direction of signals from the ministry that this is what the plan is, then we can allay our fears a bit ,but until we hear all this concrete information coming from them I think that it will take a magic wand to get it done"

### RESOURCES:



Please Visit: <http://www.statsghana.gov.gh/publications.html>

REP Offices in any district in the country



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