



**STATEMENT AT THE LAUNCH OF UPPER EAST GNHR DATA COLLECTION  
EXERCISE IN PUSIGA  
BY  
HON. OTIKO AFISAH DJABA  
MINISTER FOR GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION**

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Hon. Ministers of State,  
Regional Minister,  
Deputy Regional Ministers,  
Members of Parliament present,  
District Chief Executives,  
Traditional Rulers,  
Staff of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection,  
Invited Guest,  
The Media  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am delighted to be here with you today to launch the commencement of data collection exercise in the Upper East Region after several months of consensus building with stake holders, planning and training of field personnel. It has been a challenging journey having completed the exercise in 2017 in the Upper West Region, nevertheless we are making progress in the Upper East Region after the topsy-turvy ground.

The Ghana Living Standards Survey 6 (GLSS 5 & 6) indicates that Ghana has been able to reduce the people living below the poverty line from 51.87% in 1991 to 24.6% in 2012.

Within the same period, the extremely poor population was also reduced from 36.5% to 8.4%. This progress is in sync with the Sustainable Development Goals 1 of Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere.

In order to sustain and deepen this progress, the Government of Ghana (GoG) through the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) established the Ghana National Household Registry (GNHR) to ensure that social protection benefits get to the people who really need them.

The GNHR therefore has a mandate to establish a single national household register from which all social protection programs in Ghana will select their beneficiaries.

Targeting is very critical in Social Protection as it seeks to correctly and efficiently identify the recipients of social benefits. Experiences from countries such as Brazil, Colombia, Georgia and Pakistan which have successfully developed single national household registries serve to corroborate the critical role of GNHR in ensuring the effectiveness of the various social protection programmes.

The GNHR aims to enhance transparency and accountability in selecting beneficiaries of social protection programs across MDAs by establishing a credible, up-to-date single national household registry that will ensure efficiency and coordination in the implementation of SP programs.

I am happy to state that we have our Gambian friends in Pusiga on a study tour to find out how they can replicate such a system in Gambia. Liberia is also planning a similar trip. We must therefore support this data collection exercise that would form the basis of the targeting process.

I would like to call on the District Chief executives, chiefs, opinion leaders and other stakeholders to own this activity and encourage various households to take this exercise very seriously.

The information to be gathered would go beyond social protection issues and help local government authorities have a baseline information for their developmental agenda.

Let me also state that the GNHR has completed its data sharing protocol guidelines based on the data protection act that would allow information to be accessible to the public and relevant institutions. The Upper West data is ready and would be disseminated in a round table workshop in March, 2018 for key users of this data.

His Excellency, the president, Nana Addo-Danquah Akuffo Addo and the NPP is committed to the systematic reduction of poverty in our country and bringing relief to our vulnerable and less fortunate. The GNHR is therefore one of the ways that we intend to address it.

We are deploying a total of 965 field staff made up of 22 District coordinators, 135 Supervisors and 808 Enumerators. I entreat all field staff after your successful training to put up your best and ensure that you are part of the success story of identifying and classifying poor households.

I am aware of some practical difficulties and challenges you faced before and now. The Ministry would ensure that all the necessary logistics as well as motivation needed is made available for us to have a smooth process moving forward. The field staff should be aware of how the accuracy of the Data we collect will be crucial in achieving the main objective of establishing the Registry.

I will entreat you to adhere to simple safety rules as you extensively travel the length and breadth of the region to get this all important job done. I am so passionate and determined to see this registry move from the Upper East Region to the rest of the country having completed same exercise in the Upper West Region.

Let's all help to build an excellent database and be part of this beautiful and efficient process. On this note I would like to officially declare open the commencement of the GNHR data collection exercise in Upper East Region.

Thank you.