



**COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION  
OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST  
WOMEN**

**RESPONSE TO LIST OF ISSUES  
AND QUESTIONS IN RELATION  
TO THE COMBINED SIXTH AND  
SEVENTH PERIODIC REPORTS  
OF GHANA**

**SUBMITTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
GHANA**

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## Abbreviations

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Description</b>
AfDB	African Development Bank
AHTU	Anti-Human Trafficking Unit
AWLA	African Women Lawyers Association
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CEGENSA	Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy
CHPS	Community Health and Planning System
CHRAJ	Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice
CHSS	Centre for Health and Social Services
CRC	Constitutional Review Commission
DCD	Department of Community Development
DOVVSU	Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
EmONC	Emergency Obstetric and Neo-natal Care
EOCO	Economic and Organised Crime Office
FDB	Food and Drugs Board
FIDA	International Federation of Women Lawyers
GADS	Gender and Agricultural Development Strategy
GES	Ghana Education Service
GHS	Ghana Health Service

GIS	Ghana Immigration Service
GLSS	Ghana Living Standards Survey
GRSCDP	Gender Responsive Skills and Community Development Project
GSGDA	Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda
HIRD	High Impact Rapid Delivery
IGF	Internally-Generated Funds
ILGS	Institute for Local Government Studies
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMO	International Organisation for Migration
ITP	Intermittent Preventive Treatment
LEAP	Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
LESDEP	Local Enterprises Skills Development Programme
LIPW	Labour Intensive Public Works
MESW	Ministry of Employment and Social
MMDA	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
MOFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MOGCSP	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOWAC	Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs
MSD	Management Services Division
NADMO	National Disaster Management Organisation
NBSSI	National Board for Small-Scale Industries
NCPD	National Council on Persons with Disability
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NHIA	National Health Insurance Authority
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme

NTS	National Targeting System
NYEP	National Youth Employment Programme
OHCS	Office of the Head of Civil Service
SP	Sulphadoxine Pyrimethamine
SSNIT	Social Security and National Insurance Trust
WAJU	Women and Juvenile Unit
WISE	Women's Initiative for Self-Empowerment
YESDEP	Youth Enterprises Skills Development Programme

## 1 Introduction

In line with its reporting obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Ghana submitted its Combined Sixth and Seventh Periodic Report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2012. The Committee has since reviewed the Report and submitted a List of Issues and Questions. This Report consequently provides responses to the matters raised in the List of Questions and Issues

## 2 Responses to List of Issues and Questions

### Constitutional, Legislative and Institutional Framework

#### 1.

- a) In defining customary law, the Constitution makes draws two important boundaries. First, the definition of ‘common law’ under article 11(2) includes the rules of customary law as defined by the Superior Courts of Judicature. Secondly, article 11(3) defines ‘customary law’ as the rules of law, which by custom, are applicable to particular communities in Ghana. Accordingly, the harmonisation of customary law with statute and constitutional law is an ongoing process that is done through the judicial process, where decisions of the courts interpret customary law in line with the constitution and statute law.
- b) There is also an ongoing law reform process to ensure that some key statutes which address matters of customary law are updated to reflect the progressive realisation of women’s rights under CEDAW and other human rights treaties ratified by Ghana. To this end, the ongoing constitutional review process and amendment of specific laws are to be noted. The Attorney-General’s Department is working on amendments to the Intestate Succession Law, 1985 (PNDCL 111) to correct some flaws in the original law. The Department has also prepared a draft Property Rights of Spouses Bill which has been tabled before Cabinet for consideration. Further, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MOGCSP) has sponsored an Affirmative Action Bill on which consultations are currently being held, prior to its submission to Cabinet for consideration. The Law Reform Commission is also undertaking research to develop new unified marriage laws for the country.
- c) As requested by the Committee in the List of Issues and Questions, the following are key laws that are furthering the provisions of the Convention in Ghana:
  - Matrimonial Causes Act, 1971 (Act 367)
  - Human Trafficking Act, 2005 (Act 694)
  - Disability Act, 2006 (Act 715)
  - Whistle Blowers Act, 2006
  - The Domestic Violence Act, 2007 (Act 732)
  - Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Amendment (Act 484)
- d) Under the constitutional review process, the Bill to amend the non-entrenched clauses in the Constitution introduces amendments that deal strengthen the constitutional guarantee of freedom from discrimination. Clause 1 of the Bill amends Article 7 of the Constitution on persons entitled to be registered as citizens to make the provision gender neutral as recommended by the Constitutional Review Commission. This accords with article 17 of the Constitution that a person should not be discriminated against, among other reasons, on grounds of gender. The Bill also amends article 8 on dual citizenship to

allow for the re-acquisition of dual citizenship by persons who have lost their Ghanaian citizenship as a result of laws prohibiting the holding of dual nationality.

2.

- a) The National and Regional Houses of Chiefs – both of which are constitutional institutions – have begun the process of fully integrating Queen-mothers into both Houses. The National and Regional Houses of Chiefs are vested with powers and given functions under the constitution to regulate matters of customary law and practice. The inclusion of Queen-mothers therefore marks a significant step in strengthening their role in national and traditional governance and as women in leadership and decision-making. There have also been established, 10 Regional Associations of Paramount Queen-mothers in the 10 administrative Regions of Ghana. Through these Associations, Queen-mothers discuss and address matters relating to the welfare of women. Notably, for the first time in Ghana’s history, Paramount Queen-mothers in 2010 were paid allowances as their male counterparts. The amount paid was increased from one hundred and fifty Cedis (¢150.00) to three hundred Cedis (¢300.00) per month.

### Access to Justice

3.

- a) The Whistle Blower Act, 2006 (Act 720) is intended as an anti-corruption device to be used by citizens to report and expose instances of corruption, fraud, exploitation and other impropriety in both the private and public sectors. The Act therefore targets economic crimes, miscarriage of justice, environmental destruction, wastage in Government, among others. In broadening the scope of actors to whom acts of impropriety could be reported to, the Act specifies, the employee of the whistle-blower, a police officer, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, a staff of the Intelligence Agencies, a member of Parliament, the Serious Fraud Office, the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), the National Media Commission, the Narcotic Control Board, a chief, a family head or elder of the whistle-blower, and a member of the District Assembly to name a few. In 2013, Cabinet approved an amendment to the Act affording greater protection to private citizens who report corruption to the security agencies. The measures are intended to protect whistle-blowers from retaliation and vilification by their managers. Further, the amendments create a reward fund for whistle-blowers as an incentive to report impropriety.
- b) In addition to the Human Rights Court, the Judiciary has established two Gender-based and Sexual Offences Courts to expedite the adjudication of cases of violence and abuse. The Family and Juvenile Courts, which are constituted in the District Courts, use alternative dispute resolution (ADR) methods to settle cases – primarily on maintenance of children – to facilitate access to justice for women who often bear the brunt of non-maintenance of children. The Family Court also has jurisdiction to deal with criminal cases and civil protection orders under the Domestic Violence Act.
- c) To further improve access to justice, the Bill to amend non-entrenched provisions of the Constitution proposes a new chapter – 18A – which establishes a Legal Aid Commission to replace the current Legal Aid Board. The Commission will have more powers and independence to better provide legal aid. Another new chapter – 19A – introduces a Constitutional Bodies Fund. The financing of the independent constitutional bodies has been challenging in the past, given that the impact on their independence by Executive’s ability to restrict their funding. Establishing this Fund is therefore a move to address the

challenge by having a separate source of funding for these key institutions in the country's democratic dispensation.

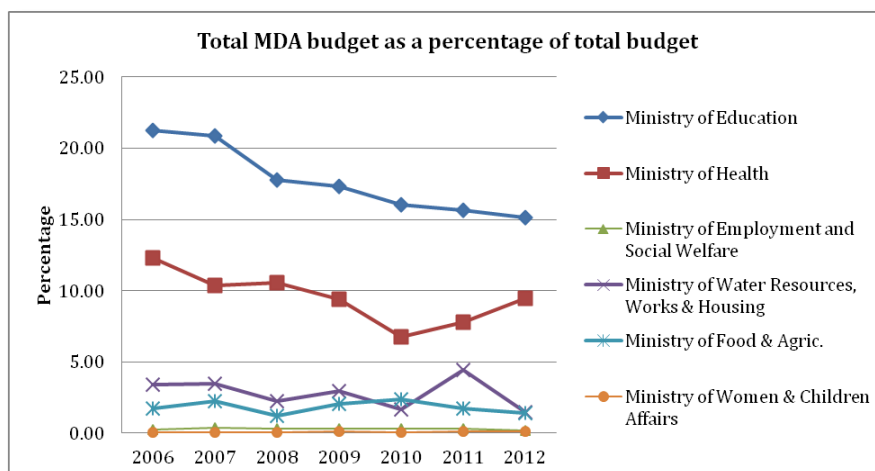
- d) Clause 7 of the Constitution amendment Bill also recommends an amendment to article 37 under the Directive Principles of State Policy to require the State to take measures, including affirmative action programmes, to ensure that the youth have access to relevant education and training. Further, the youth should have opportunities to associate, to be represented and participate in political, social and economic and other spheres of life. The youth are also to have access to employment and be protected from harmful cultural practices and exploitation.
- e) Apart from these state agencies, civil society organisations such as the African Women Lawyers Association (AWLA), LAWLA, WISE, ABANTU for Development, International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Ark Foundation, Netright, Legal Resources Centre (LRC) and the Domestic Violence Coalition have carried out a number of awareness creation programmes on counselling, legal representation, law reform and women and children's rights and access to justice for women across the country. Both English and local language media have been used for these programmes, all in a bid to enhance women's access to justice.

### National Machinery for the Advancement of Women

4.

- a) To further strengthen the realisation of women's rights and to better coordinate the provision of services to women, among others, the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWAC) was restructured in 2013 and re-designated as the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) by Executive Instrument (E.I) 1. The new Ministry was thus a merger of MOWAC, the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), the National Council on Persons with Disability (NCPD) and the Social Protection Division of the Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare (MESW). Thus, in consonance with the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA), MoGCSP has a new and expanded mandate to ensure gender equality, promote the welfare and protection of children, and empower the vulnerable, excluded, aged and persons with disability for sustainable national development.
- b) In spite of the expansion of MOWAC to MoGCSP, the budgetary allocations still remain under 1% of the total national budget, as seen in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Budgetary Allocations for MDAs (2011 - 2013)



In 2013, MoGCSP was allocated **GH¢53,382,672** in the Annual Budget Estimates to implement its programmes. This comprised the following:

- **GH¢38,166,022** representing the total GOG approved annual budget;
- **GH¢14,966,650** representing the total budget from donors; and
- **GH¢250,000** representing Internally Generated Funds (IGF).

Of the total allocated figure, MoGCSP received **GH¢29,826,481** (56%) for the implementation of its programmes leaving a variance of **GH¢18,797,238**.

- c) In pursuit of effective implementation of its expanded mandate, MoGCSP has engaged the services of the Management Services Division (MSD) in the Office of the Head of Civil Service (OHCS) to undertake a restructuring exercise involving the development of a new organisational structure and performance management framework to improve the operations of MoGCSP. The Ministry has also developed an Agenda for Change which sets out its new vision and direction and how they fits into the national developmental agenda. Presently a five-year Strategic Development Plan is also being developed for MoGCSP. Together it is expected that these measures would enhance the performance and delivery of staff on MoGCSP's outputs and enable it meet its targets. The new organogram would also facilitate the revision of job descriptions for staff and ensure that each directorate, department and division of the Ministry has competent staff to carry out its functions.
- d) On 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009, MoGCSP launched the Gender Responsive Skills and Community Development Project (GRSCDP), which is co-sponsored by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Government of Ghana. The GRSCDP is an intervention aimed at promoting gender-equitable socio-economic development through institutional capacity building and improvement of women's gainful employment and entrepreneurship. The Project focuses on sustained poverty alleviation among women at both national and local levels.
- e) The positive impact made by the GRSCDP include the training of 1,534 officers from the Department of Gender, Home Science Instructors of the Department of Community Development (DCD), staff of AfDB-funded projects, District Planning Coordinating Units (DPCU) of the 59 beneficiary Districts, staff of MMDAs, including Gender Desk Officers, who were trained by the Institute for Local Government Studies (ILGS) on strategies to mainstream gender into planning under the GRSCDP.
- f) MoGCSP has also developed the Gender Analysis Framework and Planning Templates to guide DPCUs and the inclusion of gender in planning processes for poverty reduction, local economic development, agriculture and infrastructural development at the local level.

### Temporary Special Measures

5.

- a) The Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA) – the national medium-term development policy framework – provides the overall framework for improving the participation of women in key sectors of the economy, as well as putting in place measures to bridge the inequality gap between men and women. The GSGDA is also aligned to the Government's own development programme, the *Better Ghana Agenda*. Among the goals of the *Better Ghana Agenda* is 'affirmative action to rectify errors of

the past, particularly as they relate to discrimination against women'.<sup>1</sup> The GSGDA therefore provides broad policy guidelines and strategic direction to increasing the role of women in existing sectors of the economy such as agriculture and emerging areas like the energy, oil and gas sectors.

b) In the employment sector, the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) notes in the 2012 Annual Progress Report on the implementation of the GSGDA among the achievements in the sector, the adoption and implementation of a National Employment Policy (2012 – 2016) and the development of a National Human Resource Development Policy. The objective of the National Employment Policy is to 'achieve full employment and enable men and women who are available and willing to work to attain secured and sustainable livelihood through productive and freely chosen employment and work.'<sup>2</sup> One of the strategies of this Policy is the mainstreaming of vulnerable groups into (including youth, women, people with disabilities and children) into national employment programmes, particularly the establishment of special employment schemes. In this vein, the Policy builds on previous successes such as the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Decent Work Programme (DWP), which was successfully piloted in Ajumako-Enyan-Essiam and Awutu-Afutu-Senya Districts of the Central Region; the National Forestation Plantation Programme (NFPP) which restored over 51,000 hectares of forest plantations, generating about 32,000 full-time farming jobs and 1,038,832 temporary jobs for the youth between 2001 and 2004; and the National Mass Cocoa Spraying Programme (NMCSP), started in 2001 and which generated 60,000 seasonal jobs in 2004.<sup>3</sup> Guided by these programmes, the Policy would pursue the following strategies for women:

- Eliminating impediments to women's access to productive employment opportunities;
- Increasing women's education and training in entrepreneurship, general management and business management, skills training and confidence building;
- Specific policy interventions to encourage women to go into high income earning activities including cash crop farming, agro-processing, horticulture production for export, and ICT;
- Expanding business advisory services targeted at promoting businesses of women and provision of financial and non-financial assistance including access to market-based income generating opportunities, women-friendly technologies, adequate special micro-credit schemes, and easy access to business advice; and
- Measures to remove unfavourable institutional culture that portray women differently from what they really are at the work place.

c) To strengthen the country's social protection system, MoGCSP, in conjunction with the Ministries of Health, Education, Food and Agriculture, and Local Government and Rural Development are developing a National Targeting System (NTS) to be used by all government agencies in identifying, prioritising and selecting households living in vulnerable conditions. The NTS has a two-stage process of first developing a national registry of households, collecting key data such as number of persons in a household and

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<sup>1</sup> National Development Planning Commission, *Medium Term National Development Policy Framework: Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA), 2010 – 2013 Volume 1: Policy Framework* (2010) p 1.

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare, *National Employment Policy 2012 – 2016* (April 2012) p 31.

<sup>3</sup> National Employment Policy 2012 – 2016 p 43 – 44.

their living conditions. The second stage involves national social intervention programmes using the registry in their programming. The NTS is targeting the following social intervention programmes:

- Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) cash transfer programme managed by MoGCSP;
  - Labour Intensive Public Works (LIPW) being implemented by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development;
  - The Exempt Category under the National Health Insurance Scheme implemented under Ministry of Health;
  - Pro-Poor interventions for poor peasant farmers including block farming under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture;
  - Free School Uniform and Exercise books implemented under Ministry of Education
  - School Feeding Programme under Ministry of Local Government;
  - The Local Enterprise and Skills Development Programme (LESDEP); and
  - The National Youth Employment Programme (NYEP)/ and Ghana Youth Employment and Enterprise Development Programme.
- d) LEAP has been the nation's flagship social intervention programme. Currently there are 98,493 women beneficiaries out of a targeted LEAP population of 232,000 people. MoGCSP has also registered over 4000 aged persons out of a targeted 10,000 on the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) database in two short months in 2014 in a piloted biometric registration programme for the aged in collaboration with the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA).
- e) The National Human Resource Development Policy was developed in 2011. A draft Implementation Action Plan for the Policy was developed and submitted to Cabinet for approval in 2012.
- f) In the health sector, the aim of the Health Sector Gender Policy of 2009 is to contribute to ensuring better health for both men and women through health research, policies and programmes which are underscored by gender considerations. The Policy is therefore designed to promote equity and equality between men and women. Under the aegis of the Policy, the Ministry of Health (MoH) has been able to develop strategies to analyse and prioritise gender issues in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes, projects and research.
- g) Some of the specific strategic interventions made by the Health Sector Gender Policy include increasing general access to health care for both men and women, gender and life expectancy, sexual and reproductive health, gender and HIV/AIDS, sexual and gender based violence, gender and mental health, traditional and cultural practices and its implications on the health seeking behaviours of males and females, gender issues on health, nutritional health and some of the emerging trends and issues with gender and health implications.
- h) Beyond the policy framework, the Ghana Health Service noted in its 2011 Annual Report the successes of some measures taken in favour of pregnant women. The GHS reported that in spite of challenges encountered with shortages of *Sulphadoxine-Pyrimethamine* (SP) for the prevention of malaria in pregnancy, Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPT) increased with 545,032 (69.4%) pregnant women received IPT1 – an

increase of 2.3% over 2010. In addition, 418,684 (53.3%) received IPT2, whilst 283,682 (36.1%) received IPT3.<sup>4</sup>

## Stereotypes and harmful practices

6

- a) Since its establishment in 1993, the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) has sustained a vigorous campaign and opposition to all aspects of injurious and dehumanizing cultural practices such as female genital mutilation, widowhood rites, forced marriages, ritual servitude, maltreatment of women accused of witchcraft, as well as other violent practices that subject women and girl children to cruel treatment and acts that detract on their dignity.
- b) CHRAJ – under its monitoring mandate – has continued to monitor trokosi shrines and worked with local NGOs to advocate for and secure the release of women and girls in servitude in the shrines. CHRAJ has noted from its monitoring that while the number of trokosis has decreased significantly over the past years, the practice is still prevalent and trokosis are continuously being admitted to shrines.
- c) In the case of widows, CHRAJ has intervened in cases where widows have been abused to protect them. The Commission has collaborated with the Ghana Police Service in some instances to curtail the perpetuation of harmful widowhood rites on women.
- d) These successes have been chalked by CHRAJ mainly through its intensive public awareness campaigns conducted on gender-based violence. The number of public education programmes conducted by CHRAJ from 2007 to 2013 are provided in the figure below:

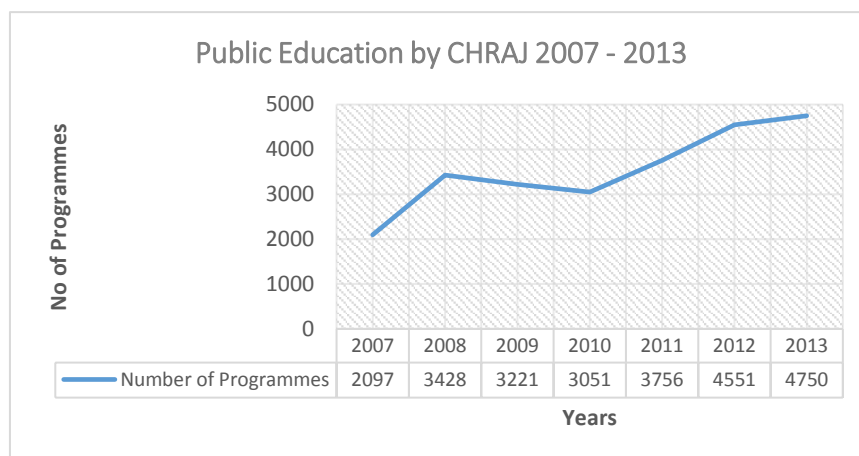


Figure 2: Trend in Public Education Programmes by CHRAJ

- e) Other legislative interventions such as the amendment of the Intestate Succession Law and the introduction of a Property Rights of Spouses Bill are intended to combat negative cultural practices which subjugate women's rights to inheritance as a result of customary practices.

7.

- a) The phenomenon of women being accused of witchcraft still exists in the Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions of the country. Currently, a total of six alleged

<sup>4</sup> Ghana Health Service, *Ghana Health Service 2011 Annual Report* p 30.

witch camps are located in five Districts in the Northern Region. These are: Kuku, Gnani-Tindang, Gambaga, Bonyase, Tindan-zhie (Kpatinga) and Nabuli in Nanumba South, Yendi, East Mamprusi, Central Gonja and Gushegu Districts respectively.

b) According to the Anti-Witchcraft Allegations Campaign Coalition (AWACC) Field Monitoring, as at May 2012, the population of the witch camps were as follows:

- **Kuku Camp:** 137 alleged witches and 172 of the children and grand-children. 66% of the women are 70 years of age and above, with a majority of them coming from Bimbilla and its surrounding communities and Nakpali in the Zabzugu District. There are no males in the camp.
- **Gnani-Tindang Camp:** There are 273 alleged witches and wizards consisting of 173 (80.4%) women and 42 (19.6%) men, and 231 children and grandchildren. Unlike the Kuku camp this camp has both sexes and there is no discrimination among them. Two ethnic groups can be distinguished, namely; the Dagombas and the Kokombas. Like the Kuku camp, majority (72%) of the population in the Gnani-Tindang camp is aged 70 years and above.
- **Tindan-zhie Camp (Kpatinga):** There are 40 alleged witches and over 100 children and grandchildren. As pertains in the other camps, more than 70% of the population is aged 70 years and above.
- **Nabuli Camp:** There are 140 women alleged to be witches in this camp. There are no children in the Nabuli Camp. It has however been noted as the newest and fastest growing camp. Population: 140 women. This camp has no children living in it. In 2012 it was noted as being the newest and fastest growing of the camps.
- **Bonyase Camp:** There are 3 alleged witches and no children in this Camp.
- **Gambaga Camp:** There are 88 alleged witches with a majority aged 60 years and above.

c) Allegations of witchcraft is highly gendered, with older females, widows, childless or unmarried women bearing the brunt of the scourge due to strongly-held customary beliefs about such women not meeting certain gender stereotypes. Efforts to address the phenomenon have therefore engaged the attention of both governmental and non-governmental institutions. Measures taken so far include the following:

- Awareness-raising programmes on the witches camps and their harmful effects on women by the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE);
- Comprehensive Research on the witches camps by the NCCE;
- Development of a Roadmap on eliminating the witch camps by ActionAid-Ghana and the Go Home Project of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana working on witch camps. The Roadmap has been handed over to the MoGCSP, which is currently studying it to determine how best to strengthen the collaboration and collective efforts towards removing the camps. The Ministry is thus working with the partners mentioned here to close down at least one camp.

d) The Mental Health Bill was passed into law as the Mental Health Act, 2012 (Act 846) on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012, replacing the Mental Health Decree of 1972. The passage of the Act marked a major milestone in the re-focusing of mental health care in Ghana from an institution-based system to a community-based approach which seeks to address the stigma and discrimination that persons with mental disabilities are often met with.

e) The Act addresses these issues – among others – affecting mental health care in Ghana

- Strengthening the institutional framework by establishing an integrated Mental Health Authority and a Mental Health Tribunal;

- Regulation of mental health practice in both the public and private sectors, including traditional healers and at all levels ranging from community to national health facilities;
  - Protection of the rights of persons with mental disabilities as well as special protection measures for vulnerable groups including women, children and the aged;
  - Promoting voluntary treatment and where necessary, admission to a mental health facility;
  - Conditions for involuntary treatment;
  - Setting standards for the treatment of persons in need of mental health care; and
  - Establishment of a Mental Health Fund.
- f) Section 94 of the Mental Health Act makes it an offence to neglect a person with a mental disability, discriminate against such a person within the terms of the Act or breach any of his or her fundamental rights under any other law. The punishment is a fine of not more than five hundred penalty units or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 years, or both a fine and a term of imprisonment. This sanction will therefore apply to persons who operate camps which keep women and all other persons with mental disabilities.

## Violence Against Women

8.

- a) The Domestic Violence Act is set out in three parts. The first part covers the prohibition of domestic violence within an existing or previous relationship and defines domestic violence to include physical, sexual, economic and emotional abuse. It also defines a domestic relationship and provides that a single act can amount to domestic violence. There are provisions on the filing of complaints to the police, police assistance and arrests by the police. The second part of the Act makes provisions for protection orders, and procedures to activate these. The final part of the Act covers miscellaneous provisions including the relation of the Act to the Criminal Code, the promotion of reconciliation by the Court, publication of proceedings, criminal charges and protection, civil claims for damages, regulations and interpretation.
- b) A number of activities have been undertaken towards implementation of the National Policy and Plan of Action on Domestic Violence (2009-2019). Against the backdrop of the Domestic Violence Act, the focus of activities under the Policy have been to ensure the effective implementation of the Act. Some of the key activities carried out include the following:
- Developed and implemented a communications strategy for the Domestic Violence Act;
  - Conducted a comparative study of implementation of the Domestic Violence Act within the courts in Ghana. A pilot study was undertaken in 3 Regions (Eastern Region, Volta and Greater Accra) to examine how the Domestic Violence Act was being implemented within the courts;
  - Designed and developed domestic violence awareness-raising bulletin boards and posted them throughout all of Ghana's Regions;
  - Conducting research on the rate of domestic violence in Ghana. This is an ongoing project. Funding has been secured and the background work for the

research has been completed. The collection of data is due to begin in the coming months;

- Celebration of 16 Days of Activism Campaign. The activities involved the participation of women accused of witchcraft living in witch camps in ‘anti-gender-based violence’ events; a youth symposium; an event to honour the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) for its work to end gender-based violence, including honouring individual police officers for their proactive efforts in this endeavour;
- Held a stakeholders meeting to re-design the medical referral forms in the health service to make them more sensitive to victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse;
- Reviewed and finalised the Legislative Instrument for the Domestic Violence Act;
- Convened a High-Level Ministerial Conference on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, resulting in the signing of a Communique and the formation of an Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence to deal with cross-cutting issues around sexual and gender-based violence.

The challenges that have been encountered in the implementation of the Policy so far include the following:

- Insufficient resources, both financial and human to fully implement the Policy;
  - Absence of regional offices for the Domestic Violence Secretariat, resulting in heavy reliance on non-governmental stakeholders to assist with implementation. These stakeholders also face resource constraints and lack of capacity;
  - Lack of consistent data.
- c) Although the Domestic Violence Act does not explicitly mention marital rape, the Act is linked with the Criminal Offences Act (revised in 2007) under which marital rape could be punished. Part Three of the Domestic Violence Act covers miscellaneous provisions including its relationship of the Criminal Offences Act. Under section 32 of the Domestic Violence Act, where an act committed within the domestic setting is an offence which attracts a sentence of more than three years imprisonment under the Criminal Offences Act, the police is expected to bring the action under the latter Act and not the Domestic Violence Act. Offences which attract sentences of more than three years imprisonment include rape, defilement, incest, serious bodily harm, causing harm with a weapon, manslaughter and murder. Thus, a marital rape charge could be brought under the Criminal Offences Act, it being an aggravated offence attracting a sentence beyond three years.
- d) Since 2009, government agencies with mandates to prevent all forms of violence against women have made significant efforts in embarking on various advocacy and awareness creation initiatives to communicate and mobilize community members to address violence against children. The Departments of Social Development, Gender and Children of the MoGCSP alone have interacted with over 250,000 people in about 250 communities in across the entire country on violence against women and children.
- e) Other government agencies such as the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Domestic Violence and Victim Support and Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of the Ghana Police Service, Ghana Education Service (GES) and the Ghana Health Service have also engaged with various communities on

violence against women. The essence of these programmes is to increase publicity and awareness on violence against women and its effects.

- f) There are mechanisms at the national and institutional levels to track progress through periodic assessments. For instance, periodic surveys such as the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS), Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ) and the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS) produced by the Ghana Statistical Service serve as solid monitoring tools for measuring progress on violence against women and girls to inform and guide interventions for prevention of domestic violence.
- g) In response to the Committee's concern about the lack of comprehensive data on violence against women, DOVVSU has made diligent effort to compile data on domestic violence in Ghana from the cases it receives. CHRAJ has also been compiling data on the gender-related cases it receives. The data collected is provided in Annex 1 of this Report.
- h) Other measures taken to prevent and reduce the incidence of domestic violence include the following:
  - Translated the Domestic Violence Act into six (6) local languages in 2009;
  - Organised training programmes for media practitioners, traditional leaders, and DOVVSU officers in six (6) Regions of Ghana;
  - Established regional, district and community steering committees on Domestic Violence in 2011;
  - Established a Domestic Violence Victim Support Fund in 2011. It is intended to support victims of domestic violence and to assist the implementation of relevant anti-domestic violence interventions. The Fund became fully operational with its first disbursement in May 2014;
  - Drafted a referral system for victims of trafficking to enhance access to appropriate services.

9.

- a) The difficulties encountered by Ghana in effectively prosecuting cases of domestic violence mostly cover the following:
  - Difficulty in adducing evidence in cases of emotional/psychological abuse;
  - Difficulty getting funds for medical treatment for clients and medical reports;
  - Delays in reporting the abuse;
  - Difficulty penetrating through the walls of the Ghanaian culture, since issues of sexual and gender-based violence are often seen as a private matters, dealt with within families and communities;
  - Difficulty in getting evidence from witnesses to build a good case for prosecution;
  - Victim/survivors discontinuation of complaints or unwillingness to pursue cases; and
  - Inadequate shelters for survivors of abuse.
- b) DOVVSU – a Unit of the Ghana Police Service – was established in October 1998 as the Women and Juvenile Unit formed in October 21998 as the Women and Juvenile Unit (WAJU) in fulfilment of Ghana's treaty obligations to protect the population, especially women and children, from violence. WAJU was changed to DOVVSU in 2005. DOVVSU is mandated to enforce all laws with a focus on violence associated with gender, women and children; respond to cases of sexual and gender-based violence,

child abuse and child protection; protection of all vulnerable persons from abuse; and investigation of all cases of sexual and gender-based violence and child abuse. Since its creation, the Unit has responded to over 180,000 cases.

- c) DOVVSU provides the following services in line with its mandate:
- Receiving and responding to complaints – DOVVSU has a ‘walk-in’ system that allows victims and witnesses to directly report cases. The Unit also has a telephone line which is operated as part of the Ghana Police Service crisis response intervention linked to the Service and hospitals in the country.
  - Conduct of investigations into cases – This involves crime scene management (evidence-gathering and maintenance of evidence quality and integrity), building dockets for prosecution and ensuring that women and children who need special care and attention have access to expert attention.
  - Referral system for victims – This covers referral to medical services (particularly the Police Hospital); referral to legal services (mostly provided by the Legal Aid Board, the Ark Foundation, International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) and Women’s Initiative for Self-Empowerment (WISE); referral to shelters (provided by the Ark Foundation, Department of Social Welfare (DSW); referral to WISE for emotional counselling, however some officers of DOVVSU have been trained to provide basic counselling to clients and traumatised victims; and referral of dockets to the Attorney-General’s Department for advice on prosecution.
- d) DOVVSU currently has over 100 Offices and Desks nationwide in some Divisions and Districts of the Ghana Police Service. DOVVSU’s target is to establish Desks in all Police Stations and Posts, which number over 700 countrywide. The activities of all the DOVVSU Offices and Desks are coordinated from the National Secretariat at the Ghana Police Headquarters in Accra.
- e) DOVVSU is constrained by lack of financial, technical and human resources to enable it effectively fulfil its mandate. The Unit is also bedevilled with the challenges related to prosecution noted above in this Report.
- f) Although there are efforts to mainstream curriculum on sexual and gender-based violence into Police training, the Unit is in immediate need of training for its officers on effective prosecution of domestic violence and sexual and gender-based violence cases; gender issues and dynamics; basic counselling skills; and proper handling of victims.
- g) As regards shelters for victims of violence, there are currently 3 State-funded shelters in the Greater Accra, Upper West and Volta Regions respectively. Unfortunately all three are currently non-operational due to lack of funding. The shelter for the Greater Accra Region, located in Accra, was donated by the Christian Council of Ghana. It has been refurbished but there is a lack of funds to pay for utilities to allow for its proper functioning. The shelter in the Upper West Region, located in Wa, is a converted Social Welfare remand home for girls. It has partly been renovated to make it suitable as a shelter. The Volta Region shelter in Ho, is a warehouse donated by the Ministry of Agriculture. This shelter is in urgent need of funds for renovation to make it habitable and suitable for a shelter. It is expected that the shelters will be fully renovated by 2015.

### Trafficking in women and exploitation of prostitution

10.

- a) Cross boarder trafficking is not very prevalent in Ghana, although there is evidence of it happening especially for sexual exploitation of women and children. The trafficking of

children is prevalent internally. Girls, especially, are forced into labour, domestic servitude, head portering, street hawking and prostitution. Boys on the other hand are trafficked to do fishing, mining, and quarrying. Trafficking for agricultural labour is reducing due to ILO and ECOWAS Projects.

- b) For men, cross country trafficking or illegal migrant smuggling is connected with fraudulent recruitment agencies and young men stowing away on ships to Europe, America and the Arab world including Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to do construction work. Ghanaian women and children are also trafficked to Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, South Africa, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Russia, France, the United Kingdom, Germany, and the United States for forced labour and sex trafficking. Some women and girls voluntarily migrating from China, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, and Benin have also been subjected to commercial sexual exploitation after arriving in Ghana.
- c) The key obstacles to implementation of the Human Trafficking Act are mainly:
  - Ineffective collaborative mechanisms to fight trafficking
  - Inadequate Government budgetary allocation to carry out mandated activities in the Human Trafficking Act by MoGCSP and for that matter the Human Trafficking Secretariat
  - The Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) remains under-staffed and under-funded. AHTU officials are the only state officials mandated to prosecute trafficking cases yet their limited resources hamper government's ability to adequately address the number of cases brought to the Unit each year.
- d) To combat these challenges, the Human Trafficking Secretariat has submitted a number of funding proposals to the key donor partners – UNICEF, USAID, and Solidarity Fund of the French Government. The Secretariat has also collaborated with the International Organisation for Migration (IMO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and other local NGOs on various activities to implement the Act for which these organisations have the resources.
- e) In 2012, AHTU identified about 409 trafficking victims. The DSW also continued with its support of finding a shelter for trafficking victims. In May 2011, 232 Ghanaian law enforcement officials working with agents from INTERPOL, carried out a three-part operation against child trafficking. Although some 125 125 brothels were reported to be operating in Accra, the joint Ghanaian law enforcement officials-INTERPOL team were able to raid only five. During these raids, authorities removed 55 women and 65 underage female victims, however traffickers were not apprehended. In a second operation during the same period, officials arrested 30 suspected traffickers in the fishing areas on the Volta Lake, leading to the prosecution and conviction of 28 traffickers. Each of the convicted traffickers received a 16-month prison sentence. In a third operation in May 2012, law enforcement officials rescued three children – one from Ghana and two from Burkina Faso – from a cocoa plantation in Tarkwa in the Western Region and arrested a Burkinabe man for alleged child trafficking. His case remains pending before the court. In January 2012, a Ghanaian woman was convicted and sentenced to five years imprisonment for trafficking 11 Ghanaian girls to Nigeria for forced labour and prostitution.
- f) Although there is no formal protocol for referral of cases, AHTU was able to refer some of the 409 trafficking victims identified in 2012 to Government and NGO-run facilities for protective care.

- g) In all the AHTU, Ghana Immigration Service (GIS), and the Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO) identified 91 suspected trafficking cases in 2012. The AHTU was able to secure the conviction of 29 traffickers, marking an increase of four convictions over that of 2011.
- h) In spite of the challenges, the Government has made efforts to strengthen the institutional framework and capacity of officers. The AHTU opened its ninth Regional Office in the Eastern Regional capital, Koforidua in August 2011. On capacity-building, EOCO conducted two training courses for its anti-human trafficking unit in 2012. In the same year, about 50 Police Officers also participated in an international workshop on human trafficking. The GIS, with support from UNICEF and IOM have trained a number of immigration officers across the country in data collection, personal identification registration systems and in-depth passport verification to better detect fraud, particularly in cases of suspected human trafficking.
- i) A number of public education and awareness campaigns have been carried out by AHTU, MoGCSP and the IOM. In 2012 MoGCSP collaborated with a local NGO to educate 500 communities in the Kraboa-Coaltar District of the Eastern Region on the dangers of human trafficking. The Ministry also worked with the Police and IOM to air anti-human trafficking radio programmes in the Upper East, Eastern, and Greater Accra Regions. It also aired human trafficking documentary programs on television.
- j) Prostitution remains a criminal offence under the Criminal Offences Act, however efforts are made to ensure the protection of sex workers as part of the country's broader legal framework. Chapter 5 of the Constitution guarantees a wide range of fundamental rights and freedoms. The Police – who often confront sex workers are mandated by the Police Service Act to perform their functions as proscribed by law. Section 10 of the Act prohibits torture, violence, ill treatment and conforms this to article 15 of the Constitution. The Police are also required to respect, maintain and protect human rights and human dignity of all persons, and are supposed to act impartially and in accordance with the law. Section 97 of the Criminal Offences Act also prohibits rape and section 247 prohibits extortion by Police Officers – an act commercial sex workers often complain about.
- k) For women who want to quit prostitution, the Government has put in place various simple loan schemes to assist people who will want to venture into small scale businesses through the National Board for Small-Scale Industries (NBSSI), Local Enterprises and Skills Development Programme (LESDEP), Youth Enterprises and Skills Development Programme (YESDEP) and the Youth Empowerment Synergy (YES), to name a few. The Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP), the nation's flagship social intervention programme is also available. NGOs and faith-based organisations have also provided support programmes and interventions for prostitutes.
- l) Given the stigma attached to prostitution and the criminal implications attached to it, comprehensive data on commercial sex workers is not readily available. That notwithstanding, the Ghana AIDS Commission conducted a mapping and size estimation and Integrated Bio-Behavioural Studies of Female Sex Workers (FSW) and Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) in 2012 to provide updated evidence for programming and decision making. A Most-At-Risk Strategy to ensure that key populations receive targeted comprehensive HIV and AIDS Services was developed and is being implemented to reduce vulnerability and spread of the epidemic among this sub-population.

## Participation in political and public life

11.

- a) The Affirmative Action Policy formulated in 1998 by the Government after Beijing Plan of Action set targets of 40% representation of women at all levels of governance, on Public Boards, Commissions, Councils, Committees and Official Boards including Cabinet and Council of State. As the country progresses towards meeting these targets, the trend has been mixed. In the traditional governance institutions efforts have been made to ensure the active participation of Queen-mothers in the Traditional Councils and Houses of Chiefs. In other governance structures – particularly in political positions – women are still under-represented (Ghana MDG Report, 2013). Women, however, are still under-represented in key national and regional governance institutions. At the highest level of Government, women make up 29% of Ministers and 22% of Deputy Ministers. Figure 3 below illustrates this situation and provides the numerical strength of both male and female Ministers.

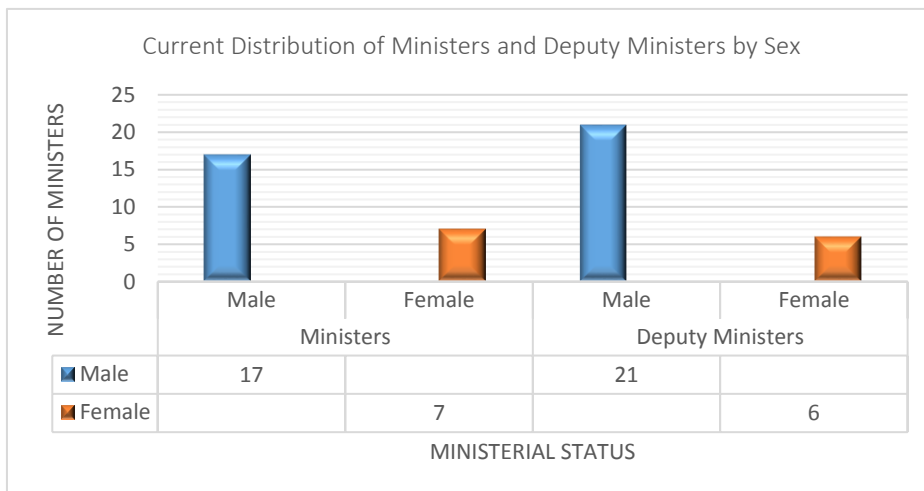


Figure 3: Distribution of Ministers and Deputy Ministers by Sex 2013 - 2014

- b) The Affirmative Action Bill is currently in its second draft form, having received comments on it from the Attorney-General's Department. A workshop was held in June 2014 with key stakeholders to discuss the second draft and move the Bill forward towards finalisation. As a result of the workshop, it was agreed that further consultation with a number government institutions is required before finalisation. MoGCSP is currently in the process of drafting the consultation documents before setting up meetings with each institution to seek their input and thus clarify the operation of particular clauses.
- c) According to Ghana's latest Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Report published in 2013, in the Judiciary, only 29% of the Supreme Court Judges and 25% of High Court judges are women. In the Civil Service, 24% of Chief Directors are women. Further, at the local government level, only 14 of the 170 Municipal Chief Executives (MCEs) and District Chief Executives (DCEs), representing 8.2% were women.
- d) One of the key legislation that mandates the participation of women is the National Peace Council Act, which requires that one of the two members of the National Peace Council appointed by Government should be a woman.

- e) Since 2002, various Governments have made efforts to increase women's participation in the District Assemblies through administrative guidelines that require varied percentages of appointed members to be women. However, because they are often mere administrative guidelines and processes, not all the Assemblies have fulfilled them. Generally, most Government institutions have gender policies in place which are aimed at promoting the empowerment of women.
- f) To enhance women's participation in political life, two of the country's major political parties, the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New Patriotic Party (NPP) have reduced the cost of filing fees for women parliamentary contestants. These political parties and others in the country have stated quotas for women's ministerial appointments in their manifestos.
- g) Civil society organisations including ABANTU for Development, Women in Law and
- h) Development (WiLDAF), and ActionAid-Ghana have carried out awareness-raising programmes and advocacy which have accounted for the marginal increases in women's participation in decision-making at national and local levels.
- i) The draft Affirmative Action Bill is currently with the Attorney-General's Department, pending its submission to Cabinet and the Parliamentary process.
- j) Regarding the participation of women in the chieftaincy institution, as noted previously in this Report, for the first time in Ghana's history, Paramount Queen-mothers in 2010 were paid allowances just like their male counterparts. The amount paid was increased from one hundred and fifty Cedis (¢150.00) to three hundred Cedis (¢300.00) per month.
- k) There are also now 10 Regional Associations of Paramount Queen-mothers in all the 10 administrative Regions of Ghana. Through these Associations, Queen-mothers discuss and address matters relating to the welfare of women.
- l) The process has commenced to fully integrate Queen-mothers into the Regional Houses of Chiefs and the National House of Chiefs, both of which are constitutional bodies vested with powers and functions related to matters of customary law and practice.
- m) In order to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision making on land through the development of policies, the MOLNR through the LAP, have built capacity of some selected women traditional leaders (Queen Mothers) to participate and contribute effectively in decision making on land at the national and customary levels. From the Project's analyses, women's representation and participation in decision making on land under LAP has increased at the formal and customary levels. The Project through continuous engagement with stakeholders ensures a more equitable information and access to opportunities and benefits for women and men. For example, the Ministry, through LAP promotes adequate women's participation in LAPs processes relating to rural parcel land demarcation and registration, deeds and titling, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms at the Customary Land Secretariats (CLSs).

## Nationality

12.

- a) In its findings, the Constitution Review Commission (CRC) notes that a previous attempt had been made through the Constitution (Amendment) Bill of 1999 to make the acquisition of Ghanaian citizenship through marriage gender neutral. This Bill was

however not passed into law.<sup>5</sup> Accordingly, the CRC recommended that article 7 of the Constitution – which governs citizenship by marriage – be made gender neutral.<sup>6</sup> This recommendation has been accepted by the Government in its White Paper on the CRC's Report.<sup>7</sup> As noted previously in paragraph 1(d) of this Report, the provision in the Constitution amendment Bill allowing for the re-acquisition of Ghanaian citizenship, where it has been lost due to laws prohibiting dual nationality, will safeguard the right to nationality of Ghanaian women who may have lost their citizenship through marriage.

## Education

13.

- a) The country continues to make progress towards achieving gender parity at Senior High School (SHS), with the GPI and share of female enrolment both increasing. The transition rates from JHS to SHS1 are higher for females than males, and the SHS completion rate for female students increased notably from 28% to 38% between 2012/13 and 2013/14.
- b) The percentage of females enrolled in public institutions has been rising in recent years. In 2012/13, 33.6% of public university students were female, 33.1% of polytechnic students, and 43.3% of Colleges of Education students were female.
- c) Available data for 2013/14 shows increasing progress towards the goals of gender parity at Senior High School level. The GPI on GER increased from 0.86 to 0.91, and the proportion of enrolment which is female from 45.9% to 46.9%.
- d) The proportion of enrolment in Ghana Education Service (GES) Technical and Vocational Institutions (TVIs) which was female increased from 16.5% in 2012/13 to 18.3% in 2013/14.
- e) In 2012/13, 9,404 students were admitted into the public Colleges of Education (CoEs), and 2,439 into the private CoEs, giving a total of 11,843 new entrants with 46.4% female representation.
- f) The percentage of enrolment in public institutions which is female has also been rising in recent years. In 2012/13 33.6% of public university students were female, 33.1% of polytechnic students, and 43.3% of CoE students were female.
- g) Ghana achieved 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in four out of the ten administrative Regions making up the country in 2010 ahead of the 2015 deadline. The six other regions are below the national average but working steadily towards achieving the 100% mark. The success has been due to initiatives such as the capitation grant, school-feeding programme and free school uniform programme. Under the National School Feeding Programme, over 1.6 million hungry pupils are fed with one hot nutritious meal on every school going day. This has increased school enrolment, attendance and retention by 80%.
- h) The 'Take Home Ration' initiative by the Ghana Education Service (GES) and the World Food Programme (WFP) in 1988/89 in the northern parts of the country has helped to bridge the gender disparity in education in deprived communities. Currently, food rations have been provided to 90,000 girls in the three northern regions. As a result

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<sup>5</sup> Constitution Review Commission, *Report of the Constitutional Review Commission: From a Political to a Developmental Constitution* (2011) p 638 para 46.

<sup>6</sup> Constitution Review Commission (2011) p 639 para 53.

<sup>7</sup> White Paper on the Report of the Constitution Review Commission presented to the President, p 42.

of this partnership between the GES and the WFP providing the 'Take Home Rations', the Upper East and Upper West Regions of the country were the first two out of the ten Regions to attain gender parity in education in Ghana.

- i) To bridge the gender gap in access to education, a total of 15,700 girls from JHS have benefitted from scholarships through the Participatory Approach to Student Success.
- j) To improve ICT in education, 60,000 laptops have been provided to Basic Schools in all ten regions of Ghana under the Basic School Computerisation Program. 50,000 Basic School teachers have also benefited from ICT training.
- k) For the 2012/13 academic year, the Ministry of Education has provided Capitation Grant amounting to GH¢24,472,840.00 for 5,741,198 pupils in basic schools. The Ministry of Education has also subsidised the registration cost of 391,079 candidates for the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) to the tune of GH¢9,031,338.00.
- l) Under the GRSCDP, MoGCSP granted scholarships to 668 girls from the 2011/2012 to the 2012/2013 academic years, and presented equipment in 59 districts, including 25 to Department of Community Development-run institutions and 8 to the National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI). In 2014, the GRSCDP supplied equipment for carpentry, masonry, mechanical, dressmaking and catering to technical and vocational institutions.

## Employment

14.

- a) As Ghana grows to become a middle income country with her economic growth being led by the oil and gas sector, the government has outlined policies that promote economic development and local participation of Ghanaians in the oil industry. However, policy makers have not yet specified what specific roles women are expected to and can play in the oil industry to advance the economic development of the country. The current version of the Ghana government's policy on the oil industry makes reference to the issue of gender, stating that 'while government will provide equal opportunities for all citizens of the Republic of Ghana, the participation of women in the oil and gas industry will be actively encouraged.' In the immediate future, efforts will be made to clearly define the role of women in the policy frameworks guiding the oil industry.
- b) Apart from the oil industry, the manufacturing sector has also witnessed efforts to improve women's participation in the sector. These include:
  - Within one and a half years of launching and implementing the Labour Intensive Public Works (LIPW) programme over 88,908 people have so far been employed under the Program, with 52,177 being women.
  - The Business Development Unit of MoGCSP has established a micro credit scheme, training programs and alternative livelihood programs for women in the services and manufacturing sector.
  - Alternative livelihood programs (such as soap making) have been initiated by MoGCSP and other NGOs for poor women such as head porters.
  - One hundred and fifty (150) financial and business training programs were organized for women in services sector in year 2007. In this same year, a total of 10,907 women were trained in financial and business management skills in six of the ten regions in Ghana (i.e. Greater Accra, Ashanti, Brong-Ahafo, Central, Eastern and Northern).

- A Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT) Program has been established for the informal sector.
- c) Efforts made in the agricultural sector include the following:
- In 2008, MoGCSP procured 43 agro-processing equipment (i.e. groundnut, cassava, palm-nut and she abutter equipment) from GRATIS Foundation, and distributed them to 43 women's groups in nine regions in the country. Over 3,440 households in the various communities are benefitting from the operations of the equipment.
  - A start-up capital of ₵2,000.00 was disbursed to the 43 women's groups to purchase raw materials for their operations.
  - Again in 2008, MoGCSP built the capacity of 7,940 women in agro-processing and food processing skills to enable them make significant contributions towards sustainable national development.
  - An assessment of the Gender and Agricultural Development Strategy (GADS) was done in 2008 by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) and concrete recommendations made to improve the situation of women in agriculture.
  - A draft Gender Strategy was developed in January 2009 for the Land Administration Project (LAP) and the land sector agencies. The specific objectives of the Gender Strategy are to ensure rights of women's existing land holdings, in customary rural and peri-urban areas; equitable information and access to opportunities, benefits and decision making in land administration in Ghana. Both women and men will be well informed to participate in land demarcation and registration, customary land secretariat operations, deeds and titling, dispute resolution processes, policy dialogue, monitoring and evaluation.
- d) Although there is no specific national policy framework on sexual harassment, complaints of sexual harassment can be filed at the National Labour Commission (NLC). The NLC is mandated to investigate and determine all labour and workplace related issues brought before it. Further, a case of sexual harassment can be presented to DOVVSU or presented directly to the Courts.
- e) It must be added that the University of Ghana – the nation's premier university – launched its first sexual harassment policy, the first ever for a public university in Ghana, in March 2011. The Policy was developed over three years by the Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy, (CEGENSA) of the University and entered into effect in January 2011, having been approved earlier by the University Council. The Policy is set within the legal framework of the Domestic Violence Act, National Labour Act and Whistle Blower Act.

## Health

15.

- a) A number of measures have been taken to reduce the rate of maternal mortality and morbidity. A few of these measures are noted below:
- Implementation of free maternal health services, repositioning family planning and training as well as repositioning reproductive and child health staff;
  - Establishment of a safe motherhood task force which is operational and supporting Government's efforts to increase the number of midwives through direct midwifery training. Consequently, the opening of new midwifery training schools in Tamale and other places, resulted in a 13% increase in national enrolment between 2007 and 2009. In 2010, midwives received specific training on the use of partograph. Knowledge in the use of partograph promotes

confidence, reduces prolonged labour, caesarean sections and intra-partum still births;

- Implementation of the High Impact Rapid Delivery (HIRD) approach as a complementary strategy to reduce maternal and child mortality. Several Districts have indicated progress in service indicators achieved and innovative strategies implemented with regard to improving maternal health. Other notable interventions are the Ghana VAST Survival Programme, Prevention of Maternal Mortality Programme (PMMP), and Safe-Motherhood Initiative;
  - Implementation of Projects such as the Making Pregnancy Safer Initiative, Prevention and Management of Safe Abortion Programme, Maternal and Neonatal Health Programme and Roll Back Malaria Programme, Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPT) have contributed to the reduction of maternal mortality and morbidity;
  - Implementation of Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (EmONC) is being implemented in all 10 Regions, although not with the full complement of required human and technical resources. Four regions have so far received EmONC equipment, namely Eastern and Brong-Ahafo in 2009 and Ashanti and Northern regions in 2010.
- b) With malaria being a cause of morbidity in Ghana, the adoption of a multi-interventional approach by the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) of the Ghana Health Service (GHS) is a welcome measure. A key initiative under this approach is the campaign to increase the ownership and use of insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) dubbed, 'Door-to-Door and Hang Up'. The campaign was started in the Northern Region targeting children under six years and pregnant women. The NMCP reported in an evaluation of the initiative six months after its commencement that there was a dramatic increase and usage of ITNs in the Northern Region, building on which the programme was rolled out nationwide.
- c) Other malaria prevention interventions include:
- The scaling up of the Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPT) to provide chemoprophylaxis for pregnant women;
  - Improving malaria case management in all health facilities; and
  - Intensifying community education on the synergy between malaria and environmental sanitation.
- d) From 2013 to 2014, fistula repairs have been done for sixty eight (68) women from the Upper East, Upper West, Volta and Central Regions of Ghana, in collaboration with a team of doctors at the Mercy Health Centre, Mankessim. Beneficiaries have also received assistance to reintegrate into their society
- e) The Centre for Health and Social Services (CHSS) is working towards expanding the Community Health and Planning Systems (CHPS) from the current 3.3% to 30% over the next three years also improve the efficiency of the system from the current 36% to 70% through policy transformation for Universal Coverage in Maternal and Child Health Service.
- f) In 2014, 3530 aged persons have been registered on the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) database within two months in a piloted biometric registration programme for the aged in collaboration with the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA).

g) Although information on awareness-raising campaigns on permissible abortion in Ghana, a study<sup>8</sup> conducted by a consortium of five organisations reveals that a number of women are more likely to opt for medical abortion, when given the opportunity. The consortium comprising Marie Stopes International – Ghana (MSIG), EngenderHealth, IPAS, Population Council and Willows Foundation – in collaboration with the Ministry of Health commenced a programme in 2006 dubbed Reducing Maternal Mortality and Morbidity (R3M) to accelerate efforts towards achieving MDG 5. Through the R3M, the consortium was granted a provisional licence by the Food and Drugs Board (FDB) to introduce Mifepristone and Misoprostol – a medical abortion regimen – into Ghana. A study conducted in 10 health facilities across Accra, Koforidua, Oda and Kumasi showed that acceptability of medical abortion was very high. As much as 81% of respondents indicated that they would use the medical abortion procedure again, while 90% indicated that they would recommend the procedure to their family and friends. 85% of the health facilities were also satisfied with the procedure.

16.

- a) The HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ghana is classified as a generalised epidemic with a prevalence of more than 1% in the population.<sup>9</sup> According to the 2012 National HIV Prevalence and AIDS Estimates Report, an estimated 225,478 people are living with HIV/AIDS of which 100,336 are males, 125,141 are females and 30,395 are children. New infections as at 2012 was 12,077 of which 10,373 were adults and 1,704 were children. Further disaggregated data from UNAIDS puts the figure of women aged 15 years and above living with HIV/AIDS at 120,000 as at 2012.<sup>10</sup>
- b) According to the ‘Ghana Country AIDS Progress Report: January 2010 – December 2011’ prepared by the Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC),<sup>11</sup> the HIV prevalence in Ghana varies with geographic areas, gender, age and residence. In 2010 for example, in the 40 sentinel sites, HIV prevalence ranged from 0.4% in Krachi and Adibo (Rural) to 7.8% in Agomanya (Urban). In 2011 the lowest was Adibo(0.0%), and the highest was Cape Coast with 9.6%. Two sites had a prevalence rate above 5.0% in 2011 as compared with one site in 2010. The prevalence in the urban sites was higher than in rural sites.
- c) In 2011 five Regions, namely: Central, Eastern, Greater Accra, Ashanti and Volta recorded an increase in HIV prevalence. The prevalence in the Brong-Ahafo Region stayed the same and the remaining four regions recorded a decrease from their 2010 figures. The Regional prevalence ranged from 0.3% in the Northern Region to 4.7% in the Central Region. In 2010, the prevalence was highest in 30 – 39 year age groups (2.8%) and lowest in 15 – 24 year age group, (1.5%). The prevalence in the young people aged 15 – 24 years dropped from 2.1% in 2009. In 2011 the prevalence was highest in the 30 - 34 year age group (2.9%) and lowest in the 20 - 24 year age group. The prevalence in the 15 – 24 year age group rose marginally to 1.7%, while that in the 15 – 19 year age group rose sharply to 1.9%.
- d) From the annual HIV Sentinel Surveillance Surveys conducted on pregnant women at the level of ante-natal care – and more recently the Estimation and Projection Package

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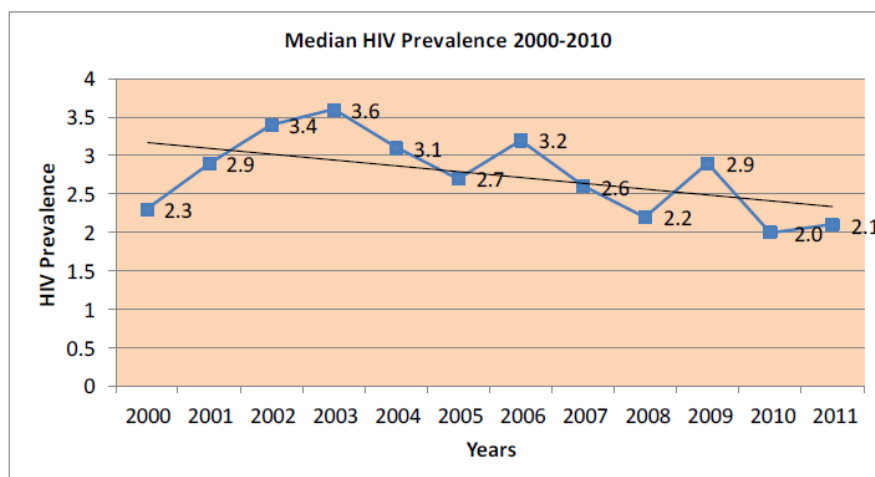
<sup>8</sup> Osei Kuffour Emmanuel, et al, ‘Introduction of Medical Abortion in Ghana’ 2011 Population Council Inc.

<sup>9</sup> The World Health Organisation (WHO) classifies a prevalence rate of 1% or more in the general population as a generalised epidemic.

<sup>10</sup> See UNAIDS Countries – Ghana. Available at <http://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/ghana/>.

<sup>11</sup> See GAC, (2012) Ghana Country AIDS Progress Report, 2012 p 12.

(EPP) Model – the HIV/AIDS prevalence has continued to drop over the last decade.<sup>12</sup> The median HIV prevalence has declined from 3.6% in 2003 to 2.1% in 2011 as can be seen in figure 2 below. Currently as per the EPP Model, the national prevalence stands at 1.37% among the general population. The 2012 National HIV Prevalence and AIDS Estimates Report records this figure as the lowest prevalence in about 10 years.



Source: HIV Sentinel Surveillance Report, 2011  
Figure 4: Trend in Median HIV prevalence from 2000 – 2011

- e) Ghana is also noted by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) as one of five countries in West Africa whose prevalence declined by more than 25% between 2001 and 2011.
- f) PMTCT services have been integrated into sexual and reproductive health services.<sup>13</sup> This has ensured wider access to women in reproductive ages. It is also recorded that in 2012, 70% of all HIV-positive persons received Anti-Retroviral (ARV) medication to prevent MTCT, an increase from the 2011 coverage of 50%. The 2013 Global AIDS Report further notes that in Ghana, the risk of a woman living with HIV transmitting the disease to her child has reduced from 31% in 2009 to 9% (7% - 11%) in 2012.<sup>14</sup> In addition, the Report finds that in Ghana, the coverage of services for women living with HIV to prevent MTCT increased dramatically from 32% (27% - 38%) to more than 90% in 2012. Worthy of note is also the fact that there is a 76% reduction in new infections among children.<sup>15</sup>

## Rural Women

17.

- a) The Government of Ghana through the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MOLNR) initiated a land reform process in 1999 to stimulate economic development, reduce poverty and promote social stability. In 2003, the first phase of the Land Administration Project (LAP) was initiated to develop a decentralized, fair, efficient and transparent land administration system in Ghana to reduce poverty. In response to national gender initiatives and demands from civil society as indicated in the Women's

<sup>12</sup>GAC, (2012) *Ghana Country AIDS Progress Report, 2012* p 21.

<sup>13</sup> GAC, (2013) 'Achievements and Challenges with respect to MDG 6' p 3.

<sup>14</sup>UNAIDS (2013) p 37.

<sup>15</sup>Ghana AIDS Commission (2013) p 3.

Manifesto of Ghana (ABANTU, 2004), the Project took steps to map gender dimensions of land administration and developed a gender equality mainstreaming strategy with the objective of providing a coherent and sustained approach to addressing women and men's concerns in land administration for equitable development, gathering gender-sensitive data using appropriate participatory appraisal tools and incorporating this in the implementation and monitoring processes of LAP. Key thrust of the Strategy includes Public Education, Capacity Building, Institutional Reforms, Advocacy and Networking with Civil Society Organizations.

- b) Implementation of the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy Action Plan began in 2012 under the Second Phase of LAP with funding from the World Bank, Department Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada formerly CIDA and the Government of Ghana.
- c) The Ministry has integrated gender perspectives in LAP planning and ensures adequate women's representation and involvement in decision making on land. It is also promoting women's access to and control over land, collect gender disaggregated data and evaluates Project implementation to inform policy reforms in the land sector and land administration in Ghana in general.
- d) The main implementing agencies of the Project – Lands Commission, Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands and Town and Country Planning – prepare annual Project plans and are financially resourced to undertake specific thrust of the Strategy to improve access, control and ownership of land by women.
- e) Between January to December 2010, 787 titles were registered at the Lands Commission by women nationwide to secure their interest in land and 581 land titles were jointly registered (registration that involved wife and husband, Brother and Sister etc.).
- f) Similarly, between January and December 2010, 1,675 deeds were registered by women nationwide and 849 deeds were registered jointly at the Lands Commission. The number of titles and deeds registered from 2012 to 2013 by females were 4652 and 12,956 were registered by males with 2,685 joint registration.
- g) The Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) has also developed a Gender and Agricultural Development Strategy (GADS), to support its gender mainstreaming processes. GADS aims to achieve eight main objectives namely:
  - Enhance institutional capacity of MOFA to address gender issues
  - Promote production and use of sex and age disaggregated data
  - Improve extension service delivery
  - Improve access by farmers to financial services
  - Improve access to information on land rights
  - Improve development and promotion of appropriate technologies in agriculture
  - Promote the diversification and development of new processed products
  - Enhance environmental protection through agricultural practices
- h) These objectives address issues of food security, increase in income, women empowerment and poverty, targeting farmers especially women in the agricultural sector.
- i) MOFA has also developed a resettlement policy framework which among others, protects the interests of women in instances of resettlements. Among the challenges faced in the implementation of this policy is fact that women are often users of land and not owners, thus affecting their decision-making power over land matters. The second phase of the LAP (LAP II) is aimed at increasing women's ownership of land in addition to user rights.
- j) To improve women's access to and control over productive resources, the block farm program of MOFA targets women and youth. The program aims at increasing farmers'

access to land, improved seeds, fertilizers and extension services. Land allocation is facilitated and improved seeds and fertilizer provided on credit and after production, farmers pay back in kind or cash. In 2012 total beneficiaries were 18,782 of which males were 14, 924 and females 6,265 making up 18.9% of female beneficiaries. In 2013 a total number of 13,425 farmers benefited with 9,411 males and 3,844 females making up 18.6% females.

- k) The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MOLGRD) currently has a draft policy on rural development which will also address key gender issues in the sector.

### Disadvantaged groups of women

18.

- a) The National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) is an agency under the Ministry of Interior, mandated to manage disasters by coordinating the resources provided by government institutions, NGOs towards disaster management; develop the capacity of voluntary community-based organisations to respond effectively to disasters and similar emergencies; and improve livelihood through social mobilisation, employment generation and poverty reduction projects.
- b) NADMO works through its Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change; the Technical Advisory Committees; the Disaster Management Committees; and other collaborating agencies.
- c) Working with NADMO, MoGCSP provided 7,331 market traders affected by fire in four (4) markets with cash grants to replenish their businesses, thereby enabling them to recover and improving their ability to generate income in 2013.
- d) While Ghana did not receive any refugees from the Central African Republic, it nonetheless supported relief efforts by hosting the UN Humanitarian Response Depot in Accra, where Irish Aid pre-positioned its relief supplies bound for the Central African Republic.

### Marriage and Family Relations

19.

- a) Although Ghana has recorded an increase in polygamy, the legal framework provides ample protection for spouses in polygamous unions. Polygamous marriage is contracted according to customary law, which is recognised a part of the laws of Ghana in article 11 of the Constitution. As stated previously, the Matrimonial Causes Act applies to marriages contracted under customary law.
- b) The legal framework is being further strengthened with the introduction of a new law on intestate succession (the Intestate Succession Bill) and the Property Rights of Spouses Bill. The latter legislation is in fulfilment of the constitutional injunction to Parliament to pass a law regulating the property rights of spouses with a view to achieving equity and equality of spouses to property jointly acquired during their marriage. The draft Bill therefore makes provision for couples both – married and cohabiting – to equal access to jointly acquired property during the pendency of their union and sets standards and rules to guide courts in the determination of such matters.

20.

- a) Generally spouses who marry under customary and Islamic law have their matrimonial property issues dealt with by these laws. However, with the promulgation of the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1971 (Act 367) such spouses can apply to the court and can be subject to the Act. Thus, a party to a marriage contracted under customary or Islamic law

can apply to the state courts to have that marriage dissolved and matrimonial issues arising from that dissolution, dealt with under the . In such cases, the court is required to apply not only the provisions of Act 367 but also take account of the spouses' personal laws on divorce and matrimonial causes. Section 41(2) of the Act provides that:

**“On application by a party to a marriage other than a monogamous marriage, the court shall apply the provisions of this Act to that marriage, and in so doing, subject to the requirements of justice, equity and good conscience the court may:**

**a) have regard to the peculiar incidents of the that marriage in determining appropriate relief, financial provision and child custody arrangements;**

**b) grant any form of relief recognised by personal law of the parties to the proceedings, either in addition or in substitution for the matrimonial reliefs afforded by this Act.”**

21.

- a) Child marriage continues to be challenge to the Ghanaian society. According to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) of 2006, 22% of women aged 20 to 29 years in Ghana got married before the age of 18 years. For women in the 30 to 44 years category, 30% married before the age of 18 years. Consequently on the average, nearly 1 in 4 women is getting married while still a child. The 2006 MICS further showed that about 4.4 percent of women aged 15 to 49 years first got married before the age of 15 years. The rural areas presented a higher rate of 5.5% compared to 3.3% of women from the urban areas getting married before 15 years.
- b) The situation seemed to worsen from the 2011 MICS data. The results of the survey show that 6% of women aged 15 to 49 years got married before 15 years of age, while 27% got married before 18 years. In the rural areas, the prevalence of women marrying before 15 years rose to 8%, while in the urban areas it stood at 4%.
- c) Statistics from the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service indicate that between 2005 and 2010, 69 cases of forced marriage were handled by the Unit. The figures show an increasing trend with 10 cases handled in 2007 rising to 21 cases by 2011. These statistics also show that the bulk of the cases are not reported to the relevant authorities, leaving the practice of early and forced marriage a deliberately concealed practice. It has also been observed that the bulk of the few cases that are reported to the Police are settled out of court.
- d) The cumulative effects of early and forced marriage in Ghana presented above are not far off. From the MICS data, poorer and less educated women and girls are most vulnerable to early and forced marriage. Girls who are married are less likely to have an education. Often driven by poverty, families sacrifice the education of a girl-child for that of a boy-child and force the girl into marriage to relieve their financial burdens. In some cases, the girl is expected to ‘put up the best of behaviours’, to keep her husband interested in her and consequently provide for the needs of the girl’s family. She therefore becomes the economic bait for her family, with no regard for her dignity and well-being. Women and girls forced into marriage under customary practices such as trokosi face higher risks of death in childbirth, malnutrition, hazardous work, and the worst forms of child labour to name a few.
- e) To address these challenges, MoGCSP and UNICEF-Ghana have taken the initiative to carry out a three-year project commencing in 2014, aimed at achieving six key objectives, namely:

- Establishment of a coordinating unit on early marriage within the National Domestic Violence Secretariat with a Monitoring and Evaluation system;
  - Development of a national strategic framework for eliminating early marriage in Ghana;
  - Creation of platforms for awareness-creation, experience-sharing, learning and strategizing around the elimination of child marriage;
  - Increased public responsiveness to issues of child marriage through social communication;
  - Strengthen response mechanisms through improved service delivery in shelters;
  - Establish a Monitoring and Evaluation System to measure progress; enhance learning; and improve results over the duration of the project.
- f) The NCCE has also carried out awareness-raising and education programmes to address harmful social and cultural practices which impact on the institution of marriage as well. They include the following:
- NCCE collaboration with the Department of Gender to provide platforms during various constitution week celebrations to sensitize the monthly women's forum on the need to eliminate FGM from the society;
  - Educational programs on doing away with Trokosi, widowhood rights, wife beating, emotional and psychological torturing of women were held in communities across the country as a follow up to research conducted by the NCCE;
  - Education on the need to do away with child marriages is continuing, while education on assisting and empowering female persons with disabilities who are affected by various forms of violence is yet to begin.

## Annex 1 Statistical Data

### Statistics from DOVVSU

*Table 1: Cases Reported to DOVVSU Nationwide 2002 - 2013*

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>NO. OF CASES REPORTED NATIONWIDE</b>
2002	7,852
2003	10,756
2004	11,934
2005	13,224
2006	13,594
2007	17,315
2008	14,799
2009	17,021
2010	12,706

2011	17,965
2012	17,655
2013	18,795

Table 2: Trends in Cases Reported to DOVVSU

OFFENCE	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	TOTAL
RAPE	23	34	64	184	150	181	206	345	417	315	422	282	370	290	312	<b>3595</b>
DEFILEMENT	154	181	228	820	755	734	713	1427	1578	1077	1207	981	1168	1111	1228	<b>13362</b>
ASSAULT	95	86	279	1861	2157	2059	2430	3573	4709	2952	4247	3118	5362	5212	5291	<b>43431</b>
THREATENING	21	16	63	772	588	435	560	691	1142	715	982	923	1450	1667	2033	<b>12058</b>
CAUSING HARM	4	6	7	65	46	42	41	78	118	184	116	77	139	155	209	<b>1287</b>
CAUSING DAMAGE	6	3	7	73	49	70	118	164	199	180	235	176	274	282	321	<b>2157</b>
INDECENT ASSAULT	11	17	29	104	90	74	106	138	141	99	125	104	174	136	172	<b>1520</b>
INCEST	5	6	5	20	17	15	11	11	10	14	22	21	15	18	26	<b>216</b>
OFFENSIVE CONDUCT	4	1	2	226	360	323	671	452	621	388	557	525	811	543	609	<b>6093</b>
UNNATURAL CARNAL KNL'DGE	3	2	0	2	3	15	12	16	17	15	24	10	16	6	18	<b>159</b>
NON MAINTENANCE	532	1390	1064	3230	6049	7488	7437	5005	6297	7016	6897	4798	5797	6158	6107	<b>75265</b>
ABDUCTION	3	5	10	147	169	190	187	320	427	296	361	231	343	316	341	<b>3346</b>
CHILD STEALING	1	3	1	17	16	15	58	22	67	63	55	10	45	45	56	<b>474</b>
STEALING	20	7	12	196	174	156	301	471	577	370	488	383	608	567	577	<b>4907</b>
EXPOSING CHILD TO HARM	1	0	4	72	61	63	135	307	279	123	197	118	159	95	91	<b>1705</b>
CRIMINAL ABORTION	1	1	3	17	23	35	37	82	108	127	116	89	86	80	106	<b>911</b>
ATTEMPTED RAPE	1	2	3	23	32	15	24	52	61	39	50	27	45	50	41	<b>465</b>
ATTEMPTED ABORTION	0	1	0	19	15	20	18	35	59	42	51	30	42	45	31	<b>408</b>
BIGAMY	0	0	0	0	3	4	9	8	9	6	7	6	15	23	12	<b>102</b>
UNLAWFUL EJECTION	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	25	29	36	83	87	94	133	107	<b>605</b>
UNLAWFUL ENTRY	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	19	9	5	3	5	9	27	<b>88</b>
THREAT OF HARM/DEATH	0	0	0	0	0	0	94	126	1142	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1362</b>

UNLAWFUL REMOVAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	23	239	200	263	333	505	331	307	<b>2203</b>
DEPRIVATION OF PROPERTY	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	16	11	10	15	27	49	52	29	<b>217</b>
SODOMY	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	9	12	2	5	12	8	6	<b>59</b>
COMPULSORY MARRIAGE	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	7	10	11	11	21	16	11	21	<b>117</b>
ACT TENDING	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	14	10	15	35	20	42	75	30	<b>243</b>
ASSAULT BY IMPRISONMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	38	1	1	2	1	0	<b>50</b>
ATTEMPTED DEFILEMENT	0	0	1	3	2	0	5	4	5	13	13	10	22	15	8	<b>101</b>
CHILD ABANDONMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	17	31	47	48	44	56	50	34	<b>341</b>
CHILD ABUSE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	15	11	18	6	20	27	15	<b>117</b>
CHILD LABOUR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	3	8	1	0	3	1	4	<b>27</b>
CHILD TRAFFICKING	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	9	20	16	9	6	10	9	<b>91</b>
KIDNAPPING	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	7	5	8	15	13	10	11	<b>75</b>
MURDER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	4	<b>9</b>
ATTEMPT TO COMMIT CRIME	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	13	5	6	7	9	2	4	<b>49</b>
CARNAL KN'LDGE OF A F IDIOT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	13	6	1	15	15	10	<b>78</b>
INDECENT EXPOSURE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
ATTEMPTED STEALING	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	1	0	0	4	0	<b>12</b>
ATTEMPTED KIDNAPPING	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	<b>2</b>
OTHERS	6	5	3	1	0	0	0	98	39	223	329	208	65	102	586	<b>1665</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>1766</b>	<b>1785</b>	<b>7852</b>	<b>10756</b>	<b>11934</b>	<b>13224</b>	<b>13594</b>	<b>17315</b>	<b>14702</b>	<b>17021</b>	<b>12706</b>	<b>17853</b>	<b>17655</b>	<b>18795</b>	<b>177840</b>

Table 3: Cases of Sexual Assault Reported to DOVVSU 2003 - 2013

OFFENCE	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
RAPE	150	181	206	345	417	315	422	282	380	290	312

<b>DEFILEMENT</b>	755	734	713	1427	1578	1077	1207	981	1168	1111	1228
<b>INDECENT ASSAULT</b>	90	74	106	138	141	99	125	104	176	136	172
<b>INCEST</b>	17	15	11	11	10	14	22	21	15	18	26
<b>UNNATURAL CARNAL KNOWLEDGE/ SODOMY</b>	3	15	13	20	26	27	26	15	28	14	24
<b>ATTEMPTED RAPE</b>	32	15	24	52	61	39	50	27	45	50	41
<b>ATTEMPTED DEFILEMENT</b>	2	0	5	4	5	13	13	10	22	15	8
<b>CARNAL KNOWLEDGE OF A FEMALE IDIOT</b>	0	0	0	0	18	13	6	1	15	15	10
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>1,049</u></b>	<b><u>1,034</u></b>	<b><u>1,078</u></b>	<b><u>1,997</u></b>	<b><u>2,256</u></b>	<b><u>1,597</u></b>	<b><u>1,871</u></b>	<b><u>1,441</u></b>	<b><u>1,849</u></b>	<b><u>1,649</u></b>	<b><u>1,821</u></b>

Table 4: Statistics on Sexual Offences and Defilement 2009 - 2013

YEAR	Sexual Offences	Defilement	% of Sexual Offences & Defilement
2009	1,871	1,207	64.5%
2010	1,441	981	68%
2011	1,914	1,168	61%
2012	1,649	1,111	67%
2013	1,821	1,228	67.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,696</b>	<b>5,695</b>	<b>65.48%</b>

Table 5: Statistics on Child-Related Cases and Defilement 2009 - 2013

YEAR	Child Related cases	Defilement	% of Child related case & Defilement
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2009	7,101	1,207	17%
2010	6,662	981	15%
2011	7,189	1,168	16%
2012	8,271	1,111	13%
2013	8,580	1,228	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,803</b>	<b>5,695</b>	<b>15%</b>

Table 6: Four Top Case Types Reported to DOVVSU 2011 - 2013

Type of case	Number of true cases		
	2011	2012	2013
Non-Maintenance	5813	6158	6107
Assault	5832	5212	5291
Threatening	1474	1667	2033

Defilement	1168	1111	1228
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## Statistics from CHRAJ

Table 7: Statistics on Cases Received by CHRAJ 2006 - 2009

Statistics on Women's Access to Justice CHRAJ				
Nature of case	Year			
	2006	2007	2008	2009
Spousal Rights (maintenance)	1361	1518	1047	1213
Custody	583	541	530	614
Refusing Responsibility (for Pregnancy	-	-	-	265
Paternity	419	559	265	250
Domestic Violence (Spousal battery)	68	66	145	162
Forced Marriage	225	224	141	129
Defilement	35	51	41	16
Discrimination based on sex	100	72	8	10
Sexual Harassment	-	-	49	57
Witchcraft accusation	-	-	-	5

Incest	2	0	4	3
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Table 8: Gender-related Cases Received by CHRAJ 2011 - 2013

<b>Sexual and gender based violence complaints received by the Commission from 2011-2013:</b>		
<b>Nature of case</b>	<b>Resolved</b>	<b>Referred</b>
Sexual harassment	36	11
Domestic Violence	826	144
<b>Total</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>155</b>