



Social Protection in Ghana: History, Challenges and Opportunities

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Presentation Outline



The Vision, Mission, of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ghana.



The History and Current Status of Social Protection in Ghana



Achievements and Challenges



Opportunities for European Union Assistance.



Our Vision

A harmonious society in which the survival and development of the sexes, children, the vulnerable, and persons with disability are guaranteed



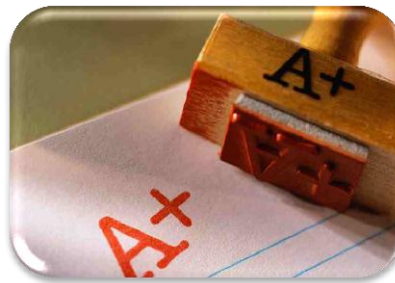
Our Mission

- To achieve gender equality and equity;
- To facilitate the enforcement of the rights of children;
- To promote the integration and protection of the vulnerable, excluded and persons with disability;

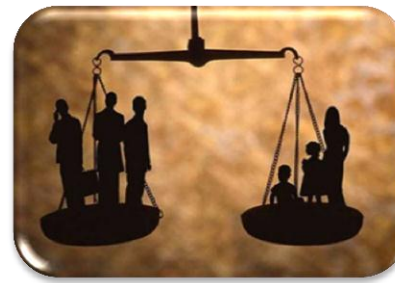
Our Values



Integrity



Excellence



Social Justice



Our Target Groups



38%

Children



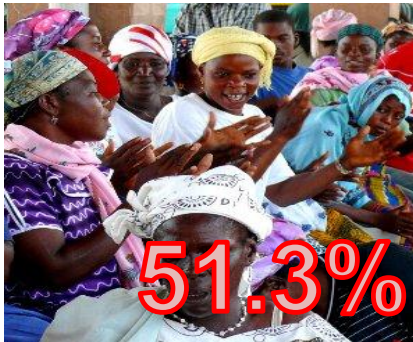
28%

Below the Poverty Line



48.7%

Men



51.3%

Women



3%

People with Disabilities



6.7%

Elderly



Youth

20%



History of SP in Ghana

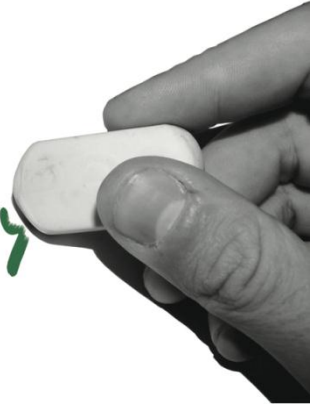
- Social Protection existed since Independence to address poverty, vulnerability and exclusion
- It has been a right based approach and an expression of Governments' commitment towards reducing inequality and poverty in Ghanaian society, by subsidizing the provision of basic social services such as education, health, water and sanitation etc.
- The 1992 Constitution (chapters 5 and 6) and other laws and provisions captures Social Protection
- This commitment has remained till today.



Social Protection Today

- Prior to 2007 Social Protection Programs:
 - not effectively coordinated
 - targeted at the poor
 - inadequately financed
 - limited impact
- Recommendation from a Poverty and Social Impact Assessment Study in 2004 (as part of the review of Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS II)
- To maximize the impact of SP in reducing poverty and inequalities, the Government of Ghana in 2007, developed the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS) through a consultative process

poverty



Social Protection Today

- It is a move towards an integrated social protection system, which reviewed the old system and defined components which aimed at levels of institutional arrangements for oversight and coordination; expanding interventions with proven poverty impacts; revising and scaling up existing arrangements for targeting the poor across sectors; and increased financing social protection.
- Currently, NSPS Anchored within the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA)



Components of the NSPS

- Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) cash transfer program (flagship) implemented under Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection,
- Labour Intensive Public Works implemented under 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 incl. Block Farming under the Ministry of Food and Agric



Intervention Components of the NSPS

- Free School Uniform and Exercise books implemented under Ministry of Education
- School Feeding Programme Under Ministry of Local Government
- Education Capitation Grant under Ministry of Education
- Local Enterprise and Skills Development Programme (LESDEP)
- National Youth Employment Programme /Ghana Youth Employment and Enterprise Development Programme

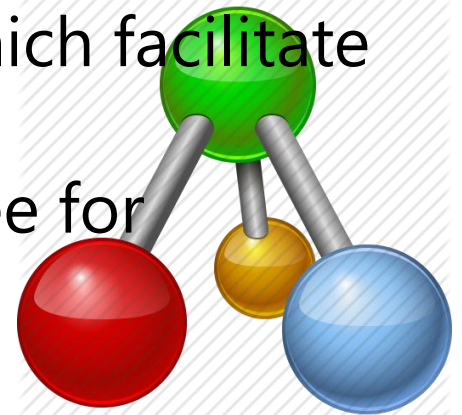


Institutional Arrangement for Implementation

- Coordination is Done by the Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection.

The Structure includes:

- A National Steering Committee for policy guidance
- A Social Protection sector Working Group Comprising Government, Development Partners and Civil Society which provides Technical Support
- Inter- Sector Technical working group for implementation, monitoring and evaluation
- District Social Protection Committee which facilitate implementation monitoring
- Community Social Protection Committee for implementation



Achievements (I)

- Developed and implementing a National Common Targeting Mechanism to identify and select beneficiaries for Social Protection interventions and to facilitate the establishment of a National Single Registry for Social Protection.
- LEAP currently covers over 73,000 households nationwide



Achievements (II)

Boost to Local Economy

- LEAP has contributed to economic growth in their local communities. An impact survey conducted revealed that, every 1 Ghc transferred to a beneficiary family has the potential to increase local income by Ghc 2.50 (multiplier effect).



Boost to Local Economy

- LEAP also has significant impact on production. It stimulates the production of crops by Ghc 0.27 and livestock by Ghc 0.16 per 1Ghc transferred. The largest effect is the retail sector of GHC0.78.
- LEAP has also positively impacted on:
 - Enrolment in National Health Insurance and improvement of health of beneficiary families;
 - increasing school enrolment and regular attendance
 - Building capacity of **beneficiaries** to become active participants in their communities



More Achievements

- NHIS has registered and is providing service to exempt category of **over 930,685 beneficiaries** (Children under school feeding programme, orphanages, mentally challenged persons , LEAP beneficiaries and other vulnerable groups)
- Within one and half years of implementation over **88,908 people** have so far been employed under the Labour Intensive Public Works (LIPW) with **52,177 being women**



School Feeding Program Achievements

- Over 1.6million hungry pupils are fed with one hot nutritious meal on every school going day.
- Increased school enrolment, attendance and retention by 80%
- Secured market for the farmers
- Provided employment opportunities for especially women through out the country.
- A total of 38,751 farmers are benefiting from the program and cultivating 30,973.8 hectares of land



Opportunities for EU Assistance.

- Enhancing and ensuring an effective Coordination mechanism of Social Protection among relevant/key stakeholders to work together in entire process of implementing SP interventions. (the planning, design, implementation, Monitoring and evaluation)
- Technical and financial support to determine and build capacity needed to facilitate implementation of SP at Regional, District and Community levels .
- Build Capacity of Civil Society to monitor Social Protection programs in Ghana.

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Opportunities for EU Assistance.

- Upgrading of the School of Social Work into a Tertiary Training Institution for Social Protection and Social Work in Ghana.
- Completion of work on the development and installation of a Management Information System (MIS) database (single registry) and an ICT Unit for effective coordination and monitoring.
- Scaling up the implementation of the Common Targeting Mechanism for large scale data collection nationwide to establish the Single registry

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Opportunities for EU Assistance.

- Technical Support in implementing Monitoring and Evaluation framework for LEAP and Social Protection.
- Technical support in Research in emerging areas to facilitate evidence based decision making.
- Enhancing political understanding for sustainable growth of Social Protection e.g. South– South co-op.
- Finalization of a Social Policy framework for Ghana
- Developing a sustainable financing mechanism for Social Protection in Ghana.

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Conclusion.

- This is the story of Social Protection in Ghana and progress being made since 2008.
- We have achieved some modest gain and with a little push we can achieve more in our effort at poverty reduction.





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