

ANNUAL REPORT, 1ST JANUARY – 31ST DECEMBER, 2020

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Social welfare unit is under the ministry of Gender, Children and Social protection but merged with Community development and has a compound name as Department of Social welfare and community Development

1.1 MISSION

The mission of the unit is to work in collaboration with government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to integrate the vulnerable, disadvantaged and Persons Living with Disabilities (PWDs) in support of their families for the realization of their potentials.

1.2 VISION

The vision of the unit is to take the lead to integrate the disadvantaged, vulnerable and the excluded into the mainstream of development.

1.3 STAFFING

The total number of staff of the social welfare Unit in the Municipality is five (5). Table 1.3 below indicates the breakdown.

Table 1.3: Number of staffs in the Social Welfare Unit

SNo.	Social Welfare Unit				Community Development Unit						
	Grade	Sex		On Gov't. Payroll	Grade	Sex		Total	Maternity Leave	On Secondment	On Gov't Payroll
		M	F			M	F				
1	Social Development Officer	1		Yes	Senior Social Development Officer	-	1	1	-	-	Yes
					Social Development Officer	1	-	1	-	Yes	Yes
2	Assistant Social Development Officer	-	1	Yes	Senior Mass Education Officer	-	1	1	-	-	Yes
3	Clerical Officer	1	-	Yes	Mass Education Officer	1	1	2	-	-	Yes
4	NABCO	-	1	No	NABCO	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	National Service	1	-	NO	National Service	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Total	3	2	3	Total	2	3	5	-	1	5

1.4 AREAS OF OPERATION

The social welfare unit operates within three main core programs. These are:

- Child Rights Protection and Promotion
- Community care and
- Justice Administration.

2.0 CHILD RIGHT PROTECTION AND PROMOTION

2.1 JUVENILE COURT

Five (5) new cases were recorded during the year under review and one (1) was brought forward from the previous year. Social Enquiry Reports (SER) were written and submitted to the court on all the cases to assist in determining outcomes that are in the best interest of the children. Table 2.1 below has the details.

Table 2.1: Juvenile Cases handled during the year 2020

OFFENCES	BF		New		Ages		No. disposed off but not trialed		No. disposed off after trial		Absconded		Pending		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	10-13	14-17	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Stealing	-	-	5	-		5	1		2		2	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences		1		-		1			1		-				-	-
TOTALS	-	1	5	-		6	1		3	-	2				-	-

From table 2.1 above, two Juvenile Offenders absconded. One of the two has attained the age of eighteen years. He is currently in the custody of the police facing trial in the adult court for a recent offence. A case was disposed off but not trialed by the Juvenile court because the Offender was 18 years but failed to disclose his actual age during investigation. The case was referred to the adult Court.

2.1.1 FAMILY TRIBUNAL

Six (6) cases were brought forward and five (5) new ones filed at the Family Tribunal during the year under review. Three (3) cases were pending by the end of the year 2020. Table 2.1.1 provides the details.

Table 2.1.1: Family Tribunal Cases for 2020

ACTIVITIES	BF		NEW		AGES						CASES DISPOSED OFF		CASES WITHDRAWN		CASES PENDING		TOTALS		
	M	F	M	F	0-5		6-11		12-17		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
					M	F	M	F	M	F									
CHILD MAINTENANCE	-	4		3	-						-	6					1		1
FAMILY RECONC.	2		2								2				2		2		
PATERNITY	-	-	-	-							-	-					-	-	-
PREGNANCY RESPONSIBILITY	-	-	-	-							-	-					-		-
TOTAL	2	4	2	3							2	6			2	1	2	1	

2.1.2 SOCIAL ENQUIRY REPORT

During the year under review, the court (Family Tribunal) requested for the submission of seven (7) Social Enquiry report of cases of children who are in contact and in conflict with the law to enable it make the best of determination in the interest of the children. To this end, the Department submitted the reports accordingly.

2.2. SOCIAL WORK WITH FAMILIES

Twenty –Seven (27) new cases were recorded in the year 2020 and three (3) were brought forward from the previous year. Out of these, twenty-six (26) were disposed off, one (1) was referred to the Family Tribunal and one (1) withdrawn. See Table 2.2

Table 2.2.: Cases handled during the 2020 activity year

ACTIVITIES	BF		New		Age			Cases disposed off		Referred to Family tribunal		Cases withdrawn		Cases pending		TOTALS	
	M	F	M	F	0-5	6-11	12-17	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
CHILD MAINTENANCE	1	2	5	7	-		-	5	8		-	-	1	-	-		-
CUSTODY		-	2	4	-	-	-	2	4	-	-		-		-		-
PREGNANCY RESPONSIBILITY			2	4	-	-	-	1	3	-	1	-	-		-		-
FAMILY WELFARE	-	-		1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-			-	-

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE				2					2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	1	2	9	18		-	-	8	18	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-

From the table above Child Maintenance continue to be the highest case filed at the Agency. This is followed by Pregnancy Responsibility and Child custody. No case is pending at the Agency at the end of the year 2020.

A look at the table above indicate that the total number of cases reported at the Agency during the year has declined by 8 compared to the 2019 figures. Fact finding by the Agency revealed that the Commission for Human Right and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) is duplicating the effort of the Agency in the area of case handling. The Agency will hold talks with the District Commissioner and get the issue resolved.

2.3 EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN ON CHILD PROTECTION

In collaboration with the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) and Ghana Education Service (GES) the Department embarked on a preventive educational programme on Child Protection and Sexual and Gender Based Violence in ten (10) selected communities from May to July, 2020.

The overall objective of the activity is to ensure that children are protected from all forms of danger that may militate against their growth and development.

The specific objectives of the exercise is to;

- Educate communities on Child Protection using Child Protection (CP) Tool Kit and Role Play.
- Educate communities on portions of the Children’s Act 1998 (Act 560).

Table 2.3 indicate the details of activity.

Table 2.3: Education on Child Protection during the year 2020

TOPIC	COMMUNITIES	PARTICIPANTS	GENDER	
			M	F
1. The legal definition of a child. 2. Dangers of Child labour and Abuse. 3. Gender Role Analysis 4. The Family Gift Box 5. Dangers of early marriage 6. The Right of Children - Children's Act 560 (1998)	Mesuo	170	81	101
	Nyinasei	382	102	280
	Sunkwae	150	70	80
	Serikiyakura	464	201	263
	Dijawu	258	95	163
	Dwenewoho	202	75	115
	Bompa Nkrama	156	57	99
	Jato Akura	126	44	82
	Apaaso	40	14	26
	Juaho	320	150	170
TOTAL		2268	889	1379

The exercise was generally successful. Participants contributed meaningfully to the discussion and asked questions which were answered to their satisfaction.

Some notable findings that were revealed during discussion include parents oblivious of some of their actions as infringement on the right of their wards, high level of poverty among families as a push factor in engaging their children in labour and high level of parental irresponsibility.

2.4 ASSESSMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION ACTIVITIES

The Department, in collaboration with National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) and Ghana Education Service (GES) embarked on an activity to ascertain the progress/ impact of Child Protection activities in twenty four (24) communities. This activity was undertaken from September to October, 2020. It was aimed at ascertaining the outcome of series of educational campaign on Child Protection. The specific objectives were;

1. To find out if participants can recollect the child protection education received.
2. To find out how participants apply the knowledge they acquired to real life situations.
3. To document relevant feedback for future activities.

Participants were assessed on the basis of their familiarity in six (6) topics of child protection and their application in real life situation. See table 2.4 for the summary of activity.

Table 2.4: Summary of Assessment on Child Protection Activities

TOPIC	COMMUNITIES	PARTICIPANTS		TOTAL
		M	F	
1. Gender Role Analysis 2. The Family Gift Box 3. The cat and the mouse 4. The balloon game 5. Dangers of early marriage 6. The Right of Children - Children's Act 560 (1998)	Dromankoma	15	18	33
	Bonyon	13	26	39
	Hiawoanwu	21	28	49
	Nkwanta	19	22	41
	Kasei	23	26	49
	Zabrama	18	22	40
	Babaso	25	33	58
	Nokwareasa	23	28	51
	Samari-Nkwanta	15	29	44
	Mominaso No. 1	24	15	39
	Miminaso No. 2	13	21	34
	Bayere-Nkwanta	27	32	59
	Nyamebekyere	29	33	62
	Aframso	18	22	40
	Teacherokrom	31	36	67
	Yabraso	17	11	28
	Kobirity	18	24	42
	Kwaseakan	27	37	67
	Appiaso	16	18	34
	Dapafo	9	13	22
Franti	23	21	44	
Mempeasem	45	59	104	
Ashakoko	53	57	110	
Badukrom	-	30	30	

	Widows group			
Total		522	661	1183

2.4.1 FINDINGS

- Most participants were able to recollect what they learnt.
- There is a reduction in the use of children for farm activities in most communities by both parents and teachers.
- There is a reduction in teenage pregnancy in most communities. However, certain communities complained of an increase in cases.
- Both boys and girls in most households share household chores.

2.5 DAY CARE CENTRES

The Unit could not monitor the activities and status of day care centers due to lack of funds and the outbreak of Corona Virus which resulted in the closure of Schools.

2.6 CHILDREN ADMITTED AT MAMPONG BABIES HOME

It is the Government and Development Partners Agenda through the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MCGSP) to reduce the number of Residential Home for Children (RHC) in the country and encourage family based care such as Kinship and Foster care. To this end, all cases involving vulnerable children who require shelter and care within the Municipality are referred to the Mampong Babies Home.

From 2014 to 2019 the total number of children admitted at the Home stood at three (3). In 2019, two (2) were discharged and the remaining was discharged in 2020. See table 2.6 below for the details.

Table 2.6: Children from Ejura admitted at the Mampong Babies Home from 2014 - 2020

SNo.	CHILD'S NAME	SEX	REASON FOR ADMISSION	DATE OF ADMISSION	DATE OF DISCHARGE	AGE OF ADMISSION	AGE OF DISCHARGE	RE-UNIFICATION		CONTACT
								COMMUNITY	CARE-GIVER	
1.	Musharifa Issahaku	F	Mother mentally challenged	24/12/2014	14/03/2019	4 days old	4 years	Kotokoli line	Rukaya Issahaku (Grandmother)	0274565900

2.	Akosua Sharifa	F	Unknown	2/8/2014	29/05/2019	2 weeks old	4 years	Ashakoko – Near New Kingdom School	Fati Ali (Grandmother)	0546562750/ 0247748573
3.	Owusu Opoku Wonder	M	Difficulty in balancing work (nursing) with caregiving. Issues with the child's father.	2/9/2020	3/10/2020	2	2 years	Kasei	Naomi Boampong (Mother)	0247676333

The table above indicate that currently, there is no child from Ejura-Sekyedumase in admission at the Mampong Babies Home.

3.0 GENDER BASED VIOLENCE:

Two (2) cases were received during the year under review and same were handled and disposed off.

4.0 COMMUNITY CARE

All issues pertaining to vulnerability and Social Protection falls under community care.

4.1 MONITORING OF INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES AND HEALTH SUPPORT TO PWDs

Two phases of monitoring were undertaken during the year under review. Thirty-Five (35) PWDs were sampled for each monitoring. Some beneficiaries who were visited in the first session were re-visited during the second session as a follow-up.

The overall objective of the exercise is to ascertain the progress made so far by beneficiaries in their various economic activities. It is also aimed at ascertaining whether or not support given for health were used for their intended purposes.

The specific objective of the exercise is to:

1. Instill a sense of accountability in beneficiaries of the Fund.
2. Provide support and guidance to beneficiaries who faces challenge through feedback.

3. Track progress of activities of beneficiaries.
4. Establish basis for a top-up support to deserving beneficiaries.

Table 4.1 and 4.1.1 provides summary of the two phases of the exercise.

Table 4.1: Monitoring of Income Generation Activities of PWDs Phase I

S/N	ISSUES	FREQUENCY	ITEM	REMARKS	Action
1	Beneficiary with issue with item	1	Fufu Pounding Machine	Machine produces watery fufu.	Beneficiary will be trained on adherence to operating procedures. Item will be replaced if the need be.
2	Beneficiaries with items not in use	7	5 Agricultural input 1 grinding machine 1 Container	Deferment of the utilization of agricultural input to the next farming season. Beneficiary requested for an electric grinding machine but did not furnish the team with an accurate information. Ill health	Utilization of farm input during the next farming season will be monitored. The machine will be returned to supplier for a fuel type. Regular monitoring to ascertain the health status of beneficiary.
3	Beneficiaries who were absent	2	Hair beauty items Farm input	Not at shop at the time of visit Could not be reached on phone	Will be visited during the next exercise. Follow-up monitoring required.
4	Beneficiaries performing unsatisfactorily	2	Sheep Goat	Two dead and remaining one pregnant. Sold 2 due to ill health. Remaining one is pregnant.	Liaise with Department of Agric to provide vetinary services.
5.	Skill acquisition	1	Sewing machine	Apprenticeship - ongoing	

5	Beneficiaries making income from support	16	11 refrigerators 1 container 1 Mobile money 1 shoe making 1 onion sales 1 local rice sales	Satisfactory progress	Regular monitoring required.
6	Beneficiaries with success story	6	2 containers 3 sheeps	A success story: 'I make income by sewing dresses for my customers especially during the Eid festivity. I also take on apprentice and charge a fee for my service. I wouldn't mind if I don't benefit from the fund in the future' (Ayisha, 2020)	Words of encouragement and motivation.
	TOTAL BENEFICIARIES	35			

Table 4.1.1: Monitoring of Income Generating Activities and Health support to PWDs Phase II

S/N	ISSUES	FREQ.	ITEM	REMARKS	ACTION
1	Beneficiary with issue with item	1	Fufu Pounding Machine	Machine produces watery fufu.	Supplier was contacted. She requested for the return of the item for appropriate set-up or possible replacement.
2	Beneficiaries with items not in use	1	Fufu Pounding Machine	Complaint of influx of the machine which may lead to small market share and profit. Requested for livestock as a replacement.	The DFMC will take a decision and act accordingly.

		1	Refrigerator	The roof of PWDs location ripped off and building collapsed.	A follow-up monitoring. A replacement of fridge with a new intervention. DFMC will decide.
3	Beneficiaries who were absent	1	Clothings	Travelled but was contacted on phone.	Follow-up monitoring.
		1	Mobile Money start-up kit	Travelled to seek for medical care	Follow-up monitoring.
		1	Refrigerator	Did not avail herself	DFMC will revisit
4	Beneficiaries performing unsatisfactorily	4	Provisions	Unanimously blamed the novel covid-19. They said it decreased their sales.	DFMC will decide on the next line of action. A top-up support may be appropriate.
		1	Grains	Lack of commitment.	DFMC will decide on the next line of action.
5.	Skill acquisition	1	Sewing machine	Apprenticeship – ongoing Beneficiary is performing well in her apprenticeship.	Regular monitoring.
6	Beneficiaries making income from support	6	6 Refrigerators	Satisfactory progress	Regular monitoring required.
		3	Fufu pounding Machines	Satisfactory progress	Regular monitoring required.
		2	Provisions	Satisfactory progress	Regular monitoring required.

		1	Grinding Machine	Satisfactory progress	Regular monitoring required.
		1	Bags of cement	Satisfactory progress	Regular monitoring required.
7	Beneficiaries with impressive performance.	4	Rearing of livestock's	The sheep's were sighted in good condition and healthy. They have increase in number for each beneficiary.	A top-up support will be appropriate.
8	Beneficiaries who received health support.	4	Artificial legs	2 used funds for intended purpose. One has develop a complication around the operation area so could not operate. The other has misuse funds.	Regular monitoring. DFMC may take the money back until conditions are favourable for him to operate. DFMC will decide on the next line of action.
		1	Medical bills	Fund not adequate.	DFMC will decide. A top-up may be appropriate.
		1	care support (cerebral palsy)	Has passed on.	DFMC will officially visit family.
	TOTAL BENEFICIARIES	35			

The exercise was generally successful but was challenged with delay in the release of funds.

4.2 ASSISTANCE TO PWDs.

4.2.1 NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

Two needs assessment were conducted during the year under review. That is, the month of March and November, 2020.

The exercise was aimed at ensuring effective use of the funds. The specific objective is to enable the PWD Fund Management Committee;

- Ensure that beneficiaries have the basic pre-requisite to engage in a chosen income generating activity.
- Have a one-on-one interaction with applicants.
- Obtain knowledge about the location of applicants residents and /business.
- Instill in beneficiaries of the Fund a sense of accountability.
- Provide direction and advice to prospective beneficiaries where necessary.

Table 4.2.1 has a summary of the first phase of the exercise while an Appendix attached has the details of the second phase.

Table 4.2.1: Summary of needs by PWD applicants

SNo.	ITEMS	NUMBER OF REQUEST
1.	REFRIGERATOR	13
2.	MOBILE MONEY	1
3.	LIVESTOCK	2
4.	FUFU POUNDING MACHINE	6
5.	PROVISIONS	3
6.	HAIR PRODUCT	1
7.	FARM INPUT	3

8.	ELECTRIC FOOT MACHINE	1
9	VETENARY DRUGS	1
10	SEWING MACHINE	1
11	BAGS OF CEMENT	1
	TOTAL	33

4.2.2 TRAINING OF PWDs ON BASIC SKILLS IN INCOME GENERATING

A total number of Seventy Seven (77) PWDs were trained in basic skills in book keeping, sales, customer service, packaging and best farming practices during the year under review. The table below provides the details of the training exercise. It is envisage that PWDs will make an optimum utilization of their support with the training provided.

Days, Topics and Training Service Providers

DAY	DATE	TOPIC	INSTITUTION PROVIDING SERVICE
1	17/ 11/ 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petty Cash Book • The Purchase Day Book • The Returns Day Book • Inventory of items in store • Debit and Credit transactions 	Business Advisory Service
2	18/11/ 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pricing strategy • Location of business • Offering superior Product • Promotion of product/ advertisement 	Business Advisory Service
3	19/ 11/ 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banking Services 	Business Advisory Service

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attracting and sustaining customers • Sales Communication strategy • Basics of packaging 	
4	20/ 11/ 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil type and the best for high yield • Topography of farmland • Application of fertilizer and other farm input • Planting of seeds and distancing • Harvesting and post harvesting activities 	Department of Agriculture

4.2.3 TRAINING OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWDs) IN SOAP MAKING

To ensure that Persons with Disability are equipped with skills to live a meaningful life in society, sixty-one (61) PWDs were selected to benefit from a 5 days training programme in soap making. The activity was undertaken in collaboration with the Business Advisory Centre (BAC). The exercise was scheduled from Tuesday, March 10th to Friday, March 13th 2020 at the forecourt of the Assembly.

Participants were trained in both liquid and cake soap making. See activity report for details of participants who benefited from the programme.

Out of a total participants of 61 PWDs who benefited in the training, 23 are males while 38 are females. The gender disparity in favour of the females may be attributed to the nature of training which connote soap making as a female dominated venture. Effort will be made to close the gap in the next training session.

The exercise was very successful as participants practically demonstrated the skills acquired to the satisfaction of the resource person.

The Department however envisage a challenge in obtaining the needed support to monitor the utilization of skills acquired.

4.2.4 DISTRIBUTION OF ITEMS AND OTHER SUPPORT TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

Two major disbursement were made during the year under review. These were made in the month of July and December. A total number of one hundred- six (106) PWDs were given income generating, educational and health support during the year under review. Table 4.2.4 indicates the breakdown of disbursement to PWDs.

Table 4.2.4: Support to PWDs during the year 2020.

Period	Number of Disables supported	Sex		Component		
		M	F	Education	Health / Assistive Device	Income Generating
July 2020	53	30	23	17	3	33
December 2020	53	23	30	6	3	44
Total	106	53	53	23	6	77

The table above indicate that both males and females benefited equally from support given to PWDs during the year under review.

Moreover, out of thirty nine (39) children with disability referred for support by the Ghana Education Service, eleven (11) were supported with a flat amount of ₵300.00 each to enable them obtain school materials. Thus, the 23 PWDs supported in education (see Table 4.2.4) include 11 children with disability. It is worthy of note that from 2018 to 2020 a total number of 223 PWDs have receive Income Generation support from the Assembly.

4.3 RENEWAL OF CARDS/ REGISTRATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY ONTO THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

The Department, in collaboration with the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) registered and renewed the expired cards of 380 PWDs during the year under review. Table 4.3 provides the summary of activity.

Table 4.3: PWDs registered freely onto the NHIA for the year 2020

SNo.	DATE	SEX		TOTAL	NEW	RENEWAL	TOTAL
		M	F				
1.	4 th to 14 February, 2020	61	74	135	42	93	135
2.	10 th to 18 th December, 2020	126	121	247	73	174	247
	GRAND TOTAL	187	195	382	115	267	382

The table above shows that 8 more females than males benefited from the PWD-NHIA exercise during the year under review. Moreover, 152 more PWDs renewed their cards compared to the new registration.

4.4 ALBUM OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

An album was compiled during the mid-year and data was collected during the last quarter of the year for the purpose of updating the album. The data is currently been worked on to produce a final updated album for Persons with Disability for the year 2020.

4.5 FREE RENEWAL OF NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE CARDS FOR LEAP BENEFICIARIES AND PRISONS IN-MATE

Two hundred and thirty -five (235) Cards were renewed during the year under review. One Hundred and Fifty Three (153) for LEAP beneficiary households and Eighty- two (82) for prison (inmates) of Ejura camp in the Ejura –Sekyedumase Municipality. Table 4.5 and 4.5.1 provides the details

Table 4.5: Sex segregation of LEAP-NHIS beneficiaries

Sex	Number
Male	68
Female	85
Total	153

Table 4.5.1: Sex segregation of PRISONS (INMATES) beneficiaries

Sex	Number
Male	82
Female	-
Total	82

4.6 ASSISTANCE TO ORPHANS, VULNERABLE CHILDREN, THE AGED, DESTITUTE AND THE SEVERELY DISABLED

4.6.1 LIVELIHOOD EMPOWERMENT AGAINST POVERTY

Four (4) payments were made to LEAP households during the year under review. These include 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th and 68th payment cycles. The 65th and 66th payment cycles were merged, thus, accounting for the large amount credited and cashed out. Table 4.6.1 provides details of payment.

Table 4.6.1: Summary of LEAP Payment for the year 2020

Date of Payment	Payment Cycle	Total HH on Payroll	Total credited H.H	Total Amount Credited	Total H.H Cashed out	Total Amount Cashed out
4 th – 7 th February 2020	64 th	802	802	64360	380	30608
11 th – 19 th May 2020	65 th and 66 th	802	802	128720.00	424	28449
29 th July- 3 rd August 2020	67 th	818	818	65666	495	58747
14 th – 16 th October 2020	68 th	818	818	65666	365	30074

From table 4.6.1 above beneficiaries who cashed out at pay-point was high during the 67th payment cycle. The lowest cash out at pay-point was recorded for the 68th payment cycle. This is a 26% reduction in cash out from pay-point compared to the 67th cycle. The low in cash out during the 68th payment cycle may be attributed to the crop harvesting season where some caregivers would want to attend to their farms and cash out at bank at their own convenient time.

5.0 GENDER MAINSTREAMING

5.1 EDUCATION ON THE REVELANCE OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING TO UNIT/ DEPARTMENTAL HEADS

Introduction

The target group for this exercise was Unit and Departmental heads. The programme was carried out on the 27th of February, 2020 at the Municipal Assembly Hall.

Gender mainstreaming means integrating gender concerns into every aspect of an organization's priorities and procedures (March et. al., 1999) or on the other hand, mainstreaming of gender implies that institutions, policies, programmes and projects require a re-evaluation, so that they will obviously benefit both women and men. Mainstreaming gender is a technical and political process which requires shifts in organizational cultures and ways of thinking as well as goals, structures, resource allocation of international agencies, governments and NGOs (Kardam, 1998).

Presentations

The facilitator started the presentation by asking questions. The first question was “Why Mainstreaming?” the leader stated that women’s subordination affects society as a whole and not just women and very few resources go to women specific programmes, disabling them from benefiting from the main funding which goes to gender blind or male-biased programmes.

Two views on mainstreaming were discussed at the training ground. The first was making gender concerns the responsibility of all in an organization and to ensure its integration into existing institutional structures and all work. Meaning to integrate it in all establish programme areas and sectoral activities. The second was making gender concerns the sole responsibility of a smaller specialist unit (ministry), e.g. Women in Agriculture Development.

- ❖ Separate out systems, tasks needed to address gender concerns by setting up specialist units.

- ❖ To be taken seriously someone must be an advocate, teach, and be a watch dog.
- ❖ Suggest priority to warrant a separate unit.

The facilitator also criticized the two (2) views by adding that the first view:

1. May lead to diluting/distorting issues
2. Budget may not include gender issues hence the resources may be inadequate, making them disappear due to lack of consistency.
3. Lack of sustained commitment of decision makers. (every bodies job is to be done by somebody and nobody does it)
4. Male resistance

On the second view, national machinery tends to be weak, under-resourced, vulnerable to changes. E.g., political fortunes (change in government and change of policies by undoing policies of previous government). An example changes of name and expansion of mandate of MOWAC in 2001 and 2013. Marginalization of issues of concern to women (misconstrued that ministry must address all issues concerning women and other actors exempted). Mandate for women and children suggest lack of understanding of gender issues. Inadequate funding and control over resources (budget allocations from government). Low capacity for gender analysis, and policy formulation and development (inadequate staffing).

On the current situation, participants were urged to:

1. Use of both approaches
2. Avoidance of marginalization

Conditions for Promoting Gender Mainstreaming were highlighted. The facilitators pointed out that;

1. Political will and commitment are required at the senior level in local government, and preferably with the mayor, and CEO, town clerk. They would be responsible for building the critical mass needed within municipal structures to carry the gender mainstreaming process forward.
2. There should be a gender equality policy framework with a clear strategy and action plan for policy implementation. The action plan should clearly mention who is responsible for what and set time-bound targets.
3. Budgetary allocations with relevant staff are needed for the success of any gender equality initiative. Money speaks louder than recommendations and mission statements.
4. Partners and civil society organizations should engage with the local government on a continuous basis and include women's groups to advocate for equality.
5. A commitment by the municipality to collect, analyze and use sex-disaggregated data is critical.
6. Learning and Capacity building is also critical. A continual process of gender sensitization, advocacy and lobbying both inside local government and with municipal partners in the public and private sectors is important.
7. A Focus on Women and Girl-specific programmes and activities along with gender-specific ones. Short of these, no gender mainstreaming strategy can succeed.
8. Transparency and Accountability - An open and transparent process of accountability to all residents when implementing gender equality policies and strategies is relevant.
9. Gender-sensitive indicators and targets should be monitored jointly by local government and constituents of both sexes.

Conclusion

Gender mainstreaming ensures that policy making and legislative work is of higher quality and has a greater relevance for society, because it makes policies respond more effectively to the needs of all citizens- women and men, girls and boys.

5.2 EDUCATION ON COVID-19 AND TRAINING OF TWENTY (20) WOMEN IN INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITY

This report covers the training of twenty women at Sekyedumase and its environs on 22nd October and 11th November, 2020.

Progress/Achievements for October – November, 2020

As part of an initiative aimed at complementing the Municipal’s efforts at fighting the spread and/or effects of the COVID-19 pandemic amongst vulnerable women and girls/individuals in deprived communities in the Ejura-3Sekyedumase Municipality. The Gender Desk Officer in collaboration with the Rosemond Girls Child Foundation and Ghana Health Service organize a 2-day workshop. Twenty (20) young women sensitized to enhance their knowledge on COVID-19 preventive measures to serve as Peer Educators in their respective communities. These vulnerable women who lost their livelihoods due to the COVID19 pandemic were encouraged to become self-reliant and generate incomes to support their households. These trainings took place at Sekyedumase Presbyterian Church Auditorium. Packages ranging from 30 pieces of nose masks, 30 small bottles of hand sanitizers were distributed to the 20 trained volunteers while items meant for soap making and pastries worth GH¢6,000.00 were also distributed to the 20 trained vulnerable women.

1. Summary of numbers reached (putting all the specific numbers together to complete this table per project and disaggregated as follows:

Location (Country)/Project Name	Total Beneficiaries	No. of Women	No. of Men	No. of Girls (U-18)	No. of Boys (U-18)	Persons with Disabilities
Ejura Sekyedumase Municipal/ Community Sensitization and BCC Campaigns to Promote Covid-19 Preventive Measures	37	30	4	1	1	1

5.3 MONITORING OF VULNERABLE WOMEN TRAINED IN INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITY

Brief Background

This report covers the monitoring of vulnerable women trained in soap and pastries making at Kobriti Presby Church on 4th December, 2020.

The Strategic Approaches to vulnerable women Education project was being implemented by Rosemond Girls Child Foundation, which empowered 20 vulnerable women in the Ejura Sekyedumase Municipal in the Ashanti Region with Vocational skills.

The project has equipped women in 10 communities in the Municipality in various accelerated learning programmes and vocational training skills, including making of soap, pastries preparation with one beneficiary venturing into vegetable farming.

The project is being implemented in the Municipality with vulnerable women, who received start-up capital in the form of logistics and it was expected that skills acquired would be used to earn a living and make up for their inability to attain formal education, while acknowledging the efforts of all the stakeholders, partners and sponsors of the project, to ensure that they address the challenges facing women.

This project will help empower these vulnerable women to have economic activities to venture into which fetch them income and this will prevent rural-urban drift, and it will help achieve some of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Introduction

Monitoring is the regular observation and recording of activities taking place in a project or programme. It is a process of routinely gathering information on all aspects of the project. To monitor is to check on how project activities are progressing. It is observation; — systematic and purposeful observation. Monitoring also involves giving feedback about the progress of the project to the donors, implementers and beneficiaries of the project. Reporting enables the gathered information to be used in making decisions for improving project performance.

Purpose of Monitoring and Observation

The purpose of this monitoring was very important to ensure that what were taught and discussed were followed in the right track by the vulnerable women identified. It was observed that ten (10) of the women were much interested in the soap making and these females were also given logistics to sustain the production

The second ten (10) group of the women were also engaged in the pastries making. It was identified that the items provided by the NGO were used judiciously and some profits were made to other family members.

The monitoring team also took the advantage of the success story of the project to sensitized other community member present to emulate what these women were doing and stop engaging in any activity that might lead them into trouble.

Conclusion

Analyzing the situation in the community and the project, inputs provided in the project were well utilized. All activities were carried out properly by the right people and in time. The lessons from the project were shared and the project was planned in the most appropriate way of solving the problem at hand especially amongst vulnerable women selected.

5.4 SENSITIZATION TRAINING ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Introduction

Sensitization is a non-associative learning process in which repeated administration of a stimulus results in the progressive amplification of a response. Sensitization often is characterized by an enhancement of response to a whole class of stimuli in addition to the one that is repeated. Sensitization tries to make someone familiar with certain situations that can be good or bad.

This association aims to sensitize 20 vulnerable women in Sekyedumase and its environs to enlighten them on general domestic violence against women and children on the 16th of December, 2020.

Presentations

A presentation by the Municipal Gender Desk Officer, Miss Belinda Aidoo was done. She took the participants through by letting the women to know about what Violence really means as well as its causes, the possible effects and the legal procedures or remedies of curbing against it and management of victims.

The participants were also taken through the under list items;

- ✓ Brainstorming on Gender Based Violence
- ✓ Causes of Domestic Violence
- ✓ Possible Effects of Domestic Violence
- ✓ Corrections and Legal Procedures of curbing Domestic Violence
- ✓ Management of Victims

After intensive deliberations on the above, some women and children who have undergone situations of abuse were identified. It was also identified that some women were scared, very ignorant and did not know the channel to report such cases of abuse. The facilitator (Miss Belinda Aidoo) educated the participants to report such mishandlings to the Department of Social Welfare for immediate remedies. The facilitator also encouraged the participants to share their experiences during any workshop that could be used to educate other groups.

Recommendations

- ✓ Such education should be carried out quarterly
- ✓ Men should be included in the future workshops/ meetings

- ✓ Money should be given to train women in programs that can earn them a living
- ✓ Quarterly monitoring should be carried out for the protection of women and children

Conclusion

The program was very successful with the active participation and supports from the women, chiefs, opinion leaders and elders in Sekyedumase.

Engaging the women



6.0 WORKSHOPS ATTENDED BY STAFFS OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Three (3) workshops were attended during the year under review.

Date	Workshop	Topic	Venue
19 th November, 2020	Disability issues	Meeting with Social Workers on the draft Social Work Council Bill	Kumasi Children's Home
28 th -29 th November, 2020	-	Orientation on Planning Guidelines for 2022 – 2025 Medium Term Development Plan preparation.	Regional Coordinating Council, Kumasi
22 nd – 24 th December, 2020	LEAP	Sensitization Workshop for Regional and District Directors of National Health Insurance Authority and Department of Social Welfare on Registration of LEAP beneficiaries onto the National Health Insurance Scheme.	Tyco City Hotel, Sunyani

7.0 NUTRITION ACTIVITIES IN THE MUNICIPALITY

7.1 ORIENTATION FOR FOOD VENDORS AND CATERERS ON NUTRITION.

Food vendors and caterers need the necessary knowledge and skills to know some basic food nutrition. Periodic food vendor's education and orientation gave the Environmental Health Officers the opportunity to also interrupt with food vendors on the need to prepare nutritious diet for customers and the students under the school feeding programme.

Nutritious diet is a food that contains all the food nutrients the body needs to function properly. The food nutrients included carbohydrate, protein, fat, vegetables, vitamins etc.

The target group for this orientation included, food vendors, caterers, cooks, food handlers, chopbars and restaurants operators. The orientation covered the entire Ejura-Sekyedumase Municipality.

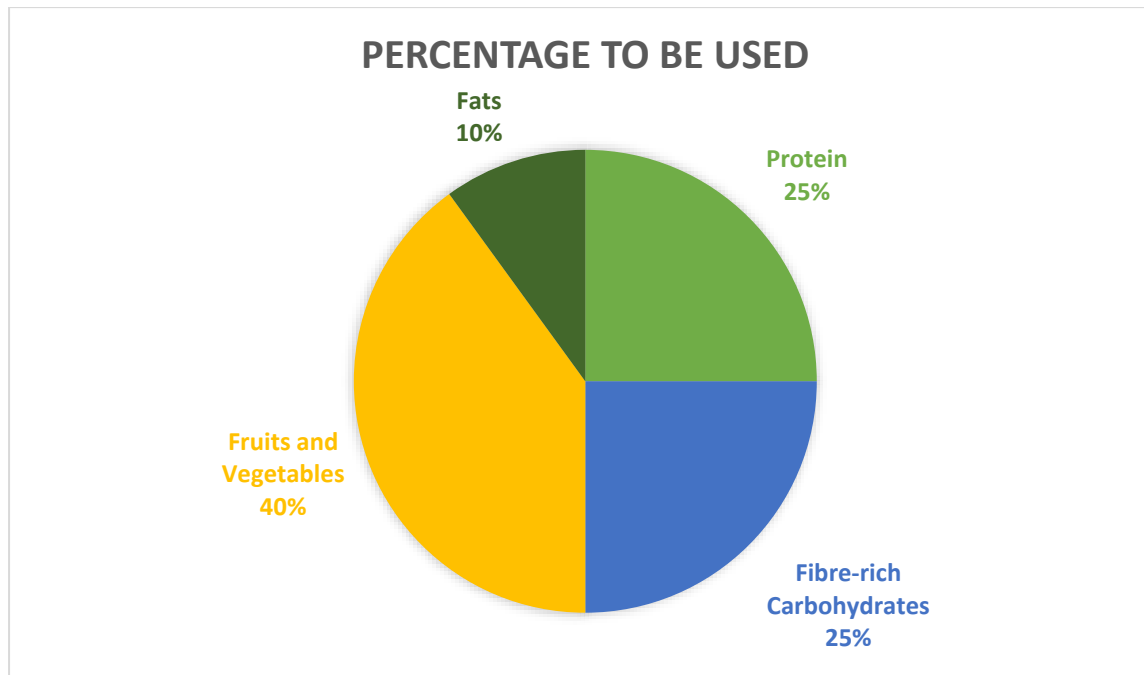
Food Vendors and School Feeding Programme Contractors during the 2020 medical screening of food vendors were taken through some orientation on the following topics;

- (i) Balance Diet
- (ii) Adulteration
- (iii) Food poisoning
- (iv) Food hygiene
- (v) Food preservation
- (vi) Fortification

7.2 BALANCE DIET

Balance diet is a diet that provides adequate amounts of all the food nutrients and appropriate amount of energy. It contains all the six nutrients which included; carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, vitamins, minerals and water in their right proportions. It was there necessary and important to include all the nutrients in the daily meals prepared for sale to general public to drive the maximum nutrients required for growth. The participants were educated to include all the food nutrients to help improved the health of the customers and school pupils. Figure 7.2 indicate the right proportion of nutrient of a balance diet.

Figure 7.2 Right proportion of nutrient in a balance diet



The diagram above was used to explain to them to know the proportion of the nutrient to add during food preparation.

It was explained to them that eating well can also help ward off numerous diseases and health complications as well as help to maintain a healthy body weight, provide energy, allow better sleep and improve brain function.

It is important to not eliminate any essential macronutrients, such as; fats or carbohydrates, but be conscious of proportional control.

They were taught the important of balance diet as followed;

(i) Control body weight

Eating a healthy variety of nutrient-dense foods leaves less room for those calorie-dense foods that typically lead to weight gain.

(ii) Fight off Disease

When eating a balanced diet, essential nutrients will produce and help maintain key germ-fighting cells in the immune system, and greatly improve vascular function.

(iii) Have more energy

The food we eat has a tremendous impact on the energy we have throughout the day. Nutrient-dense food will digest and therefore be released into the system over a longer period of time.

(iv) Brain Power

A proper balance diet helps improve the brain system to think fast and in maturity.

(v) Sleeps better

When a proper diet is consumed, the digestive system will work accurately and provide good end product into the body systems that will help the consumer have a sound and better sleeping.

7.3 FOOD ADULTERATION.

Adulteration of food refers to the process of by which the quality of or the nature of a given food is reduced through addition of adulterant or removal of vital substance. Basically during food adulteration small amount of non-nutritious substance are added intentionally to improve the appearance, texture or storage properties of the food.

During the monitoring of food vendors and caterers it was observed or noticed some food vendors and caterers adulterated food by adding colour, current powder, onion, white maggi, maggi cube, etc. There was the need to orient food vendors and caterer to avoid using these artificial spices which have negative health implications. These artificial spice promote non-communicable and cardiovascular diseases which is now the leading cause of most deaths these days. The health of the customers must be taken into consideration.

There are some customers when they eat food from a particular restaurant or chop bar and experience ill health, that customer will never patronize that food again and will also tell other friends about poor food quality at that restaurant or chop bar.

7.4 CONTAMINATION OF FOOD

Participants were taken through processes of contamination of food. Food contamination can happen at any stage from delivery, preparation, handling, transportation, and storage to service but the risks factors are associated with food borne diseases and food poisoning originated from human influences. Therefore there is the need to be vigilant when handling food.

In ensuring that wholesome reached the consumers, there was the need for this orientation.

7.5 FOOD HYGIENE

The vendors and caterers were oriented on measures and conditions necessary to control hazards and to ensure wholesome for human consumption of a foodstuff taking into account its intended use.

Food hygiene and food safety are important as they ensure that the food vendors handle and produce safe for consumption. If food hygiene and safety are not maintained, the nutritional value may be lost, consumers could become seriously ill with food poisoning and foodborne illnesses.

The food vendors were educated to keep raw and high risk foods separate. They should keep foods out of the temperature danger zone – below 5°C or above 63°C.

The vendors were oriented to make sure that they use tongs or other utensils to make sure that food is handled as little as possible and to keep other raw foods away from foods that could also be contaminated by them.

Effective handwashing is extremely important to help prevent harmful bacteria and other food borne pathogens from spreading to food.

The food vendors were oriented and educated on some of the following;

- ❖ Washing of hands with soap and water before start preparation of food
- ❖ Washing of hands with soap and water every time after using the toilet and before handling of food.
- ❖ Smoking, chewing gum should not be allowed in the food establishments.
- ❖ Spitting, sneezing and coughing should be prohibited.
- ❖ Personal affects like jewelry, watches should not be allowed into the food establishment.
- ❖ Regular wearing of headgear and apron on the food establishments.
- ❖ Trimming of fingers nails and avoid wearing of fingers nails.
- ❖ Forks should be used to pick meat, salad, spaghetti, etc instead of bare hands.

Strict adherence to food hygiene will prevent cross contamination of food and ensure wholesome food is reached the consumer. They were advised not to use their bare hands to serve food as that could lead to food poisoning and cross contamination.

7.6 FOOD POISONING

The food vendors were oriented on food poisoning. Food poisoning, also called foodborne illness caused by eating contaminated food. Infectious organisms including bacteria, viruses and parasites or their toxins are the most common cause of food poisoning.

Food vendors were educated that, food poisoning occurs when taken foods that contains bacteria, parasites, viruses, or the toxins made by germs. Most cases are caused by common bacteria such as staphylococcus.

They were oriented on the most common symptoms of food poisoning which includes; nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

According to the facilitator of the programme, if someone has food poisoning, chances are, it won't go undetected. Symptoms can vary depending on the source of the infection. The length of time it takes for symptoms to appear depends on the person's immune system. It can range from as little as 1 hour to as long as 28 days.

Common cases of food poisoning will typically include at least three of the following symptoms;

- Abdominal cramps
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Loss of appetite
- Mild fever
- Weakness
- Nausea
- Headaches

7.7 FOOD PRESERVATION

Food preservation is the process of treating and handling food to stop or greatly slow down spoilage (loss of quality, edibility or nutritive value) caused or accelerated by micro-organisms.

The participants were educated on why food preservation is necessary.

Food preservation prevents large amount of food from being wasted.

They were also taken through the food preservation methods which included;

- ❖ Drying/dehydration
- ❖ Refrigeration and freezing
- ❖ Canning
- ❖ Salting and curing
- ❖ Food additives

The facilitators advised the participants to desist from reheating and long keeping of foods in refrigerators in order to maintain its nutritional value. Food can only be kept in the refrigerator for one week, after that it should not be in use again.

7.8 FOOD FORTIFICATION

The food vendors were taking through food fortification. They were advised to add some vitamins and minerals to commonly consumed food during processing to increase the nutritional values. It is cost effective and safe strategy for improving diet and for the prevention and control of micronutrients deficiencies.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The orientation programme was successful and the participants assured the facilitators the knowledge and skills acquired will be put to use to promote their businesses and improve the health conditions of the customers and students.

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS.

- ❖ All prepared food should contain all the basic nutritional requirement.
- ❖ Food vendors should not also overcook their food.
- ❖ Food should not be kept in the refrigerators for a long period.

- ❖ Raw foods should be separated from cooked ones in order to prevent cross contamination.
- ❖ Rotten or spoiled food should be discarded immediate.
- ❖ Cook food should be flies-proof to prevent food borne diseases.

10. CHALLENGES

The untimely release of Government of Ghana Financial encumbrance and 5% administrative component of the PWD fund for Persons with Disability continues to pose a challenge to the provision of quality services to the people. This also has implication on reporting.

11. THE WAY FORWARD

The Government of Ghana (GOG) Financial encumbrance should be release on time and fund meant for the administration of the PWD fund should be released on time to facilitate the delivery of services.