



# FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

## FEED THE FUTURE GHANA FISHERIES RECOVERY ACTIVITY (GFRA)

### Understanding the Scope and Drivers of Child Labor and Trafficking Vulnerabilities in Fisheries



October 31, 2022

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MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND  
AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT



Feed the Future Ghana Fisheries  
Recovery Activity

October 31, 2022

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This report was prepared by:

**Tetra Tech**

159 Bank Street, Suite 300  
Burlington, Vermont 05401 USA  
Telephone: +1 (802) 495-0282  
Fax : +1 (802) 658-4247  
Email: [international.development@tetratech.com](mailto:international.development@tetratech.com)

**Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development**

Post Office Box GP 630  
Ministries, Accra - Ghana  
[info@mofad.gov.gh](mailto:info@mofad.gov.gh)

**Fisheries Commission**

P.O. Box GP 630  
HQ Ridge, Ministries, Accra – Ghana  
[info@fishcom.gov.gh](mailto:info@fishcom.gov.gh)

**Authority/Disclaimer:**

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**COVER PHOTO:** A boy mends fishing nets at a landing site, on a school day. Anomabo, Central Region, Ghana.

Photo Credit: Baviina Safia Musah.

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

CHRAJ - Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice

CLaT – Child Labor and Trafficking

CSOs- Civil Society Organization

FCUBE - Free Universal Compulsory Basic Education

FGD – Focus Group Discussions

FSSHS - Free Senior High School

GBV- Gender Based Violence

GFRA- Ghana Fisheries Recovery Activity

GLSS – Ghana Living Standards Survey

GNCC - Ghana National Commission on Children

III – Individual In-depth Interview

ILO – International Labour Organization

KII - Key Informant Interview

MELR- Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations

MoFAD- Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development

MoGCSP – Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection

SFMP – Sustainable Fisheries Management Project

UNICEF – United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

USAID – United States Agency for International Development

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report discusses the main findings of a vulnerability assessment conducted by USAID Feed the Future Ghana Fisheries Recovery Activity (GFRA) to understand child labor and trafficking (CLaT) in fishing communities across Ghana's marine regions. It explores the scope and prevalence of child labor and trafficking and drivers that make it prevalent in Ghana's fishing sector and assesses its consequences on child development, families, and societies. Key vulnerability issues with regards to CLaT in fisheries communities were assessed, as well as the effectiveness of local and national solutions and their application to fishers and fishing communities.

The study identified a multitude of issues that drive child labor and trafficking in fisheries, including unemployment, poverty, negligent parenting, and the high dependency burden of large families. Furthermore, the findings showed that respondents, even those tasked with safeguarding children, had divergent definitions of what it means to be a child and what work was appropriate for children. Respondents said that children should not be overly burdened or perform hazardous work. It was suggested that they can help parents with minor work such as washing bowls, carrying light loads from landing sites to their respective households and helping with fish sale processing and marketing. While the majority of respondents agreed that children must be protected from hazards, many did not consider on-the-sea activities as hazardous for children. The assessment shows that children in fishing communities in Ghana perform different kinds of work ranging from fishing at sea, mending fishing nets, selling fish or coconuts at landing sites, processing fish, and operating commercial tricycles to transport fishers and their wares. These activities are either hazardous in themselves; performed under harsh conditions or are inappropriate for children to undertake. Engaging children in these activities are a direct infringement of children's rights and a clear breach of local and international labor laws.

Many respondents in this study did not demonstrate a good understanding of child trafficking or the effects of it on society. However, there was a perceived correlation between child labor and child trafficking. They explained that children are trafficked because they are a source of cheap labor. Most respondents indicated that they could easily identify a trafficked child in their community based on certain features such as how the child is treated by their guardian, whether the child loiters on the beach during school hours, and visible signs of unkemptness. In the fishing sector, children may be trafficked internally in

Ghana or across borders to neighboring countries. Within Ghana, trafficking is highly correlated with fisher migration and as a result there is no discernable pattern to source or destination hotspots for child trafficking. Border communities such as those close to the Ivorian and Togolese borders are easy sources for transnational child traffickers. Transnational trafficking destinations include the Gambia, Ivory Coast, Togo, Benin, and Liberia.

Ghana has many laws prohibiting child labor and trafficking, yet the practice is prevalent in its fisheries sector. Unfortunately, there is very little visibility of child labor and trafficking in fisheries, much less so than the cocoa sector, creating the illusion that it is less of a problem in fisheries. The assessment report therefore recommends strong and targeted behavior change communication as a priority for combatting CLaT. Improved stakeholder coordination and capacity building is also recommended, alongside support for locally implemented actions.

The report is the outcome of thorough field and desk studies conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD) and Fisheries Commission (FC). The findings from this report are intended to guide the FC and the USAID Feed the Future Ghana Fisheries Recovery Activity (GFRA) in its approach to tackling CLaT in fisheries communities. These recommendations will shape GFRA, MOFAD and FC's partnership to raise visibility of the issue nationwide and support communities to prevent CLaT. It provides important context for Civil Society organizations and Development Partners to implement anti-CLaT actions.



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

### 1.1 Child Labor

Child labor is work that deprives children of their childhood, potential, and dignity. The International Labor Organization (ILO) defines child labor as work that harms children mentally, physically, socially and/ or morally. Child labor interferes with children's schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, obliging children to leave school early, or requiring them to attempt to combine school with excessively long and heavy work. It further defines the worst forms of child labor as work that involves children being trafficked, enslaved, or separated from their families, using children for prostitution or illicit activities, or exposing them to hazards. Hazardous child labor is work that exposes children to abuse; is undertaken underwater or in confined spaces; done in an unsafe environment, for example in frigid temperatures or where children are at risk of drowning; or work that is done for long hours or at odd hours of the night. A key goal of the ILO and other international and national agencies is to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. (ILO, 2022)

#### *1.1.1 Child Labor in Ghana*

Child labor is a confirmed national problem in Ghana. From 2001 to 2012/2013, the Ghana Living Standards Survey showed that child labor increased from 1.3 to 1.9 million children, 82% of whom were in rural areas and worked in agricultural sectors, including forestry and fisheries. (MoFAD, 2018). From 2012/2013 to 2017/2018 the country made modest advancement in its efforts to eliminate child labor, leading to a decline to 1.5 million children. During this period, child labor decreased by 30% in agricultural sectors, which include forestry and fishing. The biggest declines in agricultural child labor were in the 5–12-year-old age group. The number of children in this age group engaged in agricultural work dropped from 1.12 million to 639,000 children, a decrease of 43%. (Taylor and Crabbe et al, 2020). Although there is a decrease in total numbers of children engaged in child labor, these figures obscure data specific to children engaged in the worst forms of child labor.

Although female children are less likely than male children to be engaged in economic activity, they are more likely to contribute to household work such as washing, cooking, and watching over younger children. According to the GLSS 6, 69.7% of children aged 7-14 years worked less than 20 hours a week (GSS, 2014). Still, surveys of fishing communities show that children's workload interferes with their schooling. For example, a survey conducted by

the USAID/ Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SFMP) found that, among households engaged in fishing, 30% of children attended school regularly; whereas the majority of children do not attend school regularly because of their burden of work or other barriers. (Adeborna and Johnson, 2015)

## **I.2 Child Trafficking**

Human trafficking is the trade of humans for the purpose of forced labor, sexual slavery, or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others. Trafficking for domestic servitude covers a range of situations, all of which share certain features including subjugation, intimidation, and an obligation to provide work for a private individual, excessively low or no salary, few or no days off, psychological and/or physical violence, limited or restricted freedom of movement, and denial of a minimum level of privacy and healthcare. According to the ILO, exploitation resulting from human trafficking could include prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, salary, or practices similar to slavery.

Child trafficking is a specific kind of human trafficking whereby children are recruited, transported, and/ or kidnapped for the express purpose of exploitation, forced labor or slavery. Worldwide, children make up one third of trafficked individuals (UNODC, 2020). Child trafficking is particularly harmful to the life trajectory of a person since children are especially vulnerable and unable to defend themselves and trafficking interrupts and negatively affects their development.

### *1.2.1 Child labor and trafficking in Ghana*

Ghana is a source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children subjected to trafficking. The US State Department's 2022 Trafficking in Persons Report maintained Ghana's ranking as a Tier two (2) country, indicating the trafficking is prevalent in the country but recognizing government efforts to address it. The report highlights the prevalence of Ghanaian children as forced labor within the country's inland and coastal fishing and other agricultural sectors. The majority of children subjected to human trafficking in Ghana are exploited for labor in cocoa production, domestic work, commercial sexual exploitation, gold mining, and fishing. Children working in Ghana are frequently exposed to dangers. For example, those working in the cocoa sector use sharp tools and are exposed

to agro-chemicals. Girls as young as age 13 from rural northern regions of Ghana travel to urban centers to work as *Kayayie* or female porters, carrying heavy loads on their heads in markets. They are particularly vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation (Taylor and Crabbe et al, 2020).

Although there is a significant body of literature addressing CLaT in the cocoa sector in Ghana, the literature on CLaT in the fisheries sector is comparatively sparse. In Ghana, some traffickers deceive parents living in coastal areas into sending their children to the Lake Volta region to learn fishing as a trade. As a result, children as young as age 4 are trafficked and subjected to forced labor in fishing in the areas around Lake Volta. The traffickers promise families that the children will be enrolled in school and receive wages for their work and would be able to remit the money to family back home. Although some families are deceived about traffickers' intent, others have some knowledge of hazardous work conditions, but, under duress from poverty, feel forced to give their children to traffickers. (Adeborna and Johnson, 2015)

Most trafficked children in Ghana are subjected to the worst forms of child labor. For example, according to one study, 35% of boys who had been trafficked had scars or sores from working. Some children have died from drowning after jumping into frigid water and becoming entangled in nets. These children are trapped in dangerous, exploitative situations with little means of escape (Adeborna and Johnson, 2015).

### **1.3 State Response to Child Labor and Trafficking in Ghana**

Current and past governments have prioritized child protection as a key social protection issue. For example, the Ghana National Commission on Children (GNCC) was established as far back as 1979 to advise on the status of children. Over the years, various interventions have been implemented to promote child protection. The International Labor Organization Convention on Minimum Age stipulates 15 years as the minimum working age. The Children's Act of Ghana (1998) also provides that children below 15 years of age are not supposed to be employed except in light work for children aged 13 and 14 years. A child below 13 years is therefore not supposed to engage in any economic activity at all.

In response to the prevalence of CLaT, Ghana has ratified international conventions and treaties including the Convention on Rights of the Child and the Convention on Worst

Forms of Child Labor. The Government of Ghana has also enacted legislations including the Children's Act, 1998 (Act 560), Labor Act, 2003, Human Trafficking Act, 2005, and Domestic Violence Act, 2006. Other strategic national frameworks such as the Child and Family Welfare Strategy, National Social Protection Strategy and National Action Plan against Child Labor all incorporate commitments to reduce CLaT. More specifically, the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MoFAD) developed the Anti-Child Labor and Trafficking in Fisheries Strategy (2018) to guide efforts at eliminating CLaT in the fisheries sector.

Although the government has taken significant action in establishing an anti-CLaT policies and laws, CLaT remains a challenge in Ghana. Poor public awareness about child trafficking results in low prosecution rates. In addition, fighting child trafficking requires a network of government and law enforcement agencies in cooperation with international networks to fight against trafficking practices in all places where trafficking occurs, from source, to transit, to destination. Aside from preventative actions, rescuing and treating trafficked children is equally as important. In Ghana, there are scarce resources for the rehabilitation and reintegration of children who have been trafficked, leading to lifelong disabilities and challenges for those children.

## 2.0 CHILD LABOR AND TRAFFICKING ASSESSMENT

### 2.1 Aims and Objectives of the Assessment

This Child Labor and Trafficking Vulnerability assessment aims to explore and understand the nature, scope, and drivers of CLaT in Ghana's fishing communities and provide context for planning the Ghana Fisheries Recovery Activity's anti-CLaT interventions. Specifically, the assessment seeks to achieve the following:

1. Understand the scope and nature of Child Labor and Trafficking in Fishing communities along the coast
2. Assess key drivers and vulnerability factors in Child Labor and Trafficking within fisheries
3. Identify options for implementing anti-CLaT actions under GFRA

### 2.2 Methodology and Tools

The vulnerability assessment was conducted between December 2021 and March 2022 in three stages: (i) Secondary data collection, (ii) Field data collection, and (iii) Data analysis, validation and report writing.

Secondary data collection entailed identifying, reading, and recording relevant existing literature and other information about child labor and trafficking in Ghana. This information informed the development of the field data collection methodology and assessment tools. Structured questionnaires and semi-structured interview checklists were developed and pre-tested. The data collection team comprised of two consultants and GFRA's Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) Advisor was then trained to administer the data collection tools. Data was then collected in four sites (see Geographic Scope below) through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), and Individual In-Depth Interviews (IIs).

The team conducted a total of twelve (12) FGDs, three in each site with specific groups chosen to provide nuanced perspectives: one focus group for men, one for women, and one for children and adolescents. Each focus group involved ten to twelve participants. The study team obtained verbal consent of adult participants in all FGDs and obtained the consent of parents or caregivers for any child participant in FGDs, followed by their

individual consent. An FGD guide was used to facilitate the group discussions where all participants freely shared their views and contributed to the discussions.

Additional men, women and children were selected at random for sixty eight (68) IIs that provided an opportunity to gain individual unique perspectives. Fifty-two (52) KIIs were purposively conducted with female and male community leaders, fisher association leaders, traditional and religious leaders, assembly members and notable opinion leaders. Key institutions such as relevant District Assembly Departments, Ghana Police Service and Civil Society Organizations were also interviewed.

Qualitative data was analyzed through open coding (Corbin & Strauss, 2008), followed by thematic content analysis based on the study objectives (Lieblich, Tuval-Mashiach, & Zilber 1998). The findings from the different data approaches (survey, FGDs, KII and desktop review), and from the different respondents in the study were triangulated to draw conclusions and make recommendations. These conclusions and recommendations were then presented and validated in March 2022 during a workshop with study participants and other key stakeholders.

### 2.3 Geographic Scope

GFRA works in small fishing villages and fish landing sites throughout Ghana’s coastal districts including Tema, Azizanya (Greater Accra Region); Keta, Denu (Volta Region); Elmina, Mumford (Central Region); and Sekondi, Shama, Axim, Half-Assini (Western Region). Four GFRA sites, Keta (Volta Region), Elmina (Central Region), Half Assini (Western Region), and Tema (Greater Accra Region) were selected for this assessment using the rationale presented in Table I. Figure I presents GFRA and study sites.

Fishing Zone/Region	Geographic Status	Rationale
Keta, Volta	Peri-urban	Significant marine and lagoon fishing activities.
Half Assini, Western	Rural	Boarder town, both marine and lagoon fishing activities take place. The area has seen little development interventions due to its long distance from the regional capital.
Elmina, Central	Peri-Urban	A major marine fishing site. The area has benefitted significantly from anti-CLaT and anti-GBV interventions by state and non-state entities.

Tema, Accra	Greater Urban	Cosmopolitan, industrial city. Site is busy with artisanal and industrial fishing activities and hosts relevant service providers in the fishing value chain. Home to major government agencies and other development partners.
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Table I: Assessment Criteria for the District/Municipality or Community Selected

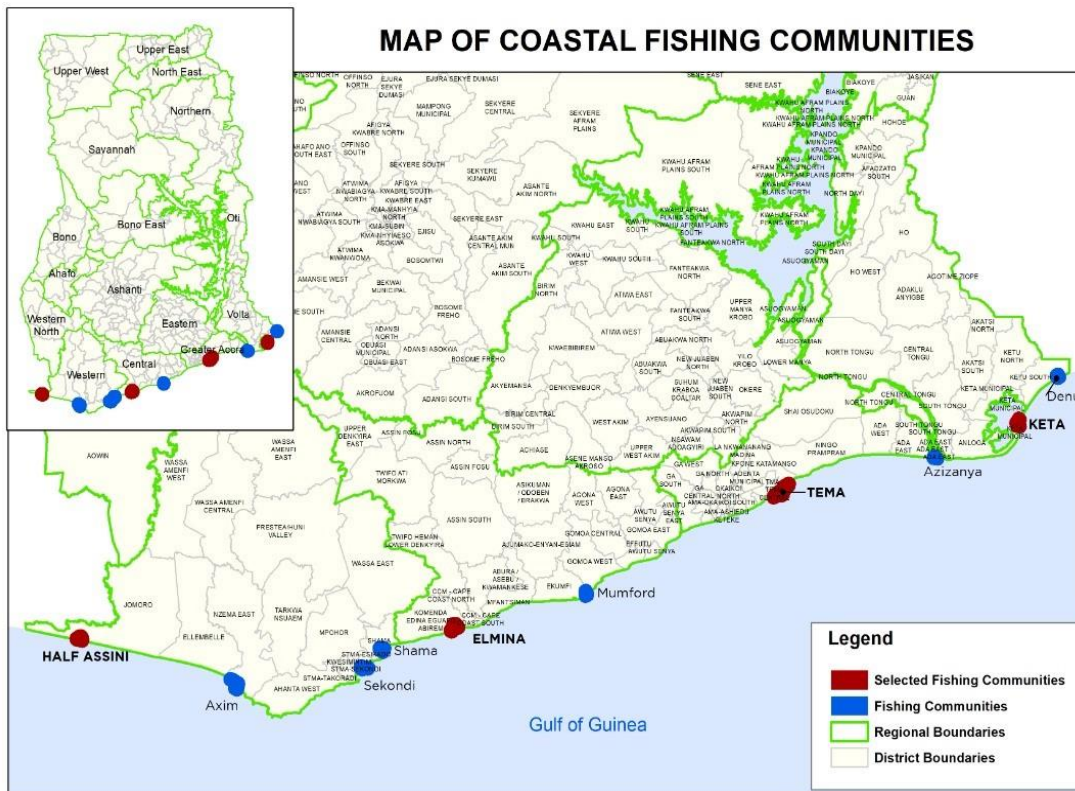


Figure I: Pictorial View of GFRA Project Sites and Study Areas

## 2.4 Information on Respondents

In total, 282 respondents were interviewed through complementary methodologies of FGDs, Ills, and Klls. The study team made efforts to ensure equal representation of gender and age across respondents. Table 2 below shows the breakdown of participants. One hundred sixty-two people participated in FGDs, 68 people participated in Ills, and 52 people participated in Klls. Women constituted 41% of all respondents, men constituted 30%, and children constituted 29% of all respondents.

Interview method	Male (%)	Female (%)	Male and Female Children (%)	Total
KIIs	20 (38%)	28 (54%)	4 (8%)	52
IIIs	20 (29%)	28 (42%)	20 (29%)	68
FGDs	44 (27%)	60(37%)	58 (36%)	162
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>84 (30%)</b>	<b>116 (41%)</b>	<b>82 (29%)</b>	<b>282</b>

Table 2: Breakdown of respondents

Table 3 below shows the number and percentage of male and female adult and child respondents participating in KIIs, IIIs, and FGDs. Fifty-five percent of the total participants in the study were female, while 45% were male.

Tool	KII (All Adults)		IIIs				FGDs				Total	
			Adults		Children		Adults		Children			
Sex	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Male	32	62%	20	42%	8	40%	44	42%	22	38%	126	45%
Female	20	38%	28	58%	12	60%	60	58%	36	62%	156	55%
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>		<b>48</b>		<b>20</b>		<b>104</b>		<b>58</b>		<b>282</b>	

Table 3: Sex of adult and child respondents

Table 4 shows the age breakdown of participants in KIIs, IIIs, and FGDs. Almost half of all respondents were 35 years old or younger. More than a quarter were children 14 years or younger.

Method	KIIs		IIIs		FGDS		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
14 and under	0		18	26%	57	35%	75	27%
15-35	0		25	37%	36	22%	61	22%
36-59	45	87%	24	35%	50	31%	119	42%
60+	7	13%	1	1%	19	12%	27	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>		<b>68</b>		<b>162</b>		<b>282</b>	

Table 4: Age of respondents



## **2.5 Study Ethics and COVID-19 Protocols**

The research team was conscious of the sensitivity of the subject matter and took measures to safeguard the consent and privacy of respondents. Verbal consent was sought from respondents prior to participation. The nature and purpose of the research was thoroughly discussed, and respondents encouraged to withdraw if they felt uncomfortable at any point in the discussion. Personal questions were avoided. Respondents were assured of the Team's commitment to confidentiality and data protection. All personally identifiable information was stored separately from field notes produced for the analysis. Field notes were stored in a password protected file system with limited access. Subsequently, all data from the field will be stored using TetraTech and USAID data management protocols.

The team acknowledged their ethical obligations in the conduct of this evaluation, affirmed their independence, confirmed that there existed no conflicts of interest that could undermine their impartiality, and that no reputational or credential related risks existed that could undermine the credibility of the assessment. COVID-19 protocols were observed throughout the study process.

## **2.6 Limitations of the Assessment**

The study team noted several limitations in the course of administering the assessment. First, respondents had limited understanding of key concepts which could skew responses. To address this, the Team interpreted and defined key terms such as child labor and trafficking in simple terms and in local languages for respondents to fully appreciate and share informed views. Second, the team acknowledged the potential for personal biases to interfere with the interpretation of results. While the assessment was conducted within strict ethical protocols, it cannot completely be ruled out that research members' personal biases and perceptions about child labor and trafficking, which are shaped by one's socialization, may have interfered with the ways questions were framed or how responses were interpreted.

Finally, the sample size is relatively small. The Team addressed this limitation by carefully selecting districts with similar characteristics to other relevant locations within the study regions. The process of selecting research sites and participants critically analyzed geographic, social, and economic dynamics, as shown in Table I above. This site selection

analysis satisfies expectations that data collected is representative of the entire coast of Ghana.

## 3.0 KEY FINDINGS AND RESULTS

### 3.1 Nature and scope of Child Labor and Trafficking in fishing communities

In fisheries, child labor and trafficking occur in alarming proportions and is accepted as a normal part of coastal culture and lives. Every respondent that participated in the assessment had experienced child labor or trafficking either as a victim, perpetrator, or observer of the act. As expressed by a fisherman, *“some give birth and “sell” their children to strangers and some fishermen complain to me about the act”*. A 12-year-old participant described his experience as, *“I was sent off to work for a crew. The conditions were terrible, and I was starved severely. One day, I run off to Accra where I begged on the street before I made it back to my family. It was a terrible experience”*. Another victim had a different story, *“My first experience at sea was bad. It was scary and I took ill. Now I have adjusted, and I enjoy our expeditions. I come home with some cash, and that makes me happy.”* This selection of quotes illustrates the widespread prevalence and acceptance of child labor and trafficking among those who participated in the assessment.

The assessment provided key insights into why the fisheries sector is particularly vulnerable to child labor and trafficking each of which is explained in more detail in the ensuing sections.

#### 3.1.1 Children’s work is a normal part of life in fishing communities

In Ghanaian culture, every member of a household has responsibilities to perform as one’s contribution to the running of the home. Children’s role may extend from performing basic and unpaid household chores to doing significant hours of paid or unpaid work outside the home. As one respondent in Keta stated, *“I am 11 years old. I do the dishes, fetch water, clean the compound, and do chores assigned to me by my mother. I do these before or after school. I am lucky that I do not have to perform tasks outside the home.”* This experience is the norm in many Ghanaian homes.

Asking children to work both inside and outside the home is considered an important socialization process for child rearing and character building. As one 49-year-old fisherman stated *“If we insist on eliminating child labor, how would the skills be passed down? We risk*

reaching a stage where fishing would be extinct because a particular generation was not well socialized.” In fishing communities, respondents valued light work for children alongside formal education and wanted to continue the practice of children helping both inside and outside the home. As a participant who also happens to be a fish trader in the Volta region affirmed *“children can support in household chores and help in simple farm activities, but it should not affect their schooling.”* Respondents also believed that teaching children to engage in fishing related activities was good for their future, especially if it is balanced with formal education. *“I am a fisherman, and I am well educated. As a child, I went fishing when I closed from school. I also spent my weekends at sea. My childhood was lived between fishing and schooling, and none affected the other. Today, I am a successful and educated fisherman. I am proof that it is possible for a child to learn classroom and fishing skills, ”* said 58-year-old canoe owner. This response illustrates the belief many participants in the study espoused that both formal education and work in fishing outside of school is appropriate for children.

In Ghana, light work is defined by the Children’s Act of 1998 as work which is unlikely to be harmful to the health or development of the child and does not affect the child’s attendance at school and his or her ability to benefit from schoolwork. Light work is legal in Ghana for 13-year-olds and above. In fishing communities this light work takes the form of petty trade such as selling fish, confectionaries and other foodstuff or running simple errands for adults within a small radius in the community (Taylor and Crabbe, 2020). 42% of child respondents in this study were involved in child work of this form or had been involved at some point. Of this, 68% reported satisfaction with their involvement. *“I make profit from selling sweets after school. It is not much, but I am happy with it. It helps me buy my favorite meals and other stuff. I give part to my earnings to my mother to supplement her income,”* a 14-year-old girl stated.

Children support their families through work both outside and inside the home. In the home, girls are much more likely to perform domestic work to support their families such as fetching water, watching smaller children, and washing clothes. Although this work is not done to earn money, it is labor nonetheless and a substantial part of girls’ burden of work.

Opinions on what constitutes appropriate light work for children differed, but a commonality was the concept of children working to support the household. One participant indicated *“mending of nets under supervision, carrying of bags after sea to the house can be performed by children.”* A religious leader who is also a fisherman said *“children can*

support in the pulling of nets during season, but parents should ensure that it doesn't affect their school and health. Girls will be able to help their mothers carry fish to the house." A student respondent said "They (children) should help in terms of washing their bowls or pan and carrying their bags to the seashore and carrying their produce back home." On balance, study participants believed children should engage in this type of work to cultivate a sense of being helpful and contributing to their families but thought that work should not be so taxing as to affect children's schooling and health.

### *3.1.2 Disagreement on what constitutes trafficking and worst form of child labor*

For most of the people interviewed for this assessment, there is no clear distinction between light work for children and the worst forms of child labor. As one fisherman participant stated "How can you tell me that training my child is abusive? It does not matter how we name it; it is training. And that is how we all learnt the skills we currently possess." There were also repeated suggestions that the negative conception of child labor and trafficking is alien to their culture. "I hope you are not trying to push foreign culture on us," a fish processor stated.

Many respondents could not readily define child trafficking and had different ideas on what it entailed. They affirmed that the phenomenon of children being transported from their homes to work in fisheries is common in their communities and it takes different, but acceptable, forms. As a result, this is not considered trafficking. This confusion is compounded by the migratory nature of fishing, where fishers and their families constantly move up and down the coast in search of fish. A female respondent explained "it does not happen in this community. However, some fishers migrate from here to other communities to fish. They go with their children sometimes, but that is not trafficking."

Child trafficking may also be conflated with child fosterage in the eyes of fisherfolk. In Ghanaian culture, a child is considered communally raised, hence different family members or friends may support their upbringing. In fishing communities, a child may be sent off to live with an older relative in another larger community to learn a trade or to deepen family bonds. The intent is normally to support the child's rearing, their schooling and enhance friendships and family ties. However, child fostering tends to be a major contributor of child labor as fostered children who are away from their parents may end up being victims of child labor, including the worst forms of child labor.

In some communities such as Keta, the practice is more clearly exploitative. Child traffickers target poor and vulnerable households and make financial offers in exchange for children's labor. This is popularly known as *advance* since the transaction includes an advanced payment for a child's labor. There is no fixed amount for this. "Last year, my friend's mother received an advance of GH¢300 (equivalent to US\$ 40) before he was sent off. I haven't seen him since", commented a 15-year-old respondent. In addition to advance payment, traffickers are expected to remit payment to a victim's family on a regular basis or pay the victim directly for their labor. It is common for traffickers to fail on this agreement.

Some study participants believed that that most egregious forms of child trafficking is decreasing. "Child trafficking used to be high but now it is very low in the municipality. This is a result of consistent advocacy against the practice." Although some study participants believed that child trafficking was declining, it is difficult to verify their anecdotal experiences due to a dearth of research and data on child trafficking in fishing communities.

### *3.1.3 Linkages between child trafficking and regular fisher migration*

While there are well-known source and destination communities in Ghana for child trafficking, trafficking flows are multidirectional and irregular. This is due to the fact that child trafficking and child migration in general follows the seasonal migration patterns of fisher family migration in search of fish. There is a lack of data and information on children who migrate with families, compounding difficulties in obtaining accurate data for trafficked children.

There are, however, some child trafficking hotspots. The Central Region is known to be a major source of children who are trafficking. The Volta Lake region of Yeji is a known destination. Children from coastal communities are often sold to traffickers who transport children to the Lake Volta region where they work in the lake's inland fisheries. Traffickers may tell parents that they are taking their children to Lake Volta to help them learn the fishing trade, however many children end up working long hours for little or no pay working under dangerous conditions such as deep-water diving to disentangle nets (Adeborna and Johnson, 2015). Children may also be trafficked internationally to work in destinations such as Cote D'Ivoire, Togo, Guinea, and Gambia. A key informant who is a queen mother (female traditional leader) indicated that "children are sent to Abidjan (Cote Ivoire) to fish for

years, monies are paid to these children and when they are sick, they are returned or sent back to their original homes, sometimes unaccompanied.”

## 3.2 Drivers of Child Labor and Trafficking (CLaT) in Fisheries

### 3.2.1 Socio-cultural norms related to fishing and child labor

Practices and beliefs about socializing and raising children to become responsible adults may result in the perverse outcome of children becoming victims of CLaT. Children born into fishing communities are socialized to appreciate fishing part of their culture and play expected roles. Fishing is a way of life and an important part of the culture in coastal communities, both for the men who are fishing and the women who are processing and trading in fish. Therefore, when it comes to children working alongside their families in the fishing sector, the lines between culture and work can be blurred.

The study confirmed that many participants considered child labor in the sector, including the worst forms of child labor such as working for low pay or working long hours that interfere with schooling, as important training and skills transfer for an eventual livelihood in fisheries. They consider this labor as the only way to pass on generational trade and skills. This common perception was captured perfectly by one fisherman who participated in the study, *“Fishing is not something you learn in the classroom or by staying at home. It is a skill that can only be acquired on the job, through years of patient practice. And it is children that are taught this skill, not adults.”* The long-held perception does not only increase incidence of CLaT, but also forms a major barrier to behavior change interventions.

### 3.2.2. Poverty exacerbated by dwindling fish stocks

Aside from the rural Northern Ghana, Ghana’s Western, Central and Volta regions experience the country’s second highest poverty rates (Ghana Statistical Service, 2020). Unfortunately, there is little data available to understand poverty rates specifically in fishing communities. Households experiencing economic hardship and poverty will turn to their children to supplement household income. As a 14-year old participant said, *“our parents do not put us through CLaT with bad intentions. They love us and wish they could cater for our needs. Unfortunately, they are unable to. They rely on options to help the family, including commercializing our labor and trafficking us. Even though it is hard, we still recognize their love for us.”* Incomes raised from children’s labor pay for household expenses such as food, clothes, and school

supplies. Ninety-eight (98%) percent of working children interviewed as part of this assessment explained that they worked to supplement household income.

Some adults who employ children also believe that they are supporting households to build economic resilience. A fish processor said, *“I wonder why our role is described as bad. All we do is improve the economic situations for these children. They do not go to school because their parents unable to afford it. We bring them to our homes and businesses to give them an opportunity to work and make some money for their families. Otherwise, they would be wasting away with their parents.”*

Participants hypothesized that dwindling fish stocks are contributing to elevated levels of poverty in coastal communities that drives children to work to support themselves and their families. This has been corroborated by past research linking poverty to environmental stresses in coastal areas in Ghana (Gordon, et. al 2012). Unfortunately, there are very few livelihood options outside of fishing. As one research participant explained, *“I wish my son has better options than I had growing up. But I do not have the resources to give him a better life. He will understudy me and hopefully grow to become a more successful fisherman.”* Only 19.1% of coastal dwellers surveyed in a recent GFRA report on livelihoods options engaged in supplemental livelihoods. (USAID 2022). In addition, there is no option to diversify incomes through farming because the coastal areas targeted for this assessment are densely populated with little arable land. Given this extreme dependency on fisheries for economic livelihoods, any decline in fishing puts coastal families in a precarious economic position and an increased inability to meet basic needs. This, compounded with unavailability of any financial support system, results in some households falling on their children’s labor as an additional source of family income.

### *3.2.3. Lack of awareness about bad conditions for trafficked children*

Many parents of trafficked children may be unconcerned or unaware of their child’s harsh working and living conditions. Some lack access to information and social networks where their children are trafficked, others are hopeful about a better life for their children due to their migration. In one study, only 15% of parents were aware of their children’s situation. (Adeborna and Johnson, 2015). Agents who approach parents offer advance payments and even promise to teach their children about the trade of fishing with no mention of living and working conditions. One respondent explained, *“They take the children from one place to*

*another with a promise of better education and money but in the end the promise is not fulfilled.”* Ironically, 100% of respondents confirmed that they know or have heard of at least one victim that suffered injustice after they were trafficked. Yet, parents send off their children with the assumption, or the hope, that the children will have a good experience. Emblematic of this is the statement by one 31-year-old single parent who participated in the study, *“My sister visited and went away with my 13-year-old daughter to a bigger fishing community. My daughter helps her with her fish trading business. Her schooling has paused, but hopefully my sister will enroll her.”* In another example, one female FGD respondent stated, *“My neighbor’s daughter was trafficked few months ago. We haven’t heard from her since. However, we know the woman (trafficker) is a pleasant person, so we trust that she would take good care of her”.*

### *3.2.4 Parental neglect*

Economic vulnerability in conjunction with parental neglect may also drive CLaT. A large majority of study participants observed that parental neglect over their children is on the rise in fishing communities. One respondent stated, *“parents have shed their responsibilities, and compelled children to take up adult roles. They would rather invest in funeral cloths than in their children’s education.”* A key informant from a government institution echoed this sentiment when they reported *“Parents have neglected their duty and lost their respect and control in the process. A child comes home with significant amount of money and the parent does not question the source. Rather, they are happy to benefit from such. This is a major cause of delinquency.”* A 16-year-old male research participant corroborated these statements, *“My parents do not cater for my needs. Rather, I work hard and take care of myself and the household. I provide ‘chop money.’”*

While respondents acknowledged that economic hardship is a factor driving CLaT, some asserted that it was a case of outright neglect and irresponsibility on the part of some parents. A government official had this to say, *“Once a parent views their ward as a source of income, they neglect their responsibilities, and rather exploit their children’s labor for cash. That is irresponsible parenting, not poverty.”*

### *3.2.5 Inconsistent education*

In Ghana, through the Free Universal BASIC Education (FCUBE) and Free Senior High Education (FSHE) programs, basic education (up to Senior High) is supposed to be free. However, many children of school going age in fishing communities drop out of school,



leaving them at greater risk of CLaT. According to the National Strategy on Anti-Child Labour and Trafficking in Fisheries, only 30% of children in fishing communities regularly attend school. (MoFAD, 2018). Assessment participants described multiple factors that discourage households in fishing communities from taking full advantage of educational opportunities. Respondents reported that the poor quality of education and educational facilities in their communities does not motivate children to stay in school. Children in fishing communities also frequently come in and out of school because of the migratory nature of fishing, needing to work to support the household, or the family's inability to pay for the costs of schooling. The lack of consistent schooling and the tendency for these children to fall behind when they do return to school can result in children dropping out from school completely.

Additionally, respondents stated that some children struggle to complete formal education without a support system for learning. Children with learning difficulties often encouraged to drop out of school, their parents or communities believe they are better served engaging in fishing, trading, and other non-formal income generating activities. As one chief fisherman research participant stated, *“Not every child can learn and excel in school. Some of them are not good and they themselves know it. It is better to put such a child to better use outside the classroom.”*

### *3.2.6 Weak institutional and enforcement systems*

Although Ghana has a strong legal and regulatory framework to protect children's rights, enforcement of these laws and policies is weak. Law enforcement and judicial authorities are severely under resourced and operate in areas with little public awareness. As a result, there are few or no repercussions for perpetrators of child trafficking and the worst forms of child labor. This breeds impunity and normalizes the practice. In addition, most CLaT in the fishing industry occurs in the informal sector, which tends to be subject to even less oversight by government authorities. (MoFAD, 2018). The fact that children regularly work outside the home as an accepted part of their upbringing and family duties compounds these problems because CLaT is likely to be extremely underreported. This conclusion was drawn from corroborated analysis from respondents. For example, a respondent who spoke strongly against CLaT confirmed that she has never reported to the authorities. She stated, *“As an outsider, I have no right to interfere with a family's decision about their children. I may offer advice, but I will never report to the authorities. I cannot be party to a legal process.”*

### 3.2.7 Cheap, exploitable labor

Fishermen operate on tight profit margins that they have very little control over, largely because they cannot set the price of fish (USAID, 2022). As a result, fishers working along the fisheries value chain must find ways to cut costs and increase their profits. Employing children is an easy solution as children's labor is much less expensive than that of adults. In addition, children are less able to demand safe and humane working conditions and may work long hours for little pay. As a result, fishermen are financially motivated to employ children, mostly boys, in their operations.

Research participants also explained that children can perform important roles in fisheries that are unique for their age and size. For example, some perceive children as more adept or swift when swimming in the water. Others explained that communities believe children's small size favors deep diving and that their small and nimble fingers can more efficiently disentangle fish nets in and out of the water.

Similarly, fish processors and traders convince girls in their extended family to help them in their businesses. These girls may or may not receive payment for their efforts. Instead, their work may be viewed as helping the family.

## 3.3 Factors that make a child vulnerable to Child Labor and Trafficking

### 3.3.1 Living in an economically marginalized household

As explained previously, poverty drives families to depend on their children to supplement household incomes. 89% of study participants believe that children born in economically unstable households have a high chance of falling victim to child labor and trafficking. With increased financial stress and little to no income sources, families turn to children as additional sources of income, by trafficking and engaging them in hazardous work. A 42-year-old respondent stated, while pointing to a 10-year-old boy, *“That is my son. For two academic terms, he has not been to school. I cannot afford his books. The school demanded a small levy and I could not pay. Recently, an old friend of mine offered to take him to a neighboring community to fish. I rejected the offer. But I am now seriously reconsidering it.”*

### 3.3.2 Children in Female Headed Household or Large Sized Households

Children, both young and older, living in female headed households are particularly vulnerable to egregious forms of trafficking (Adeborna and Johnson, 2015). Their mothers, who may be under financial stress, may be more likely to accept advance payment for their children and not understand the conditions under which their children will live and work. This was confirmed by respondents in the assessment. A male respondent alluded, *“it is the women that give off the children. It is especially so with mothers that head their homes because they do not need to consult with a partner.”* It is also common practice for migrating fishers to have intimate partners in different fishing communities, with whom they may have children. A 52-year fisher stated, *“I have seven (7) children, four with my wife at home, and three others in different communities. It is normal.”* This contributes to high rates of FHHs in fishing communities. Torrell et. al (2015) documented the same findings *“Broken homes with single female headed households were found to be the most vulnerable families. These children are sold to their masters at rates as low as GHC 50.00, with the mothers of these children hoping to receive more remuneration annually, which never happens.”*

Many study respondents also cited large family size as an important driver of CLaT. Birth rates are high in Ghana’s rural fishing communities (ILO 2013). Men and women in coastal areas in Ghana start having babies early, some as young as 14 and that gives them many years of active reproduction. Fishers also value large family size because of the potential for additional helping hands in fisheries activities. A study respondent stated *“we cannot lose twice. If we lack money, we must not lack children. When they count money, we should also count children”*.

Large size households imply stiffer economic stress on households and may result in unmet needs such as access to quality education and healthcare for family members. Even though these dynamics are known to coastal communities, many fisherfolks continue to value having many children. Children from such households become vulnerable to worst form of child labor and trafficking, as potential relief to family’s economic stress.

### 3.3.3 Gender of the child

Boys are more vulnerable to child labor, and in particular the worst forms of child labor, in fishing communities. Sixty five percent (65%) of participants in this assessment agreed that more boys than girls in fishing communities are victims of child labor and trafficking.

Literature also confirms this finding that boys are more likely to be trafficked than girls (Adeborna and Johnson, 2015). Because boys are usually employed on fishing vessels, they are also engaged in more physically demanding and hazardous activities such as deep-sea diving or untangling nets. 25% of boys and 10% of girls interviewed admitted to currently or previously being involved in a form of hazardous or illicit work. This included going to sea, selling alcohol, smoking fish, working in lotto kiosks, and riding tricycles unlicensed. These activities leave children exposed to hazards or immoral behavior and are prohibited by law (Taylor and Crabbe, 2020).

When considering “labor” that children perform, it is important to include all forms of work, both outside and inside the home. Survey respondents unanimously agreed that girls worked longer hours than boys. Although boys were more likely to be engaged in fishing and income generation, girls were more likely to perform “double duty” work with both income generation activities as well as with domestic tasks such as washing and cooking which adds to the burden of labor they are shouldering.

#### *3.3.4 Age of the child*

Children aged 15-17 are more likely to be working than those in younger age groups. Although it is legal for children aged 15-17 years to engage in regular work, the law prohibits them from being engaged in exploitative labor or hazardous work, such as going to sea. Although there is some data on the numbers of children between 15-17 years who are working, there is a lack of data on the specific kinds of work performed and whether it is legal under Ghana law.

Younger children may be more vulnerable to trafficking and the worst forms of child labor because they are completely dependent on the adults around them. In addition, young children may be less able to escape exploitative situations. More research needs to be done to assess at what ages children are most vulnerable to trafficking and the worst forms of child labor.

### **3.4 Perceived Effects of Child Labor and Trafficking**

Respondents recognized that the worst forms of child labor and trafficking have serious negative impacts on children and agreed that urgent action must be taken to address dangers to children in their community. Survey respondents enumerated different impacts of CLaT at individual, community, and even national levels.

At the individual level, respondents talked about impacts ranging from children's lost potential, an increase in sexual abuse, teenage pregnancy, school dropouts, and sickness because some trafficked children return home with different degrees of illnesses. Respondents also hypothesized that CLaT exposes children to bad characters as they work in environments and contexts that are not child friendly.

At the community level, study respondents suggested that CLaT can lead to an increase in crime rates if children are out of school and left to fend for themselves. In addition, study respondents stated that unemployment for adults was elevated because children are performing work cheaply that would otherwise be done by adults for higher wages. Meanwhile, respondents also acknowledged that CLaT could rob children of the opportunity to learn a skill or trade that could earn them a higher wage in the future. This singular disadvantage has long term, generational impacts on societies. Lastly, study respondents stated that CLaT would lead to underdevelopment of families and communities if children are not fully educated. At the national level, respondents said that CLaT could lead to the depletion of human resources if children's academic, social, and emotional development are harmed. *"We must take our children's welfare seriously if we want a better future. It is garbage in, garbage out,"* a government official stated.

### **3.5 Response to Child Labor and Trafficking**

Respondents agreed that community leaders such as chiefs, queen mothers, assembly men and women, and unit committee members could all play an important role in influencing social norms, identifying perpetrators, and raising awareness to prevent child trafficking in the various communities. However, respondents indicated that these community leaders do not currently lead any interventions geared towards eliminating this CLaT.

Respondents mentioned several NGOs working to combat CLaT including International Needs Ghana and CEWEFIA in the Central region, Friends of the Nation (FON) in the Volta region and Hen Mpoano in the Western Region. In addition, government agencies such as the Ghana Police Service and the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) intermittently undertake some educational and awareness programs. However, these resources are insufficient to address the scope and urgency of CLaT in fishing communities. There is a clear need to broaden the CLaT fight to include more stakeholders such as schools, health centers, community and fishing associations, and local

authorities in coastal communities. Working together, these stakeholders can address diverse approaches to addressing CLaT from raising awareness, rehabilitation, and reintegration of children, and bringing perpetrators to justice.

#### **4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING ANTI-CLAT ACTIONS UNDER GFRA**

In 2018, the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development released a Strategy on Child Labour and Trafficking in the Fisheries Sector with comprehensive recommendations on the prevention and elimination of trafficking and the worst forms of child labor. These range from public awareness and advocacy, social protection, and reintegration for CLaT survivors, education and training on fighting CLaT, and amending the Fisheries Act to prohibit CLaT in the sector. This strategy provides a good basis for addressing CLaT in the fisheries sector and is still relevant, even four years after adoption.

The Child Labor Literature Review and Scoping Study (Adeborna and Johnson, 2015) articulates two approaches to combat CLaT: a rights-based approach and a participatory approach. A rights-based approach entails raising awareness about legal and regulatory frameworks around CLaT and enforcement of existing laws, including sanctioning those who violate the law. By contrast, a participatory approach empowers and mobilizes communities to come to a consensus about the best ways to address CLaT.

It is clear from the results of this assessment that addressing CLaT in Ghana will necessitate a participatory approach. Considering the social norms and customary practices that regularize child labor in fishing communities, a rights-based approach could be seen as pushed by “outsiders.” In response, communities could adopt a defensive posture and eschew efforts to address CLaT. A participatory approach builds on community strengths and local social mores to identify voluntary actions against CLaT. Since child labor and fosterage are part of the culture of fishing communities, a participatory approach that works with communities to shift social norms slowly and respectfully is the more constructive approach.

Using the existing policy framework and participatory approach as a consistent basis, this assessment also recommends the following priority interventions:

#### **4.1 Work with communities to articulate social norms around acceptable child labor**

Fishing communities regard children's work as essential to providing valuable skills and developing a child's character. At the same time, children in fishing communities are vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor. Several study participants acknowledged that children's work should not interfere with their schooling, be overly taxing, or put them in dangerous situations. GFRA should work with communities to help clarify and articulate social norms around what constitutes acceptable child labor and what falls outside the range of acceptability. This can start the conversation to identify the worst forms of child labor to eliminate in fishing communities. By applying the principles of appreciative inquiry, GFRA can help communities envision how they can best protect and raise their children.

#### **4.2 Raise awareness about the negative consequences of child trafficking**

Although study respondents stated that some families are aware of the conditions that children face when they are taken to work in fishing in other regions, they also indicated that many families do not understand the risks posed to their children when they are sent away. GFRA should help raise awareness among fishing communities about the negative consequences children can face when trafficked by providing information on the profile of traffickers, the conditions that trafficked children face, and the fact that many traffickers will break agreements to remit money.

#### **4.3 Work with communities to identify unique educational opportunities**

Given children in fishing communities are at high risk of dropping out of school, GFRA may want to work with communities to explore other options to encourage children to stay in school. Although public schools are already underfunded, it may be that communities could take the lead in organizing informal, community-based opportunities to support children's education. These could include bridge or seasonal educational opportunities for children who are away from school and struggle to reintegrate upon return. These "bridge" schools may be especially important for rescued children who are reunited with their families. They may serve as stopgap, safe spaces for children who are unable to access formal schools, due to their circumstances.

#### **4.4 Take a gender-responsive approach to CLaT**

Definitions of child labor centers on work outside the home, on fishing boats, in fish processing facilities or in or around fish markets as a laborer in an economic activity. This focus may obscure the additional burden many girls face in fishing communities due to their domestic responsibilities for cleaning, caring for siblings, and cooking in the home. In addressing child labor, GFRA should engage communities understand the additional burden placed on girls to contribute to household tasks and to think about how expectations of girls' and boys' domestic responsibilities differ. These can be done through community drama and other behavior change interventions. These activities hold potential for deconstructing unhealthy gender roles and reducing the burden of unpaid care at the household level on girls.

#### **4.5 Create national visibility and awareness on CLaT in fisheries and document experiences**

Compared to the cacao sector, there is relatively little public information and awareness on the extent of CLaT in the fisheries sector in Ghana. GFRA should address this gap and document its experiences and lessons learned in addressing CLaT with fishing communities. In addition, GFRA work around CLaT should be shared with local, national, and international stakeholders working in both fishing and human rights sectors. Strategic partnerships with the media would more visibly highlight the challenges of CLaT in fisheries, and potentially compel law enforcement actions.

#### **4.6 Partnerships for Expanded Access to Reproductive Health Service**

While increasing access to reproductive health services is not one of GFRA objectives, its relevance to CLaT prevention cannot be ignored. GFRA should explore partnerships with state and non-state partners to expand family planning and reproductive health services to rural fishing communities with a focus on guiding women and households towards healthy birth spacing, preventing early childbearing, and on family planning options.

#### **4.7 Target vulnerable households with anti-poverty initiatives**

Poor and economically vulnerable households, especially those that are female headed, need preferential access to economic safety nets to prevent them from falling on their children for economic support. GFRA must target these households for livelihoods support and financial empowerment to build resilience against CLaT. GFRA will need to ensure that its



livelihoods support for these households is designed in a way that addresses the unique financial challenges they face. This may include providing stipends for food and other basic needs, additional oversight and mentoring to ensure they continue with their training, and access to low-cost finance. With reduced fish catch and increasing household poverty in coastal communities, livelihood diversification should be integrated into all of Ghana's fisheries management policies and actions to provide supplementary and alternative income sources to fishing households.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

CLaT is a problem that is not always accepted or acknowledged by fishing households because of their dire economic situation, household needs, or lack of awareness. Children in fisheries are particularly vulnerable due to socio-cultural norms related to fishing and child labor; endemic poverty; low levels of awareness of the consequences of CLaT; parental neglect; and inability to secure quality formal education. This is further entrenched by weak institutional and enforcement systems for protecting children, as highlighted in this report. The consequences are staggering. Child labor can result in extreme bodily and mental harm, and even death for many children in these coastal communities.

Poverty and CLaT in fishing communities form a vicious cycle, without tackling one, the other cannot be eradicated. Through its close relationships with communities and community leaders in Ghana's fishing sector and extensive engagement in small pelagic fish value chains, GFRA is uniquely positioned to address children's vulnerability to CLaT. However, change will not be fast. Social norms take time to change and must be driven by communities themselves. When communities are organized, empowered, and supported to lead homegrown solutions, efforts to reduce CLaT are more grounded and sustainable. GFRA will not be able to eliminate all child labor, but it can lay the groundwork by supporting communities to better understand and develop strategies to address the worst forms of child labor and trafficking. Together, and with the support of government agencies, fishing communities can continue to make progress to root out the worst forms of child labor and trafficking and strengthen efforts to protect their children.

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## APPENDICES: Survey Instruments

### *Instrument for Children's Interview*

*To be administered among persons aged 5 - 17 years who resides in selected regions and district where the project is going to be implemented*

*All information in this questionnaire will be kept strictly CONFIDENTIAL*

**Questionnaire No:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Interviewer** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Region : \_\_\_\_\_

District : \_\_\_\_\_

Town/village : \_\_\_\_\_

START TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

FINISH TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **A. Personal data:**

1. How old are you?
2. Sex:
3. Do you attend school?
4. If yes, which class are you in?
5. If no, why are you not in school?
6. Who are you staying with?
7. Have you ever lived in a village or town in Ghana other than this one?
8. If yes, where?

#### **B. Understanding of child labor and trafficking**

9. What is child labor?
10. Which of the sex is mostly involved in child labor?

11. What type of work are these peers of yours involved in?
12. What is child trafficking?
13. Which of the sex is mostly trafficked?
14. What purposes are those trafficked use for or what type of work do they engaged in?
15. What are some of the work children cannot do within the fishing industrial in your opinion
16. What are some of the works that children can do within the fishing industrial in your opinion?
17. In your opinion what is violence against children?
18. Boys and girls who is mostly affected by CLaT? And why?
19. What type of CLaT do you know about?
20. Where will you report issues of CLaT?
21. What will prevent someone from reporting issues related to CLaT?
22. If a child is affected by GBV will the child be able to attend school?
23. If yes, in which way?
24. If no, why can't the child attend school?
25. If a child is affected by CLaT will the child be able to school?
26. What do you think should be done to address issues of CLaT?
27. Name any organizations/institution working within your community to eliminate CLaT
28. Any other information you would like to give?

## Focus Groups Discussions

We are conducting interviews and focus group discussions with Tetra Tech staff, implementing partners, and stakeholders. You were chosen to participate in this interview because you were identified as a relevant and influential stakeholder to the research study. Findings from all interviews and focus group discussions will contribute to the design and implementation of a new project after the report that will be finalized in March 2022 and made publicly available on the Tetra Tech website. The interview will take approximately one hour. All information that you share with us will be completely confidential and no personal information will be disclosed in any setting. Participation in this interview is voluntary; if you would like to stop the interview at any time, please let us know. Please feel free to give as much information as you can in response to the questions and you can please ask for clarification if you don't understand a question. Do you have any questions about this interview? If you would not mind, my colleague will be taking notes in addition to recoding to capture the highlights of our conversation to be used in our analysis.

1. What is your understanding on child labor?
2. What is your understanding on trafficking in persons?
3. Which sex is the most affected in terms of trafficking and child labor?
4. What has accounted for the level of CLaT in this community?
5. What are some of the challenges identified in addressing CLaT in this community?
6. Do you think CLaT can be eliminated from this community?
7. If yes, how can it be addressed?
8. If no, why can't it be eliminated?
9. What are the effects of CLaT on the economic status of women especially?
10. Where do you think the challenge is mostly found in addressing CLaT?
11. What will prevent someone from reporting issues related to CLaT?
12. What do you think can be done to discourage parents or guidance from engaging in CLaT activities?
13. What recommendations would you give in addressing CLaT in your community?
14. Any other comments

## **Key Informant Interview**

*(To be administered among persons aged above 18 years who resides in selected districts and regions). All information in this questionnaire will be kept strictly CONFIDENTIAL*

*GUIDANCE NOTE: This will be a qualitative in-depth interview targeting people who are deemed to be staying around selected areas in Central, Greater Accra, Volta and Western regions where fishing activities are carried out. The target group include community leaders such as religious leaders, traditional leaders, professionals, District Assembly staff and opinion leaders. The interview should last a minimum of 45 minutes.*

**Questionnaire No:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Interviewer** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Region : \_\_\_\_\_

District : \_\_\_\_\_

Town/village : \_\_\_\_\_

Designation : \_\_\_\_\_

START TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

FINISH TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Personal data**

1. Sex:
2. Age .....
3. Marital status?
  - i. Consensual Union
  - ii. Divorced
  - iii. Separated
  - iv. widowed
  - v. Never Married
  - vi. Married

4. Level of education attained
5. Where do you stay
6. Which region do you come from?
7. How long have you lived in this place?

## **Section 2: CLaT**

8. Who is a child?
9. What is child labor?
10. At what age can a child work?
11. Do you see child labor activities in this area?
12. If yes what type of child labor work do, they find themselves doing most?
13. In your opinion, what work can children not do within the fishing industry
14. In your opinion, what are some of the works that children can do within the fishing industry?
15. Do girls or women participate in the same activities as boys or men?
16. Most affected in terms child labor; children, adults, women and men?
17. Is the community doing anything to address child labor issues?
18. What is trafficking in persons?
19. How does trafficking in person occurs within the district/region?
20. Do you see children been trafficked to other regions in this region/districts?
21. How are you able to identify children trafficked from other communities?
22. What is the relationship between child trafficking and the worst forms of child labor?
23. Who are the victims; children, adults and which sex is most affected in terms of trafficking and why?



24. How is child labor and trafficking issues been addressed in your district/region?
25. Do you know any interventions being done by any organization/institution to address child labor and trafficking issues?
26. If yes, which organizations or institutions are intervening in this district/region?
27. What do you think account for child labor and trafficking of persons in this district/region? .
28. What are the consequences related to child labor and trafficking of children on the families and children as well?
29. What will prevent someone from reporting issues related to CLaT?
30. What suggestions would you recommend in addressing child labor and trafficking in person within your district/region?

## **Adults Interview Questionnaire**

To be administered among persons aged above 18 years who resides in selected regions and district)

All information in this questionnaire will be kept strictly CONFIDENTIAL

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*GUIDANCE NOTE: This will be qualitative in-depth interviews targeting people who are deemed to be staying round selected areas in Central, Greater Accra, Volta and Western where fishing activities are carried out. Target group include men, women, young women and young men. The interview should last a minimum of 45 minutes.*

**Questionnaire No:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Interviewer** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Region : \_\_\_\_\_

District : \_\_\_\_\_

Town/village : \_\_\_\_\_

Designation : \_\_\_\_\_

START TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

FINISH TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Personal data

1. Sex:

2. Age

3. Marital status?

vii. Consensual Union

viii. Divorced

ix. Separated

x. widowed

xi. Never Married

xii. Married

4. Level of education attained:.....
5. Where you live?
6. Which region do you come from?
7. How long have you lived in this place?

## **Section 2: CLaT**

8. Who is a child?
9. What is child labor?
10. At what age can a child work?
11. Do you see child labor activities in this area?
12. If yes what type of child labor work do, they find themselves doing most?
13. What are some of the work children cannot do within the fishing industrial in your opinion?...
14. What are some of the works that children can do within the fishing industrial in your opinion?
15. Do women participate in the same activities as men?
16. Most affected in terms child labor; children, adults, women and men?
17. Is the community doing anything to address child labor issues?
18. What is trafficking in persons?
19. How does trafficking in person occurs within the district/region?
20. Do you see children been trafficked to other regions/districts?
21. If yes, where are they mostly sent to (region)
22. How are you able to identify children trafficked from other communities?
23. What is the relationship between child trafficking and the worst forms of child labor?

24. Who are the victims; children, adults and which sex is most affected in terms of trafficking and why?
25. How is child labor and trafficking issues been addressed in your district/region?
26. Do you know any interventions being done by any organization/institution to address child labor and trafficking issues?
27. If yes, which organizations or institutions are doing intervention in this district/region?
28. What do you think account for child labor and trafficking of persons in this district/region?
29. What are the consequences related to child labor and trafficking of children on the families and children as well?
30. What will prevent someone from reporting issues related to CLaT?

What suggestions would you recommend in addressing child labor and trafficking in person