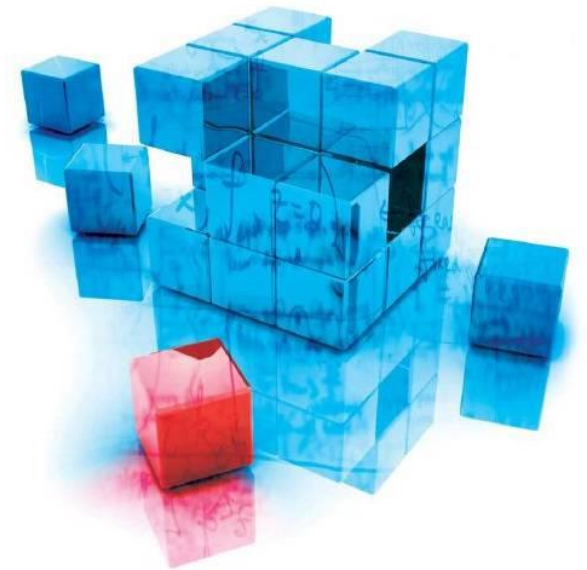




**REPUBLIC OF GHANA
(MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND
ACQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT)**

**TOWARDS THE ERADICATION OF CHILD LABOUR
AND TRAFFICKING IN GHANAIAN FISHING
COMMUNITIES.**

**PRESENTER
MICHAEL ARTHUR DADZIE ESQ.**





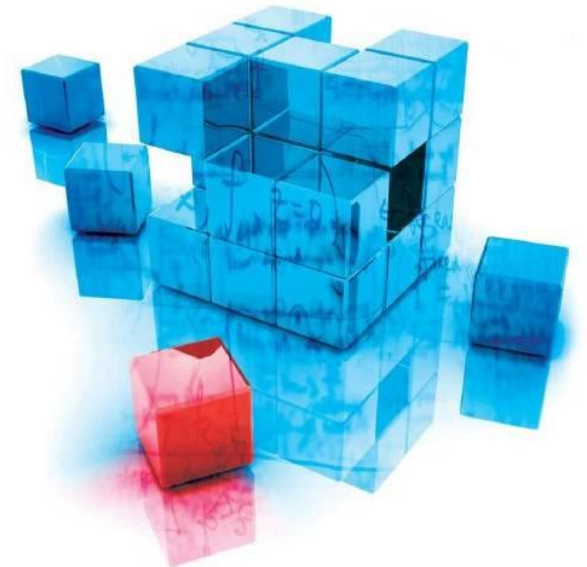
REPUBLIC OF GHANA

(FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SECTOR)

TOWARDS THE ERADICATION OF CHILD LABOUR AND TRAFFICKING IN GHANAIAN FISHING COMMUNITIES.

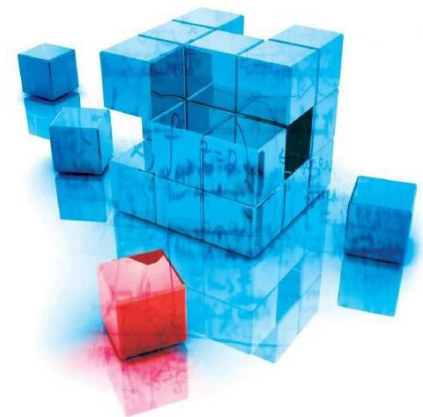
PRESENTER

MICHAEL ARTHUR DADZIE Esq.



OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- ❑ Overview of child protection and child abuse issues
- ❑ Mission, Vision and Core activities of MOFAD
- ❑ The Concept of Child Labour and Child Trafficking
- ❑ Causes of child labour in Fisheries
- ❑ Is an Anti-Child Labour and Trafficking Strategy Necessary?
- ❑ What has Government done to eliminate CLaT?
- ❑ What is the CLaT Strategy?
- ❑ Priority Areas of the CLaT Strategy
- ❑ How the CLaT strategy will be monitored and evaluated
- ❑ Who are the key stakeholders in the implementation
- ❑ Financing the strategy



OVERVIEW OF CHILD PROTECTION AND CHILD ABUSE ISSUES

- ❖ All children have the right to be safe and to receive loving care and support.
- ❖ Children also have a right to receive the services they need to enable them to succeed in life.
- ❖ Parents have the primary responsibility for raising their children and ensuring that these rights are upheld but the government has the ultimate responsibility to ensure that all children enjoy their rights and are not abused.
- ❖ Child Protection or Safeguarding Children is a multi-stranded concept that reaches beyond basic child protection and incorporates the additional aims of preventing the impairment of children's health and development and ensures that children grow up in an environment consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, and protection from maltreatment.



MISSION OF MOFAD

- MISSION

- ❖ The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD) was created in January, 2013 by E.I. I Civil Service (Ministries) Instrument 2013.
- ❖ Since its inception, the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (MOFAD) has focused on 'promoting sustainable development and management of fishery resources, modernization of fishing crafts, accelerated development of aquaculture, value additions to fishery products and building the capacity of all stakeholders in the fisheries sector as a way of accelerating growth in the fisheries sector' (MOFI, 2008).
- ❖ In implementing its mandate, the ministry and all its agencies have ensured that the rights of persons will be upheld and respected.
- ❖ To this end, a comprehensive Anti-Child Labour and Trafficking strategy was developed by MOFAD/FC in 2016.

CHILD LABOUR AND CHILD TRAFFICKING

❖ Child Labour

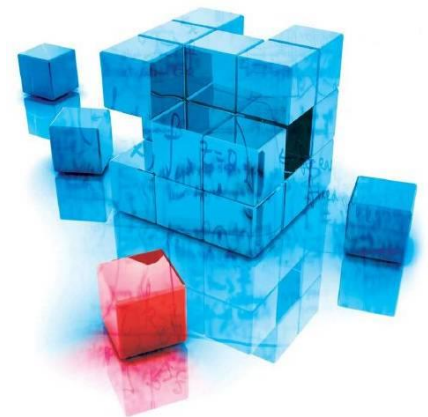
- ❖ It must be noted that “working children” is not the same as child labour
- ❖ The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines child labour as work that harms children mentally, physically, socially and/ or morally.
- ❖ It further defines the worst forms of child labour as work that involves children being trafficked, enslaved, or separated from their families, using children for prostitution or illicit activities, or exposing them to hazards. (ILO, 2022)

❖ Child Trafficking

- ❖ Human trafficking is the trade of humans for the purpose of forced labour, sexual slavery, or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others.
- ❖ According to the ILO, exploitation resulting from human trafficking could include prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour 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 labour or slavery.

CAUSES OF CHILD LABOUR IN FISHERIES

- ❖ A major cause of child labour in Ghana is **poverty**. In addition, the poverty in the fishing communities is exacerbated by **dwindling fish stocks**.
- ❖ **OTHER CAUSES**
- ❖ **Lack of alternative employment opportunities**
- ❖ **Firmly embedded traditions and cultures**
- ❖ **Cultural tradition of skills acquisition**
- ❖ **Weak institutional and enforcement systems for CLaT**



IS AN ANTI-CHILD LABOUR AND TRAFFICKING STRATEGY NECESSARY?

- ❖ In recent times, Ghana has prioritized the issue of child labour and trafficking as a major socioeconomic and sociopolitical concern.
- ❖ Despite these efforts, the US Department States TIP Report indicates that Ghana does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.
- ❖ Despite these efforts, the US Department States TIP Report indicates that Ghana does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking,
- ❖ This is because the government did not sufficiently demonstrate efforts to combat trafficking; thus, placing Ghana on Tier 2 Watch List for the second consecutive year.
- ❖ While several reports attest to the realities of child labour and trafficking, the challenge is that to date, there is still a lack of empirical data. Given that fishing is one of the most dangerous occupations in the world, it is imperative to put in place policies that will regulate the role of children in the entire fisheries value chain.
- ❖ Thus, there is an eminent need to develop a comprehensive National Anti-Child Labour and Trafficking Strategy for the fisheries sector as a key tool to compliment poverty reduction strategies, achieving education for all, and improving social protection efforts.

WHAT HAS GOVERNMENT DONE TO ELIMINATE CLaT?

❖ Ghana and International/Regional Legislation Compliance

- Ghana has ratified most of the International Conventions on Child Labour. Including ILO C. 138, Minimum Age, ILO C. 182, Worst Forms of Child Labour, UN Child Right Convention (CRC), UN CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict, Child Prostitution and the Child Pornography Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons.

❖ National Legislations

☐ Children's Act of 1998 (Act 560)

According to the Children's Act of 1998 (Act 560), children under the age of 15 years are expected to be in school and hence are debarred from engaging in any form of employment.

☐ Human Trafficking Act, 2005

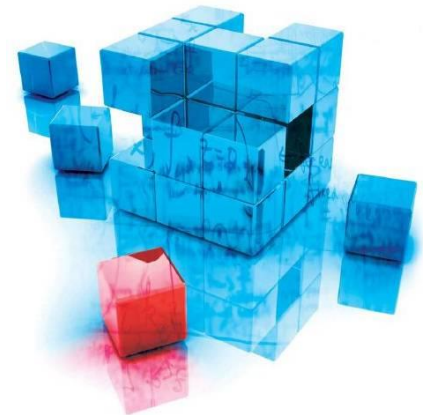
☐ The 1992 Constitution

☐ Labour Act 2003 (Act 651)

☐ Criminal Offences Act 1960 (Act 29)

☐ Electronic Transactions Act 2008 (Act 772)

☐ Educational Regulatory Bodies Act 2020 (Act 1023)



NATIONAL LEGISLATIONS

Standard	Meets International Standards	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	15	Children's Act 1998 (Act 560)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Children's Act, 1998 and Children's (Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act 937)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	Yes		Constitution, 1992; Labour Regulations Legislative Instrument; Children's Act; Labour Act, 2003 (Act 651)
Prohibition of Forced Labour	Yes		Constitution 1992; Labour Act; Human Trafficking Act, 2005 (Act 694); Human Trafficking Prohibition Legislative Instrument
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Human Trafficking Act; Human Trafficking Prohibition Legislative Instrument; Labour Regulations Legislative Instrument

NATIONAL LEGISLATIONS

Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	No		Criminal Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29); Labour Regulations Legislative Instrument; Electronic Transaction Act, 2008 (Act 772); Cybersecurity Act, 2020 (Act 1038), 2007 (Act 778).
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	No		
Minimum Age for Voluntary State Military Recruitment	Yes	18	Ghana Armed Forces General Eligibility (Recruits)
Prohibition of Compulsory Recruitment of Children by (State) Military	Yes*		Ghana Armed Forces General Eligibility (Recruits)
Prohibition of Military Recruitment by Non-state Armed Groups	No		
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	15	Education Regulatory Bodies Act, 2020 (Act 1023)
Free Public Education	Yes		Constitution, 1992; Education Act, 2007 (Act 778)

WHAT IS THE CLaT STRATEGY?

- The National Anti-Child Labour and Trafficking in Fisheries Strategy takes into account **national and international plans and programs across sectors**—aiming to combat child labour and trafficking of children with particular reference to the **fisheries sector adopting multidisciplinary cooperation and coordination** between all involved actors and stakeholders including government, labour market organizations (employers and labour unions), civil society, communities, families and children themselves.

Strategy Goal

The goal of the Anti-CLaT in Fisheries Strategy is to establish a **CLaT-free fisheries** sector to contribute to the elimination of CLaT in Ghana through effective protection and safeguarding of children and prosecution of offences relating to child labour and child trafficking in the sector.

CLaT STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

- ❑ Develop rescue and referral protocols for the fisheries sector that is consistent with national legislations and regulations.
- ❑ Develop rehabilitation and reintegration protocols for all stakeholders connected to anti-child labour and child trafficking interventions in the sector.
- ❑ Establish community and district level child protection committees to prevent at-risk children from engaging in child labour or being exposed to trafficking.
- ❑ Mobilize civil society action and promote community awareness and behaviour change to ensure collective response to CLaT elimination by 2030.
- ❑ Strengthen relevant government institutions in the fisheries sector as part of the process of promoting coordination amongst stakeholders and sectors functioning for the welfare of working children.
- ❑ Promote speedy and effective prosecution along the criminal justice process through strengthening institutions whose jurisdiction fall along the chain of Anti-CLaT,



CLaT STRATEGY PRINCIPLES

❖ These serve as the key principles to guide the implementation of all the strategy actions outlined in this Anti-CLaT Strategy Document. Specific guiding principles include the following:

Poverty Reduction

Respect for children's rights

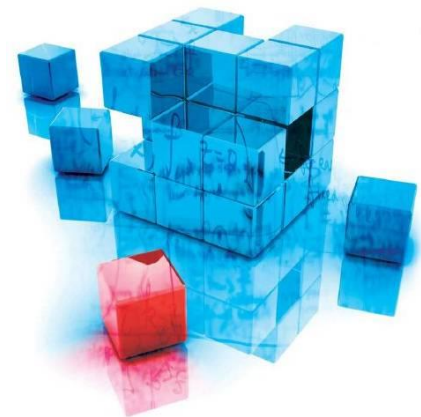
Gender Equity

Adoption of Multi-Sectoral Approach

Collective role of central government, local government and families

Drawing synergies from programs and plans

Adoption of the Torkor Model



PRIORITY AREAS OF THE CLaT STRATEGY

- ❖ Child labour and Trafficking of children is being tackled from several angles across sectors and institutions.
- ❖ The implementation of this Strategy will thus seek to engender the commitment of government and its partners in the next five years.
- ❖ The Strategy has five priority areas including;

a) Public Awareness raising and Advocacy

It is important that all anti-CLaT stakeholders are properly educated, and their capacities built to promote effective delivery of interventions and to enable them to properly handle anti-CLaT issues.

b) **Health, Welfare and Social Protection**; To restore survivors of CLaT to sustainable health and wellbeing and establish social protection programs that will promote the survival, growth and development of children withdrawn and/or rescued from the fishing industry.

PRIORITY AREAS OF THE CLaT STRATEGY

- c) **Education and Capacity Building;** Create an enabling environment through institutional strengthening and capacity building towards the effective implementation of the CLaT in fisheries strategy and provide outreach services to help eliminate CLaT.
- d) **Social Development, Decent Work and Reintegration;** Improve the total wellbeing of people living in fishing communities by working on their economic, socio-cultural and psychological needs to create a conducive environment and opportunities for families to earn fair incomes, have security at workplaces, and have a voice in decision making.
- e) **Governance, Legislation and Enforcement:** Ensure strong government leadership and commitment by law enforcement agencies to enforce laws that prohibit child labour and child trafficking in the fishing industry.

HOW THE CLaT STRATEGY WILL BE MONITORED AND EVALUATED

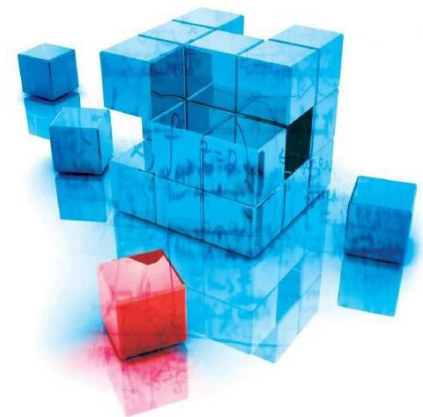
- ❑ The implementation of the anti-CLaT strategy will be effectively monitored and evaluated as required of any standard national strategy.
- ❑ MOFAD/FC will conduct a baseline study to form the basis for measuring the changes that will happen because of implementing this strategy.
- ❑ The outcome indicators will guide the M&E then after two and a half years of implementation, the commission will conduct a mid-term review to assess progress of implementation and harvest results.
- ❑ An external evaluator will be engaged to conduct an endline evaluation of this strategy, harvesting results and assessing challenges and lessons learnt to be integrated into the revision of the strategy.

STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

Priority Area	Strategic Outcome
Public Awareness Raising and Advocacy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 70% of all people living in fishing communities (both freshwater and marine) have increased knowledge of the negative consequences of CLaT and are contributing to its elimination.
Health, Welfare and Social Protection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least 60% of all survivors of CLaT are restored to sustainable health and wellbeing. 1. CLaT survivors' increased access to existing government's social protection programmes for their effective growth and development increased or improved.
Institutional strengthening and capacity building	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All MOFAD/FC staff and key partners have a clear understanding of what constitutes CLaT and are equipped to practically prevent and address it as well as provide support to victims of CLaT.
Social development, decent work and reintegration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased decent employment opportunities in the fishing industry for both adults and children who perform acceptable light work. 1. At least 50% of all rescued children are successfully reunited with their families and reintegrated into the society.
Governance, Legislation and Enforcement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishment of community and district child protection structures that promote the prevention of CLaT and the enforcement of CLaT regulations in 20% of communities in at least 40% of fishing districts. 1. Minimum of 60 percent reduction of CLaT in fisheries as a result of enforcement of laws prohibiting the conditions of work leading to CLaT in fisheries.

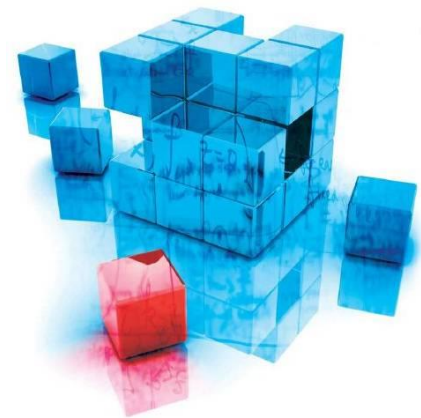
WHO ARE THE KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION

- ❖ **Central Government**
- ❖ **The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection**
- ❖ **The Ministry of Interior**
- ❖ **Other relevant Ministries**
- ❖ **Local Government and Decentralised Departments**
- ❖ **Employers Organisations, Trade Unions and Worker's Associations**
- ❖ **Communities, Families, Children Themselves and Religious Bodies**
- ❖ **Fisher Associations**
- ❖ **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the Private Sector**
- ❖ **Development Partners**
- ❖ **CSOs & Media**



FINANCING THE STRATEGY

- ❑ Financing is key to successful Strategy implementation.
- ❑ This Anti-CLaT Strategy is approached from multi-sectoral perspective.
- ❑ Whilst MOFAD is expected to be the custodian of the Strategy, it is expected that the financial obligations will be shared responsibilities by ministries, departments and agencies and with civil society, development partners, private sector and the media.
- ❑ Generally, all institutions which encounter CLaT will be expected to make financial allocations to deal with CLaT issues as and when they occur and/or identified.
- ❑ The Strategy recognizes CLaT in general to be under the ambient of the Child Labour Unit (CLU), the CLaT in fisheries will be within the purview of MOFAD and Fisheries Commission.
- ❑ The Ministry and the Commission should jointly mobilize resources from within and outside their budgets to support implementation of the Strategy.



THANK YOU

