



Department of Children

Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection

Republic of Ghana



3RD ANNUAL KNOWLEDGE SHARING WORKSHOP ON CHILD PROTECTION

BRITISH COUNCIL AUDITORIUM ACCRA

Tuesday, November 26th, 2019

1.0 BACKGROUND

Concerns of child welfare and protection have consistently remained areas of high priority in Ghana, both within formal and informal institutional structures. Rooted in culture, tradition and laws, our child protection systems continue to evolve, partly to adapt to social change and to purposefully improve how individual actors – parents, government officials, teachers, child-care workers and others – engage and relate with children within the context of everyday realities. This evolution of institutional structures is informed mainly by new research evidence, key learnings from the operationalization of ongoing initiatives and interventions as well as insights from key stakeholders including children.

Participatory Development Associates' (PDA) Child Protection Programme, enshrined in its five-year strategic themes for the period 2016-2021, entails an annual knowledge sharing workshop on child protection. The objective of this annual workshop has been to convene stakeholders within the child welfare and protection ecosystem to share and reflect on new evidence, learnings and findings from research and the implementation of policies and programmes in order to inform changes in institutional structures as well as practice. The first and second editions were held in 2017 and 2018 respectively, with some support from the Department of Children and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, as the initiative resonates with the government of Ghana's vision to promote child welfare and protection through evidence-based policies.

2.0 THIRD KNOWLEDGE SHARING WORKSHOP ON CHILD PROTECTION

The third edition of the Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Child Protection is the result of a partnership between PDA and the Department of Children (DOC). Themed "Protecting the Ghanaian School Child: improving effective partnerships between state and non-state actors". This year's event aims to bring together policy makers, researchers, CSOs, practitioners and other stakeholders to broadly discuss issues of child protection in schools and to explore avenues for improvement.



Specifically, this year's workshop seeks to:

- 1. Unpack government initiatives on child protection in public schools, highlight milestones and brainstorm innovative approaches to further the realization of these initiatives.**
- 2. Discuss private sector efforts in promoting child protection in schools and to explore avenues for better collaboration and partnerships between the government and private sector.**
- 3. Share and discuss emerging studies and evidence on child safety in schools in order to inform practices and innovations within the space.**

Within the context of education, issues of access and quality pedagogy have maintained salience on both the national and international fronts. For example, the goal two of the Dakar Framework, also known as the Education for All (EFA) goals, sought to ensure that “by 2015 all children, particularly girls, children in difficult circumstances and those belonging to ethnic minorities, have access to and complete, free and compulsory primary education of good quality”¹. Similarly, the Sustainable Development Goal 4 seeks to improve free access to quality education for all in both primary and secondary schools. While access and quality are important, other child protection issues such as access to water and sanitation, bullying, corporal punishment, access to counsellors, harassment by either teachers or, gender-based violence, as well as the psychological, social and special needs of the child within the school are also essential, especially in achieving improved learning outcomes.

2.1 STRUCTURE OF WORKSHOP

The workshop shall consist of two main sessions. The first session will comprise a series of presentations on the impact of child marriage and sexual exploitation on girl-child education; spotlight on PDA’s Child Abuse Tracker; and a presentation by the Department of Children on child protection in Ghana.

The session will also entail a panel discussion on Child Protection in Schools. Here, discussants will engage from their diverse perspectives, the current state of child protection in public basic schools and attempt to understand what has worked over the years and what has not worked, as well as how these can be improved.



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This will include a discussion of laws, policies and regulations, as well as how these are operationalized at the school level. The primary objective is to explore new ideas to improve child safety and welfare in schools.

The second session will involve world café style discussions where patrons will have the opportunity to participate in smaller-group discussions specifically on the work of the private sector on child protection in schools. The various organizations will take turns sharing their initiatives with each group for discussion and to solicit innovative ideas for improvement. After this, each group will present key learnings that will emanate from the discussions, to the entire body of participants.

To participate in the workshop, kindly register here: <https://forms.gle/xqSaG4tZWBnEKq5r5> or contact any of the persons below for further information.

For further questions, please contact

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