INGH MARKS DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

International Needs Ghana (INGH) marked this Year’s Day of the African Child with a community durbar, at Abeadze Kyekor in the Mfantseman Municipality of the Central Region.

The durbar was held as part of activities under INGH’s project titled “Protection, Empowerment and Community Action against Child Marriage” (PECACEM) being implemented in 16 communities in the Gomoa West and the Mfantseman Municipality of the Central Region.

It was meant to sensitize community members on the ills of child marriage and the significance of education and child protection.

Ms. Elikem Awuye, a project Officer of INGH explained that, child marriage was rife in the Central Region as statistics form UNICEF showed a 29% prevalence rate in the Central Region, which exceeded the national prevalence rate of about 27%. She noted that the situation was alarming and needed the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders to fight the menace.

Speaking at the durbar, the District Chief Executive of Mfantseman Municipality, Mr. Kenneth Kelly Essuman stressed that the Municipal Assembly had taken stringent measures to stem the tide of teenage pregnancy and child marriage. He noted that the Municipal Assembly had banned JHS leavers “jams” as well as camping of BECE finalists prior to the writing of their final exams. Culprits would be fined and made to undertake a communal assignment as punishment.

The Municipal Director of Education, Mrs. Martha Acquah and the Municipal Head of the Domestic Violence and Victims’ Support Unit, who also graced the occasion, pledged their support to combat child marriage in the municipality.
INGH MARKS DAY OF THE
AFRICAN CHILD

International Needs Ghana (INGH) marked this Year’s
Day of the African Child with a community durbar, at
Abeadze Kyeakor in the Mfantseman Municipality of the
Central Region.

The durbar was held as part of activities under INGH’s
project titled “Protection, Empowerment and
Community Action against Child Marriage” (PECACEM)
being implemented in 16 communities in the Gomoa
West and the Mfantseman Municipality of the Central
Region.

It was meant to sensitize community members on the
ills of child marriage and the significance of education
and child protection.

Ms. Elikem Awuye, a project Officer of INGH explained
that, child marriage was rife in the Central Region as
statistics form UNICEF showed a 29% prevalence rate in
the Central Region, which exceeded the national
prevalence rate of about 27%. She noted that the
situation was alarming and needed the collaborative
efforts of all stakeholders to fight the menace.

Speaking at the durbar, the District Chief Executive of
Mfantseman Municipality, Mr. Kenneth Kelly Essuman
stressed that the Municipal Assembly had taken
stringent measures to stem the tide of teenage
pregnancy and child marriage. He noted that the
Municipal Assembly had banned JHS leavers “jams” as
well as camping of BECE finalists prior to the writing of
their final exams. Culprits would be fined and made to
undertake a communal assignment as punishment.

The Municipal Director of Education, Mrs. Martha
Acquah and the Municipal Head of the Domestic
Violence and Victims’ Support Unit, who also graced
the occasion, pledged their support to combat child
marriage in the municipality.

---

**About the PECACEM Project**

Protection, Empowerment and Community Action
against Child Marriage (PECACEM), is a two-year
advocacy project started in January 2016 and will end in
December 2018, with funding from UNICEF. It seeks to
promote an enhanced safe and protective environment
for children that will prevent and respond to child
marriages and other forms of child abuse and
exploitation at the community level. The project is
being implemented in 16 communities in Gomoa West
District and Mfantseman Municipality of the Central
Region of Ghana. Abeadze Kyeakor is one of the
PECACEM Project communities.

---

**GUF PROJECT MAKES IN-ROADS AT MAFI-DOVE – 33 Trafficked children returned so far**

Thirty-three children who were trafficked from
Mafi-Dove to undertake fishing on the Volta Lake have
been withdrawn and enrolled in school / vocational
skills training. This follows community sensitization
programmes being undertaken by Community Child
Protection Committee (CCPC) members and
Community Facilitators (CFs) under the Growing Up
Free (GUF) Project. Mafi-Dove is one of 34 participating
communities of the GUF project being implemented by
International Needs Ghana in partnership with Free the
Slaves. The project, Growing Up Free: An Effective
Response to Child Trafficking in Ghana is a 4-year
project which commenced in October, 2015 and would
end in September, 2019. It is being implemented in 34
communities in 6 districts in the Central, Greater Accra
and Volta Region. The goal of the project is to enhance
the effectiveness of Ghana’s effort to combat child
trafficking. It is funded by the US Government.

The US Ambassador to Ghana, His Excellency Robert
Porter Hackson has paid a visit to a team of Community
Facilitators, Community Child Protection Committees
(CCPCs) and two victims of trafficking and their families
in Mafi Dove community in the Central Tongu District of
the Volta Region.

The purpose of the visit was to interact with them to
understand their work better as well as confirming
some information from the victims of trafficking and
their families. Representatives from the traditional
council were also present to grace the occasion. The
visit was part of the activities of the Child Protection
Compact Agreement signed by the Governments of
Ghana and USA in June, 2015. His Excellency Robert
Hackson congratulated the community on their
commitment to combating child trafficking and urged
them to continue working to end child trafficking in the
community.
A section of the Reading Clinic with Rev. Isaac Quarcoo, a facilitator.

READING CLINIC:
The Education and Development Unit held a three-day Reading Clinic for pupils of Kuve D/A Global Basic School to encourage reading among the pupils.

IN MEMORY OF MR DAN SEEDAH

Mr. Dan Seedah, Board Member of International Needs Ghana who was called to eternity was laid to rest on Saturday 10th June 2017 at Shama in the Western Region.

A memorial service was held in his honour the Mt. Olivet Methodist Church in Dansoman, Accra.

Mr. Seedah, was chairman of the Project Planning and Resource Mobilization (PPRM) Sub-Committee of the Board.

Board members, (Past and Present) Management and Staff of INGH were present to mourn with his family.