

VOLTA REGION IN FOCUS...

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Stories: Tim Dzambay, Ho

NGO assists Hohoe children to know their rights

A PROJECT aimed at empowering children to know their rights and report abuses to the appropriate quarters has started in 10 communities in the Hohoe Municipality in the Volta Region.

The project is being implemented by a non-governmental organisation (NGO), CareNET (Ghana), with funding from Plan Ghana.

The beneficiary communities are Likpe-Abrani, Likpe-Mate, Santrokofi- Bume, Fodome-Amle, Fodome-Kodzeto, Alavanyo-Abehenase, Ve-Wudome, Liati-Wote, Nyagbo-Odumase and Kpeve-Tornu.

Briefing the *Daily Graphic* at Ho, the Country Director of CareNet (Ghana), Mr Patrick Ahumah, said Rights of the Child (ROC) clubs had been formed in

the communities.

He stated that a special logo had been designed for posting at vantage points in the communities to direct children to where they could report their stories of abuses.

Mr Ahumah said trained counsellors were at the vantage points to receive complaints from abused children and help them to make their grievances known to

the police and other law enforcement agencies such as the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVSSU).

Mr Ahumah said it was expected that in the long term, the counsellors would be able to track down cases of abuse to make cases more authentic and documented to inform stakeholders on action and necessary deterrents.

would be counselled, supported with basic economic empowerment and encouraged to take their children home.

She stated that the children had been enrolled in schools and that their school fees and needs were being paid for by Madamfo Ghana Foundation.

She said apart from the rescue activities, some fishermen had been trained by the Ministry of Fisheries in Ho to undertake controlled fish farming in the lake as an alternative source of livelihood.

Mrs Dotse-Ochlich added that 21 fish cages, each containing 5,000 fingerlings, were to be supplied to the fishermen in groups.

Three boreholes had also been constructed for the two communities.

NGO to the rescue of trafficked children

A NON-GOVERNMENTAL organisation (NGO), Community Development Concern (CDC), in partnership with Madamfo Ghana Foundation, has embarked on a programme to rescue trafficked children in Awate-Tornu and Wusuta-Kpebe in the Kpando District of the Volta Region.

The Executive Director of CDC, Mrs Joycelyn Akorfa Dotse-Ochlich, lamented that those children were asked by fishermen to dive to disentangle fishing nets that got stuck onto tree stumps in the Volta Lake, noting that sometimes some of the children got drowned.

According to her, because most of the children did not attend school, they were maltreated by their slave masters, adding that some of them were even used in fish processing and smoking.

Mrs Dotse-Ochlich said the rescued children had been placed in temporary homes while investigations were being carried out to trace their real parents.

She said the identified parents would be counselled, supported with basic economic empowerment and encouraged to take their children home.

She stated that the children had been enrolled in schools and that their school fees and needs were being paid for by Madamfo Ghana Foundation.

She said apart from the rescue activities, some fishermen had been trained by the Ministry of Fisheries in Ho to undertake controlled fish farming in the lake as an alternative source of livelihood.

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