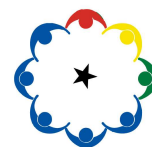


Justice for Children: Bridging the gap between Legislation and Practice

December, 2020



In partnership with the European Union



Partnership for
Governance

The project focuses on bridging the gap between legislation and practice within the Ghanaian Child Justice system, through legal and policy reform, providing legal assistance to juveniles in conflict with the law and building capacity of security agencies to effectively promote child justice in Ghana.



Key Information

SECTOR: GOVERNANCE

LEAD PARTNER: Legal Resources Center

OTHER PARTNERS: Not Applicable

DURATION: 2018 – 2021

TOTAL BUDGET EUR: 500,000.00

EU CONTRIBUTION EUR: 425,000.00



Background



Over the years, Ghana has shown progress in providing a safe environment for children's development by ensuring a sound policy and legal environment and implementation of practical interventions. Although efforts have been made towards protecting/empowering children, there is still much work to be done especially in the area of Justice for Children System. That is, to specifically improve the condition of children who come into conflict or are at risk of coming into conflict and contact with the law. There is the need for a justice for children system that reflects the values, expectations, aspirations and capacities to involve all stakeholders. The project focuses on providing legal assistance to at least 350 juveniles in conflict with the law, train at least 500 security agencies, officers, and 150 paralegals across Ghana.



Project Details



The project seeks to facilitate, and support actions aimed at promoting, protecting and developing the rights of children in Ghana.

Specifically, the project will:

- Facilitate the reform of laws, policies and procedures to improve access to justice for children especially the Juvenile Justice Act, 2003 (Act 560), the Children's Act, 1998 (Act 560), the Criminal Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29), the Criminal Code and Other Offences Procedure Act, 1960 (Act 30), the Courts Act, 1993 (Act 459) as well as their Regulations and other related laws ;
- Ensure the provision of legal assistance and other representation for at least 350 children in conflict with the law in all the 10 Regions of Ghana during arrest, investigation, pre-trial, trial and committal;
- Training of 500 Security officers in the Justice Sector: The Police, Immigration, Prisons Service, the Customs Excise and Preventive Service, Judicial Service and 150 certified Paralegals across the country.

Direct beneficiaries include children, parents and guardians throughout Ghana. Indirect beneficiaries: entire country (all citizens) through national legal and policy change.

Expected Results



- Legal and Policy Reform.
- Increased legal assistance and other representations to children in conflict with the law.
- Increased capacity of security agencies, paralegals and other stakeholders in the Justice Sector.
- Promoting and protecting the rights of children.



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