

PROFILE OF CENTRAL AND WESTERN FISHMONGERS
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

CEWEFIA



INTRODUCTION

This Profile is the outcome of how CEWEFIA had been concerned with the vulnerability of the women in both the fishing and farming communities in its catchment areas in the Central and Western Regions of Ghana, more so, the total neglect of the women to tap their potentialities to the good of society. CEWEFIA's dream has been how to draw the attention of Government, Donors and other benevolent partners to help address the problems of this class of people.

Even though CEWEFIA has tried to do what it can to assist, it has not yet achieved the desired result. Therefore, it is still looking forward to the day it will receive the needed assistance to improve the lot of these unfortunate women to the benefit of their children and the society.

The Profile seeks to outline a way forward for the development of CEWEFIA for the needed assistance for its women groups in both Central and Western Regions. The Profile again articulates the reasons for the concept, they are; the purpose, goal, aims, objectives, roles and activities, membership and structure of CEWEFIA.

FORMATION OF CEWEFIA

Purpose

The purpose for the formation of CEWEFIA was that;

- ✓ The women along the coast of Ghana and in the hinter land were seen to be seriously under-privileged.

- ✓ Their economic power was negligible because of the wastage in the commodities (largely fish) and farm produce they engage themselves in.

Moreover, the women have very little capacity for self-management and also have very little power to organize themselves for effective affirmative action on issues pertaining to their occupation, thus making them vulnerable in the society.

CEWEFIA envisages to provide other alternatives of income generation activities because the fishing and farming businesses are seasonal.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF CEWEFIA

CEWEFIA was formed and inaugurated in March 1990 by Mrs. Victoria Churchill Koomson after the displacement of 54 fishmongers whose mud ovens were destroyed in the process of rehabilitating the Ghana Railway Corporation's station in Sekondi in the Western Region of Ghana. The fishmongers immediately sought help from Mrs. Victoria Churchill Koomson who always visited them at the said processing site and offered various forms of assistance to them and their children. She did not hesitate to come out with a solution because she had always thought of their possible ejection and had earmarked a suitable place for them.

In her effort to acquire the suitable plot of land she made a passionate appeal to the late Nana Nketsia IV, the paramount chief of Essikadu in the Western Region of Ghana. Nana welcomed the appeal and immediately added more plots to the land already earmarked by her. He said, the land could be stretched from the valley to the old Essikadu Cemetery so that all the disadvantaged women would have a share of the plots. Efforts were also made by her to provide potable water (standpipe) a bath house and electricity to help the women work effectively and in a healthy environment.

Moreover, when the Ports and Harbours Authority were in the process of building the fishing Harbour in Sekondi, their demarcation included the area CEWEFIA women had developed and were using for their fish processing activities.

The Ports and Harbours Authority who lacked information about the effort CEWEFIA had put in to develop the area, ejected the occupants, (very vibrant fishmongers). The fishmongers in that situation cried out to their founder Mrs. Victoria Churchill Koomson who had been away for almost two weeks. On hearing the news, she quickly returned home to see to their plight. She, with the greatest passion, ran to the Authority and sorted it out with the JICA Agency who had been charged with the responsibility to construct the Fishing Harbour.

An alternate piece of land was sought from the Ngyiresia chief and his elders for JICA to relocate the wailing CEWEFIA members. Fifty four (54) fish processing stalls were built for the affected 54 members. The fifty four (54) stalls and the utilities attached were handed over to Mrs. Victoria Churchill Koomson, the founder and Executive Director of CEWEFIA by the then Western Regional Minister, Mrs. Lily Nkansah and the Ports and Harbours Authority after the JICA Management had inspected the place. Through her efforts, the Sekondi women were also able to get assistance in the form of a loan to improve upon their fish processing business.

As a result of her hard work with the Sekondi women, the fishmongers in the Central Region (Moree, Ekon, Ayisa, and Bantoma) also invited her to extend her assistance to them. Mrs. Victorial Churchill Koomson therefore provided fish drying sheds, a kindergarten and a skills training centre for the fishmongers. Subsequently, both fishmongers groups (Western and Central Regions) worked together and exchanged ideas and experiences; hence, the name Central and Western Fishmongers Improvement Association (CEWEFIA) of Ghana.

LEGAL STATUS

CEWEFIA through the nurturing role played by ASHOKA in 1993 to 1999 as well as their support was able to register the Association as a Non-Profit, Non-Governmental, and Non-Partisan Organization. The Association therefore was registered with the Registrar General's Department on 3rd September 1994 and gained recognition as a Voluntary Organization with the Department of Social Welfare on 8th March 1996, (Registered Nos. RGD. 57, 150 and DSW No. 848).

MOTTO

Unity and Progress

VISION

Improvement of Socio – Economic Status of Rural Women and well being of Children and the community as a whole.

MISSION

To empower rural women to improve upon their standard of living through sustainable integrated development projects and programmes.

GOAL

To ensure the standard of living of women and the well being of children in our project communities.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.

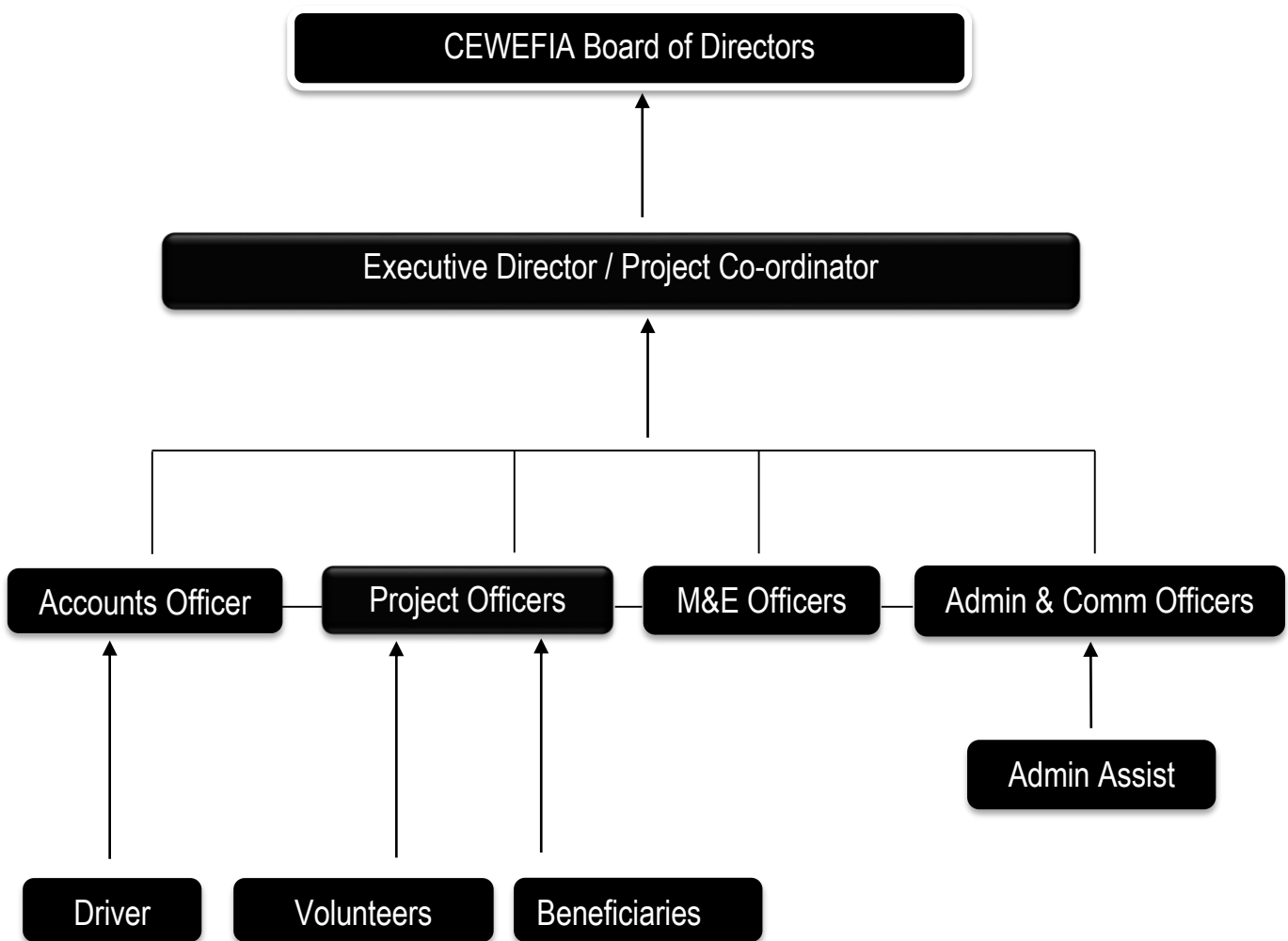
- Improve Fish and Agro processing and increase incomes of rural women and assure food security in Ghana.
- Organize the fishmongers into viable groups and cooperatives.
- Increase the fish processing capacity of the women.
- Encourage fishmongers to engage in improved fish processing by using energy efficient and environmentally friendly fish smoking technology.
- Improve financial management and marketing skills of fishmongers and agro processors.
- Promote networking among fishmongers.
- Undertake community education to create awareness on environmental hygiene and sanitation.
- Maintain a clean, safe and pleasant physical environment under the sheds the fish mongers work.
- Promote functional literacy among rural women.
- Play an advocacy role on behalf of women on issues that affect their socio-economic status in the society.
- Facilitate the improvement of Reproductive Health Rights among women and children.
- Improve the nutritional status of rural women and their children.
- Play an advocacy role on young women and adolescent girls on their Reproductive Health Rights, human rights and other policies that affect their social economic status.
- Promote and provide vocational skills training to girls and young women.
- Promote early childhood development and girl-child education.
- Research into issues affecting women and adolescent boys and girls in our project communities.

TARGET POPULATION

CEWEFIA works with Children, the Youth, Street Children, Commercial Sex Workers, PLAIDs, AIDs Orphans and Adolescents orphans, women of Reproductive age (WRA), Fishmongers, Single Parents and Mothers.

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE / STAFFING

ORGANOGRAM



CEWEFIA has a seven (7) Member Board of Directors who offers their services voluntarily.

COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

BOARD MEMBERS			
No	Name	Position	Occupation
1	Mr. Badu Prah	Board Chairman	Retired Educationist
2	Mr. J. B. Koomson	Vice Board Chairman	Retired Educationist
3	Mr. Joseph Cudjoe	Secretary	GHS
4	Ms. Rosemond Hammond	Treasurer	Retired Educationist
5	Ms. Marian Honey	Member	Retired Educationist
6	Mr. E. A. Ackon	Member	Accountant
7	Ms. Theresa Arthur-Benya	Member	Retired Educationist
8	Mr. John Kenneth Ashun	Member	
9	Ms. Joyce Attumbu	Member	MoFA
10	NicholasKoomson	Member	Dressmaking

Management Committee headed by the Executive Director Supported by;

- The Project Officer
- Assistant Project Officer
- Administrative Officer
- Communications Officer
- Account Officer
- Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
- Secretary / Receptionist
- 7 Volunteer Workers.

Composition of Staff

Management and Key Staff			
Name	Position	Phone number	e-mail address
Victoria Churchill Koomson	Executive Director	0244278377	info@cewefia.org
Nicholas Kwesi Smith	Project Officer (Central Region)	0268932330	info@cewefia.org
Josephine OpareAddo	Project Officer (Western Region)	0244636501	info@cewefia.org
Michael Takyi	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	0243935907	info@cewefia.org
Deborah Antwi	Account Officer	0242110957	info@cewefia.org
Mary T. Ayerkwor	Secretary	0541096278	info@cewefia.org
Juliet Nana	Administrative Officer	0243281057	info@cewefia.org
Hannah Antwi	Communications Officer	0542288440	info@cewefia.org
Amos Kwesi Aidoo	Driver	0244241977	info@cewefia.org

MEMBERSHIP

CEWEFIA has a total membership of 750 organized fishmongers in the Central and Western Regions of Ghana.

AREAS OF OPERATION

CEWEFIA operates in two (2) communities in Sekondi – Takoradi in the Western Region and fifteen (15) communities in the Central Region.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

CEWEFIA generates its funds mainly through sponsorship from donor agencies, Embassies, Government sources and incomes generated through the rental of smoking trays and voluntary contribution for its activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS MADE SO FAR

In all the Seventeen communities, CEWEFIA has found a way to give Education on Sexual Health, Reproductive Health and Human Rights and made the rural people and their adolescents' male and female well informed about their rights and have acquired the skills to claim their rights from duty bearers and power sources when ever the need arises.

Previous and On-going projects

No.	Activity / Sectors	Donors	Project Location	Implementation Period
1	Exodus of fishmongers from Sekondi Railway Station to their current place in Sekondi		Sekondi	1990
2	Pipe borne water and bath house	Philanthropist	Sekondi	1991/1992
3	Woodlot plantation	CEWEFFIA	Sanka	1996

4	Exodus of the displaced group of the fishmongers in CEWEWFIA village to Ngyresia and finding them a new settlement		Ngyresia	1994
5	Formation of displaced fishmongers in Elmina and finding them a new settlement		Elmina	1994
6	Credit facilities for smoking trays	EU and Gratis	Ngyresia and Abuesi	1997
7	Provision of Vehicle	Agorstino Foundation USA	Sekondi/Elmina	1998
8	Provision of 45 Smoking sheds	JICA/CEWEF IA	Ngyresia	1998-1999
9	Provision of 2 smoking sheds, Chorkor smokers & Smoking Trays, construction of day care centre & drains and expansion of woodlot plantation (10 acres)	French Embassy CEWEFIA	Ayisa&Ekon and Sanka	2001
10	Provision of pipe borne water, polytanks and bathhouse	AShoka UK Trust/CEWEFIA	Ayisa&Ekon	2001
11	Construction 2 processing sheds	Canada Fund CEWEFIA	Moree and Elmina	2002
12	Provision of two medium sized Kpone smokers	Canada Fund Gratis, CEWEFIA	Moree and Elmina	2002

13	Provision of working capital to purchase fish	Agricultural Development Bank & Kakum Rural Bank	Moree and Elmina	2002
14	HIV/AIDS Awareness Creation Programme	World Bank Small Grants, CEWEFIA	Ekon, Elmina	2002
15	Construction of a Bakery and preservation centre	Canada Fund CEWEFIA	Ayisa	2003
16	Fencing of Day Care Centre	Rotary Club Foundation	Ayisa	2003
17	Training of Peer Educators and Traditional Birth Attendants Reproductive Health Programme	CENCOSAD, DFID, GHS	5 Communities, Amisano, Bantoma, Atonkwa, Ntranoa & Bronyibima	2003
18	Training of peer educators and Community Health Promoters (CHPs)	Ghana AIDS Commission	13 communities	2003
19	HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Support Services Programme and Formation of Adolescent's Abstinence Clubs	Ghana AIDS Commission CEWEFIA	13 communities	2003-2004
20	Provision of Education in Basic Social Rights Programme	Ibis Ghana	Ayisa & Bantoma	2004-2005
21	Provision of Fish Salting and Drying Sheds, Fish Smoking	Royal	Ayisa, Bantoma	2005

	trays	Netherlands Embassy		
22	Reproductive Health Rights Programme	Alliance for Reproductive Rights (ARTs)	Amisano, Atonkwa, Bronyibima, Bantoma & Ntranoa	2005
23	Promoting of Rights of children & women	✓	✓	2005
24	Provision of Vocation Training in Batik Tie and dye, dressmaking, Hairdressing, Baking etc	Royal Netherlands Embassy	Ayisa, Bantoma	2005-2006
25	Provision of Non-Formal Education to Fishmongers	✓	Ayisa, Bantoma	2005-2006
26	Provision of training in Financial management, marketing and Entrepreneurial skills	Global Fund for Women	Ayisa, Bantoma	2005-2006
27	Care and support for people living with AIDS	Alliance for Reproductive Rights (ARTs)	Amisano, Atonkwa, Bronyibima, Bantoma & Ntranoa	2006
28	Reproductive Health Rights Information and Education	✓	✓	2006-2009
29	Health Education Awareness Literature (HEAL II)	Ghana AIDS Commission	Dwira-Akyenim, Ntranoa, Atonkwa, Abee, Nkontrodo and Sanka	2009 - 2012
30	Strengthening Communities Reproductive Health and	Coastal Resources	Abuesi, Aboadze, Shama Apo, Shama	2010 - 2012

	Poverty Reduction (SCOPER)	Centre - USAID	Bentsir	
31	Increasing the Voice of the Voiceless Local Governance and Decentralization Program	MSI-USAID	Adjoa, Fonkoe, Kadjebir, New Amanful	2012
32	Family Livelihoods and Ecosystem Sustainability Enhancement through Improved Nutrition and Food Security for Families Programme	Coastal Resources Centre - USAID	Abuesi, Aboadze, Shama Apo, Shama Bentsir Shama Anlo Beach	2011- July 2013

CEWEFIA has been challenging harmful cultural practices that affect the reproductive health of women and girls. Traditional and church leaders have been sensitized to that effect.

The Nineteen (19) year programme of activities of CEWEFIA has found a way to train Fishmongers in the rural fishing communities to be practicing good financial management and simple bookkeeping that has offered them positive results in their work.

CEWEFIA has also trained the youth to be community health educators and advocates for sexual and reproductive health and human rights.

CEWEFIA runs seminars for organized young women and adolescent girls groups to help reduce maternal and infant morbidity and mortality, gives information and education on contraceptives for safe sex, and also negotiation skills and self-assertiveness. CEWEFIA transforms the perception of the youth on sex and gender.

CEWEFIA has been educating the rural communities on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and making the people aware of the Human Rights, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights of Women.

CEWEFIA has been training young women on identified occupational / Vocational skills and on credit utilization. Organizing training sessions on reading and writing for illiterate women

to enhance their social and economic activities, organizing annual civic awareness programme for women political aspirants.

CEWEFIA programmed activities for social changes have gained the recognition of Ghana Government. The result is that CEWEFIA has been engaged in the implementation of the Government's Micro Finance Loans Scheme to its organized and strengthened women groups in Eleven (11) rural communities in the KEEA Municipality in the Central Region. 30 women from each of the rural communities are benefiting. This will help to reduce poverty in the area.

To date CEWEFIA has worked with over 5000 fishmongers and traders, adult men and women, young people, children and traditional leaders, caring and supporting HIV/AIDS Victims, AIDS Orphans and Vulnerable children and changed the negative social practices of over 2000 rural people including Adolescents in the Central and Western Regions of Ghana.

NETWORKING, COLLABORATORS & COALITION

- ASHOKA
- GAPVOD – Ghana Association of Private Voluntary Organization
- EPA - Environmental Protection Agency
- ASAWA - Association for the advancement of Women in Africa
- The World Bank Network of NGO's
- Earth Action
- ECASARD – Ecumenical Association for Sustainable Agric in Rural Development
- FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization
- GNECC – Ghana Education Campaign Coalition
- ARHR – Alliance for Reproductive Health Right
- GHANET – Ghana AIDS Network
- SEND Foundation
- ANCER – Association of NGOs in Central Region
- Ghana AIDS Commission

- Canada Fund
- FRENCH EMBASSY
- DFID / GHS / MOH
- GES – Ghana Education Service
- District Assembly
- Action Aid
- Global Fund for Women
- Royal Netherlands Embassy
- World Bank
- NGOs Coalition for the Rights of the Child
- FOODSPAN
- CAFA - CSOs Alliance for Fisheries Agenda

CONTACT INFORMATION

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