



Africa-Diaspora Forum for Research and Development e.V

ADFRaD ANNUAL REPORT 2021



MAKING HUMAN RIGHTS WORK IN PRACTICE DURING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

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1. SUMMARY

Africa-Diaspora Forum for Research Development e.V (ADFRaD) was established in 2019 as a non-profit making organization with the fundamental goal of promoting equal rights for men and women as well as working towards global peace and development.

ADFRaD also aims at contributing to the mitigation of illegal migration, *promoting tolerance in all areas of culture*, education and research, development cooperation, especially between Africa and Europe, democratic global governance, rule of law and equal justice for all without discrimination. ADFRaD also focuses on the most marginalised with the sole aim of empowering people to act as agents of change in their communities.

In 2021, ADFRaD was supported by GIZ to manage a mini project in Ghana in collaboration with its partner Organisation (Songtaba). The fund was managed entirely by the ADFRaD Team in accordance with GIZ's guidelines.

2. DRIVING CHANGE THROUGH EDUCATION, PUBLIC SENSITIZATION AND EMPOWERMENT

In making human rights work in practice, the Africa-Diaspora Forum for Research and Development e.V engaged with several communities in Ghana to educate, sensitized and empowered them on their rights and how to seek legal remedies in cases of violation.

In making human rights work in practice, ADFRaD engaged with several communities in Ghana to educate, sensitize and empower them on their rights and how to seek legal remedies when these rights are violated.

In 2021 the GIZ supported ADFRaD in sensitization and empowerment project through a fund dedicated to strengthen the development of commitment of Diaspora Organisations in Africa.

After winning this 'small' project in Ghana, the year began on a positive note. The project was implemented in the northern Region of Ghana by ADFRaD in collaboration with its partner Organisation (Songtaba).

Despite the corona virus outbreak with its attendant problems, ADFRaD and its partner were able to get this project implemented. The corona virus protocols were however critically observed.

The project, which ran for one year, from 01 January 2021 to 01 January 2022, was titled: MAKING HUMAN RIGHTS WORK IN PRACTICE: Sensitization and Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups to Act as Agents of Change and Development through Social Inclusion

The project implementation process was successfully completed on time and and/or planned schedule. The plan activities for the target group, indicators and all sources of verification were successfully achieved.

3. WORKSHOP AND TRAINING OF MULTIPLICATORS

The project implementation was made up of a number of activities, which included a training workshop to train multipliers, media sensitization, community meetings and visits to two alleged witches' camps.

Upon the arrival of the ADFRaD team (also known as experts) in Ghana in April 2021, constituting Dr. Eric C. Muma, Dr. Wisdom Momodu, Dr. Mbuayan Collins, together with Dr. Musah Baba Iddrisu who was already in Ghana, a two-day workshop was organised for multipliers (COMBAT GROUP) together with Songtaba from April 7 to April 8, 2021.

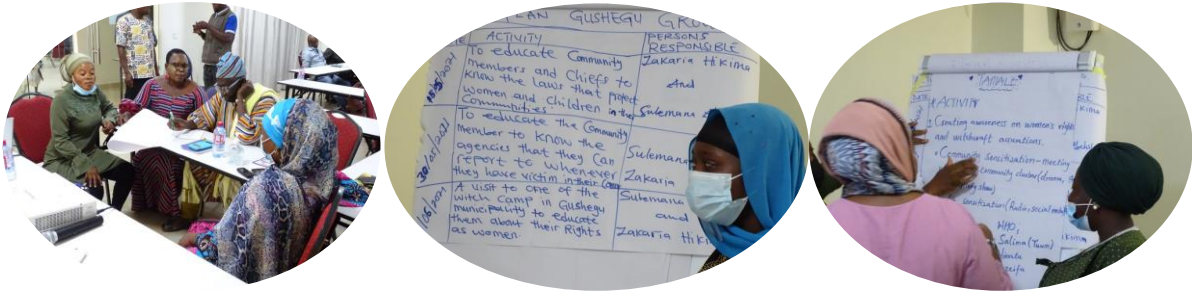
The multipliers were selected from different communities in the northern region of Ghana. They were made up of people from different professional backgrounds such as employees of government institutions, youth groups, women's groups and other key people/actors. Some of the key actors were representative of traditional leaders.

Also in attendance were the Ghana Police Service, specifically the northern regional boss of the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU), the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) and Action Aid, Ghana (a Non-Governmental Organisation). Some of the topics covered during the 2-day workshop included:

- ✚ *International human rights: From theory to practice.*
- ✚ *Women's human rights as human rights: Do women have rights.*
- ✚ *Gender inequality and women empowerment.*
- ✚ *Witchcraft and its associated rights violations: What the government and the public must know.*
- ✚ *Supporting women accused of witchcraft.*

A total of 48 Multipliers attended and benefited from the training workshop. Certificates of participation were presented to participants at the end of the workshop together with the workshop handbook. The handbook was used as a tool to further educate and sensitize their communities through agreed action plans.





ADFRaD Workshop Training of Multipliers and stake holders on how deal with cases of witchcraft accusations

4. EQUIPMENT FOR SENSITIZATION

On the 14 April 2021, the ADFRaD Team also handed out some office equipment to the partner organization (Songtaba), at the end of the training workshop.

This was to facilitate the successful implementation of the second phase of the project and to take track and make available all the necessary public sensitization tools needed by the trained multipliers on the ground for their empowerment activities in the various communities.

The office equipment were also meant to provide effecting reporting of the project sources of verification to ADFRaD during the implementation phase of the project and to enforce the work on the ground as well as facilitate sustainability of the project at the end.



ADFRaD handover of office equipment for project implementation

5. AWARENESS RAISING THROUGH COMMUNITY MEETINGS

The workshop which ended on 8th April, 2021 was followed by joint visits and meetings at the alleged witches’ camps and the communities to raise awareness on rights of persons and victims accused of witchcraft.

On 08 April 2021, the ADFRaD Team as well as its partner organization (Songtaba) together with the workshop multipliers visited the Gnani and the Kpatinga alleged witches’ camps both located in the eastern side of the northern region of Ghana.

They held talks and interacted with victims of witchcraft accusations, traditional authorities and other community members. Interviews were also conducted with victims of witchcraft practices. They were also sensitized and empowered about their rights.



Raising women and community awareness of their right and witchcraft accusations

6. RAISING AWARENESS THROUGH MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

On April 8 to 9.04.2021, a two-day media engagement was held by the Songtaba and ADFRaD team just after their sensitization program in the alleged witches' camp.

A total of 4 Media engagement were held live during the project workshop in both Television and Radio with several callers and listeners reached.



ADFRaD and Songtaba_Raising Awareness through media Engagement

While 14 Media programmes (7 Radio and 7 TV programs) were conducted during the implementation and Evaluation phase of the project with 2 Media engagements conducted monthly.



ADFRaD and Sontaba Raising Awareness on Witchcraft Practices

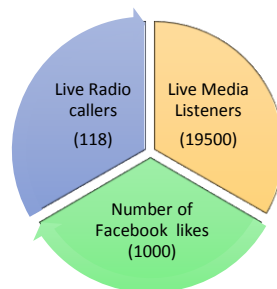
ADFRaD and Sontaba Raising Awareness on witchcraft Practices

The media program was held in both English language and Dagbanli.

The team hence, through radio and television, raised public awareness on witchcraft practices and associated human rights violations.

Our Project Multiplicators including Songtaba and ADFRaD actively participated in the Radio and TV Programs. A total of 18 Media programs were conducted throughout the project implementation (during the first and second Phase).

A total of 118 callers contributed to live Radio programs throughout the project. The live media outreach reached about 19500 listeners. Several people were also reached through social media such as Whatsapp and Facebook with over 1000 likes reached per day.



Statistics reached after media engagements

7. TAKING ACTION THROUGH TRAINED MULTIPLICATORS AND SONTABA

From 01 June 2021 to November 30, 2021, Songtaba, as the implementing partner organisation, followed through planned and implementation activities, with multipliers (members of the COMBAT group) on the ground.

Regular online meetings were held twice a month between ADFRaD and the partner organisation_Songtaba to discuss pertinent issues relevant to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project.

During this period, community meetings and durbars were held by the project multipliers in the different camps and communities to raise public awareness.

From June to November 2021, community meetings were held twice a month during the second phase of the project in six different districts *such as Tamale, Sagnarigu, Gushegu, Kumbungu, Yendi and Nanumba Municipality*).

A total of 5 Days community meetings were held during project implementation in the Gnani, Kpatinga, Gambaga, und Kukuo camps. The multipliers together with Songtaba carried out several activities during this period among which includes

- Community meetings were held twice a month in the different Camps (*Gnani, Kpatinga, Gambaga, und Kukuo camps*) to raise awareness and share information on the rights of victims accused of witchcraft and empower them as well as exchange with victims everyday experiences and human rights violations.
- Community outreach twice (2) a month to create awareness on the impact and dangers of witchcraft accusations in *six different Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) (Tamale, Sagnarigu, Gushegu, Kumbungu, Yendi and Nanumba)* through periodic community meetings, informal discussions and door-to-door sensitization visits.
- Raising awareness and sensitization through Public Media Engagements using Radio and TV programs.
- Engagement with opinion leaders e.g. Chiefs and Elders including Pastors, Imams, soothsayers and District Assembly in *Nanumba, Jilo and Kukuo* and to Educate community members and chiefs to know the laws that protect women and children in the communities.

Community and Durbar meetings also focused on community sensitization – meeting with groups, dialogue meeting with traditional authorities and opinion leaders in the communities, working with individual chiefs to disseminate information with the wider communities and holding informal discussion with individuals and associations.

A total of 7 community meetings were held in the camps and 10 community and durbar meetings throughout the project implementation and over 700 People participated in the community meetings in the camps during awareness raising.

8. GIZ SPECIAL VISIT AND ATIVITY PROGRESS

From 10 to 12 November, 2021, as part of its monitoring role, two representatives from the GIZ offices in Accra, Ghana (Silas Ewuntoma and George) were in Tamale for monitoring purposes.

As part of planned activities, a visit was made to the Gnani alleged witches' camp and the Dalun community/Palace in Tamale alongside Sontaba and Multipliers to strengthen the role of traditional rulers in raising community awareness on witchcraft allegations.

Exchange meeting was held with the Municipal Assembly in Yendi. Discussions centered on the need for the Assembly to get more serious with the needs of the Gnani camp in particular,

and also to get first-hand information on some challenges confronting the relationship between the Assembly and the camp.



GIZ, Sontaba, ADFRaD and multipliers advocating to stop witch craft accusations and violence against accused persons.

Two live radio programmes were also held. The GIZ team was full of praise regarding the implementation of the mini project by Songtaba ADFRaD and advised that efforts should be made to upscale the project.

9. EVALUATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND REINTERATION

Finally, in December, 2021, the Project coordinator and Secretary to ADFRaD (Dr. Eric C. Muma), visited Tamale, Ghana as part of ADFRaD’s monitoring and evaluation role.

During the visit, ADFRaD and Songtaba made a joint visit to the Kpatinga camp to assess the impact and success of the project implementation activities carried out by the multipliers and partner organisation (Songtaba) on the different camps and communities.

Food items and ‘second hand’ clothing were donated to the residents of the camp. This was immediately after the Christmas festivities on December 29th, 2021. This was a special and additional initiative carried out by ADFRaD following a three man support together with the assistance of ADFRaD to relieve the accused women from hunger during the new-year period. Beneficiary residents, and the Tindana (custodian of the camp), were joyous after receiving these useful food and cloths.

The visit to the camp was preceded by a live radio and TV broadcast in the morning in Tamale. The main focus of both broadcasts centred on sustainability measures and reintegration prospects for victims in the camps.



Changing Lives through immediate Relief Response to accused victims

10. Donation

Based on our activities in Ghana and during the project implementation, ADFRaD received financial support from three good Samaritans (85euros) in the form of a donation for the entire year 2021.

The donation was meant to support our project activities on the ground in Ghana. This donation was used to provide immediate relief response to accused women in the camps and relieve them from hunger during the festivity period as shown on the photos above.

11. IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

Project beneficiaries were very excited about the project and for learning about the legal institutions that are mandated to handle cases of violence and other abuses, as well as commitment to always seek redress from different institutions when the need arises.

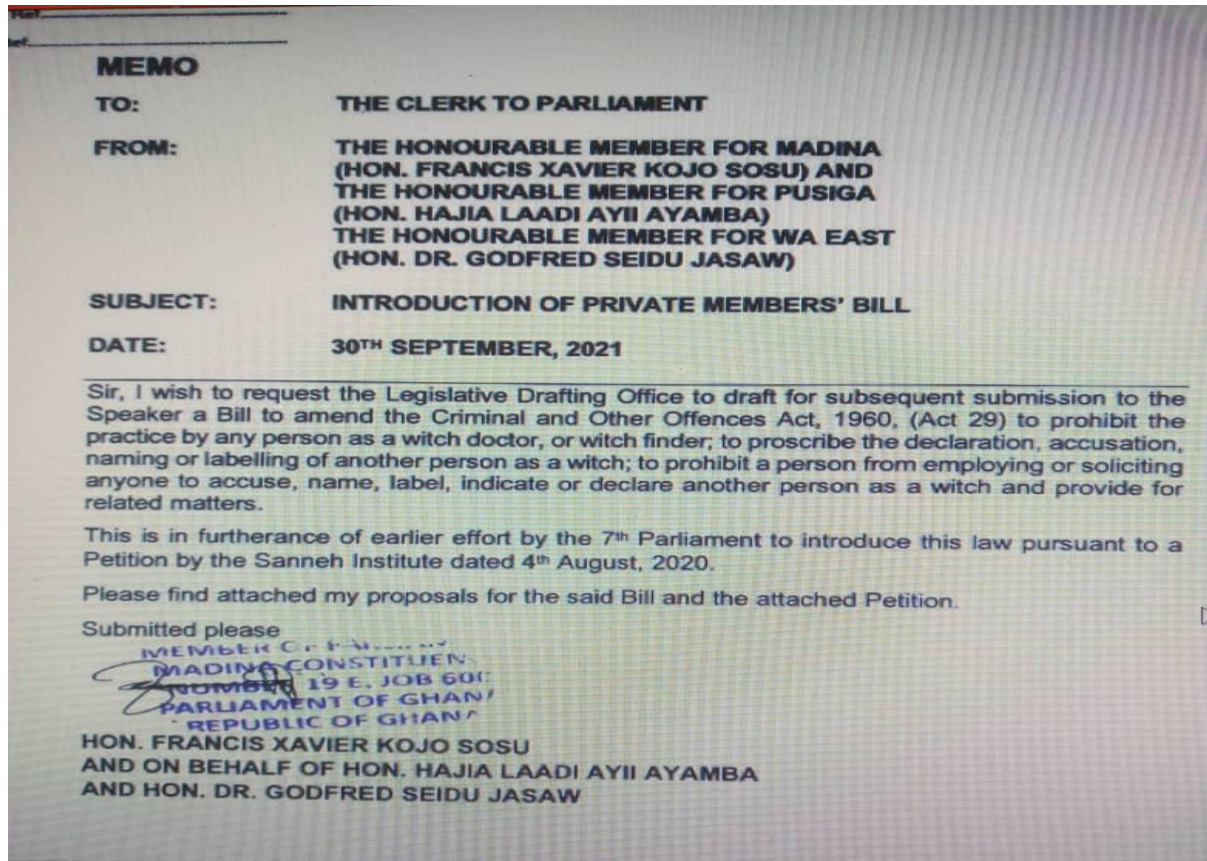
Key stakeholders including community and opinion leaders also made serious commitments to putting in measures to protect the lives of women and children who mostly suffer these human rights abuses. They also pledged to promote peaceful coexistence in their communities and ensure that the rights channels are used to address grievances.

The youth were inspired to lead crusade against witchcraft accusation and harassment of persons accused of witchcraft.

The project made room for communities to contribute on how to elevate women from being prone to witchcraft accusations since poverty and ignorance were identified as major causes of witchcraft accusation in the communities.

The impact of the project activities on the ground has positively touched the minds and hearts of law makers. Some members of parliament pushed forward for a new bill to sanction violent actions against people forcefully accused of witchcraft practices.

On 30 September 2021, three members of parliament introduced a private members bills to the Ghanaian parliament requesting for the amendment of the *Criminal and offences Act 1960(Act 29)* to prohibit practices by any person as a witch doctor, or witch finder, to prescribe the declaration, accusation, naming or labeling of another person as a witch, to prohibit a person from employing or soliciting anyone to accuse, name or label, indicate or declare another person as a witch and to provide for related matters. see the attached draft bill below.



12. IMPACT OF THE PROJECT ON GENDER JUSTICE

The designed project was intentionally made to address gender issues including gender justice. This was essential because of the feminized nature of belief in and the practice of witchcraft; meaning that women are more predisposed to accusations compared to men.

During our sensitization and public engagement meetings, this data was made clear to participant's vis-à-vis victims of witchcraft accusations, and other relevant actors. A call was also made to duty bearers to put in preventive measures to protect the lives and dignity of persons accused of witchcraft, especially, women.

The project also laid emphasis on women's rights and empowerment. This is because of the fundamental roles of women in society. Hence, the essential need for women to offer them protection and empowerment.