



ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT

Social Welfare Unit
Department of Social Welfare and Community Development
Saboba District



Prepared by:
Fortunate Adaazi Abugri
District Social Welfare Officer

Year: 2024

Table of Contents

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
2. LIST OF ACRONYMS.....	3
3. INTRODUCTION	4
3.1 BACKGROUND	4
3.2 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT	4
4. METHODOLOGY	4
4.1 DATA COLLECTION METHODS.....	4
5. KEY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN 2024.....	4
5.1 CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES	4
SENSITIZATION CAMPAIGNS:	4
CASE MANAGEMENT:	5
5.2 LIVELIHOOD EMPOWERMENT AGAINST POVERTY (LEAP).....	7
LEAP 1 MEMBER HOUSEHOLD VERIFICATION.....	7
PAYMENT OF REGULAR LEAP CASH GRANT.....	8
EMERGENCY CASH TRANSFER.....	8
LEAP CASE MANAGEMENT	9
CAREGIVER CHANGE REQUESTS.....	10
FINGERPRINT VERIFICATION CHALLENGES	10
LEAP REASSESSMENT	10
OUTCOMES OF THE SENSITIZATION.....	11
5.3 DISABILITY INCLUSION AND SUPPORT	12
DISBURSEMENT OF 3% COMMON FUND TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES	12
5.4 WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVES	13
MOPUP PAYMENT TO WFP AND DFI FEMALE LEAP BENEFICIARIES BENEFICIARIES	13
HOUSEHOLD VISIT FOR FEMALE LEAP DFI BENEFICIARIES.....	14
AS A RESULT OF THAT, THEY DECIDED TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE STRUCTURE THEY WERE CONSTRUCTING.	15
5.5 NHIS REGISTRATION AND RENEWAL	17
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.....	17
INDIGENTS FOR NHIS REGISTRATION AND RENEWALS	18
LEAP NHIS REGISTRATIONS AND RENEWALS	18
6. ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE UNIT.....	18
7.1 CHALLENGES	18

7.2 LESSONS LEARNED.....	19
8. RECOMMENDATIONS	19
9. CONCLUSION.....	19

1. Executive Summary

In 2024, the Department of Social Welfare in Saboba District implemented several programs aimed at promoting social protection, empowering vulnerable groups, and enhancing community welfare. Key initiatives included child protection services, livelihood empowerment, support for persons with disabilities (PWDs), women's empowerment programs, and various advocacy campaigns.

The department achieved notable successes, including the Payment of 5 cycle LEAP cash grant to 5048 and emergency cash grant of 1000 Cedis to beneficiaries in the district, vocational training for 60 PWDs, and the resolution of 18 child protection cases. However, challenges such as inadequate resources, cultural resistance, and limited staff capacity hindered full implementation.

This report provides an in-depth evaluation of these activities, highlighting successes, challenges, and recommendations to guide future planning and interventions.

2. List of Acronyms

- DSW: Department of Social Welfare
- PWDs: Persons with Disabilities
- LEAP: Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
- NGOs: Non-Governmental Organizations
- CBOs: Community-Based Organizations
- M&E: Monitoring and Evaluation

3. Introduction

3.1 Background

The Department of Social Welfare in Saboba District is mandated to promote the welfare of vulnerable populations, including children, women, PWDs, and the elderly. The department collaborates with stakeholders to implement programs that address poverty, abuse, and social exclusion.

3.2 Purpose of the Report

This report evaluates the activities undertaken in 2024, assessing their impact, identifying challenges, and making recommendations for improved service delivery in subsequent years.

4. Methodology

4.1 Data Collection Methods

- Interviews: Conducted with key stakeholders, including community leaders, beneficiaries, and program staff.
- Focus Group Discussions: Held with women's groups, LEAP beneficiaries, and PWDs.
- Document Analysis: Reviewed program records, case files, and financial reports.

5. Key Activities Undertaken in 2024

5.1 Child Protection Services

Sensitization Campaigns:

As part of our ongoing efforts to protect vulnerable children, the department organized sensitization programs in 20 communities within the Saboba District. The primary objective of these programs was to raise awareness among community members about child protection issues. Key topics covered included child rights, child abuse prevention, reporting mechanisms, and the

importance of community involvement in safeguarding children. The sensitization programs were conducted in collaboration with local community leaders, schools, and other stakeholders.



Community Sensitization on child protection concerns: Unido Community

The sensitization was done in 10 communities across the district as part of activities of ISSD for the second and fourth quarter of the year 2024. In all, 2,500 community members were sensitized on child rights, child labor, and early marriage and other key social protection concerns identified.

After the sensitization, some members of the communities volunteered to form a child protection committee in their respective communities. These volunteers have been kept in a group of about 6 to 8 each and would be given training as part on the roles and responsibilities of the Community Child Protection Committee Members.

Case Management:

Nature of Cases	Cases B/F	New Cases	Cases handled successful	Pending	Ref. to court	Total

Paternity	0	2	2	0	0	2
Child Maintenance	2	2	4	0	0	4
Child Custody and Access	0	0	0	0	0	0
Family Reconciliation	0	4	4	0	0	4
Child Rescue	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child Abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0
Defilement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child Marriage	0	0	0	0	0	0
Family Visits	0	18	18	0	0	18
Child Abandonment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child trafficking	0	0	0	0	0	0
Family Tracing	0	2	2	0	0	4
Teenage Pregnancy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Children in need of Protection	0	0	0	0	0	0
Domestic Violence	0	0	0	0	0	0

General Advice/Support	2	12	14	0	0	14
TOTAL	4	40	42	0	0	44

5.2 Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP)

LEAP 1 Member Household verification

During the first quarter of the year, 1 member household beneficiaries of LEAP were supposed to be verified to ascertain if they were households with deceased persons or not. the exercise the exercise begun in on the 28th of January 2024 and since then, 908 LEAP 1 members households have been verified. was scheduled to be done in 98 LEAP communities across Saboba and 1568 households. As at the end of the first quarter of the year 2024, 918 households had been verified, with 68 deceased beneficiaries.



Verification of 1 member household with LMS team in Nalogni Community

Payment of Regular LEAP Cash Grant

Number of Beneficiaries:

A total of 5,048 LEAP beneficiaries from vulnerable households, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, and orphans, were enrolled in the program.

Payment Cycles:

Five (5) LEAP payment cycles were successfully conducted during the year. Payments were made through designated pay points in various communities. Payment from January to June however delayed but was released in the subsequent months.

Emergency Cash Transfer

In November 2024, the department implemented a one-time emergency cash transfer of GHS 1,000 to each of the 5,048 LEAP beneficiaries.

Purpose: The emergency cash transfer was introduced to mitigate the economic impacts of drought faced in the Northern Region of the country during the raining season, including rising inflation and food insecurity in the district. The payment was executed through e-zwich platforms to ensure accessibility for all beneficiaries.

Outcome:

- Provided immediate financial relief to beneficiary households.
- Enabled beneficiaries to address urgent needs, including food purchases, medical expenses, and repayment of debts.
- Improved household food security and access to healthcare services.

LEAP Case Management

In 2024, a total of 218 cases were recorded under the LEAP program in Saboba District. The cases fell into the following categories:

- Deceased Beneficiaries: 14 cases
- Beneficiaries Omitted from Payroll: 38 cases
- Expired E-Switch Cards: 65 cases
- Caregiver Change Requests: 59 cases
- Fingerprint Verification Challenges: 42 cases

Beneficiaries Omitted from Payroll (38 Cases)

Some beneficiaries were inadvertently omitted from the payroll, resulting in missed payments. A case form has been filled to report the issues to the LMS to ensure that these beneficiaries are reinstated onto the payroll.

Expired E-Switch Cards (65 Cases)

Expired cards prevented beneficiaries from accessing their cash transfers. Beneficiaries were assisted to renew their E-Switch cards at designated financial service providers.

Caregiver Change Requests (59 Cases)

Some beneficiary households requested Changes in caregivers due to death, illness, or migration led to delays in accessing funds. These requests are being processed to the LEAP case management unit for resolution.

Fingerprint Verification Challenges (42 Cases)

Some 42 beneficiaries complained on challenges with fingerprint verification during various payment cycles. Out of this number some 34 of such cases have been resolved.

S/N	Case	Number Reported	Number Resolved	Unresolved
1.	Deceased Beneficiaries: cases	14	0	14
2.	Beneficiaries Omitted from Payroll	38	0	38
3.	Expired E-Switch Cards	65	24	41
4.	Caregiver Change Requests	14	0	14
5.	Fingerprint Verification Challenges	42	32	10

LEAP REASSESSMENT

The LEAP (Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty) reassessment exercise, designed to evaluate and enhance the effectiveness of the LEAP program in addressing poverty in Ghana, was conducted in Saboba District of the Northern Region.

The objective of the exercise was:

- To inform community members about the LEAP reassessment exercise and its importance.
- To encourage active participation and feedback from community members, ensuring their voices are heard in the reassessment process.
- To build trust and foster collaboration between the LEAP Reassessment implementation team and local communities.

The sensitization exercise covered the following communities within Saboba District:

1. Nambiri
2. Bukob
3. Lifur
4. Nkpeipab
5. Nalongni

6. Gbanjag
7. Moasijong
8. Nayundox
9. Nakpanbor (Bukob Area)
10. Kunjul
11. Demong*
12. Kiteik*
13. Nankperkxx
14. Sagbe
15. Tilangbeni

Outcomes of the Sensitization

1. Increased Awareness: The sensitization exercise successfully raised awareness about the importance of the LEAP reassessment, with a notable increase in community members' understanding of the program.
2. Active Participation: Many community members expressed interest in participating in the reassessment process, providing valuable insights based on their lived experiences with the program.
3. Identification of Challenges: Community discussions highlighted specific challenges faced by residents, including accessibility issues, the need for improved communication during the reassessment exercise, and concerns about the coverage and adequacy of benefits.
4. Strengthened Relationships: The engagement fostered stronger relationships between the LEAP Reassessment team and community members, establishing a foundation of trust that is crucial for the success of the reassessment.

The community engagement efforts towards the LEAP reassessment exercise in the Saboba District were largely successful. Through the sensitization activities conducted between August 28 and September 4, 2024, community awareness and participation were significantly enhanced.

5.3 Disability Inclusion and Support

Disbursement of 3% Common Fund to Persons with Disabilities

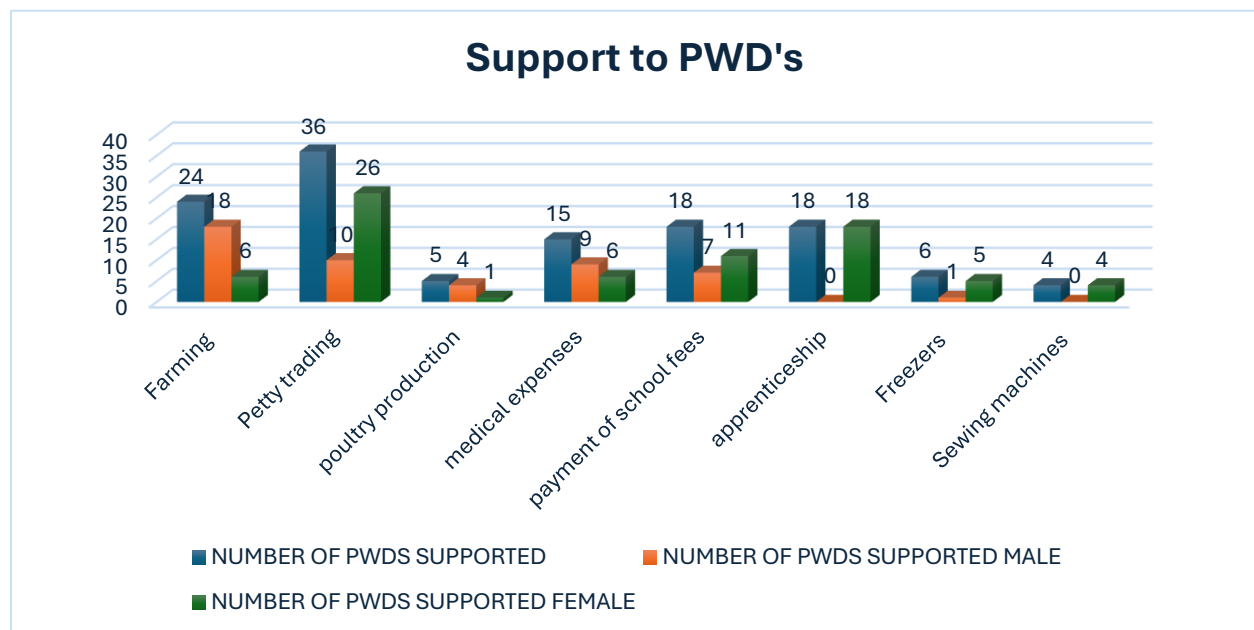
In line with the government's commitment to support persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Saboba District, a total of 54 beneficiaries were selected to receive disbursements from the 3% Common Fund during the second quarter of the year 2024. The funds were allocated to enable the beneficiaries to engage in income-generating activities and improve their livelihoods.

Disbursement Details:

The disbursement process was conducted transparently and in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Common Fund management committee. Each beneficiary received their allocated funds based on their proposed plans for utilization. The beneficiaries were selected based on their level of need and the potential impact the funds could have on their lives.

Utilization of Funds:

The beneficiaries requested funds for a variety of purposes, including farming (24), Petty trading (36), poultry production (5), medical expenses (15), and payment of school fees (18) and apprenticeship (18). The funds were disbursed accordingly to support these activities, with the aim of empowering the beneficiaries to become more self-reliant and financially independent.



TYPES OF SUPPORT	NUMBER OF PWDS SUPPORTED	MALE	FEMALE
Farming	24	18	6
Petty trading	36	10	26
poultry production	5	4	1
medical expenses	15	9	6
payment of school fees	18	7	11
apprenticeship	18	0	18
Freezers	6	1	5
Sewing machines	4	0	4
	126	49	77

Impact Assessment:

An impact assessment will be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the disbursement of funds to the PWDs in Saboba District. This assessment will focus on measuring the outcomes of the beneficiaries' activities and the extent to which the funds have contributed to their overall well-being and economic empowerment.

Challenges and Recommendations:

During the disbursement process, some challenges were encountered, including delays in the release of funds and difficulties in monitoring the utilization of funds by the beneficiaries. To address these challenges, it is recommended that a more efficient disbursement process be implemented, with improved monitoring mechanisms to ensure that the funds are used for their intended purposes.

5.4 Women's Empowerment Initiatives

Mopup Payment to WFP and DFI Female LEAP Beneficiaries

After the second tranche payment to WFP / DFI project beneficiaries in Saboba district, some Female beneficiaries were not paid. These beneficiaries had not received the funds during both

disbursement periods. As part of efforts to get these people paid LMS asked issues around their cards to be resolved to enable them receive their funds. Out of these 12, 8 beneficiary card issues were resolved and payments were done successfully to them.

The Mopup payments were made with the utmost efficiency and transparency, ensuring that each beneficiary received their rightful amount in a timely manner. We are proud to have played a role in improving the livelihoods of these individuals and their families.

Household Visit for Female LEAP DFI Beneficiaries

During the first quarter of the year, some women beneficiaries who received support from WFP as part of the Digital financial inclusion programme were monitored. The essence of the monitoring was to find out how beneficiaries were utilizing the items given to them and to find out the challenges they faced.

The monitoring revealed that majority of the beneficiaries had started with the initiatives and a lot of physical construction was ongoing. Visit to some of the beneficiary's projects showed how those benefiting from the Guinea fowl rearing had started putting up the building for rearing the fowls.

However, it was observed that most of them had not been able to roof the structure. Interacting with them, it was further identified that the number of roofing sheets given to the beneficiaries was not enough to roof the structures they planned to construct.



Interacting with female beneficiaries of WFP's DFI Program in Nalogni Community

As a result of that, they decided to reduce the size of the structure they were constructing.



Some female WFP beneficiaries standing by their Guinea fowl structure

During the Second quarter of the year, we undertook a monitoring of female LEAP beneficiaries in Moisijong community who were trained in various income-generating activities such as rice processing, groundnut processing, soap making, and Guinea fowl rearing. The essence of the monitoring was to find out how beneficiaries were utilizing the items given to them and also to find out the challenges they faced.

Our monitoring activities have revealed significant progress among the beneficiaries. The women have shown great dedication and enthusiasm in applying the skills they acquired during the training sessions. They have successfully established small businesses in their respective fields and have been able to generate income to support their families.

The rice processing group has been able to increase their production capacity and have started supplying rice to local markets. The groundnut processing group has also made significant strides in producing high-quality groundnut products, which have been well-received by the community.

Furthermore, the soap making group has been able to produce a variety of soaps that are in high demand in the community. The Guinea fowl rearing group has successfully expanded their flock and have been able to sell Guinea fowls and eggs to generate additional income.

Overall, the impact of the training provided to these female LEAP beneficiaries in Moisijong community has been remarkable. Their newfound skills have not only empowered them economically but have also improved their social standing within the community.



Display of items produces by trained female beneficiaries of Moisijong Community

Challenges faced by beneficiaries

During the monitoring, the team had an interaction with beneficiaries to find out some the challenges they were facing. The following were some of the challenges mentioned by the varous beneficiary groups met.

Guinea Fowl Group

- The number of roofing sheets given for the structure were enadequate. This led to construction of very small structures, which might not be able to accommodate a lot of the birds.

- The bags of cement given for the construction was not enough, hence also forcing them to reduce the sized of the structure.

Rice Processing Group

- Too much competition in the market since a lot of women are equally in the rice processing bussiness.
- Absence of ready market for their produce is making the business slow
- Number of equipments like cooking pot and rubber containers given were very inadequte.
- Absence of Grinding mill in the community is making them travel to long distances to process the rice.

Soap Making Group

- Inadequate containers for making the soap
- Some beneficiaries in this group were not given trainning on how to go about with the soap making. As a result, they are not able to start the. Process.

Groundnut Processing Group

- Containers given for groundnut processing not enough.

5.5 NHIS Registration and Renewal

Persons With Disabilities

Table – Fresh Nhis Registration

S/N	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1	1	2	3

Table – Renewal NHIS Registration

S/N	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
	79	85	164

Indigents For NHIS Registration and Renewals

Table – Registrations

S/N	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
	65	76	141

Table – Renewals

S/N	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
	985	716	1701

LEAP NHIS Registrations and Renewals

Table 13 – Registrations

S/N	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
	0	1	1

Table – Renewals

S/N	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
	19	23	42

6. Achievements of the Social Welfare Unit

- Increased community awareness of child protection and rights.
- Improved livelihoods for vulnerable households through LEAP and vocational training.
- Enhanced economic empowerment for women, resulting in increased household income.
- Strengthened collaboration with NGOs and local authorities.

7.1 Challenges

- Resource Constraints: Limited funding and logistical support.
- Cultural Resistance: Deep-rooted traditions hindered child protection efforts.
- Staffing Issues: Insufficient personnel to manage growing caseloads.

7.2 Lessons Learned

- Community participation is crucial for program success.
- Partnerships with local leaders can help address cultural barriers.

8. Recommendations

1. Increase funding and logistical support for program implementation.
2. Recruit and train additional staff to manage workload effectively.
3. Strengthen partnerships with NGOs and community leaders.
4. Develop culturally sensitive approaches to address resistance.
5. Enhance the Monitoring and Evaluation framework to track outcomes.

9. Conclusion

The Department of Social Welfare in Saboba District made significant strides in 2024, impacting the lives of vulnerable populations despite challenges. Continued investment and collaboration will be crucial for sustaining and expanding these achievements.