FORUM FOR ACTIONS ON INCLUSION, TRANSPARENCY AND HARMONY (FAITH) IN GHANA ALLIANCE

NATIONAL LAUNCHING OF LESSONS LEARNED REPORT ON ANTI-CORRUPTION CAMPAIGN

INTERFAITH SHAPING HEARTS, ATTITUDES AND MINDSET TO END CORRUPTION IN GHANA (I-SHAME CORRUPTION)

DATE: 20TH FEBRUARY, 2020

VENUE: CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT.

STATEMENT OF WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF THE REPORT BY MR. SAMUEL ZAN AKOLOGO – EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CARITAS GHANA AND COORDINATOR OF THE FAITH IN GHANA ALLIANCE

Madam Chairperson who is also Chairperson of the National Commission for Civic Education, Ms. Josephine Nkrumah

Representatives of State Agencies; in particular, the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) and the Ghana Education Service (GES)

Coordinators of School Integrity Clubs here present

Our Special Guests from MISSIO – Germany who have graced this occasion because of their admiration of our model of cooperation among diverse faith groups in Ghana

Members of the FAITH in Ghana Alliance

The Secretary General of the National Catholic Secretariat of the Ghana Catholic Bishops’ Conference and other Colleague staff in attendance

Other invited guests

Ladies and Gentlemen of the media

My very dear Brothers and Sisters of our diverse faith traditions.

It is with much joy that I wish to welcome all of you to this function. I do so in many capacities. Firstly, on behalf of the Secretary General of the National Catholic Secretariat who is hosting all of us at this premises of the Ghana Catholic Bishops’ Conference. Secondly, on behalf of our interfaith Alliance. And thirdly, on behalf of Caritas Ghana the coordinating secretariat for the project which report we are about to launch. I must quickly add that as Head of Caritas Ghana, one of my greatest joys has been that of serving as Facilitator and Coordinator of this model of interfaith cooperation in Ghana working to promote the common good of society.
The Interfaith Shaping Hearts, Attitudes and Mindset to End Corruption (I-SHAME Corruption) in Ghana project is an initiative of the FAITH in Ghana Platform. The National Catholic Secretariat of the Ghana Catholic Bishops’ Conference hosted the secretariat and led the consortium application for funds. The project was designed to address Ghana’s poor run of performance in the fight against corruption as manifested in the deteriorating year on year performance on the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) as published by the Transparency International and the Ghana Integrity Initiative. Furthermore, The Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), together with some citizens and groups, has made clarion calls on Religious Leaders to do more to fight corruption in Ghana. The project was also designed to respond to the call by the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP) which identifies Faith Groups as key stakeholders in its implementation. The project used the interfaith platform christened the “Forum for Actions on Inclusion, Transparency and Harmony (FAITH)” in Ghana as a launch pad for the execution of the anti-corruption interventions. FAITH in Ghana is an interfaith cooperation platform for public policy advocacy in Ghana with participation from the following Religious Organizations:

- Office of the National Chief Imam
- Ghana Catholic Bishops’ Conference
- Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission, Ghana
- Ghana Pentecostal and Charismatic Churches
- Federation of Muslim Women’s Associations in Ghana (FOMWAG)
- Marshallan Relief and Development Services (MAREDES)
- Caritas Ghana

Faith Based Organizations in Ghana continue to advance their cooperation and collaboration for the common good of society. The National Catholic Secretariat of the Ghana Catholic Bishops’ Conference led the implementation of a two-year anti-corruption initiative as a contribution to the fight against endemic corruption in the Ghanaian society. The FAITH in Ghana alliance Platform’s strategy to eliminating corruption in our National fibre was an attempt to create a “new generation” of Ghanaian through character and morality building activities in selected Basic Schools. The I-SHAME Corruption in Ghana Project facilitated the formation of Integrity Clubs in 20 Basic Schools spread across 10 old Regions of Ghana. These
Clubs received morality and integrity lessons from both Religious Leaders and Integrity Club Coordinators.

In the last 24 months of implementing the I-SHAME Corruption in Ghana Project framework, a total of 3,856 direct beneficiaries and 32,000 indirect beneficiaries were reached through different mediums.

The project framework noted a remarkable improvement in pupils’ knowledge and attitudes on issues of bribery and corruption and their devastating effects on the lives of citizens. This was measured from the interschool knowledge sharing activities which took the form of debates, discussions, presentations and quizzes at the Regional level. The project framework has proven to be an effective approach to a long-term fight against corruption in Ghana given the deep-rooted and cultural ambiguities that indirectly encourages acts of bribery and corruption which manifest in gift-giving. The impact of the I-SHAME Corruption in Ghana project can be assessed over a long-term and only when pupils from the Integrity Clubs have grown into adults and are engaged in gainful employment or in economic activities.

Madam Chair, under this circumstance, there may be an urgent need to institute a long-term tracer system to monitor progress on each of the Integrity Club members to ascertain their level of resistance to acts of bribery and corruption in their adult and working lives.

This lessons learned and best practices report is presented in six sections. Chapter one of the report gives an insight on the I-SHAME Corruption in Ghana Project framework, the second chapter carries an extensive conceptual analysis on the project thematic area. The third chapter of the report outlines the methodology deployed to execute the project actions. This chapter also focuses on the terms of engagement for the FAITH in Ghana platform. The fourth chapter presents key lessons distilled from the 24 month of project implementation which has become basis for the documentation of this report. Chapter five centers on selected case studies that are interesting for discussion. Chapter six focuses on conclusions and recommendations as way forward into the future.

**KEY LESSONS LEARNED**

The I-SHAME Corruption in Ghana Project instituted a mechanism for the collection and distillation of key lessons learned to inform future project design and also to contribute to existing knowledge in the fight against the evil of bribery and corruption in Ghana. Key lessons that were captured after the 24 months of implementation are outlined below:
i. The potency of Integrity Clubs to the sustainable fight against the evil of bribery and corruption in Ghana.

ii. Shaping the minds and hearts of basic school pupils at the early age is most effective approach to building integrity in their later adult life.

iii. FAITH in Ghana Platform as a tool to neutralize violent extremism.

iv. FAITH in Ghana as tool for public policy engagement in Ghana.

v. Strategic partnerships with State institutions for impact maximization.

vi. Managing coalitions and alliances for social change

These are further detailed out in Chapter Four of the Report on pages 19 & 20. The remaining pages of this chapter from 21 to 24 outlines concrete deliverables, by way of outcomes from the project implementation that created the grounds for the key lessons learned. The next Chapter Five provides two concrete Case Studies of some of the lessons learned on stimulating social change in Ghana and the model of fighting endemic corruption with Integrity Clubs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Madam Chair. The I-SHAME Corruption in Ghana project has expanded the frontiers of Civil Society actions in the fight against corruption in Ghana. The lessons documented in this report suggests that the model offers a lot of hope for the Country in the fight against corruption if it is integrated into the Basic School curriculum. In the light of the positive lessons documented, the following recommendations are being proffered for consideration of policymakers, the Ghana Education Service, Development Partners and Civil Society as a way forward in the collective fight against bribery and corruption in Ghana.

i. Integrate activities of the Integrity Clubs into the curriculum of Basic school.

ii. Institute a tracer system to track all Integrity Club Members.

iii. Continue the consolidation and formalization of the FAITH in Ghana Alliance.

iv. Explore core funding opportunities for the consolidation of gains and project expansion beyond the 20 Basic Schools.

v. Continue to use the FAITH in Ghana Platform to engage emerging public policy issues in Ghana.

vi. Strengthen collaboration between Religious Bodies and State institutions to maximize outreach of civic education activities.
The rationale and context of these recommendations are well explained in Chapter Six from pages 28 to 30 for further reference to gain deeper understanding

CONCLUSION

Madam Chairperson. The I-SHAME Corruption in Ghana Project has made a significant contribution towards the elimination of the fundamental causes of corruption in Ghana by investing in structures and systems that put integrity building and morality at the heart of the upbringing of Basic School Children in Ghana. The anti-corruption civic education activities introduced to the Basic Schools has improved awareness of pupils from the participating schools about the evil and devastating effects of bribery and corruption. In view of the fact that character formation and integrity building require a substantial period of time to achieve, it will be premature to measure impact within the short-term. Therefore, urgent steps should be taken to ensure that there is systematic tracking of progress of Integrity Club members and their contribution towards the fight against corruption through a well-defined tracer intervention.

Madam Chairperson. With this quick overview of the Report, I wish to draw attention to the acknowledgement of STAR Ghana Foundation which provided funding to our Interfaith Alliance, as a Consortium grant that enabled us to accomplish what has been presented in this report. May I, once again, welcome you all and express our deepest appreciation to you all for gracing this occasion. The full acknowledgements would be done more formally later during this programme by the Chairperson of Interfaith Alliance.

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